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BALTIMORE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States a petition was presented which bore the signatures of more than twenty-five thousand persons, asking Congress to cause Homœopathic physicians to be employed in the army. The annual fortification bill was taken up and debated by sections and clauses. A resolution was passed to commemorate Washington's birth-day with befitting ceremonies. Resolutions bearing directly on the abolition of slavery in the Confederate States were offered by Mr. Sumner. The resolutions declare, in general terms, that the States have forfeited their right to be recognized as States; and that with this forfeiture falls also the institution of slavery. In brief, that they are, when placed within the power of the Federal arms, to be regarded simply as territories, for which new Governments may be instituted, and whose institutions may be controlled or annulled by Congressional legislation.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was adopted instructing the Joint Committee on the conduct of the war, to ascertain whether it was true, as charged, that the Confederates on the lower Potomac obtained possession of the countersign on the night that the Pensacola ran the blockade of the river, and also to ascertain whether information of intended military movements reaches the Confederates through the treachery of persons in the civil or military service of the Federal Government. The election case of Mr. Joseph Segar, was again called up and debated. On the vote being taken, Mr. Segar was declared to be not entitled to the seat he claimed.

In the State Senate leave was obtained to report a bill incorporating the Bulletin and Exchange Bank of Baltimore. The bill authorizing the Court of Appeals to hear at its present term petitions for writs of *mandamus* growing out of the opening of Holliday street, was passed.

In the House of Delegates leave was given to report a bill incorporating the Peabody Insurance Company of Baltimore. Also, incorporating the Union Express Company of Maryland. A bill was reported for the relief of the families of the Massachusetts volunteers killed on the 19th of April. The bill incorporating the Baltimore City Passenger Railway Company was made the order of the day for Wednesday—to-day.

By one of those blunders of the Associated Press, which in these days are by no means infrequent, it was stated that the advices brought from Europe by the steamer America were to the 1st instant. In point of fact, the America left Liverpool on the 25th and Queenstown on the 26th ult. We have, however, five days later news by the Jura, which reached Portland about midnight on Monday last. The remarks of the Emperor Napoleon on American affairs, given to-day, are not of that decided character which letter-writers had led us to expect. But vague and enigmatical as they are, it would be difficult to construe them in a sense friendly to the Federal Government, nor can it be said that they hold out to the South any promise of a speedy deliverance from the blockade. Whatever the Emperor really intends to do is certainly not manifested in his brief allusion to our civil war at the opening of the French Chambers. But it must not be forgotten that his remarks to the Austrian Ambassador only a few weeks before the opening of the campaign in Italy, were equally cloudy and indefinite. The London *Advertiser*, moreover, states positively that breaking through his habitual reticence the Emperor had actually declared it to be his intention to announce in his speech to the Chambers his recognition of the Southern Confederacy in a few weeks.

Messrs. Mason and Slidell arrived at Southampton on the 29th. The *Times*, in making the fact public, asserts that they will probably keep themselves quiet and wait the events that are at hand. In another articles the *Times* calls "for some decisive action" on the part of the Federal Government, as unpleasant complications must arise if the present state of affairs continues much longer. A correspondence has taken place between Earl Russell and Mr. Seward in respect to the positions assumed by the latter in his dispatch surrendering the Southern Commissioners. Earl Russel denies that either the Commissioners or their despatches could be regarded as contraband, and declares that, should a British vessel, seized under circumstances similar to those of the Trent, be brought into port for adjudication, the British Government would not acquiesce in her capture.—To the further declaration of Mr. Seward that "if the safety of the Union had required it, the Federal Government would have asserted the right to detain the Trent prisoners" Earl Russell pointedly replies that "Great Britain could not have permitted the wrong, however flourishing might have been the insurrection in the South."

The boat from Fortress Monroe yesterday brought no additional news of the Burnside Expedition, or at least none that has been made public. A rumor, however, reaches us through Federal sources, but nevertheless more entitled to credence than such rumors generally are, to the effect that Roanoke Island has been captured, and that several of the Confederate gunboats were sunk by the fire of the Federal flotilla. We give the statement, meagre as it is, as a rumor merely. It may or may not be true.

Some skirmishing has taken place between the Federal and Confederate cavalry in the vicinity of Fort Henry, in which the latter appear to have been worsted. Their loss is reported at four killed, and twenty-five taken prisoners. The contemplated expedition against Fort Donelson has not yet taken place, although General Grant may be merely waiting the arrival of the gunboats which have been sent up the Cumberland with Wallace's division. As the Confederates are said to have a large force at Fort Donelson it is not likely to fall so easy a conquest to the combined naval and military expedition, which has been or is about to be sent against it, as was the case with Fort Henry.

The gunboats which sailed up the Tennessee River on a reconnoitering expedition have returned to Fort Henry. They report having captured a Confederate gunboat, and states further that they went as far as Florence, Alabama, and destroyed all the other Confederate boats on the river. General Grant has moved his troops two miles inland, where they are still encamped.—Reinforcements were continually arriving and preparations were actively going on for an early movement against Fort Donaldson. The Confederates are confident, it is said, of being able to hold that place. General Pillow is said to be in command, and has been furnished with some of the best artillerists from Columbus. A later despatch states that General Grant has surrounded Fort Donelson, and its early capture is predicted.

It is reported in the Western papers that fifty thousand Federal troops from the army of the Potomac are to be sent to Kentucky, to reinforce the various commands which are now making preparations in that State to cross the Cumberland river and penetrate, by different routes, into Tennessee. Five regiments of infantry, five hundred cavalry and a battery of eight guns, being part of the force under command of General Thomas, are said to have already pushed forward to within twenty-five miles of Cumberland Gap.

The official despatch from Commander Dupont, in relation to the sinking of the second fleet of stone vessels, will unquestionably attract attention in Europe. In the recent correspondence on this subject between Earl Russell and Mr. Seward, the latter asserted that the obstructions were not intended to be permanent, and that the harbor of Charleston was not rendered inaccessible by the stone blockades. Commander Dupont, on the contrary, states that the obstruction to the main channel is complete; and that a portion of Maffit's Channel, the only other available mode of ingress and egress, is also blocked up.

The "legal tender clause" in the Treasury bill, has brought the Senate Committee, whose duty it is to report on the bill, to a dead lock. Three of the Committee being in favor of making the notes a legal tender, and three being opposed to it. It will remain, therefore, for the Senate to decide between them. Various other amendments are proposed to the bill, but as the case is urgent, and as there is said to be a majority ready to pass the bill as it came from the House with, perhaps, some trifling modification, it will, probably, receive the sanction of that body before many days.

FROM ALEXANDRIA.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., February 10, 1862.

Editors News Sheet:—You have no doubt seen in the papers an account of a great outrage committed on a minister of the Episcopal Church, and a peaceful congregation, by some of the military occupying this place, on Sunday morning, 9th inst. The person who led and directed in this glorious contest was a man named Morton, the "detective" who searched several houses here in the dead of the night, taking papers, money, &c., from some, and hunting for deposits in the banks to the credit of others; he is said to act under authority of the powers at Washington, and is, perhaps, one of the officers of the Minister of the secret police, Kennedy, at New York.

The Rev. Mr. Stewart showed great firmness and self-possession when dragged from off his knees by the intrepid dragoons of Illinois, though they did show a disinclination at first to obey the orders of Capt. Farnsworth, to arrest the "rebel and traitor" Stewart.

The wife of the Reverend gentleman was taken home by a neighbor, but his daughter, Mary, fifteen years old, was taken captive by a rude soldiery. I saw her led along behind her father by a Lieutenant (who grasped her firmly by the wrist) to the quarters of Colonel Farnsworth. Her offence, I am told, was saying to the *soldiers*—"you shall not take my father." Only think of what a crime she was guilty!

General Montgomery, who was summoned from church, instantly released her. The "detective" directed the guard "not to let Mr. Stewart return through the streets in his white surplice, &c., *out of respect to the Government*." Mr. Stewart took off his surplice, supposing it would be agreeable to General Montgomery not to attract much attention, and walked down with the General to his quarters, where he was treated like a gentleman, and offered his parole, which he declined, wishing to have the affair settled at once.

After some three hours' detention, the General received an answer to his despatch, and at once liberated Mr. Stewart. The zealous detective and valiant captain appeared to have acted without orders, or to have exceeded their authority, if they had any, for it is understood that their action is disavowed by the President and Secretary of State.

During the examination of Mr. Stewart, a lady was at the door of the house adjoining, and went in. A "soldier" said that "he had sent for his revolver, and if that woman returned to the door, he would shoot her down."

I am informed that a full account of the "Battle of St. Paul's Church" has to-day been sent to the President and General McClellan. If the instigators and perpetrators of the dastardly outrage were properly punished, it would save the Union cause much damage—"if not, not." VIRGINIA.

EUROPE.

Additional by the America.

HALIFAX, Feb. 11.—The papers by the America furnish the following additional items of news:

ENGLAND.

The London *Times* in an editorial says: "We need not be eager to meddle with American affairs. This is a time for awaiting, and we can afford to wait quite as easily as the North and South can afford to be working across the Potomac, at the cost of two millions sterling a week each of them. If there does not come any real cause of complaint, it will tell all the more for our present patience and forbearance."

The London *Globe* editorially remarks that the maritime Powers cannot be expected to respect the Federal blockade unless really effective. The commerce of the world cannot suffer itself to be despoiled for an indefinite period under the mere paper blockade. As to intervention, says the *Globe*, we may be invited, or offered to intervene, but our great aim must be to preserve consistency with our own principles.

In a letter from Mr. Seward to Smith O'Brien, in response to the latter's recently proffered advice, Mr. Seward urges the latter, if he would promote the cause of America, of Great Britain, and of humanity at large, to speak and act in every case, and without qualification, for the American Union. Mr. Seward's tone is highly patriotic for Union, and friendly towards European Powers, in regard to whom he is determined to stand always, not only in the right, but upon the defensive.

George Thompson had again been lecturing at Manchester on American affairs. His remarks were mainly in response to a late speech by Mr. Massey, at Salford, whose statement he branded as absolutely false, and a grievous injustice to the North. The lecturer said the breaking of the blockade would be a wicked and fiendish act, and no greater crime could be committed against any country. He had faith, however, in the pacific and neutral policy of Earl Russell.

The *Times*, in an editorial on Mr. Sumner's speech, protests against any suggestion that England has budged one step from her former position with respect to her rights, whether neutral or belligerent. What she agreed to, at the Congress of Paris, she still stands by, and what she had before limited, only by those concessions, she has still. The case of the Trent has made no new phase whatever.

The Gibraltar *Chronicle* says the United States Consul at Cadiz protested against the assistance given to the Sumter at that port. She was permitted to effect the necessary repairs in the port.

Lord Lyons is gazetted as a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

Lord Palmerston had issued the customary circulars to his supporters in Parliament, soliciting their attendance on the opening on the 6th of February, as matters of considerable importance will be discussed. He and other Parliamentary leaders had also issued invitations to banquets prior to the commencement of the session.

A royal warrant, regulating the amalgamation of the Royal and India armies, is published.

There has been very stormy weather in the Irish Channel. There were several shipwrecks and some loss of life. There were no important American disasters, but some vessels returned to port with slight damage.

FRANCE.

Napoleon, in officially receiving the Papal Nuncio, said:

"His Holiness has already addressed words to me, through Gen. Guyon, which have deeply touched me. I shall always seek to ally the duties of a Sovereign with my devotion to the Holy Father. I do not doubt but that your nomination will contribute to render more intimate the relations that are so essential to the welfare of religion, peace and Christianity."

The London *Globe* construes the Emperor's remarks into a manifestation that his relations with Rome are not harmonious.

It is asserted that France has sent the strongest recommendations to the Pontifical Government to accept terms for the renunciation of the temporal power, in order that French occupation may cease, and the present situation be ended.

It is understood that the Pope's reply shows no disposition to yield.

Statistics show that the English imports into France for 1861 are fifty per cent. above the previous year.

SPAIN.

The Minister of State has declared in Congress that Spain would demand reparation from Mexico on account of the war of independence. It was also stated that Spain had received no official communication respecting any further resolution of France and England in reference to Mexico. He concluded by saying that Spain would fittingly support the interests of Mexico.

From the London (England) Dispatch.

THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE AMERICAN WAR.

By a trick of forensic sleight of hand it is the habit of ignorant politicians or insincere stump orators, and that moral hermaphrodite who combines both characters in every discussion in which he can contrive most falsely to depreciate his own country, to separate one people into two denominations. Up to the Declaration of Independence, every transatlantic settler is called English; after that crisis the same individuals are termed Americans. Every act they did as colonists is laid at the door of England; every feat they performed as successful revolutionists is appropriated to their own credit. Nay, they are positively dissociated from their own acts altogether; and every error and sin they perpetrated is deducted from the sum of their own character, and added to the load of iniquity it pleases them to pile on the back of the mother country. It is by a sorry cheat of this sort that poor old England is charged with the enormities of the "peculiar domestic institution." The colonists were the Americans of the Republic. Each province made its own character, independently, in defiance, in fact, of the authority and laws of the mother country. England had no more to do with the deeds of the colonists, than simply to endure a practical revolt from her allegiance and her constitutional law. Mrs. Hemans has a hymn to the "Pilgrim Fathers," with many fine flourishes about their leaving "unstained what there they found—Freedom to worship God."

The fact is, they were a crew of the most rigid theocratic persecuting bigots that ever made a community miserable and enslaved. Their laws are more abominable than those of Calvin at Geneva. They banished Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson in the earliest years of their settlement for the simple denial of the power of the chief magistrate over the rights of conscience. They executed in cold blood, and without warrant of any competent tribunal, five innocent, pious and enlightened Quakers, for no offence except Nonconformity to Presbyterianism. The same men who founded the colonies bought, bred, or kidnapped the slaves. The very first victory achieved by Massachusetts over the Pequods, was signalized by the psalm-singers of Boston making slaves of all their prisoners. The democrats, who from the moment they set foot on the soil of the new world had practically revolted against the old, were the authors of the system of compulsory servitude, and of holding property in human beings, with the distinct sanction of their Nonconforming ministers, who accompanied every expedition. And when they set the Republic on its legs, as they had made the laws of the colonies, they continued, in the Constitution of the United States, the slavery they had established in the several provinces. When they declared that all men were equal, every State in the Confederation held slaves to compulsory labor. What had the mother country ever had to do with the matter? England, or rather Scotland, had by solemn judgment of her Courts declared every man on British soil free, before the colonists became a Republic.

Well, negro slavery, whatever else it may be, is a distinct and cardinal part and parcel of the Constitution of the United States. Property in their servants is guaranteed by it to the owners under the law. The guarantee is the equivalent of allegiance to the Union. Either sustain the planters in the rights and property secured to them by the Act of Union, or let the Union be dissolved. The Northerners claim a right to violate the articles of Confederation in their own favor, but to compel those to obey that Confederation to whose injury that violation has been perpetrated. Whenever the Republic decreed that the people of the several territories should be left no choice or discretion in the adoption or rejection of slavery as the suffrage of the people should determine, but should be positively prohibited from its use by a body extraneous to themselves, the Constitution was at an end, and the allegiance of the South was forfeited. Nor let there be any mistake as to the motives of the policy which dictated the prohibition. Slavery is identified with agriculture, and therefore with free trade. It was to strengthen the protective system, and to increase the manufacturing, that is, Morrill Tariff interest, not to emancipate slaves, that the North restricted the area of the domestic institution. The case stands exactly thus:—Slavery, the Confederates contend, is the normal state of the mass of mankind in all ages and in all countries—is indeed but another name for the subjection of ignorance to intelligence, and has been at least consistently held by the planters as natural, expedient and just. Their slave property is all the planters possess, or that which gives value to all else. It is counted at £400,000,000 sterling. To secure to them this property the Southerners have submitted to the oppressive monopolies, protective taxes and differential duties of the North; and the Yankees have deliberately sold their conscience and their moral principles, which condemn slavery as an iniquity, to the planters for protection and monopoly, and have given them the Fugitive Slave Law as the wages of their sin. Distort the question as they may, this is the sum and substance of the "situation"—the North has gambled away its soul to the Devil—has bartered the dictates of its moral sense to the slavery of the South for an equivalent in protective duties. At last Yankeedom has hoped to have its cake and eat it—to indulge in the luxury of keeping a conscience and retain its protective system also; the election of Abraham Lincoln proved that the Southerners would lose their slaves without gaining freedom of trade—and so the Federalists fight for empire and the Confederates for independence. The Federal compact has been deliberately broken by the prohibition of slavery beyond the prescribed Southern line, and in law and in equity the planters have a perfect right to advertise a dissolution of the firm. In our apprehension it is a natural and most expedient separation—in the strict sequence of causation. A pure democracy is wholly incompatible with great extension of empire—so huge a tuber could only live by feeding on itself, or securing its own internal tranquillity by making a continual war upon its neighbors. A Republic can only cohere by being compact and homogeneous. When it becomes a huge chaotic imposthume, what can it come to but suppuration, foetor, and mortification?

"The ignorant" and "insolent"—which is League Lancashire for all the people of Great Britain—are indeed told, with the proud humility of Rochdale "pity," that the twenty millions of the North will in a very few years become fifty millions, and that "when that time comes may it not be said that in the darkest hour of their country's trials England looked on with icy coldness!" Well—we might say the South will by that time count thirty millions—and why are we to have no consideration for her? But we are more solicitous to inquire "What the man really would be at?" He distinctly threatens us with the vengeance of these fifty millions, while he denounces, at the same time, what he calls the meanness of our during the division of an enormous Power whose integrity he wishes us to believe threatens us with destruction. Mr. Abraham Lincoln, we may observe *par parenthese*, reckons his future subjects at 250 millions, and we are very certain that so dangerous a power in such ignorant, presumptuous and unscrupulous hands, would destroy the peace and suppress the liberty of the world. The very strength and stability of such a Confederacy would be its most perilous feature. Its irresistible numbers and boundless wealth would make war upon mankind but a safe amusement, and dictation to other Powers the sport of its relentless pride—an excitement to the listlessness of undisputed supremacy—an exercitation to the redundancy of its energy and enterprise.

But such a monster political partnership, governed by its most ignorant, destitute and depraved, or not governed at all, would render continual foreign wars necessary to prevent it from eating in upon itself, would render peace as impossible to Washington as it was to Rome. Nay, in such a congeries of communities of such boundless extent, where the sole power would be held by mere numbers, totally regardless and irrespective of any one qualification for administrative functions, and where intelligence, independent judgment and moral intrepidity would go for nothing in comparison to popular obsequiousness and subserviency to the multitude, it would be utterly impossible to rely upon the efficacy of any of the moral or intelligent motives which govern the ordinary actions either of individuals or of States. "Did you," asks Mr. Bright, "ever know anybody who was not near dead drunk, who, having as much on his hands as he could manage, would offer to fight every body about him?"

We believe these masterless Federalists to be morally dead drunk at this moment, not very sober at any time; and on the occasion of the least opportunity for mischief, in a state of epidemic madness. Texas and California are swallowed—Mexico has been lubricated for deglutition—Cuba has long been marked in—the present Chief Minister of the President has avowed his determination to insult England and to annex Canada. Webster bullied us out of vast possessions in adjusting the boundary line, distinctly offering the alternative of war; the sympathies and active aid of the Republic were given to the Autocrat in the Crimean war; the whole European diplomatic corps of the Union proclaimed at Ostend the manifest destiny of the Republic to be the piracy of the sea, and the burglary of the territory of peaceful nations. In a word, it has long been the avowed and settled policy of the Americans to appropriate the whole of the New World to themselves; and it becomes more and more apparent that the succession to the throne of Barbarous Turkey must be disputed by the Republic.

BARBAROUS TREATMENT OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS AT ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Jan. 22, 1862.—The marked tone of impartiality manifested by the *Leader* toward the two federations of States, in the present war in which the Confederate States are struggling to free themselves from the thraldom of Yankeedom, with its infidelity, free-love, abolition, and a thousand and one other disgusting isms, emboldens me thus to obtrude myself upon you in the hope and belief that the picture I shall draw of the barbarities practiced in this distant State by the Federal authorities, cannot fail to call forth from you a more earnest denunciation than any you have yet uttered against the cruel policy of the Washington Government, in the prosecution of the war now raging among us. In all this land of boasted liberty of the press, there cannot be found, I am safe in saying, a journal of note possessed of the moral courage required to publish the *facts* I shall give you; and it is but proper that men should know how utterly the much vaunted Christianity of the United States has failed of its fruits in the test to which it is being subjected in our present civil war.

Philanthropy is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the age—at least, so we have been taught to believe; and we rejoice with one another in the fact that cruelties such as were wont to be practiced in less enlightened times, no longer receive the sanction of public opinion; that, although the dignity of the law must be vindicated in the punishment of him who breaks it, the transgressor nevertheless is not to be treated with unnecessary harshness, much less wanton cruelty. Even the convicted felon in four jail, about to forfeit his life for the transgression of the law, is benignly shielded by the same code which has condemned him to die, against the cruelty of his keepers, and has his dreadful doom in a measure relieved of its terrors by the very form of death it prescribes him to suffer. But are these alleged changes for the better real, or are they only seeming? Let the history of events now passing in this city and State answer.

Exercising over us the functions of Governor, we have a gentleman of liberal education, and in full communion with one of the most orthodox of the Christian sects.

Judge Gamble has been held up as a pattern man for the younger generation to model themselves upon; and, though never regarded as a man of much warmth of feeling, he has nevertheless always been looked upon as a paragon of justice. Though but little given to protestations of disinterestedness, he has ever been noted for his scrupulous compliance with his promise.

We have also over us, in the capacity of military commander, a gentleman of like liberal education—in fact, a graduate of the National School at West Point. It is true General Halleck has not, for some years past, been engaged in martial studies, but has devoted his energies to the more humanizing pursuits of civil life. By his many "General Orders" and allusions in these to military law, and from the fact that he has devoted himself to the legal profession since his resignation in the army, he might have been supposed to be imbued with those principles of justice which constitute the groundwork of all law.

Under such men, we ought not to expect acts of cruelty to be committed that would put a Camanche to the blush; yet, such acts have marked the military administration of the one, while the civil ruler has looked on with that cool indifference which has ever been the characteristics of the man, when he or his are not the sufferers.

A little more than four weeks ago, there were placed in the military prison at McDowell's College, in this city, seven hundred and thirty prisoners of war, captured by General Pope in one of his raides in the interior of this State; and additions to their numbers, from time to time, have now swelled the aggregate to more than one thousand. From the want of adequate bed-covering these cold nights—the blankets they had at the time of their capture having been in many instances stolen from them by their captors—from the want of wholesome food; from overcrowding and deficient ventilation, and from the introduction amongst them of measles and typhoid fever, over seventy of these wretched men have already died at the College alone, to say nothing of those who had been removed to the hospitals in the city and there died. More than two hundred more of them are now lying there sick. Of all these men, there is not a single one who would not have been made comfortable by friends in the city, had these been allowed access to their prison, or to send good warm clothing and other necessaries to them; but this has been denied. Even the sick among them are not allowed to receive anything whatever from without; and there they continue to lie on the bare planks, which comprise their only bed, without so much as a wisp of straw under them, or, in some instances, a blanket to cover them—nothing whatever, in short, to protect them against the biting blasts of these mid-winter nights, save the worn, torn and filthy garments they have had on their backs.

Ever since their capture—five weeks ago—there they have been dying-victims of the barbarous cruelty of "the most beneficent government the sun ever shone upon" (!) And all because they would not tamely submit to the invasion of what they believed to be their rights by bands of hirelings from other States! The same food that is doled out to the healthy, constitutes the diet of the sick; it consists of a slop made from coffee-grounds, bean soup and bad pork. It was even denied to some kind ladies, a few days ago, to send in some tea, rice and sugar to the sick among them, lest this act of humanity should be construed by the prisoners into a "manifestation of sympathy with the rebellion," on the part of the donors! Until a few days, the poor fellows were without wash-basins, soap, towels and combs, so that their condition may be easily imagined. The persistence of the ladies, however, was finally crowned with success, and a "permit" was granted for the introduction into the prison of an abundance of each of these articles.

The facts I have now stated, and others which my time will not permit me to enumerate, were brought to the knowledge of our State Executive by both ladies and gentlemen; the latter having been eye-witnesses of the sufferings they described. This was done in the hope of obtaining his influence with the military authorities for the amelioration of those sufferings. He was appealed to in the name of our common humanity and of the obligations of Christian charity, to spare no time, but to bestir himself instantly in behalf of these poor creatures; but all to no purpose.—While His Excellency politely bows to the ladies, and grows red in the face, he tells them their sympathies have been aroused by mere idle street rumor, without the least foundation in fact whatever; that no humane man would permit such treatment towards his horse, and that, as a consequence, it is impossible an United States army officer could practise such cruelty towards his enemy. With the gentlemen he is more frank, and declares that, even if all they tell him of the treatment received by the prisoners be true, "they are still traitors, who were taken in arms against their government, and therefore not entitled to any more kindness than they had received; and that it would not be for them to complain if their imprisonment should be rendered even more painful than it yet had been." In the meantime, Death is at his work; and from four to seven daily pass to that "bourne whence no traveler returns."

Latterly, from very shame it would seem, the authorities have been causing those who are most dangerously ill to be removed to the various hospitals under their charge, in the city; and already a hundred, perhaps, have been so disposed of. Even among these the change with some at least cannot be of that agreeable character to render it particularly pleasant to dwell upon hereafter, if they should recover; for if possible they have been made to suffer more when surrounded by the "loyal soldiers" that crowd the wards and who are not sparing of their taunts of the "secesh," than when at the College prison in the company of their own fellows only. Neither is the nursing had or received particularly noted for its kindness or gentleness, as the following facts will show. A young gentleman—a son of one of the best known "union men" of this city—was conveyed to the hospital early one afternoon, very ill with pneumonia. His mother remained by his bed-side till driven away at dusk, her entreaties to be permitted to remain with him all night being in vain. The next morning she was at her post as soon as the doors were opened, carrying in her hands a bowl of some soothing drink for which her son on the previous day had expressed a desire. She was forced to give this up, however, being told that the patients were permitted to receive nothing whatever from friends outside.

That unhappy man had been permitted to pass the whole of that long night, in sight of the water bucket, parched up with fever, and yet unable to procure a drop of the cooling fluid, because the nurse of that ward did not present himself once in all these hours of suffering; nor did the sufferer receive a visit from the surgeon of the ward before 10 o'clock the morning after his entrance; every thing in the house being conducted on the most *systematic* plan, as well the visiting of the sick by the medical attendants as also the *dying of these same patients!* Another poor creature who in his delirium had risen from his bed, was most effectually disposed of by his humane nurse, to prevent his disturbing the rest of his neighbors, by being *strapped down to his bed*. The next morning the man was found precisely as when the nurse had left him the previous evening, *except* that he was now *dead!*

But I hear you ask, "Can it be possible that General Halleck is aware of these things and yet takes no steps to remedy the evil?" There are more here besides the writer who believe this; for, in addition to the rumors respecting the cruelty shown these prisoners that have been the town-talk for several weeks, the newspapers have cautiously alluded to it on one or two occasions; and it is presumed the personage in question, or some of his staff, sometimes deign to read these. The General himself is perfectly unapproachable, however, his time being principally taken up with devising systems of assessment against men and women—aye, even widows *suspected* of sympathy with the "rebels," whose crime is not in having given aid or comfort to the enemies of the "beneficent Government," but in having been born in slave States, and being consequently possessed of natural sympathy for those who are denounced as everything that is bad under the sun.

I have omitted to say that, in at least one instance, a dying man was prohibited by Gen. Halleck, *directly*, from receiving the last rites of his religion; the priest who received the summons to his bedside, and who appealed *twice* to Halleck for permission to answer the call, being as often refused the desired "pass!" Was not the London *Times* right in saying not long since that the effect of the war is to "brutalize" the public mind of the North? Besides the "signs" that writer adduced to substantiate his proposition, and which were deduced from the action of Lincoln's administration exclusively, there may be mentioned still another, which did not exist a month ago, and which, for some at least, possesses peculiar significance. I allude to the recent appointment of the blood-thirsty Lane to a Brigadier-Generalship, with a *carte blanche* to "put the business through" in the department of Kansas.

From the New York Tribune, Feb. 11.

GENERAL McCLELLAN.

Some of our cotemporaries are very much exercised at the statement, recently and repeatedly made in these columns, that the President has devolved the management of the military authority he requires, and that General McClellan is discharging the functions of Commander-in-Chief. By some strange coincidence, the journals most afflicted at this intelligence, are those hitherto remarkable for their ardent sympathy with Slavery and Secession. None of those which zealously contend for the uncompromising and unrelenting prosecution of the war, and the crushing out of the rebellion without regard to the feelings of the Confederates, have made any exhibition of danger or of despondency at the idea that another will and another intelligence than McClellan's had undertaken the task of giving unity and the general impulse to operations in the field. But as the self-appointed advocates of General McClellan have undertaken to darken the real facts in the case, we propose briefly to set them forth anew for the public information.

1. Gen. McClellan remains the senior Major General and titular chief commander in the armies of the Union, being superior in rank to every other officer, Gen. Fremont and Gen. Halleck ranking next after him.

2. He also commands the army of the Potomac as heretofore.

3. His advice is constantly sought by the President (as is that of other competent men) as to the conduct of the campaign, and where it is approved it is followed, but where it is not approved it is not followed. As yet, however, we believe the instances of serious disagreement have been few; but there have been such instances, when the President, acting upon his own judgment, has given orders contrary to the wish of Gen. McClellan.

4. The most important changes in this direction made since the advent of the new Secretary of War have consisted in ordering the commanders of Western Departments, Gen. Buell, Gen. Halleck, and Gen. Hunter, to report directly to the War Department, instead of reporting to Gen. McClellan, as heretofore; and in putting them into official communication and co-operation with each other, which Gen. McClellan had constantly refused or neglected to do. Thus, for instance, it was previously necessary for Buell and Halleck to go to McClellan at Washington for leave or for orders, in case they wished to make any combined movement. Now they have the necessary freedom of action; and whenever, for instance, Gen. Halleck and Gen. Pope feel themselves ready of taking Price and his army captive, as we know they feel about six weeks ago, and have made all their arrangements for the purpose, they will no longer be forbidden to strike the blow by telegraph from the senior Major-General. Or when Gen. Halleck sees that as Fort Columbus is half under water now is the day to attack it, he will be allowed to act upon his own judgment as a man fit to command a hundred thousand men should be, and to go ahead.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* of February 8th, says:

Our readers will recollect that a few days ago Congress, evidently under the urgency of a special request from the military authorities, passed a law authorizing Government to take possession of railroads, and all their rolling stock. They will also have noticed that Mr. Scott, the very able Assistant Secretary of War, is now mysteriously in Indianapolis. It looks as though the Washington army might go into action by coming this way.

Arthur Brown was arrested at Fairfield, Conn., on Friday morning by Deputy United States Marshal Sherman, and taken to Fort Lafayette, by virtue of an order from the Secretary of State.—The prisoner has been a resident of New York, and is a young man about thirty years of age.—The charges against him are unknown.

There are now at Perryville over twelve hundred four and six-mule teams ready for service, exclusive of upwards of four hundred and fifty which have been transferred to the Quartermaster at Washington and Annapolis.

The Andover Theological Seminary has one hundred and sixteen students, of whom ten are resident licentiates, forty belong to the senior, thirty-six to the middle, and thirty to the junior class.

DIED.

On the morning of the 11th instant, Mr. GEORGE WELSLAGER, in the 8 th year of his age.

His relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on this (Wednesday) afternoon, at two o'clock, from his late residence, 43 S. Liberty street.

On the 11th instant, SELENA, aged 10 months and 18 days, youngest child of Seorna and the late Capt. George McLane.

On the 9th instant, at his residence, in Harford county, JOHN KELLY STUMP, in the 26th year of his age.

At Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Monday morning, February 10th, WILLIAM H., only and beloved son of William H. and Frances H. Beginbottom, aged 1 year, 5 months and 27 days.

In Washington, on the 10th instant, CHARLES WASHINGTON, infant son of Wm. Alfred and Mary A. Ray, aged 1 year, 7 months and 10 days.

HEALTH OFFICE, Baltimore, Feb 10, 1862.

Report of Deaths in the City of Baltimore, for the week ending Monday morning.

Burn 1; child-bed 4; concussion of the brain 1; consumption 18; croup 7; dropsy 1; dropsy in head 1; bilious fever 1; catarrhal fever 3; scarlet fever 11; typhoid fever 2; inflammation of brain 1; inflammation of lungs 5; measles 3, old age 7; organic disease of heart 4; pleurisy 1; small pox 1; teething 2; unknown a aid 2; unknown infantile 10—total 88.

Under 1 year, 21; between 1 and 2, 11; between 2 and 5, 11; between 5 and 10, 4; between 10 and 15, 2; between 15 and 20, 5; between 20 and 30, 2; between 30 and 40, 14; between 40 and 50, 3; between 50 and 60, 2; between 60 and 70, 4; between 70 and 80, 2; between 80 and 90, 7; between 90 and 100, 0; above 100, 0. Still-births 3.

Males 38, females 50. Of which number 7 were colored persons—7 free; 0 slaves. By order,

CHAS. H. BRADFORD, Commissioner of Health

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