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.

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BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1862.

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.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the United States Senate a resolution was introduced to refer the credentials of Mr. Wilson, the new Senator from Missouri, to the Judiciary Committee, but was subsequently withdrawn, and Mr. Wilson after being duly sworn in took his seat.—The case of Mr. Bright was again taken up and debated at great length.

In the House of Representatives, the House bill, with Senate amendments, making appropriations for the Consular and Diplomatic expenses of the Government was discussed in Committee of the Whole. Several of the amendments not being concurred in the bill will be returned to the Senate.

In the State Senate the Police bill was read a second time. The only amendments adopted strike out the names of the four Commissioners, make them elective by the Legislature on joint ballot, and provide for their holding three meetings a week, for which they are to receive four dollars a day. The resolutions of Mr. Fiery explaining the relations of the State to the General Government, were made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

In the House of Delegates, after various local bills were disposed of, the discussion of the treason bill was resumed in Committee of the Whole.

The news from the South as derived from Southern papers via Fortress Monroe is very meagre.—Nothing definite appears to be known with regard to the Burnside expedition. The Norfolk *Day Book* doubts the truth of the despatches previously received, and which stated that a portion of the fleet was off Hatteras and the remainder in Pamlico Sound. The militia of the Eastern counties of North Carolina have been ordered out to repel invasion, and the Raleigh *Register* speaks of a draft having been made in Ware county.

A telegram from Savannah states that Cedar Keys, Florida, was captured by the Federal troops on Thursday. A telegram from Mobile reports the capture of the schooner Wilder, from Havana, whilst attempting to run the blockade.

The Norfolk *Day Book* publishes the Federal account of the defeat of Zollicoffer but expresses, at the same, time its disbelief in its truth. If anything is known at Richmond with regard to the affair, it has evidently not yet been made public. A despatch from Savannah announces that the Federal troops have taken possession of Cedar Keys Florida. Vague rumors of the approach of Federal troops from Cairo, were current at Nashville and Memphis. It was doubtless, the advance of McClernand's division upon Mayfield, which gave rise to the report that the object of the movement was, in all probability, to seize the railway and burn the bridges, and thus cut off communication between Columbus and Bowling Green. As McClernand has returned to Cairo without effecting any thing, the people of Nashville and Memphis, may rest easy, at least for the present.

We can add but little to what is already published in regard to the defeat of Zollicoffer. The correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times* furnishes some few particulars of the fight; but there is nothing to show that the fortifications on the South bank of the Cumberland have been captured. The Confederate General Hindman is said to have been arrested, by order of General Hardee, for burning houses at Cave City and elsewhere. It is also reported that the Confederates at Bowling Green are suffering for want of money.

An important order has been issued by the War Department in relation to the Federal prisoners now in the hands of the Confederates. By order of the Secretary of War two Commissioners are to be appointed, whose duty it will be to visit Richmond and other Southern cities where the prisoners are confined, for the purpose of providing for their wants and contributing to their comfort.

The Bermuda *Gazette* announces the arrival there of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and gives a ludicrous description of the manner in which they were transferred from Fort Warren to the British war steamer Rinaldo. The Southern Commissioners with their Secretaries, during their brief sojourn at Bermuda, were present at a dinner which was given to them and other invited guests, by Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, the naval Commander-in-Chief on the West India Station. Mr. Seward's letter to Lord Lyons, surrendering the Commissioners, is sharply criticised in the *Gazette*, which expresses the opinion that the British Government will be satisfied with the act done, but dissatisfied with the way in which it has been accomplished.

The Wheeling *Journal* in alluding to the state of affairs on the Upper Potomac, places nearly all the Confederate forces under Jackson at Romney, the Federal troops under Lander, being nine miles distant. It speaks somewhat confidently of a collision occurring between the two forces as soon as the high water in the Potomac subsides. Such too, appears to be the general impression of other western journalists, who predict that a powerful movement on that flank of the Confederates will take place at an early day. They assert that the possession of Winchester is indispensable to the protection and reconstruction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. General Kelly has returned to Wheeling.

A SLANDER REFUTED.

From the Boston Courier, Jan. 23.

The following note from Marshal Kane, of Maryland, carries with it its own explanation:

FORT WARREN, BOSTON HARBOR, January 21, 1862.

To the Editor of the Boston Courier:

My attention has been called to the following article from the New York *Tribune* of the 20th instant:

"A LEAK THAT OUGHT TO BE STOPPED.—Loyal taxpaying citizens who evince such a praiseworthy disposition to meet all the calls put forth by Government, will be surprised to learn that rebel prisoners confined in Fort McHenry have been in the habit of ordering various luxuries of Mrs. Alice Wilson, the caterer of that establishment, and now refuse to pay for them, leaving their bills to be paid by Government. Orders have been sent from Washington to pay Mrs. Wilson's bill, amounting to $221. It is to be hoped that all these orders for luxuries by rebel prisoners will hereafter be regarded as personal affairs by those filling them. The following is a list of the names of the parties who, according to the Baltimore papers, incurred this personal indebtedness and then left the Government to foot the bill: Hon. George William Brown, ex-Mayor of this city; Col. George P. Kane, ex-Marshal of Police of this city; Hons. S. Teakle Wallis, Wm. G. Harrison, Charles H. Pitts, Dr. J. Hanson Thomas; H. M. Warfield, President of the Corn and Flour Exchange; Laurence Sangston, Rors Winans and T. Parkin Scott, all ex-members of the Legislature, from this city; Hon. Henry May, ex-member of Congress, from this city; Colonel Zarvona, *alias* The French Lady; S. G. Tilghman, H. H. Johnson, W. W. Glenn, T. W. Hall, John Pegram, A. W. Habersham, F. Key Howard, R. Dennison, Dr. A. A. Lynch and L. Q. Quinlan."

In answer to this infamously false publication, I deem it proper to state, that during the entire period of my confinement at Fort McHenry, up to the 31st of July last, every particle of food of which I partook, and every article of furniture that I required, was furnished to me from Baltimore. At the period mentioned, my fellow political prisoners being ordered to be removed to Fort Lafayette, I was invited by the officers of the United States artillery who lived within the Fort to mess with them, which invitation I accepted, and I continued to mess with them up to the time I was removed to be incarcerated in Fort Lafayette, (the 12th September last.) I paid my mess, or board bill, weekly, to the lady referred to in the *Tribune's* article, who resided in the garrison and furnished the officers' mess. On the day on which I was to leave I settled with her in full. After I had thus paid the bill, the United States Marshal informed me that he himself had authority to settle my bill, and that he had done so in the cases of other political prisoners, and by his direction the money which I had paid was refunded to me. I now hold a certified copy of the Marshal's authority to pay the bill referred to, together with an official certificate that my bill was settled in full to the day I left.

GEO. P. KANE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

WHO IS MR. STOCKDALE?

Messrs. Editors:—Since the introduction of the "Treason Bill" now under discussion in the Legislature at Annapolis, one per son has made himself conspicuous above all his fellow members by the eagerness with which he has advocated the adoption of the most stringent clauses of the bill, and by his virulent and most unjustifiable attacks both covert and direct, upon gentlemen who are as far his superiors, in moral worth, as they are, and ever will be, in social standing, and in the genuine esteem in which they are held by all who are capable of distinguishing between true manhood and its opposite. The member of the House of Delegates to whom I allude is Mr. Stockdale.—Without referring at this time to his antecedents, which are well known to me, I beg leave to call attention to the following extracts from his speeches in the House of Delegates. The object I have in view will be seen presently.

In answer to an objection to an amendment to one of the sections of the Treason bill—which amendment would have rendered any woman liable to the penitentiary who made a pair socks for a son, brother, husband or friend in the South—Mr. Stockdale said, "that if a woman violated the law she ought to be punished, and he would guarantee that no woman would undertake to send anything to the South if she thought it would send her to the penitentiary."

On the 20th, Monday, in speaking of that liberty of speech which some old-fashioned people still venture, though timidly, to believe, is guaranteed by the Constitution, Mr. Stockdale said "that there was a limit of liberty of speech. He thought it was time to put a limit to the liberty of speech when in Baltimore some persons made a habit of jeering the troops by taunts."

Two days later—the treason bill being still under discussion—he said "he could not vote for a bill which would release the *rascals* of the 19th of April. * * * It would be a nice law to go over to Massachusetts, when we are about to pass a law to pay the families of the volunteers from Massachusetts; and yet we are about to tell those families that these men who murdered their sons have come up and taken the oath and promised to behave themselves."

Will it be believed that a man who could speak in this strain, and stigmatise as *rascals* those who were engaged in the riot of the 19th of April—who could deliberately vote for sending women to the penitentiary for simply knitting a pair of socks for a friend in the South, and who thought a limit should be put to the liberty of speech—will it be believed, I say, that this man, on the 20th of April, not only justified the *rascals* whom he now so bitterly denounces, but was actually himself in arms, as a member of Captain John B. Fields' company, and was the most loud-mouthed of any in declaring it to be his purpose to assist in driving, as he elegantly expressed it, "the d—d Yankees from the soil of Maryland?" Such, nevertheless, is the truth, and I challenge him to deny it.

WEST END.

INTERESTING FROM BERMUDA.

DOINGS OF SLIDELL AND MASON THERE.

By the British gunboat Racer, the New York *Express* has a copy of the Bermuda Royal *Gazette*, of the 14th, containing some interesting particulars touching the arrival and "entertainment" of the Confederate Commissioners, Messrs. Slidell and Mason. The *Gazette* announces the arrival of the Confederates in large type. In describing the departure of the Southern gentlemen from Fort Warren, the editor says:

The Commissioners were brought down in a miserable tug-steamer, guarded by a tipstaff and a party of soldiers. They had but half an hour's notice of their intended removal, and no time to make any personal arrangements. It is said that had the boisterous weather which soon afterwards prevailed commenced before the crazy tug reached the ship, the chances were that they would all have been drowned. The person in charge of the tug, on coming alongside the Rinaldo, addressed Commander Hewett in the following truly down-east style. "I say, man, are you the skipper of this 'ere craft?" The whole manner of placing the Commissioners under the protection of the British flag, we are assured, was quite in keeping with the tenor of the Seward manifesto.

The Rinaldo was to have taken the Commissioners to Halifax, to enable them to take passage in the Cunard steamer which left that port for England on Friday last. She, however, having met with such exceedingly bitter weather, ice having formed in thick masses around her hull, on her deck, and some distance up her rigging, and having had several of her crew frost-bitten, the captain, though at one time within fifty miles of Halifax, was reluctantly compelled to bear up for Bermuda.

On the day the Rinaldo arrived here the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, entertained a party at dinner, and Com. Hewett and the four Southern gentlemen, his guests, were, we understand, invited to Clarence, where they spent the evening.

The Rinaldo left again on Friday, hoping to reach St. Thomas in time to place the Commissioners on board the Royal West India Mail steamer, which was to leave the Island for England to-day.

The *Gazette* prints in full the Seward-Lyon correspondence, and comments upon it in a carping and hyper-critical spirit. The article is worth reading, as foreshadowing, it may be, the line of remark of the British journals at home.

From the Bermuda Royal Gazette.

The restoration of Mr. Slidell and Mr. Mason, with their Secretaries, from their military imprisonment at Boston to the protection of that flag which Captain Wilkes so little regarded on the 8th November, 1861, the Cabinet of the United States has "cheerfully" granted. It would perhaps have been expecting too much to suppose that it would be gracefully accorded, and but for Mr. Seward's statement that the concession was cheerfully made, we should not have drawn any such conclusion from the laborious despatch in which he, in a professional rather than a statesmanlike spirit, has argued out the questions involved. There is too much effort to maintain on paper the ground which he is losing by the act of restitution of the captives, too obvious an under-current of irony throughout the manifesto, to allow it to be designated as a state paper worthy of an able diplomatist.

The British Government did not consider this a satisfactory settlement of the question, but no doubt the prisoners having been surrendered, the rest of the dispute will be fought out on paper.—The doctrine of Earl Russell recommends itself as being one consonant with the rights of neutrals and of persons traveling under neutral flags. The French view of the case, contained in M. Thouvenel's despatch, also seems to involve this doctrine, though it is not stated in that broad, simple and unambiguous style which marks the British despatch.

On the whole we conclude that our Government will express its satisfaction at the act done and its dissatisfaction at the way in which it has been transacted. *It will not, it we to be hoped, lose sight of the fact that this forced restitution, though treated now as a trivial, or rather as an agreeable, circumstance by Mr. Seward, will have a lasting influence which will ultimately, and probably before very long, be recorded in letters of blood.*

While in Bermuda, Mr. Mason expressed, with great determination, the impossibility of a peaceful termination of the struggle now pending in the States, and declared that the South would not re-enter the Union if the demand heretofore made by it should be conceded as the price of her return.

STRANGE, YET TRUE.

EXCERPT FROM THE ANAS.

On page 203 of the 9th volume of Jefferson's Works, will be found the following memorandum:

"December the 13th, 1803.—The Reverend Mr. Coffin, of New England, who is now here soliciting donations for a college in Greene county, in Tennessee, tells me that when he first determined to engage in this enterprise, he wrote a paper recommendatory of the enterprise, which he meant to get signed by clergymen, and a similar one for persons in a civil character, at the head of which he wished Mr. Adams to put his name, he being then President, and the application going only for his name, and not for a donation. Mr. Adams, after reading the paper and considering, said, 'he saw no possibility of continuing the union of the States; that their dissolution must necessarily take place; that he therefore saw no propriety in recommending to New England men to promote a literary institution in the South; that it was in fact giving strength to those who were to be their enemies; and therefore, he would have nothing to do with it.'"

GEOGRAPHY AS AN EXACT SCIENCE.—The following delicious jumble appears as a leader in the Jamaica *Watchman*, published at Kingston, W. I.:—

"The news from the United States is not very cheering. A battle seems to have been fought at a place called Ball's Bluff. One of our contemporaries says that place is in Rhode Island; but as Rhode Island is three hundred miles from the seat of war, in New England, we suspect there is some mistake about it. At all events, a battle was fought, in which two thousand one hundred Federal soldiers were engaged, and how many Confederates we know not. But, as has been the case more than once, the Federals got the worse of it. All the accounts we have seen are so confused as to numbers, dates and places, that we know not how to rely on them, or reproduce them for our readers. When the steamer from New York shall arrive with our regular files of papers, we shall be able to give a more reliable statement."

MR. THADDEUS STEVENS OFF THE TRACK.—Mr. Thaddeus Stevens has been making another speech in Congress in favor of the infallible abolition panacea for this Southern rebellion—to wit, the emancipation and arming of the slave population of the South. Now, we respectfully submit that, as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, all the talents, learning, labor and time of Mr. Stevens are demanded at this crisis to provide the ways and means necessary to prevent the Treasury and the country from running into bankruptcy, and that he is off the track in neglecting the important money question to dance to the silly music of our abolition disorganizers on the negro question. Let Mr. Stevens stick to the financial duties of his committee; for the liberation of Uncle Sam is a more pressing question than the emancipation of Uncle Tom. A little less of the nigger, and a little more money for the Treasury, if you please, Mr. Stevens.—*New York Herald.*

STRENGTH OF THE BRITISH NAVY.—The annual official return of the British navy has been published. The list shows a total of 856 vessels building, preparing or in commission, of which 702 are steamers, and comprises "81 line-of-battle ships, each mounting from 74 to 131 guns; 22 vessels, each with an armament of from 60 to 70 guns; 44 51-gun frigates, the whole, with the exception of about 10 of that number, being screw steamers; 57 ships, each mounting from 22 to 50 guns, and the majority of which have a tonnage as large as ships of the line; 29 screw corvettes, or frigates, each mounting 22 guns; 317 screw and paddle wheel steamers, each carrying less than 22 guns; and 185 screw gunboats each provided with two Armstrong guns." The fleet in American waters comprises 14 line of battle steamers, ranging from 51 to 100 guns; 7 from 20 to 50, and 14 smaller vessels, exclusive of all the vessels ordered to join the same command.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Burnside Expedition.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of Thursday morning contains nothing definite with regard to the Burnside expedition, with the exception of the following remark:

We find a general disbelief in our community as to the truthfulness of the despatches contained in our yesterday's issue about the appearance of the Burnside fleet at Hatteras. We learn that a gentleman arrived in the city on Tuesday night, via Elizabeth City, from Roanoke Island, where he left on Monday. He reports that a reconnoissance had returned to the Island, up to a later date than that of the despatches, and that no such report as they contained was handed in. It was this, probably, in connection with the severity of the gale, that throws doubts on the subject.

The Charlotte (N. C.) *Democrat*, of the 21st inst., thus alludes to the panic in North Carolina.

In anticipation of the invasion of the North Carolina coast, it is contemplated, we understand, to call out the militia of several of the Eastern counties. The call has not yet been made, but when made, the Raleigh *Journal* says, it will embrace thirty-three counties. When ordered to the field (says the *Journal*) the militia will receive the same pay, rations and quarters as the volunteers or regular army.

P. S.—We learn that the militia of these counties have been ordered out since the arrival of the Yankee Burnside expedition at Hatteras. And it appears by the following from the Raleigh *Register* of Saturday that a draft has been made in Wade county:

A DRAFT.

There is quite an excitement here in regard to a draft which has been made for one-third of the enrolled militia. Substitutes, we expect, will be in demand.

Probably the *Register*, in saying "draft," means the call or order for the militia to turn out. When the enemy is threatening our coast we cannot believe that any portion of the people of North Carolina will wait to be drafted.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of Wednesday, after describing the water communications with Pamlico Sound, and the supposition that Burnside intends to attack Newbern and Roanoke Island, says:

The reader perceives the extent of water communication the enemy will command should he get possession of the two Sounds, with boats of light draft. Roanoke Island commands the entrance to Albemarle Sound. There is a force there, how large or how defended we are unable to say; but we imagine it will have to abandon the place should the enemy make a demonstration upon it with his large naval force. General Wise has been appointed to command that place and all north of it and south of Norfolk. He has been only recently appointed, and has not yet left this city. General Branch, of North Carolina, commands the district next below Albemarle Sound, including Pamlico. He has been, it is said, taking the most vigilant measures for the defence of the towns and coast in his district.

Much apprehension exists in the towns reached by the Sounds. We have a brief despatch from Murfreesborough, which states that the militia of the county (Hertford) had been called out in consequence of the appearance of the Burnside expedition on the coast. It states that the notorious C. H. Foster was guiding the fleet.

The occupation of Roanoke Island by the enemy will very much interrupt the transportation of supplies to Norfolk. But there can be no danger of an attack upon Norfolk from that direction, we imagine.

The Defeat of Zollicoffer Another Federal Newspaper Lie.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of Thursday publishes, from the Northern papers, the telegraphic accounts of the death of Zollicoffer and the rout of his army, with the following remarks:

We publish to-day a batch of these despatches, and do not believe there is a word of truth in them. The fact is, as the reader will perceive on reading the money article from the New York *Post*, that stocks were going down at such a rapid rate, owing to the failure of the Burnside Expedition and the licking they recently got at the hands of Jeff. Thompson, that it was necessary to "steam up" in some way or other to keep down rebellion at home, and so they resorted to this their regular plan of operating on the stock market and keeping their spirits up. We suspect that Zollicoffer has given them a licking, as he commenced the attack according to their own account, as contained in one of the despatches, and it is not likely that so prudent a commander as Zollicoffer is would have opened the ball on them and then suffered them to defeat him so easily. The whole yarn is flshy, and smells strong of Wall street stock operations.

Every Man to the Front.

Under this heading the Nashville *Banner* of the 20th instant says:

The Department of the West is now the grand theatre of the war, transferred from Virginia to Kentucky, and from the line of the Potomac to that of the Ohio. Columbus is the Manassas of the great basin of the country, holding a sure and secure gateway to the valleys of the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee, if it is successfully defended. Nashville to-day occupies somewhat the position of Richmond before the battle of Bull Run. In the mingled fortune of war we are about to take our turn to a little of its hardships. Our brothers of the Old Dominion have seen the elephant, and heard the lion roar, have experienced the pressure of hard times, and suffered the anxieties of uncertainty, and the natural vicissitude of such a struggle has at length turned the rough side of the war up at our own door.

We very greatly fear that many of our good people who have been jog-trotting along their prosperous routine are sorely puzzled and perplexed at the state of things, and are but illy prepared to face the music. To all such weak-kneed and supplejointed there can be but one argument addressed.—We are into the war—no matter how we got into it—and the surest way to get out is by cannon, sword and rifle. And to those who, in the tepidation which seizes the tame-spirited, imagine that there is a probability or possibility of the enemy planting its impious standard—(a standard which once claimed the homage of all of us, but whose very folds are now blackened by the hideous atmosphere of tyranny, infidelity and crime)—if there are those who dream that the banner-staff of the enemy will be driven further into the soil of Tennessee than in that of Eastern Virginia, we have only to say—peace to such miserable delusions.

There is no question in our mind of the result which this winter campaign will close if we are true to ourselves. Now is the time for action. Let no man think to escape the responsibility which has been imposed by the great, good God on every man, on all men here in the struggling South. Let no man console himself with the heartless sophistry that he can live under any Government. Such a spirit is fit for slaves, not for the Heaven-sent impulse of freemen. No Southern man, of an upright, independent, manly nature, can ever live under the Lincoln despotism. The craven who contents himself with skulking, like a pig with his nose in the gutter, instead of breathing the air of God's blue welkin, might manage to exist, and to fish out of the miasma of his own degradation a disgusting subsidy, like the rag-pickers who filch a livelihood from the alleys and sidewalks of life.

The writer of this paragraph knows something about Northern venom, Northern tyranny, Northern illiberality, Northern suspicion, jealousy and hatred. The decree of a separate existence has gone forth, and it should now be the burning resolve of every true man to be driven from the face of the earth, to die and rot, rather than yield his home to devastation, his household gods to destruction, and the whole future of his life and the life of his country to insult, scorn and disgrace. Now is the moment for action. We can almost feel the sulphurous breath of the enemy tainting our pure atmosphere. We can almost hear the hiss with which he is preparing for the death-stroke. We can almost see the cruel, blood-shot eyes glittering savagely over our ramparts. Let no man pause for an instant. The crisis is at hand. Within forty days we shall know all.

Miscellaneous Matters.

THE TWENTY-SECOND OF FEBRUARY.

On the approaching Twenty-second of February, the Permanent Government of the Confederate States will be inaugurated at Richmond. President Davis will be installed for six years, and other interesting ceremonies takes place. It will be a memorable and interesting occasion, and a vast concourse of persons, no doubt, will assemble to witness the ceremonies of the day.—*Charlotte (N. C.) Democrat.*

Cotton Going to Mexico.

The San Antonio (Texas) *News* says that cotton bales are passing through that city almost daily for Mexico.

To bring the war to a speedy conclusion, and to give satisfaction to all concerned, we respectfully suggest that all Generals now in the field resign at once, and that their places be given to the editors of the Richmond papers and of the Memphis *Argus*.—*Charleston Courier.*

The Nashville *Union* of Saturday says that proceedings under the confiscation act have been taken against the property of the Hon. John Catron, worth about $75,000, and against Andy Johnson for about $30,000.

Confederate Telegraphic Despatches.

We copy from the Norfolk *Day Book* of Thursday the following series of telegraphic despatches:

THE FEDERALS IN POSSESSION OF CEDAR KEYS, FLORIDA.

SAVANNAH, January 22.—The *Republican* of this morning says, in the Confederate Court, on Monday, Captain A. S. Hleiton, charged with absconding the yacht Wanderer, was found guilty.

The *News* learns from a gentleman from Florida that Cedar Keys was captured by the Federals on Thursday. Heavy firing was heard in that direction on the same day.

CAPTURE OF A CONFEDERATE VESSEL.

MOBILE, January 22.—The schooner Wilder, from Havana, was captured on the 20th, three miles below Fort Morgan.

MOBILE, January 21.—Captain Cattrell's company had a sharp and creditable contest yesterday, at the mouth of the Lagoon, over the schooner Wilder. No loss of life on our side. The enemy lost the ship's gig and a number of men, but succeeded in taking possession of the schooner and cargo.

MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST.

NASHVILLE, January 20.—The Fort Henry correspondent of the *American*, under date of the 20th; says three Federal gunboats came within three or four miles of the fort on Saturday, and fired 22 shot from behind the Island, 3 miles below the fort, all of which fell short more than a mile. They then retired. It has been since ascertained that they landed 2,500 troops at the ferry, 22 miles below the fort.

It is understood between 8,000 and 10,000 Federals are marching from Mayfield either to Fort Henry or Paris, Tennessee.

General Van Dorn passed through the city yesterday, believed to be *en route* to Bowling Green.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 21.—Passengers by to-day's train report that the Federals, to the number of from 10,000 to 20,000, from Murray, Calloway county, Kentucky, which is 22 miles from Paris, Tennessee, are said to be marching in the direction of the latter place. There is nothing definite known as to their movements or intentions. It is supposed to be their object to seize the railroad, and burn the bridges, to prevent communication between Columbus and Bowling Green.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 21.—The latest intelligence from Paris is to the effect that a large Federal force is at Murray, Ky., threatening Fort Henry and the Memphis and Ohio Railroad, with the object of cutting off communication between Memphis and Bowling Green. There is some excitement at Paris, 25 miles from Murray.

Several slaveholders have already come to Memphis with their negroes.

There is nothing new from Columbus. An attack is momentarily expected.

CLOSING THE GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, January 21.—Mayor Monroe has closed all the gambling houses in the city. He has determined to convict gamblers if possible.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, January 22.—It is understood that a joint committee of both Houses of the Legislature agreed to report in favor of electing the Confederate Senators to-morrow.

Nothing is known of the proceedings of Congress.

The Legislature was principally occupied in talking about the election of the Confederate Senators. The House favored going into the election to-day, the Senate favored to delay until 4th February. Joint committees were appointed to report on the matter to-morrow at noon.

WAR ITEMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of Yesterday.

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 20th, 1862—*Order No. 1.*—This Department recognizes as the first of its duties to take measures for the relief of the brave men, who, having imperiled their lives in the military service of the Government, are now prisoners and captives.

It is therefore ordered that two commissioners be appointed to visit the city of Richmond, in Virginia, and wherever else prisoners belonging to the army of the United States may be held, and there take such measures as may be needful, to provide for the wants and contribute to the comfort of such prisoners at the expense of the United States, and to such extent as may be permitted by the authorities under whom such prisoners are held.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Special Washington Despatches to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

THE CASE OF SENATOR STARK.

The papers of Senator Stark, who was appointed by the Governor of Oregon to fill the vacancy made by the untimely death of the gallant and eloquent Baker, were referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. They were engaged to-day in their consideration. Mr. Stark declines to appear before the committee in person, but has made a written statement, in which he denies the charges of disloyalty, and asserts that he is an unwavering enemy to secession. He charges that the opposition to him is stimulated and fostered by personal enemies, and insists that it is a subject which his State has to do with alone, and that when he obtains a seat on the floor, with an opportunity to defend himself, he can define his views and position, and prove his innocence of the charges.

THE REDUCTION OF PAY OF THE SOLDIERS.

Great opposition is made to the proposed reduction of soldiers' pay embodied in the bill of Senator Sherman. A memorial has been prepared and is being numerously signed, urging Congress not to reduce the pay of the officers, but to assess upon the present rates whatever tax may be deemed proper, even to twenty or thirty per cent. This proposition is growing into favor, as it is a manifestation of patriotism and not the submission of hirelings. Senator Browning is preparing a bill to meet this suggestion, which covers the entire ground.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

The mud and the small-pox are the prevailing topics of conversation to-day.

The transient travel this week has fallen off one hundred per cent.

The new rules and regulations which have been issued by Secretary Stanton hold at bay for the present contractors and office-seekers.

The Postmaster here has issued a notice that Treasury notes will not be received in payment for stamps, unless they are purchased in sums of two dollars and fifty cents.

Special Washington Despatches to the N. Y. Herald.

THE FINANCIAL PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The plan of action concluded upon by the Secretary of the Treasury and the representatives from the Boards of Trade and Banks of New York, Boston and Philadelphia, so far as it contemplated the fee, receipt and payment of United States notes, is considered as defeated by the refusal of the banks of Boston and some of the New York banks to carry it out. The Secretary, therefore, feels himself obliged, by the necessities of the public creditors, to concur in the plan for issuing and funding of an additional one hundred millions of dollars in United States notes, and making them till funded a legal tender. Every guard will be placed on this issue by provisions for funding, and for absorption in payment for the large taxes to be imposed, to prevent depreciation, and the issue itself will doubtless facilitate the establishment of the banking associations contemplated by the Secretary, for which a bill has been prepared by the Committee on Ways and Means. The introduction into general use of a real national currency, fully secured by the bonds of the United States, may be thus expedited.

A CONFEDERATE RECONNOITERING PARTY.

Early this morning our advance pickets at Barrett's Hill saw eleven mounted Confederates at a distance of about two miles on the Alexandria and Leesburg turnpike. They came within a mile of our picket line, and then turned up a dirt road in the direction of Fairfax Court-house. Subsequently Lieutenant Seymour, of General Morrell's staff, went out with a detachment of dragoons in quest of the reconnoitering party, but without obtaining any glimpse of them. This is the first time any Confederate force has shown itself this side of Difficult creek since the removal of their picket lines about a month ago.

THE UNPLEASANT OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE.

Mr. E. S. Plumbe, bearer of despatches from our Minister to Mexico, Governor Corwin, arrived here to-day. The Mexican Minister, Senor Matias Romero, is quite cheerful over the last news received from Mexico. The uprising of the Mexican people to repel the Spanish, French and British invaders was expected. Private advices from Mexico show that the people have laid aside all of their old political quarrels, and agreed to unite in this present crisis. The opinion is expressed that a form of government will now be organized, and will be supported by the whole people, adversity bringing to the nation what the people themselves, when they were at peace with all the world, could not produce.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Tribune.

THE EMANCIPATION, CONFISCATION, AND COLONIZATION BILLS.

The House Judiciary Committee met this morning to consider the Emancipation, Confiscation, and Colonization bills, some time since referred to it. Messrs. Bingham and Thomas, to whom, as a subcommittee, the whole matter had been intrusted, having been unable to agree, the subject was postponed for the present by the committee after informal discussion, which indicated that a majority would probably vote against any such bill as that reported by the Judiciary Committee of the Senate.

GOV. SPRAGUE AND BULL RUN.

Governor Sprague, subpœnaed to appear before the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, to-day notified the committee through a friend, that he preferred not to testify respecting the Bull Run affair, and hoped to be excused. The committee decided not to compel his testimony. The investigation in regard to that affair is nearly closed. It is understood that the committee, though not wholly satisfied with the causes assigned by the Generals who fought that battle, will not make any report.

OFFICE-SEEKERS.

Thousands of individuals are here seeking appointments as paymasters in the army and navy, and clerks in the Departments. There are no less than 1,800 applications for paymasterships in the navy. The additional clerkships ordered by Congress will be mostly filled by persons already temporarily employed. Persons coming here for appointments only put themselves to useless expense. They had better stay at home.

THE EXCLUSION OF THE HUTCHINSONS.

It seems that Gen. Franklin's exclusion of the Hutchinson family from his camps on account of their audacity in singing Whittier's songs, and generally to the wishes of Gen. McClellan. He has since sent instructions to all the Generals of Division, ordering them not to allow the Hutchinsons to sing within their lines.

New York Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

NEWSPAPER REPORTERS.

General Sherman is determined to teach certain gentlemen connected with the press that "honesty is the best policy." A few weeks ago, discovering that the enemy were obtaining information of his movements and intentions, through the medium of letters written to the New York journals by their "specials," he called a meeting of these worthies, and told them that they must keep faith with him, and refrain from the publication of military movements in future. All hands promised to obey, but the promise was no sooner made than broken, in two or three instances. The result is just what might be expected. General Sherman, in rage, gave the offenders "notice to quit." One of them was sent on by the Atlantic to-day, and the others will follow by the next opportunity. Served 'em right.

Latest from Romney.

The Wheeling *Press* of Thursday last says:—

We learned last evening, from a gentleman who arrived yesterday from Romney, that the Confederates were in occupation of Romney, almost all of Jackson's force being there; that the Federal forces were within nine miles of the Confederates, and there was every probability of a collision as soon as the subsiding of the high water would permit.

General Kelley reached Wheeling on Thursday from Cumberland, having temporarily retired on account of bad health.

The War in Kentucky.

Correspondence of the New York Times.

LOUISVILLE, Monday, Jan. 20, 1862.—It is reported this morning that Gens. Thomas and Schoepf, with 10,000 men and two or three batteries, routed Zollicoffer on the 19th, killed him and other high officers, and were in a fair way of bagging pretty much all his force. The report is that Zollicoffer, with 10,000 men, came out of his intrenchments at Mill Spring and advanced some miles north of the Cumberland to attack Thomas, and did attack, so confident was he of whipping. He had heard Thomas had only 4,000 or 5,000, but Thomas, being reinforced in time by as many more, with artillery under Schoepf, defeated Zollicoffer signally.

It is very wet and muddy, but our troops are moving as fast as they can, though it be only three to five miles a day. J. I. Crittenden has moved from Calhoun to South Carrollton, twenty miles further up Green river. H. Marshall is said to have "fallen back" into Virginia, and to confess a loss of 80 killed, 160 wounded and 100 prisoners.—Yet the lie is flashed over Secessia that he whipped us, and killed 800 of us! Great victories over him and Zollicoffer will, I think, be followed up, and we may look for the speedy discomfiture of Hindman, Breckinridge, Floyd, Buckner, Geo. Crittenden & Co., and the entrance of our troops into West, East and Middle Tennessee. I anticipate also successful moves up the Tennessee and the Cumberland, and victories in and about General Grant's District of Cairo. The chances are that our land and river expeditions will in the main be brilliantly and decisively successful.

There is much sickness among our soldiers.—Measles and typhoid fever prevail. The sick are well cared for. Our citizens continue to contribute liberally. The seven military hospitals in Louisville are quite full. The Confederates are suffering a vast deal more than our men. Their regiments are greatly thinned. None are said to number over 700, many scarcely 500.

The latest statement is that Parson Brownlow has been again released, but during his confinement became sick, and is now at home, dangerously ill.

THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.

From the Cairo Correspondence of the New York Times.

THE FORWARD AND BACKWARD MOVEMENT OF GENERAL GRANT.

Since my last, the prospects of a fight have all, or nearly all evaporated—the grand expedition has returned, and from this point of view, the whole thing looks like an immense humbug. Gen. McClernand's column penetrated some 30 miles towards the interior in a southeasterly course from Fort Jefferson, and is now on its return without having accomplished a single thing of importance. What the object of the expedition was, is simply a matter of the crudest conjecture—its result is better known. It is a long and weary series of marches through mud, whereby nothing whatever was accomplished save that a fair percentage of the men will be put in the hospitals.

If the public is ignorant of the objects of the expedition, it is very generally believed that those who had charge of its planning and execution are no less in the dark. If it were designed to effect a reconnoissance, it could have been done in the same portions of the State, quite as well and better by one hundred dragoons. It could have been ascertained that Fort Beauregard had been deserted for the last fortnight by a good deal smaller force than one of ten thousand men. If the object were to throw a sop to that hungry Cerberus—the public—a less costly one might have been given than one which involved the transportation of an immense force through bottomless sloughs, the gigantic cost of such an undertaking, and the placing upon the sick-list of one-tenth of the whole force.

I rather suspect that this last explanation may be the true one. Seemingly, as if in earnest with this plan, a couple of gunboats left Cairo about the same time as the land force, went up the Ohio, and then turned their prows up the Tennessee. Some distance up they came in sight of a point of land, whose sandy depths looked as if they might hide secession batteries. Getting within 800 yards, the gunboats opened on the woods with terrible effect, tearing off huge branches, scarring the grand old trees, digging vast and ugly cavities in the soil, and sending away, over hill and valley, the echoes of their thunders, till at Paducah and Cairo, Union ears tingled with the music, and Union hearts rejoi