THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TERMS

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET will be issued daily from the office formerly occupied by the *Daily Exchange*, and will be, as its name implies, simply a "News Sheet." It will furnish the latest intelligence as derived from the despatches of the Associated Press, by which it will be supplied in common with the New York journals; from its exchanges, and from such reliable private sources of information as it may be able to command. Expressing itself no opinions, it will devote its editorial columns to such extracts from other journals as may be deemed of interest to the public.

BALTIMORE.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

The first session of the Thirty-Seventh Congress opened yesterday at Washington. The Senate was called to order at noon, some forty members being present. A message was sent to the House informing that body that a quorum of Senators had assembled. A committee was also appointed to wait on the President. The only business of importance transacted was a notice given by Senator Trumbull of his intention to bring in a bill to-day to confiscate the property of rebels and give freedom to the slaves. In the House one hundred and fourteen members answered to their names. Mr. Maynard, who claims to be elected from the 2d District of Tennessee, was sworn in as a member of the House, on the ground that he was elected to his seat before Tennessee voted herself out of the Union. The credentials of Mr. Foster, were again presented as a Delegate from North Carolina. Mr. Vallandigham opposed his reception, but his point was overruled, and the case referred to the Committee on Elections. The case of Mr. Segar, who claims also to have been elected a member of the House, from Virginia, after a brief discussion, was referred to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. Lovejoy introduced a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Captain Wilkes, for the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, which was adopted.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, writes that Thaddeus Stevens will introduce into the House at the earliest possible opportunity, a bill for emancipating and arming the slaves, and will endeavour either to push it through at once or force a test vote upon it.

A committee in Washington are arranging to hold a night meeting in honor of old John Brown. More than one Congressman is said to be engaged in getting up this demonstration.

The schooner Mabel, formerly the J. W. Anderson, of Baltimore, which was captured recently by the Federal sloop-of-war Dale, has arrived at the port of Philadelphia.

Senators Powell, of Kentucky; Polk, of Missouri, and Bayard, of Delaware, have reached Washington, but have not all of them, as yet, taken their seats.

Advices from Missouri are contradictory and perplexing in the extreme. A few days ago General Price was reported to be at Painville, from whence he was expected to march to Springfield, for the purpose of forming a junction with Rains and McCulloch. Later intelligence is to the effect that McCulloch's forces were falling back into Arkansas whilst Price was moving northward.

A correspondent of the Louisville *Journal*, writing from Elizabethtown, Hardin county, states on the authority of a Union man who had returned from Bowling Green, that Gen. Buckner's forces at that point amounted to 30,000 men. Bowling Green was well fortified, and arms were arriving daily from Memphis. Gen. Polk was expected to reach there at an early day, with heavy reinforcements. Measles and typhoid fever were reported as prevailing to a considerable extent in the Confederate ranks.

The extracts which we give from Southern papers are interesting, rather as expressions of Southern sentiment, than as indicating the progress of hostilities in that quarter. At New Orleans some uneasiness had been created among merchants in consequence of the reply of Earl Russell to a committee of merchants in Liverpool, in which he gave no countenance to the idea that the blockade would not be for the present respected.

The speedy resumption of uninterrupted travel and traffic over the Georgia railroad is announced by the superintendent of the road.

The Charleston *Mercury*, in commenting upon the occupation of Port Royal, counsels the planters of the vicinity to remove into the interior every species of property that it is practicable for them to take away, and to set fire to the remainder, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. This suggestion has since been acted upon to a very considerable extent.

A correspondent of the New York *Times*, writing from Washington, expresses the opinion that the season for any important movement south of the Potomac has passed. He says that whilst it is doubtless true that the whole army will not go into winter quarters, it is equally true there will be no general advance. A demonstration may be made on the Confederate batteries which now blockade the lower Potomac, but the greater portion of the force collected around the capital will be transferred, from time to time, to the Southern seaboard, leaving only a sufficient number of troops to garrison the fortifications in and around Washington.

The intelligence from Canada looks warlike. General Sir Fenwick Williams, commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces, had reached Toronto with his staff for the purpose of inspecting the defences of the neighborhood. Ground has already been broken for a new fort, which is to be constructed under the superintendence of Col. Robinson, of the Royal Engineers.

MUSICAL.—We are informed that Miss Patti, with other noted artistes, will shortly pay us another visit, for the purpose of repeating the concert given by her with so much success on a late occasion. Miss P. is rapidly recovering from the illness which prevented her from filling an appointment for Saturday night a week past, a disappointment as much regretted by her as by our public. It is not improbable that Mr. Perring, the well known English tenor, will constitute a member of the company.

SCRAPS FROM PUNCH.

SNORING.—The Voices of the Night.

SARCASM.—In the *Cornhill Magazine* is an article called "A week's imprisonment in Sark." A Scotch friend writes to us to say that he can sympathise with the writer, for his own laundress has stolen all his night gowns.

LOGICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.—The Mormons, through Mr. Brigham Young, have sent in their adhesion to the North. Of course. The leading doctrine of Mormonism is union without affection.

NO POPERY (A JOKE MADE ON GUY FAWKES' DAY.)—Pam says that it is to please the Roman Catholic population of Canada that he has sent out, as Governor-General, a Monck. He adds, that this bad excuse is better than *non*. Really, the joke's as objectionable as the appointment, and that is saying a good deal, as will be found out some of these days.

DUMB DOG TEAREM.—Whose dog is Tearem? That Tearem alone can tell; but he is silent. The Hungarian constitution is abolished; Hungary is placed under something like martial law; but not a bark nor even a whine from Tearem. Can Tearem be muzzled? Is Tearem the dog of John Bull, or Francis Joseph's dog? Tearem represents himself as a house-dog; but what sort of a house-dog is he? Surely not a Hapsburg-house-dog?

WHEAT A WEED.—It has long been suspected that the cereal grains are but cultivated examples of wild cereal grasses—that they were not created as corn, but that they have been improved by culture into their present condition. This supposition was confirmed by M. Fabre, of Adge, in the south of France, who, in 1838, sowed some grains of the *Ægilops ovatarus* common cereal grass, and, by successive sowings in garden soil, produced, in 1846, crops of real wheat as fine as any to be found in the neighborhood. This experiment is now being carried on by the professor of geology and botany in the Royal Agricultural College, and the grass is gradually undergoing the same transformation into the true cereal grain.—*Once a Week.*

THE BURNING OF THE HARVEY BIRCH.—The burning of the Harvey Birch, by the Confederate Commander of the Nashville, has caused immense excitement among the shipping merchants of New York. The Harvey Birch was a splendid clipper ship of 1,482 tons, built at Mystic, Conn., in 1854, and owned by Messrs. J. H. Brower & Co., of New York. She was valued at $60,000, and had only the simple marine clause in her policy of insurance, and therefore is a total loss to her owners. The Board of Underwriters held a long session on Saturday morning, and finally concluded to advance the war risk to five per cent. They will insure to a moderate extent at this rate, although many vessels now due in the British channel will be unable to get insured, unless at a still higher rate.

WAR ITEMS.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamer Adelaide arrived at her wharf yesterday morning at seven o'clock. There was no flag of truce on Sunday, and consequently no news from Norfolk and the South. On Saturday afternoon a foraging party, consisting of the Major and twenty men of the New York 20th regiment, left Newport News, and when at a point near New Market bridge they were attacked by a body of forty Confederate cavalry. The skirmish lasted but a few moments. None of the Federal troops were injured. The Major reports that two of the Confederates were killed and several wounded.—There was no other news of moment.

The following are the particulars of the skirmish near Newport News on Friday last:

On the morning of that day, Drake DeKay, Aide-de-Camp to General Mansfield, accompanied by Major Sharfy, Captain Hellerer and Captain Breck, of the Twentieth, left with a small party of forty men of the same command on a scout. They had not travelled long before they met with a body of the Prince Edward cavalry, twenty-five to thirty in number, about a mile beyond New Market. DeKay had not more than a dozen men, the balance being in reserve. The enemy attacked with fire, but the Federals took to the woods and opened upon them so briskly that they were soon forced to retreat, leaving two killed, whilst they succeeded in carrying off the wounded.

One of the former was Mr. Edward A. Scott, of Richmond, a gentleman well known in Baltimore as well as Virginia. Upon his person was found, among other things, a letter from a lady, dated Richmond. The following was the concluding sentence, saying: "Now be sure, my darling Edward, that this letter does not fall into the hands of the rascally Yankees." The Federals took a number of pistols, some of which are of the most approved standard and handsomely ornamented with silver.

The only outward-bound departures from Old Point on Sunday were the large steamers Boston and Delaware. Their destination is Port Royal, and they carry out freights, consisting of stores for the army and navy. The steamers Ericsson and Illinois, from New York, were hourly looked for.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Washington Despatches to the Philadelphia Press.

NO PAY FOR THE EIGHTEEN PRINTERS.

When the bills for labor by the journeymen printers, in the public printing office, were sent in for payment yesterday, the Comptroller, Mr. Whittlesey, returned them unpaid, with a letter, containing his reasons. These were that while the men in the army and in the navy were worked night and day, and the clerks in the Departments many nights until ten o'clock, and while printers throughout the Union work at least ten hours, he did not see why those printers in the Government employ could ask full pay for a day of less than ten hours.

I. O. OF O. F.

On Friday evening, the Star Spangled Banner Lodge I. O. of O. F., New Hampshire, held a meeting in the headquarters of Colonel Wm. F. Small, on the lower Potomac, at which some fifty or sixty members were present, and five new members initiated. The ceremonies were novel and impressive, in consequence of the surrounding circumstances, and from the fact that all present were dressed in military uniforms. Some twenty applications for membership were made.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POTOMAC.

The whole line was quieter than usual to-day. General McClellan has expressed his disapprobation of scouting parties being sent out with orders from headquarters. The disasters which have recently happened to some of our men on scouting expeditions have been owing entirely to incompetent officers advancing into a country of which they had no knowledge whatever. Several of the regiments on the other side are engaged in putting up huts for their winter quarters.

A DEMONSTRATION ON THE POTOMAC.

Gen. Burnside's brigade, to move from Annapolis, and Gen. Sumner's division of the army, now being organized below Alexandria, are to co-operate, as I am credibly informed, on the Potomac and its south banks. The strength, or rather the weakness, of the Confederate batteries in that direction is soon to be fully tested.

WINTER QUARTERS.

In at least a portion of the army of the Potomac, the soldiers are preparing their winter quarters, by substituting log huts for tents. The skill and former practice of a large proportion of the volunteer army enable them to put up very comfortable winter habitations. When the wood-work of the building is completed, the crevices are closed up with clay, straw, or other suitable material.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Herald.

SHIP CANAL BETWEEN LAKES ERIE AND MICHIGAN.

Parties are now here representing large European and American interests, urging upon the government the necessity of constructing a ship canal between Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. They look to the wealthy State of New York to widen and deepen its great canal; and to the State of Illinois, to enlarge its canal, so that vessels may beladened, according to their theory, nine months of the year on the Mississippi and discharged on the Hudson. It is asserted that by the time the canal could be completed, should the government enter at once upon the project, the productions of the West would swell vastly beyond their present dimensions, and give to the country great additional resources for an exchange of products for the staples and manufactures of Europe.

DISPOSAL OF CONFEDERATE PORTRAITS.

The portrait of ex President John Tyler, Confederate, and the bust of James L. Orr, Confederate, ex Speaker of the House, which were ordered in July last by Vice President Hamlin and Speaker Grow to be removed from the rotunda of the Capitol and from the Speaker's room of the House, have turned up among the fossil remains of in the Smithsonian Institute. Highly appropriate.

DEPARTURE OF GENERAL BANKS.

General Banks, accompanied by one of his staff, left at noon to-day for his headquarters at Darnestown. His conveyance was a plain covered wagon, drawn by four mules, with a common but substantial harness on each animal.

FIRING ON UNION PICKETS.

Last night and Friday night shots were fired at our pickets by some one or two persons at Bladensburg. The villains will not long escape the vigilance of our troops in that locality.

Special Washington Despatches to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

SMUGGLING CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENCE.

The detective police employed by the Government have found that loyal men in New York and Boston have been engaged in acting as mail agents for the Confederates. The *modus operandi* was for parties to enclose Confederate letters in another envelope and send them to well-known firms in Europe. The Confederate agents would then call and get the letters, and the firms would, unsuspecting, hand them over. When the parties were told that they had been carrying Confederate mails, they were greatly surprised. It is now believed that they have no regular communication with Europe, but depend upon smuggling the letters through by lady passengers.

SENATORS POWELL AND POLK, AND EX SENATOR GREEN.

Senators Powell, of Kentucky, and Polk, of Missouri, are here. Ex-Senator Green, of Missouri, who has thrice been arrested as a spy in Missouri, is here, circulating round with the army. Powell says that Breckinridge was a good Union man, but was compelled to leave his native State to keep out of jail, as he was hunted and persecuted night and day by Union men there.

He seems very anxious to hear from the Legislature of Kentucky, now in session; but we have no news from there to night. It is thought that they will elect two Senators, and that they will be given the seats by the Senate, and that Powell will then resign and go down to Richmond.

SENATOR BAYARD.

Bayard, of Delaware, is here, and it is apprehended will act the *role* of Breckinridge at the last session. Senator Bayard, it will be remembered, is the individual who delivered the celebrated speech at Dover, during the month of July. No interference will be made with any of these secessionists in the Senate, unless some overt act is proven upon them.

VALLANDIGHAM ON HAND.

Vallandigham, of Ohio, is here, as bold as ever, but his aid-de-camp, Burnett, is *non est.*

EMANCIPATION ACT.

It is currently reported that Thaddeus Stevens will open the ball to-morrow, by introducing a bill for emancipating and arming slaves, and will then attempt to push it through or get a test vote upon it. Senator Sumner has not come yet, but will be here to-morrow, and will push the subject in the Senate.

A JOHN BROWN MEETING.

It is two years to-day since the Virginia soldiers marched through Washington to attend the execution of John Brown, and two years to-morrow since he was hung. A committee are around to-night arranging for a John Brown meeting to-morrow night. Engaged in it are more than one Congressman.

Special Washington Despatches to the N. Y. Tribune.

MR. ELY TO BE RELEASED.

The Clerk of the House received a letter from Mr. Ely, of New York, now a prisoner at Richmond, desiring that his name be put upon the list, as he should be here to occupy his seat this session.

FRAUDULENT CONTRACTS.

The report of the committee upon fraudulent contracts is not yet closed, but in print already numbers 673 pages. It treats of the steamer Catahline, hides, tallow, and cattle, purchase of horses and wagons, purchase of arms, purchase of vessels and navy supplies, and purchase of army supplies, and swindling entitled "miscellaneous."

CONFEDERATE LETTERS SEIZED.

The post-office at Leonardstown, on the lower Potomac, was visited by a detective yesterday, who bagged half a bushel of letters to and from Richmond. Some to agents of British houses in Northern cities, pointed out ways and means of running the blockade. The favorite routes were by Tampico and the Savannah river.

CAPTURE OF TWO SCHOONERS BY THE CONFEDERATE STEAMER PAGE.

Capt. Mister, of the oyster sloop Broom, that escaped the clutches of the Page on Thursday night, confirms the statement of Capt. Paul. He says he saw the Page take two schooners into Quantico Creek. One was loaded with coal, and the other with lumber for the Government. The coal vessel had a white bottom, and he supposes her to be the John Francis, of Baltimore. There were four vessels opposite the batteries that night, beside the Delaware. One of them, an oyster boat, has not yet come up.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York World.

AFFAIRS IN TENNESSEE.

A gentleman who arrived in this city on Friday, from Northern Mississippi, reports that in Western Tennessee the feeling against the North is very bitter, and that he fears there are no Union men in that part of the State. Large bodies of troops, well-fed and well clad, were collected at Memphis, and extensive fortifications were erecting on the river above and below the city. In Middle Tennessee he found few who expressed any sentiments but those favorable to secession, but as soon as he reached the eastern part of the State the Union sentiment was unmistakable. In reference to the cotton crop of Tennessee, he states that much has been picked, ginned and baled, and that he saw a considerable quantity in Memphis ready for market. At other points it was still unpicked. He heard no fears expressed anywhere of slave insurrections, but the utmost confidence in the fidelity of the servants.

A DRAFT ON CHARLESTON.

In auditing the accounts of Mr. Deason, one of our late consuls, a balance of four hundred and sixty dollars was found to be his due. As he is a native of South Carolina, and shares the sentiments of that State, a draft on Charleston for the amount was forwarded to him in settlement.

TEN MILLION OF CARTRIDGES ISSUED.

Between the 1st of July and the 1st of November, four months, ten million of cartridges for muskets and small arms were issued by the Ordnance Department to the army of the Potomac. This enormous expenditure of cartridges is due to target practice among our troops.

THE DUC DE CHARTRES INJURED.

Yesterday the Duc de Chartres was thrown from his horse, and was slightly injured.

NARROW ESCAPE OF PROF. LOWE.

About sundown yesterday, as Professor Lowe was making a reconnoisance in his balloon near Budd's Ferry, the Confederate battery fired at him, the screw of a shell striking his car. No damage was done.

A CORRESPONDENT IN TROUBLE.

The New York *Tribune* having persistently published news of military movements which the government censor had suppressed here, it is understood, from high authority, that the case of the correspondent who thus intentionally violated well-known rules, will be rigorously attended to. The government is determined to prevent the publication of contemplated military movements, and will make an example of those who persist in it.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.

Already several bills on the negro question have been shown among the members, and most probably this fruitful question will be introduced on the first day of the session. The message, however, is looked for with intense anxiety on this particular point. The President's message was placed in type to-day, and for the first time in fifty years by printers in the direct employ of the government.—No copies have been sent on in advance as stated.

Special Despatches to the New York Times.

THE CASE OF GEN. FREMONT.

S. R. Shipley, Esq., of St. Louis, is in Washington, and will remain in the city as counsel of the Government in any action which may be taken in the case of Gen. Fremont. He is a distinguished member of the St. Louis bar.

TWO BULLIES SHOT DEAD.

A few days since, while Lieut. Sloan, of the New York Thirty-first regiment, was officer of the guard, a number of bullies of the regiment, who have always been a turbulent element in the organization, attacked him. He called out the guard, but they not obeying, he drew his revolver and shot one of the leading mutineers, named Scottie, dead. Gen. Franklin investigated the matter, and finding it to be a clear case of self-defence, he took no further notice of it. Three days since a round robin was sent to Gen. Franklin, threatening the life of Lieut. Sloan if he was not tried for the killing of Scottie. Two days since, Sloan was again attacked by the same party, and he again settled the difficulty by shooting another dead, since which event he has not been molested.

THE NUMBER OF SICK SOLDIERS.

The number of Union soldiers now on the sick list in the various camps and hospitals of the country is estimated at sixty thousand, which is in itself a great army; but the percentage is not large, being only about twelve in each hundred. The sanitary regulations of the army are pronounced very defective and behind the age, and the National Sanitary Commission, to meet here in a few days, will, it is thought, endeavor to remodel and reform the system.

NEWS FROM GEN. ROSECRANS'S DIVISION.

Despatches have been received at the Army Headquarters from Gen. Rosecrans. They give no details of interest. Gen. Rosecrans was still occupying his old position. Gen. Benham had been placed under arrest, it is understood here for permitting the escape of the Confederate Floyd and his gang.

THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA.

Hon. Mr. Galt, Prime Minister of Canada, is on a visit to Washington.

Wintering the Army.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* indulges in the following speculations in regard to the action of the army at Washington during the present winter:

"That the whole army will not go into winter quarters here is doubtless true, while, contradictory as it may seem, it is equally true that there will be no general advance on the enemy's lines unless he ceases to hold them in force. Neither is the campaign to be transferred to South Carolina. What, then, is to be done with the army? The policy is to hold it in hand here and supply expeditions that are to be fitted out against the Southern coast. A demonstration may be made on the enemy's batteries down the Potomac, which may uncover his right wing and change somewhat his programme, but the former policy will be the ruling one. A little reflection will enable one to see the propriety of this. The public expect large and successive expeditions to be sent along the coast; but where are the men to come from who shall compose them? Nothing could be more unwise than to send only raw recruits. They will need the best drilled soldiers we have, and where are they to be obtained unless from our camps here? But how can they be furnished from Washington it there is to be an advance? We have now too few, instead of too many, soldiers on hand for such a movement. It is, therefore, inevitable that the naval expeditions or an advance movement here must be given up. Which would a wise policy select, and which would even the people prefer? The troops that have been longest in camp must accompany the fleet, and the new recruits be brought in to supply their places, and drilled till ready for use. We need, and must have, in a war like this, some great camp of instruction; and where should it be but here? This is a common centre, as near as can be obtained. Here Troy will be kept ready for defence, should or Fortress Monroe, for coast service, as soon as prepared. Such expeditions as we contemplate cannot be supplied with troops this winter, except from the army of the Potomac, and such supplies cannot be furnished if we should meet with a repulse in front, or, even if victorious, if we design to follow up success and 'march on to Richmond.'"

The Rail's Bluff Papers.

The flag of truce which came over the Potomac to Gen. Stone last week brought the following documents. The first, from Col. Thos. Jordan, Beauregard's Assistant Adjutant General, incloses copies of two orders from Gen. Stone to Colonel Davis, and one from him to Col. Baker—none of which have been heretofore published:

BEAUREGARD'S ADJUTANT TO GEN. STONE.

Informal.] CENTREVILLE, Nov. 20, 1861.

GENERAL:—Having observed in the papers of the United States some assaults on you, in relation to your orders touching the Leesburg affair, and as the orders in question came into one possession [possession?—*written in pencil*], it has occurred to me that possibly you might have no copy of same—especially the hasty one to Col. Baker. Under that possibility, with the consent of Gen. Beauregard, I have to inclose you copies on which you may rely, and which may serve to refute some of the allegations I have noticed in your press, made in the interest of Baker's friends. I do this simply in the interest of justice.

With this are three letters—for prisoners of war and state—which I hope may be forwarded to Mr. Green, which is from his wife, and, as I am assured, purely on domestic matters.

Let me also say to you, informally, that Lieut. Berry, taken a prisoner at Leesburg, and just escaped from Washington, declares that, for a while, he was handcuffed, and subsequently tied with a rope—and he names Lieut. Col. Wistar as an officer who knew of this treatment, and partially, at least, sanctioned it. He says, too, he was grossly insulted. We all know how much you have regarded the amenities of war, and hence do I mention these things, and can assure you that in no instance have we *tied* a private, much less an officer. Respectfully, THOMAS JORDON.

A true copy: Wm R. Hyslop, Lt. and A. D. C.

GEN. STONE'S ORDERS TO COL. DEVINS.

The following are orders from Gen. Stone to Col. Devins:

HEADQUARTERS CORPS OF OBSERVATION, POOLESVILLE, Oct. 20, 1861—about 11 A. M.

Colonel: You will please send orders to the canal to have the two new flat boats now there, opposite the island, transferred at once to the river, and will at 2 o'clock P. M. have the island reinforced by all of your regiment now on duty at the canal and at the N. Y. battery. The pickets will be re-placed by the companies of the 19th Massachusetts there.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

CHAS. P. STONE, Brigadier-General.

Col. Chas. Devins, Commanding 15th Reg't. Mass. Volunteers.

A true copy. Wm. R. Hyslop, Lt. and A. D. C.

The following is the last order to Colonel Baker. It could never have reached him. It shows what report he sent to Gen. Stone, and indicates under what orders he was acting:

HEADQUARTERS CORPS OF OBSERVATION, EDWARDS'S FERRY, Oct. 21—3:45 P. M.

Col. E. D. Baker, Commanding Right Wing:

COLONEL—Yours of 2:30 is received. I am glad you find your position tenable. If satisfied with it, hold on, and don't let the troops get fatigued or starved while waiting.

Please detail plenty of officers to attend to the food of the men. Do you need more artillery than the eight pieces now at your disposition? Respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. P. STONE, Brigadier-General Commanding.

A true copy. Wm. R. Hyslop, Lt. and A. D. C.

From the New York Tribune, Dec. 2.

Seizure of Mason and Slidell.

The Secretary of the Navy approves of the action of Capt. Wilkes in seizing the Confederate Commissioners Mason and Slidell, and says he might have captured the vessel bearing them.

The same paper says:—

Our Washington correspondent states that on the urgent request of George D. Prentice, of *The Louisville Journal*, Calhoun Benham and Senator Gwin are to be, or have been, released from Fort Lafayette by Secretary Seward.

Warlike Movements in Canada.

From the Toronto Globe, Nov. 29.

General Sir Fenwick Williams, commander of the forces, will arrive in town this forenoon by the Grand Trunk train, accompanied by his staff, including Col. Wilmot, Col. Robinson, Capt. De Winton and Capt. Grant, for the purpose of inspecting the defences of the neighborhood. The excavations for a new fort, a short distance from the old one, were commenced a couple of days ago under the superintendence of Colonel Robertson, Royal Engineers.

Interesting from Curacoa.

The Curacoa correspondent of the New York *Herald*, under date of November 9, says:

The United States war steamer Iroquois arrived off this port from Laguayra yesterday morning, with the intention of entering; but her commander was informed by the government authorities that his vessel could enter, but would not be allowed to stay over forty-eight hours, unless in case of distress. The commander's reply was that his vessel should not enter the harbor on any such conditions, and immediately bore away, steering westward. Most probably this will prove an affair to be investigated by the United States Government.

Whether or not our national vessels shall have to submit to stipulated hours of remaining in a friendly port remains to be seen. We hope the wise heads at Washington will solve the question as soon as possible, as a visit of a national vessel-of-war is very useful here occasionally, independently of the good health of the island and the comparative cheapness of provisions here. There have recently arrived two more of the vessels chartered by the United States Government with coals for the supply of our cruisers.

From Buckner's Headquarters.

From the Louisville Journal, Nov. 27.

A correspondent at Elizabethtown informs us that a Union man who had been persecuted by the secessionists and taken to Buckner at Bowling Green, had returned to that neighborhood. He states that on Thursday a force of Confederates had left Bowling Green for Bacon Creek, and that he saw Confederate scouts (cavalry) within five or six miles of Nolin. He further states that the forces at Bowling Green amount to about 30,000 men, most of whom are Tennessee troops, and that on Monday last an Arkansas regiment arrived from Columbus, Ky., who stated that they had cleaned out the Federals at Belmont on the Mississippi, taking many of them prisoners and killing and wounding over 1,000. Arms were arriving daily from Memphis, and a few loads of provisions had come to camp. No salt could be had, and only one or two regiments were decently clothed, the majority of the troops being without overcoats, and their clothing badly worn. The men were dissatisfied at their treatment, and many of them were anxious to be led to battle. Bowling Green was well fortified, and it was his opinion that the Confederates would make a stand there, and that a column would be moved forward to tempt our forces onward. General Bishop Polk was expected from Columbus with a division, and great rejoicing was the consequence. It was the opinion of the escaped man that the Confederates would draw the Federals onward to Bowling Green, show fight, and then retreat to join Zollicoffer.

THE CASE OF THE CAMERON RIFLES.

From the Washington Star.

The disclosure of matters implicating certain officers connected with this regiment has called for a more thorough investigation than has yet been made. Preparatory to this Lieutenants August Volkhausen and L. Ascher, of the Cameron Rifles, made affidavits last Wednesday evening relative to these affairs. Lieutenant Volkhausen's testimony was very fully given, and was corroborated by that of Lieutenant Ascher. The affidavit of the first named officer states that on the 15th of October part of company F, of the Cameron Rifles, was at Mr. Cocke's farm, Rose Hill, Va. Two of them came back to the camp at Hunter's Chapel, bringing two horses. October 17th the regiment advanced to Anandale, and Company F was picketed at the house of a Mr. Sweeney.

Mr. S. told the witness, Lieut. Volkhausen, that the Saturday night previous his stable was broken open and his two horses stolen. Witness spoke to his captain, R. Koenig, about it. Upon the request or entreaty of the witness, Captain Koenig sent to the camp to have them brought back, but they were stopped at headquarters, Rose Hill, and Col. Betzer kept them in his possession until the witness told Captain Koenig that if steps were not taken to return the animals to their owner he would report the case to the General of the division. Upon this one of the horses was returned by Lieut. Koenig, brother of the Captain, who said the other horse had run away. Having reason to believe the statement incorrect, witness went with a letter from Captain Koenig, asking the return of the other horse to Mr. Sweeney.

Witness testified that Colonel Betzer assured him on his "word of honor" that the other horse had run away. Witness inquired of the men at headquarters if they knew of a horse running away, and they answered in the negative. Upon returning to camp witness heard, he thinks from Adjutant Woellmer, that the colonel had sold some horses to one Mengell. Commissary Louis Ascher has since told witness that Sergeant Graff brought two horses to this city, and the colonel ordered him to sell the same, which he did. The afternoon of the 15th October witness accompanied the Colonel to Anandale to reconnoiter. Three men went to Mr. Cocke's farm and seized upon a dun horse. The Colonel rode up to the farm and, at the entreaty of Mrs. Cocke and Captain Cocke, ordered the men to let the horse go, and promised to protect the farmers from the depredations of his men.

As soon as they left, the Colonel called the witness back, and ordered him to stay with three men at the border of the wood till he (the Colonel) got out of sight, and then seize the dun colt and two others with it. This order the witness did not execute; but that same night he saw the horses pass by the farm where he was on guard, and they were taken to the Colonel's headquarters. Witness has since heard that the dun colt was taken, but does not know it.

About the 14th of November when the paymaster, Major Marston, was paying off the companies, witness was ordered by Lieut. Col. Von Gerber, since deceased, to arrest Quartermaster Simon on the charge of stealing 400 pairs of shoes, and selling them to Mr. Dupre, of Washington, D. C.—Mr. Dupre being present at the time of the order, gave the history of the sale. Dupre offered four hundred pairs of shoes to Gen. Meigs for government to purchase, and the General consenting to buy that number of shoes from him, Dupre bought them of Quartermaster Simon. Lieut. Col. Gerber told the witness to give Simon notice that if he would return the money to Dupre he would release him; but at the same time told witness to prefer charges against Simon.

On Saturday night, November 23d, witness told Colonel Betzer, in the Adjutant's tent, in camp, (the Adjutant being present,) that it was his duty, and was long before, to recover the shoes for the regiment, the men being almost barefooted. He answered that he didn't think he was responsible for the doings of the quartermaster—the Adjutant and others were present.

On the 17th, witness went on foot from headquarters at Rose Hill, to Anandale, and met at the church some men on [illegible] with stolen property. They were brought to headquarters, and witness afterward heard, from Lieut. L. Ascher, that the Colonel had taken possession of them, and presented them to a party in this city, the Colonel having stated in a letter that he bought them.

The testimony of Lieut. Ascher was also taken, and corroborates the evidence of Lieut. Volkhausen in many particulars. The evidence is for transmission to the proper military authorities, who have the case under consideration.

AN ENGLISH (HAVANA) ACCOUNT OF THE BOARDING OF THE TRENT—*A British Officer is Despatched from St. Thomas to England with the News.*—The *Diario de la Marina*, of Havana, gives the following account of the stoppage of the Trent, and the seizure of Mason and Slidell, intimating that it is a semi-official English report of the affair:

"On the 8th inst., at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, five miles to the north of Key Coco, the American corvette San Jacinto, 18 guns, came in sight of the English steamer Trent, which she detained, firing first a blank cartridge, and afterwards a round shot. The Trent hove to, and was boarded by two boats, from one of which an officer mounted the deck to demand the persons of some citizens of the States of the South who were passengers.

The captain of the Trent resisted the demand. The officer threatened him with force. The agent of the admiralty and the captain protested against this outrage. The officer sent for two other armed boats and took military occupation of the Trent, after which he renewed his demand for a surrender of the passengers. The captain and the agent of the admiralty repeated their protest, and the persons demanded then presented themselves voluntarily. They were Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell, their secretaries and families, who were, at half-past three, taken on board of the San Jacinto in an unarmed boat.

"The San Jacinto bore away to the Santaren Channel, and the Trent continued her voyage to St. Thomas, where the protest of the captain and agent was extended in due form; and an officer left in the steamer La Plata to report this violation of the rights of nations to the Government of H. B. M."

The *Diario* remarks:

"We will not say a word at present upon this act, which is certainly destined to make much noise both in America and Europe."

THE ARMAMENT OF THE ARAGO.—This vessel, with General Scott and suite on board, sailed from New York for Southampton on the 9th, and would be due there on the 21st. The news of the General's intended departure was carried out by the steamer of the 6th, thus affording the Confederate officers of the Nashville information of his coming. It is thought by some that they may have made an effort to capture her, and as there is considerable interest manifested by the public to know what resistance she would be able to make, we can state that she carries four rifled cannon, of three and one-half range, and large quantities of muskets and small arms. Her crew consists of 100 men, and Capt. Limes has drilled them considerably in the use of the guns.

ARRIVAL OF CAPTAIN WILKES FROM BOSTON.—The hero of Mason and-Slidell-capture notoriety, Capt. Charles Wilkes, commander of the San Jacinto, arrived in this city from Boston at five o'clock yesterday morning. He came by rail, and at once proceeded to the St. Nicholas Hotel, unaccompanied by a single attendant. On arriving at the hotel he took some refreshments and retired to rest for a few hours, when he arose and took his departure for Staten Island, where his wife resides. No announcement of his visit to our city was made. The Captain seems to have an evident desire to avoid be much as possible all public demonstration in his favor.—*N. Y. Herald, Dec. 2.*

The prize schooner Mabel, formerly the J. W. Anderson, of Baltimore, has arrived at Philadelphia, having been captured by the Federal sloop-of-war Dale, as heretofore stated.

MARRIED.

In Washington city, on Sunday, 1st instant, at the residence of Henry Adler, Esq., Mr. JOSEPH KAUFMAN, of Alexandria, Va., to Miss LOUISA SUFRON, of Baltimore.

DIED.

On the 30th ultimo, HOWARD McHENRY, son of George L. and Helen Harrison.

On the 29th ultimo, Mrs. MATILDA HOWELL, in the 51st year of her age.

On Thursday, 28th ultimo, PHILIP T. COMEGYS, in the 32d year of his age.

HEALTH OFFICE, Baltimore, Dec. 2, 1861.

Report of Deaths in the City of Baltimore, for the week ending Monday morning.

Apoplexy 2, cancer 1, casualty 1, cholera infantum 1, cholera nostras 1, colic 1, consumption 10, convulsions 2, croup 2, dropsy 4, dropsy in head 2, diarrhœa 1, dyspepsia 1, epidemic 1, epilepsy 1, catarrhal fever 2, gastric fever 1, scarlet fever 1, typhoid fever 6, inflammation of bowels 1, inflammation of brain 2, inflammation of lungs 2, inflammation of stomach 1, intemperance 1, mortification 1, old age 4, palsy 1, rotting 1, unknown still 2, unknown infantile 12, whooping cough 1—total 99.

Under 1 year, 15; between 1 and 2, 12; between 2 and 5, 11; between 5 and 10, 12; between 10 and 15, 2; between 15 and 20, 2; between 20 and 30, 6; between 30 and 40, 8; between 40 and 50, 3; between 50 and 60, 2; between 60 and 70, 6; between 70 and 80, 6; between 80 and 90, 1; between 90 and 100, 0; above 100, 0. Still-births 4.

Males 38, females 61. Of which number 11 were colored persons—9 free; 2 slaves. Interment.

CHAS. H. BRADFORD, Commissioner of Health.

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