THE DAILY BEE.
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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, 1861.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK

The carriers of the Bee are authorized to receive subscriptions to our paper, at the rate of 25 cents a week, payable in all cases to the carriers themselves.

Sheldon Sabre Thin Bony.

By P. S. Spear, at the Merchants' Exchange a open and her four children—cousins of Mate Monroe Cot ton.

MATERIAL INDEPENDENCE.

There is no such consequence of the political independence of a nation as its material independence. Possessing the ability within itself to supply its own wants is an element of strength and safety hardly to be estimated in words. Not that this should be carried to the extreme of Chinese exclusiveness, nor interfere with the liberal commercial tipperet of a prosperous country, but to take advantage in time of necessity of the whole strength of the nation, and to retain unfettered the principle of bold independence in the public heart is is well that the great wants of a country should not be absolutely cut off by a proclamation of war. The luxuries that modern commerce brings to the lap of wealth from every quarter of the globe, though habit may have stamped many of them with the specious impress of necessities, can be dispensed with during the sadness of a great struggle, not only with safety, but with general profit to a people, by praising that reckless luxuriance that increases its unprovoking habits with every year of uninterrupted commercial prosperity. But there are real wants, without the means of obtaining which within its own bordens no nation can be powerful, no people can feel truly independent, and ready to take up arms whatsoever their rights, safety or honor require it of them.

Prominent among these real wants are provisions, clothing and manliness of war. Of the first named the prolific soil and vast pastures of the South furnish the guarantee of an endless abundance, and of the second, although ours is strictly an agricultural country, we have fortunately a sufficiency of mills and looms to furnish our people with good homespun cloth, and several shoe factories are in successful operation. In the third respect alone are we deficient.

Fortunately for us, at the commencement of our war of independence the far-seeing statesmen at the heads of Government took energetic measures that secured to us a considerable share of the late national arms and ammunition, thus giving us the means of coping for half a year with our better provided enemy; but even that was found inadequate to the immense struggle we have been forced into, and our Government has been earnestly striving to develop our military resources in every manufacturing branch. In many of these a most encouraging success has been met with—in others much remains to be accomplished.

The Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond, and the foundries in our city and elsewhere have for months been turning out cannon equal to any other in the world. Not only have the huge Columbiads for siege and fortification purposes been made to the satisfaction of inspecting officers, but all the variety of improved bronze artillery for field service, from rifled guns to howitzers, have proven their efficiency in active service. Nature has placed at our command all the component materials for gunpowder, and its manufacture is being constantly carried on in Government and private factories. Bayonets and other weapons of steel are made to a great perfection in several workshops of this and other cities of the South. Only the other day a new machine, the invention of a couple of New Orleans mechanics, was produced, for the making of rifle or musket balls, which has thus been described:

The lead is run or drawn out into round bars, about the size of the required ball, and by the bite action of a pair of shears is cut off into slugs of the required length. These drop into a die, and pressure, by an ingenious combination of machinery, is applied to them so that with every revolution of the wheel a ball is finished and dropped into the receiver. Unlike cast or moulded balls, these are perfectly solid and smooth, and it is said go with the same accuracy from a smooth bore to a rifled gun. If this be the case the invention is invaluable. It matters not what shape of bullet is required, this machine, by a mere change of molds, can do the work. The machine can be constructed at a cost of two or three hundred dollars. With it two men can turn out one thousand balls per hour, or with steam power it will make eight or ten thousand per hour. Three one machines, worked night and day, could turn out 1,200,000 balls every week, more than enough to supply the Confederate armies on the most desperate and extended war conceivable. Their inventors are Messrs. McClintock and Watson.

The only want of our nation, urgent and unsupplied, in this war, seems to be the very important one of small arms. We find our Governments, through its appointed agents, calling upon the people to give up their fowling-pieces, that they may be placed in the hands of our soldiers. Here is our deficiency, and no time should be lost in meeting it. Fowling-pieces are formidable weapons in the hands of practised men, but army rifles and muskets are still more serviceable, and no exertion should be spared to arm our brave volunteers as well as their adversaries are found to be. It is worse than useless to look for a supply from Europe. Even if England and France open the cotton trade, we cannot expect to import such clearly contraband articles as weapons of warfare. No, we must be independent in this respect as in every other. We cannot foresee the duration of this war, and even the arms now in the hands of our volunteers may have to be replaced by others.

Why should we not make our own small arms? We know that we can do it. This fact has been satisfactorily established by an enterprising machinist of New Orleans, who, without the assistance of capital, or even encouragement to any extent, has created and put in operation a rifle factory that supplies to these volunteer companies encamping the means to purchase their own arms. Enfield rifles with sabre bayonets that have been tested and found even superior to those of English or Belgian make. With the experience he has gained and the valuable machinery he has constructed, with the inventions and improvements he has at his control, and the skilled workmen in his employ, all that he needs to enable him to furnish these improved arms by the thousand is capital. We must have one or more large rifle factories in the South, and why not in New Orleans?

The machinery of the Harper's Ferry Armory, in possession of our Government, is quite an inadequate affair, capable of finishing only seven hundred rifles and one thousand muskets per month. The Government must look to private enterprise for the main supply of its arms. Capital seems to be timorous of all new enterprises. But if rifles are now being made with profit by the hundred, can they not be made with greater profit by the thousand? The customers are waiting upon the producers. The Confederate and the eleven State Governments would all patronize to a liberal extent a factory that could supply them with good arms. Even if the war should come to-morrow the investment would continue to be a good one, for the same machinery would make fowling-pieces, revolving pistols, and even sewing machines, with nearly equal profit. Capitalists of Louisiana, patriotism and self-interest both appeal to you to come forward in this matter. Do not hesitate or delay, but satisfy yourselves of the correctness of our statements, and lose no time in establishing a large rifle factory in New Orleans.

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Col. Hunter has been made a Major-General.

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Affairs in St. Louis—Seizure of the Police Office—Martial Law About being Proclaimed.

St. Louis, August 14.—The Federalists have taken possession of the police office in this city. The Home Guards are under arms.

It is understood that Gen. Fremont will declare martial law.

Fremont has borrowed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the St. Louis banks.

Heavy drags guns are being mounted, commanding the approaches to the city.

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New York, August 14.—The *Times's* Washington correspondent says that Anderson, of Fort Sumter notoriety, has determined to take the field. Anderson says that the Union men of Kentucky are calling on him.

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It is reported that the steam tug Yankee was sunk by the Page off the mouth of Aquia Creek.

From Louisville.

Louisville, August 14.—Roger Hannon, heretofore classed as a quasi-secessionist, spoke lately at Lexington, encouraging the Federal men, but army rifles and muskets are still more serviceable, and no exertion should be spared to arm our brave volunteers as well as their adversaries are found to be. It is worse than useless to look for a supply from Europe. Even if England and France open the cotton trade, we cannot expect to import such clearly contraband articles as weapons of warfare. No, we must be independent in this respect as in every other. We cannot foresee the duration of this war, and even the arms now in the hands of our volunteers may have to be replaced by others.

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