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BALTIMORE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the House of Delegates on Saturday the Committee on Currency reported unfavorably on the bill authorizing the banks to issue small notes. A bill was reported amending the laws relating to the payment of specie by the banks. The joint resolutions respecting the permanent location of the naval school at Annapolis were amended and passed.

The latest despatches received at St. Louis prove that Fort Donelson, though in great danger of capture, had not been taken as previously announced. The fighting has been most desperate—all the gunboats are reported to have been pretty effectually disabled. Commodore Foote was twice wounded, but not seriously. He has left the scene of action and has arrived at St. Louis. The upper redoubt which commands the main work of Fort Donelson is said to have been captured, and Gen. Grant has telegraphed to headquarters that he would be able to take the main-work yesterday.—Whether he has succeeded in making his promise good, will not be known until still later news reaches here.

The Northern and Southern papers continue to furnish many interesting particulars relating to the capture of Roanoke and the offensive and defensive operations which have since occurred. The total naval force engaged in the attack upon the island consisted, according to the correspondent of the New York *Times*, of seventy vessels—inclusive of thirty-seven transports, tugs and tenders—mounting, in all, ninety-one guns. The land force detailed for the same service is stated, in the correspondence of the New York *Herald*, to have been composed of fourteen regiments and one battalion. These regiments, it is stated, "were organized into three brigades, and were exclusive of the forces held in reserve and not actually in the fight." From Southern sources we learn that Commodore Lynch was not taken prisoner; that ex Governor Wise was at Currituck bridge with the remnant of his forces; that General Henningsen was at Newby's bridge, twenty-five miles north of Elizabeth City, and that three Confederate gunboats, of the six that constituted Lynch's squadron in the Sound, were saved. Of the remaining three, two—the Sea Bird and the Ellis—were captured, and the third—the Fanny—was burned, to prevent her from falling a prize to the Federal gunboats.

Elizabeth City was only partially destroyed. All the inhabitants, it is reported, were called upon to come forward within four days to take the oath of allegiance. If they refused, their property at, the expiration of that time, was to be confiscated, and themselves made prisoners. Edenton and Hertford—the latter being a small town on the Perquimon river midway between Elizabeth City and Edenton, have been taken by the Federal troops, and the popular impression at Richmond is that Burnside will attempt to ascend the Chowan and Blackwater rivers which, if successful, would give him the chance of attacking Norfolk in the rear, or of advancing upon Weldon and cutting off communication South at that point. Preparations have been made to dispute the march of the Federal troops inland; but the papers are entirely silent as to the extent of those preparations, and as respects the ability of the Confederate authorities to meet successfully the emergency. The Richmond *Examiner* however states that the "measures of defence taken by the Government, show a promptness and vigor deserving at once the public praise and the public confidence." We note, moreover, that the recent disasters on the seaboard, and in Tennessee and Kentucky have stimulated, in many instances, the twelve months men, whose term of service was about expiring, to re-enlist. The members of Captain Edelin's company of the 1st Maryland regiment have relinquished their furlough and left Richmond for Goldsboro'. The 40th Virginia regiment, a considerable number of the 57th, and some fifty thousand troops on the line of the Potomac are reported, in the Richmond papers, as having already consented to re-enlist for the war.

From Southern sources also we learn that the Federal forces were quite active in pushing their operations for the capture of Savannah. They occupied Wall's Cut, into which piles had been driven to impede the progress of the gunboats, and were likewise in possession of Wright's river, "which affords an easy passage," we are told, "into the Savannah river." A large body of Federal troops was encamped on Warsaw Island.

A telegram from Louisville, Kentucky, dated February 15th, states that the Confederates were evacuating Bowling Green. The Federal troops under General Mitchell had succeeded, by a forced march, in reaching the river at that point; but as the bridge had been burnt by the Confederates, were compelled to delay the pursuit until a new bridge was constructed.

The arrival of the Asia puts us in possession of advices from Europe to the 2d inst. The general tenor of the English news is not favorable to an early recognition of the Southern Confederacy.—Cotton has advanced one half of a cent per pound. An order from Earl Russell prohibits the vessels of either of the American belligerents from remaining in any British port for a longer period than twenty-four hours. In this, the example set by France and Spain has been followed. To vessels driven in by stress of weather, provisions may be supplied; but only such quantities of coal as may be sufficient to carry the vessel to the nearest port of her own country. The Confederate steamer Sumter was still at Gibraltar, and it was rumored that the Tuscarora had gone to the Mediterranean.

General Lander reports to the War Department that on Friday morning last he surprised, attacked, and defeated a detachment of Confederates at Blooming Gap, killing thirteen and taking seventy-five prisoners. Among the latter were seventeen commissioned officers. General Dunning has also captured at Moorefield, forty miles south of Romney, two hundred and twenty beef cattle and broken up the guerilla haunt there.

President Lincoln has caused a letter to be published thanking General Burnside and Flag-Officer Goldsborough, and also General Grant and Flag-Officer Foot, for their gallant achievements in the capture of Roanoke Island and Fort Henry.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

THE ASSEMBLY AND THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

From the Providence (Rhode Island) Press.

The action of our State Senate yesterday, in voting down by nearly a two-third's vote, the resolution "requesting" our Senators in Congress to support the legal-tender clause of the treasury note bill, is truly gratifying. Even in this modified form, the resolution, intended to fetter them on a subject which demands their moral firmness, failed to command an approach to a majority. With remarkable appropriateness, the first vote against the resolution was given by Lieut. Gov. Arnold, the historian of our State. We should indeed have been surprised if, with his knowledge of the trouble which our Rhode Island ancestors suffered from legislation of this character, he had given any but an adverse vote concerning a measure which will debase the currency and degrade the Government.

To this we add the essential portion of the resolutions just passed by the popular Assembly of the State of New York, by a vote of 79 yeas to 28 nays:

It is in the judgment of this Legislature, that the Federal Government could never be subjected, under any exigency, to any probable rate of interest, or depreciation in the value of its stocks, so damaging to its credit, and so injurious to the people, as the obtaining of funds by the emission of Government paper, to be made a legal tender between debtor and creditor, or by the creation of a stock without specific security for the prompt payment of interest and ultimate redemption of the principal.

A BRITISH TRUMP IN THE UNION ARMY.—The following is an extract of a letter from a soldier in the Union army, serving in Virginia, addressed to a gentleman in Montreal:

"I am delighted to perceive in the paper received from you this day, that the citizens of Montreal contemplate the erection of a statue of her Majesty Queen Victoria—(God bless her!) You will find enclosed in this letter two dollars in gold—none of your treasury notes—which you will please hand to the committee entrusted with the carrying out of this truly noble undertaking, as the humble contribution of a British trump! Although I am on the 'Yankee side of Jordan' you may rely upon it, Bill, that I am still as true to the old flag as any living white man. You are aware that I never enlisted in the American service to fight against my own blood, or against any of England's loyal sons, and if a war between England and the United States should unfortunately grow out of present difficulties, I shall at once demand my discharge, even though I should be threatened with Fort Lafayette—aye, even though the very gallows were staring me in the face. And I am only one out of many hundreds here who make similar choice."

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

American Belligerents Not to Enter British Ports.

THE NASHVILLE AND TUSCARORA ORDERED AWAY.

THE STONE BLOCKADE.

SPAIN AND MEXICAN INTERVENTION.

MICABLE FEELING OF FRANCE TO WARD AMERICA.

The steamship Asia, which sailed from Liverpool on the morning of the 1st, and from Queenstown on the 2d, arrived at New York early on Saturday morning.

The Etna—the collision of which with the ship Cheviot was reported by the Jura—reached Liverpool from Holyhead on the day the Asia sailed, and would forthwith transfer her passengers and cargo to the steamer Edinburgh.

It was doubtful if the Edinburgh would get away before the 3d. Water only found its way into the fore compartment of the Etna—the cargo was therefore not damaged.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BELLIGERENT VESSELS NOT TO ENTER BRITISH PORTS.

The official London *Gazette* contains a letter from Earl Russell to the Admiralty, in which either of the American belligerents is prohibited from using British ports. The port of Nassau and other ports of the Bahama Islands are specially mentioned. When driven in by stress of weather, provisions may be supplied, but only such quantity of coal as may be sufficient to carry the vessel to the nearest port of her own country is to be given, and no second supply is to be allowed to the same ship in the same port within a period of three months.

THE NASHVILLE AND TUSCARORA.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian* says:

"When the Tuscarora left Southampton, notice was given to the Nashville to quit within the twenty-four hours. But Captain Pegram having represented that obedience would involve certain destruction, not only to his ship, but to his crew—for that he expected the Tuscarora would show him no mercy, and would in all probability send both ship and men to the bottom—some extension of time has been granted from considerations of humanity. Still, the nuisance of having to keep a frigate watching two enemies' ships, lest they should convert the Solent into a battle-field, and pound each other to pieces within hail of the yacht club-houses of Cowes or Calshot Castle, has, it is reported, decided our Government to follow the example of France and Spain, in issuing a proclamation to forbid the armed ships of either belligerent from remaining more than twenty-four hours in any British port."

THE STONE BLOCKADE.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian* writes:

"Mr. Seward's explanation to Lord Lyons, that the sinking of the stone fleet was not meant to inflict permanent injury on the harbor of Charleston, but was merely the substitution of a blockade by submerged granite blocks for one by floating cruisers, is seized upon as an unguarded admission, which cuts away from Mr. Seward's feet the ground for maintaining the efficiency of the blockade. International law, it is said, as little recognizes a stone blockade as a paper one. It is remarked that if our Government were disposed to upset the blockade, Mr. Seward has furnished them with quite as good a handle as the list which Mr. Lindsay is to produce, when Parliament meets, of 500 or 700 ships (I heard both numbers stated) which have run the blockade. It is now, however, generally anticipated that the Government will not give way to the pressure put upon them in the direction of Southern wishes and interests; but that they will stand out for the policy of maintaining the neutral position we have hitherto held."

AMERICAN FINANCES.

The London *Times* remarks: "It is essential to remember, in every calculation that may now be made on American finance, that the Northern outlay represents only a portion of the whole. If the Confederates should be vanquished, they can scarcely be so crushed as to be forced back into the Union under the condition that the Union shall be liable for the debts of the North and not for those of the South; and, on the other hand, supposing the Confederates able to establish their independence, the North will be left to sustain the whole of its own burdens with a heavy reduction of population and territory.

"The position of the stocks of individual States is far less hazardous than that of United States stocks. In relation to other securities, such as those based on railways, mines, &c., not immediately on the scene of war, there is perhaps little ground for apprehension."

COTTON.

Mr. Barnes, member of Parliament for Bolton, in addressing his constituents, protested, on commercial and political grounds, against the breaking of the American blockade; and strongly urged that the surest way of permanently benefiting the cotton trade was to turn every attention towards the development of the resources of India.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the American question—more particularly as it affects the supply of cotton—was debated at length, and a policy of strict neutrality on the part of England was very generally urged by the speakers. A proposition that the Chamber should open a conference with the New York Chamber of Commerce, with a view to seeing how far the influence of the commercial world could be brought to bear upon and put an end to the melancholy strife, was brought forward and approved of.

DISTRESS IN MANCHESTER.

A deputation from the Manchester and Salford Provident Society waited upon the Guardians of the Poor for the township of Manchester, on the 23d, for the purpose of conferring with the Board on the subject of the wide-spread distress which at present exists. It was urged that there were many cases of indigence which were not likely to be reached by the poor-law machinery, and various suggestions were made as to the best mode of conveying relief to those who cannot be induced to submit to the conditions under which grants are made by the Board. The Chairman said "he was pretty sure, in the main, that no modification in the orders and rules of the Poor-law Board would be obtained," and in the meantime the labor-test would necessarily be applied whenever applications were made for outdoor relief. The Guardians would, however, do everything in their power to meet the prevailing distress, and their arrangements for effecting that object were, he believed, as complete as those of any Union in the kingdom.

THE PRIVATEER SUMTER.

A Cunard steamer, which had arrived at Liverpool with Gibraltar dates to the 25th of January, reports that the privateer Sumter was still at Gibraltar at that date, and there is no confirmation of the reported engagement between the Sumter and another vessel in the Mediterranean.

Admiral Bruce writes that the report of the Tuscarora having anchored off Osborne was a mistake, another vessel having been mistaken for her.

It was rumored that the Tuscarora had gone to the Mediterranean.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Herald* says:

"Letters from Marseilles state that the utmost consternation prevails among the American shipmasters in that harbor ever since the presence of the Sumter in the Mediterranean has been ascertained. I hear that an attempt has been made to induce the French Government to grant a convoy, and that the American Consul is said to have written to the Captain of the Tuscarora requesting him to take his ship to the Mediterranean as soon as possible."

THE COLONIES.

The projected British North American Association had been duly organized at a public meeting in London. The association seeks to become the exponent of colonial interests and opinion in England. Many influential men had joined it.

THE MEXICAN INTERVENTION.

The *Oesterreichische Post* of Vienna publishes a long article refuting the rumor that the Archduke Maximilian of Austria had accepted the offer of the crown of Mexico, and charging the Emperor Napoleon with a design to found a throne, as his uncle did, to place his brothers or generals on it.

The *Correspondencia*, of Madrid, also publishes the following semi-official declaration: "For the second time we have to repeat, in reply to a statement made by the *Contemporaneo*, that the Spanish Government has entered into no engagement to place Archduke Maximilian of Austria on the throne of Mexico. Nor is there any truth in the report that the Spanish Government has come to an agreement with any other government to found a new monarchy in the ancient Spanish monarchy. The Mexicans are at liberty to select their own form of government, and a head for their state which suits them best, and the conduct of Spain will be limited to see that such new government carries out the enactments of the treaties which exist between Mexico and Spain."

FRANCE.

The French company formed for establishing regular steam communication between France and the West Indies and New York, are under contract to provide eleven steamers for the service.

The comments of the French press on the Emperor's speech are generally favorable. Of the American portion of the speech, the *Siecle* says: "Contrary to what several journals endeavor to accredit, the Emperor declares himself very clearly in favor of neutrality in the American dispute. So long as the rights of neutrals shall be respected, France will remain a spectator of that civil war, which, we trust, will finish by an approaching victory of the North over the revolted South. We have expressed too often our hopes in favor of the northern states of America, to render it necessary to return at present to that question."

The *Opinion Nationale*, after quoting the Emperor's words relative to America, says: "This significant phrase, of which we are most happy to take note, shows that the intervention talked of by certain French journals is a mere chimera, and fully justifies the system of neutrality which we have always advocated."

The Bourse on the 31st was firm—rentes closed at 71.20.

The official documents laid before the French Chambers on American affairs express the regret of the French Government at the civil war, and the friendly feeling of the Emperor towards the United States. On the sixth December the French Ambassador in London read M. Thouvenel's despatch on the Trent affair to Earl Russell, who stated how sensible the Government were of the support given to them in this circumstance by France. On the eleventh January, after the difficulty was settled, the French Ambassador in London was again desired to acknowledge the efficiency of the good offices of France, which, in the opinion of the English Cabinet, had powerfully contributed to induce the Government of the Union to restore the prisoners seized on board the Trent.

HOLLAND.

A new Ministry had been formed as follows: Minister of Interior, M. Thorbecke; Foreign Affairs, M. Stratenus; Finance, M. Betz; War, M. Blanken; Colonies, M. Uplenbek.

RUSSIA.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* announces that the assembly of the nobles at Moscow had decided upon proposing to the Emperor the application of the principle of election to the administration of justice, and that the taxes should be collected in the provinces by persons elected for the purpose, instead of by the functionaries appointed by the state.

An imperial decree has been published ordering the publication of the budget for 1862

TURKEY, &c.

An Imperial Hatt has been published at Constantinople announcing that the budget will soon be forthcoming. It also places Fuad Pasha over the financial department:

The Turkish troops in the Herzegovina had advanced as far as Glaceza. The majority of the inhabitants withdrew into Austrian territory. Those who were armed stopped at the frontier. All the insurgents in the neighborhood, except a band numbering about one hundred men, dispersed on the approach of the Turkish troops.

Advices from Athens announce that M. Mianli's ministry had been replaced by a new ministry, under the presidency of M. Kanaris. A popular demonstration had taken place in favor of the latter. The streets of Athens were traversed by patrols. The troops were not allowed to leave their barracks.

A Conference of the Great Powers had been held at the official residence of Ali Pasha to consider the present state of affairs in Syria. The result is not stated.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Additional telegrams by the Brazilian mail via Lisbon represent that Urquiza's fleet had been taken by the Buenos Ayreans, and the last means of prolonging the disturbance of the country would thus appear to have been extinguished. The tone both of political and commercial affairs had in consequence considerably improved.

THE LATEST.

By Telegraph to Queenstown.

LONDON, Saturday evening.—Funds have been rather firmer to-day, and consols have improved ⅛ per cent. British railway stocks dull, but not lower.

Twenty-eight miners have been suffocated in Styria, owing to a hut at the mouth of the pit taking fire, the smoke from which was drawn down the workings.

The *Shipping Gazette* says: "There is little doubt that the French Government will follow our example in imposing still more stringent obligations of neutrality on French subjects in reference to the American belligerents. Confederates and Federals will be thus compelled to keep the sea, or shelter in such ports as still remain open to them on the American seaboard. The tendency of the enforcement of such neutrality is certainly towards restricting the maritime operations of both parties, and is, so far, a protection to maritime commerce."

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—The funds on the 31st were dull, but without any material changes. Consols Closed at 92¾@92⅞.

The demand for money was brisker, but best bills were still taken at 2¾@2¾ per cent.

Messrs. Baring Brothers & Company say of American securities:—Business continues very limited, and prices are mostly nominal they are matters of quotation in case of sales.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET—February 1.—The Brokers' Circular says:—"When it was announced early in the week that no European intervention was meditated in American affairs, the market at once showed renewed firmness, and, for a while, a certain amount of activity; prices of American advanced about ¼d., and although there has been a more quiet tone subsequently, the advance stated is well maintained." As regards the other sorts, Brazils favor buyers; lower qualities of Egyptians are fully ¼d. dearer, and the better kinds of Surats have advanced ½d. The week's business has been 45,000 bales, including 14,720 taken for speculation and 7,030 for export. Yesterday (Friday) the sales were estimated at 6,000 bales—one-half for speculation and export—the market closing steady. The official quotations are:

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	14d.	13d.
Mobile	13½d.	12½d.
Uplands	13¾d.	12¾d.

Stock on hand 646,440—of which 216,890 are American. The quantity at sea from India is 108,000 bales, against 76,000 same time last year.

TRADE AT MANCHESTER—opened firmer in the early part of the week, but a dull feeling prevailed yesterday, and business was quiet. The week's operations, however, have been larger than of late.

Brendstuffs.—Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co., Wakefield, Nash & Co., Bigland, Athya & Co., report—Flour slow at 29s.@32s. Wheat steady at Tuesday's rates—red Western 10s. 10d.; Southern 12s. 3d.@12s. 6d.; white Western 12s. 6d.@12s. 9d.; Southern 13s.@13s. 3d. Corn quiet—mixed 31s.@31s. 3d.; yellow 31s. 3d.@31s. 6d.; white 34s.@37s.

Provisions—Beef quiet and the turn lower. Pork neglected, although offered at a further decline of 2s. 6d. Bacon—Here doing, but at low prices. Lard again lower; choice new offered at 46s.; old, 44@45s. Tallow continues quiet—Butchers' Association, 47s.

Produce—The Brokers' Circular quotes—Ashes at 34@35s. for pots, and 35s. for pearls. Rosin steady at 13s. 3d.@13s. 6d. for common. Spirits of Turpentine quiet at 68s.@70s., with retail lots at 72s. Sugar dull and favoring buyers. Coffee steady. Rice in limited demand—in tierces Carolina sold at 37s. Bark—Small sales of Philadelphia at 12s., and Baltimore at 10s. Hemp in some demand for shipment to America. Cod Oil sells at £38. Linseed Oil quiet at 35s.

LONDON MARKETS.—Messrs. Baring Bros & Co. report. Breadstuffs without improvement. White American Wheat 60s.@62s; red 56s.@60s. Flour 29s.@31s. Iron steady at 55s.@55s. 6d. for bars and rails. Scotch pigs at 48s. 9d.@49s. Coffee firmer. Tea firm at full prices. Rice very dull. Sugars quiet and unchanged. Tallow improved early in the week, but afterwards became quiet—Y. C. 47s. Spirits Turpentine very quiet—American offered at 69s. Linseed Cake unaltered. Sperm Oil nominal at £95@£96; Cod £40. Linseed Oil rather lower, but closes steady at 35s. 9d.

GLASGOW MARKET.—Messrs. John McCall & Co. report: Breadstuffs dull and prices unchanged since the 28th instant. Extra State Flour 30s. Mixed Corn 18s. 6d. per 280 pounds.

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

A Democratic State Convention was held at Middletown, Conn., on Wednesday, and the following nominations were made:

For Governor, James C. Loomis, of Bridgeport; for Lieutenant-Governor, Charles F. Pond, of Hartford; for Secretary of State, N. B. Stevens, of Norfolk; for Comptroller, Horace Taylor, of Vernon; for Treasurer, F. H. C. Kingsbury.

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Democratic party, having from its organization been the party of the Union, faithful and true to its best interests, maintaining its dignity in war and in peace, against the assaults and insinuations of foreign and domestic foes; and—

Whereas, The present deplorable condition of the country results from a departure from its time honored and conservative principles; and—

Whereas, We fully believe that the Union cannot be restored until the principles and spirit of Democracy prevail in the Administration of the Federal and State Governments, and that the triumph of the Democratic party offers the only reasonable hopes of awakening the dormant Union sentiment of the South, which can be aroused only by the assurance of safety and equality in the Union; therefore—

RESOLVED, That the present extraordinary condition of our national affairs, in which we have been involved through the pernicious counsels of fanatics, urgently calls upon every Democrat to again rally under the time-honored banner of that political organization which has, in war as well as in peace, in prosperity and adversity, ever proved faithful to the Union, the Constitution, the Government and the Laws, and which banner we will continue to blend with the glorious stars and stripes.

Resolved, That resting their organization upon the patriotism of its well-tried principles, and still renewing their unswerving fidelity to the Constitutional Government, which they have for more than three-quarters of a century unflinchingly upheld, (whether assaulted by Northern abolitionists or Southern secession,) the Democracy of Connecticut earnestly appeal to all conservative citizens to unite with them in sustaining the President in all constitutional efforts to suppress the rebellion, restore the Union, and to defend our country against all foes, whether from home or abroad; and we invite the co-operation of all who are opposed to the revolutionary element which is now making war upon the President and the gallant General McClellan, for the purpose of converting the war against secession and rebellion into a struggle for the emancipation of slaves in violation of the obligations of the Constitution.

Resolved, That in all propositions likely to result in a satisfactory adjustment of the matters in dispute between the North and the South, and especially such measures as would have secured the border States to the Union and a hearty co-operation on their part in all constitutional and legal measures, and procure the return of the seceded States, the Republican party assumed a fearful responsibility, acted in utter disregard of the best interests of the whole country, and stamped itself as wanting in patriotism, and destitute of that sound political principle which should actuate a party having in its hands the destinies of a great people.

Resolved, That the Republican party, who promised a reformation of the honesty and purity of the Washingtonian administration, has, in the disclosures of fraud and corruption brought to light by the Congressional Investigating Committee, shown a demoralization not only unknown before in the States, but unheard of and unprecedented in the history of the nation.

Resolved, That in the present distracted condition of the country, its financial interests demand the earnest attention of the people, and such a system of direct taxation should be initiated by Congress as would form a proper and true basis of public credit; and we unhesitatingly condemn the idea of issuing irredeemable paper as a legal tender, as a violation of the spirit of the Constitution, destructive to private rights, and an unwarranted interference with existing contracts, and in the highest degree demoralizing to the financial credit of the United States.

Resolved, That the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and the arrest of freemen without due process of law in States where there is no pretence of a military necessity therefor, is inconsistent with the principles of a free government, and is utterly condemned by the Democratic party of this State.

From the N. Y. Evening Post. Feb. 13.

GENERAL STONE'S ARREST.

The arrest of General Stone occasions a good deal of remark, both in private circles and in the newspapers. We take for granted that this officer has been talking very imprudently, at least. He is absurdly attached to the institution of slavery, although a Massachusetts man, which makes the shame the greater. We shall not wonder if it be fully proved that he has been guilty of "conduct" —to use a military phrase—"unbecoming an officer" in the service of the United States, and such as to make it proper that he should answer for it before a court-martial. It will not much surprise us if it should be made to appear that he has so often and so emphatically expressed himself in favor of stopping at a certain point in the attempt to put down the rebellion as to do mischief and make his continuance in the army undesirable.

A court-martial will settle these points, and we see that a speedy trial is promised him, which is just and proper. But we think it our duty to observe that he might have been guilty of all these improprieties without being a traitor. A private letter from a well-informed and fair-minded man in Washington says:

"I have seen our Massachusetts officers who were in the battle of Ball's Bluff, and heard from others of the Twenty-eighth who were lookers-on; I have also seen an officer of high rank in the California regiment (Baker's); they all concur in putting on Baker the responsibility of the Ball's Bluff disaster. Within a month General Scott assured me of his entire confidence in Stone, and added that he rendered him the greatest possible service in organizing his force for the defence of Washington during the dark days of last winter, when the fate of the capital hung trembling in the balance."

It should require positive proof to show that one who helped to save the seat of Government from capture by the Confederates, at a time when we were weak, and when, by mere inaction, he might perhaps have turned the scale against us, has now, when we are strong, become an accomplice of the Confederates. Still more strange would it be if such a man, after distinguishing himself by such services, should add murder to treachery, lay a snare for the lives of his fellow-citizens of Massachusetts, and bring their blood upon his head.

General Stone should be made responsible for his follies and imprudences; but, disgraceful as is his want of sympathy for freedom, and his disposition to make slave-catchers of the soldiers, we have no right to infer from this that he is a traitor. In any case, we have no right to condemn him in advance. By exaggerating his delinquencies we may occupy the public attention too much with his case, awaken a sympathy in his favor, and make a party for him. This, by all means, should be avoided. He is now in good hands; let us leave him there; he will have, we hope, an early trial, at the end of which we expect to know more of the causes of the Ball's Bluff disaster than we do now.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Our Hostages.

Colonel Lee, of Massachusetts, and his brother officers selected by the Confederate States Government as hostages for the good treatment of our captive privateersmen in the North, have been removed from the jail, in which they were closely imprisoned, to the Confederate States prison, where they are provided with better and more comfortable quarters. This change was induced by the recent action of the Federal Government in placing our privateersmen upon the same footing with prisoners of war.

From the Norfolk Day Book of Saturday, February 15.

Our Generals.

General Bragg has established his headquarters in Mobile. He reached there on Wednesday last.

Brigadier General R. H. Anderson, who for some months past has been stationed at Pensacola, has been ordered to Virginia.

Our Killed and Wounded.

Our total loss during the battle at Roanoke Island was eight killed and thirty wounded. Two of the latter, Captain Wise and private Burnett, of the Richmond Blues, have since died.

The following is a list of the killed:—Captain O. Jennings Wise, Captain Robert Coles, Lieutenant Wm. H. Selden, and seven privates.

Captain Wise, at the time he was wounded, was in command of a battalion, composed of the Blues and Green Mountain Guards.

Federal Vessels at Roanoke Island on Thursday.

The following United States vessels were lying off Roanoke Island, in Croatan Sound, on Thursday:

5 side-wheel steamships.
8 propeller steamships.
7 side-wheel river steamers.
5 ferry boats.
3 canal propellers
1 stern-wheel steamer.
25 transport steamers.

Making a total of fifty-nine vessels.

Twenty of the enemy's gunboats had gone up the Albemarle Sound.

The Enemy's Vessels at the Canal.

We learn from a gentleman who arrived from Currituck yesterday that several of the Federal gunboats reached the canal on Thursday afternoon about three o'clock, and commenced a fire of shot and shell on our men who were engaged in barricading the canal.

Flag of Truce.

General Wise sent down a flag of truce by a steamer to Roanoke Island, which returned to Currituck Court House on Thursday with the bodies of Captains Wise and Coles and Lieutenant Selden. They were transferred to the Arrow and sent to this city, arriving here yesterday morning about three o'clock.

From Elizabeth City.

We learned from a gentleman who left the outskirts of Elizabeth City on Thursday and arrived in this city yesterday afternoon, that there were thirty buildings burned, including the two hotels. He was in the town at the time of its attack, and asserts that to his own knowledge, it was fired by the citizens.

The Remains of Capts. Wise and Coles.

The remains of Captains Wise and Coles were forwarded by the Petersburg train to their friends at Richmond yesterday.

The bodies were in charge of Dr. J. J. Simpkins, of this city, who will accompany them to Richmond.

Still Later.

There were 2,500 prisoners of ours taken by the Federals, who are to be paroled for exchange immediately, and will return from Roanoke Island. The Federals confess to a loss of three hundred killed, among them two of their principal Colonels and other prominent officers.

Funeral Obsequies of Lieut. Wm. H. Selden.

The funeral of Lieut. Selden took place yesterday afternoon. The body was conveyed to Christ Church, where a most impressive and appropriate discourse was delivered by Rev. Mr. Okeson.

On the conclusion of the exercises at the Church the remains, followed by a very large procession, composed of naval and military officers, the Mayor and City Council, and citizens generally, were borne to the cemetery, and, after the usual ceremonies, were consigned to their last resting place.

SECRET WRITING.—At the great exhibition of Florence last year, Professor Pietro Giusti, of Siena, exhibited an article of quite a novel character, being a few lines written in cypher, to which was added an announcement that he who should succeed, while the exhibition lasted, in reading these lines, should be entitled to a prize consisting of a work of art in ivory of the value of 20,000fr., to be executed by Professor Giusti himself, the subject to be at the successful competitor's own choice. A sealed packet, deposited with the Royal Commission, contained the interpretation of those mysterious lines. The inventor had expressly announced that even the persons of his acquaintance to whom he had revealed the nature of his system should be admitted to compete for the prize. The exhibition closed, however, without any candidate for the prize presenting himself, and at length, on the 5th, Professor Giusti, in the presence of the Gonfaloniere of Siena, and a number of distinguished inhabitants of that town, explained the contents of his secret writing, and gave the key of the cypher, which consisted in taking out two letters which meant nothing, and then arranging the remaining letters in squares like those of a chess-board, when they might be read off with ease. The advantages of his system are:—1. Simplicity, because the cipher writes his despatch in the common way, and then renders it uninteligible by the addition of one or more signs only known to the person who is to receive it; 2. The impossibility of deciphering the writing without the key, even when the system is known; 3. The facility with which the sender may send the same despatch to different persons, and yet render each copy unintelligible to all but the one person to whom it is individually addressed, by merely changing the key, that is, the letters to be suppressed. A copy of the cypher has been sent to the King of Italy, who has expressed his admiration of the system.

THE RED SEA TELEGRAPH.—The steamer with the new cable for the repair and restoration of the eastern division of the Indian telegraph, between Aden and Kurrachee, left London on the 1st of January. Attention will be first directed to the land line belonging to the company between Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez, which will be at once made available, so that a temporary station may be established about March next at the entrance of the Gulf of Suez, upon one of the islands of Shadwan or Gubal, at which telegraphic messages to and from India, China, and Australia will be received and despatched. This line, extending a distance of 300 miles from Alexandria, will shorten the time to about 36 or 40 hours, and the company, therefore, recommend that merchants and others who require to make use of it should give their instructions in anticipation, that so soon as the notices of the completion of the Jubal station are issued, probably early in March, their correspondents may be aware of the advantages to be derived from it, and transmit their communications accordingly. It is further stated that the cost of a message between any part of England and any of the following places at which the company have agents will not exceed £3 for a single message—viz: Aden, Bombay, Galle, Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, King George's Sound, Melbourne, Sydney, Mauritius, and Re-union.

THE GREAT EASTERN TO VISIT NEW YORK.—The Great Eastern will be put on to the gridiron at Milford in the middle of February, there being then more water, longer daylight, and a full moon. One of the new paddle-wheels has arrived at Milford last week, and the other will follow in a few days, the new intermediate shaft of the rudder has been fixed in its place, and the directors expect that she will leave the gridiron by the tides at the end of February. Allowing for coaling, there can be no doubt but that she will be ready for sea by the first week in April. Her destination as at present projected will be New York.

BURNING PROGRAMME.—The Nashville-Louisville *Courier* of the 20th ultimo says: "The burning and destruction of property by General Hindman's command is the best news we have from Bowling Green. Rather than the vile Yankees should have the use or benefit of them, we would see every house in the State burned down, and every foot of ground laid waste and made desolate."

Calhoun, a private of the Second Kentucky regiment, who murdered a farmer named Sutherland, near Bardstown, Ky., was tried by a military court, found guilty, and sentenced to death, and has been hanged.

The traffic on the Malta and Alexandria telegraph is largely increasing. The messages over this distance of 1,400 miles number now between 600 and 700 a week.

The brig Charles Miller, Captain Brewer, from Cardenas for Boston, got ashore on Carysfort Reef on the 27th ult., was assisted off and taken into Key West, where she would discharge and repair.

The ship Stephen Glover, at Boston from Calcutta, has a cargo of upwards of 8,000 bags saltpetre.

MARRIED,

On the 13th instant, by Rev. Francis Peck ALEXANDER WILLIAMS to Miss MARY BOND, both of this city.

On the 13th instant, at the Cathedral, by Rev. Father Foley, LARENCE TOBEN to MARGARET RILEY.

DIED,

On Friday morning, the 14th instant, Miss ELIZA MAHON, in the 55th year of her age.

On the 14th instant, JOHN KIPP, Sr., in the 90th year of his age.

On the 12th February, MARY JACKSON, aged 81 years, consort of the late Joseph Jackson.

At Fort Royal, S. C., the 9th instant, Capt BENJAMIN TUGS, late of Bermuda, in the 66th year of his age.

☞LECTURE.—The Rev. J. McKENDREE REILEY, D. D., will deliver a Lecture in the Exeter Street M. E. Church, on THIS (Monday) EVENING, at half past 7 o'clock. Subject—"Bishop Asbury's Cavalry." Tickets of admission 25 cents.

☞THE BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.—A stated meeting of the Board of Managers will be held in the Central Office, N. E. corner of Fayette and North streets, on THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, Feb. 17th, at half past seven o'clock.

The Collectors are earnestly requested to complete the collections in their wards, and to come prepared to make their returns. The Association greatly need funds to meet the urgent and numerous applications made for relief.

feb 14 2t JAS. Z. D. BRASHEARS, Sec'y.

☞LECTURE

By Rev. NOAH HUNT SCHENCK,
AT
CHARLES STREET M. E. CHURCH,
TUESDAY EVENING, February, 18, 1862,
In behalf of Hanover St. Chapel.
Subject—LIMITS OF CAPRICE.
TICKETS TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. feb12 1w*

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