BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

VOLUME XLIX.--NUMBER 136. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1864. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

THE LATEST FROM TENNESSEE.

HOOD ADVANCING INTO KENTUCKY.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Important Circular from Gen. Fry.

Canada Rebels Brewing Mischief.

A Murdering Raid on the Tapia.

GEN. SHERMAN'S GREAT MARCH.

LATER FROM GEORGIA

SHERMAN STILL MOVING FORWARD.

Sherman Aiming for Savannah.

SHERMAN IN MILLEDGEVILLE.

ONE OF HIS COLUMNS MOVING AGAINST MACON.

Darien by one Rebel Authority Sherman's Objective Point.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

Federal Forces Reorganizing for a Forward Movement.

FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Witcher's Expedition Successful.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE

LATEST FROM FORTRESS MONROE

Piratical Doings on James River.

&c., &c., &c.

From Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Dec. 8.—Matters at the front present no change from that of several days previous. There was less cannonading to-day than usual. A rebel battery is established on a bluff, fourteen miles down the river. Last night seven gunboats went down and engaged the batteries, but without dislodging them from their position. The boats returned to-day, one of them considerably damaged.

A reconnoissance was made to-day by our forces between Lebanon and Nolensville Pike, and after proceeding a short distance, the enemy were discovered in considerable force; our troops charged upon the hill, which they occupied, and drove them. Only two or three men were killed, and seven severely wounded.

Forrest, with his command, was yesterday reported to be across the Cumberland. We cannot vouch for the truth of the statement, but give it as we hear it. The impression gains strength among both our soldiers and citizens that the rebels are evacuating their position in our front. If this be so, the march into Kentucky may be said to have commenced.

From Port Royal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The steamer Trade Wind, from Port Royal on the 4th, has arrived.

The Palmetto Herald says that on the 29th ult., an expedition left Port Royal and went up Broad river, accompanied by several gunboats. The troops landed at Boyds' Point and proceeded inland for several miles, meeting the rebel pickets only. Next morning the enemy appeared in force on the road leading to Grahamsville, with cavalry, infantry and artillery.

We advanced and drove them gradually back to their battery and entrenchments, where they made a stand. A hot engagement of seven hours ensued, during which there were charges and counter charges, each side meeting with considerable loss. Night finally put a stop to the fighting—the lines on both sides remaining the same. We took a few prisoners and lost a few. Our casualties are variously estimated at from six hundred to one thousand during the engagement.—We fell back a short distance unpursued. Since then an advance has been made in other directions.

The reports brought by "a trade-wind" are interesting. The residents at Hilton Head were all still under arms and doing guard duty, in consequence of General Foster having taken all the available troops to co-operate with General Sherman who was soon expected on the coast.

A number of General Foster's wounded had been brought to Hilton Head, from which place heavy firing could be heard when the steamer left.

FROM HAVANA—CAPTURE OF A BLOCKADE RUNNER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The Ariel from Havana, on the 2nd instant, has arrived, bringing news from the city of Mexico to the 16th. Mazatland was captured on the 30th of October by 800 Juarists, after an obstinate resistance. Guadalajara was declared under martial law on the 19th of October. Part of the 95th Line Regiment, the first French troops sent to Mexico, had left for France. Eight hundred guerillas had attacked a force under Gen. Rivas, and were routed

Communication between Durango and Chihuahua was severed. Colima had been captured by Marquez

The steamer Coquette has arrived at Havana, and having a large number of men it was feared that she was intended for a pirate. Three other steamers, one said to be an iron-clad, were expected there.

The notorious blockade runner Mail, alias Susanna, was captured on the 27th ult., by the gunboat Metacomet, off the coast of Campeachy with 150 bales of cotton. Ten men had arrived at Havana in an open boat, and reported having captured an American bark and burnt her.

Important Circular.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The Provost Marshal General has issued the following circular, namely:

Reliable information has been received that a large number of evil disposed persons consisting of rebel sympathizers, secessionists, marauders and other outlaws who have collected in Canada with a view to enter the commercial cities of the north, and particularly those on the Canadian frontier, with the ostensible purpose of seeking employment, but who are in reality intent upon the destruction of life and property, will shortly arrive in the United States.

All officers of this Bureau are instructed to place all persons suspected to be of this class under strict surveillance, and to arrest such as evidently belong to it.

Provost Marshals will confer with the municipal authorities with a view to preventing the mischief contemplated, and will aid the civil authorities in discovering these persons and causing their arrest.

JAMES B. FRY.

The following general orders were also to day issued from the Quartermaster General's office in reference to the above:

1. The Government has received information that residents of the British Provinces on our Northern border have removed with the intention of obtaining employment at the depots of military stores for the purpose of incendiarism. The plots by which some months since many steamboats on the Western rivers were fired and destroyed by rebel agents have now been extended with the intent to attempt the destruction, by fire, of military stores, shipping, manufactories and public and private property at various points throughout the loyal States.

2. The strictest vigilance and greatest care in guarding against incendiarism are enjoined upon all officers in charge of the property of this department.

3. Officers of the Quartermaster's Department will employ at depots where valuable stores are kept, no persons who have at any time within the last six months been living in Canada as refugees from the disloyal States or as fugitives from the draft.

4. Officers of this Department will require from those whom they employ at depots in positions which could facilitate access to stores or storehouses satisfactory evidence not only of loyalty but of residence within the loyal States, in addition to the usual oath of allegiance.

5. At posts within or near the field of active operations, refugees coming from the rebel territory, upon presenting satisfactory evidence of loyalty, will be employed, if needed, but great caution must be exercised in employing such persons.

(Signed) M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster General and
Brevet Brig. Gen

From Fortress Monroe.

FORT MONROE, Dec. 7.—During the piratical capture of the tug Lizzie Freeman, while anchored off the mouth of Warwick river, as heretofore reported, on Monday night, the mate of the tug, Mr. William Spiel, was severely wounded in the shoulder, and one of the colored soldiers acting as guard on the barge Zimmerman, which the tug had in tow, was shot down in cold blood, and two others dangerously wounded, although they offered no resistance. The passengers and crew of both the tug and the schooner were robbed of all their clothing and valuables and confined in the hold of the barge with the hatches closed down, for several hours. The steamer Matilda passing the spot the next morning, released them from their unpleasant situation and conveyed them to Norfolk, Va.

The steamer Wyoming, which arrived here last night at a late hour, reported having seen two schooners under a steamer burning off Day's Point, the locality of the occurrence of Monday night, and about fifty camp fires burning on the shore, from which it is supposed that the rebels had made another capture, and destroyed the steamer Patuxent with a tow of three schooners which left here yesterday afternoon for City Point The report of the Wyoming, however, so far lacks confirmation.

CAPTURE OF A VALUABLE PRIZE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The Navy Department has advices from Admiral Porter of the capture and arrival at Hampton Roads of the rebel steamer Armstrong, of 630 tons measurement, a beautiful vessel, very fast and new, captured by the steamers Cuyler and Gettysburg on the 4th instant. She had a cargo of 450 bales of cotton, but the larger part was thrown overboard in the chase

A FIGHT WITH THE INDIANS.

DENVER CITY, Dec. 8.—Detachments of the 1st and 3d Cavalry have had a fight with the Indians near Fort Lyon, and killed between four and five hundred of them, and captured about 500 pack mules The chiefs "Black Kettle," "White Buffalo" and "Little Bod," were killed. Our loss was nine killed and 38 wounded.

POSTMASTER GENERAL DENNISON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The Senate in Executive session to-day confirmed the nomination of Ex Governor Dennison as Postmaster General.

Incendiary Fire at Fort Hamilton.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The large government stables at Fort Hamilton were set on fire last night and destroyed. The horses were saved.

PERSONAL.—Lord Lyons, the Britannic Majesty's Minister, took leave of the President and Secretary of State on Monday, and proceeded to New York yesterday, (en route to Europe,) in a special car provided by the Government for that purpose. His health is so seriously impaired as to require relaxation. He carries with him the respect, sympathy and good wishes of the Government and people of the United States. J. Hume Burton, Esq., will have charge of the British legation during the absence of Lord Lyons.—*Washington Star.*

PEACE IN NORTH CAROLINA.—The Raleigh papers have an article on the peace question, and say that Georgia and North Carolina demand immediate efforts for peace by negotiation. It asserts that the rebel authorities are anxious to prevent negotiations, and fears a complete usurpation of power. It closes: "We claim the wisdom of Congress and of State Legislatures shall devise some plan by which war may be stopped and peace restored. It does not require the spirit of prophesy to see that we are a ruined people."

RICH MEN IN BOSTON.—The Boston Traveller publishes a list of one hundred and three persons in that city whose annual incomes are above $75,000, as returned under the special income tax. Ten tax-payers in the Fourth district are assessed upon incomes of more than $100,000 each, after the deductions by law were made. One gentleman, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer, has the comfortable sum of $365,150. There are about thirty persons in the same district who are taxed on incomes of $50,000 and under $100,000.

AFFAIRS AT ANNAPOLIS.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.]

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 4, 1864.

OUR PRISONERS FROM SAVANNAH.

No human tongue or pen can ever describe the horrible suffering the friends of our poor soldiers have witnessed this day.

TWO HUNDRED BAD CASES.

I was early at the landing, 3½ o'clock in the morning, before the boat threw out her ropes for security. The first one brought two hundred bad cases, which the naval surgeon told me should properly go to the hospital near by, were it not that others were coming, every one of whom were in the most wretched condition imaginable. They were, therefore, sent in ambulances to Camp Parole, a hospital distant two miles, after being washed and fed at the barracks.

A DECK-LOAD OF THE DYING.

In a short time another boat-load drew near, and such a scene of suffering humanity my eyes never desire to behold again. The whole deck was a bed of straw for our exhausted, starved, emaciated, dying fellow-creatures. Of the five hundred and fifty that left Savannah, the surgeon informed me that not over two hundred would survive; fifty had died on the passage; three died while the boat was coming to the land of liberty. I saw four men dying as they were carried on stretchers from the boat to the Naval Hospital. The stretcher-bearers were ordered by Surgeon D. Vanderkief to pause a moment that the names of the dying men might be obtained.

To the credit of the officers and their assistants it should be known that everything was done in the most systematic and careful manner. Each stretcher had four attendants, who stood in line and came up promptly, one after the other, to receive the sufferer as he was carried by two men off the boat. There was no confusion, no noise; all acted with perfect military order. Ah! it was a solemn funeral service to many a brave soldier that was thus being performed by kind hearts and hands.

THE INSANE.

Some had become insane; their wild gaze, and clenched teeth convinced the observer that reason had fled; others were idiotic, a few lying in spasms; perhaps the realization of the hope long cherished, yet oft deferred, or the welcome sound of the music sent forth by the military band, was more than their exhausted nature could bear. When blankets were thrown over them, no one would have supposed that a human form lay beneath, save for the small prominence which the bony head and feet indicated. Oh! God of justice, what retribution awaits the perpetrators of such slow and awful murder.

VERMIN AND DISEASE.

The hair of some was matted together, and like beasts of the stall, they had lain in their own filth, vermin running over them in abundance. Nearly every man was darkened by scurvy, or black with patches or scales, and with scorbutic sores. One in particular was reduced to the merest skeleton; his face, neck, and feet covered with thick, green mould. A number who had Government clothes given them on the boat were too feeble to put them on, and were carried ashore partially dressed, hugging their clothing with a death grasp that they could not be persuaded to yield.

It was not unfrequent to hear a man feebly call, as he was laid on a stretcher, "Don't take my clothes," "Oh, save my new shoes;" "Don't let my socks go back to Andersonville." In their wild death-struggle, with bony arms and hands extended, they would hold up their new socks, that could not be put on because of their swollen limbs, saying, "Save 'em till I get home." In a little waile, however, the soul was released from its worn out frame and borne to that higher home where all things are registered for a great day of account.

AN APPEAL TO CHARITY.

More prisoners are expected to-morrow. Let our friends at home have open purses and willing hands to keep up the supplies for the great demand that must necessarily be made upon them. Much more must yet be done. Our ten thousand prisoners yet to come will suffer if all aid societies do not act promptly and energetically.

MEETING OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

An unusually brilliant gathering took place last night at the hall of the New York Historical Society, the occasion being the delivery of an address by Prof. Goldwin Smith, Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford, on the history of that ancient seat of learning. Frederick De Peyster, Esq., President of the Society, called the meeting to order, and after the transaction of the usual routine business, introduced to the meeting Prof. Goldwin Smith.

Mr. Smith, who was received with loud applause, after some introductory remarks, gave a vivid sketch of the constitution, course of study and discipline of the nineteen great colleges and five halls that compose the University of Oxford; afterward giving a sketch of the early history of each college in the order of its foundation, interspersing his narration with valuable comments on the general condition of society, the state of learning, politics and religion at the different eras of the different foundations; also briefly referring in conclusion to the controversies which have agitated the University during late years, and the influence which the University has exerted upon the public mind, expressing a hope that he might hereafter have an opporounity to repay American students in Oxford the kindness he had received during his visit to his country.

The address which abounded in interesting detail and rivited the attention of the audience during its whole length was delivered without the aid of a single note, and we are only prevented from presenting it entire to our readers by our want of space and the request of the speaker, expressed through the Chairman, that the Press would refrain from publishing it. The usual vote of thanks, and request for a copy of the address for publication was moved by the Rev. Dr. Adams, and carried unanimously, after which the meeting adjourned

RAILROAD TO LAKE SUPERIOR.—The Green Bay Advocate announces that the Peninsula Railroad is completed a distance of 60 miles from Little Bay de Noquet toward Marquette, and trains are making regular trips The work is being pushed forward with vigor, and the road will be completed to Marquette by Christmas. Stages will form a connection between Green Bay and Escanaba through the season A winter trip to Lake Superior will now be comparatively speedy and comfortable.

The building intended to contain the Watkinson Library of Hartford, Conn., in connection with the Historical Society building, is nearly completed, and will furnish room for twenty-five thousand volumes.

A letter from a traveller in the new oil regions of Pennsylvania says: "We were paddled across the creek by an oil prince, aged fifteen, heir to a million, coatless and hatless, and with but one suspender to keep his courage and his trowsers up."

The aggregate amount of money which has been raised and expended by the several towns in Vermont, in bounties for volunteers, is nearly *four millions* of dollars.

It is estimated that in one district alone, not less than five thousand persons were drowned by the land flood of the storm waves, in the disastrous cyclone in India.

An Academy of Music is in course of erection at Binghampton, in New York State, at a cost of $30,000. It is to be completed by the Christmas holidays.

The latest novelty proposed to amuse the French is the exhibition of two elephants who dance a polka.

Newark, N. J., is the principal seat of the trunk manufacture in the United States. One manufacturer employs 400 hands.

The debt of the city of Philadelphia is $11,062,957.

A boy in Gloucester, N. J., was torn to pieces by a blood hound last week.

"CHURCH BURNING" ON THE EASTERN SHORE.

The account of matters chronicled in the last number of the *Somerset Herald* by a correspondent of that excellent journal, and which will follow these remarks, will pain every friend of order, and every advocate of Christian advancement in the State. We have had some hints of this condition of things before, but the facts come now in so unmistakeable a form, and are so distasteful to all who regard the good name of the State, that the evil alluded to must be met by a stern condemnation of public sentiment, such as will correct the grievance, or brand the perpetrators of such outrages as they deserve. The church of God should be sacred, no matter who may be the worshippers; and when these edifices are deliberately destroyed through feelings of petty malignancy and revenge upon those not responsible for what has happened in the State, it betokens a moral turpitude and darkness sad to contemplate.

The negroes will remain in the State in greater or less numbers, because their labor cannot be dispensed with; and we must certainly pay the penalty exacted by ignorance, by absence of religious teaching, with white or black, indifferently.—As has been well said;—we must provide churches and school-houses or else prisons, a truth so obvious that none in this enlightened age presume to utter a word in dissent of it. That any enlightened or leading man in the Lower Counties ever covertly gives his sanction to these enormities, we cannot believe. We shall await further accounts from the same quarter with feelings of unwonted interest.

[Written for the Somerset Herald.]

Mr. Editor:—It is among the saddest signs, of these sad times, that popular feeling, and local prejudice, break out into licentiousness and vandalism. In the columns of your paper, there have been chronicled, without note or comment, the burning of several places of religious worship in Somerset county. Added to the list may now be numbered the colored Methodist Church in this village, which was set on fire, and reduced to ashes a few nights ago. And this is not all. It is declared in certain circles, that every "nigger" meeting house on the shore will share the same fate. Before these lines see the light, the torch of the reckless incendiary, may again be applied, and other communities of the poor, patient, defenceless colored people, may be, as in the numerous instances alluded to, bereft of a shelter, and home, where, however humble, these followers of the meek and lowly Jesus can meet to sing and pray, and worship our common Lord together.

Is it possible that we are in a civilized and christian land; or, is there no arm of authority and power to interpose for their protection?

The cause, it is alleged, and is become evident, is, not that the colored people are disturbers of the peace, or that they give cause for alarm on account of any insurrectionary proclivities; for at no period in the past have they been more submissive, respectful, and quiet, but, startling and ominous fact, the negro dares to buy a Bible, or Testament, and a few primers, and presumes to hold a *Sunday School!*—The opposition then, appears to be directed chiefly against the Sabbath Schools lately organized for the moral and religious culture of these untaught thousands. The few white persons who have dared to favor this movement are branded with scorn and threatened with violence by ruthless mobs, and the purpose seems apparent on every hand to crush down all attempts to educate, and by this means elevate the colored race. The virus of Southern bigotry and hate, and the remains of pro-slavery prejudice in their dying pangs would have this long neglected class kept in ignorance and treated still as *chattels!*

"What!" say the young chivalry of Somerset and Worcester—allow the negro the advantages of education! Let their "pickaninnies" have books, papers and pictures! This looks like equality, and we can't brook such a preposterous idea."

Consequently, the Churches are burned, justice, right, humanity, are all trodden down in the streets, and we are still practically surrounded with a rebel reign of terror, instead of being in free Maryland. It is said abroad that the dark dynasty of Secession and its progeny of villainous plans, is forever ended on our soil, but we, "to the manor born," have reason to know better

It is a popular pastime in some localities for *civil* officers to visit religious meetings, and with their sceptre of authority—a cowskin, maltreat, and disperse the worshippers.

Under these circumstances, it is time to call for the arm of power, to paralyze forever, the hand of the Church burner, and his disloyal abettors. "The powers that be are ordained of God," we are told, to prove a terror to evil doers, and a terror *to them only.*

The poor people, on whose sweat and toil avarice, and pampered idleness, has so long preyed and imposed the yoke, now free to enter the road to preferment, and happiness, *must be protected* Let us blush for our Christianity, yes, for our humanity, if wrong and oppression are allowed to grind them down and deny them the "rights" which justice, law, the gospel ensures to them.

The conflict is exclusively between the opposing elements of light, and darkness, liberty, and despotism, truth, and error, in a word loyalty, and treason.

That the latter is just as rank, and reckless here as anywhere on the continent, needs no proof. There is no effectual remedy for the victims of its rage, or prevention to its foul purposes, but

MARTIAL LAW

Newtown, Maryland.

The rebel papers are boasting that governors Brown, of Georgia, and Vance, of North Carolina, for their defence of State rights while the *Confederacy itself* is in danger. This put notion of the State sovereignty, upon which the Confederacy is based, is likely to prove the destruction of the edifice resting upon it.

The Union prisoners in rebel hands are still dying off by thousands. Hunger, disease, ill-treatment, the rack of shelter, clothing and food, are making one vast cemetery of the rebel prison lands for the bodies of our unfortunate citizen soldiers Forty thousand gallant patriots are thus perishing to their despair

One of the marvels of modern travelling is the announcement that a passenger bent on doing things rapidly may leave London one day night at 8 o'clock, and take the second night after, precisely at 8 o'clock (that is, in forty-eight hours,) be in Madrid The route is by way of Folkestone, Paris, Herdrant, and Treves

That French ladies have taken a fancy to walking sticks is an old story; but a new feature in their whim is the introduction of fine steel blades into the handles of the more costly, so that they may be used as a weapon of attack. These fans are exhibited in most of the best shop windows.

"Cornelius O'Dowd," in Blackwood's Magazine, thus rhapsodizes on servants:—"Why can modern mechanical genius do nothing for us? Oh for a steam-butler and a self-acting house-maid! Oh for a cook that a man could wind up like an eight-day clock and never think of till the end of the week!"

The Navy Department has received information of the capture by the United States steamer Rhode Island of the new steamer Vixen, bound in with a valuable cargo of arms, liquors, provisions, &c. She is said to have been owned by the rebel government.

The Missouri soldiers take the precedence of all others in their unanimity for Mr. Lincoln. Against 6,285 votes for Mr. Lincoln, McClellan received only 65. The total of the home and soldier vote, so far as received, is: Lincoln, 43,076; McClellan, 21,206; Fletcher, 41,013; Price, 20,603.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

FROM GEORGIA.

From the Augusta Constitutionalist, Nov. 27.

A raiding party struck the Waynesboro' Railroad at Waynesboro', destroying the depot and a train of freight cars. This party numbered about 150 all told, and, if vigorously met by the people of that region, might have been driven off or captured. As it was, they had pretty much their own way, until a certain checkmate was put upon them from another quarter. We learn that quite a handsome supply of raiment and silver plate was consumed with the captured train.

Gen. Wheeler came up with several thousand of Kilpatrick's men on Sunday morning, near the Waynesboro' road, defeated and drove them three miles. At last accounts they were getting pressed by Wheeler, and had gone to dirt digging.—This force is officially reported as "much scattered and easily handled."

There has been no enemy within twelve miles of the Georgia railroad, and the trains will resume their regular schedule.

The enemy is narrowly watched by the vigilant eye of our commanding General. Every movement of Sherman is known to him, and the proper disposition will be made to foil and destroy the plans of the audacious Yankee.

Our citizens should be thoroughly assured that there is no doubt or hesitancy on the part of the authorities, and that everything is progressing silently and surely for their benefit and protection.—General Bragg is an earnest and quiet worker; a skilled and experienced military artist; a tenacious and imperturbable adversary; a firm patriot, undisturbed by babble, and invincible to the last. We feel that our cause is safe in his hands, and expect our fellow-citizens to indulge a similar confidence and trust.

LATER.

Since writing the above, we have learned that Wheeler gave the enemy a severe drubbing wherever he encountered him. We have captured a considerable number of horses, and completely scattered the organization of the raiders. A very small portion of Waynesboro' was burned, our cavalry having come up in time to stop the conflagration. We would recommend to General Wheeler a trick of General Forrest, that is, to toss every incendiary Yankee caught at his rascality into the flames he had evoked.

We are told that the Georgia Railroad is being rapidly repaired, and hope ere long to see our good folks buying through tickets to what was once Atlanta.

BATTLE OF GRISWOLDVILLE.

Sergeant Weigel, of Company A, Augusta Battalion, who left Macon on Thursday last, furnishes us with the following particulars of the battle of Griswoldville.

He states that three brigades of militia, two regiments of State line troops, the Atlanta and Augusta battalions, all under command of General Phillips, engaged the enemy on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

He first attacked them at Griswoldville about twelve o'clock. The enemy fell back one mile on the Central Railroad towards Savannah, where they had erected three miles of fortifications.

General Phillips pursued them to their breastworks.

LATEST FROM GEORGIA

[From the Richmond Whig, Dec. 5.]

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, of the 1st instant, contains the following paragraphs.

Telegraphic communication with Millen has been reopened.

Wheeler was still engaged in fighting the Federals on Wednesday. Results unknown.

It is reported that a party of Sherman's scouts visited Demara's Ferry on Sunday. They remained some time in that vicinity taking observations.

It is thought by many that Sherman will endeavor to cross the Savannah river at that point.

Gentlemen from Sherman's rear state that his line of march is marked with dead animals, broken wagons, bodies of men, stragglers, &c.

When General Wheeler struck Kilpatrick's raiders at Big Creek, they killed over three hundred head of horses to prevent them falling into Wheeler's hands.

Yesterday morning the train of the Georgia Railroad brought down about one hundred prisoners, who were said to have been captured somewhere in the neighborhood of Warrenton. They are supposed to be a portion of Sherman's army that had straggled away from the main body, and fell an easy prey to our forces They were all hearty looking men.

Trains run up on the Georgia road as far as Greensboro.

The work of repairing the road to Atlanta will be commenced as soon as practicable.

It is stated on reliable authority that the Yankees appropriated over two thousand horses and mules in Glascock and Warren counties.

The Chronicle of the 30th, says:—A gentleman from Newton county states that several of the large plantations in that section were completely destroyed by the Federals, swept clean of everything, and all the houses thereon burned, except those occupied by negroes.

Emory College, Oxford, was also destroyed, and all the buildings connected with the same, together with their contents. This college was the property of the Methodist Church of this State. Several fine libraries belonging to the various college societies, besides belonging to the college itself, were among the property burned. Also a large and extensive mineralogical cabinet, fine chemical apparatus, &c.

As the Federals approached the town they were fired upon, and one of their party killed. The college was burned in retaliation.

It is estimated that the property cost nearly half a million before the war.

A letter from the Mayor of Greensboro' describes the arrival of the Yankees in that town, and their conduct while there. He says:

Had Welch & Delevan's circus and menagerie come along, it could not have made more excitement amongst the negroes and little boys; but I can say I never saw negroes behave better and look more indignant than our negro population, especially after the Yankees robbed them. They took from Chapman Norton twenty-two or three dollars. Others were robbed of coats and watches.

I regret to state that our friends across the river in Morgan county lost heavily. Among them Col. Joshua Hill and Thos Saffold.

The only telegraphic information at the War Department last night, except despatches relating to the disposition of troops, was a telegram from Macon, stating that the Yankee force which had been operating in the vicinity of that city had been withdrawn, and gone in the direction of the main body.

The indications are that Sherman will direct his course towards Darien or Brunswick.

We received by this morning's mail our Augusta exchanges of the 30th ultimo and Savannah News of the 29th. They throw very little light upon the situation of affairs at the date of their publication. The News says.

"Sherman seems to be making no progress in his invasion of the State. He is no nearer the coast than he was several days ago. He appears to be hesitating, and acting altogether as though he were caught in a bad box and don't know how to get out. Afraid to go forward, and cannot go back—his men and animals tired and hungry, with our forces rapidly closing in around him—all these things excite the liveliest hopes of his utter destruction.

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel says:—"It must be confessed that for the past week Sherman has been very successfully acting the part of an artful dodger, confounding all calculations and exciting general apprehension by his eccentric movements. The latest reports indicate that he is moving towards the Savannah River. But there is little reliance to be placed in any indication of his intentions as yet Until he shall get out of the triangle in which he has been manœuvering since he left Atlanta, we can infer nothing with certainty from any of his movements as to his ultimate course. He may turn upon Augusta and seek to force his way through South Carolina, or he may push for Savannah or Brunswick."

The Constitutionalist of the 30th says: It is very generally conceded that Sherman, avoiding both Augusta and Macon, has gone on his winding way, either to Savannah, Brunswick, or Port Royal. To reach either Brunswick or Savannah, he has to traverse a barren waste of land, to meet, as he approaches his destination, swamps, impenetrable to an army, save by causeways, which could easily be destroyed before him. One good road, indeed, is at his option, but then he may find upon that road opposition which he little dreamed of, and which may snag his march. Should he attempt to reach Port Royal, he will probably cross the Savannah at Sister's Ferry. On the South Carolina side, immediately opposite the ferry, the soil is porous and marshy. There, too, he may possibly encounter masked batteries and other obstacles too numerous to mention.

Somehow we are, in common with our fellow-citizens, strongly of the opinion that Sherman and his robbers are marching to doom. We know some very good news and see some very excellent signs. Be patient; the fruit is not yet ripe.

FROM MILLEDGEVILLE.

Whilst in Milledgeville, Sherman made his headquarters in the executive mansion. The State House was not burned, but much mutilated. The penitentiary and arsenal were burned and the magazine blown up.

Sherman's whereabouts is not positively known. It is not certain that he has even yet reached Millen, though the fact is assumed. At 4 o'clock P. M., last Friday, the telegraph operator at Millen announced that Sherman was within four miles of the place, and that he himself was on the point of bidding it a hasty adieu. Nothing has been heard from there since. He had been within twenty miles of Millen for nearly a week.

When Sherman advanced on Milledgeville, one of his columns moved against Macon. Official information was received here last night that this column had disappeared from the neighborhood of Macon. It is now, no doubt moving to join Sherman in the neighborhood of Millen, and it was for this that Sherman has been waiting. His force being massed, he will strike out for his objective point, which, it is believed is Darien, near the mouth of the Altamaha river, fifty miles south of Savannah.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

The Bristol Register learns from Morristown that on the 26th ultimo the Yankees attempted to scout this side of Strawberry Plains, but were driven back across the river, since when all has been quiet at the front.

General Stoneman, of Georgia notoriety, is now in command of the Federal forces in East Tennessee, with his headquarters about Knoxville. The Union element reports that he is pressing horses to mount Gillem's command, and reorganizing them for a forward movement.—Generals Vaughn and Duke are on the lookout for him, and will tender him a characteristic reception whenever he is ready to come.

MACON BELIEVED TO BE SAFE.

[From the Macon Telegraph, Nov. 27.]

We are happy to announce that Macon is considered safe. The commander of the post has declared the city upon a peace footing, and the order of Major General Cobb, ordering out every man capable of bearing arms, is withdrawn. This will be pleasing intelligence to those families whom the exigencies of the occasion forced from their homes. We trust they will at once return, and thus escape the many inconveniences which are the inevitable fate of the refugees. The city is perfectly quiet and orderly We expect in a few days everything will resume its usual appearance. The storm of war which threatened us has passed—come home and back in the sunlight.

MACON THE PRESENT CAPITAL OF GEORGIA.

[From the Savannah Republican, Dec. 1.]

Governor Brown and his officers of State have made Macon, for the present, the seat of government. The Governor's headquarters are at the City Hall.

DESTRUCTION AT CLINTON, GA

[From the Macon Telegraph, Nov. 26.]

We hear but two houses in Clinton were burned by the enemy. One was the dwelling of the enrolling officer of Jones county, R. W. Bonner, and the other an old shop used as an office by the late Dr. Boyen.

REPAIRING THE DESTROYED RAILROADS

[From the Savannah Republican, Dec. 1.]

The Central Railroad Company have gone to work in earnest, with a large force, to repair their road, which is now in running order from Macon nearly to Gordon.

We learn that it is the purpose of the company to go to work immediately and repair the West Point Railroad, which it is thought can be completed in one month's time. The Etowah iron works will also be re-established at once.

THE ANTICIPATED SHELLING OF RICHMOND.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 5.]

Nothing of importance occurred on the lines below Richmond yesterday. The Yankees say they are making preparations to shell Richmond from their lines at Darbytown, and are sanguine of their ability to throw hundred pound shell into the Capitol square. We shall believe this when we see it done. Should they, however, succeed, we may count upon one good effect, whatever may be the bad ones, that very large class of persons who, having no business here, will persist in infesting the city, will decamp immediately on the explosion of the first shell within our lines.

A Northern paper mentions, as a report, that Burnside, with twenty thousand men, has embarked at Fortress Monroe to go to Sherman's relief in Georgia. We do not credit the report. Grant has not twenty thousand men to spare.

DEATH OF GENERAL GRACH

[From the Richmond whig, Dec. 5.]

We have already announced the death of Brigadier General Archibald Gracie, of Alabama He was killed near the crater on Friday morning, while inspecting the lines. At the moment of his death he was looking through his glass at the enemy's works, with the upper portion of his head being exposed. The Minie balls were flying around very rapidly, and shells were bursting in every direction. He fell at the explosion of one of the latter, pierced through the head by a ball, the shell being loaded with schrapnel.

MEETING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

From the Richmond Sentinel, Dec. 5.

The South Carolina Legislature assembled on Monday last.

In the Senate the Hon. W. D. Porter was unanimously re-elected President, Wm E. Martin, Clerk. S. C. Kennedy, Reading Clerk; A. D. Gaillard, Doorkeeper, J. D. Gaillard, Messenger, were all unanimously re-elected. Hon. W. D. Porter addressed the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, after the usual qualifications of members (J. H. Readbury in the Chair) the election of Speaker was proceeded with. The third ballot resulted in the choice of Mr. Boylston, as follows: Aldrich, 39; Boylston, 45. Capt. Henry Bulst received several votes at each ballot.

J. T. Sloan was re-elected Clerk, C. T. Hanckel was elected Reading Clerk, C. M. Gray was re-elected Doorkeeper.

The Hon. A. H. Stephens, Vice President; Hon. Mr. Conrad, M. C., from Louisiana, and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, were severally invited to occupy seats on the floor.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Abstract of the Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy opens with a statement of the measures adopted by the present Administration, on first coming into power, to create a navy adequate to the requirements of the blockade of over three thousand miles of coast. Foreign squadrons were recalled, new vessels were built, the merchant service was called upon for steamers available as war vessels, the capacity of our navy yards was increased, the foundries and workshops of the country were put in requisition for supplies of ordnance and machinery, the number of seamen was greatly augmented, and the deficiency of officers supplied by judicious selections of experienced shipmasters from the commercial marine.

The Secretary dwells upon the results of these labors, as represented by the stringent blockade of the Southern coast, and the victories achieved by Stringham, Dupont and Farragut. He also refers in terms of eulogy to the exploits of our navy on the Mississippi and other inland waters, which are now controlled by a fleet of more than one hundred vessels. The Secretary states that it has always been the policy of the department never to permit the efficiency of the blockade to be impaired. Hence no large squadrons have been maintained on foreign stations. Cruisers have been sent out from time to time, to protect American shipping, and to watch the predatory vessels of the rebels.

The Secretary details the measures which have been taken to insure the effectual blockade of Southern ports—all of which have been closed except Wilmington, which offers remarkable facilities to blockade-runners. He refers in this connection to the fact that almost every vessel employed in violating the blockade has been constructed in England.

The operations of the Western Gulf squadron comprise the demonstrations against Texas ports, and the short-lived occupation of Brownsville, and the capture of the fortifications on the bay of Mobile by Admiral Farragut, on the 5th of last August. The capture of these forts was all that was contemplated, as the capture of the city itself would not render the blockade more effectual than it is at present.

After a brief reference to the services of the East Gulf Squadron, which have been limited mainly to incursions for the destruction of salt works on the Florida coast, the Secretary narrates the operations of the South Atlantic Squadron, which comprises within its limits the ports of Savannah and Charleston. No formidable independent operations in the form of naval combats have taken place during the year. The blockade of Charleston has been steadily enforced. The withdrawal of Gen. Gillmore, with a large portion of his command, to another field, in February last, devolved the duty of maintaining the blockade chiefly on the iron-clads, and these vessels have since then kept their position off Morris Island, to the great injury of the blockade-running business of Charlestown. Early in the summer an attack upon Fort Sumter, with the iron clads, was planned, but afterward abandoned as unadvisable.

The North Atlantic Squadron, in the number of vessels and officers and men exceeds every other, and its operations are of the first importance. In addition to blockading the only remaining port of commercial importance in the rebel States, on this squadron has devolved the duty of guarding and holding possession of the great inland waters of North Carolina and Virginia, and an extensive co-operation with the armies which are threatening Richmond and its vicinity. The operations of this squadron on the James River, and in the sounds of North Carolina, are referred to at length, and the gallant action of Lieut Cushing, in assailing and destroying the formidable rebel ram *Albemarle*, is commended in fitting terms The Secretary details the difficulties of keeping up the effectual blockade of Wilmington. Rebel forts command the channels, and none of our ships with heavy broadsides can approach them on account of the shallowness of the water. The co-operation of a land force is therefore necessary to the reduction of the place. Notwithstanding the facilities for running the blockade at this port, sixty-five steamers, the aggregate value of which, with their cargoes, will scarcely fall short of $13,000,000, have been captured or destroyed in endeavoring to enter or escape from Wilmington. Over fifty such results have occurred since Rear-Admiral Dahlgren anchored his monitor fleet inside of Charleston bar and closed that port to commerce.

The operations of the Mississippi Squadron include the expedition up the Red River, which, owing to the unusually low stage of water, might have resulted in a terrible disaster to Admiral Porter's fleet, but for the genius and engineering skill of Lieut. Colonel Bailey. The exploit of this officer in throwing a dam across the river below the bar at Grand Ecore, thereby raising the water on the bar sufficiently to enable the fleet to escape from their dangerous position, will be remembered as one of the most remarkable incidents of the war.

The Potomac Flotilla, at present under command of Commander Fernall A. Parker, has been chiefly employed in arresting the contraband trade on the Potomac, and in guarding the Rappahannock. It has been found impossible to prevent wholly the contraband traffic on these rivers.

There has been no material change in the strength of the Pacific Squadron within the past year. No hostile craft has made its appearance in the Pacific, and our commerce has been carried on in its usual channels without interruption, other than that necessarily caused by the measures of foreign Powers in an attitude of hostility toward each other.

The West India squadron, as an organization, has ceased to exist, the principal object for which it was created being no longer prominent. The vessels of this squadron have given convoy to the California steamers over the most exposed section of their route. This convoy has been since extended over the entire route, by detailing an armed vessel to accompany each steamer.

The piratical depredations of the English built rebel cruisers are detailed at length by the Secretary. The capture of the Alabama, by the Kearsarge is justly viewed as a most gallant and cre