THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

PUBLISHED BY

CARTER & NEILSON.

TERMS.

Served in the city, and payable only to the carriers, TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS WEEKLY.

Mailed to subscribers out of the city at SIX DOLLARS A YEAR, or for a shorter period at proportionate rates, payable invariably in advance.

☞ A liberal reduction to Clubs and News Agents.

THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS SHEET.

Mailed to subscribers:

1 copy, one year	$4
Do. six months	2
Do. three months	1

ADVERTISING RATES.

One square, six lines	one insertion		50
" "	two insertions		75
" "	three "		$1 00
" "	one week		1 75
" "	two weeks		2 75
" "	three "		3 50
" "	one month		4 00
" "	three months		10 00

Longer advertisements at proportionate rates. Yearly contracts to be matters of special agreement.

BALTIMORE.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate a number of petitions were presented, after which a bill was introduced to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company, which was referred to the Committee on the District. The remainder of the morning hour was consumed in the consideration of business of minor importance, when the Senate, in Committee of the Whole, proceeded to take up and amend the Consular and Diplomatic appropriation bill.

In the House of Representatives the Committee on Elections reported that the Hon. Joseph Segar was not entitled to a seat as Representative of the 1st Congressional district of Virginia. The bill to amend the judicial system of the United States was postponed by consent. A resolution was offered by Mr. Vallandigham calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the House the amount of gold, silver, and bullion, estimated to have been in the loyal States on the 1st of January, 1862, or at the latest dates occurring after that time. Also the proportion of the same held by the several banks. It was rejected. A bill to establish judicial tribunals in the revolted States was introduced and referred. Mr. Allen, of Ohio, offered a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the House that no part of the taxes to be raised for the prosecution of the war shall be applied to the purpose of emancipating the slaves. Ordered to lie upon the table. The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the appropriation bill.

From Missouri we learn that a battle has taken place at some point distant about twenty-three miles from Ironton, between a body of Confederates, said to number six thousand men, under Jeff. Thompson, and eight hundred Federal troops, commanded by Col. Mills. The conflict resulted in the defeat of the latter, who retreated eight miles, leaving "a quantity of baggage in the hands of the enemy." The St. Louis *Democrat* has no doubt of "the general correctness" of the news, but intimates that the number of Federal troops engaged in the fight must have been exaggerated. From the statements previously given of the number of Confederates under Thompson, it certainly appears far more probable that the exaggeration is in respect to the force which he brought into action. The loss on both sides is reported to have been heavy. Great alarm existed at Pilot Knob, which was menaced by the victors, and a struggle for that place was supposed to be inevitable within twenty-four hours. It is, however, stated, by way of compensation for these disasters, that the Confederates had not destroyed any more of the bridges, and that the Big River bridge was being rapidly re-built.

A telegram from Cincinnati states that information has reached that city of a battle having been fought near Somerset, Kentucky, between the Federal forces, under General Shoepf, and the Confederates, commanded by General Zollicoffer, in which, after a conflict which lasted from dawn to dusk, the Confederates were defeated and Zollicoffer killed.

According to the Evansville Indiana *Journal*, the late and reliable intelligence which that journal has received from Kentucky is not at all calculated to foster the hopes of the friends of the Union.—General Johnston is said to have profited largely by the delay in the advance of the Federal troops. "Men, munitions of war, and means of defence, have been concentrated at Bowling Green with an energy and dispatch that seem almost marvelous. Seven strong fortifications have been recently constructed in the vicinity of the town which the Confederates consider add to their strength an equivalent of 10,000 men each." There are, moreover, said to be "70,000 troops at Bowling Green and the number is daily increasing." A regular chain of communication is kept up with the Confederates, by parties in Indiana, through the gap between Henderson and Smithland, and Confederate emissaries and squads of Cavalry roam wholly unchecked over fifteen or twenty counties of southwestern Kentucky. Under such, and like circumstances, the *Journal* is of opinion that "the future is ominously dark."

A letter from the Hon. A. S. Diven to one of his constituents is published in the Elmira (New York) *Press*. It will, undoubtedly, attract more than ordinary attention. Mr. Diven is quite satisfied that, "whatever risk may attend it," an advance of the army, whilst of doubtful military expediency, has become "a political necessity." He acknowledges that there is great risk in such a movement; but alleges, "that such is the state of feeling in Congress, that the Government must incur the risk of a battle or break down financially." "The intention to fight," he adds, emphatically, "is not conjecture with me. I know it."

To the same purport, writes the New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, who states, on the authority of an eminent banker, recently in Washington, that it is McClellan's purpose to advance, probably within a week. The New York *Herald* also states that "energetic preparations are now making for a grand blow at the vitals of the rebellion; whilst the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* announces that, in a few days, General McClellan will take the field in person and that his camp furniture and equipage are being prepared and put in thorough order.

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* has learned that the Confederate, to the number of twenty-five hundred, occupy Romney, and states further, that the necessity of providing conveyances for four hundred sick obliged Gen. Lander, in evacuating Romney, to destroy his tents and provisions.

The New Orleans *Picayune* publishes a series of extracts from its foreign correspondence to show that the cause of the Southern Confederacy is prospering abroad. The Paris correspondent of the *Picayune* alludes to the exertions of an influential party of gentlemen possessing the Emperor's confidence, who hold it to be the true policy of France to recognize the Confederate States immediately. He gives a whimsical, but perhaps not an untruthful account of the reception of Mr. Dayton at the Tuilleries, and of the conversation that ensued, and draws the conclusion that "as far as the Confederate States are concerned Judge Rost need not replue because he has not seen the Emperor."

Another steamer is said to have run the blockade, and entered one of the ports of Texas under British colors, freighted with a large amount of powder, and a miscellaneous cargo of groceries and dry goods.

Col. Alex. W. Reynolds, formerly an officer in the service of the United States, has been appointed to command the Confederate forces in Western Virginia.

It is believed that the Confederate Congress will pass a bill throwing open the Southern ports to free trade during the continuance of the war.

An editorial article from the New York *Commercial Advertiser* furnishes an interesting account of the various military movements now on foot, and which are designed to outflank the Confederates in their strong positions. The belief is expressed that Burnside "is already approaching the heart of North Carolina with swift and sure strides," and that General Grant is outflanking the right wing of the Confederates from Cairo.

We publish elsewhere the correspondence which recently passed between Mayor Brown, of this city, and United States Marshal Keyes, of Boston, in regard to the renewal of the parole of the former, and the conditions on which an extension was tendered and refused.

The financial difficulties of Secretary Chase are far from having been overcome by the modifications which he consented to make in his original plan, at the instance of the Associated Press. The views of Mr. Chase meet with such strong opposition in Congress that it appears to be very doubtful whether the policy which he advocates will be adopted.

The number of recruits enlisted in this city last week for the regular army amounted to about sixteen, of whom five were music boys who had been on trial for some time past on Governor's Island.—Since July, 1861, the recruiting returns have been most unsatisfactory, as our weekly reports have shown; and although every effort has been made to obtain men, it appears to have been impossible for any office to get more than four or five men per week. In several cases offices have been open in the country from six weeks to two months without sending in a recruit of any kind. Under these circumstances a change in the system is very desirable, if not probable.—*New York World.*

MAYOR BROWN.

We are requested to publish the following correspondence, which recently took place between Mayor Brown and the Government, in regard to the renewal of his parole:

BOSTON, Jan. 4th, 1862.

Marshal Keyes, Boston:

SIR: I called twice to see you during this week, and in your absence had an understanding with your deputy that I was to surrender myself to you this morning, on the expiration of my parole, in time to be conveyed to Fort Warren, and I have accordingly done so.

As you have not received any instructions from Washington in regard to the course to be pursued with me, I shall consider myself in your custody until you have had ample time to write to Washington and obtain a reply.

I desire it however to be expressly understood, that no further extension of my parole is asked for or would be accepted at this time.

It is my right and my wish to return to Baltimore, to resume the performance of my official and private duties.

Respectfully,

[Signed] GEO. WM. BROWN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, January 6th, 1862.

John S. Keyes, Esq., U. S. Marshal, Boston:

SIR—Your letter of the 4th instant, relative to George W. Brown, has been received. In reply, I have to inform you that, if he desires it, you may extend his parole to the period of thirty days. If not, you will please re-commit him to Fort Warren, and report to this Department. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obed't servant,

[Signed] F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary of State.

BOSTON, Jan. 10, 1862.

Marshal Keyes, Boston:

SIR—In my note to you of the 4th instant, I stated that I did not desire a renewal of my parole, but that it was my right and wish to return to Baltimore, to resume the performance of my private and official duties. My note was, in substance, as you informed me, forwarded to the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, in a letter from you to him. In reply to your communication, F. W. Seward, Acting Secretary of State, wrote to you, under date of the 6th inst., that you may extend the parole of George W. Brown, if he desires it, but if not, you are directed to re-commit him to Fort Warren. It was hardly necessary to give me the option of an extension of parole, which I had previously declined; but the offer renders it proper for me to say, that the parole was applied for by my friends to enable me to attend to important private business, affecting the interests of others as well as myself—that the necessities growing out of this particular matter of business no longer exist, and that I cannot consistently with my ideas of propriety, by accepting a renewal of the parole place myself in the position of seeming to acquiesce in a prolonged and illegal banishment from my home and duties.

Respectfully

[Signed] GEO. WM. BROWN.

On the 11th inst. Mr. Brown returned to Fort Warren, and on the 14th inst. an offer was made to him by the Government, to renew and extend his parole to ninety days, upon condition that he would not pass south of the Hudson river. This was also declined by him.

[COMMUNICATED.]

To the Editors of the American:

I was very agreeably entertained, a few days ago, at your facetious article about Salt—how it was such a luxury throughout Rebeldom that they were hoarding up the brine from pork-barrels, &c. &c., whilst there they were literally *sowing the streets* with it; and it occurred to me, whilst you were in the vein of humor, to suggest some other items on which you might say something funny. For instance, there is a little delicacy called Tar, which used to sell here for about a dollar a barrel, now retailing at the apothecary shops at a fi'penny-bit an ounce. Spirits of Turpentine, Rosin, and Pitch are about in the same category, whilst another article, essentially necessary in the manufacture of glassware, is already 400 per cent. higher than it was a year ago, and will double its present value if the war continues a few months longer. After you shall have treated your readers to a small dose of your inimitable pleasantry on these items, I will offer some suggestions for the further indulgence of your humor in that line, on Taxes; and then on another little non-essential which the Rebels have the audacity to call *King* COTTON.

A SOUTHERN WAR LYRIC.

Mr. N. P. Willis, who writes from Washington "notes on the war," for the New York *Home Journal*, has been the fortunate recipient of—but Mr. Willis shall tell his own story in his own rose-tinted way. "It is," says he, "a letter from 'A Daughter of Dixie,'—so runs the signature—enclosing a poem for President Lincoln, of the daintiest handwriting and note-paper, evidently from a lady of very elegant habits, and requests me first to read the poem, and then hand it to the President, or, if I object to that, publish it." Mr. Willis assures his readers that he has complied "with all three of her requests," and adds, subsequently, with reference to the poem: "This the President kindly informed me, last evening, he 'had read;' and now," says Mr. Willis, "that it—the poem—is in print, I will add a portion of the letter which enclosed it to me." As the poem has been read by Mr. Lincoln, and as its publication in the *Home Journal* indicates that it has graciously received his *imprimatur*, we venture to reproduce it. We omit, however, the complimentary letter, having a shrewd suspicion that the fair "Daughter of Dixie" only intended it as the vehicle for the introduction of her spirit stirring lyric to the public. Here, then, is the lyric—

SOUTHRONS.

You can never win them back—
Never—never!
Though they perish on the track
Of your endeavor—
Though their corses strew the earth
That smiled upon their birth,
And blood pollutes each hearth-
Stone forever.

They have risen, to a man,
Stern and fearless!
Of your curses and your ban
They are careless!
Every hand is on its knife,
Every gun is primed for strife,
Every palm contains a life
High and peerless!

You have no such blood as theirs
For the shedding,
In the veins of cavaliers
Was its heading.
You have no such stately men
In your Abolition den—
To march thro' foe and fen,
Nothing dreading.

They may fall before the fire
Of your legions,
Paid in gold for murder'd hire,
(*Bought* allegiance!)
But, for every drop you shed
You shall have a *mound* of dead!
And the vultures shall be fed
In our regions.

But the battle to the strong
Is not given,
When the Judge of right and wrong
Sits in heaven!
And the God of David still
Guides the pebbles with his will—
There are giants yet to kill—
Wrongs unshriven!

THE MATTER IN BRIEF.

An excessive issue of demand notes, such as is proposed in Congress, will accomplish the following results:

It will add enormously to the cost of the war by artificially enhancing the value of all purchasable articles.

It will practically reduce fixed incomes, salaries, wages and pay of our soldiers, from one-third to one-half.

It will create a flow of gold to Europe, and put an entire stop to exports.

It will pluck up the present banking system by the roots, and create untold confusion in our commerce and trade.

It will put an end to the war and the Union within a short time, by prematurely exhausting the nation, and then leave us with a debt we cannot pay.

Who, then, wish demand notes and their attendant miseries? We answer:

The debtor interest of the country, now unprecedently large, which wishes to discharge its obligations in a depreciated currency.

The speculative interest; all who have stocks or goods to sell; high prices is what they are after, and a paper currency insures that. Hence Wall street, outside of legitimate banking circles, is a unit for this objectionable measure.

The foreign banking interest, because of the fluctuations in and high price of exchange paper-money would bring about. A flow of gold to Europe is what they most earnestly desire.

The contractor interest, which, in the unsettling of all values and the absence of a standard, could charge Government the most exorbitant prices for supplies.

From this *resume* our readers can see how formidable are the interests arrayed in favor of this objectionable scheme, and what wretchedness and bankruptcies are in store for the nation if it is adopted.—*N. Y. World.*

GENERAL BUTLER'S YACHT SAXONY.—The subjoined are the correct particulars of the vessel designed for the use of Gen. Butler and his staff during his contemplated expedition:

Her length on deck is 150 feet; breadth of beam at midship section, 25 feet 8 inches; depth of hold, 6 feet 3 inches; light draft of water, 7; draft when loaded, 10 feet; tonnage, 413 tons. Her frame is of beach, birch, maple and hacmatac, and is square fastened, with iron and treenails, in the securest manner. Her floors are moulded 10 inches, sided 10 inches, and are 25 inches apart at centres.—She has hanging knees under both decks, is coppered, and has two anchors, weighing respectively 830 pounds and 715 pounds. She is fitted with one direct-acting condensing engine, having one cylinder thirty-six inches in diameter, and a stroke of piston of two feet six inches. She is also supplied with one return-flue boiler, located in hold; has no water-bottom to boiler, and uses blowers to furnaces. The shell of the boiler is iron five-sixteenths of an inch in thickness. Her propellers are eight feet six inches in diameter, and are of cast iron. She has an independent steam fire and bilge pump, bilge injection, and bottom valves to all openings in her bottom. She was built in Bangor in the latter part of 1861, by Samuel Dealing, and was designed to ply between Boston and the several ports on the coast of Maine. She was owned by Messrs. Dealing & Tibbetts, and was valued at $30,000. Her machinery was constructed by Messrs. Hinkley & Egery, Bangor.

The Secretary of the Treasury has decided that teas on shipboard prior to the passage of the tariff act, in August last, are entitled to entry free of duty.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

An Important Arrival.

The Houston *Telegraph* of the 1st instant learns from good authority that a steamer has arrived in a Texas port within the past week, under British colors, bringing 45 tons of cannon powder, a large amount of rifle powder, 700,000 army caps, 5,000 cannon primers, and a considerable amount of coffee, dry-goods, bagging, rope, etc.—*Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer.*

Western Virginia.

The Stanton *Spectator*, in an article relative to the defences of Western Virginia, says:—"Col. Alexander W. Reynolds, a native of Greenbrier county, a former United States officer and a brave and gallant man, has been appointed to the command in that section, with authority to raise a brigade. We hope the people will readily, promptly and cheerfully respond to the call he will make upon them to rally to the defence of their homes and the honor of their State. Colonel Jackson's regiment (twenty-second), composed of volunteers from the western part of the State, has been sent to Lewisburg. The Eighth Virginia cavalry regiment, commanded by Colonel Walter H. Jenifer, of Maryland, has been ordered to Mercer county.

Personal.

R. Barnwell Rhett, Esq., of South Carolina, arrived in Richmond on Thursday, and is stopping at the Spotswood Hotel.

Shot and Shell Firing.

From the Charleston Courier, Jan. 14.

Our harbor batteries were busily engaged yesterday, practising, the report from their guns attracting a number of observers to the water front, where some fine shooting with shot and shell was seen.

The Blockade.

Six of the Lincoln fleet were strung along the front of our harbor, yesterday, and all in sight from the wharves, and apparently quite close in. Since the steamship Ella Warley succeeded in passing by them, they keep a more vigilant lookout.

Congressman Ely's Impressions of Southern Affairs.

Correspondence of the Richmond Whig.

Contrary to the expectation of many, but in accordance with my hopes, Mr. Ely has proved consistent and morally courageous enough to state to the Northern people his convictions upon Southern matters, just as he stated them here. Hence, acting on a friend's suggestion that it would be interesting, I state some of my impressions, formed from one or two interviews here and from a trip to Norfolk, which happened to concur with his. As, after the first interview, he pressed me to come and see him again, and as I found him to be intelligent, of good colloquial powers, humorous, apparently seeking truth and open to conviction, I aimed to fill his mind with such facts and impressions as would enable him to rectify the errors of his misguided and fanatical countrymen—errors spawned in myriads by a mendacious press. If we can rely on Northern papers, he has proved consistent and truthful. He told me that, though identified with the Republican party, he was and had been opposed to abolitionism; and he seemed to be unaware how very much that party had been for years committed to the cardinal principles of abolitionism, until I quoted numerous outgivings of all the Republican leaders; whereupon he candidly said he saw grounds for most serious apprehension on the part of the South, particularly because of the sectional victory, the claim of majority power, Northern constitutional construction, the Chicago platform, and the "no concession, no compromise" cry. I think his *debut* in active public life, was at his election to Congress, on the sole ground of opposition to the Reciprocity treaty, which was seriously injuring the border communities, such as Buffalo, Oswego and Rochester, the last of which he represented. His first speech was on that ground. His second, and last, was in favor of the proposition to call a national convention to consider the complaints of the South, and if well-founded to give new constitutional guarantees. This speech Mr. Sumner characterized as "a disgrace to a Republican." How Mr. E. may have acted in other matters, or voted, I know not. He considers Mr. Sumner and his class the authors of the misfortunes of the country, and that their influence must cease when the North shall discover two egregious errors which he feels bound to expose:—1. That there is a division of feeling in the South. 2. That Southern strength must be divided to keep down the negroes. And he admitted that the South could not, in his judgment, be conquered. His opportunities for getting information were excellent, because, from the outset of his imprisonment, he aimed to make the best of it; and being affable and an object of much interest, he had thousands of intelligent visitors. I trust he may be instrumental, in the hands of Providence, in causing truth and justice to prevail.

On nearing the depot at Petersburg, on our trip down, a crowd was apparent, and he desired to know if he was in danger of indignity if he went to get breakfast. I readily promised to guarantee him against it, relying on the good breeding and magnanimity of our people, and knowing that if they impulsively did wrong, a fit and timely reminder would be potent to check them. And it is creditable to the cities the prisoner sojourned in and passed through, in his five months' captivity and travel homewards, that, according to his statement to me and others—a statement repeated in the North—he never experienced any indignity.

At Norfolk, it being Christmas, twenty or thirty young officers and soldiers, who had "took sugar in theirn," and were quite talkative, "swarmed on" Mr. Ely. The conversation that ensued was most amusing, and many good things were got off, judging from the laughter. The old gentleman at a distance thought it quite boy-stir-ous. I drew nigh, and found Ely in a ring, quite self-possessed, and bandying jokes with a dozen collocutors about Bull Run. Some individual expressed a fear that it might be offensive to him, but he averred not, and held on, giving the boys "as good as they sent."

I understand, after Mr. Ely had left in a flag-of-truce boat, that his trunk had been searched, with the expectation of finding a false bottom and contraband papers; though unsuccessfully, whether from his honesty or his address I cannot say. He cheerfully submitted himself and baggage to thorough search, joking the officers in the style of the following specimen brick—"I'd rather you'd bore that trunk than the one my head's on."

The Postmaster-General's Report.

From the Richmond Dispatch.

From the report of the Hon. John H. Reagan, Postmaster-General, we gather the following facts relating to the operations of the Department over which he presides:

The total cost of the mail service in the eleven States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1860, under the Government of the United States, was $4,296,246.78, and the total receipts for postal service for the same year were $1,517,540.55; excess of expenditures over receipts, $2,778,706.23. The receipts for the fractional quarter of one month, ending the 30th of June last (as shown by the meagre and imperfect returns), were $92,387.67, and the expenditures $200,937.97; excess of expenditures over receipts, $108,553 30.

Of an appropriation of $30,000 to carry into effect an act of Congress, "relative to telegraph lines in the Confederate States," there has been expended $15,136.17. Eight lines of telegraph have been built—of the aggregate length of 217 miles—at an aggregate cost of $4,365.32. Ten and a half miles of insulated copper wire, with batteries, &c., have been made and sent to the army, for field operations, at a cost of $4,763.86. Operators and watchmen have been employed at a cost of $1,696 23, of which $1,513.70 has been paid. Contracts were made with the Texas Telegraph Company, and with the Arkansas State Telegraph Company, for building and operating lines and sending Government despatches to distant portions of the Confederacy. The first was to have been completed by the 10th of December.

There are in the Confederate States 2,579 post-roads established by law. Of these, contracts have been prepared in duplicate, and sent in letters of instruction to postmasters for execution by the contractors on 1,372 routes, and 833 of this number have been returned properly executed. The Department has encountered many difficulties in its efforts to secure efficient postal service, and the causes of failure to obtain contracts upon a large number of routes are given in detail in the report.

There are 91 railroads and branch roads in the Confederate States; of this number only 15 have entered into contracts. Many of them decline to accept the classification and compensation assigned to their roads, and it is manifest that many of them intend, if they can, to avoid liability and the legitimate control of the Department by refusing to enter into contracts; while, at the same time, they signify a willingness to perform the service, but under some protest, and generally that they must have higher pay. The Department is pursuing a course calculated to meet and overcome objections in this respect.

A portion of the report is devoted to a notice of the irregularity of the mails, on account of which the Department has been visited with much censure. The difficulty of getting proper schedules adopted and conformed to; the occupation of the roads in transporting soldiers, supplies and munitions of war. the military schedules run by order of the War Department, with ordinary causes of delay and loss of connections, such as running off the track, breaking of bridges, &c., have rendered the mails so irregular as to make it an accident now, instead of the rule, to have any regular connections between any distant and important points.—It is alleged that the Department has done every thing in its power to avoid these irregularities, and is in no just sense responsible for them. The companies have been pretty generally notified that the Department will do all it can, by way of fines and deductions for failures, to compel regularity in the service. It is impossible, without a publication of the entire report, for which we have not space, to notice every fact in connection with the proceedings of the Department in this and other important respects.

The whole number of Postoffices in the Confederate States on the 1st of June, 1861, was 8,411.—Of this number there have been discontinued since that date 163, leaving in operation 8,228; number established since the 1st of June, 72; whole number now in operation, 8,300. Number of Postoffices of which the names and sites were changed, 47; number of Postmasters appointed since the 1st of June, 6,201; number commissioned by the Department since that date, 4,184; whole number of resignations during the same period, 950, of which number 459 were resignations of appointments conferred by this Department, and 491 were resignations of appointments held under the Government of the United States. There are 110 route agents employed. Seven permanent and one temporary special agents have been appointed.

Estimate of the probable receipts for the year ending June 30, 1862, compared with the receipts from all the post-offices now in the Confederate States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860:

Total receipts of all the offices in 1860	$1,517,526
Total receipts of all the offices in 1861	1,091,012
Showing a deficiency of	$426,524

This estimate, however, is based upon the returns from only 4,922 post-offices, and the receipts must necessarily be increased by the returns from the remaining 4,024, though the latter are generally small offices scattered throughout the interior, from many of which the receipts will be inconsiderable.

There are other facts connected with the operations of the Department, which we reserve for a future article.

France and the Southern Confederacy.

THE CAUSE OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY—THE MANUFACTURING TOWNS ANXIOUS ABOUT COTTON—DAYTON DUMB AS AN OYSTER—COURT DINNERS—THE LATE HON. JOHN Y. MASON, ETC.

From the New Orleans Picayune of the 8th.

We have already stated that we have lately been put in receipt of several letters from our special correspondents at Paris, written during the autumn and fall, in relation to the affairs of our Confederacy, but which we have not been able by reason of the blockade, and the suspension of all postal facilities, to receive when due.

As showing the progress of European, and particularly of French, opinions in this regard, we have thought some extracts from this correspondence, though dated so long ago, will be found of sufficient interest to our readers to warrant us in giving further extracts therefrom.

Under date of September 1, our correspondent alluded to "the untiring and active exertions of a most influential party of gentlemen in Paris, possessing the largest share of the Emperor's confidence, and who hold it to be the true policy of France to recognize the Confederate States immediately." He then proceeds as follows:—

They have prepared elaborate memorials on the subject, (they have at their command the whole diplomatic and consular correspondence of the French Government, which is, as I have before mentioned, altogether in favor of the South,) which the Emperor has read with great attention, and are earnestly in quest of all information on the subject. As there are few Southern men in town, I was asked to meet the most eminent of these gentlemen last Sunday to satisfy his mind upon several particulars, and I was then put in possession of a good deal of information concerning their past labors and future success. I waived the meeting because I thought it proper he should be placed in communication with Judge Rost, as I knew he would give them the fullest satisfaction and lay before them views of the Executive at home which I am not in possession of. These gentlemen are not the only parties pressing the Emperor for an immediate recognition of the Confederacy. The cotton manufacturers of Rouen, Paris, Mulhouse and Lille are appealing earnestly to him to take some action in the premises, so as to secure them a supply of cotton.

The silk manufacturers of Lyons and St. Etienne are representing to him the importance of peace in America to their prosperity, and imploring him to recognize the Confederacy as the true means of bringing about peace. The stupid tariff of the North has damaged them immensely here and alienated from them a great many persons who at first espoused their cause warmly. Other of their friends have been alienated by their reckless legislation, by their disregard of the great bulwarks of liberty, by the enthusiasm with which they surrendered all the power into the hands of the military. People here know, by bitter experience, what this means, and whither it leads; and they fear the North, in its anxiety to liberate negroes, is going to enslave white men and negroes. The North has convinced Europe that all the statesmanship and generalship and wealth and courage of the United States are to be found in the South. The *Independence Belge*, in speaking of Gen. Lyon's defeat, says:

"The news from the United States continues to be adverse to the North. It has again met a defeat near Springfield. It is true that this is not so grave a defeat as that experienced at Bull Run, neither is it so dishonorable to the North—at least in this respect, there was no rout, and the enemy was numerically superior; but these repeated defeats demoralize and fatigue public opinion in Europe. Besides, the longer the war lasts the more will Europe, and especially England, both of which require Southern cotton, suffer from the want of it, and be disposed to sacrifice the cause of the North to their interests. These effects will soon be felt, and unless extraordinary circumstances supervene and enable the Washington Cabinet to end the war rapidly, it must be prepared to see these effects exert an immense influence in determining the conduct of European Powers towards the 'Southern States.'"

I see some stress laid in the Northern newspapers upon the fact that none of the Southern Commissioners have been received by the French Emperor. This betrays strange ignorance of the customs of European courts. It is true the Southern Commissioners have not had audience of the Emperor, but it is likewise true Mr. Dayton has had but one audience of him, and has dined only once at the Tuileries. Let me explain what sort of a ceremony is this audience and this dinner. As soon as may be convenient after his arrival in Paris, the Minister acquaints the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of his presence, and sends him a copy of his credentials. Thereupon the Secretary of Foreign Affairs takes the Emperor's orders, and the Emperor appoints the reception day. The day before the one appointed for the reception, the Duke de Bassano, who, by the way, speaks English with fluency and accuracy, visits the Minister, and explains to him the minor details of etiquette established on such occasions.

He asks to see the speech the Minister has prepared, and always, with American Ministers, begs them to curtail it of three-quarters of its original dimensions, saying—"The Emperor hates long speeches; besides, you will find the whole ceremony of presentation extremely awkward; we all find it so, from the Emperor down to the youngest aide-de-camp, and like to get through it as soon as possible." The next day the reception is held. The Minister reads his curtailed speech, and hands it on his hat to the Emperor, who takes it in hand and replies in as few words as possible that he hopes there will be peace between the nations, that he will always be glad to hear of America's prosperity, and that he is glad to see the new Minister. Here ends the reception. The Minister is then carried down stairs to the Empress and presented to her, which is a ceremony a good deal like that which I have just described. This over, the Minister goes home, takes off his heavy uniform coat, and thanks Heaven the presentation is over. A few days afterwards the Minister is invited to dine at the Tuileries. There are fifty or sixty guests, and he is in rank twenty five—that is, there are four-and-twenty people present who have precedence over him.

As soon as the guests are all assembled, the Emperor and Empress make their appearance, and walk around the room, calling each guest by name, and adding, "I am glad to see you this evening." During this scene a chamberlain whispers to each guest the lady he is to take in with him. The Emperor and Empress go into the dining-room. The Minister, unless he speaks French, sits as if he were dumb, from soup to cheese. When the company retires from the dining-room, their Majesties go from guest to guest, and this sort of conversation ensues: Emperor—"Mr. Dayton, I hope you may find Paris an agreeable residence." Mr. Dayton—"Sire, I am sure I shall." Emperor—"I regret exceedingly the disturbed condition of America. Can you not assure me the Union will soon be restored to its old harmony?" Mr. Dayton—"Sire, you may rest assured that by the 4th of July, Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri will be subdued; early in November we shall take New Orleans and Charleston, and there will be an end of the war." The Emperor bows and smiles, (Mr. Dayton reads the smile, "I am glad to hear it;" I read it, "You are ignorant of military operations, Mr. Dayton, if you think the South is to be subdued,") and passes on to the next person. By and by the Empress comes up:—"I hope you may be pleased with France, Mr. Dayton, for we all like America here." "Madame, I am so pleased with your beautiful country, I fear I shall scarcely be able to leave it." "I should like to visit America. Cooper's novels have inflamed my imagination with accounts of your broad rivers, limitless prairies and autumnal forests." "Your Majesty would find there admiring subjects in every cottage." Her Majesty bows, smiles and passes on. This is all the commerce Mr. Dayton has had at court. I think you will admit that, as far as the Confederate States are concerned, Judge Rost need not repine because he has not seen the Emperor.

All foreign business is transacted with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Judge Rost sees him whenever he pleases, and much oftener than Mr. Dayton sees him, for Mr. Dayton cannot speak one word of French, and Mon. Thouvenel is equally ignorant of English. The reason why all foreign business is transacted with the Foreign Ministers is because a Minister may be disavowed or resign, and does not, until his conduct be ratified, engage the Government. I well remember the surprise raised throughout Europe when the late John M. Clayton, who was at the time United States Secretary of State, addressed directly to the President of the French Republic a despatch concerning Major S. T. Provostin. I heard it said, repeatedly, here, "If such a usage was to be established we should be engaged in incessant war; explanations and concessions, and withdrawals would become almost impossible; for we can change ministers but we cannot change monarchs; besides, ministers engage only the individual, whereas monarchs engage the State." I might add, it would be physically impossible for the Emperor to attend personally to all these matters of foreign business in their various stages. He rises at eight, and goes to bed at two or three o'clock in the morning, and every moment of his time is occupied.

It sometimes, but rarely, happens the Emperor invites a member of the diplomatic corps to explain subjects, on which he desires information, to him. For instance, I remember on one occasion he asked poor Judge Mason to lay before him a complete view of the relations between the United States and France, and especially to exhibit the effect of a war between the countries on France. He asked Judge Mason to examine the subject thoroughly, and to come out to St. Cloud soon after the Court had taken up residence there. When the Emperor spoke, the Court was at the Tuileries. This was in April. About the middle of May, Judge Mason received a letter from the Emperor's private Secretary (not the Chamberlain—the former wrote to show how informal the audience was), asking Judge Mason to come to St. Cloud and breakfast with the Emperor. Judge Mason went there, and after breakfasting alone with the Emperor, at twelve o'clock, he asked Judge Mason if he was prepared with the information desired. Upon the Judge's affirmative answer, he went with him to another room.

"This," said the Emperor, "is the room in which the Duke d'Anguoleme disarmed Marshal Marmont and put him under arrest, Friday, the 30th July, 1830," and he narrated that singular episode of the Revolution of 1830 to Judge Mason. He then asked Judge Mason to exhibit the subject of the relations of the United States and France. The Judge spoke from one o'clock till four, with no interruption, except an occasional pause to see if the Emperor was fatigued—the Emperor invariably said, "Go on, if you please." The Emperor, after the Judge had ended his remarks, expressed to him his great satisfaction at the clearness and fulness with which he had laid the whole subject before him.—Let me here say, to honor the memory of that noble-hearted old man, the Emperor liked him extremely.

He was fond of summoning him to St. Cloud to dinner in a less formal way than the dinners at the Tuileries, and of questioning Judge Mason about America, about the great men of America—Clay, Marshall, Taney, Calhoun—about the navy, (a subject with which Judge Mason was very familiar), and he liked to hear the Virginia County Court stories, of which the Judge was brimfull. No United States Minister ever saw as much of Louis Napoleon as Judge Mason did, and to this day Louis Napoleon speaks of him in the kindest way. A gentleman told me, no longer ago than last week, that Count Walewski and Count de Morny spoke to him of Judge Mason, and said the Emperor was extremely partial to him, enjoyed his company exceedingly, and regretted his death.

The Roll of "Infamy."

The Richmond *Express* says—Resolutions have been introduced in the South Carolina Legislature, recording as infamous, for the execration of posterity, the names of Wm. Bradford Shubrick, Cornelius Stribling, Captains in the United States Navy; Percival Drayton, Henry K. Hoff, John J. Missroon, Chas. Steedman, Ed. Middleton, Henry Lorando, Commanders in the United States Navy; Henry C. Flagg, John F. Hammond, C. S. Lovell, United States Army. These men still claim to be citizens of South Carolina.

Free Trade During the War.

From the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Jan. 5.

It is reported from Richmond that Congress and the President are supposed to favor the policy of throwing open the ports of the Confederate States to absolute free trade during the continuance of the war. We are inclined to believe that the adoption of such a policy at the present time would be both wise and judicious. While our ports remain blockaded, the amount of revenue collected under the present tariff must be inconsiderable, and does not compensate for the loss of trade which its operation causes us. *Let it be understood that all cargoes of goods which succeed in evading the blockade and reaching a port of the Confederate States, can be entered free of duty, and a great inducement will be held out to shippers to run the risk.* The amount of duties to be paid under the present tariff, added to the risk, does not leave a margin wide enough to induce many to make the attempt to evade the blockade. Take away all restriction for the present, and we believe the result will be favorable to the commercial interests of the South.

Sale of Negroes—Price of Black Property in Georgia.

A correspondent of the Savannah *Republican* writes from Thomasville, Ga., January 7, as follows.

It may be of interest to your readers to know what valuation is placed upon darkies in our section. I saw the following negroes sold here to-day at administrator's sale, terms twelve months, small notes with approved security, and interest from date if not punctually paid, viz: an old woman, the mother of thirteen children, and a child about four years old brought $1,011; a girl about thirteen years old, $1,105; a boy about eight years old, $824; a boy about eight years old, $801; a boy about four years old, $912; total, $4,453.

From this one would think that Old Abe is not feared in this region. In my opinion there is a higher estimate placed upon negroes now than ten years ago.

Miscellaneous News.

A FRENCH OFFICER JOINS THE CONFEDERATES.

The Mobile *Advertiser* of the 8th says:—By a recent arrival at a Confederate port from Havana, Lieut. P. Enneau, late of the French army, came a passenger, and is at present in this city. Lieut. Enneau has lately been a resident of California, where he devoted himself to organizing and drilling a corps of Carbineers, whose testimonials of their high appreciation of his services he bears.—But preferring the reality to the image of war, and still more, preferring the side on which the sympathies of his compatriots are enlisted, and where so much of the blood of his race is to be found, as ready to flow as that of the gallant Dreux—preferring this side to that which has thrown disgrace upon the name of Zouave and almost upon that of soldier, he has come to offer his sword to the cause of the Confederacy.

DEATH OF A CONFEDERATE CAPTAIN.

The Bowling Green (Ky.) *Courier* of the 4th instant says:—We understand that Captain C. E. Merriwether, who fell while bravely charging the enemy at Sacramento on Saturday last, had long been an intimate and devoted friend of Colonel Jim Jackson. He was an endorser for Jackson for a large amount, and as Jackson had become utterly bankrupt by heavy losses at the gambling table, Captain Merriwether had been compelled to pay some twelve or fifteen thousand dollars of this endorsed paper within the last three months—Callous though he may be, through his agency and his more his best friend and benefactor has been deprived of life.

"Villainous Saltpetre."

While returning from Batesville with our printing office, a few days ago, we met two wagons—one drawn by twelve and the other by eight steers—loaded with large iron kettles. The kettles looked to be