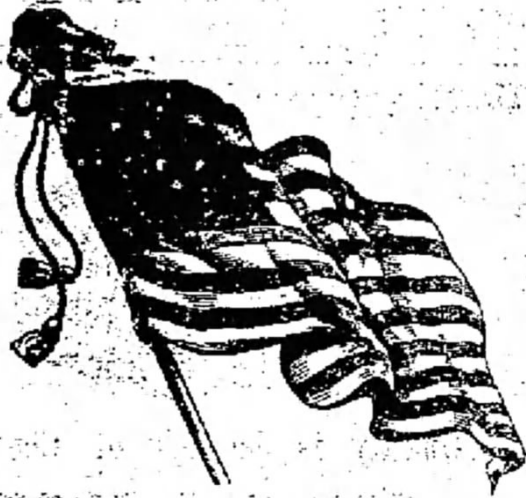


The Daily Gazette.

City of Janesville.

Friday Evening, May 31, 1861.

Official Paper of the City.



*Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us?
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us*

The News.

The news by the America shows the progress of "neutrality" in the English house of lords. It is said that the steamer *Perusia* refused to bring arms for the United States government, and that the whole Cunard line will follow the same course. This is practical neutrality. England proclaims that "hostilities" have "commenced between the government and certain states," and considering them "belligerent powers" on a perfect equality, she folds her arms and says fight it out. We are putting down a rebellion of slave-holding citizens, and have not commenced "hostilities" against any state. The citizens of a part of the

country are not equal to the whole state that is reducing them to obedience. As well, if the county of Northumberland should rebel, could we call the rebels a nation, and put them upon an equality with the government of Great Britain. This proclamation that the rebels of the south are entitled to the same belligerent rights as the regular government is an insult to this nation—not openly and boldly done, but in a sneaking, cowardly manner, for selfish commercial ends.

The Virginia rebels feel the importance of their position at Manassas Gap, which commands Harper's Ferry, and feeling certain that some movement will be soon made against them, are reported to be advancing against Alexandria under Gen. Lee. If that is true there may be a battle soon, as their camp is only twenty-seven miles from the latter place.

The rebels at Grafton, in Western Virginia, some 3,000 in number, according to secession accounts, took to their heels upon the approach of Gen. McClelland's forces. They showed discretion in that, and there will be very little more trouble with that portion of Virginia.

The determination of the government to sustain Gen. Butler's act of receiving and detaining slaves, will cause a stampede among that species of contraband goods in Virginia. Wheaton says that "all warlike instruments or materials, by their own nature fit to be used in war," are contraband. It cannot be denied that slaves come under this definition. If they are received and set at work they must be protected and fed. Should it become necessary, they would, in an emergency, upon the same principle, be furnished with arms, to aid in their own defense and of that of their captors. This is the beginning of the end of slavery. It is well that a Breckinridge democrat should commence the work.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

National Park Service Network to Freedom / House Divided Project at Dickinson College