

The South

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON, Dec. 24.

THE NEWS.

We have very little of importance to-day, except what relates to our position towards foreign powers. From what we can gather, much alarm exists in Washington concerning the attitude assumed by the European powers, and the sudden return of General Scott is speculated upon as indicating that France has announced her determination to support England in the matter of raising the blockade.

The most important feature of the war news is that the "rebels" have torn up about 100 miles of the North Missouri R. R., and burnt a number of bridges, thus effectually interrupting the communication between St. Louis and the Northern portion of Missouri. The result must be serious.

We learn from Washington that the affair at Dranesville was not quite that victory claimed, and that Federal officers who participated are very willing to call it a drawn battle.

A "reliable gentleman" who has been in the upper Potomac, assures us that Gen. Jackson, of the Confederates, secured 1,200 cases of salt in the course of his advance, and only spared the town of Williamsport because it was upon Maryland soil.

CHRISTMAS.

The anniversary of the natal day of Christ will be celebrated to-morrow by us, as formerly by many, with tears and sighs rather than with laughter and joy. The civil war in which we are engaged has separated parents from children, brothers from brothers, united around the family hearth or mingled in the social circle may meet no more forever.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

The following letter, though not of a late date, coming as it does from a member of the First Maryland Regiment in the Confederate army, is of much interest, as showing their true condition. It is from a gentleman whose word may be depended upon.

AFFECTIONATE SON.

At a meeting of the Protestant Episcopal Clergy of the City of Baltimore and its vicinity, held immediately after the funeral services over the body of the deceased and beloved brother, the Rev. Malcolm Macfarland, Rector of St. Mark's Church, on the 17th day of December, 1861, the Right Rev. William Rollison Whittingham, D. D., Bishop of Maryland, in the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

They comply with the demand made upon them. The Irish rebels were not given up, and Hamburg they held. There are some who think that Mr. Lincoln will disavow the act of Captain Wilkes, apologize for what has taken place and restore to Messrs. Massey and Shillibee our hands but such is not our opinion. The San Jacinto was evidently ordered by the United States authorities to intercept the Trent, the James Adger, which recently returned to Southampton, having been directed to perform the same duty in the English Channel, should the Commissioners have come so far on their voyage to Europe. Should this turn out to be the case, Lord Lyons will, of course, demand his passport, and we shall cease to hold diplomatic intercourse with the United States, and if active hostilities should not be commenced forthwith, we would at least recognize the Southern States as an independent Power, and throw open the trade of the Confederates, and send forward their cotton, rice, and tobacco to our markets, and to receive our manufactured goods in return.

Yesterday's telegrams speak of a war with the United States, but not a writing home to his journal this criticism. The Secretary of State—Erastus Brooks, editor of the N. Y. Express, is now in Washington, and a writing home to his journal this criticism.

CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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It is a pity that the relations of the Secretary of State with the British Minister were not quite friendly. Mr. Seward, though usually a social man and on this account, deemed it expedient to be on the best of terms with the British Minister, he is not a diplomat.

The motive for some of the arrests made beyond comprehension, and are either attributed to groundless and wicked rumors, or to the intrigues of private enemies. Many of the arrested were usually a social man and on this account, deemed it expedient to be on the best of terms with the British Minister, he is not a diplomat.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Gen. Banks' division was sent to Frederick for the purpose of re-opening and holding the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Harper's Ferry and Cumberland. Many of the arrested were usually a social man and on this account, deemed it expedient to be on the best of terms with the British Minister, he is not a diplomat.

Books for Christmas. Books for Children. Books for the Season. Knight & Brown, Produce Dealers. M. A. Daiger, Cabinet Maker.

CITY ITEMS.

The Return of Christmas.—To-morrow will be Christmas day, and no doubt thousands of bright little innocents are at this moment roused with anxiety and curiosity, and many stockings will be hung up to-night in accordance with the ancient custom, to receive the presents and good things which Santa Claus never fails to fill them with on the customary evening of the 25th.

Notwithstanding the hard times, however, we judge from the number of Christmas trees that have been purchased from the country people, that many a family circle will joyfully ring with the merry peals of the little ones, and though economy, and their liberality will be confined to a much narrower space than heretofore, still a happy time generally may be enjoyed at least to-morrow, and we trust on that occasion at least, the turkey will be buried, and for the sake of Auld Lang Syne we may all meet around the Olive Branch, with a glass of good old brandy and a happy New Year.

United Fire Department.—A meeting of the Baltimore United Fire Department was held last evening to receive the report of the committee appointed at the last meeting, to revise the by-laws and charter of the Department, and to make such changes as the committee might deem proper.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to lay the application of the Department before the Board of Police, with a view to the acquisition of the Department by the Board of Police. The Board of Police, consisting of Messrs. Cressler, Joshua Vanant and Anthony Miller, was the committee.

Indian Delegation.—A delegation from the Creek, Seminole and Chickasaw nations of Indians, who have been on a visit to Washington, arrived in this city on Sunday, and stopped at the Susquehanna House, kept by Mr. Thomas Voshell, near Calvert Station. They took the way to their homes in the Far West.

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS PRESENTS. AT UNPRECEDENTED LOW PRICES. WATCHES, JEWELRY, FANCY GOODS, WM. BROWN & CO., 423 1/2 S. E. cor. Baltimore and Charles sts.

THOS. J. BROWN, Manufacturer and Dealer in WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE, No. 90 BALTIMORE STREET.

HOLIDAY GIFTS. AT REDUCED PRICES. EXTENSIVE STOCK OF ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES. GEORGE W. WEBB, corner Baltimore and Light streets.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. When the waters of the mind become troubled in sorrow's swirling torrent, let a man sit down and smoke a good cigar or a clean pipe, and a lovely calmness will spread itself over the soul, like the Golden haze of evening over a sleeping lake.

WROTH & FULLERTON, Are now offering GREAT BARGAINS in French, Irish & Scotch Embroideries, RICH DRESS SILKS; A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF DRESS GOODS.

A. J. HAMPSON, FAMILY GROCER, OFFERS TO FAMILIES a fine assortment of First Class GROCERIES AND LIQUORS.

WHOLESALE DRY GOODS HOUSE, NEW STOCK. Full and Winter Dry Goods. The undersigned having just taken possession of their new and elegant Marble Front Store, have with great care selected a large and desirable stock of all kinds of Dry Goods, to which they respectfully invite the attention of purchasers and the trade in general to our stock of DRESS GOODS.

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