Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1863.

Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON.

JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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THE RECALCITRANT SOLDIER AND DIPLOMATIST.

As it is always our aim to be entirely accurate in whatever statements we find occasion to make on current events, we desire to correct a representation which we made on Thursday last, in the course of the observations suggested by the letter of Major General Cassius M. Clay to the Editor of the New York Times.

In referring to the fact that this distinguished soldier had just been re-nominated by the President as our Minister to Russia, we spoke of him as a "recalcitrant" patriot "who had had the hardihood at one time to decline a Major Generalship because he did not agree with Mr. Lincoln in the policy then pursued by the Administration." On recurring to the letter of Major General Clay we find this statement does not do him entire justice. It was not the honors and emoluments of the office of Major General which he declined, for he was, at the time in question, already invested with the dignities of the highest military rank known to our service. What he declined to do was to "enter the field" and take an active part in the campaign, as other Major Generals were doing, at the command of the President. The terms and conditions on which he held for a time the rank of Major General while flatly refusing to "enter the field" are thus stated in his letter, which we cite in his own words for the purpose of correcting the inaccuracy of statement into which we fell when we spoke of him as having "declined the office of Major General:"

"I told President Lincoln that I could not and *would not enter the field except* the policy was adopted of liberating the slaves of rebels. *So soon* as the President issued his proclamation of the 22d September, I offered my services *at once* to Gen. Halleck."

This downright language may seem slightly haughty and insubordinate, when we consider that it was addressed to the Constitutional Commander-in-Chief, and that Major General Clay had bound himself by his military oath, like other soldiers, to "observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States." But such is not the view we take of it. He merely sought to notify the President in advance that he was content to hold the office of Major General only on the condition that he should not be required to fight while the then existing war policy remained in force. And a sufficient justification of his course is found in the fact that it was the policy, and not Major General Clay, that went to the wall. In his very interesting and cordial interview with the Czar he had frankly said that "we fought the South with reluctance" because "we were much intermarried and of a common history." So long, therefore, as it was simply an affair of the lawful Government struggling against armed insurgents, Major General Clay very properly made good his word to the Emperor of all the Russias, and *reluctated* against "fighting the South." But when it became a war of emancipation it is impossible to praise too highly the alacrity with which he offered his sword to the General-in-Chief. We already know what malign influences prevented that sword from being wielded in the service of the "country" and its owner's "reputation."

Since the memorable day when Major General Clay was thus repulsed by the General-in-Chief he has not been resting idle. His campaign in New York was none the less brilliant for ending in a great rout of the forces he led to battle. The vigor with which he would have charged at slavery, if Gen. Halleck had not curbed his high ambition, was sufficiently attested by the short method in which he proposed to dispose of Governor Seymour, and thus prevent his election. As our readers may have forgotten it, we quote from the report of a speech delivered by Major General Clay in Brooklyn on the 7th of October last, while he was carrying on the "Wadsworth campaign." We quote from the report of the New York Tribune, which represents him as speaking of the "Seymours" in the following emphatic vein:

"These men stickled because Congress had not authorized the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. The President had the power, and if antecedents were wanted we made this an antecedent forever against all rebels. [Cheers.] Instead of finding fault with the President for this, he did rather because he had not suspended these scoundrels by a rope. [Applause.] Were such traitors as Seymour and Wood hung, it would save the lives of millions of honest Democrats. [Great applause, 'That's so.'"]

And then what shall be said of the courage with which he entered the lists against George Francis Train. If in that encounter the ex-Minister and the Major General was rather unequally pitted against a man who was his superior in the art of popular logomachy, it is none the less just to admit that he replied with considerable force to the telling blows of the redoubtable and renowned antagonist with whom he ventured to measure his muscle and wind.

Latterly he has been resting in comparative silence and seclusion, until he turned up a few days ago in the letter which has already become celebrated, and of which, it seems, the public has not yet heard the last. For we have extended our remarks beyond the limits of the mere correction we made in the opening portion of this article, simply for the sake of properly introducing to our readers the following letter, which we had the honor to receive from Major General Clay yesterday:

WASHINGTON, MARCH 5, 1863.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

SIRS: In your article of to-day, headed "A Recalcitrant Soldier and Diplomatist," you show the same spirit which led you to defend the mob at Lexington which destroyed my press and overthrew two Constitutions—that of the State and that of the National Government. As the Senate will probably act upon my appointment to-day, before a reply can reach them, I write this only to call the attention of your readers to an article of self-defence which I am preparing for the New York Times. Till then I only ask of the people a suspension of opinion in reference to the thick *calumnies* which fall upon me. C. M. CLAY.

We fear that the changeful and stirring scenes in which Major General Clay has recently been engaged have somewhat confused his memory of events dating so far back as the era of the mob at Lexington, Kentucky, in the year 1845. What with his difficulty in finding, at first, under this Administration, a diplomatic position suited to his tastes and dignity, his epistolary tilt with the editor of the London Times, his dazzling reception by the Czar, his hegira from St. Petersburgh and sudden emergence from a diplomatist into a major general waiting not for orders but for a proclamation of freedom, his disgust at Gen. Halleck's insensibility to military capacity, his fiery crusade against Seymour in New York, and lastly his bout with George Francis Train, we do not wonder that he should be too much preoccupied with the excitements of the living present to recall with accuracy all the features of the dead past. It is only on this theory that we can explain the misapprehension into which he falls when he supposes that we "defended the mob at Lexington which destroyed his press and thereby broke two Constitutions."

If it be true, as he presumes, that the Senate acted upon his nomination on Thursday last, our article of that day was exceedingly opportune; and, as we were by no means chary in expressing our ardent wishes for his confirmation, we may flatter ourselves with the hope that we have contributed somewhat to promote the aspirations of a laudable ambition to serve his "reputation" in a sphere where he can make an empire happy without rendering his own country entirely miserable at the thought of losing him "in the field" And as certain of our contemporaries have, it seems, been showering "calumnies" on him because, like a man of spirit, he told the President what he would do as a Major General and what he would not do, or because he denounces the present General-in-Chief as "intensely pro-slavery," or because he mocks at the Premier of the Administration, we are informed that Major General Clay, before starting on his mission, will issue "an article of self-defence," which he is even now preparing for the New York Times, and in anticipation of which we unite with him in asking of the American people "a suspension of their opinion" upon all the questions affecting the character of Mr. Clay as a dutiful soldier and a discreet diplomatist. We have no doubt that Major General Clay will find it an easy task to dispose of the "calumnies" that fall upon him from other quarters, but to answer the "calumnies" which he has written against himself in the letter that has acquired such a sudden celebrity would be no easy matter for one less skilled in difficult performances on what the famous Bilboquet calls the "springboard of celebrity."

THE PRICE OF GOLD.

Those who mark the signs of the times will not fail to observe the decline in the price of gold which has been witnessed within the last few days Whether regarded in itself, or as a token of renewed confidence in the credit of the Government, it is equally a source of congratulation. Many causes have doubtless conspired to contribute to this gratifying result, prominent among which we may cite a natural reaction from the speculative tendencies that have lately enhanced the value of gold beyond the legitimate relation in which it stands to the currency of the Government or the trade of the country. In the doubts and uncertainties which for a time rested over the financial system that would be finally adopted by Congress the brokers and money-traders found the means of creating a constant excitement to the discredit of the paper emissions to which the Government has resorted. Since the adjournment of Congress the financial situation is no longer placed at the hazard of uncertain measures of legislation, and the equilibrium, so far as it was disturbed by speculative operations, tends to re-adjust itself on the basis of facts as they are rather than as they might be.

A PLEASANT AND BRILLIANT REUNION.

The adjournment of Congress was followed by an event which marks an epoch in the social as well as the political world of Washington. We allude to the *réunion* which took place at the mansion of Mr. Secretary CHASE on Wednesday evening last, and which embraced among its invited guests the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, the Judiciary, the members of Congress, without distinction of party, officers of the army and navy, the chiefs of Executive bureaus, and citizens in private station, accompanied by their wives and daughters, and comprising a representation, as large as it was brilliant, of the distinction, fashion, and beauty of the national metropolis. It was a happy thought on the part of the distinguished Secretary thus to bring together, at the close of a most important and laborious Congressional term, the representatives of all parties, to the end that in social converse and the interchange of mutual courtesies they might, at the hour of parting, beguile office of its cares and political difference of its asperities. And while sharing his elegant hospitalities Mr. Chase's guests seem to have caught the spirit of the occasion, for if the genius of discord has at any time been present in our councils, it is certain that that malign deity gave place to the spirit of unity and concord on this happy occasion. Let us hope that a scene so pleasant in the enjoyment and so grateful to the memory may be also the presage of conciliation and fraternity in the future.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

We understand that Major General CURTIS has been relieved from the command of the Department of the Missouri, and that he is to be succeeded by Major General SUMNER, a veteran and able soldier, who in every sphere has signalized himself by a simple and unselfish devotion to duty which is worthy of all praise.

A WORD WITH OUR READERS.

The publicity which it has become the questionable habit of the press to give to private as well as public concerns, places us under the necessity of a brief reference to a matter which we would willingly have avoided, for we are not in the habit of parading private griefs, and our regular readers are well aware that we seldom trouble them with our personal affairs.

The correspondent of a popular Northern journal, however, has thought proper to mention, among other items of news, that the Hon. Secretary of War had withdrawn from the *National Intelligencer* the publication of the advertisements of his Department, and had directed the heads of the various Bureaus under his control to withhold any further publications from that paper. We had previously been officially informed of this step on the part of the Hon. Secretary, but it was one he had the unquestionable power to take, and we should certainly never have thought of making it the subject of complaint or comment, if the publicity given to it had not imposed on us the necessity of informing our readers that the decision of the Hon. Secretary should not deprive them of the advantage of still seeing in our columns all official advertisements as usual, although their publication be gratuitous. This will be simply in conformity with our custom on previous similar occasions; for, although we have never deemed such small proscriptions of sufficient dignity for complaint or animadversion, this is not the first time that it has been our misfortune to fall under the ban of official displeasure. To go no further back in our history than the last Administration, we had the honor of a similar mark of consideration from the Hon. Secretary's distinguished predecessor in the War Department, the Hon. Secretary Floyd; but self-respect imposed on us then the silence that it would have done now, but for the well intended officiousness of another journal.

What has drawn upon our paper the present mark of Departmental disfavor we are unable to say, unless we were to assume for the Hon. Secretary a reason which would be unworthy of a statesman who has himself always used the privilege of public discussion with the freedom that was his right and the courtesy that became him. If in submitting to our readers, from time to time, as it was our duty as journalists to do, our views of public affairs in this dread crisis of the country, we have been obliged occasionally to dissent from the prudence or expediency of some of the measures of the Hon. Secretary of War, we have done so with the decorum due both to his personal and official character and to our own sense of propriety. Studiously avoiding all factious cavilling, and desiring for him the fullest success in his arduous task, we would at any time rather have praised than blamed; and it is quite possible that could we have divined the reasons which directed important movements we might have estimated their wisdom differently, but in official proceedings, having to see through a glass dimly if not darkly, we could "only reason from what we knew." Thus much for elucidation, not for defence, for we have learned in our lengthened experience rather too much of official intolerance (and, thank God, a great deal too of noble political tolerance) to waste time in seeking out the moving causes of any official proscription towards ourselves or official favor towards others. It is enough for us to know that we have the approval of wise and good men, without distinction of party, and if the support we once received from a portion of our country has been impaired, at first by our advocacy of the Union, and latterly destroyed by this wicked, causeless, and bloody rebellion, we are yet too old in our habits of self-respect to seek any compensation for these losses in the "thrift that follows fawning." We have survived the proscription of the War Department under former Administrations, and we hope under this to avoid the "consummation" which, from old instincts as well as recent grudges, the Hon Secretary may at present "wish."

OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 17, 1863.

Despatches of great length from New York have just come to hand, giving an account, amongst other things, of the pretended raising of the blockade of the port of Charleston. But, inasmuch as the latest telegrams received by the same arrival announce that "twenty Federal ships-of-war" had reappeared before the same point of the Southern coast, the above-mentioned pretensions of the Confederates are viewed here with a feeling very nearly akin to the ridiculous, and none but the most avowed friends of the South are disposed to admit the absurd claims to a sixty days' reprieve from the penalties of the blockade. On the whole the last intelligence is regarded as favorable to the North; and, above all, the announcement that the Senate had rejected by a large majority the hostile vote respecting the French expedition in Mexico, which had been proposed to it, has been received with much satisfaction by the Imperial Government. It may be well to observe that the Emperor is extremely touchy upon this latter point. The expedition is, or rather was, generally disapproved of by the country in its origin, and has cost the Government no small trouble and unpopularity; any addition to which, coming from a foreign quarter, would be regarded with great displeasure.

The distress caused in Paris by the immense loss sustained on remittances to Europe is being now very severely felt. Some of our oldest American residents, who have lived here on account of health or family connexions or other causes for twenty or thirty years, are preparing to break up their establishments and return home; if indeed the latter word be any longer applicable to either the feelings or position of such parties who have long made France their adopted country. In some instances very painful scenes of privation and separation, in the case of aged persons, have been the consequence of this state of things.

The debate on the address has just terminated in the Corps Legislatif by the usual majority of 245 Imperialists against the 5 members who constitute the opposition. The only parts of the discussion interesting to American readers have been those which turned upon Mexican affairs and upon the amendment attempted to be introduced into the paragraph respecting the conflict in the United States. In the former, M. Jules Favre, the celebrated Democratic orator, pushed the Government very hard on the subject of the famous or rather infamous Jecker loan, on which was principally based the enormous French demand for pecuniary compensation. He showed up the entire nature of the transaction, and insinuated rather than asserted the influence it had had both on the origin and conduct of the expedition by reason of these securities having passed into the hands of "certain persons" of high political position in France, who were anxious that their claims should be upheld and realized by force of arms. M. Billault replied on behalf of the Government; but, although the country is well inclined and fully determined to support the army and the military reputation of France at every hazard and expense, it bears a grudge against the originators of the expedition, and may very likely show its displeasure on the subject at the approaching elections. Were the press allowed to speak freely about the matter the result might be very serious for the Administration.

The paragraph on American affairs in the address confined itself to expressions of regret at the civil conflict now raging in the States and to the disappointment experienced by the refusal of the other maritime Powers of Europe to join France in her attempted mediation. To this the cotton interest endeavored to add a clause intended to express the inefficiency of the blockade and an expression of regret that it had been recognised by the country. But the Chamber displayed no disposition to support such a view of the case, and the amendment was not even carried to a division. A capital speech from the Vicomte Anatoli Lemercier declared that the first thing Europe had to do was to convince the South that it would in no case be acknowledged as a separate and independent nation; in which case, he said, the war would be over much sooner than most people thought.

We are now at the very height of what is still called Carnival time in Paris, and for many nights past masked balls of the most splendid description have been going on in official residences. The grandest of all was at the Tuileries, where six hundred persons of the highest rank were invited, and where the decorations and dresses were of the most sumptuous character, many of the latter costing from ten to twenty thousand francs. The Empress wore a magnificent costume to represent the lady of a Doge of Venice, while the Emperor wore a Venetian cloak and the Prince Imperial a similar style of dress. To-day being *Mardi Gras*, or Shrove Tuesday, there is a complete holyday; the streets are crowded to overflowing, and hundreds of public masked balls will be open till a late hour of the morning.

WAR MEETING IN NEW YORK.

A large meeting of citizens of New York who are in favor of sustaining the Government in a vigorous prosecution of the war was held at the Cooper Institute in that city on Friday evening last. The Hall, capable of containing four thousand persons, was crowded to excess, and an additional meeting was organized on the outside of the building. The Hon. GEORGE OPDYKE, Mayor of the city, presided inside, and Mr. HENRY HILL on the outside. It was intended that Lieut. Gen. SCOTT should preside, but sudden sickness prevented his attendance.

Addresses in support of the Government and favoring an energetic prosecution of the war were made by the Rev. Dr. HITCHCOCK, Hon. JAMES T. BRADY, DAVID D. FIELD, Judge DAILY, JOHN VAN BUREN, and other distinguished gentlemen. The meeting continued until midnight, when it dispersed with loud and enthusiastic cheers for the Union.

The following resolutions, submitted by Judge BONNEY, were adopted by acclamation:

Resolved, That it is the duty of every citizen to unite in all proper efforts to preserve and perpetuate the Union in accordance with the Constitution.

Resolved, That the conduct of disaffected persons, claiming to be citizens of the United States, yet zealous in their attempts to embarrass and impede the action of the legally constituted authorities, and in the utterance of treasonable sentiments, deserves and should receive the condemnation of every loyal citizen.

Resolved, That the loyal people of New York hereby pledge their fortunes, their influence, and their honor to the support of the national authority in every vigorous and determined effort, by force of arms, on sea and land, to secure a complete and final suppression of the causeless and atrocious insurrection which now desolates our country.

Resolved, That the army and navy of the United States owe their undivided allegiance to the Constitution they have sworn to support and defend, and that no soldier or sailor can rightfully hesitate in his obedience to the commands of superiors in rank, whose authority is derived from the Government of the nation.

Resolved, That every citizen owes allegiance to the Government, and he who denies its authority, or fails in his duty to uphold the honor of its flag, is an abettor of treason, and should suffer the penalty due to his crime.

Resolved, That this meeting, under solemn convictions of duty, and in a firm reliance on the justice of that Providence which guides and guards governments and peoples, does hereby resolve itself into a loyal league of Union citizens, pledged to an unconditional support of the Government in all its constitutional efforts to suppress the rebellion, and an uncompromising opposition to treason in whatever form it appears.

Resolved, That the committee of this meeting be the officers and committee of the Loyal Union League of the citizens of New York, and that each person present is a member of the league.

Mr. RAYMOND proposed the following additional resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we approve the action of the President and the Congress of the United States in declining—as unfriendly in its tendencies and effects—all intervention or mediation of foreign Powers, in any form or on any pretext, in the contest which the nation is compelled to wage for the perpetuation of its existence.

The following resolution was also proposed, and was unanimously adopted:

Resolved That, in the judgment of this meeting, the resort of the Government to a currency of its own, for the purpose of meeting the extraordinary expenses caused by the rebellion, and made available for the payment of debts, public and private, was a necessity which could not have been avoided; and that as such currency binds all the property, real and personal, owned within the limits of the United States, it constitutes an obligation of unequalled authority and value, the upholding of which, by its ready acceptance, by inspiring confidence in its validity and safety, and by denouncing all efforts to discredit it, by whomsoever made or for whatever purpose, are duties as imperative as any now appertaining to an American citizen.

Sundry letters were laid before the meeting from distinguished gentlemen whose presence had been invited, but who were unable to attend. We make room for three of them:

Letter from Mr. Secretary Seward.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, MARCH 3, 1863.

To the Hon: George Opdyke and others, New York.

GENTLEMEN: I thank you for your invitation to the meeting to be held on the 6th instant, designed to resolve itself into a Loyal League of Union citizens, and I deeply regret that public occupations here prevent my acceptance.

I pray that my name may be enrolled in that league. I would prefer that distinction to any honors that my fellow-citizens could bestow upon me. If the country lives, as I trust it will, let me be remembered among those who labored to save it. If Providence could disappoint the dearest hopes of mankind, let not my name be found among those who proved unfaithful.

I subscribe to your proposed resolutions in their exact letter and in their right loyal and patriotic spirit. I would reserve nothing whatever from the sacrifice which may be required by the country. He that preferreth himself, his fame or his fortune, his friend, his father, his mother, his wife, his child, his party, or his section above his country, is not worthy to be a citizen of the best and noblest country that God has ever suffered to come into existence.

No one of us ought to object when called upon to re-affirm his devotion to the Union, however unconditionally. I would cheerfully renew the obligations of fidelity to it every day and every hour, in every place, at home or abroad, as often as any citizen should question my loyalty, or as often as the renewal of the obligation on my part should seem likely to confirm and strengthen any other citizen in his patriotic resolution. The re-affirmation is wholesome for ourselves, even if it influence no one else.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Letter from Major Gen. Burnside.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1863.

To George Opdyke, Jonathan Sturges, and others.

GENTLEMEN: I regret that my public duties will prevent my acceptance of your kind invitation to be present at a meeting of loyal citizens of New York at the Cooper Institute this evening. The resolutions which it is proposed to introduce are in exact accordance with my sentiments.

It is clearly the duty of every "citizen, sailor, and soldier" to give to the Government his unconditional and most effective support. A conditional support is full of discord, danger, and disaster, and, at a time like the present amounts to disloyalty. In view of all the resources with which God has blessed us, it would be ignominious to believe that we have not the physical ability to maintain the Government, when we remember that we are fighting to sustain a Government that originated in truth, justice, honor, and patriotism, against a rebellion that originated in deceit, fraud, ambition, and ignorance. It would be distrusting God's justice to believe that final success will not attend our efforts.

If we see evils before us, let us do all in our power to correct them in a temperate way. Our legislators should be made to feel that they misrepresent us when they attempt to clog the wheels of Government, or indulge in party legislation. Politics and party lines should be ignored for the present. Fraudulent contractors and dishonest disbursing officers should be punished. Officers and soldiers should be subordinate, patriotic, energetic, and free from all personal ambition. The law of Congress making every man a soldier who is capable of bearing arms should be enforced and submitted to. The old regiments should be kept full, and promotions made from soldiers and officers in the field, for merit. The President and Governors should be always surrounded by honest, loyal, and patriotic men, capable of giving advice in their several Departments. The press should be temperate and independent. And, finally, our whole people, men, women, and children, should be loyal, patriotic, and honest, trusting in the righteousness of our cause, and cheerfully submitting to all the privations which the providence of God may visit upon us. Who will believe that this rebellion could last another year if we were all resolved to fulfil these conditions?

Thanking you, gentlemen, for the high honor done me by this kind invitation,

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. E. BURNSIDE, Major General.

Letter from Admiral Paulding.

NAVY YARD, MARCH 5, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge an invitation to be present at a meeting of loyal citizens at Cooper Institute, in New York, on the evening of the 6th instant, for the purpose of reaffirming a determination to sustain the Government in its rightful efforts to quell rebellion, and at all hazards of life and property to maintain and perpetuate the Constitution and the Union.

I regret extremely that the condition of my health will not permit me to be present on an occasion that so vitally concerns me and every other man that loves his country, and would leave to his children the inheritance of a free Government, as it descended to us from our sires.

All my sympathies are with the objects of the meeting, and to which I pledge myself in every sentiment that the resolutions convey. I shall be at all times ready, not only to perform my duties as an officer and a good citizen, in the support of the Government for the suppression of the rebellion, but it will afford me especial satisfaction to unite with all loyal men in society to bring to punishment, in any manner that may be rendered necessary, the infamous scoundrels that would embarrass the Government They enjoy its protection and forbearance doubtless in the presumption that they may escape the penalty due to their crimes.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. PAULDING, Commandant.

NEW STATES AND TERRITORIES.

Amongst the proposed legislation of the late Congress were bills to enable the Territories of Nebraska, Nevada, and Colorado to form Constitutions and State Governments. None of these, however, were consummated, so that the only perfected bill to create a new State was that passed in December last to admit West Virginia. This has yet to be voted upon by that portion of the people of the "Old Dominion" living west of the mountains, on the 26th of March.

Two new Territories were organized—Arizona and Idaho. The locality of the former is of course well known to the people. The latter embraces certain territory between the 41st and 46th degrees of north latitude, and between the 104th and 110th degrees of west longitude. Its western boundary abuts against the Rocky Mountains, at the southeast corner of the State of Oregon, and will be familiar to the border men as embracing the headwaters of the Yellow Stone and the Missouri.

THE CHIPPEWAS.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

This Indian tribe—the Ojibwas of Lake Superior—are scattered over an immense district between the Saut Ste Marie and the Red River of the North. The Western bands, who frequent Red Lake and the eastern bank of the Red River of Minnesota, are under no treaty relations to the United States, and in September, 1862, committed robberies upon trains of merchandise passing between St. Paul and the Selkirk Settlement in Central British America, as well as outrages upon individual settlers in Northern Minnesota. Fully five thousand of their number (one thousand warriors) may be regarded as hostile, perhaps in league with Little Crow and the Sioux. The remainder (fifteen thousand) will be hostile or peaceable, as events may determine.

Minnesota asks the removal of the Chippewas as well as the Sioux and Winnebagoes—a *total* relief from the apprehensions and obstructions of a savage population. It is understood that Congress and the Indian Bureau will concur in regard to the Sioux and Winnebagoes, but hesitate as to the Chippewas.

Allow a suggestion through the columns of the Intelligencer. The people of Minnesota will be satisfied and grateful if the President (during the recess of Congress) should refer the whole question of the proper and permanent disposition of the Chippewa nation to Henry M. Rice, Senator from Minnesota, Henry B. Whipple, Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota, and Clark W. Thompson, Indian Superintendent of Minnesota. Give such a commission full powers of negotiation, and the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin will acquiesce in their recommendations.

ST. PAUL, FEB. 24, 1863. J. W. T.

THE REBEL CONGRESS.

In the Confederate Senate, on the 3d instant, a resolution was adopted to inquire into the expediency of repealing the resolutions declaring that a neutral flag covers the enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband goods.

In the House a resolution was adopted to suspend all business until the currency and tax bills are acted upon.

A bill has been introduced in the rebel Senate to place all the telegraph lines under the control of the Postmaster General.

A recent report of the rebel Secretary of War contains some curious and instructive admissions regarding the stringency of the blockade, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies for the rebel army. He apprehends no difficulty in obtaining a sufficiency of arms and ammunition, but the question of subsistence is rather an alarming one. The harvests of the past season, he says, have not generally proved propitious, and, notwithstanding the much larger breadth of land devoted to the culture of cereals and forage, the product in many extensive districts is below the average.

A journal in Georgia, called the Southern Union, has proposed to reconstruct the old Union of the States. The Atlanta Confederacy pitches into it, and in the course of its article asserts that "there are fewer Abolitionists in Massachusetts than Reconstructionists in Georgia."

THE PETERSBURG (VA.) MARKETS.

A Fredericksburg correspondent gives the following prices as current there, and states that the troops are on half rations: Coffee $5 per lb.; sugar $1 50; candles $1.50; beef $75 per bbl; peas $17 per bushel; butter $8 per pound.

PANIC AMONG THE GOLD SPECULATORS.

From the New York Commercial of Thursday Evening.

AN EBULLITION IN WALL STREET—AURIFEROUS ACROBATIC PERFORMANCES—WHO PAYS THE PIPER?

Wall street, especially that portion wherein Bulls and Bears most do congregate, has been in commotion from an early hour this morning until the time of going to press. The excitement equals that caused by the suspension of specie payments years ago, and the throng of spectators has been so numerous as to require the vigilant attention of several guardians of the peace.

Gold has been falling gradually since the 26th ultimo when it "touched" 172½, under the effect of Congressional enactments—the loan and tax bill, &c—and yesterday it closed at 165. The market opened at that figure this morning, and almost immediately thereafter fell to 151.

This caused the most intense excitement, and the stock exchange and brokers' offices were soon beleaguered by a crowd of interested parties, some of the timid anxious to dispose of their auriferous load, and others devising ways and means by which the depressed market might be inflated. The Bulls at once went to work and by means common to the craft "worked" the market, until, about noon, gold "touched" 157.

Then the fun was at its height. The Shylocks of the American bourse continued all their efforts to still further inflate the price of bullion. In their hands it was a shuttlecock, and went up and down with persistent regularity. Then was no time for *bona fide* operations. The market was too volatile to risk an honest sale or purchase. Hence most of the transactions were "flyers," thrown out to effect a raise in the price.

The lookers on were intensely amused, and those who understood the game watched the ups and downs with extreme gratification. As each spectator emerged from the sanctum of the money gods he would be met by a bull, generally of the Israelitish persuasion, who would immediately seek to counteract the dread announcement of a fall in the market.

Offers of fabulous amounts at good figures would be made in the hope that some one would be gulled. But those who were wont to wink at the auctioneer's "an'-a-half, an'-a-half," preserved a rigidity of the facial and "blinkial" muscles, and "gave no sign." They kept themselves and their pockets as closely sealed as possible.

The Jew who had made about $30,000 in the bullion business, confessed, with tears in his eyes, that he had lost all his earnings and was ruined. Many others, doubtless, will retire to their couches this evening mourning the loss of their earnings as of ill-gotten gains

The throng was so dense that all who sought to penetrate it guarded well their pockets. The scene of to-day has a moral:

"All gold and silver rather turn to dirt!
As 'tis no better reckoned but of those
Who worship dirty gods."

ICE.—A large ice business is in progress in Maine, and extensive houses are building on the Kennebec for the storage of ice, which is now more than a foot thick.

GEN. BANKS AT NEW ORLEANS.

Gen. Banks seems to be pursuing a policy at New Orleans which is calculated to disarm the hostility of the planters to the Union and to detach them from the rebellious Confederacy. His aim appears to be to appeal to their interests, and his plans have been so far crowned with success as to have induced a Planters' Convention, which is remarkable as being the first public gathering of that influential class since the rebellion, at which the suggestions of the General were discussed and finally adopted for their government.

As the military code of the United States forbids an officer to return fugitive slaves, and as without regular employment it had become evident that many thousands of negroes must perish during the year, Gen. Banks determined upon a medium course, laying down a plan of labor by which the planters who acceded to it would be assisted by persons acting under the authority of the United States in inducing, as far as practicable, without violence, the return of negroes and families to the plantations where they have been accustomed to labor, on the assurance of a compensation according to a scale which had been adjusted by Gen. Banks.

The plan of labor put forth by Gen. Banks proposes that the officers of the Government will induce slaves to return with their families, and when returned will require them to work diligently and faithfully for one year, and to be respectful and subordinate to their employers, upon condition that the planters or employers feed, clothe, and treat them properly, and give them at the end of the year one-twentieth part of the crop, or a fixed monthly compensation in cases where it may be more convenient, as follows:

Mechanics, sugar-makers, drivers, &c., three dollars each.
Able-bodied field men, two dollars each.
Able-bodied field women, house servants, nurses, &c., one dollar each.

The proportion reserved for the slaves shall be divided into shares and distributed according to the value of their labor, as follows:

Mechanics, sugar-makers, drivers, &c., three shares each.
Able-bodied field men, two shares each.
Able-bodied field women, house servants, nurses, &c., one share each.

All negroes not otherwise employed will be required to labor upon the public works, and no person capable of labor will be supported at the public expense in idleness.

This plan was accompanied by Gen. Banks by a certificate, to be signed by the planters, to the effect that they accept the arrangement and agree to carry it out on their part for one year, it being distinctly understood that the crop referred to as compensation for the negroes means the commercial crop, and also that the acceptance of the contract does not imply the surrender of any right of property in the slave, or other right of property.

Gen. Banks states that the compensation to the negroes may seem small, but that it is as much as the risks that attend industry in a period of war will admit; and far better than to have the negroes become a public burden. The immediate cultivation of corn, sugar, cotton, and other products is also imperatively demanded upon every consideration of public interest, and for this no other labor is now available. He therefore has fallen upon the plan of voluntary compensated labor by the negroes, and, to prevent them from deserting their employers, has issued an order that none are to be taken from the plantations until further orders, by any officer or other person in the service of the United States.

This plan of General Banks was responded to by large meetings of the planters, held at New Orleans, on the 18th and 19th of February, where it was discussed at length, and after a cordial speech by Gen Banks, was acceded to by them, and a form of contract agreed upon, to be signed by them, embodying the provisions of the plan suggested.

It is believed that the practical business manner in which Gen. Banks has grappled with this delicate and difficult subject, by which the rights of the planters and negroes are left untouched, will be productive of excellent results—at once relieving our Government of the burden of supporting large bodies of unemployed fugitives, and securing the cultivation of crops, so much needed both on public and private grounds.—*Newark Advertiser.*

ADDITIONAL NEWS.

Our New Orleans papers of the 29th ultimo contain some further news of interest.

The recent report that a man had shot at Gen. Banks at the City Hotel is untrue. It grew out of the fact that an officer thoughtlessly threw an explosive plaything on the sidewalk.

It is stated that no more negro officers are to be mustered into the service of Gen. Banks's department. The officers of the Third Louisiana Native Guard have been mustered out.

Gen. Banks has forbid the organization of Home Guards in New Orleans; persons desirous of fighting can enlist. The "Confederate Guards" was the last organization there of this description.

Three hundred and eighty Confederate prisoners were sent from New Orleans to the Confederate lines on the 20th ultimo. Many of them, when landed, were found to have letters, packages of medicines, etc. concealed on their persons, all of which were confiscated. Among the prisoners was Brigadier General Clarke, who was captured at Baton Rouge The departure of the prisoners attracted such a large crowd (many of them sympathizers) that General Banks was compelled to send down a regiment of soldiers to clear the levee to preserve order.

SPEECH OF GEN. BANKS TO THE PLANTERS.

The following is the speech of Gen. Banks delivered to the Louisiana planters, who met in New Orleans to deliberate concerning slave labor:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: I certainly am very happy to meet so many of the citizens of Louisiana as I see around me to-night. I do not present myself here to participate in the proceedings of this meeting, or to take any part in the discussion of the subjects which have brought you together. Charged with important duties by my Government, and, so far as I am personally concerned, reluctantly here, I have published that which I thought it to be my duty to do as an officer of the Government, coming here under general instructions in this department. I am, sir, unable to express my feelings in meeting so many citizens of this distant part of our Confederacy, so many of my fellow-citizens in a portion of the country so far from my own home. In past times we have lived peacefully and prosperously together, and I am happy to believe that those who are to come after us will enjoy the same peaceful and prosperous intercourse. The names of Jackson and Taylor are inseparably identified with the history of the nation, and there are no names dearer than those to the hearts of New England, and I trust that there are in your part of the country, as in mine, men who will so direct the affairs of the people that the East and the West, the Northeast and the Southwest may feel that they still have a bond in common. I am sure that the Government which I represent has no feeling of hostility to the people here, and that it would be the happiest day in our history if the great interests of the country could be united together as heretofore. [Cries of "Good," and loud applause.] I wish to contribute to the extent of my powers to the welfare of this department, and to give you the assurance of my deep and earnest desire to do all that I can, consistent with my duty, for the peace, prosperity, and happiness of the people of Louisiana.

Gen. Banks closed amid enthusiastic applause, and immediately retired.

THE INDIANOLA DESTROYED.

The Petersburg Express (rebel paper) contains the following despatch about the capture of the Indianola:

"VICKSBURG, FEBRUARY 25, 1863.

"I have the honor to report, after a serious and hot engagement, the capture of the Federal iron-clad steamer Indianola, Lieut. Commanding Brown, U. S. Navy, together with all her officers and crew, by the Confederate steamers Queen of the West and Webb, forming an expedition that was sent out by me for that purpose, under Major J. L. Brent. *The prize is a good deal damaged.*

"R. F. TAYLOR,
"Major General Commanding."

"Another despatch," says the Express, "from Lieut. Gen. Pemberton, announcing the capture, says that *the Indianola is sunk* on the Mississippi side of the river, *her boats and upper works out*, near Mr. Joe Davis's plantation."

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, FEB. 26.—The latest advices from Port Royal state that the Yankee fleet now there numbers one hundred and twenty-three vessels, including three frigates and twenty gunboats, the rest chiefly transports. There are now thirty thousand men collected there, and more expected.