THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TERMS

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TO THE PUBLIC.

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

BALTIMORE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate Messrs. Doolittle and Sumner respectively presented petitions for the emancipation of slaves. A resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for a copy of Gen. Phelps' proclamation, from Ship Island, was laid over. A bill was introduced for the collection of taxes in insurrectionary districts, by confiscating land in such districts, under a proclamation from President Lincoln. A resolution calling for the expulsion of Senator Polk, of Miss ouri, was read and referred.

In the House of Representatives the Committee on Elections reported that the claim of Charles H. Foster to represent either the 1st or 24 district of North Carolina was an imposition, and that Mr. Foster was himself satisfied of the fact. The consideration of the Homestead bill was resumed. After a long discussion the bill was postponed until the first Tuesday in February next. A bill cancelling the pensions of all persons engaged in the Confederate service, or in giving aid and comfort to the enemy, was taken up and passed.

The arrival of the steamer Jura at Portland places us in possession of advices from Europe to the 6th ult. The utmost activity prevailed in England in pushing forward warlike preparations. A considerable number of troops were under orders for Canada. Seamen on leave were summoned to return to their ships. The heaviness in the stock market had increased. Two ships-of-war had been ordered to proceed forthwith to the West Indies to protect the mail steamers. Cotton had declined in price during the week to the extent of two pence—4 cents per pound—but had subsequently rallied somewhat. The popular excitement continued unabated. Mr. Admas is reported as believing his recall to be inevitable. General Scott had written a letter, which is published in the French journals, denying that the seizure of the Southern Envoys on board of a neutral vessel was in consequence of orders to that effect from the Cabinet at Washington. He considers it necessary that good relations should be preserved between the United States and Great Britain, and hopes that that the difficulty will be amicably settled. He expresses further his conviction that the offence is not serious enough to justify a declaration of war. The London *Star* regards General Scott's letter as a message of peace. The London *Times* charges that the letter favors a disavowal of the conception of the outrage, but does not repudiate it. The Paris *Patrie* reports that the San Jacinto searched previously three other vessels, and cites the fact as evidence that the Federal Government fancied it had the power to exercise the right of search to the fullest extent. The tone of the French papers is reported to be more favorable to a reconciliation of the pending dispute.

The main body of the Federal forces in Kentucky had advanced to Green river. At the last accounts the respective commands of Generals Johnson, McCook, Wood and Rousseau, were encamped on the north bank of that stream. The division under General Thomas, was at Lebanon preparing to move. Nelson's division was still posted at Muldraugh's Hill, in Hardin county. A skirmish is reported to have taken place at Mumfordsville, in which it is said that the Confederates were worsted. A later despatch announces that the Federal troops were crossing Green river. If this statement turns out to be correct, we shall probably have tidings of a sanguinary battle fought in the neighborhood of Bowling Green before many days elapse.

Very copious details of the ravages committed by the great fire at Charleston, last week, are given in the columns of the *Mercury* and the *Courier*. There exists considerable doubt as to the origin of the fire. Mr. Russell, to whose factory it was first communicated, attributes it either to an incendiary or to the carelessness of some country negroes, who had been permitted to build a fire in close proximity to the factory. The loss of property as previously stated, is estimated at from five to seven millions of dollars. It is remarked that the negroes, "manifested great zeal in their efforts as firemen and laborers." The Message of President Davis to the Confederate Congress, announcing the calamity, and recommending an appropriation for the sufferers, was promptly and unanimously responded to by the body to which it was addressed.

We reproduce from the *Courrier des Etats Unis* two articles which have recently been published in its columns. The first is entitled "The Ellet Pamphlet" of which it gives a very fair synopsis, but it fails to give the remotest idea of the vigorous language in which Mr. Ellet clothes his denunciation of General McClellan's military incapacity. The chief points of the argument are, however, very cleverly condensed; but the deductions are omitted. The second article from the *Courrier* is on the affair of the Trent. It gives what is supposed to be the aspect of the case as it is viewed by the legal advisers of the crown. It will well repay perusal.

A telegram which reached us from Frederick, at a late hour last evening, states, on the authority of a messenger from Williamsport, that General Jackson, with a Confederate force, variously estimated at from nine thousand six hundred, to fifteen thousand men, was making preparations to cross the Potomac at Falling Waters, with a view, it is supposed, of seizing the stores and munitions of war collected at Williamsport. Reinforcements have been pushed forward from Col. Leonard's command, and orders were issued by General Banks, for a Brigade, under General Williams, to proceed by forced marches to the point of attack. Firing was heard in that direction early yesterday morning, but beyond this nothing is known. The Brigade ordered to be in readiness to leave Frederick, did not, however, do so, and the latest accounts simply state that one regiment was about to move.

In Missouri General Pope has advanced Westward for the purpose of intercepting Price, who is making forced marches upon Lexington to form a junction at that place with Rains and Stein. On the other hand, a telegram from Leavenworth leaves it in doubt as to whether Price has crossed the Osage.

By the boat from Fortress Monroe Richmond papers of Tuesday last were received. Intelligence had reached Richmond as early as Monday last that a Queen's messenger was on his way to Washington with despatches for Lord Lyons in regard to the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Henry C. Burnett and Judge Monroe took their seats in the Confederate Congress on Monday last as Senators from Kentucky.

There are conflicting accounts in regard to the suspension of specie payments by the New York banks. It is now stated that the banks have determined not to suspend.

The Washington *Star* of yesterday announces that within one hour after the reception of the proclamation of General Phelps in Washington, the order for his recall was issued. The *Star* characterizes him as "a crazy abolitionist."

Secretary Chase has gone to New York, to consult with the Bankers of that city, in relation to their financial connection with the Government.

Our report of yesterday's proceedings of the Maryland Legislature failed to reach us last night.

The Hon. Lucius Robinson, the Comptroller elect of New York, has gone to Washington, where he will make application to the General Government for the reimbursement to the Treasury of New York of the moneys advanced, at the commencement of hostilities, for the organization and equipment of regiments.

The *National Intelligencer*, in answer to an inquiry, says that the General-in-Chief, in accepting the services of the French Princes in his staff, did not require an oath of allegiance from them. They decline to receive any pay.

Thomas Scott Williams, formerly chief justice of Connecticut, died at his residence in Hartford, Conn., on Sunday last. He was born in Weathersfield, Conn., June 20, 1777, and was consequently in his eighty-fifth year at the time of his death.

The British Government has now fifty-four vessels, carrying one thousand three hundred and sixty guns and ten thousand four hundred and forty-four men, in the waters of North America and the West Indies, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean.

EUROPE.

THE COMMANDER OF THE NASHVILLE

The London *Telegraph* states that the commander of the Nashville, Captain Pegram, is not unknown to the English public. Most of us can remember a troublous adventure which has gone by the name of the "Iorcha affair," in which we had to punish certain Chinese pirates. It happened that there was in the waters of Hong Kong at that time an American war-vessel, the Powhattan, whose commander and crew entered into our cause with the daring, dash, and warm heart of true Englishmen; and there were strong reasons for their doing so. It is well known that English blood is less diluted in the Southern than in the Northern States, and the lieutenant commanding was a Southern man—no other than this very Captain Pegram who has now arrived at Southampton in the Nashville. On the 1st of October he ran the blockade in the steamer Theodora, and entered Savannah again. It was, we believe, a sort of experimental trip, to see how far the blockade was effectual; for on the 12th of October Captain Pegram again ran the blockade in the same vessel, carrying Messrs. Slidell and Mason to Havana, taking in a war cargo, and so back again; and on the 26th of October he once more set out in the Nashville. With reference to the part taken by Capt. Pegram in China, Sir John Stirling, in his despatches to the Admiralty, makes the following mention of him:—It is impossible to speak too highly of the American co operating party engaged. They were with the Rattler, emulating each other in the thickest of the attack. But my warmest thanks in particular are due to Lieut. Pegram, the American senior officer; his encouragement of the men, and coolness under a heavy fire, and determined bravery, when surrounded by a persevering and revengeful foe, was conspicuous to all.

A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH.

Colonel Peyton, who recently arrived at Southampton in the Nashville, writes to the London *Times* as follows:

I have been greatly surprised to learn, since my arrival in London, that an effort has been made through publications in the English press to create the impression that there is much disaffection towards the Confederate Government in all the Southern States of America, but particularly among the people of North Carolina, and that the proceedings of what purports to have been a meeting of influential and respectable citizens of the county of Hyde, in that State, have been published as authority for the numerous statements which have been made upon the subject. I am directly from the city of Raleigh, the capital of the State of North Carolina, having come as a passenger in the Confederate States war-steamer Nashville, which left Charleston, South Carolina, on the 25th October, and cast anchor off the Itchin, Southampton, on the 21st of this month, and have been since August, with the exception of brief visits to Virginia, constantly in the eastern portion of the State, where this disaffection is said to exist and the meeting to have taken place, and I need not say how much gratified I am that an opportunity is afforded me of pronouncing the entire story as utterly devoid of truth in every particular. No such disaffection exists in North Carolina, and no such meeting has ever been held.

The people of North Carolina are united and enthusiastic in their support of their Confederate Government, and are determined under no circumstances to ground their arms till the independence of the Confederacy is acknowledged by our enemy. Before the State seceded there was in North Carolina, as in every Southern State, and as there will always be in every popular Government, a divided public sentiment as to the wisest policy to be pursued for a redress of the grievances suffered at the hands of the Government of the United States, but the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln, in contravention of all law and authority, calling out 75,000 men ostensibly to "hold, occupy, and possess" a few forts and an armory at Harper's Ferry—a force so disproportioned to the object announced that the whole people were aroused to a sense of their danger, and the Act of Secession was passed by a unanimous vote of the Legislature, and was subsequenty ratified by a State Convention representing the sovereignty of the people. This action occurred in the month of April last, and since that time I have never heard in my extensive association with the people a single expression of opinion in opposition, but, on the contrary, a universal sentiment of concurrence in its propriety, justice, and necessity.

Before I left America the State had sent to the seat of war in Virginia, fully armed and equipped, 32,000 volunteer troops, infantry and riflemen, and a splendid regiment of cavalry, numbering 1,094. There were 6,000 troops on the State coast, and camps of instruction established at Raleigh, Ridgeway and Gareysburg, and the number of volunteers still offering was so great that General Martin, commander-in-chief of the State forces, under orders of his Excellency the Governor, had issued a proclamation informing the people that no further troops were needed or could be received. A simple statement of these facts is a sufficient refutation of the idea which Mr. President Lincoln so earnestly and persistently seeks to create abroad, that there is a Union party in the Confederate States. It may suit his purposes to create such an impression as a justification of his course in waging a wicked and atrocious war upon a gallant and noble people, whom he is perfectly aware he can only wound, never conquer; but he will find few charitable enough to believe him actuated either by truth or honor.

The further statements of the papers of the United States, which have been extensively reproduced in the British press, that large numbers—multitudes, indeed—of the people of North Carolina had since the fall of Fort Hatteras gone in and taken the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States are likewise devoid of truth. On the isolated and barren strip of sand where Fort Hatteras is situated there are several hundred wreckers, who support themselves principally by decoying vessels to their destruction by displaying false lights, &c, and about a hundred of these desperadoes, who live without the sense of any duty they owe to God or man, and who did not wish to be disturbed by their new neighbors, went in and took the oath after the fort fell. If the Yankees were dislodged to-morrow, they would take a second oath, with equal alacrity, to whoever might next occupy the waste. If any meeting favorable to Mr. Lincoln ever took place in North Carolina, which I do not believe, it could only have been composed of these wreckers, acting under the auspices of their new fledged friends, the Yankee invaders, and the salutary restraints imposed by martial law and the guns of Fort Hatteras. The statements in the alleged proceedings of the meeting in Hyde county, that the writ of *habeas corpus*, the freedom of speech and of the press, and the right of trial by jury, had all been suspended in North Carolina, are utterly false.

A BOLD AND BITTER ARTICLE.

CONDUCT OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

From the London Herald.

Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat. The conduct of the American Government has long been such as, to Europeans, scarcely seemed consistent with the supposition of its being directed by men in full possession of their senses. The outrages on the Constitution which have been every day perpetrated with impunity in every State under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government; the frantic language in which its proclamations have been couched; the extravagance of its boasts, and the imbecile weakness of its action; the savage excesses which its troops have been encouraged to commit in the Border States, by which it has alienated Kentucky, lost its chance of preserving Missouri, and has exasporated Virginia beyond the possibility of forgiveness; the wanton extravagance of its tyranny in Maryland—all seem to proceed from the headstrong fury of men who never were under the control of principle, and now beyond the influence of reason.

Mr. Lincoln on his accession to power was thought to be an honest, vigorous, straightforward man, whose firmness of temper might balance his intellectual deficiencies, and whose respect for law might atone for his utter ignorance of politics. Unhappily, he has proved himself not only far more ignorant and uninteligent than any one imagined him, but utterly wanting in decision of character, or in conscientious adherence to the Constitution of which he was the appointed guardian. He has usurped a power beyond the law to exercise it with a feebleness and vacillation very naturally allied with frantic and ungovernable rage against all opponents. *Sui impotens* is the classic phrase which most accurately describes both his character and that of his friend and adviser.

Mr. Seward's want of common sense, reticence and principle, have long been notorious to Americans; and recent circumstances have directed to him an amount of English attention which has made him equally well understood and despised in this country. Unhappily, until yesterday, we had not been able fully to appreciate the extent and depth of his moral and mental weaknesses. We knew that he had proposed to "annex" Canada; but the idea was to us, who know our strength and the weakness of the United States, so utterly ludicrous that we did not, and could not, appreciate the folly and desperate wickedness of the man who could put it forward as a serious proposal. Since then Mr. Seward has done everything in his power to insult and exasperate Great Britain. He has encouraged the piratical seizure of our ships; he has ordered the illegal arrest of British subjects; he has directed his envoys at foreign courts to revile and menace us.

Unless Mr. Seward be simply out of his senses with rage, fear and helplessness—unless he be intoxicated with his own boastfulness till he believes his own statements—he must be aware that England can, before the present month is passed, destroy or take possession of every seaport in the Northern States, raise the blockade of the Southern coast, and sweep the seas clear of the Federal flag. And yet, with this knowledge, he has ventured on an outrage which ought to be avenged by the immediate appearance of a British fleet in the Chesapeake, bringing the alternative of instant reparation or—war.

* * * The chastisement which the offending Government will receive, will, we trust, be severe enough, without the stimulus of this additional atrocity to rouse the indignation of England into fury, and spur the timidity of her Cabinet into action. We are glad to know that the agent in the charge of the mails warned the offenders in a tone which suited the accasion and the rank he held. The protest of Commander Williams, R. N., will, we trust, be speedily enforced by the still sterner protest of a British fleet, conveying even to Mr. Seward's dull conscience and Mr. Lincoln's bewildered brain, a proper sense of the consequences which follow the perpetration on board a British vessel of "an act in violation of international law, an act of wanton piracy, which, had the assailed had the means of defence, the Americans would not have dared to attempt."

What we have to do is sufficiently clear. It is the duty of our Government to demand the immediate return of the gentlemen stolen from under our flag, in honorable guise, together with an ample apology for a lawless act of piratical aggression; and to prepare for the rejection of such a demand by dispatching forthwith to the American coast such a naval force as may ensure the safe destruction of the Federal navy, and the instant blockade of all the chief Northern ports, if due satisfaction be not given without delay.

The British Government has now fifty-four vessels, carrying one thousand three hundred and sixty guns and ten thousand four hundred and forty-four men, in the waters of North America and the West Indies, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean.

FROM THE SOUTH.

The Great Fire in Charleston.

From the columns of the Charleston *Mercury* and *Courier* we make up the following summary:

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The fire was discovered issuing from the sash and blind manufactory of W. P. Russell & Co., foot of Hassell street. Mr. Russell thinks it to be the work of an incendiary. The establishment had been closed, and the furnace of the boiler covered with water before the men left. The proprietor did not leave for an hour and a half or more after the workmen. When he left everything was in order, and no signs of fire or anything approaching to it. In an hour and a half afterwards Mr. Russell heard the alarm of fire—learned that his establishment was on fire. From these circumstances he infers that the fire was set, or was the result of carelessness on the part of a number of country negroes who had been quartered under an old shed adjoining his establishment, in allowing their camp fire to get ahead of them.

THE SPREAD OF THE FIRE.

After the breaking out of the fire, the flames continued to increase in violence, and with the scarcity of water seemed to defy all human efforts to arrest them. Keeping on a southwesterly course, the roaring element rushed through almost like forked lightning, and commenced a work of destruction on Queen and King streets, truly terrible. Roof after roof fell in; the fire rushed out of the windows and lapped round the buildings, presenting an awfully sublime appearance. The flames spread right and left, destroying and making a clean sweep of fine residences in Logan, New Savage, Mazyck and the lower end of Broad streets. Nor could the work of destruction and desolation be stayed had it not been that the fire exhausted itself for want of material.

THE LOSS OF PROPERTY.

The loss of property has been variously estimated at from five to seven millions of dollars. Five churches, namely, the Circular, the Cumberland Methodist Church, St. Peter's Church, in Logan street, St. John's and St. Finbar's Cathedral in Broad street, and the Quaker Meeting House in King street, are included in the ruins. St. Andrew's Hall, Institute Hall, the two Saving Institutions, the Theatre and large Southern Express buildings are gone. The Mills House was only saved through almost superhuman exertions, and its blackened walls attest the severe trial it has undergone.

The Cathedral of St. Finbar was rated one of the finest architectural ornaments of the city. It was constructed of brown-stone in a very massive and costly manner. All the sacred vessels were saved. The fine building owned by the Sisters of Mercy was most fortunately preserved by the most strenuous efforts of the firemen, who blew up several buildings for this purpose.

The extensive foundry and machine shops of Messrs. Cameron & Co. were entirely destroyed. The loss is a severe one. The establishment embraced some eight buildings, namely, an office, an erecting shop, machine and fitting shop, a foundry and blacksmith shop, two boiler shops, a pattern storeroom and an iron room. The stock of material on hand for the establishment, and for the Government purposes, was not less than $200,000. We have not learned what insurance there was upon the stock or building.

McCabe and Hanckel's State Cotton Press was also destroyed. Value of building and machinery $90,000. At the time of conflagration there was 300,000 pounds of Sea Island cotton in the seed, worth about $15,000, and belonging to Edisto and Johns' Island planters—no insurance on the cotton. Cotton press insured for $23,000; also, 50 bales Upland cotton covered by insurance.

Among the handsome residences destroyed are the fine residences of Bishop Lynch, Geo. M. Coffin, Mr. J. B. Heyward, Postmaster Huger, Miss Bowman, John Laurens, Dr. Mazyck, Capt. Rutledge, John Bonnell, Mr. Middleton, Mr. McKay, Mr. Gravely and Mr. Williams.

THE NEGROES AT THE FIRE.

One of the most gratifying incidents of the fire of Wednesday night was the zeal manifested by our slaves in their efforts as firemen and laborers. The entire population, male and female, worked most earnestly; and not unfrequently masters and their slaves could be seen working together in removing the household goods and valuables. We noticed one instance particularly, where a white-haired old body servant was giving way to his feelings—sobbing bitterly—at the loss of the family mansion, "where we been libbin all our lives."

AID FOR THE SUFFERERS.

A subscription list for the relief of the poor who are sufferers by the terrible conflagration had been opened at the Bank of Charleston, and the following liberal donations already made:

Gourdin, Matthiessen & Co.,	$1,000
T. D. Wagner,	500
George W. Williams & Co.,	500

Besides this the Commissary General had caused to be posted the following notice:

"Food and shelter for those deprived of their homes, by the sad calamity on Wednesday night, may be obtained on application to F. S. Holmes, at the Soldiers' Wayside Depot, Ann and Mary streets. "JOSEPH WALKER."

THE FEELING IN CHARLESTON.

The *Mercury* of Friday says:

Yesterday was a gloomy day for Charleston. Business was universally suspended, and, with one impulse, our community united in giving sympathy and aid to the victims of the great public calamity.

The *Courier* says:

The fearful conflagration that has just passed over our city will cause the 11th and 12th of December, 1861, hereafter to be remembered as one of those dark and trying periods which, for the moment, seem to paralyze all the long cherished hopes and bright anticipations of the future. We have been visited by one of those mysterious dispensations of Providence which we cannot attempt to solve.

Our city has received a terrible blow, which it will take the work of years to repair. Let us nerve ourselves then for another start, thankful that we are still left with the same bold spirit and strong arms to make new, and, perhaps, more substantial prosperity for our beloved city.

Message of Jeff. Davis to the Confederate Congress.

From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 15.

At the meeting of Congress yesterday, the following message was received from the President:

To the Congress of the Confederate States.

The calamity which has laid in ashes a large portion of the city of Charleston calls for our sympathies, and seems to justify the offer of aid in the manner heroinafter suggested. The State of South Carolina will, no doubt, desire to assist the people of Charleston in their hour of need; but, as her resources are now taxed to the utmost in resisting the invasion of her soil, the prompt intervention of this government may not be deemed unsuitable to the occasion. The State of South Carolina, in common with the other States, has made liberal advances on account of the war, and this government is unquestionably largely her debtor. With the existing pressure upon her resources, it is probable that her desire to aid the suffering city of Charleston may be restrained by the other demands upon her available means. Under such circumstances may we not exhibit our sympathy with her distressed people by an offer to place at the control of the Legislature of the State, now in session, a portion of the sum we owe her? The magnitude of the calamity affords the reason for making an exception in her favor, and promptness of action will manifest, in the most appropriate manner, the sincerity of our regard for the people of that gallant State, and our entire sympathy in all that concerns them. I recommend, therefore, that Congress make an appropriation of such an amount as may be deemed sufficient, for the purpose proposed, to be placed at the control of the authorities of the State of South Carolina. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Mr. Kenner, of Louisiana, offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:—

A RESOLUTION to make an advance to the State of South Carolina, on account of her claims against the Confederate States:—

Resolved, That the sum of $250,000 be, and is hereby appropriated as an advance, on account of any claims of the State of South Carolina upon the Confederate States, and that the same be paid to such person as may be authorized by the Legislature of South Carolina to receive the same.

SECRETARY CAMERON VS. THE PRESIDENT.—Whatever people may think of Mr. Cameron in other respects, there ought to be but one opinion of his course in printing and circulating his report as Secretary of War before making it formally to the President. The truth is, Cabinet officers assume a position in the Government which they are not entitled to occupy. They are nothing more than secretaries or clerks of the President, with the exception, perhaps, of the Attorney General, who is designed to be his law adviser. Nothing but the most arrogant presumption could therefore have suggested or influenced the course of Mr. Cameron in making his last annual report to the Abolition party instead of to the President, and nothing but a vitiated public sentiment will sustain Mr. Cameron in the course he has pursued. If a Secretary of War may properly make a report this year to the public or to a party without submitting it to the President, what is to hinder any Cabinet officer and any head of the minor Executive Departments from doing likewise hereafter? The whole thing is wrong, and should be rebuked and reprehended.—*Dubuque, Iowa, Herald.*

SALTPETRE.—The saltpetre used in this country is for the most part brought from India. It was manufactured in this country to some extent, however, both in the revolutionary war and in the last war with England, by preparing nitre beds, and by leaching the earth taken from beneath old buildings. It was also manufactured in the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky during the war of 1812, the earth in the cave being thoroughly impregnated with it. The quantities obtained by these methods were, however, comparatively small. Large orders have lately been sent to England for saltpetre, which cannot now be filled. The stock in importers' and speculators' hands in this country November 30 was 8,881 bags, a bag containing, we believe, about 170 pounds. The number of bags to arrive was 22,833. The deliveries for consumption in November were 7,016 bags. The proportion of saltpetre in the gunpowder manufactured in this country is seventy five per cent.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

CANADA.—Canada is fast getting the military fever, and the formation of volunteer companies is the order of the day. The whole frontier opposite the United States is being fortified. Everything looks military, and preparations are being made, as if they would be needed to repel invasion before the winter shall be over. Plans are on foot for arming, equipping and drilling one hundred and eighty thousand militia. The Canada papers are full of meetings to form volunteer companies, and companies of regulars are being transferred from one portion of the Province to another. The people seem to be preparing for war under a fright. They are acting as if hostilities were inevitable and almost on them. The affair of the Trent has stimulated them to renewed activity, and we have no doubt the impression among the Canadians is general that an invading army is now organizing in the States for their especial benefit. It is lamentable to witness such a condition of the public mind in Canada, as it is calculated to hasten the event the people of both Canada and the United States deprecate.—*Cincinnati Enquirer, Dec. 16.*

The American Consul at Antigua, Mr. Higginbottom, died at that place on the 20th ult.

From the Courrier des Etats Unis.

THE ELLET PAMPHLET.

On Thursday, a pamphlet was laid on the desk of each of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the sense of which may be expressed in the following words, which constitute its title: "The army and its odd management."

The social and professional position of the author, Charles Ellet, Jr, give a certain degree of weight to his opinions. His private character is, confessedly, above suspicion. He has had the management of several important undertakings, and has also superintended, as chief engineer, the continuation of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The country around Washington extending in the direction of Richmond is consequently familiar to him; and, moreover, he has constantly, from his youth up, been employed in topographical surveys between Washington and Harper's Ferry, which give him a complete acquaintance with the Upper Potomac. His loyalty and patriotism are unimpeachable. On the other hand, a tone of disappointment is clearly distinguishable in parts of his work, which is not free from bitterness, arising from the fact that all the fruit of his experience has never enabled him to procure access to General McClellan or the Executive Department. The pamphlet opens with a simple and eloquent introduction, dated December 4th, followed by a long and carefully prepared letter to the President of the United States, dated Georgetown, October 9th, 1861.

This letter, says Mr. Ellet, bears the actual date of its composition when it was sent to a New York newspaper and made ready for the press; but the publication wha delayed at the request of the editor of the journal, in the idea that the programme of General McClellan would, in a few days be manifested in movements and results that would give satisfaction to the country. The contents of the third part are: "Notes on the calamity at Ball's Bluff and the blockade of the Potomac." It is stated in the introduction that the letter of October is published now, because the time which has elapsed has only confirmed the author in his opinion of the incompetency of the General. These long delays have effected nothing but the blockade of the Potomac by the Confederates and the abortive attempt to cross the Upper Potomac, executed at last, after long preparation, by means of one old scow; this double disgrace being due to the unmolested presence of the rebel army in front of the Federal lines.

The *Courrier* then gives a long quotation from the pamphlet, in which Mr. Ellet develops this idea. Disappointed patriots, he says, conclude naturally that we have underrated the strength of the South. But the South is no larger nor is it any stronger than it was. The strength of the Union is quite as great but it is latent and inactive. The power of its arms must still remain latent until their irresistible strength is put in action by an acute and energetic intelligence. The General is the brain of the army; and all the men that can be mustered and all the munitions that can be collected will be no less than useless if they are permitted to remain idle in camp or to perish by disaster if put in motion. The army has patriotism, bravery, resources, and all that is necessary, but the General in command, though a respectable man, is by no means a superior one, and is quite unequal to his task.

The letter to the President, continues the *Courrier*, proves that the fate of the rebel army depends entirely on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which furnishes it with provisions, munitions and reinforcements. Now this road was deficient in locomotives and rolling stock. Mr. Ellet, as Engineer of the road, was acquainted with the most efficient method of rendering it useless. With the recommendation of the President and General Scott, he endeavored, but in vain, to obtain an audience of General McClellan, for the purpose of laying his views before him.

The enemy meanwhile took possession of ten locomotives on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and procured rails enough for his purposes. Each locomotive thus obtained was worth to the Confederates at least one thousand horses.

Mr. Ellet adds that the army was recently encamped within the lines of the fortifications near the river. The enemy had closed up, so that it would have been easy to march around him and force him to a battle on ground of our own choosing. But, instead of that, the Federal troops advanced at a later period so as to pretty much reverse the position. More than this, not only have the forts never been put in a state of complete preparation, but months have elapsed without any suitable means of communication with Washington being opened. The Long bridge is being repaired, but at least two more bridges are necessary. If General McClellan had collected ten thousand men to open communication, he would easily have captured the armies of Floyd, Wise & Co. Without proper communication all the men and the resources of the North are useless.

The "Notes on Ball's Bluff" lay the blame of this disaster on General McClellan.

Because he made no preparation for an expedition planned three months before.

Because he refused the offers of experienced men to build bridges, boats, &c.

Because his orders to General Stone were vague and indefinite, &c., &c., &c.

Such is the substance of the charges made by Mr. Ellet, and on which he grounds the opinion that General McClellan has not the qualities requisite for the handling of a grand army. The blockade of the Potomac is an additional argument advanced by Mr. Ellet in support of his opinion.

AN ASTONISHING EXPOSURE OF FRAUD AND MALFEASANCE.—If the people of the United States have heretofore been astonished at the developments of speculation, peculation, plunder and malfeasance that have from time to time been exposed by the newspaper press during the progress of the war against the rebellion, they will experience a still more intense emotion when they come to read the exposures made by the Van Wyck Committee of Investigation. In reading it, words of burning indignation spring instinctively to the lips, but we forbear to use them until the record of these infamous transactions is spread more fully before the country. In the meantime, let no citizen fail to read the report and the testimony.—*Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 18.*

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

A FIGHT BETWEEN SOLDIERS.—On Tuesday night a soldier named Joseph Barber, a member of the Public Guard regiment, Colonel Schley, entered a lager-beer saloon on Frederick street, where he met Captain Strebo, who is stationed at Fort McHenry. Barber demanded that the captain should treat him, which the latter refused to do, when Barber made a violent assault upon him. After much difficulty Barber was ejected from the saloon, and on gaining the street, he commenced an attack on the house with stones. The police, hearing of the affair, arrested him with difficulty and took him to the Central police station, and yesterday morning Justice Nalls released him on bail to keep the peace.

RUNAWAY AND ACCIDENT.—Yesterday morning a gentleman named Wilkison, who lives on the Philadelphia road, a short distance from the city, was driving along Lombard street in a buggy, and when at the intersection of Eden street, his horse became frightened and turned suddenly around. The wheels of the buggy struck the kerb, and Mr. Wilkison was thrown violently to the ground. His head struck a stone and a severe wound was inflicted. He was taken into a dwelling, where Dr. Muller dressed the wound, and he was then sent to his home.

OFFICERS ELECTED.—The Jackson Literary Association has elected the following officers for the ensuing term: Philip A. Langley, President; H. F. Hildebrandt, Vice President; George Pillhot, Corresponding Secretary; Samuel T. Morgan, Recording Secretary; Thomas W. Degaw, Treasurer; Oliver Reeder, Assistant Treasurer; John M. Dutrow, Sergeant-at-Arms; Edgar W. Blair, Thomas W. Degaw, Samuel Lanahan, Samuel T. Morgan, Oliver Reeder, Standing Committee.

FATAL RESULT.—A few days since there was a notice of the shooting of a soldier named George White, by Lieut. Jones, on Eastern avenue. Both were members of the regiment quartered in Fort McHenry, and White had left the Fort without a pass. The lieutenant, recognizing him on the street, called on him to stop, and on his refusal shot him. White was taken to the Fort, and on Tuesday died of the wound.

STREET BEGGARS.—The Provost Marshal has determined to enforce the law prohibiting street begging, and on Tuesday night and yesterday a number of boys and girls were taken to the police stations. Some were committed to the House of Refuge, and others were taken out by their parents paying the fine and costs. The practice of street begging has greatly increased recently, and this step of the Provost Marshal will have a wholesome effect.

DEATH OF A BALTIMOREAN IN RICHMOND.—Information has been received of the death, in Richmond, Va., of Mr. Charles P. Dohn, of this city. Mr. Dohn was connected, while living here, with Adams & Co.'s Express, and was a young man of excellent character and good business qualifications. He died of apoplexy.

PICKPOCKETS ABOUT.—Hon. M. S. Latham, United States Senator from California, had his pocket picked last evening upon his arrival at Camden station from Washington. The pocket-book which was taken contained about $23. Two suspected persons were arrested, but an examination failed to fix the perpetration of the act upon them, and they were discharged.

MINISTERIAL.—Rev. M. L. Forbes, who has for some time past been rector of Zion Church, corner of Gilmor and Baltimore streets, has resigned, and Rev. J. N. McIlvaine has accepted a call to fill the vacancy thus created.

Amusements.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—The beautiful and gifted actress, Miss Lucille Western, will appear to-night in the gay and sparkling character of *Fortunio*, in the fairy extravaganza of that name, which has been gotten up with great care and will be produced with some new and highly effective scenes. Kotzebue's great play of the *Stranger* will also be performed, with Miss Western in her truthful impersonation of Mrs. Haller, and Mr. E. L. Tilton as the Stranger—a great bill, truly.

FRONT STREET THEATRE.—*Opening Night.*—This evening the favorite Baltimore comedian will appear in two of his greatest personations—Dr. Pangloss and Timothy Toodles, in the *Heir-at-Law* and *Toodles*. He will be supported by a first-class company of dramatic artists; among whom are Misses Charlotte Thompson, Effie Germon, Julia Nelson, Annie Hind, and Messrs. R. S. Meldrum and H. B. Phillips. Mr. George Kunkel, the popular manager, is the lessee, and Mr. Phillips stage-manager. Those who desire good seats should be in attendance early.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AT THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE.—The far-famed Swiss Bell Ringers, and the "Alleganian" Vocalists, will give a series of entertainments at the Hall of the Maryland Institute, commencing on Christmas Eve, which will, no doubt, prove a great attraction to family parties and such persons as do not visit dramatic entertainments. It is needless to say anything in praise of these excellent artistes, as their reputation is almost world-wide, and their reception in Baltimore will be a hearty one.

BALTIMORE MUSEUM.—The auditorium of the Ethiopian opera house, as well as the exterior, wore a brilliant appearance last evening on the occasion of the celebration of the one hundredth appearance of Kunkel's Nightingales. The audience were delighted at the rich entertainment provided, and all retired at a seasonable hour with the impression that the Kunkel's were unequalled in minstrelsy.—To-night an entirely new programme will be submitted to the public.

WYMAN—*The Prestidigitateur.*—Professor Wyman, the great necromancer, wizard, and ventriloquist, will appear on Monday next at the Temperance Temple, which will be transformed into a Grecian Paycomanteum, after the manner of the ancients. He will appear on that evening in a number of feats of Prestidigitation, which have heretofore never been attempted in Baltimore.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM.

ANNAPOLIS, December 17.—No. 160. Adam Hagar vs. Charles Hendry. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Frederick county. This case was argued by Palmer for the appellant and by Miller for the appellee.

Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PRICE.

TOWSONTOWN, December 18.

The following business engaged the attention of the Court to-day:

The civil case of John S. Gittings, trustee of Henry Gittings, vs. Charles Wilson, was resumed and not concluded. Messrs. Gittings and Machen for plaintiff and Messrs. Malcom and Boarman for defendants.

The New York Insurance companies, it is generally understood, will make no change in rates till the Cabinet at Washington has decided upon its action.

The subject of the defences of Philadelphia is being urged upon the National Government by Gov. Curtin. He is also actively engaged in preparing arms for State defence.

The Belgian steamer Gustav Pastor, now at New York, has been chartered by the Government for three months. She goes to Boston to take aboard troops.

G. C. Starr, Esq., editor of the York (Pa.) *Advocate*, died in that Borough on Wednesday last.

The latest Parisian musical novelty is a young lady pianist from Florence, named Elvira Delblanco.

Mr. Charles Dickens, Jr., was married in London on the 19th ult. to a daughter of Mr. Evans, one of the publishers of *Punch*.

DR. A. A. BLANDY,
SUCCESSOR TO DR. C. A. HARRIS,
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