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The Pawnee was opposite Main wharf at Alexandria, with her guns loaded and run out of her port holes. She crossed to stop the interference with the free navigation of the Potomac, which had been attempted several times within a few days by the rebel garrison of the town. Her appearance produced quite a panic among the secessionists.

Gen. Lee was Chief Commander of the Confederate forces in Virginia. Gov. Letcher had prohibited military authorities from giving passes to persons to leave the State.

It was stated from a reliable source that the sacred remains of Washington was removed from Mount Vernon, by Col. Washington, who had recently joined the Confederate army. By the sale of Mount Vernon, Col. Washington reserved to himself, not only the tomb, but also an acre of ground around it.

The Pawnee was increasing her armament, as though she was expecting an early brush with the rebels. Two more heavy Dahlgrens had been mounted on her.

The Virginia and North Carolina collectors, like those of the other seceding States, had ceased to make their returns to the Treasury Department. Marshall Fisher of the eastern district of Virginia was the only Judicial officer of that State who had not resigned.

Ten thousand troops were reported at Richmond, ten thousand at Norfolk, seven thousand at Harper's Ferry, and others were preparing to leave Richmond for the latter place. Business in these places was entirely suspended.

MONTGOMERY.

Mr. Clingman presented resolutions of the House of Representatives of North Carolina, placing that State in an independent position and in opposition to the Lincoln Government. Mr. Thos. R. R. Cobb offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted that the President be requested to issue a proclamation appointing a day of fasting and prayer, in the observance of which all should be invited to join who recognized their independence. The flag of the Confederate States, which waved over Fort Moultrie, during the bombardment of Sumter, was hanging in full length in the rear of President Cobb's chair.

A Commissioner from Havana had gone to Montgomery to confer with the Confederate Government concerning Southern shipping at Cuban ports, against which the Federal Consul General was acting in an unjustifiable manner.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Virginians at Harper's Ferry had unsuccessfully attempted to blow up the culvert near Frederick. Fifty members of the Maryland Guards had left for Harper's Ferry, taking their arms. Winans had been sent under guard to Fort McHenry. He was same day nominated for Congress at an informal meeting of friends.

General Scott had sent orders for the fortification of the heights at Cairo, commanding Bird Point, which he regarded as the only available point at that post.

It was understood that Governors Curtin and Dennison had pledged the Union men of Western Virginia the entire support of all the forces of Pennsylvania and Ohio to protect them against secessionists. Indiana and Illinois had also pledged the Union men of Kentucky and Missouri the same way.

The Herald's Washington dispatch reports all telegraphic communication south of Washington suspended by the secessionists, having removed all the wires. A new company had been organized, embracing all the Southern lines.

Southern stockholders of Adam's Express Company had purchased all the property, privileges and interests of the company in the Southern Confederacy, and a new company would organize in a few days. The business would continue without interruption.

All the troops captured in Texas and released on parole, would be required to renew their full obligations to the Government, and a refusal to take the oath would be met by instant dismissal from service.

The Tribune says that Government had intelligence that large bodies of Mexicans were garrisoning their frontier towns. There was no doubt that Texas would soon have lively times in looking after our Government troops, various tribes of merciless Indians and predatory bands of Mexican soldiers, and might perhaps wish she was safe home again.

No change was to be made in the command of the fleet off Pensacola.

General Butler had been assigned to Fort Monroe.

The New York Herald of May 17, states that on the 17th ult., the War Department issued orders directing the commanders of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Forts Cobb, Gibson, and Washita to evacuate and repair with their troops and Government property to Leavenworth, and authorizing the occupation of those posts by the Arkansas volunteers, called out by the first proclamation of the President.—This explains the abandonment of Fort Smith by its Federal garrison, some time since.

The Government had received advices from the squadron off Fort Pickens that there was no change of military status. The squadron, in accordance with instruction, had put a stop to the landing of vessels from Mobile and New Orleans with supplies for the Confederate army, being a complete blockade. It appears that the rebel troops had been almost wholly supplied with provisions from those two points. The stopping of these supplies at that time would, it was thought, operate most disastrously to the troops, as they were poorly supplied before.

The Washington police had been requested to take the oath of allegiance.

Another spy had been arrested in the Pennsylvania camp.

A private letter from the wife of a leading politician of the Confederate Government, to a friend in New York, reads as follows: "Northerners need have no expectations in regard to the bones of Washington: we will see that they are not desecrated by the touch of abolition hands—they are our sacred inheritance."

FOREIGN.

European news had been received up to the 7th of May.

Lord John Russell had made an important statement on American affairs as to the Federal Government committing an infringement on international law by collecting duties from foreign ships, before breaking bulk.

The law officers of the Crown said so much depended on circumstances, that no definite instructions had been sent to cruisers.

The Government believed that such collection was impracticable, and that a blockade would only be recognized when effective; and regarding letters of marque, it was the opinion of the Government that the Southern Confederacy must be recognized as belligerents.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Ewart asked whether seeing the possibility of privateering being permitted and encouraged by the Southern Confederacy, the American Government had placed a sufficient naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, for the protection of British property in American ships, and if privateers sailing under the flag of an unrecognized power, would be dealt with as pirates.

Lord John Russell said that Her Majesty's Government had directed that a naval force for the protection of British shipping, be sent to the coast of America.

The Government had received accounts of the progress of the war in the States of America. The Government heard the other day that the Southern Confederacy had issued letters of marque and that it was intended by the United States Government that there should be a blockade of all the Southern ports. There were some points of law in these questions, and they had been referred to the law officers of the Crown for their opinion, in order to guide them in their instructions to the Minister in America and the commandant of the naval squadron.

The Government had felt that it was their duty to use every possible measure to avoid taking part in this lamentable contest. Nothing but the important duty of protecting British interests in case they were attacked, justified the Government in interfering at all. They had not been involved in any way in the contest by any act or by giving advice, and for God's sake, he said, let us if possible, keep out of it."

The London Times says the excitement of the Northern and Southern sections of America, has had no parallel since the era of the French revolution.

Large bodies of Italian troops had embarked from Genoa for Southern Italy, and three thousand had reached Naples. The official Journal of Rome denied that Sardinia had made conciliatory proposals to Rome.

AGRICULTURAL.



HOW TO MAKE FOOD PLENTY.

The people of the Northern, and also of the Southern States, in anticipation of the want of bread, that will inevitably result from the war movements now being made, and which, not a few begin to think may continue for many years, are waking up some little to the importance of tilling the earth to a greater extent than heretofore, and to the growing of crops, that will produce the greatest amount of food for man and beast to the exclusion of such as can be dispensed with in the emergency which is expected to arise. Agricultural and other journals are urging upon those who do not go forth to war, to exert themselves to the utmost in raising all kinds of grain, and vegetables, that the horrors of famine may not be added to those of civil war. Even Greeley, who two years ago considered a famine in the North American States as an event that could never occur seems to think now that such a state of things may exist to some extent at no distant day, under existing circumstances, if precautionary measures be not taken to prevent it, as will be seen from the following agricultural article, published in a late number of the Tribune.

We have already urged the fact upon farmers that a great crop of grain will be needed this year for home consumption—that a gathering army must be fed—that the number of men usually employed in the production of food is likely to be materially lessened, which will render it imperative upon those who are left to till the earth, to leave no land idle that can be cultivated; we don't mean barely planted, or sown, and left to grow a crop of weeds, but cultivated, fertilized, and made to add to the great store of food next Autumn, when it will be wanted to feed a great body of men in the service of their country, or who at least have been, and have not been producing grain and roots, and meat, for their own sustenance through the Winter.

Now is the time to prepare for this want. Now is the time to sow oats, to plant potatoes, to prepare for a great crop of Indian corn; not merely a great number of acres, but a great surplus of grain of this most sure of all food producing plants.

Later than corn, another most valuable food crop can be planted, which is both productive and profitable. This is the common white beans, which grow very well upon land too poor to produce good corn. They should be planted with a drilling machine in the furrow of a subsoil plow, and be cultivated with a horse-hoe, to make the crop profitable.

Next in order comes buckwheat, which can be sown as late as the 20th of June, though it is safer to sow it ten days earlier. If there is any spare land left from the other crops, do not neglect to put it in buckwheat, and don't forget that the crop, when ripe, can be safely stored in stacks, and will keep as well, or better, than any other grain. We mention this because we have known farmers to gauge their sowing by their ability to cut and thresh at once, having the impression that the crop could not be kept in the straw.

Millet is another late crop that should not be neglected. It is very much grown at the West as a hay crop, under the name of Hungarian grass, and several other humbug names, one of which is "Japanese wheat," under which name most persistent efforts are made to swindle farmers with some of the varieties of millet—a good and useful grain, for some purposes, and profitable to grow under some circumstances, but not valuable enough for farmers to afford to be swindled with a high price for the seed.

Besides increasing the grain and grass crops to the greatest possible extent, do not neglect the root crop. Plant beets, carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, turnips—everything that will help to produce a greater abundance of butter, cheese, pork, beef, mutton. In all probability all will be wanted, at remunerating prices, in all the quantity that the diminished help of farmers can possibly produce.

A late number of *The Homestead* has a good article upon this subject of increasing the crops, particularly directed to Connecticut farmers, which says:

"Civil war is upon us, and it devolves new duties upon farmers, as well as upon other classes in the community. True, the country is full of breadstuffs and provisions of all kinds are unusually abundant and cheap. But who is wise enough to tell what proportions this war shall assume, and how long the struggle will continue? It is a war of the people—of Anglo Saxon people—resolute, dogged and persistent to the last degree. Multitudes of men will be drawn from the pursuits of peace to the tented field. Large armies will have to be fed and clothed. Immense numbers of horses will be needed for them. Almost everything that the farm produces will be in brisk demand. Hay, oats, corn, wheat, flour, pork, beef, butter, cheese, etc., will be likely to advance in price if the war is prolonged beyond the present Summer. It is among the contingencies, that we are just entering upon—a conflict more bloody and prolonged than that which gave birth to the nation. It is the part of patriotism as well as of private interest to keep the country full of provisions."

"Grain, especially, should be produced to the full capacity of the farm, and the labor employed. For grain, unlike roots and vegetables, and fruits, can easily be kept over a year without any loss in value or price. New is

the time of oat-sowing. If a larger breadth cannot be given to this crop, at least a little more manure may be sown with the seeds, and the product be increased. If stable manure is exhausted, guano, poudrette and superphosphate are still on hand, and these, when genuine, are pretty certain to return their cost in grain with profit on the labor."

"A little more manure and labor bestowed upon the same fields we now cultivate, will give us a full supply of corn for our own population. This crop is greatly helped by concentrated fertilizers, dropped in the hill with the seed. Farmers who have tried this are confident that it can be increased twenty bushels to the acre by this process. While we spread the yard manure and compost, and plow in as usual, we can drop guano, superphosphate, bone dust or poudrette in the hill. There is manure enough wasted on almost every farm to add scores if not hundreds of bushels to the corn crop."

It is probable that although agricultural labor may be scarce, there will be a surplus of unskilled labor which farmers may, in fact should employ. Laborers now employed in many manufacturing establishments are very likely to be thrown out of employment, and so will be a great many sea-faring men engaged in the coasting trade. All these, instead of remaining idle, should at once apply themselves to the cultivation of the land, and every farmer is in duty bound—duty to his country as well as fellow man—to give such persons employment; if not as hirelings, give them an opportunity of growing something that will help them in their need to a supply of food.

The *Homestead's* article has another very sensible piece of advice which will apply to some others besides Connecticut farmers. Let it be read and thought of:

"We have one crop that might be dispensed with altogether for the present. Grain is better than tobacco. In 1850 we produced in this State over a million and a quarter pounds of tobacco with very doubtful economy to the producer, and not much benefit to the public. We think all the grain that can be grown upon these acres will be needed before the year comes round."

"Tobacco has been considered our most profitable crop; whether it be so or not we will not discuss; we have always held the contrary, and fully believe it; still, under some circumstances on the very best managed farms perhaps it may be a little more profitable than any other. The question of profit is complex, however, and we should not reckon only the profits of a single season, for obviously thus we can come at no just decision. Neither should a man who has a patriotic soul calculate only his own profits. After years of peace in money getting, we have grown selfish. Let us remember, however, that we are the State, and the State is its people. Let then the man who is this crisis in our nation's history show his loyalty, raise food instead of poison. Less tobacco will be of no damage to the world; more wheat at our own doors will be a great blessing. Sow, then, corn or wheat on the tobacco land. Let this word go forth, and if it goes forth with a will and becomes the sentiment of the people, we should, even here in law-loving New England, fear that the man who, in spite of this sentiment, should plant the weed, would never gather his crop. There will be a good deal of wheat raised this year, and while our production is so far behind our consumption there cannot be too much. We ought all to do our best."

Yes, do our best to provide for the worst, and then if the worst does not come, and we find ourselves in possession of a surplus, remember that "a store is no sore."

It would be a sore thing if in addition to the soreness of war there should be such a scarcity of food that those who go to fight back Slavery from overrunning free soil would be in danger of not being full fed, or that their wives and children left at home among us should suffer, as many did in the war of the first revolution.

It is the duty of those who take arms in their hands to drive back the foe, to provide against that danger. It is our duty, who stay at home, to provide against the danger of short crops. In short, to provide that they are so abundant as industrious labor, judiciously and economically directed, can possibly effect. To do this we must begin now. Now is the seed time; let us all do our duty, and trust God for the harvest.

Brother farmers, we urge you to plant corn. Plow deep, manure well, and plant corn.

American mothers, wives and daughters of American soldiers, we urge you to plant corn.

What if every woman, who has the ability, shall plant and tend one well fertilized hill of corn?

Who can imagine the vast addition all the golden ears grown upon these extra stalks would make to the great national store?—What if they were all gathered in one garner, and added to the widows' and orphans' fund?

Think of this, mothers, wives, and daughters! Think what you can do, with such a trifling addition to your other labors as planting one hill of corn.

"Only three grains of corn, mother!" Let every child cry in all the month of May, and plant it, and then follow the Scriptural injunction, "Dig about and dung it," until it grows and bears fruit.

The waste bones of a single dinner, burned and pulverized, will more than fertilize a hill of corn. The waste, the sweepings, the slops, the faeces, of a small family, mixed in a tub, and carefully applied as liquid manure, would fertilize a hundred hills of corn; aye, more, would add a hundred bushels to the crop.

Then plant "three grains of corn." Dig the soil deep and mellow. Soak the seed to hasten its vegetation. Keep the ground free of weeds, and the surface loose, and moist and rich. Dig in the early morning dew. There is no better fertilizer. If you plant the right kind, three grains will produce six ears, and each of these will have a hundred grains.

Men, women, children—all who love your country—all who have a single superficial foot of the surface of that country—we ask you to plant one hill of corn. Thus you can serve your country in its hour of peril. You can, with your feeble hands, alone, provide a surplus of grain. Seeing your spirit, your strong-handed relatives will be animated to renewed and greater exertion, and each and all throughout all the corn growing region of States unpolled with slavery will plant one more hill of corn.