BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

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

VOLUME L.—NUMBER 2. BALTIMORE, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

A SUCCESSFUL REBEL SORTIE.

They Capture a few Prisoners.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMER NEW YORK.

The London Times on President Lincoln's Message.

ANOTHER PIRATE AP SEA.

The Shenandoah Destroying Vessels on the Atlantic.

A GREAT FEDERAL RAID IN ALABAMA.

A Sharp Fight and Rebel Rout.

Destruction of 20,000 Stand of Arms, Stores, Railroads, &c

&c., &c., &c.

From the Army of the Potomac.

WASHINGTON, Jan'y 2.—Information from the Army of the Potomac to the evening of Saturday is as follows:—About daylight this morning, our pickets on that portion of the front line between forts Howard and Wadsworth, now occupied by the 1st and 3d brigades of the First Corps, were surprised by about 300 rebels, who charged upon them without any previous warning, and drove them back within the intrenchments, killing two, wounding three, and capturing thirty-five. The rebels then gathered up the blankets, knapsacks, etc., which our men left at the picket post, and retired to their own lines without losing a man.

The attack was so entirely unexpected and the affair so quickly over, that the officers of our picket guard had not time to even give orders to the men with a view to resistance, until they had fallen back upon the entrenchments. The assault was a most furious disaster. The enemy charging with terrific yells and firing rapidly as they advanced, very naturally induced the belief that it was an attack in force.

The scattering fire maintained by our pickets during their retreat was ineffective, and the enemy did not remain long enough for those behind the entrenchments to be aroused.

Nothing further of interest has occurred here for a few days past. The weather continues extremely disagreeable. To-night we are having a fall of snow, which, however, melts nearly as fast as it descends.

Later from Europe.

NEW YORK, January 2.—The steamer New York, from Southampton on the 21st, has arrived.

President Lincoln's message was received in England on the 18th.

Parliament was expected to re-assemble on the 9th of February.

The Times says that President Lincoln's message contains little from which the Federals can derive encouragement in consequence of the Government's position in military and financial matters growing worse. The message of the President destroys all peace expectations.

The Times thinks that the North does not possess the power of confiscating property; and that the mere threat of confiscation gives the South the strongest political motive to resist to the last extremity.

British neutrality has been maintained so well that there is only one point in the message which concerns England directly—the resolution to place an additional force on the great lakes. This is not to be complained of, and we hope that the Canadians will take measures to prevent Canada from being made a base for incursions into a friendly State. If by placing gunboats on the lakes, these operations can be impeded, he will only be engaged in an object in which the British authorities will be bound to assist him, but we sincerely trust that this increase of force is not meant to be permanent.

We cannot conceive the necessity that the accidental forces of a few venturers should be brought into connexion with the question of the continuance or a modifying of the rights of transit from Canada through the United States as well as the regulation of imports, which was temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of 1854.

The Rebel loan closed at 61a63; Consols 89¼a89½. United States 5-20's declined 3a4 per cent. Erie paid-up shares declined 1½.

AFFAIRS IN THE CONFEDERACY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A private letter from the fleet says that refugees from Charleston and other ports in South Carolina, state that all the inhabitants who could do so have removed into the country. Great distress prevails. Flour and other necessaries can scarcely be obtained at any price. Gen. Sherman's success occasions general alarm. Several blockade-runners in Charleston harbor are waiting an opportunity to escape, and many passengers for Nassau have already engaged berths.—There is very little business doing in Charleston other than connected with blockade-running and war matters.

BURNING OF A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—The Evening Traveller building on State street, was burned out early this morning by an incendiary fiend. The composing and editorial rooms were destroyed, but the press being in the cellar was not injured. Willard's chronometer works on the first floor, were not much damaged, most of their property being enclosed in safes. The Traveller office was fully insured, and its publication will soon be resumed.

EXTENSIVE RAID IN ALABAMA.

CAIRO, Jan. 1.—The steamer Mollie, from New Orleans on the 26th has arrived. An English steamer, a blockade runner, with 80 bales of cotton, had arrived at New Orleans as a prize. She cleared from Galveston and was captured by the Princess Royal.

A force of about 2,000 men, including the 2d Maine cavalry, 1st Alabama cavalry, 14th New York cavalry, three regiments of colored infantry, and two pieces of artillery, under command of Col. G. D. Robinson, of the 97th colored infantry, left for a raid into Alabama to sever communications by telegraph and rail at Pollard's, and destroy such property and stores as might to be found there. Reaching Pollard's on the 16th, the place was found evacuated.

The railroad depot, including a train of eight cars mostly filled with grain, railroad storehouses filled with grain and government property; quartermaster and commissary storehouses, filled with stores; an ordnance building, with 20,000 stand of arms, and a trestle work and a number of miles of the railroad, were all destroyed by our troops, which being accomplished, the expedition set out to return, but were met at Little Escullion by the enemy under Colonel Armistead, who opposed their crossing the bridge. The colored infantry made a successful charge, led by Colonel Robinson, who fell shot through the thigh when half way across the bridge.

The command then devolved upon Lieut. Col. A. B. Spearling, of the 2d Maine. A second attack was made by the enemy, which was repulsed, and the rebels were scattered through the roads with heavy loss, including Col. Armstead, their leader, killed. Seven of thd enemy's flags were captured. The expedition was not again molested during the return march. Our total loss during the expedition was 75 killed and wounded.

News From Washington.

Rumors in Relation to the Blairs' Visit to City Point.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, 1865.—The fact that F. P. Blair, Sr., and Montgomery Blair have gone to City Point is making quite a sensation here to-night. Various rumors are in circulation in regard to the object of their mission, that which gains most credence being that they have gone for the purpose of meeting representatives of the rebel government. Some parties argue that this is the inauguration of peace negotiations; but nothing reliable can be ascertained in regard to the matter to-night.

REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO TRADE WITH THE STATES IN REBELLION.

The following amended regulation of the Treasury Department, in regard to trade with the insurrectionary States has been issued:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 22, 1864.

Regulation fifty-five concerning commercial intercourse, series of July 29, 1864, is hereby amended as follows:—

REGULATION 55.—All existing authorities to purchase products in insurrectionary States are hereby revoked, except that products purchased in good faith under such authorities and paid for in whole or in part prior to the 22th day of July, 1864, may be transported to market as before the passage of the act of July, 1864, subject to the following limitations and conditions, and included in the following classes:—First, those which have been wholly paid for; second, those upon which part payment has been made, coupled with a legal obligation to pay the residue, so that articles purchased are at the risk of the purchaser, and such payment is in no wise dependent upon their delivery; third, where part payment has been made, without such obligation as to the balance, so much of the products alleged to have been purchased as the amount actually advanced will pay for at the stipulated price. The original permits must be produced in such case and proof furnished to the satisfaction of a proper permit officer and a supervising or assistant special agent for the agency or district in which proof is to be made that the property desired to be moved comes within one of the classes named above, and that the privilege conferred by the original permit has been in no way violated or abused, a certificate of which facts must be endorsed upon the permit over their official signature; which permit, so endorsed, will then be considered as revived and in full force, to the extent specified in the endorsement, in accordance with this rule.

WM. P. FESSENDEN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 22, 1864.

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, having seen and considered the within amended regulation, No. 55, prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, do hereby approve of the same; and I further declare and order that produce moving in compliance with the said regulation shall be exempt from seizure and from confiscation and forfeiture to the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

MORE PIRATICAL DEPREDATIONS.

NEW YORK, January 2.—The new rebel steamer Sea King, now called the Shenandoah, is reported actively at work on the Atlantic. Captain Hansen of the brig Susan, reports the destruction of his vessel, also of the barks Elena and E. G. Godfrey, and schooner Charter Oak, ships Kate and Prince, captured and bonded. She conveyed the officers and men captured to Bahia, Brazil. The Susan was captured November 4, in north lat. 4° 30', west long. 26° 40'. The Shenandoah carries four 68-pounder smooth bore guns, and two 32-pounder rifles; and two 12 pounder smooth bores.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN HANSEN.

On the morning of the 4th of November, about two o'clock, we made a large steamer in the distance. At three o'clock she tacked and stood after us, and daylight she was off the starboard quarter, half a mile distant, when she hoisted the English flag and fired a gun. We set the colors, but did not heave to. She then hauled down the English flag and fired another gun, at the same time hoisting the rebel flag. We then tacked our yards, and were shortly afterwards boarded by an armed boat from the steamer, which proved to be the Shenandoah. They took possession of the brig and ordered the captain and mate to repair on board with the ship's papers. This occurred in latitude 4 30 north, longitude 26 40 west from Greenwich. After examining the ship's papers the captain of the pirate ordered the brig to be sunk, taking out of her everything that could be of any use, such as provisions, canvass and rope, and allowing the ship's company to take away all personal effects, except the nautical instruments.

This steamer is a full rigged ship, with rolling topsails, iron lower masts, bowsprit, steel lower yards, and capable of steaming under full sail eleven knots.—She was built at Glasgow by Messrs. Stevens & Sons, in 1863, and was formerly called the Sea King, and, by the officer's own report, had been employed on the London and Bombay line of steamers. She is now armed with four 68-pounder smooth bore guns, two 32 pounder rifles, and two 12 pounder smooth bore guns. She had forty-three men on board, nearly all of whom had joined from captured vessels. She was fitted out at sea, or at Fanchal harbor, by another steamer, which had been sent out from England for the purpose.—She had a clearance from London to Bombay, which they said she had on board at the time.

In my opinion she is not fit to fight any vessel, as she is not able to use any of her guns except the small ones, and for those she had only one or two rounds of ammunition. She is commanded by a man who is very imprudent in boarding vessels. In capturing the ship Kate Prince, which I subsequently witnessed, he exposed his whole broadside without knowing whether she was a man-of-war or a merchant vessel, and neglected to have his men at quarters. The crew were so situated that they could have been swept away by a discharge from an opposing vessel. It astonished me greatly to see his management in this respect, as he said he had been brought up in the American navy. By his own statement his name was Wardell, a native of Maryland, and a graduate of Annapolis. He was formerly in command of the United States sloop of-war Saratoga.

All of us who were on board as prisoners must acknowledge that this same Captain Wardell, as well as his officers, treated us very kindly, and were, in every respect perfect gentlemen.

Previous to the capture of the Susan, the bark Elena, of Boston, bark E. G. Godfrey, (place unknown,) and schooner Charter Oak, of San Francisco, had been captured. The officers of the two first named vessels were sent into Rio Janeiro by a Danish brig.

The Kate Prince was bonded, and conveyed me and Captain Gilmen to Bahia. From thence we sailed in the bark Grace, of Baltimore, for New York, where we arrived to-day. About five hundred dollars worth of private property which I had on board fell into the hands of the privateers.

GEN. DAVIDSON'S RAID.

RACY DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTERNATION CREATED BY THE RAIDERS.

Correspondence of the Mobile Advertiser.

Tangipaho, Ala., at first felt fierce and defiant, under the protection of the chivalric "Pumkin Studs," encamped at that place. [Pumkin Studs is the vernacular for militia and reserves in this country.] The few that had guns were sent on picket duty; those that hadn't remained to keep up the courage of the town. Passing by several minor alarms, I come to the big scare of Wednesday midnight. The picket guard on one of the roads fired their guns at some harmless if not imaginary thing in the dark, and galloped into the town with the report that the federals were right behind them. If a mine had exploded beneath the town the scatterment couldn't have been greater. In about thirty-five seconds there was not a Pumpkin Stud in the town, and very few others. (I must except a few officers, who remained behind, in frantic endeavors to rally the flying studs.)

One man jumped from a second story gallery and knocked away a post from under said gallery in the violence of his start for the swamp. A recruiting officer stopping in the town undertook to bridle a buggy, which in the darkness he mistook for his horse; finding the animal at last, and jumping for the saddle, he went clean over. A young doctor, just on the eve of getting married, ran out of one of his boots, and next day, in company with his intended, went up the road wearing one torn boot and an embroidered slipper. A captain en route to Mobile took to the swamp and remained till morning. Wading up a branch, the better to elude pursuit, he heard a report of firearms, and soon after that he was frightened by an affrighted soldier who jumped into the branch just ahead of him. "I surrender" shouted the captain, taking the fellow for a Yankee. "Yes, I surrender!" said the soldier, not hearing the captain's personal pronoun, and mistaking him for an officer in pursuit, he himself being an escaped deserter from the guard-house, with others, and the cause of the firing that had been heard.

Having mutually surrendered, they looked very foolishly at each other for a moment or so, when the deserter started to run. The captain, still believing that Yankees were near, started in pursuit, shouting, "Don't run so fast. I'll keep you company!" But the deserter soon vanished, and the captain stole into town much disgusted with the state of affairs generally. When I state that, owing to the recent heavy rains, the whole surrounding country was a swamp of mud and water, you may imagine what luxury there was in a stampede to the woods. The pickets on several occasions acted very ridiculously, firing their guns at imaginary enemies, and running like scared dogs.

At Osyka the state of affairs was pretty much the same, if not a little worse, as there they have a telegraph office to add to any general confusion that may arise. This telegraph office was the centre of excitement, and the radiating point of the several stampedes that occurred. The liveliest scatterment was late on Friday night. In the back room of the telegraph office, assembled around the fire, and discussing the situation, were the operator, the post commandant and a number of the honorable and respectable members of the "Osyka News Club." The particular subject under discussion was the general nervousness of the community, and the ease with which a panic might be started at that late hour.

Indeed Lieutenant B—— had suggested what a good idea it would be for some one to gallop his horse through the town and fire a shot or two as he rode, in order to see the natives get up and skedaddle, when a clattering of horses' feet was heard, and Dr. Mc——, who had been keeping watch outside, rushed in pop-eyed, and said, in a low voice, "Get out quick—the Yanks are at the door!" If that party had been discharged out of a mortar, their evanishment could not have been more sudden or complete. They bolted out the back door like a drove of mad buffaloes, and went charging and over the back fences for the woods. They had some six or eight high board and paling fences to get over, and the way they did it was a caution to tom cats. It is stated as an actual fact that in their flight they scared a calf to death and scared another out of a year's growth.

[The dead calf was the property of Mr. Michael Hart, a well known and respected citizen of Osyka, and the stunted calf belongs to Mr. Addis, the worthy postmaster, to either of which gentlemen any one may write who doubts this statement.]—The torn clothes, lacerated hands, and bruised knees and hips of the stampeders, when they reached the friendly shade of the swamps, vouched for the magnificence of their hegira over the fences. The Lieutenant who had suggested the plan for scaring the town didn't consider the swamp safe, and was for swimming the Tangipaho river in addition. Captain W., after getting breath, set about lighting his pipe. "Don't," said one, whose nerves still vibrated, "they'll see the light and be after us." "But I'll light the match in my hat, behind a tree," said the Captain. "Oh, no, don't," was the added remonstrance; "it is a still, quiet night, and they'll smell the smoke."

Afraid to return to town, they groped about in the swamp awhile, getting into all sorts of mudholes and ditches, and barking their shins in the dark until they came to an old crib with fodder in the loft, and in this fodder they hid themselves and slept till morning. When they finally ventured back to town they found that the supposed Yankees were merely a squad of frightened Pumpkin Studs, who had dashed into the town, not to take it, but to claim its protection. Other incidents I might narrate, but the above will serve for a sample of the excitement that prevailed.

Now that the Yankees are reliably reported to have put back to Baton Rouge the excitement has simmered down, and Osyka and Tangipaho are themselves again. The Studs are all on hand again; and if they are only supplied with proper arms and plenty of ammunition, I think it a safe thing to bet that they'll stand their ground and fight the next time. The next Yankee inspection tour, it is expected will be about Christmas.

From Gen. Sheridan.

The Late Cavalry Reconnoissance—Casualties in Pennsylvania Regiments.

WINCHESTER, VA., Dec. 29.—[Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.]—As the fact is generally known, particularly by the enemy, that our cavalry has recently made a reconnoissance to the vicinity of Gordonsville, Orange county, there can be no harm in giving some of the details of that movement.

As I wrote yesterday upon the return of the Second Division, Gen. Powell, the First Division, now under the command of Brig. Gen. Devin, returned during the day. The two divisions, under Gen. Torbert, left camp on Monday, the 19th inst.; that night the command halted in Chester Gap. Tuesday night at Finck's, near Sperryville; Wednesday night on Hughes' road, near Madison Court House: Thursday night just across the Rapidan, near Brock's Ford and Jack's shop; Friday night recrossed the Rapidan and Robinson's rivers; Saturday night on Hazel river; Sunday night at White Sulphur Springs; Monday night near Paris; and on Tuesday night the First Division at Millwood, the Second Division reaching their old camp that day, and the First yesterday, as stated above.

With the exception of a few scattering shots exchanged with guerillas, there was no firing until the command arrived on the Rapidan, some eight miles from Gordonsville. Here was found strongly posted on the opposite bank Lomax's division of cavalry, with several pieces of artillery in position. Towards night, while the Second Division, Gen. Powell, (Col. Capehart's Brigade on the left), was put forward to entertain the enemy on the pike and south of it, the First Division, Gen. Devin, went to the right, near Williams' shop, at Kays' Ford, about two and a half miles from the pike, where the Second Brigade, commanded by Col. Kellogg, crossed, and by a sudden dash flanked the enemy out of their position. With such promptness was the movement executed, and the enemy so completely taken by surprise, that they left precipitately, abandoning two pieces of artillery. It is believed that then the command could have marched into Gordonsville with but little opposition, but night coming on, no advance was made further than to secure the position attained.

A Rebel Captain captured near this place was exceedingly anxious to know, and even offered $500 (in Confederate shinplasters, I presume), reward to any one who would name the traitor that showed the Yankees the fording-place where the First Division crossed. He was not gratified, and saved his money and reputation as a betting man at the same time. The bridge across the river at Liberty Mills had been burned by the enemy, and the road had otherwise been obstructed. In crossing the river the Twentieth Pennsylvania Calvary. Major Thorpe, had the advance, led by Lieutenant Blunt, of General Devins' staff. In this flank movement they came upon the enemy at the junction of the Madison and Gordonsville roads, near Somerset Church. In the charge a Rebel captain, surgeon, and seven non-commissioned officers were captured, most of whom were left behind when the command returned. There was some fighting up to 9 o'clock this night, when the firing ceased on both sides.

The following morning (Friday) the First Brigade, Col. Stagg commanding, which has been guarding the cross-roads was removed forward to where the Charlottesville and Orange road crosses the Gordonsville pike, and the Second Brigade was thereupon ordered to advance toward Gordonsville as far as possible. There was but little opposition until the brigade had arrived within two miles of Gordonsville, where the pike passes through Southwest Mountain. Here the road was barricaded, and the hill sides were found to be well arranged, naturally as well as artificially, for defensive operations. More than all, the works, such as they were, were occupied by infantry. Notwithstanding this fact, the Second Brigade, Col Kellogg, was ordered in.

The Second Pennsylvania, Major Scott; Seventeenth Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Anderson; Ninth New York, Col. Nicholas, and Fourth New York, Capt. Oliver, moved up in handsome style, and succeeded in capturing the advanced positions; but while all this was going on, fresh troops were constantly being marched into position, and the trains on the railroad bringing up reinforcements could be distinctly heard. Besides the cavalry before mentioned. Kershaw's Division of infantry was developed here. After feeling the works for several hours, the command was ordered to retire, Lieut. Col. Anderson, of the Seventeenth Pennsylvania, behaved with distinguished gallantry, leading his men in two separate charges, one on foot, and the other on horseback. Col. Nichols, of the Ninth New York, took a prominent part on the extreme right, in a flank movement.

In retreating the enemy followed only a short distance; they were not disposed to cultivate a too intimate acquaintance with the rear guard, having some knowledge of the men composing that force.

On the return, hearing that Moseby was wounded, and at a house near by, Gen. Gibbs, commanding Reserve Brigade, sent out a detachment of the First Dragoons, under Capt. Cobbinger, of Gen. Torbett's staff, to bring him away in an ambulance. The place visited was Dorman's Mills, near Upperville, but too late. Moseby had been removed, and was dangerously wounded, according to the statements of the people residing there.

The enemy gave the First Division a few parting shots in Ashby's Gap, firing at least a hundred shots at the command while passing through that place. Several hundred horses and cattle were captured and driven in, but there was no sytematic attempt made to capture or destroy property, save in one instance, where Capt. Oliver, with the Fourth New Hampshire, went out, but getting lost in the fog, and surrounded by an invisible foe, the command did not do much damage.

BLOCKADE-RUNNERS.—A small fleet of blockade-runners has been passing up and down the Clyde during the last few days. Of these vessels, two sailed for their destination on the 12th, viz: the three-funneled steamer Flamingo, of 800 tons burden, which has already figured as a smart blockade-runner, but which, receiving some damage in the trade, had come home for repair; and the new steamer Florence, of 1,100 tons, a sister to the well-known smart runner Banshee, and from which also good work is expected. Two other steamers are lying at Gareloch ready to follow. They are the Alice, of 800 tons, and Fanny, of 800 tons.

These vessels have already distinguished themselves as blockade runners, the latter having made fourteen trips. Both have had an extensive overhaul. Another new steamer has passed up the river, named the Amy, of 1,000 tons, and is also expected to sail this week. Several other new vessels are finishing and building for this trade, and up to the 13th, the total number of vessels, almost all of which are new paddle steamers, that have sailed from the Clyde to run the blockade during the present year, amounted to 50. They averaged from 400 to 1,200 tons, and were manned with crews of from twenty to fifty men each. The total cost of these vessels would be close upon £500,000.—*Scotsman.*

Two young men, Tridell and Riley, ventured out upon Lake Superior about four weeks since, in an open boat, on a stormy night, from Ontonagon. After three weeks Tridell made his way back and says after being blown into the lake they headed their boat down the lake in the track of steamers. During the night Riley perished and lay dead in the boat. The next day the boat with the survivor was picked up by the Governor Cushman, and the living man landed at Copper Harbor, where Riley, also, was buried. Tridell had been twenty-one hours exposed to the cold, and without food, but warmth and food soon restored him.

THE UNION MEN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

INTERESTING EXPERIENCE OF AN ESCAPED OFFICER AMONG THE "POOR WHITE TRASH" OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS.

[From the Cincinnati Commercial, Dec. 29.]

Captain Albert Grant, of the Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, who was taken prisoner before Petersburg in June last, and escaped from the Confederate prison pen at Columbia, North Carolina, arrived in this city yesterday. His narrative of experience in the South is unusually interesting, as he is a gentleman of much intelligence, whose habits of observation enabled him, during his captivity, to accumulate an extraordinary variety of information. More than that, there is no doubt whatever as to his entire truthfulness.

In the first place, he was much surprised, on passing through the rebel camps and lines immediately after he was made prisoner, at the appearance of weakness of Lee's army, and he hardly knows how to account for the failure of the Army of the Potomac to crush it. He was for a time in the city of Charleston, and had the pleasure of noticing the rank growth of grass in King street, the principal thoroughfare of the city. It is his opinion that about one half of the city has been destroyed by the conflagrations that occurred early in the war and the year of bombardment, recently suspended during the exchange of prisoners. Our shells frequently set the town on fire, and once, during his stay, a shell caused the burning of twenty-seven buildings. While marched as a prisoner along the upper part of King street, he looked closely to see how the number of stores that were open compared with those that were closed.

He saw but three business houses with open doors, and they seemed to be doing a small grocery business. He made his escape from the cars while being transported to Savannah, and wandered about in South Carolina for nearly a month, when he was compelled to call at a house to get water, as the weather was exceedingly hot and the country parched with a protracted drouth, and was recaptured. The man into whose hands he fell, was a member of the South Carolina Senate. Just at this time Sherman was in the neighborhood of Atlanta, and the news of the battles of the 20th and 22nd of July was being circulated.

We had lost McPherson, and the rebels claimed to be victorious. The South Carolina Senator declared that the end of the war was at hand. The contest between Hood and Sherman, for the possession of Atlanta, would be conclusive to his mind. If Hood defeated Sherman, the Yankee army would be totally destroyed, and that would conclude the war. And, if Sherman took Atlanta, he was in favor of giving up, as it would be madness to fight any more after that. Atlanta he considered the gate to Southern Georgia and South Carolina, and its fall would be the ruin of those States, while their overthrow would give a mortal wound to the confederacy.

Captain Grant was in Savannah when Sherman took Atlanta, and describes the sensation there as profound. The rebels seemed stunned, and there were curious developments of Union feeling among the people. For a time, the Captain says, he was in doubt whether the rebels would not really give up, feeling their cause helpless and knowing that all their sacrifices were vain.

From Savannah Capt. Grant was sent to Columbia, where he made his escape, walking, he believes, nearly six hundred miles, by very circuitous paths, of course, and coming out in East Tennessee.

The most remarkable of his observations relates to the numbers and spirit of the Union men in North Carolina. When he had been twenty days out, and had just crossed the line between North and South Carolina, he was startled about the middle of the night by hearing voices in the middle of the road and approaching. Stepping aside and listening closely, he was reassured by the discovery that one of the voices was that of a negro, and supposed of course the other was a negro also. He called them, and inquired the road to a town not far distant, which was in the direction he wished to go. A white man's voice replied;

"Men of your stamp don't want to go to that town—you must flank it."

"What do you mean by men of my stamp?" was the response.

"Why," said the Carolinian, "I mean that you don't want to go there, that's all; but you must flank it."

"But what do you suspect me of being?" Capt. Grant inquired.

"You are a Yankee," replied the Carolinian; "if you go there you will be made prisoner."

"And if I am a Yankee," said the Captain, "and wanted to flank the town, is there anybody about here who could show me how to do it?—is there such a man?"

"That I be," was the reply, and the Carolinian parted from his negro companion, who turned out to be a woman, and took Captain Grant to his house, and called up his wife and had her get supper for the stranger. Captain Grant had been for months in rebel prisons, and fared hard, and for twenty days had been sleeping by day in hiding places, and crawling weary and sore-footed, on his way by night, living on raw corn. The supper at the hospitable Carolinian's, he says, was the best he ever tasted. There were hot buck wheat cakes and cold chicken and preserves, and everything was inexpressibly good.

Here Captain Grant got his first insight of the faithfulness, earnestness and hopefulness of the real Union party of North Carolina. His host told him where and how to find Union men, and marked out the most favorable roads for him to take, giving many directions, all of which were proven to have been given in good faith. The mountains of Western North Carolina were found swarming with Union men, refugees from the rebel conscription.—Many of them live in caves, venture out to see their families at night, and altogether lead a very wild and strange life. They were not alarmed at the idea of entering an army because they feared to encounter the dangers of war; but they had a horror of fighting against their country and the old flag, and would undergo perils and privations, and die rather than do it.

Captain Grant found in one place a den in the woods, ingeniously constructed, in which fifteen of those men lived. When he reached these friendly people he was in a pitiable plight, his clothes being nearly all torn off, and his boots worn till they ceased to afford any protection to his feet. The Union fugitives harboring in one of the huts in the woods where he found shelter, mended his boots, so that they were made quite serviceable. It is the opinion of Captain Grant that *there are from six to ten thousand Union men avoiding rebel conscription in Western North Carolina, and that the Union feeling there is as great and positive as it ever was in East Tennessee.*

He actually raised a company, nearly one hundred strong, of the Carolina refugees, and brought them into East Tennessee, where they narrowly escaped being made prisoners by Breckinridge, and he left his company in the woods and proceeded to Knoxville with one of them, selected to be an officer, who received a lieutenant's commission, and returned to the men to complete their organization. It is the number and zeal of the Union men in North Carolina that enable so many of our escaped prisoners to make their way to our lines in East Tennessee.

☞The Detroit Tribune publishes a full statement of the disasters on the Western Lakes, from all causes, during the past season. From this source we had that 379 disasters have taken place, thus classified: Explosions 8; capsized 7; ashore 128; sprung aleak 151; destroyed by fire 4; lost sails 202; foundered 9; collisions 47; while the number of vessels that have passed out of existence is 47.

☞A hunter in Lewis county, N. Y., has killed seventy-five deer and one bear within the past five weeks. He sold his venison for $400.

The Supply of Cotton—Dethronement of the American Cotton King.

To the Editor of the London Times:—In the cotton trade circular just published by Messrs. Neill Brothers, occurs the following startling statement, of which it would be desirable that the public should have some explanation. On the subject of cotton supply from China, Messrs. Neill say:

The dissatisfaction which imports from that country have caused, the recent panic in the trade and the fact that prices are even now fourpence and fivepence per pound lower than last year, have already reduced the quantity afloat to a bagatelle. * * * Cotton trade writers generally still industriously keep up the notion that the cause of prices of this staple depends upon American politics and the state of the money market, studiously ignoring the fact demonstrated by the figures given below that, owing to the increased supplies from all quarters on the one hand, and the permanent decline of demand from economizing of material and substitution of other fibres for clothing, on the other hand, our supplies of cotton, independently of America, are now in excess of the requirements. For, if it be contended that, after three years of cotton famine, the world is still, in 1865, using up surplus stock of cotton goods created before the war, it would only prove how enormous was the over-production at that time, and how false were our estimates of the world's requirements of cotton.

That the heavy fall in price which the present position of supply and demand must shortly bring about will cause a revival of demand for goods there can be no question; but the fall must come first to produce the demand, and the prospects are that our supplies for 1865 will be equal to the highest amount of real demand for goods we have ever known.

It must not be forgotten that the world will never replenish its exhausted stock of goods until the prices return to their normal position; nor must it be forgotten that prices one shilling per pound under the present currency, are sufficient not only to keep up the present rate of cultivation in every quarter, but keep it continually on the increase.

Dec. 7, 1864. A. M.

Supplies of cotton to the United Kingdom from other countries than the United States, but including latterly small receipts of American cotton from Matamoros and through the blockade:

	Bales.		Bales.
1858	377,000	1862	1,445,000
1859	744,000	1863	1,332,000
1860	764,000	1864	2,600,000
1861	1,194,000	1865 (estimated)	3,500,000

—Stocks of Cotton, Dec. 2—

	1863. Bales.	1864. Bales.
At Liverpool	249,500	383,500
At London	43,500	117,703
At Havre	26,200	61,900
Total	319,200	563,300
		319,200
Increase of stock in twelve months		244,100

From Fortress Monroe

Return of Part of the Expeditionary Fleet.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 30.—Nearly all the steamers comprising the portion of the expeditionary fleet under the command of Major General Butler, which sailed hence several weeks since, have returned in safety, notwithstanding the severe storms experienced along the coast and while anchored off Wilmington, N. C.

The Santiago de Cuba and Fort Jackson have been the only vessels attached to the naval fleet which have as yet arrived from off Wilmington, and the latest advices received from Admiral Porter represent him as still subjecting Fort Fisher to a vigorous bombardment. The Norfolk Regime, of to-day, contains the following correspondence from off Fort Fisher, dated the 27th of December:—

"The shore is strewn with broken boats, mostly naval, which have been wrecked in one way or another. They lie strewn along the beach from Fort Fisher to Masonboro Inlet.

"The North Carolina Salt works at Masonboro were destroyed by fire last Saturday. Many of the navy vessels have withdrawn from these waters, and the bombardment may be said to have come to an end.

"In my last letter it was insisted that there was, from some cause, a want of co-operation between the army and navy." I think that I established that fact, but let me say to avoid a mistake, that there were individual instances, and quite a number of them, where navy officers acted in concert with the army."

THE CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH.

The Augusta Sentinel gets the following information from gentlemen who left Savannah just before it was surrendered into the hands of the enemy. The works around the city were strong, and the place in all probability would have been held, had it not been for the fall of Fort McAllister. The usual garrison of Fort McAllister numbered about one hundred and twenty-five men. A day or two before it fell, however, about six hundred more troops were sent to their aid.

By its fall we lost between 700 and 800 men. The fort was attacked on the north side by Sherman's forces. It is now known that if the fort had been as strong on the land side as it was on the water side, it never could have been captured.

After Sherman captured the fort, he communicated with the fleet, and procured a bountiful supply of ammunition.

Sherman also transferred the heavy guns from McAllister to a position from which he could shell the city in case he wished to. No demand was made for the surrender of the city until Saturday. On that day he demanded the unconditional surrender of the city. Gen. Beauregard in substance informed him that he knew the way to the city, and could take it if he was able. Gen. Beauregard left the city on Sunday.

The residents of Savannah did not expect that city would be captured, and were totally unprepared for such a result. But very few of them succeeded in getting away. Those who did were obliged to leave most of their effects behind. The best order was maintained throughout the entire siege. All the whisky was locked up, the stills were all seized by the authorities, four local companies were assigned to police duty and kept the law breakers quiet.

One or two small fires occurred, but little property, however, was damaged. All the rice on plantations in the vicinity fell into the hands of the Yankees.. Some estimate the amount at five hundred thousand bushels. The Confederate Government succeeded in removing most of its slaves.

The main loss sustained by it was the loss of the siege guns about the place and the gunboats. The pontoon bridge across which our troops passed, was built at the foot of one of the streets of the city. During the siege several attempts to destroy our communication on the Carolina side were made, all of which proved futile.—Bishop Elliott was in the city on Monday. Our informant does not know whether he left the place or not.

A large portion of the Central railroad cars were sent away by the Savannah and Gulf railroad before that line was interrupted. Both of the printing offices in the city fell into the hands of the Yankees.—Both editors left before the capitulation. The editor of the Republican left last week with government funds, of which he was the custodian. Smith, of the News, did not leave until Monday night.

☞Gibson, the sculptor, says of the newly found Hercules: "It is the most beautiful work of art in Rome. It made me melancholy the whole of the day after I had seen it, to think that, after the labor of a life, I had made such slight approaches to the perfection of the master hand which had executed that great work."

☞It is represented that never have there been such collections of supplies as now fill the depots. Arms, ammunition, clothing, shoes, wagons, horses, mules, corned meats, live oxen, bread, flour, in short, there is no want of any kind of transportation.

From the Army of the James.

RETURN OF MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER.

IN FRONT OF RICHMOND, Dec. 29—A. M.—Major Gen. Butler, accompanied by his staff, returned to his headquarters in the Army of the James at a late hour last evening from North Carolina, and at once resumed command in place of Major Gen. Ord, who returns to the head of the 24th Corps. Mr. Benjamin Lossing, historian; Mr. Greble, father of Lieut. Greble, who will be remembered as gallantly falling at Big Bethel early in the war, and Mr. Grier, of Pennsylvania, all of whom accompanied Gen. Butler on the expedition and returned with him, are guests of the General to-night.

MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY YESTERDAY.

Yesterday forenoon and afternoon the right of the enemy on this front gave signs of activity, so much so, indeed, that an attack was expected by our forces. It was subsequently ascertained, however, that the movement of the enemy only contemplated a change of troops on their part to the extent of withdrawing one division and substituting another on a particular portion of the line visible from our signal tower at Crow's Nest.

PROBABLE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS OF THE ENEMY.

It is very generally believed here, and preparations are already made amply to meet the contingency, that the enemy contemplate an early and heavy attack on one of the flanks of this army, probably with a view of seizing and holding the pontoon bridge spanning the Appomattox river at Point of Rocks. The rebel troops evacuating Savannah are, doubtless, on their way to reinforce Lee. In addition to these Breckinridge's forces are expected to appear on this front, and we may confidently look for a renewal of active hostilities, initiated by Lee, at an early day.

Southern News.

Gen. Sherman About to Oblige Lee by Moving on Richmond.

From the Richmond Whig, Dec'r 27.

Sherman has consented to gratify Gen. Lee. He announces in his own inimitable manner, that "the sun goes North on the 21st, and by that time I shall go North too." This is playing Joshua, with a slight variation. The sun stood still at the Hebrew chieftain's bidding, but the Yankee warrior, more complaisant and perhaps less potent, consents to follow the sun. Well, let him come. *He is the very genius we desire to see*, and he brings with him some thousands of those Western braves whose mettle we desire to test, for Grant has with him only some seven thousand veterans, and the rest are the riff-raff of creation, to defeat whom is no honor. Let Sherman, then, come on with his host of Occidental invincibles; we will soon have him in the position he claimed Hood was, "just where we want him."

He does not tell us his programme or what cities he intends to conquer before he winds up with Lee as a *bon bouche*. Doubtless he will not leave Charleston behind him. The glory of conquering the birthplace of secession is an incentive too powerful to be withstood by this doughty warrior. As for Wilmington, he will leave that to General Beast Butler, reserving in his own mind the right of conquest providing the Beast find Bragg too hard a nut to crack. His main column, therefore, will march along the coast, clearing away impediments and keeping within co-operative distance of the fleet. Nothing more easy than this to the omnipotent Sherman.

But he is too polite a man to neglect the capital of the Spartan little State of South Carolina. He will detach a column to pay his respects to Columbia, just as he did to Milledgeville. Mules and negroes in plenty, and perhaps Yankee prisoners he hopes to find, and drag to the embrace of the Union. An easy job this, to a master of war, as is Mr. Sherman. Nor will he slight Raleigh and his friend Holden. In fact, it would be doing him great injustice to suppose that he will be wanting in courtesy to any considerable town in the interior of North Carolina. Far too polite a gentleman for that is Gen. Sherman. While his hand is in he will capture all the towns between Savannah and Richmond. Why not? Nothing is more easy to the redoubtable Sherman.

He promised to devastate and desolate as he advances, and to leave behind him a blackened waste extending from Chattanooga to the capitol of the Southern confederacy. In proof of this he delays his departure from Savannah for a few days in order that he may destroy the Albany railroad—a piece of pure wantonness and vandalism. All this will the remarkable General Sherman do, and that within a brief space of time; for what can resist the irresistible Sherman, and what is the use of prolonging the war into another campaign? Why not close it up by the 4th of next March—the blessed anniversary of the inauguration of Abraham?

Such, in all probability, are the schemes of this ambitious creature, who is perhaps even now on his march in this direction. Unfortunately—for we are exceedingly impatient to celebrate in the good city of Richmond the advent of the conquering hero—there are many miles and many streams of water between this goal of his ambition and the point of his departure. Also, there is a soldier of the name of Hardee, and another of the name of Beauregard, both of whom are disposed to dispute Mr. Sherman's triumphal progress. Last of all, when he reaches Richmond, he will find at its portal a man who has never been run over, well known as Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Even if he bring with him his army uninjured by Beauregard and Hardee, and add the army of Thomas to his own army, and then add both armies to the army of Grant, the combination will not be more formidable in numbers than that which was arrayed against Richmond last spring. Lee was able to resist the one combination: what reason is there to doubt that he will be able to resist the other? We very much fear that the reception of Sherman at the gates of Richmond will be, to say the least, uncivil. Nay, we are apprehensive that Lee's treatment of him will be so rough as to compel him to consult the solsticial movements as to the best method of continuing his journey still further northward and of leaving Richmond in the lurch—which would be a disappointment to us and a chagrin to the wonderful Sherman.

NORTH CAROLINA HOME GUARD REFUSING TO CROSS THE STATE LINE.

From the Milton N. C. Chronicle.

We understand that the Home Guard force sent to meet the Bellfield raiders, refused to cross the line. This was very unpatriotic, if by crossing the line the raiders could have been well thrashed. We understand also that our excellent and patriotic Governor lost his temper over this ungallant behavior. And who blames him? To have an army that halts at a State line and lets the enemy perpetrate outrages almost in its sight, and then escape, rather than leap over the line and chastise the foe, is rather vexatious. Wonder if the Home Guard would have had such a high "respect" for State lines if the Yanks had been in its rear, driving it pell-mell. We must do the men of Caswell and Person the justice to say that none of them were in that squad.

☞The Brothers Davenport gave one of their peculiar entertainments in Oxford last week. The room was filled with undergraduates, who broke down the barriers and stormed the platform. One of the brothers had a fistic encounter with one of the undergraduates during the riot.

☞The Burnside Rifle Company of Providence, R. I., has contracted to furnish 15,000 breech loaders, of the Spencer pattern, and are now making extensive alterations in their works, that they may be enabled to furnish the arms to the government as soon as possible.

☞The Toronto Globe is trying to get up a counter raid excitement by representing that a "Fenian" expedition is fitting out at Buffalo to invade Canada!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

☞Sir Henry Bulwer has been caught in a trick which is likely to result in his recall from the Court at Constantinople. It appears that he has been palming himself off in England as the friend of civil and religious liberty while conniving at the persecution of missionaries in Turkey. He was the only Ambassador who took this course. All the others have done all in their power to secure to the Protestant Turks the rights guaranteed by the late Sultan.

☞The Herald's London letters says: "The effects here of the talk about arming the Southern negroes in behalf of the rebels is to increase the interest on their side. Convince the majority of the people that slavery is to end, and they will favor recognition. The Emperor's real desire is that the South shall abolish slavery and become an independent power. The Southerners in Paris encourage the idea that this will be the final result."

☞The weekly receipts by lake of lumber, timber and shingles at Chicago, since the opening of navigation in the spring to December 22d, was, of lumber, 420,537,383 feet; of timber, 5,875,000 feet, and 163,608,000 shingles, besides two rafts aggregating 2,848,000 feet; there were received also 62,541,000 laths, 645,864 posts, 10,782,000 staves, and 491,936 railroad ties.

☞Large numbers of refugees are almost daily arriving at Indianapolis, from the South, and are, in most instances, almost entirely destitute of money and supplies. They are, in a large proportion, families, whose protectors have heretofore fled to escape the wholesale conscription of King Jeff.

☞At the late Presidential election in Vermont, Serenus Swift, of Manchester, cast his eighteenth vote for President. He first voted for John Adams, in 1799, and has voted at every Presidential election since. He is the oldest living graduate of Dartmouth College.

☞The exports of oil during the past eleven months have amounted to 30,000,000 gallons, worth about $21,000,000; and the domestic consumption for the same period was, probably 20,000,000 gallons more—making the whole of the oil product from $35,000,000 to $40,000,000.

☞Chaplain de Forrest, of the 11th Conn., regiment, writes to his friends for a tent-fly for a chapel roof. His present house of prayer he describes as "the December sky, floored with Southern soil. The roof leaks; the floor catches the drippings, and the walls are found only where the earth and sky meet."

☞Magrath, the new Governor of South Carolina, is a full-blown State right's man, says the Richmond Whig. South Carolina and other States will find this a very convenient doctrine when they want to slough off the Confederacy.

☞A letter from the mouth of the Rio Grande says: "The rebels are hanging and imprisoning all men who showed any favor to the Union forces at the time Brownsville was occupied. All property of suspected persons is confiscated."

☞A Maine paper says that the first tape manufactured in this country was made at North Monmouth, in that State, by an Englishman, who gave the idea of a loom to a Yankee mechanic. From this, two large factories grew up in the town of Oxford.

☞"Do you see that meeting-house on the top of thon brae, Jimmy?" "An' sure, it's mesel' that does," says Jimmy. "Now," says Pat, "just take a squint at it through my eyeglass, and it will be so nigh till we can hear the organ play."

☞A recent letter from Mr. Herrick, Missionary of the American Board at Constantinople, says it appears to be the determination of the Sultan, by intimidation and discipline, to prevent any defection from Islamism to Christianity.

☞Not one half the usual amount of lumber will be cut this winter on the Aroostook or St. John rivers, in Maine. Supplies and labor are so high that operatives generally concede that nothing can be made in the business.

☞The Ashland Manufacturing Company has nearly completed one of the finest cotton mills in New England, at Jewett City, Connecticut. The mill is designed to accommodate fifteen thousand spindles and two hundred and forty looms.

☞A Maine paper says that the first tape manufactured in this country was made at North Monmouth, in that State, by an Englishman, who gave the idea of a loom to a Yankee mechanic. From this two large factories grew up in the town of Oxford.

☞The Washington National Intelligencer has changed owners, and the veteran editor, Col. Seaton, retires. The purchasers are J. F. Coyle, A. G. Allen and Wm. R. Grow. No change will occur in the conservative Democratic policy of the paper.

☞The Public Schools of New York city have cost, this year, no less than $1,862,161 33; and yet that city has one of the most ignorant of Common Councils, and not a very enlightened Board of Education.

☞Jennie L. Thompson, a teacher in the American Church School, at Buenos Ayres, S. A., dropped dead on the 13th of October last, while reading a literary exercise. The mother of Jennie resides in Delaware, Ohio.

☞The Swedes in Minnesota manufacture their own dry goods, raising wool and flax in sufficient quantities to supply them for their present wants, and also to lay away for the future.

☞Dr. Daniel Johnson, an eminent citizen of Marion county, Mo., died there at the age of seventy four, on the 30th ult., of injuries received by a fall from a railroad car, near Monroe station, on the night of the 23d.

☞It was Gen. John Adams, and not Gen. Wirt Adams who was killed at Franklin. Gen. Wirt Adams is in Mississippi. Gen. John Adams was an old United States officer, and resided at Memphis.

☞The Swedes in Minnesota manufacture their own dry goods, raising wool and flax in sufficient quantities to supply them for their present wants, and also to lay away for the future.

☞The New York Journal of Commerce urges the passage of a law making it a penal offence to deface rocks, trees and bridges, with advertisements.

☞Fifteen thousand dollars have been raised in Nantucket for the capital of a company organized to carry on the fishing business.

☞Col. Charles O. Rogers, the principal proprietor of the Boston Journal, pays an income tax of $58,000 a year. Glad the Colonel is so warm this cold weather.—*Picayune.*

☞A new whiskey distillery at Dubuque, Iowa, cost $300,000 to $400,000, and when in full operation will pay $500 in taxes on its daily product.

☞A boy driving a carriage in a funeral procession at Albany, a few days since, was found, on arriving at the grave, to be frozen to death.

☞The Calcutta Englishman says that the culture of cotton in the northwestern provinces of India has increased fifty per cent. during the past year.

☞The publishers of weekly papers in Ohio are going to have a convention in January 4th, to see whether they can afford to live or not.

☞As far as ascertained, the sum of one million four hundred and fifty-six thousand dollars has been contributed to American Colleges during the year 1864.

☞The shocks of an earthquake were experienced at Victoria, V. I., on the 2d ult. It must have been very severe, as the main peak of Mount Barker sank about 1,000 feet.

☞The horse cars in Boston have been stopped by the ice in the streets. The embargo is fast being removed.

☞The blows struck by Sherman have staggered the rebel sympathizers in Canada, as well as the rebels themselves.

☞The sum of $117,000 has been appropriated in Philadelphia for the cleaning of the streets.

☞The number of new buildings erected in the city of Brooklyn during the past year was one thousand one hundred and thirteen.

☞Two merchants of Louisville, Ky., have been fined $500 and costs each, for making fraudulent income returns.

☞Tom Thumb came very near losing his life at the Hotel de Louvre, in Paris, the building having taken fire.

☞A woman in Missouri raised $6000 by her own work on a half acre of tobacco planted this summer.

☞Extensive coal beds have lately been discovered near Hoboken, N. J., and they think they will find petroleum there.

☞A good many of the Minnesota Indians are preparing to give themselves up to the military authorities.

☞The new canal on the Isthmus of Panama will cost forty millions of dollars.

☞The Libby prison at Richmond has held since the war 125,000 prisoners.

☞Government expects to consume 500,000 tons of coal this year.

☞Semmes, the pirate, arrived at Mobile on the 16th inst., by way of Matamoras.