

VICKSBURG WEEKLY HERALD.

Vol. V.

Vicksburg, Mississippi, Saturday Morning, December 11, 1869.

No. 15.

THE WEEKLY HERALD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4.

ONE OF GENERAL ALCOORN'S PECULIAR POSITIONS.

A candidate, on the Radical ticket, for State Senator from Marshall County, stated in a public speech in Holly Springs, that General Alcorn had said in defending himself for aiding the nefarious transactions of the despicable Committee of Sixteen, in a speech recently made in Holly Springs, that he desired to have the Constitution as it was then, fastened upon by the people by the exercise of any power. True, it was, he did not like it, but he confidently believed that it would be corrected. And as corroborative of this opinion, he slapped his hand upon his breast and said, "I have letters here from Bingham, Butler, Boutwell, Garfield, Sumner and others, who pledged that as soon as the Constitution was adopted and the State restored by Congress, that Congress should strike out of the Constitution the oppressive and objectionable clauses," and said General Alcorn further, "I believe Congress will do it."

Was ever such a preposterous declaration uttered? And yet the man who uttered it has in all probability been elected Governor of this State, and aspires to a seat in the United States Senate. From what source does Congress derive its authority for changing the Constitution of a State? If it has this power, how does it happen that the Constitutions of other States are not tampered with. Many of them have clauses in them which are odious to the dominant party in Congress. If Congress has the right to modify or change the Constitution of Mississippi in any way whatever, it has the same right to change that of New York or any other State. True, Congress can refuse, whether by sanction of law or not is not in question, to accept the Constitution of Mississippi when presented, but the idea that it has the power to change any feature of the Constitution of a State is childish.

Then General Alcorn only had the written declarations of Bingham, Boutwell & Co. Do they constitute the whole Congress?—Is Congress compelled to accept their *ipse dixit*? Do they carry that body in their breeches pocket? Besides, General Alcorn only had their word that they would do these things, could General Alcorn have believed one of them? With all his faults, we give him credit with more intelligence than this; no one would believe these men. This, General Alcorn knew. Therefore, if they ever had the power, it would never have been as they promised, since they make it an invariable rule to go counter to their words.

The members of Congress are assembling in Washington City rapidly. As we learn by Washington letter writers, the opinion expressed by prominent members of both houses indicates that there will be little legislation of an important character until after the Christmas holidays. From the meeting of Congress until that time the business of the session will be consumed in the introduction of bills and joint resolutions for reference to committees. The Cuban question will come up for immediate action, and although a remarkable unanimity of sympathy exists on the subject, it is not likely that the country will be spared a few able speeches and a raft of meaningless harangues. The American eagle is expected to soar aloft to the highest pinnacles of national glorification. Judging from the views of those who are gifted with the ability to conceive an idea, Congress will take strong grounds in favor of Cuba, whether directly or by increasing the powers of the Executive cannot be said. Congress, having reassembled in January, the financial question will consume weeks of discussion and tinkering, in which funding and specie payments will be the leading features. The various appropriations bills for the different branches of the government will, as usual, constitute a protracted and perplexing fund of controversy, verbal encounters and ludicrous scenes. The China mission, which it is understood the President in his message will suggest be raised to the first class, will give an opportunity to Sumner to ventilate his new ideas on the yellow man. The St.

Domago annexation will be disposed of amid a torrent of eagle sermons and salvos of bombast. The project of the Darien ship canal will doubtless be put in a tangible shape. The other measures set down for legislation are the bills for taking the census, the Paraguayan controversy, revenue, and reconstruction in the cases of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas for readmission. As usual, the army is likely to get another blow from the military failures who have managed to get into Congress, and have proved as much of an embarrassment to Congress as they were to the army.

THE NEUTRALITY LAWS SAID TO RECOGNIZE THE CUBANS.

One G. P. Lowery, Esq., of York State, files into print, most recklessly, in the declaration that the neutrality laws protect the Cubans. This Mr. Lowery, if we understand aright, is a Northern man, writing for Northern approval, and what is more, we think he is intensely Radical. Upon the Cuban question he observes that the neutrality act of 1818, which alone is now in force, was intended by Congress to guarantee to revolutionary colonies or peoples the same neutrality on the part of the United States as we observe toward belligerent princes, potentates, or States that are recognized diplomatically by our Government. It seems not only that was this the plain intention of Congress, at the time, but that the courts have repeatedly so decided. For instance, the right of the people of Venezuela to commission vessels of war, and to capture the vessels of Spain, was maintained under the law of 1818 by the Supreme Court of the United States in several cases, while Venezuela was only a revolted colony, not yet recognized by our executive authorities.

It has no doubt been the opinion of many lawyers and publicists, that there must be a proclamation by the President declaring the belligerent rights of a revolted colony before the courts can take cognizance of those rights; but Mr. Lowery demonstrates that this opinion is founded on error. He demonstrates also that the law as it stands is only in accord with reason and right; since if it be otherwise, while Cuba may be forbidden to violate our neutrality, as in the case of the alleged fitting out of the *Hornet*, she would not be entitled to any corresponding benefit or protection; or, as Mr. Lowery expresses it, the law would thus become in the case of a civil war "both a sword and shield in the hands of one belligerent alone."

This being so, it follows that our relations to the two parties in the pending struggle in Cuba are already determined by law, and that no recognition by President Grant is necessary to secure to the Cubans their rights as belligerents. Spain can as little be allowed to violate the neutrality act as can the Cubans; and the officers of the law are just as much bound to enforce the statute against the one party as against the other. This statute, it should be understood, prohibits the building and fitting out of ships and the enlistment of soldiers and sailors in our country for the service of either belligerent, but does not prohibit the sale to them of arms or warlike material.

Now, these views of Mr. Lowery are very beautiful and pleasantly presented. But suppose that, instead of coveted Cuba and imbecile Spain being the parties used in illustration, the late bravely contending Confederate States and the United States should be the parties interested, how would Mr. Lowery and his Radical friends relish such reasoning, or rather how was it liked as practiced in Great Britain? It is singular that the Radical mind is incapable of applying the same principle to the same subject wherever found. British recognition of belligerent rights, as practiced in the late war, was contrary to the neutrality and to all international law, yet when the great and fearless United States proposes to apply this law to puerile Spain in her conflict with one of her rebelling colonies, a new interpretation is put upon the same law which is sought to be so vigorously applied in an entire different form in a treaty with another power. This law and logic is simply Radical, nothing more, and, as a consequence, is perverted.

The latest "loil" wrinkle is to change the phrase, "King's English" to President's English. Now don't. We can stand almost anything after the terrible experiences of the last nine years, still we would beg to be spared "Grant's English."

Certain "loil" New Englanders wish Plymouth Rock Monument taken down because the Corner Stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies. Fanaticism will always be rampant in New England.

EDITORIAL BRIEFVITIES.

The people of Tennessee are in a fever of excitement. There is to be a Constitutional Convention held in Nashville on the 2d Monday in January next. God save them from such results as followed the assembling of the Constitutional Convention in this State.

Is the Cardiff giant a humbug, a Yankee wooden-nutmeg sell, or a reality? So many of the people of the North are Radicals, that we afraid to take their statements upon any subject; therefore will some good, honest, truth-telling Democrat furnish reliable information upon this interesting and engrossing subject. The New York Sun professes that it is no humbug, but who will believe it.

Tennyson is building himself a spacious house on the Surrey Hills, near Godalming. It will be surrounded by extensive grounds.

A new religious society, calling itself the Church of Progress, has been inaugurated at St. George's Hall, London, by Mr. T. Baxter Langley. The master spirits of it are John Stuart Mill, Lord Amberly, and Sir John Browning.

Seventy-three years ago the town of Franklin, Conn., "voted to hire a man to instruct the school for four months, at \$8 per month, find his own board, to keep six days for a month, and twenty-six days for the year, and that no partially be used on the part of the master."

An elegantly dressed lady recently presented herself to one of the police magistrates in Paris, and politely denounced herself as the murderer of eleven children. Investigation fortunately proved that she was laboring under a fit of hallucination caused by the horrors of the Paustin tragedy.

The Baron De Novo Friburgo, supposed to be the wealthiest man in Brazil, died on the 4th of October. He left instructions that his body, placed in a plain coffin, should be carried to the grave in one of his own carriages; also, that no invitations be issued to his funeral. His dwelling house in Rio Janeiro is said to have cost him \$1,500,000; but he lived to enjoy it only a year or two.

Professor Loomis, of New Haven, considers the earth a very unsafe place to stay on any longer, from the fact that the late volcanic manifestations have been so general in their character that there is no longer any doubt about the theory that all volcanoes have not a local, but a general and common origin, in the central liquid parts of our globe, where the most intense heat prevails.

Patti has declined an offer of a million of francs to sing for ten months in the new serious opera which Offenbach has composed to a libretto by Sardon. Patti recently wounded her thumb with a dagger which she held while playing the part of *Gilda* in "*Rigoletto*." The thumb bled, but Patti went on with the performance.

Chinese literature has met with a serious loss in the destruction by fire of a wing of the Emperor of China's palace which contained stores of books and of blocks for book printing. From its connection with literature, it was one of the best known buildings in the palace. Its name occurs on all books printed at the Emperor's charge for two centuries.

TO CURE TOOTHACHE.—According to the London Lancet, toothache can be cured by the following preparation of carbonic acid: To one drachm of colloidum add two drachms of Calet's carbonic acid. A gelatinous mass is precipitated, a small portion of which inserted in the cavity of an aching tooth, invariably gives immediate relief.

The heirs of John Campbell, the possessor of 300 acres of land, which now embraces the commercial centre of Louisville, Ky., are about instituting a suit for this property, of which they claim they are the lawful owners since the first charter of the city, in 1812. This property has passed from one hand to another until it is now owned by a large number of persons, all of whom will be defendants to the suit. The land improvements are valued at \$20,000,000.

A Japanese history of the British Parliament has been published at Jeddo. The object appears to be to help the first Japanese Parliament to an understanding of its functions. The work is compiled from the best English authorities on the British constitution, is published in two volumes, and contains several good illustrations.

Three interesting fossils have lately been found in the township

of Seymour, Canada. The first is apparently a petrified human head, which shows the tongue, eye-balls and muscles of the face; the head having the reddish-brown appearance of an ore of iron. The other relics are the foot and leg of a young girl about ten years old, and section of meat from the side of an ox, showing two ribs.

Relapsing fever, popularly known as famine fever, is raging in London. It is a sort of stealthy epidemic, depressing mind and body, though not always mortal, and originating in squalid living and misery. The London Times says it is not the bare want of food, but the hopelessness of earning food, which prepares the way for the ravages of this disease. It prevails in White-chapel and other more wretched parts of the east of London city.

A GRANT has been made by the Russian Government to Mr. Tiedgen and others, through whose agency the great northern cables were laid in the North Sea and Baltic, to lay cables from Posietta Bay, on the southeast coast of Siberia, to China and Japan. A company is in course of formation to do the work. The Russian Government will, it is said, connect their land lines with the company's cable. This will be carried to Shanghai, touching at Nagasaki or Osaka. Thence it will be laid to Hong Kong, touching at Niampo, Foochow, Amoy, and Swatow. When this line is completed New York will be in telegraphic connection with China and Japan.

A Wisconsin paper gives an account of the capture in northern Montana, of an "animal of a species wholly unknown to naturalists, which is claimed by some to be a relic of the mastodon." This marvellous creature is only two years old, but stands seven feet high.

The New Orleans Bulletin says that all the business now done in that city by seventy thousand men could easily be done by twenty thousand. As a necessary consequence, the city abounds with unemployed and half-employed persons, and the inordinate competition for business is a great evil. For the year ending September 1, 1869, the amounts of imports and exports into and from the city was twice as large as for the year ending September 1, 1868. Profits then were far greater than they are now. The growth of the city was regular, healthy and vigorous, resting entirely upon its commercial needs and its increase of wealth and population. Except for the war, says the Bulletin, that growth would have continued, and New Orleans would now have employment for a hundred men and legitimate use for two hundred millions of capital.

A COUPLE, male and female, reached St. Louis the other day; they engaged rooms at a fashionable hotel, as husband and wife. The next morning the male was missing, and at police headquarters the disconsolate "last best gift" states that she was a milliner, who resided in an interior town in the West; that coming to St. Louis on the train she had been proposed to by the aforesaid "Lord of creation," and finding an accommodating person on the train, the "twain were made one." That afternoon a short twelve hours experience in the sweets of married life, she had awoke to find her "Charley" gone, and strange to say, he had been accompanied by her gold watch and her one hundred dollars worth of national pledges to redeem. She prayed that the trait might be restored. Charley was soon found and stated that he knew Malissa; that she was a married man; and that Malissa knew it, yet she had consented to permit the forms of marriage to be gone through with; that neither of them had a cent but she had a watch; that she had kindly given him to pay their bill at the hotel. He journeyed forth to pawn it, and succeeded in raising five dollars upon it. Temptation had crossed his path on his return, and he had lusted the five dollars in the intoxicating bowl. His story was adjudged to be true and he was released, and Malissa had a temporary husband and a watch. So much for a mock marriage by a woman to a married man.

A New York boarding-house keeper has adopted the novel expedient of putting a fifty cent stamp in the morning deposit of cash, which becomes the property of the fortunate chap who finds it in his mess. She has no difficulty now in working off that commodity.

IS IT AS STATED?

The editor of the Chicago Times indulges somewhat in an expression of opinion about that animal commonly called woman. His remarks are not as complimentary as the "last best gift," usually enjoys from the Lords of creation, but they are to the point whether the true point or not. At all events he points, by way of illustration, to certain historical facts which are indisputable. He writes:

"If one wishes a great historical example of cruelty, he can always find one in which some woman was the prime instrument. A case was not long since exposed in France, in which some thirty or forty poisonings were fastened upon a woman. Lucretia Borgia need only be mentioned. The late atrocious developments at Cracow, in which some sisters kept one of their number in a noisome cell for twenty-one years, is still fresh in the public mind. Mrs. Grider was only a woman in an uncommonly high state of development. The Queen mother who opened the fusillade at the St. Bartholomew massacre was no more or less than a woman. Elizabeth, the virgin Queen, had she been a man, would have been honestly execrated through all time for her atrocious treatment of Mary; but she was no ogre, no hyena; she was only a woman. Catherine of Russia was not a monster, but simply a member of the genus sex.

One reason why women make such admirable nurses is found in their insensibility to the sufferings of others. When the patient writhes in pain, raves in delirium, or falls back with set eyes and a hoarse rattle in his throat it is woman who is the calmest among the observers, the readiest with her assistance and suggestion, and all because she feels less the influences of the situation."

O'DONOVAN KISSA, a political convict, has recently been returned to the British Parliament by the voters of the county of Tipperary, in Ireland. Our readers will well remember somewhat of the history of this gentleman's wife, who a few months ago was delivering lectures in various portions of the Union. One of the few occasions when he appeared in public, Mr. Charles Halpin, "Miles O'Reilly," the late brilliant and talented editor of the New York Citizen, introduced this lovely lady to a New York audience. Her husband was incarcerated in prison in England and she, to assist him, and support herself, was traveling throughout the United States giving readings and lectures.

SENATOR CAMERON and Commissioner Delano, accompanied by about thirty other persons, principally politicians, propose to travel over Southern Georgia, to discover from personal observation the real condition of that region, politically and otherwise, with the view of imparting the results of their observation to Congress. What an impartial report that crowd will make!

To obviate the danger from stoves broken or overturned in railway accidents, a stove has been patented for which it is claimed that no concussion can break it.

In the first six months of his administration, Gen. Grant changed his Secretaries of the State, Treasury and Navy Departments. This is a larger number of changes in the Cabinet than was ever made in so short a time by any President except Tyler, all of whose Cabinet resigned on one day with the exception of Mr. Webster. This is hardly a parallel case, however, because Tyler's first Cabinet was not selected by himself, but by Gen. Harrison.

STATE ITEMS.

We regret to learn that Mr. Frank Brook and a Mr. Estes were arrested by order of the military in Carrollton, on last Wednesday. We understand that they were charged with being the prime movers in the recent fight between the negroes and whites at Carrollton. We learn that Mr. Estes refused to be arrested, and they shot him in the arm. It is impossible to get news correct these times, even a short distance, so we do not vouch for this report.—[Valden Times.

The Gretna Sentinel says a first class rolling mill is to be built there by the Mississippi Central and Mississippi and Tennessee Railroads.

On Saturday last the northern bound train ran off at Duck Hill, the switch being wrong, and killed and wounded several persons. Among the slightly wounded was Mrs. Bette Byrd, of this place, and her two little daughters, but we are glad to say to her friends that the injuries are not serious, though very painful.—[Pascala Star.

Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Vicksburg Railroad.

But a short time ago we were congratulating ourselves that a line of railroad from Little Rock, Arkansas, via Pine Bluff, would soon reach our city, and give us that impetus which we so sorely need. And we fondly termed this route the Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Vicksburg Railroad. Col. Sappington, of Arkansas, came here and called our people together to consult them as to their wishes regarding the building of this Northwestern route, and after carefully explaining the matter and the steps already taken and yet to be taken, submitted it to our people as to the action they would take and the aid they would give the scheme. But other points are working for this road. By an article published in the Hamburg, Ark., Times, and republished in the Ouachita, La., Telegraph, we see there is to be a movement, if not already on foot, to take this road away from Vicksburg and run it South 112 miles from Pine Bluff, in Arkansas, by Monticello and Hamburg.

This article asserts that this route is best because of its eligibility, the immense good to the country, and the smallness of the cost of construction. It says the route to Vicksburg is impracticable, passes through an inaccessible region of country, of small benefit to the public, and can only be built at immense cost. We will not pause to argue the truth of these statements, for that is not our present purpose. Suffice it to say that we believe the Vicksburg route far preferable for all parties in every way. But it should be enough to stimulate us to some action in favor of this road, that others are taking steps to draw this road away from us, a result that would be deplorable in the highest degree.

Now let us call attention to a few facts in connection with this road which are strongly in its favor. This route, from Little Rock via Pine Bluff and Napoleon to this city, is a link in a grand trunk line to the North-west. It connects with the Mississippi, Red River and Waelita Railroad, from Fulton and Camden to Gaine's Landing. It connects with a route from Fulton to Cairo, and one from Little Rock to Memphis. Going northward and westward it branches off into the numerous lines that cross-bar the northwest, and becomes a tributary of lines in all directions. By this route the heart of the grain producing country would be tapped and the cereals of the west would naturally follow the first and nearest outlet to a desirable market. That the road would be a paying one there can be no doubt, as it affords such an attractive route to a market that the northwest alone would more than support the road. And this, taken in connection with the cotton and shipments from Arkansas, would insure this to be a valuable and desirable investment. Nearly 5,000,000 bales cotton would, in a short time, be passed over this route. The most of this cotton would come to and via Vicksburg. Twenty parishes in Louisiana and counties in Arkansas would be protected by this road and an immense quantity of the richest lands redeemed from waste and placed under cultivation.

With proper enterprise and action, why should not Vicksburg become one of the foremost cotton markets. Thousands and thousands of bales of cotton might be concentrated right here, and our city might be the head quarters of Northern and European buyers. Undoubtedly these buyers would prefer to purchase at first hands, if the amount of cotton thrown upon the market was sufficient to warrant the establishment of a purchasing agency at this point. This, like all else, depends upon the energy and enterprise of our citizens. Vicksburg is nearer New York and the European ports than New Orleans. Cotton can be placed in New York in ten days via Savannah Georgia; while from New Orleans via the Keys it requires thirty-two days. Thus nearly one-third of the time is saved, and thus a capital can be "turned over" twice in shipping via Savannah, to once when shipped via New Orleans.

Further, the whole future of Vicksburg depends upon these railroad enterprises. We cannot afford to be laggardly about these matters of railroad improvement. The best and truest economy in this respect is to take hold of such schemes heartily, and spend money for them freely. We should invest in these roads liberally

and bold—not sparingly and timidly. Not because we hope to benefit ourselves individually by the investment, although such would, doubtless, be the result; but we should invest in these roads because through their means our city is to be made great and prosperous, and without them we will remain a "one horse," "no count" town until our city gradually falls to decay and presents that pitiful, deplorable appearance which we sometimes see in towns where the *spirit* of energy and enterprise died out and left the shell standing meekly awaiting its doom. Louisiana is wide awake to the importance of this route; and so is Arkansas. Both these States will aid liberally. We are positively assured that it is the wish and intention to bring the road to Vicksburg. If it should not come here the fault will be ours. They ask of us now subscription to the amount of \$100,000, and \$250,000 in all. Bonds can be used, \$5,000 would put 1,000 Chinamen at work immediately. Koopmanschop has agreed to take stock in the road and furnish the Chinese laborers.

This scheme will accomplish two most desirable objects. It will provide a levee to protect a vast extent of magnificent country, and a railroad to carry off the products thereof.

By all means "let us be up and doing." We call upon those leading citizens who are interested in this route to organize an effort to do something.

We do not mean our advocacy of this route shall be construed as one word of detraction regarding the North-easterly or Yazoo Valley road. We can have both roads, and we need and must have both. Push forward our Yazoo road vigorously and let us never pause until it is finished.

Take hold of the Little Rock road and give it the aid which will bring it to our doors in fifteen months.

THE COURTS AT VICKSBURG.—THE CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURT—for Warren county will commence on the second Monday in December next, and continue for ten weeks.

THE PROBATE COURT—for this county sets first Monday in each month, continuing each term, one week.

THE CRIMINAL COURT—sets four times a year—three weeks to the term—commencing each term on the second Monday of February, May, August and November. The term closed on Saturday, leaving several cases untried.

THE COUNTY COURT—sits four times a year.

It will be seen from the foregoing that we have during the year, forty-eight weeks of Court at Vicksburg.

We make this mention of the Courts for the benefit of the lawyers, witnesses, and all parties interested in legal business.

A BAD IM—Free Loveism. Disguise it as you may, it is bad, very bad. It is an outcropping of Fourierism and from the affinities of Spiritualism. Disregarding the established mores and bounds of society, it is apt to culminate in gunpowder. Prudent men will avoid it and all its affiliations. There is no safety outside the established order of society, as there is none in disregarding the laws of the land.—[N. Y. Herald.

Your opinion, Mr. Herald, is that of this entire section; so unanimous, in fact, is it, that it does not require discussion here. It appears to be different with you.

The Winans Brothers, of Baltimore, have sold their interest in the Moscow and St. Petersburg Railway to a Russian company, for six millions of roubles, and are arranging for the purchase of a new line of railway running southeasterly from Moscow.

At a hotel in Sonoma, Cal., on the 13th, one Wm. Hudson, who was drunk, said to Wm. Hudson, his friend, also drunk, with whom he had never quarreled: "I wish you would cut my throat or my head off." Hudson replied: "All right; I can do it for you in a few minutes." Soon after Hudson borrowed a knife, returned where Hudson was sitting, and inflicted a severe wound in his neck, causing almost death. Hudson was arrested for thus accommodating his friend.

HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS has been elected President of the South Carolina Life Insurance Company, located at Memphis, Tenn., with a salary of \$15,000 per annum.

Brown University has just had a professorship endowed with \$40,000 by Rowland Hazard.