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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

Though not wholly unprepared for the hostile nature of the tidings brought from England by the Europa, the imperative demand which the British government has made upon the Federal authorities for the restoration of Messrs. Mason and Slidell to the protection of the British flag, accompanied by an apology for the insult offered to that flag by Captain Wilkes, is well calculated to create intense excitement throughout the whole country. It is perfectly clear that we are on the verge of a war with England, and it is equally evident that nothing short of a prompt surrender of the Southern Commissioners can avert it.

Since the above was written the steamer Asia has arrived off Cape Race with advices from Europe three days later than those brought by the Europa. It is simply necessary to state that the intelligence which she brings is of an ominously warlike character. Popular indignation in England against the United States had lost none of its intensity. Troops were to be sent over to Canada immediately. It is reported, however, that the Emperor Napoleon has offered his services as mediator.

Of the four principal journals of New York only the *Times* has ventured to publish the comments of the London *Morning Post*—the organ of Lord Palmerston—on the Mason-Slidell seizure, and even the *Times* thought it necessary to break the force of the opinion expressed by the *Post* with regard to the affair by questioning the correctness of the facts upon which its arguments were based.—The British Ministerial organ assumes that, in his search of the Trent, Captain Wilkes acted under the direction of the Federal Government. The right of the United States, or any other belligerent Government, to stop a merchant vessel on the high seas, and to take from her either soldiers, arms, despatches or contraband of war is conceded. It is also conceded that the Trent, though a mail steamer, is, nevertheless, not exempted from the right of search. The point upon which the question in dispute hinges, according to the *Post*, is whether the British flag covered the passengers of the Trent, without distinction of country "so long as those passengers were not military nor classable under contraband of war." That Captain Wilkes had a legal right to stop and search the Trent is admitted; but the *Post* contends he had no right, according to international law, to take from on board of that vessel four passengers *who bore no official character*. If the law officers of the Crown, before whom the facts have been placed, shall decide that the act was illegally done, the declaration is made that the British Government "will be clearly entitled to reparation and apology; and no reparation," says the *Post*, "could be complete without the restitution of the passengers taken from under our flag."

Mr. Russell's last letter to the London *Times* brings up his record of the war to the 10th of November. His strictures on the condition of the Federal army of the Potomac will scarcely add to his popularity at Washington. He asserts that it is absolutely impossible for McClellan, or any other General to convert the mass of men under arms about the Capital into a well disciplined army; and he cites various instances of familiarity between the private soldier and the officer, to indicate how little the former is subordinated to the latter.—Mr. Russell grows sarcastic over the reported Union majority at the late election in Maryland. He remarks that the result of the election "would have been more satisfactory and conclusive if General Dix had not done his *gendarmerie* work so effectively in Baltimore." He still inclines to the belief that General McClellan, with the consent of those who are masters of public suffrage, if not of public opinion, may be forced to set aside the constituted authorities and assume the office of Dictator, and points out the difficulties that would follow any attempt to re-unite the shattered fragments of the Union, even if complete success were to attend the Federal army. The possession of Beaufort, Mr. Russell thinks, cannot be of much use, as any attempt on the part of the Federal commanders to march into the interior would be a fatal error. Nevertheless, if the Federal forces entrench themselves at Beaufort "they can cause immense inconvenience and constant anxiety to the Confederates."

We give elsewhere the official report of Colonel Brown, in regard to the recent bombardment at Pensacola. It is more valuable as a confirmation of the particulars already published than as presenting anything new. The fight was commenced by Colonel Brown, and only ceased when he ceased firing. The damage done to Fort McRae, to the navy-yard, and to the village of Warrington, is said, by the Confederates, to be much less serious with respect to the two last mentioned places than Col. Brown states it to be. Neither Fort Pickens nor the Confederate batteries appear to have been seriously injured, notwithstanding the tremendous weight of metal expended upon them during an engagement which lasted for nearly two days.

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* confirms the statement previously made to the effect that the work of repairing the damage done to the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, and of erecting new bridges in the place of those destroyed is being pushed forward with zeal and energy. A new bridge over the little Cacapon river, has been completed, and the longer bridge over the great Cacapon, ten miles west of Hancock, is in process of construction.

By the boat which reached this city on Saturday, intelligence was received via Norfolk of a terrible fire, which had broken out at Charleston, and is said to have laid in ashes from one third to one half of the city. The extent of the devastation is doubtless greatly exaggerated.

The opposing forces in Kentucky appear to be on the eve of a great battle. General Zollicoffer, with from eight to thirteen thousand men, was advancing rapidly upon Shoepff's division, numbering some five thousand men. General Buell is said to have dispatched General Thomas, with a strong Federal force, to get into the rear of Zollicoffer, and cut off his communication with Cumberland Gap. Subsequent reports state that Zollicoffer had retreated on receiving information of the advance of General Thomas, but they were not credited. The United States steamer Annie Taylor was wrecked recently near Sabine Pass, and her officers and crew taken prisoners by the Confederates.

The British gunboat Landrail has reached New York. The statement made in a Halifax journal with regard to the indignity put upon the Landrail by the San Jacinto is not borne out by the actual facts of the case. Commander Martin, of the Landrail had no flag flying when first observed by the San Jacinto in the Gulf of Florida, and considered the summons of the latter as perfectly right and proper.

From Missouri the news is meagre. General Halleck was busily completing his preparations for the long contemplated descent of the Mississippi river. General Price was at Osceola with from ten to fifteen thousand men and fifty-three pieces of artillery, intending to move northward. General Slack's division had crossed the Osage river, and another division crossed subsequently. McCulloch was at Springfield. Accounts from Sedalia state that three Federal divisions were marching from various points on Price, and that a battle was imminent.

THE SUPPLY OF SALT AT TURKS ISLAND.—Dates are to the 28th ult. The *Royal Standard* of the 23d November says the demand for salt has continued to be pretty brisk, and a considerable quantity of what remained on hand has been shipped off. The quantity at Cockburn Harbor has been reduced to 150,000 bushels, and it is estimated that there are now from 45,000 to 50,000 bushels in the pans, which will be taken out in the next ten days, if they are not otherwise employed. There are some six or eight cargoes yet remaining at each of these islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, but no prospect of any further quantity being gathered until next season. Price—eight cents. Export duty, ½ cent.

FROM WESTERN MARYLAND.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

BOONSBORO', MD., Dec. 12, 1861.

Taking it for granted that the veracious correspondents of the associated press will not deem it of sufficient importance to make public some incidents that have occurred in this region recently, will you allow me, through your columns, to state that on yesterday a squad of sixteen soldiers from the Indiana regiment stationed near Sharpsburg—along the canal—having ventured across the river too far into "Dixie," were captured by the Confederates?

During last week, four others, who also went over, shared the same fate. They had gone into a house, when, unexpectedly, a company of cavalry arrived and made them prisoners. One of them was just coming out of the house with a hatfull of eggs. All of the above were taken on to Richmond. On last Friday an Indianian was buried in Sharpsburg, having been shot the day previous from across the river.

A great deal of interest has been manifested in Mr. Gilmore, of Baltimore city, who was captured a short time ago on the Maryland side, opposite Shepherdstown, Va. On two former occasions he had come down to the edge of the river on the opposite shore, and entered into conversation with the Federal pickets, the result of which was, he received permission to come over into Maryland, they promising, on their word of honor, he should be permitted to return to the opposite shore whenever he desired to do so. On two previous occasions a similar permission had been given and was honorably respected. The third time, a new guard having arrived, they broke faith with him by taking him prisoner and carrying him to camp, where he remained for some time. He was offered his freedom provided he would take the oath of allegiance, but this he refused to do, alleging that they were bound by their pledges to liberate him without conditions. During all this time he had the freedom of the camp. On a certain day, when the troops were practising mark, he told them that he would set himself up all day as a target—at a hundred yards distant—for fifty cents a shot. On another occasion, three gentlemen from Sharpsburg visited his tent and began to lecture him about his secessionism, when he reminded them that he was a prisoner, and told them that if he was free he could thrash all of them at once. He became quite a lion with the ladies, who often came into camp to see the "secesh." Finally he was taken to headquarters at Williamsport, and his case having been investigated by Colonel Leonard, that officer felt bound to send him to Virginia under a flag of truce. Mr. Gilmore was kindly treated by all the Federal troops and officers; they enjoyed his sharp wit and manly bearing. All speak highly of him.

[COMMUNICATED.]

British Opinions.

In times like the present, when reason, the opinion of the world, and argument are so whol ly smothered by passion, it is, perhaps, throwing one's time away in making the subjoined extracts from the October number of the *Edinburg Review*. Still, they seem to be of so much importance that it may be hoped they will make some impression. The whole article is well worth perusal, being from jookers-on at a distance, and who can, at least, be considered impartial. Indeed, both parties to our unhappy difficulties come in for their share of censure—the South for its "audacious" teachings of the righteousness of slavery, and its rashness; the North for its lust of "dominion," in striving to hold the South, as its hewers and delvers.

On the question of emancipation, the *Review* says: "The *Abolitionists* proclaim aloud that the true meaning of the crusade is 'emancipation by "war', and they appear to suppose that the people "of England will sympathise more freely with their "efforts, when they are told that the object of calling half a million of men to arms, is to strike off "the fetters of the slave. Not such was the course "of England in her disinterested resolution to free "her black slaves. Holy as that end appeared to "her to be, she never held that it could be accomplished by acts of violence, war, or injustice. And "if anything were needed to render this contest "more frightful, and the passions excited by it "more intense, it is this ill-advised declaration of "the Abolitionists, that their design is in truth to "do all that the leaders of the Southern Confederacy have imputed to them. As to the war, they "say: 'We deplore this premature and ignominious fall of the Union founded by Washington.' "We regard it as an ill-advised, unnatural, and inhuman contest.' 'We doubt not, that in the end "this struggle must be terminated by a compromise, and we therefore think the sooner a negotiation is set on foot the better.'

In regard to the conduct of England and France on the question of treating the Confederate privateers as belligerents, it is said: "If such mischievous trash as this can be uttered by a man of "Mr. Jay's name and position, we may conceive "what are the prevailing sentiments, towards England and France, of the less educated classes in the "United States. We say England and France, because we rejoice, to be able to state with confidence, that throughout this unhappy dispute the "most entire agreement has subsisted on this question between the British and French Cabinets—"another proof, if any were needed, that their policy has no selfish or sinister ends, but solely the "desire to do what in them lies to reduce the evils "and to shorten the duration of a war, which all "the leading nations of Europe alike condemn and "deplore.

"Mr. Jay thinks he can distinguish between the "hasty action of the British Cabinet and the deliberate conviction of the British people. He is mistaken again. There has been no hasty action on "the part of the Cabinet. There is no essential difference of opinion in the British people. The "course adopted by Lord Palmerston and Earl "Russell would, we are certain, be followed by any "other Minister of the Crown, and supported by "Parliament;" * * * * "but we cannot forget that in all the revolutions of Europe, the American states have made it their invariable boast that all "*de facto* Governments are at once recognized by "the Ministers of the United States, without the "slightest reference to the causes or circumstances "which had given them birth."

* * * "But a war like this absorbs the whole "vital energy of the country, suspends all the sources "of production, and makes the people at once the "instrument and the victim of its destructive power. "The process of exhaustion is therefore accelerated. "Moreover, whatever the financial resources of the "Union may be, the strain on them is too great to "be prolonged indefinitely;" * * * "and it is "not easy to comprehend whence the resources are "derived which have enabled the Confederate States "to maintain so large an army, and to defend so "vast a line of frontier."

In stopping here with these extracts, it is only right to repeat our recommendation of the article from which they are taken, to the attention of all who desire to know how intelligent foreigners criticise what is going on here. As the *Edinburg* is whig, and a supporter of the ministry of Lord Palmerston, it is still more entitled to close consideration at this onventful period, though it is rather harsh on Messrs. Everett, Jay, and Motley.

PLEBS.

THE SEARCH OF THE TRENT—THE VIEWS OF THE BRITISH MINISTERIAL ORGAN.

From the London Morning Post, Nov. 23.

The Government of the United States has taken a step of a very serious character. *By its direction* the captain of the war-ship San Jacinto has stopped and boarded the West India mail steamer Trent, and has by force of arms seized four of her passengers, who claimed the protection of our flag. The account of this will be found in another column. The facts are before the legal advisers of the Crown, and upon their decision as to the legality of the proceeding will depend the action of the Government.

It would be, therefore, premature for us to discuss the consequences of this important event. We may, however, observe that there can be no doubt that it is competent for the United States or any other belligerent Government to stop any merchantman on the high seas, and to seize any soldiers, arms, despatches, or contraband of war she may convey. But the question is, can a belligerent search a merchantman, and take out of her what passengers he may be pleased to seize upon? The fact of the Trent being a mail steamer does not remove her from the simply commercial class of vessels—ships-of-war and transports being alone sacred from search. The point, therefore, to be determined in the case of the Trent is simply whether the British flag covers her passengers, without distinction of country, so long as those passengers are not military, nor classable under the definition of contraband of war.

Our own opinion is that the Federal Government had a legal right to stop the Trent and to seize upon contraband of war, under which definition, we believe, despatches belonging to the enemy are included. *But no such despatches were searched for, nor, indeed, did the Trent convey any.* Four passengers only, *who bore no official character*, were taken out of the ship. We think that this proceeding was not according to international law. The opinion of the law officers will, however, very shortly decide this question. If we are right the British Government will clearly be entitled to reparation and apology, and *no reparation could be complete without the restitution of the passengers taken from under our flag.* If we are wrong, of course we shall have to submit to the law. But we shall not the less keenly feel an affront which must prove to us how little the Federal Government appreciate the courtesy, discretion, and generosity with which we have invariably acted. The arrival of these gentlemen in England could really be no matter of great moment. Mr. Yancey has been here for months—what could it matter if Mr. Mason had arrived safely? His presence was not likely to affect the precise and settled policy which we pursue.—The insult, therefore, in any case was most gratuitous; *and if, as we think, it was unwarranted by the code of nations, it will not only be deeply felt, but duly resented.*

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

From the Wheeling (Va.) Intelligencer, Dec. 11.

It is gratifying to announce that the work of erecting bridges and repairing the damages to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad done by the Confederate forces since the commencement of hostilities is progressing with zeal and energy, and even thus far a vast amount of labor has been performed, whilst the work is still progressing. The enemy, during the spring, set fire to and destroyed two substantial wooden bridges, one of which passed over the Little Cacapon, twenty-two miles east of Cumberland. Over this stream a new bridge has been finished, one hundred and thirty-one feet in length, and supported by strong abutments. The other one destroyed passed over Great Cacapon, ten miles west of Hancock, and was two hundred and sixty-five feet in length. This is in course of reconstruction, is of two spans, and will shortly be finished.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. RUSSELL'S LETTERS TO THE LONDON TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10, 1861.

The impression is forcing itself into a conviction that neither Gen. McClellan nor any other General will convert the mass of men under arms about here into a well-disciplined army, according to the European standard or the notions of the most easily satisfied military critics. There is something radically deficient—a sentiment wanting, without which respect for the officer and obedience on the part of the man cannot be developed into a system of uniform action in all times and under all circumstances. It would take years to infuse a substitute for the feeling which produces such results in the European mind, and facilitates the change from the man to the soldier so readily. There is a change, and it affects the man's intellects as well as his body, and you can recognize it in the precision and vigorous materialism of the one, as much as in the upright carriage, regulated pace, and even the expression of eye in the other. The recruit there begins his career by respecting his officer; here the lesson is scarcely ever taught or learnt. The newly-enlisted citizen talks to his superior in an easy off-hand way, and it is some time before the poor fellow is cured of his little civilities in regard to his captain's health in the morning, or can be induced to refrain when he meets his colonel from making kind inquiries after his general welfare. The accounts of courts-martial which one reads, their irregularities, the nature of the offences tried, and matters of the sort, give an idea of what the regular officers have to do. I have seen processions of men with their arms tied behind their backs, marching through the streets of Washington, of whom no one sees any accounts in the papers. No one can tell what their offence is, or where the mutiny occurred.

There is one now—twelve or fourteen artillerymen, fastened by ropes together, and marching under a guard down Pennsylvania avenue. Then one hears such strange-sounding language between officer and private. "Captain, will you come in and take a drink?" "And so the boys have made you leftenant? Well, I'm reely glad to hear it."—The other day an officer dismounted close to my door, and gave his horse to his orderly. He had a Lieutenant-Colonel's shoulder-strap. "He back in an hour," said he; "I shall be here at that time." "Obl that be ——;" rejoined the orderly, (our men swore horribly in Flanders;) "how can you expect to go there and be back in one hour?—'taint possible." The Colonel seemed struck by the force of the remark and said, "Well, an hour and a-half." "Why don't you salute your officer?" quoth a friend of mine to a passing private. The man drew himself up, and did so in a sort of a way, but as he moved off he said in an apologetical tone, "You see, Major, I don't know the faces of all the chaps yet." If the army be turned into regular, and strictly drilled, two or three years will, no doubt, eradicate the spirit of equality in military matters; but the task is difficult, for the defect to be remedied is nearly innate. The better the class from which recruits come, the greater the difficulty of reducing them to proper subjection. The punishments in the army are quaint and capricious; they render men ridiculous, and harden without terrifying them; and not a few of the officers regret that they have no power to order flogging, which has a certain efficacy in the case of men who cannot be reclaimed by other means. Let the war go on, and there will be greater results produced than the reduction of this force to good discipline. The Americans will learn that at last, when they see the use of it; at present they are a good deal like children beginning the alphabet. They are slow to believe they are actually engaged in something more than a large faction fight.

POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

The result of the Maryland election would be more satisfactory and conclusive if Gen. Dix had not done his *gendarmerie* work so effectively in Baltimore. His proclamation was so alarming that the citizens formed a deputation to ascertain its meaning, and were informed that his intentions were honorable. But the wholesome rigor of his arrests on Wednesday resembles nothing so much as the process of voting for an Imperialist deputy, or "taking the sense of the people" at Nice on the question of annexation. Nevertheless, the fact of the majority for the Union remains, and the faith of the Government in bayonets and martial law is justified so far. Nor will they hesitate to employ the same machinery to develop Union sentiment in the South. Can liberty be too dear? May it, like life, be purchased at the cost of every consideration which renders it of value? The American people now laugh at the idea of any ultimate danger to their liberties and independence from armed force, or national sentiment itself; but the steps by which the ruin comes may be as stealthy as those by which revolution, and rebellion, and civil war came—hasty and rapid. "All men think all men mortal but themselves;" and the Americans, relying on the enlightenment of their democracy, deride the fears of those who think the results which follow the conquests of armed forces in Republics will develop themselves in the New World. The personal character of Gen. McClellan affords a guarantee that he is not the man who would seek to elevate himself on the fragments of the institutions for the assertion of which he is now preparing an offensive army; but it may so happen that he may be forced to avert greater evils by assuming for a time the chief control of the State with the consent of those who are masters of public suffrage, if not of public opinion.

DIFFICULTIES OF RECONSTRUCTION.

The dangers of defeat will be greater than those of success; but the latter will be attended with enormous difficulties. Even the Maryland apparatus of Government, though simple and effective, is not constitutional; and when it is applied to the Confederate States it will become one of the most extraordinary organizations which ever were beheld in a country calling itself free. Personal experience induces me to believe that the same spirit, unanimity and courage which the South exhibits in its resistance in the field will be displayed in every form of passive opposition to the efforts of the North to reduce it to subjection when the fight shall have ceased. The Unionists persist in declaring there is a large party—to be consistent, they ought to declare there is a majority—of the people in the seceded States opposed to the principles of the Confederates and to the independence for which they appear to be fighting. If so, the task of re-amalgamation will be more easy; if not, the Federalists will be reduced to the plea and the machinery of force, exercised, as they contend, for right, but still applied to oppress a majority of the people in the slave States. If there be a General Dix in every State, a man capable, resolute and active, with overpowering force at his disposal, all the States may be reduced to the condition of Maryland, and the polls may be made to give Union returns, but the supposition is very unreasonable; and, even if it be verified, the world will see with disgust the resurrection in the great Republic of the spirit and substance of the most absolute despotism covered with cerecloths of liberty. The Southern people have now poured out all their passion into the mold of a distinct nationality, and their only ties to the North is a common language and traditions, which, belonging to the history of their short-lived career, are now old as the stories of the Heptarchy. When the Northern orators and writers inveigh against the men, morals and manners of the slave States, they bear evidence to the fact that a broad gulf exists between them, which they think they can cover over with the National flag. The abolitionists, to whom "the Constitution is a league with the Devil, a covenant with Hell," who exclaim that "Union is dishonor," that "disunion is gain," prosecute the war either to destroy the institution of slavery and its protectors, or to enjoy the luxury of conquest and revenge over haughty and defiant enemies; but that party, which seems to become smaller as the contest covers more ground, is divided into active belligerents and those who would let the slave States go with a curse, in the sure confidence that their system would work out the heaviest punishment of rebellion, and force them to crawl back to the Union with "bated breath and whispering humbleness."

THE EXPEDITION TO BEAUFORT.

FRIDAY, Nov. 8.—As I am two days from Boston by mail, and the electric telegraph will carry the latest news up to the sailing of the packet on Wednesday, I shall not indulge in any speculations in reference to the news from the Great Expedition, meagre and unsatisfactory, and even doubtful as it is; but I may be allowed to record my opinion, from the tone of those in the public departments, that the success is not very decisive, and that the ships have been receiving a very warm reception. When I was in Port Royal this spring, on Mr. Trescot's Sea Island, the advantages of the position and the probability of an attack were made me; but I was told that the inhabitants were aware of their danger, and that batteries had been erected to cover Beaufort and the banks of the river at the entrance of Port Royal. That was so far back as May. Since then the defences have probably been greatly strengthened, and although Broad River and Port Royal afford depth of water for any vessel except the very largest men-of-war, there is a bar on the beach to Beaufort which will prohibit the entrance of the heavy frigates of the expedition. I am informed there were 28 vessels inside pounding away at the place; the town itself will no doubt be destroyed, *but, even if the troops land and take possession of it, they will not find it of much use. There is—there can be—no intention of marching the force inland.* If there should be any movement of the kind it will be a fatal error, for the country can be inundated at pleasure, and is, above all that I have ever seen, suited for defence, and the force would be too small to take military possession of the district. But if they land and intrench themselves at Beaufort they can cause immense inconvenience and constant anxiety to the Confederates; and they come close on Pocotalico, which is a station on the railroad from Charleston to Savannah, and cut off the communication between those places.

The line runs through vast swamps and forests, rice-fields, and half-cleared cotton plantations, spanning rivers and creeks, on wooden bridges easily destructible, and running for many miles on trestle work, so that it can be rendered useless by cutting the woodwork, or, better still, by flinging the rails into the water. The planters are scattered widely apart through this region, which becomes more cut up with water and rice-fields as you approach Savannah. As there were materials for butting on board the transports, it is probable the troops will endeavor to establish themselves in a fortified camp outside Beaufort, and, if so, they had better make a more eligible selection than they did at Hatteras. There all sorts of troubles have come upon them. It is positively affirmed that the Twentieth Indiana regiment is to be withdrawn, and that the Colonel is to be tried by court-martial. It will be a singular weakness if the United States abandon its barren conquest, but it is now discovered that Oregon Inlet, in the same series of sand-reefs, will permit egress and ingress to the vast inland navigation which the possession of Hatteras was intended to close.

The Hon. David Wilmot, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, has returned home on account of bad health. He is said to be very ill, and his disease is supposed to be cancer in the stomach.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons met in Richmond on Monday and elected Lewis B. Williams, of Orange, Virginia, Grand Master for the ensuing year.

General Rosecrans having reached his home in Cincinnati on Thursday last, was received with great enthusiasm by his political friends in that city.

The police of Philadelphia have commenced ferretting out the policy dealers of that city. Several have been arrested and held for trial, and warrants have been issued for a number of others.

THE TWENTY-FIRST INDIANA REGIMENT.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, writing from Baltimore, under date of Dec. 7th, gives a graphic description of the recent expedition to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, from which we take the following extracts:

"The 21st Indiana has returned from the Eastern Shore expedition, covered with laurels and lice, having passed through the many dangers and vicissitudes of that bloody campaign without the loss of a single man. We left Eastville on Monday morning last, marching sixteen miles on the Pongoteague road, and encamped with our red brethren of the voluminous breecher, in a pine wood. Fuel was plenty, and by scraping together the fallen pine leaves, we made beds, which for convenience were as good as any feathers that ever grew upon geese. A light snow fell during the night, and things began to wear a winterish appearance. After a luxurious breakfast of impossible crackers and some variety of hog product, to say nothing of coffee and alluding but slightly to the inevitable sweet potato, we struck tents, and by a march of eight or ten miles reached Pongoteague Inlet.

"The Star was lying ready, but we had a taste of her accommodations coming out, and very generously let our Zouave brethren march aboard of her, concluding to wait for the Balloon, expected the next day. The day was cold and a high wind blowing, and we encamped on the bare beach, where we passed a miserable night. About Pongoteague there are a few houses, an old-fashioned wind-mill, a Secesh battery, and plenty of oysters at low tide. Part of the cannon and small arms captured by the expedition were taken here. After waiting two days and nights we got aboard the Wilson Small and left for Baltimore. We had been out but a short time when the disgusting fact became apparent that the Small was worse than the Star. I don't know anything from actual experience of the 'horrors of the middle passage,' but I shall never forget the long agony of the voyage from Pongoteague on the Wilson Small. There was nothing to eat, and neither room to lie down nor stand up, with tobacco spit an inch and a half deep all over the decks. To add to the comforts of the trip, about one-third of the boys got sea-sick, and were 'heaving Jonah' right and left, without so much as taking time to cry 'stand from under.'

"Gen. Lockwood and staff, whether deservedly or not, were very unpopular with their troops. The General's personal appearance is not prepossessing. He 'stutters,' wears spectacles, and looks like a cross between a Presbyterian minister and a Jewish pawnbroker. He is prolific in the matter of general orders, and his 'policy' appears to have been shaped almost exclusively for the protection of the Confederates. Horses known to have been employed in the Confederate cavalry, were released after being seized, on the quibble that they did not belong to the Confederate Government, but were merely hired at so much a day. No seizure of arms could be made without first obtaining a special order from the General, by which time they would be removed to some new hiding-place. Most awful punishments impended over the heads of those who, impelled by hunger, or a longing for change of diet, dared to disturb the tranquillity of secesh poultry-yards, and I did hear that a private of the 6th Michigan was sent back to Fort McHenry in irons for stealing a turnipl Secession owners, on whose ground the troops camped, were paid good prices for fodder and corn, and liberal damages for fuel burned. Some of them even asked to be paid for the dead pine leaves the soldiers used for bedding.

"Would it not be well enough to discharge all the chaplains in the service and employ as many master cooks to see that the beans are thoroughly boiled? I know that this suggestion will mortally offend such of our good friends at home as are troubled about the final salvation of the army. But, with all due respect, and with the highest regard for the purity and benevolence of their motives, I must say that the souls of the army are not worth looking after. If there is any truth in orthodox theories, all who go into the army are hell-doomed from the moment they enter the service, and it is only by the tightest of squeezes that the chaplains can save themselves. The employment of chaplains is only money thrown away, and 'love's labor lost,' while the physical condition of the soldier may be materially benefited. Let us have good tents to sleep in, good and well-cooked food to eat, and the means of keeping clean, and I assure you that these reforms will result in more good, physically and morally, than all the sermons that can be preached during the war. By those remarks I mean no disrespect to the chaplains, personally, and especially to our own, Rev. N. L. Brakeman, whom I have always found a very kind and good man.

"Captain John Dexter, formerly of Columbus, Indiana, has received a commission in one of the Maryland regiments, and for the last six weeks has been busy recruiting. A few days ago he went into camp with eight men! Bully for Dexter! At this rate he will fill his company about the year A. D. 1863. You will see by this that the men of Maryland are turning out promptly to vindicate the majesty of the Government, and the honor of the flag. Bully for them!"

From the New York Tribune, Dec. 14.

A COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

There are certain exigencies which cannot be met by human effort, under the present limits of human powers and endurance. We have an illustration of this in the position prepared for our young Commander, whose most promising capacities and energies are in a manner paralyzed by our servile adherence to routine, and, as far as it concerns military organization, to a routine of the worst kind—that which governs in England. That is the only country, except this, where—besides the Chief Ruler and the Secretary of War—there exists a General-in-Chief of the whole army, who is now the Duke of Cambridge.

The Governments of Europe wherein military organization is carried to perfection—as France, Prussia, and Russia—have no such grade in their respective military hierarchies. The Constable of old France disappeared more than two centuries ago; the Marshals commanded corps or armies acting on a given theatre of war; but none of them ever commanded or commands the whole French army. Sometimes, during the Napoleonic wars, a Marshal had in the army under his command other Marshals—as Massena, in his campaign in Portugal, had under him Soult and Ney; but another army at the same time operating in Spain was wholly independent of him. It can be said that Napoleon himself never directed or combined the operations of an army of 600,000 men on distant fields of war. In 1809 his Italian army, under Eugene, co-operated and manœuvred toward the same point as the army of Germany under the immediate command of Napoleon; this aim was Vienna, or, at least, the central provinces of Austria; but both the armies scarcely reached 300,000 men. When Napoleon invaded Russia he directed the operations of the Russian army; the Marshals operating in Spain communicated with him through the Secretary of War. The army of the Allies in 1813-14 was under the orders of Schwartzenberg, for this purpose created a Generalissimo; but the Allies had only one army opposed to them, that of Napoleon, and this on a theatre less extensive than is that from Fortress Monroe to the frontiers of Ohio and Kentucky.

Pashkewitch, in military and civil power, was next to the Czar, was Vice King of Poland, and commander of the first Russian army, situated in the western part of the empire. He had nothing to do with the second army on the Turkish frontier, or in Caucasus, or with independent corps like the Guards, or the corps of Grenadiers. For all questions of military administration, organization, &c., Pashkewitch depended on the Secretary of War, as in France do to-day the various Marshals at the head of corps. For war or peace France has now no general-in-chief and organizer of the whole army. She would not have such one, should she be forced simultaneously to carry on a war on the Rhine, on the Alps, and on the Pyrenees, while Louis Napoleon were obliged to remain in Paris. To direct the operations of an army of from 150,000 to 200,000 men—such probably is that encircling to-day Virginia—taxes the utmost mental, intellectual and physical capacities and forces of any man, were he Alexander, Cæsar, or Napoleon. Besides, Alexander and Cæsar never had such numbers under command. Perhaps no living general in Europe could satisfactorily fulfill such a gigantic task as, nevertheless, our worship of routine has hoaped on our young commander, compelling him to take the direction of the various military departments into which the country is divided. After all, the number of hours in the day for work and activity is limited. General McClellan must daily attend to the business and staff of the army of the Potomac, then to the staff of the general army (600,000 men), then to the Adjutant-General's office. Where is the man whose intellectual powers would not be shivered by thus cutting up his time and distracting the intensity of attention so absolutely needed for directing the operations of the army on the Potomac?

These multifarious occupations crowded upon the head of our Chief must retard the impetus of his intellect; they are as leaden, heavy weights upon an eagle whose aspirations are wide and high.—They prevent the commander from living in the camp, among the active army; from being every minute under the magnetic and inspiring influence of the genuine, active, military and camp life.—Frederick the Great was not exclusively educated for a soldier; nay, his youth was rather devoted to wholly different pursuits. It was in the camp, in the field, among his soldiers, that his military genius was revealed to him and to the world in his immortal seven years' war. The atmosphere, the fume of the bivouac, evoked and inflamed the military genius of a Hannibal, an Alexander, a Cæsar and a Napoleon.

GENERAL WM. T. SHERMAN INSANE.

It will startle the reader to learn that General Wm. T. Sherman, the successor of General Anderson in Kentucky, and lately removed to Missouri, is actually *insane;* and that he was occasionally in that state while in command of the Department of the Cumberland. The Cincinnati *Commercial* learns "that he at one time telegraphed to the War Department three times for permission to evacuate Kentucky and retreat into Indiana. He has, also, on several occasions, frightened the leading Union men of Louisville almost out of their wits by the most astounding representations of the overwhelming force of Buckner, and the assertion that Louisville could not be defended. The retreat from Cumberland Gap was one of his mad freaks. When relieved of the command in Kentucky he was sent to Missouri and placed at the head of a brigade at Sedalia, where the shocking fact that he was a madman was developed by orders that his subordinates knew to be preposterous and refused to obey. He has, of course, been relieved altogether from command."

It may be added that this officer is not the one who was engaged at Bull Run, but is a brother of the Hon. John Sherman, of Ohio. He entered the army about 1840; subsequently resigned, and was re-appointed in May last. The language which he made use of to Adjutant General Thomas, which was so very injudiciously published by that officer, ought to have opened the eyes of the authorities at Washington to the danger of retaining General Sherman in command another day. That our armies escaped disaster in Kentucky appears to be almost miraculous. In making these remarks, we, of course, sympathize deeply with the unfortunate officer and his friends, as will every right-minded person, on learning the true state of the case. The circumstance, by the way, will have a favorable effect on the public mind, which will be relieved from the gloom that seemed to pervade nearly all whenever Kentucky was mentioned, or our military operations in that State were referred to.—*N. Y. Commercial.*

MARRIED.

On the 12th instant, in the Third English Lutheran Church, by Rev. Samuel P. Sprecher, CHARLES H. HOUSE to Miss SATTIE W. McKIRDIE, all of Baltimore.

On the 11th of November, by Rev. Thomas Waters, Dr. WILLIAM G. H. WOLLOP, of Accomac county, Va., to Miss SARAH R. BYRD formerly of Baltimore.

DIED.

On Sunday morning, the 15th instant, MICHAEL McBLAIR, aged 26 years.

His friends are invited to attend his funeral, this (Monday) afternoon, at four o'clock, from No. 97 North Charles street.

On the 13th ultimo, ALBERT, youngest son of Benj. and Adaline Stine, aged 3 years and 4 months.

At Clifton, Baltimore county, on the 11th inst., BENJAMIN MATTHEWS, son of William Matthews, aged 61 years.

At Washington, on the 12th instant, Mrs. OCTAVIA M. BECK, aged 60 years, formerly of Prince George's county, Maryland.

MALAGA GRAPES,
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At vessel price ($2.50) by the hundred.
GROCERIES.
LARD OIL $1 per gallon.
PARAFFINE CANDLES 38 cents per lb.
SUPERIOR FLOUR $7.25 per bbl.
HAMS $1 and $1.16 for BEST FLOUR.
HAMS down to 11 cents.
BUCKWHEAT 75 and 84 cents.
For sale by
d12-tf 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. HYNSON JENNINGS & CO.,
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