THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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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,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the United States Senate several petitions were presented, asking that all the slaves be set free—those of loyal masters with compensation—those of disloyal unconditionally. A resolution was offered which was laid over, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of appointing a joint commission of both Houses with power to retire improper or incompetent officers of the army or navy with or without pay. In the House the greater portion of the session was occupied with a discussion on the resolution offered previously by Mr. Lovejoy, with reference to the proclamation of General Halleck, which prohibited fugitive slaves from coming within his lines. A sharp controversy sprung up in the course of the debate between Mr. Fouke, of Illinois, and Mr. Lovejoy, in which the former suggested that if Mr. Lovejoy would pay less attention to the negroes and more to the country, they would get along better. The resolution, on motion of Mr. Vallandigham, was laid on the table.

In the State Senate, leave was given to the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill providing for taking the sense of the people on the expediency of calling a convention to form a new Constitution. The same Comuittee were instructed to take testimony in the case of Coleman Yellott, Esq. No business requiring special note was transacted in the House.

One of the most stringent military orders which has been issued during the progress of the present war—if we except the suppressed proclamation of General Fremont—is the order which has recently been put forth by General Halleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Department of Missouri. After forewarning rebels and spies and all other persons suspected of giving aid and comfort to the enemy, that martial law will be enforced, subordinate commanding officers are directed to arrest all persons accused of disloyal acts, and confiscate their property, both real and personal, to the use of the Federal Government. Commissions for the trial of such offenders, and for the condemnation of their property are to emanate from headquarters. When certificates are given for private property taken for public use, the loyalty or disloyalty of the owners of the property is to be noted down; and as a test of the loyalty of persons claiming to be such, they are required to take the usual oath of allegiance. All persons found in disguise, or under other false pretences, within the Federal lines, are to be arrested, tried, condemned and shot as spies, *without distinction of sex*. Persons neither commissioned nor enlisted in the Confederate army who commit acts of hostility will be shot or otherwise severely punished as is prescribed by the articles of war in like cases. As there are known to be wealthy secessionists within the Federal lines, and as many Unionist refugees have fled from their homes and sought protection at various military posts, the Provost Marshal is ordered to quarter the latter in the houses of avowed secessionists. At this time the laws of the United States simply confiscate the property of any malcontent, but if the same penalty should hereafter be extended to the property of all rebels in arms, the order declares that such provisions will be strictly enforced. In the construction of military defences the *forced labour* of citizens, slaves, and even prisoners of war will be employed should the necessities of the service require it; but all such persons will be fed and quartered at the public expense, and likewise strictly guarded and kept, as far as possible, from communicating with the enemy. Gen. Halleck closes by assuming that these orders may be regarded by some as severe, but that they are certainly justified by the laws of war and are not only right but necessary. We presume that these orders are the prelude to the departure of General Halleck in command of the forces destined to operate against Columbus and the lower Mississippi.

The last steamer from Port Royal brings intelligence of the actual occupation of Beaufort, by a force of Federal troops numbering a thousand men, and commanded by General Stevens. Cotton picking is also actively prosecuted at Hilton Head and the adjacent Islands—what amount of cotton either on the plantations or in the gin houses, has fallen into the hands of the Federal authorities is not stated; but from previous accounts we should not suppose it to be very large. The New York *Sun* is guilty of a singular piece of impudence. It actually publishes a letter from Hatteras Inlet, which audaciously asserts that the Provisional Government for North Carolina, which was recently established by a Convention assembled on that sand bar "is nothing but a big farce." "We, the people of North Carolina," being represented by one hundred and twenty ignorant Hatteras fishermen and voters—the rest being women and children." "The Grand Convention" says the author of this "scandalous chronicle" was addressed by a *Tribune Reporter*, a Mr. Foster, now an Hon. M. C.—and also by "Governor Taylor," but recently a Methodist preacher there. When the resolutions were read by the Governor, "a form of a man" who "wanted to do what was right" but did not know what the resolutions meant, consented hesitatingly to second them. The vote was then taken and thus "the Provisional Government was established."

From Kentucky we have no tidings beyond the burning of a bridge at Whippersville, on the Memphis Branch Railroad, by a detachment of Federal troops. Of the Confederate guards at the Bridge—thirteen in number—two were killed, and the remainder taken prisoners.

The Confederate privateer Sally has taken three prizes—the Betsy Ames, the Senora, and the E. K. Keating—all of whom were owned at the North. The Keating was burned and scuttled at sea; the other two were brought safely into Charleston harbor.

Mr. Charles Ellet, the well-known civil engineer—a graduate of West Point—has written, and caused to be distributed among the members of Congress, a pamphlet on the war, in which he criticizes, "pretty severely, General McClellan's policy of conducting affairs so far."

GEN. PATTERSON DEMANDS AN INVESTIGATION.—Gen. Patterson has demanded a Court of Inquiry. The necessary papers were forwarded to the authorities, we understand, on November 1st, but no response has been received. Recently the matter has again been agitated by the General, but, as before, without any definite results. It is stated that General Scott would be affected by a Court of Inquiry called for the purpose of investigating the conduct of General Patterson in the Virginia campaign, and a Washington correspondent of one of the New York journals gives this as a reason for not instituting such an inquiry. The friends of General Patterson, on the other hand, allege that the demand for a court was preferred before General Scott left the country, and declare that an official report of the campaign must be obtained.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

LAKE FORTIFICATIONS.—While this country is talking about the importance of lake fortifications, Canada is quietly but busily engaged in erecting them. A short time ago, Gen. Williams and staff paid a visit to Collingwood, for the purpose of examining its capabilities as a naval depot for Lake Huron. Men are busily engaged on the fortifications at Toronto. Ten 64-pounder guns reached that place from Quebec lately, and are to be mounted on the embankments in course of construction.—*New York World.*

GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTS.—The schooners Wide World; John L. Redner, Benjamin Strong and Herschel, now lying at the government dock, foot of Morris street, North river, are all loading provisions for Locust Point. The steam transports Jersey Blue, Commerce and W. P. Clyde, lying at pier 9, North river, are also loading provisions and ammunition for the same place. They will probably all sail to-morrow.—*N. Y. Post of Tuesday.*

The Hon. Charles Faulkner, recently released from Fort Warren on parole, has arrived at New York *en route* for Washington and Fortress Monroe, to procure the release of Hon. Alfred Ely, in exchange for himself. He was visited at his hotel by many of his personal friends.

EUROPE.

LORD STANLEY, M. P., ON THE SEPARATION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

From the London Times, Nov. 23.

Lord Stanley, M. P., met his constituents in this borough this afternoon for the purpose of addressing them on the present state of public affairs. The gathering took place in the Town Hall, and the platform was occupied by the leading gentlemen in town of both political parties. Lord Stanley said:—There is another part of the world to which that last remark of mine (on non-intervention) equally applies. Of course I mean the United States. I own I do not wonder at the annoyance which Americans sometimes feel and express at the summary way in which we here undertake to settle their affairs for them. I have had some lessons as to the caution which should be exercised in forming a judgment on the affairs of other countries. I travelled in America in the summer of 1848, at the time of those foolish and futile disturbances which were taking place in Ireland, and I was good deal astonished, and not a little amused, to find that there were many persons in the United States, really well informed upon most matters, who attached very serious importance to those disturbances, who thought they were the beginning of a great movement for Irish independence, and were even inclined to doubt whether our government was not doing a foolish thing in not recognizing the independence of Ireland at once. (Laughter.)

I know what I thought of those comments; and I dare say there are many intelligent persons in North America who think much the same of some of the criticisms which reach them from our side of the Atlantic. At any rate, I do not think it is reasonable to blame the Federal Government for not having done that which as trustees for the people they hardly could do, and which no Government since the world began ever yet has done—for not giving up one-half of their territory without striking a blow in its defence. (Hear, hear.) They have met with armed insurrection; they have opposed it by armed resistance. How long it is wise to persist in that resistance is a question of policy, and a very difficult one; but it seems to me absurd to blame a Government for doing that which every Government in the world has done, and ever will do. Now, the result of that struggle is beyond human calculation; but I am disposed to think, on the whole, that the opinion which generally prevails in this country is the true one—that sooner or later a Southern Confederacy will be established. I do not come to that conclusion so much because I doubt the power of the North to subjugate the Southern States. Even as to that point there may be some doubt. A country of immense distances, and of imperfect communications, is very unfavorable for aggressive war and very favorable for defensive. But putting that out of the question and allowing for the undoubted superiority of the North in resources of every kind, the real difficulty of the case seems to be this:—Supposing the Federal Government to succeed in its object—to re conquer the Southern States—what will they do with them when they have got them? (Hear, hear.)

If their rights are not to be restored after the conquest, then a powerful military government must be established, and those principles of independence and self-government which are the very basis of American institutions must, for a time at least, be in abeyance. If, on the other hand, after the conquest the political rights of the South are restored, undoubtedly those rights will be used for the purpose of embarrassing the working of the political machine and so of compelling a fresh separation by peaceable means. I have seen a comparison as to this war, which seems to me not an unapt one. Some one has said that it is very like the case of a husband instituting legal proceedings in order to bring back his wife to live with him. (Laughter.) He may succeed, he may obtain his object; but the question is, when he has obtained it, whether he has done much to contribute to his own domestic happiness. (Renewed laughter.) Then, again, as far as we can see at present, the only party in America which is really earnest in this war is the abolition party—those who are for effecting the emancipation of the negroes by the interposition of the Federal authority. With them it is a war of principle. But their opinions do not appear to be those of a majority of persons even now at the North, and so far from their being the views entertained by the Cabinet of Washington, the very last acts of that Cabinet show that by them the abolitionist party is repudiated and disavowed. (Hear.)

For the rest, these differences between the Northern and Southern States are not new. Burke foresaw them; Washington feared them; and from that time to the present there have never been wanting men who have predicted that the difference of habits and ideas, of which slavery is rather a symptom than a cause—differences due in part to early traditions, and in part also to difference of climate—would sooner or later lead to the disruption which has actually occurred. It seems to me very idle to talk, as some people do in this country, as if the secession in the South were to bring about an utter breakdown of American power. Grant that the South obtain all that they require, the North will still retain, I think, some eighteen millions of the most intelligent and energetic population in the world; they will retain a territory as large as all Europe, excluding Russia; they will possess a political unity which they have not had for the last thirty years; and, unless this war is protracted through a series of years, whatever burdens it may for a time impose, they will continue to be more lightly taxed than any powerful nation upon earth. Now, we have heard speculations very ingenious and able as to the probability of further disruptions taking place, and of the establishment of several independent communities. I do not say that these speculations are unfounded; on the contrary, I think there is a very great deal of truth in them; but I think for all practical purposes they are at

I repeat, we are bound to use great caution in judging the affairs of any foreign country, and there is no country with regard to whose affairs that caution is more necessary than in the case of the United States. There are two causes which inevitably lead to bias our judgment in regard to them. There are many classes in this country who by their habits, by their education, by their social and political position, and one may even say by the personal interests which spring out of that political and social position, are naturally predisposed to judge in an unfavorable manner whatever affects the great Republican Power of the world. Then, again, there is another feeling quite as natural and more justifiable. There are many persons who have watched with uneasiness, and even with anxiety, the growth of a Power whose increase in wealth and population has been more rapid than that of any European State, who at the present time, or before the beginning of this late war, were almost in point of population the equals of the United Kingdom, and who certainly have shown some disposition to use their power in an arrogant and in a hostile spirit.

Whatever judgment we do form upon these American matters, I think we are bound to use special care that in forming it we do not allow ourselves to be biased either by class feelings, or by national jealousy. As to the duty of the Government, that is obvious, and I do not suppose that there will be any departure from it, whatever administration be in power. (Hear.) The duty of our Government is to observe a strict neutrality in word and deed—not to show irritation at casual annoyances, such as in the course of such a struggle as this we must inevitably expect; to defend any rights of ours that may be attacked, temperately and firmly, giving time for any angry passion to evaporate; and, above all, to take no advantage, and to seem to take no advantage of the temporary weakness of the American Power to effect any object which that Power might regard as an encroachment upon its rights. (Hear, hear.)

SPEECH OF MR. SECRETARY LAYARD, M. P., ON ENGLAND'S POLICY IN AMERICA.

From the London Times, Nov. 22.

Last night Mr. Layard met his constituents in Taylor's Depository, St. George's road, Southwark. The meeting was very crowded, a large portion of the audience consisting of workingmen. Mr. Newman occupied the chair, and was surrounded on the platform by a considerable number of the more influential electors of the borough.

Mr. Layard said—I believe the present is the first political meeting at which I have met my constituents since I accepted office under the Crown. The learned gentleman remarked:—It is sad to think that our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic have not appreciated our policy. They have mistaken us altogether; they have thought that we have shown a want of sympathy with them. I do not believe it. What has been the conduct of the House of Commons? Last session there was certainly no lack of sympathy for America. Nobody ventured to bring the subject before the House.—When Mr. Gregory, the member for Galway, impelled by a sense of public duty, wished to bring it on, he was implored by a member of the Opposition not to do so. Everybody felt as if it were a domestic calamity, and people spoke of it with bated breath. It is to be regretted that the thoughtless words of a thoughtless young man, uttered in the heat of debate, should have led the American people to believe that we do not sympathize with them. England does sympathize with them, and why?—Because we know that slavery is at the bottom of the struggle, and has led to it. (Hear, hear.) I think we err when we judge the American people by the fact that abolition has not been proclaimed. To proclaim abolition at once would have been impossible. You could not at once release 4,000,000 of slaves; and if you did it might lead to domestic catastrophes too horrible to be contemplated. But what was the ground upon which the separation took place? It was the wish of the North to prohibit the introduction of slavery into what are called the Territories, with the view of leading to its gradual extinction in the Southern States. That was the question upon which the great contest for the Presidentship took place, upon which Mr. Lincoln was elected, and which has led to the present lamentable war. I am not here to discuss whether North or South be right. We have said we will not interfere. To say that because we have recognized the Southern States as belligerents therefore we have recognized them as an independent State is absurd. We could not help recognizing them as belligerents. How could we be prepared to treat 12,000,000 of people as pirates? Even the North has found it impossible to do so, and has been obliged from the very nature of things to do as we have done. (Hear, hear.) Let the Americans settle their own quarrels.—All we can hope is that when this terrible crucible test has an end, whatever that end may be, the liberty, happiness and freedom of those magnificent States may not be impaired. (Hear, hear.) We know that the interruption of communication with the Southern States may lead to deplorable results in this country. Thousands—nay, millions—of our people are anticipating great misery and distress; and yet, with all that suffering in prospect, not a single petition has been addressed to any member of the government in favor of breaking the blockade, or doing an illegal act. (Cheers.) I say, then, that the conduct both of the people of England and of the House of Commons has been noble conduct, and that the time will come when the wise and good men of America—and there are many such in the States—will acknowledge that in confining ourselves to expressions of sympathy we have adopted the policy best calculated to assist them in their terrible struggle. (Hear, hear.)—But I wish you to understand that, while we proclaim the principle of non-intervention, we are resolved to make the rights of Englishmen respected throughout the world, and to resent outrages committed on the persons of English subjects.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Recent Fight at Pickens.

The Augusta (Georgia) *Chronicle* thus comments on the recent hostilities at Fort Pickens:

If anything could surprise us in relation to the conduct of affairs by both sides near Pensacola, the proceedings of the last few days would certainly excite our astonishment, and will, unless explained, be a puzzle hereafter to historians. There has existed, for eight months, neither a siege nor a blockade—no encounter destined for the capture of the fort has taken place, and each party, after having once or twice announced to their respective Governments their readiness to begin operations, have nevertheless remained idly looking at each other. The whole course of proceedings, or rather want of proceedings, seems to indicate that there is a "circumlocution office" attached to each Government, whose continual study it is "how not to do it."

The late brush increases the mystery. What can the Federals mean by suddenly opening their fire, then as suddenly ceasing, is the universal question; an I why should our fire be so courteously discontinued when the firs was? One cannot help thinking that as long as the ball had opened, it would have been better to have finished up the matter at once, without, by ceasing fire, giving the enemy time to repair damages.

Our brave soldiers there are tired of inaction, and would gladly be released from a position in which it would seem there is no glory to be won or service to be rendered. They do not fear the consequences of a combat. Delay in that quarter, as in others, appears to result only in advantage to the enemy, and our soldiers, doubtless, hoped that the time was near for their release from the sandbanks of Pensacola. They are impatient for action, and will not be better contented when they discover, as they have in the last few days, that they are only to be permitted to strike in self defence, and when old Harvey Brown stops hitting at them, they are to do the same by him.

It may be true, as whispered, that there are many and vast interests in the Confederacy opposed to any vigorous assault on Pickens—that Pensacola, whose town property has increased in value beyond example, would return to its original insignificance—that the Florida and Alabama Railroad is making enormous profits by transportation, only to be sustained by maintaining the present status. But it is not to be supposed that these considerations have any influence with our Government. Indeed, the conduct of the Federal Government is fully as inexplicable. We can only imagine that the causes of the inaction both sides will be revealed when the history of this war comes to be written.

From the Potomac

Matters along this line remained very much the same as at our last advices up to yesterday, at which time the town became full of all sorts of rumors. Among them, that the enemy were landing between Evansport and Aquia Creek—that they were crossing the Occoquan with a bridge of their own make, and a dozen other statements, varied to suit the credulity of the hearer or the fancy of the narrator. Still later it was said that all the regiments at or near the creek were under marching orders, and that a general fight might be expected at or near Evansport to-morrow (Wednesday). Upon inquiry we learn that there has been no landing. That an attack is apprehended we have good reason to believe is true.—That our troops will acquit themselves as men and soldiers we have every confidence.

From an interview with the military conductor of the train between here and the creek, we learn that the troops were all day yesterday preparing to march, but up to the time of the departure of the train last evening no forward movement had taken place. A gentleman who came over on the train this morning says that he left Colonel Cary's camp about three o'clock, A. M., and that just before leaving, the guards told him that the orders for marching had been countermanded. We learn this morning that the Tennessee regiment has been ordered some four miles below Evansport.

The firing on Monday last, as we are informed by the mail rider from Matthias', proceeded from a tug which we evidently "smelling after" masked batteries. It commenced some four or five miles above Matthias' to throw shells along the shore, and continued the interesting occupation until it got some ten miles below, firing at several dwellings, but we are pleased to say, without effect upon them, and with "nobody hurt," as far as humanity is concerned.—*Winchester (Va.) Repub.*

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church of the South, as we learn, since its severance from that of the United States, have, after suitable consideration and discussion, appointed commissioners to meet at Augusta, Georgia, on next Wednesday, for the purpose of organizing a new Assembly—a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the Confederate States of America, thus forming, practically, as well religiously, a new and powerful bond of union for the Southern States. And it is thought, as it is much desired, that this step will ultimate in the return of the family of Presbyterian Churches in the South to a common household, for the general good of the whole, and their greater usefulness and better success of the mission of peace and piety in the world. The essential differences between them, or between most of their members, are thought to be in nowise sufficient to prevent even such a union. At all events, it is quite certain that the bonds of fellowship between them will be greatly strengthened hereafter. There is no doubt that, by the proposed step at Augusta, the Christian character and utility of this time-honored Church, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the world, centuries having gathered around it, will be enlarged, and the interests of religion and enlightened Christianity advanced.

Order from General Bragg.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF PENSACOLA, }

The signal success which has crowned our forty hours' conflict with the arrogant and confident enemy—whose Government, it *seems*, is hourly looking for the announcement of his success in capturing our position—should fill our hearts with gratitude to a merciful Providence. This terrific bombardment of more than a hundred guns of the heaviest calibre—causing the very earth to tremble around us—has, from the wild firing of the enemy, resulted in the loss of only seven lives, with eight wounded, but two of them seriously—five of the deaths from an accident, and but two from the enemy's shot. We have crippled their ships and driven them off, and forced the garrison of Fort Pickens, in its impotent rage, to slake its revenge by firing on our hospital, and burning the habitations of our innocent women and children, who have been driven therefrom by an unannounced storm of shot and shell. For the coolness, devotion, and conspicuous gallantry of the troops, the General tenders his cordial thanks; but for the precision of their firing, in this, their first practice, which would have done credit to veterans, he is unable to express his admiration. Their country and their enemy will both remember the 22d and the 23d of November. By command of

MAJOR-GENERAL BRAGG.

Geo. C. Garner, Ass't Adjt.-General.

Message of the Governor of Louisiana.

The New Orleans *Picayune*, of the 29th, makes a synopsis of the late message of Governor Moore, of Louisiana, from which we extract the following:

The State taxes are payable annually; on or before the first day of December. The Auditor's account, up to the 15th, shows for:

Taxes collected, $614,816; due and still unpaid, $1,113,948. The collections have been only one-third of the assessment.

On the same day there were funds in the Treasury, amounting to $383,622.27.

We group together the statements of military expenditure, for this year, as follows:

The appropriations for military purposes made by the last Legislature amounted to	$900,000.00
The Governor has expended of this sum from the Treasury	708,446.15
He has expended of the sum of $670,000 borrowed from the banks	656,761.66
The total military expenditures have therefore been	1,415,207.81
There are debts for same objects unpaid, amounting to	181,600.00
Total cost of military	$1,596,807.81

To these the Governor adds an estimate for $100,000 for the equipment and subsistence of five thousand men for thirty days, in case of invasion. The whole war expense of the State for the year will, therefore, be, ascertained and estimated, $1,696,877.81.

This sum forms a charge against the Confederate States, and is now before the Confederate authorities, at Richmond, to be audited and paid. The amount, when allowed, will be an offset against the Confederate tax laid upon the State, and will help the State to settle with the Confederate authorities, and assume the collection of the quota of Louisiana, through her own officers, and at her own convenience.

In making these expenditures, the Governor has obtained a loan of $670,000 from the banks of the city, (excepting the Bank of Orleans and the Crescent City Bank), of which sum he has on hand $106,101.

The debts to the banks for advance, to the Quartermasters, and for estimated military expenditures, reach to $951,000. There is of this unexpended $106,101.23 on hand, and authority to pay $101,553.85, the unexpended portion of the appropriation of $900,000. New appropriations will, therefore, be required for $653,944, and new means to the amount of $845,499.33.

The reader will observe that these are for military advances to the Confederate Government.

The cash in the Treasury belonging to the several branches of domestic administration, is $383,622.27, of which only a trifle of $12,860 belongs to the general funds applicable to appropriation.

This is the aspect of the State Treasury, which will tax the wisdom and sagacity of the Legislature to find means for supplying a public credit.—The willingness of the people to contribute unstintingly to the public wants, is restrained only by the lack of ways in which to make their property and means serviceable to the cause in which we are all embarked. The measures suggested by the Governor as palliatives for the disorders of finance are:

1. An extension by the Legislature of the time for collecting taxes.

2. The making of Confederate money receivable for State taxes.

3. The authority to planters to issue "supply notes," or notes negotiable for the purchase of plantation supplies, which shall be a lien on crops.

4. The suspension by the Legislature of the duty imposed on the Attorney General to institute proceedings for a forfeiture of the Bank charters for suspension of specie payment, with provision to submit their action to a convention of the people, held after the conclusion of peace.

5. The issuing of small notes by the Banks, for the purpose of abating the nuisance of illegal private circulations.

The Governor reports the number of Louisiana troops now in service to be as follows: Eight regiments and two battalions in Virginia; three in Kentucky; and one in Missouri, and five more within the State.

The aggregate of soldiers furnished by Louisiana is 24,093 men; which is half of the usual voting population of the State.

A DUEL.—A duel took place near Manassas on the 21st, between William S. Courtney, Esq., correspondent of the Charleston *Mercury*, and Captain Guthbert, of the Palmetto Guards. The cause of the difficulty was a recent publication by the Palmetto Guards, reflecting injuriously upon Mr. Courtney. After an exchange of shots, the matter was honorably settled.

Texas Senators.

From the letter of an Austin correspondent it appears that Colonel Wigfall and Judge Oldham have been elected Senators from the State of Texas.

Capture of Prizes.

—The Confederate privateer schooner Sally, commanded by Captain Libby, has captured three Northern brigs—the Betsy Ames, of New York, Capt. Bartlett; the Elsenora, and E. K. Eating, both of Maine. The Betsy Ames was taken into North Edisto, S.C.; the Elsenora into Warsaw, Ga., and the E. K. Eating was burned and scuttled at sea.

Passage of the Privateer into Charleston.

The privateer Sally went into Charleston at night, passing through the United States blockading squadron, within sound of the bells on board the United States vessels, and so near that they could hear the cry of "All's well" sounding from their decks. The way of approach was Light-House Creek, where they anchored all night—a distance of twelve miles from Charleston.

The Fate of the Prizes.

The two prize vessels—the Betsy Ames and the Elsenora—were subsequently taken in through the creeks in the immediate vicinity of the squadron. They were taken up to Charleston, condemned and sold. The sailors were confined in the common prison for twenty-one days, and then being released, have returned to the North.

Miscellaneous Items.

The Savannah *Republican* recommends as successors to Messrs. Mason and Slidell, the captured ministers, William C. Rives, of Virginia, and John G. Wood, of Georgia.

The Knoxville *Register* states that James Britton, Jr., representative from Greene county, has been brought before the Confederate Court and required to give bond in the sum of $20,000 for his appearance to answer at the term of the court on the third Monday in December.

The Virginia State Convention, now in session at Richmond, on the 23d instant rejected a proposition to amend the Constitution so as to provide that the Governor shall be elected by the General Assembly instead of by the people. The vote resulted—yeas 41, nays 60.

The Memphis *Avalanche* of Nov. 29 says: "The Federal prisoners, ninety-nine in number, reached the city last Friday afternoon. They were confined for safe-keeping in the large building known as Mosby's cotton shed, near the corner of Second and Jackson streets. No one is permitted to visit them."

The Nashville *Banner* of November 20 is reliably informed that a few evenings ago the family of Andrew Johnson felt so assured that he would make his appearance in Greenville at the head of a Lincoln force, that they made preparations for giving the distinguished traitor a splendid supper upon his arrival. What a delusion!

The Lexington *Advertiser* of the 15th says:—"We learn that two negroes belonging to Mr. Boyd, near Benton, shot their master with his own gun, on last Sunday night, and then made their escape. The negroes were pursued and finally captured. Mr. Boyd is seriously wounded."

Under the caption, "Coals to Newcastle," the Memphis *Appeal* says:—"The steamboat Louisville last evening took out 1,075 sacks of salt and 500 sacks of coffee for New Orleans. After this we expect the day to come when New Orleans will ship cotton to Memphis."

The Nashville-Louisville *Courier* states that S. P. Sewell, a Yankee school teacher at Memphis, has been arrested by the Committee of Safety, as a person inimical to the South.

The Natchez *Courier* states that parties in that city are actually purchasing the necessaries of life and sending them to New Orleans on speculation.

The residence of the late Dr. Harney, in Baton Rouge, now the property of Gen. Harney, of the Federal army, is to be immediately confiscated.

From the New York Sun.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CONVENTION—THE MOST IMPUDENT HUMBUG OF THE WHOLE WAR.

Some time since there appeared exclusively in the *Tribune* resolutions purporting to be passed by a Convention of Unionists at Hatteras Inlet, which Convention, it was intimated, largely represented the feelings of the population in that State, it being attended by delegates from forty-five counties. In re-publishing a synopsis of these resolutions, the *Sun* took occasion to add that they would have given the greatest gratification to our Northern people if issued from the interior of the State, and by the people at large, and instead of being proclaimed from under the guns of the Federal forces at the Inlet.

Our misgiving as to the prominence and credence to which these proceedings are entitled are amusingly supported by the following private letter, received in this city, and of which we are permitted to publish a copy. The nature of this communication also throws doubts upon the propriety of the good people of New York having contributed so largely to the relief fund for the loyal citizens of North Carolina. We mentioned yesterday that the motives of parties interested in the collection of these funds had been called into question, and all such proceedings as the following are not likely to establish a high character for their patriotism or disinterestedness:

CAMP WOOL, HATTERAS INLET, N. C., }
November 30, 1861. }

Our late victories caused great joy among us who are deeply interested, every victory being regarded as bringing us much nearer home—a place which you may be sure we are all anxious to get to.

As for the Union Government in North Carolina, I fear it is nothing but a big farce. The resolutions, which you no doubt have read in the papers, began with something like this: "We, the people of North Carolina, &c., &c." Now, the fact is the one hundred and twenty ignorant Hatteras fishers and voters, the rest being boys, women and children. This Grand Convention, representing North Carolina, "free and independent," was addressed by a *Tribune* reporter (the only one here, I believe), a Mr. Foster, now an Hon. M. C., and Governor Taylor. Well, the resolutions were read by the Governor, and the question of its adoption being put, no one could, at first, be found to second it. Afterwards the form of a man said, "I want to do what is right; I don't know what it means, but I will second it." When the vote was put the "Delegates" looked one at the other, not knowing what to do, but after the resolutions were read over again some one managed to gain courage enough to vote, and all followed suit. So the Provisional Government was established. If this is not a "big thing" I don't know what is. On the 25th Mr. Foster was elected to the United States Congress for this District.

"ON TO RICHMOND."

From the New York World, Dec. 10.

Our generals cannot too well understand that delay is inadmissible a single day beyond what military considerations rigorously exact. It cannot be indulged in without great injury and greater danger. The confederacy gains heartand prestige every hour it is able to keep our great armies at bay. It attributes our failure to attack to fear, and its adherents are correspondingly inspirited.—Foreign nations, too, take the failure as evidence that the confederates have great strength—a strength that must ultimately secure their independence. Our very inactivity is doing more than even an occasional defeat could, to impel them to a foregone conclusion. *Moreover there is fearful danger that protracted delay will breed political distraction.* We are already seeing tokens of this in the growing differences on the negro question.—A strong party is rising for sweeping abolition, and they are effectively pressing the argument of military necessity into their service, in default of successful war in any other form. This is giving them a prodigious advantage. If our generals have it in their power to demonstrate, as we believe they have, that there is no such military necessity, it is high time they should be about it.—Their prolonged inaction through the winter will be unavoidably taken as a tacit confession that the work in hand is beyond the strength of their armies. Whether it be true or not, the majority of the people will so construe it; and when the people are once so satisfied, nothing on earth will stay them from the extreme resort of arming the slaves,—for there is nothing they are not prepared for, sooner than yield to this infernal rebellion. Every man, then, who longs for the restoration of the Constitution as it was, has an interest in the speedy action of our commanders in the field. What that action shall be, we do not presume to indicate. Military science must alone determine that. But action in some direction must be had. We cannot conceive that with decent generalship any action can lead to defeat. But if there be risk, the risk must be incurred. Any risk is better than the sure evil that must come from inaction.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN A DISTILLERY.—Loss $15,000—A MAN KILLED.—About half-past four o'clock this morning an explosion took place in an alcoholic still in Furman's distillery, situated in First street, between North Fourth and Fifth. A man named Francis Tagno was instantly killed, and the distillery and its contents were damaged to the amount of about $15,000. The still which exploded was situated on the ground floor, near the centre of the building, and at the time of the explosion contained about one hundred and twenty gallons of alcohol. The force of the explosion was so great that the side walls of the building were blown out, and the ignited fluid flowed through the building, setting everything in flames. The man Tagno was attending the still at the time of the accident. His body was found about 20 yards distant from it, and was so burned as to be scarcely recognizable. There were some other men at work in the distillery at the time, but they all escaped injury. The damage to the building and machinery is estimated at over $15,000, which is covered by insurance. The cause of the explosion is not known, as Tagno was the only person near the still at the time.—*N. Y. Post of Monday.*

THE FELLNER MURDER CASE—*Increased Reward.*—A communication has been received from the relatives of Sigismund Fellner, the gentleman who was recently murdered in the vicinity of this city, setting forth that the unfortunate man left his home without the knowledge of his family, having in his possession a sum of money equivalent to $1000.—His family feel disgraced by the course which he pursued in this country previous to his murder, as set forth in the newspapers, in view of the fact that he had a wife and child in Germany, beside an extensive circle of wealthy and influential friends in business and otherwise. The indications are that there was some coolness between him and his family before he sailed from Europe; this, however, is not positively known. At all events, his relatives have increased the reward for the capture and conviction of Radetsky, to the sum of $3,000. They also offer a reward of one-half of all the money belonging to Fellner which may be recovered. Mrs. Marks, who was erroneously reported to have gone to Philadelphia, yet remains in New Jersey. Why she has been released is a mystery, since it is evident that if not a participant in the murder, she was in all probability an accessory after the fact.—*New York Tribune.*

The great pontoon bridge at Paducah across the Ohio is being removed. After breaking with every rise and fall of the river and seriously obstructing navigation, it was concluded to separate the boats, and they now lie at the bank.

The Chicago *Tribune* has "information from an unquestioned source that five thousand acres in Illinois will be planted with cotton the coming year."

AN ADVANCE OF THE FEDERAL ARMY FORESHADOWED.

From the New York World.

The alarm in Virginia at the prospective advance of the Federal army is not, we have reason to believe, without reason. The meeting of Congress has partially withdrawn public attention from the movements of our armies, but every indication now betokens, not one battle only, but a series of battles along the whole line of the war. The Burnside expedition, when it strikes the point aimed at, will give the signal, after which we may expect to hear news, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated.

We are on the verge of great events, beside which the paltry squabbles in Congress are as nothing. The success or failure of the rebellion now hangs trembling in the balance, and before the advent of the new year the question of one or two nations on this continent will probably have been decided.

The mosquito fleet, or light draft boats for Gen. Burnside's expedition, have been ordered to haul out into the stream to-day, whether they are ready or not, and it is supposed that the fleet will sail from Annapolis by Monday at the very furthest.

HERRMANN ROMAN.—On Friday afternoon, one of the boldest and most adroit robberies on record was committed in the store of Messrs. Shreeve, Stanwood & Co., corner of Washington and Summer streets. A large and valuable collection of diamonds, jewelry, &c., the property of Hermann, the renowned prestidigitateur, which were presented to him by crowned heads and others, in Europe, had been on exhibition in a case in the store several days, and attracted a large number of visitors. The glass case in which the articles were kept was a large and deep one, situated so that visitors could pass round or stand on all sides. It appeared that some party had managed to remove a screw, raise the lid, and abstract from the bottom of the case a small bag, containing a set of diamond sleeve buttons, six diamond vest buttons and four diamond studs, making twelve pieces, each of which comprised a diamond weighing about one carat. The articles stolen were valued at between $600 and $700, and were presented to Herrman by the Emperor of Austria. What is a most singular circumstance is that the robbery must have been committed when no less than fourteen to fifteen persons were around the case.—*Boston Post of Monday.*

MALAGA GRAPES,
HAVANA SWEET ORANGES,
At vessel price ($2 50 off) by the hundred.
GROCERIES.
LARD OIL $1 per gallon.
PARAFFINE CANDLES 38 cents per lb.
SUPERIOR FLOUR $7.25 per bbl.
BAKES $1 and $1.15 for BEST FLOUR.
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For sale by
WILLIAM H. McLEAN,
52 North Charles st.

JENNINGS' IMPROVED GLYCERINE CREAM.—The best preparation ever offered to the public for the cure and prevention of Chapped Hands, Lips, &c. One or two applications of this Cream will render the skin soft, smooth, and delicately white. Prepared only by
N. SYNSON JENNINGS & CO.,
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A DOLLAR SAVED IS TWO DOLLARS MADE
This can be done by purchasing Wood already Sawed or Split, at Office of City Steam Fire Wood Mill,
No. 3 NORTH STREET.
JAMES H. JOHNSON

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—The well filled show cases of LAMMOUR & Co., No. 10 Light street, attract considerable attention. We are gratified to learn that their apartment never was better, and that every article is embraced therein, worn by a lady or gentleman. Their Watches, Jewelry, Silver and Plated Ware, Table Cutlery, Spectacles, Eye-Glasses, &c., cannot be surpassed in Baltimore.

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