BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

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

VOLUME L.--NUMBER 20. BALTIMORE, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 24, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

Affairs in General Hood's Army.

THE TORIES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Rise in Freshets, and Great Damage to Railroads.

HARDSHIP OF THE CONSCRIPTION

More About Peace Negotiations.

LATE NEWS FROM EUROPE

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

Commander of the Shenandoah Remanded for Trial.

FALL OF SAVANNAH RECEIVED IN ENGLAND.

It Causes Great Excitement.

&c., &c., &c.

THE ADVANCE ON WILMINGTON.

The United States transport and mail steamer Massachusetts, Capt. E. A. West, arrived at this port yesterday morning, and brings the following news:

On the 18th our entire force, under Gen. Alfred H. Terry, advanced toward Wilmington, and were reinforced by a heavy column of veteran troops from the South, believed to be under command of General Howard. No heavy fighting occurred on the 19th or 19th, and it was thought our troops were meeting with little or no opposition from the enemy.

A report from the front says that Wilmington was evacuated, and that our troops would occupy the place at once.—This report is, no doubt, the origin of the story that Wilmington had fallen into our hands, so currently announced during the past three days.

Our light draft gun-boats of all descriptions were up the Cape Fear River, moving up cautiously towards Wilmington, searching for torpedoes, and relaying the buoys.

There was no doubt that our troops would soon capture Wilmington, and the fall of Charleston is hourly expected.

The greatest good feeling exists in the army and navy, and everybody looks forward hopefully to new and more important victories.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 23d.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—The reported accident on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, on a trestle work, by which nearly one hundred persons were said to have been killed and wounded, was a gross exaggeration. There is no such trestle work, and the accident was that which occurred to the Catawissa mail train going west colliding with the train east, on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, five miles west of Muncy. By this accident six persons were injured, including four employees of the Company and two passengers, who were only slightly injured. The eastward train on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, had the preference of the road and was running according to schedule regulations.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—The monitor Camanchee steamed out in the bay yesterday, and sailed on a trial trip to Mare Island Navy Yard, where she will be fitted up for service. Commander Woodworth will probably take charge of her.

The steamer John L. Stephens has arrived from Mexican ports with $10,700 in gold, and nearly 200 sacks of silver ore. The receipts of bullion since the 11th instant amount to $1,200,000.

A SKIRMISH IN KENTUCKY.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The Commercial's Cairo despatch says: Lieutenant Wesley, in command of a company of Tennessee cavalry left Columbus, Ky., on the 18th, and when ten miles out encountered 200 rebels. A fierce fight ensued, lasting half an hour, in which the rebels had two killed, one wounded and five taken prisoners. No casualties on the Union side were reported.

From five to ten of Forest's command come in and take the oath daily.

A CANARD EXPOSED.

TORONTO, C. W., Jan. 23.—The Globe to-day has a special despatch from Quebec, saying:—"The report that the English Government is about to send a fleet of gun boats to the lakes is a canard.

The writ of *habeas corpus* in the case of Burleigh was moved for to day, and the case is likely to come on immediately.

BANK STATEMENT.

NEW YORK, Jan'y 23.—The bank statement shows a decrease in loans of $2,600,000; a decrease of $1,000,000 in specie, $20,000,000 in circulation, and $2,000,000 in deposits.

THE GOLD MARKET.

NEW YORK, January 23.—Gold closed this afternoon at 126.

BANQUET TO THE ESCAPED CORRESPONDENTS.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 22.—The press of Cincinnati gave a reception and banquet on Saturday night to the escaped correspondents, Richardson, Brown and Davis. Speeches of welcome were made on behalf of the city by Hon. Thomas H. Wesner, President of the City Council, and on behalf of the press by Mr. Halstead, editor of the Commercial.

The guests of the evening gave an interesting account of their journey, and stating the details about the suffering of the prisoners remaining at Salisbury.

Gen'l J. D. Webster, Hon. Ben Eggleston, M. C., Col. E. F. Noyes, Col. S. J. Grouty, Judge W. M. Dickson, and many other prominent citizens, also made speeches. Thomas Buchanan Read said he had the pleasure of writing "Sheridan's Ride," but he now found a more thrilling and stirring theme, "the walk of the Journalists," and read the first draft of a poem on the subject.

The correspondents leave to-morrow for Washington to lay their testimony before the Government as to the condition of the Salisbury prisoners, and urge the adoption of some measures for their immediate relief.

Latest from Europe.

HALIFAX, Jan'y 22.—The R. M. steamship Canada, from Liverpool on the 7th, via Queenstown on the 8th inst., arrived here at 11 o'clock to-night.

Her advices are three days later than those by the City of Baltimore at New York.

The steamship City of Limerick and City of Cork, both from New York, arrived at Queenstown on the 5th, and reached Liverpool on the 6th inst.

The R. M. steamship Cuba, from New York, arrived at Queenstown on the 7th, and reached Liverpool on the 8th inst.

The news by the Canada is not important.

Captain Corbett, late of the Sea King, (now the pirate Shenandoah) has been remanded for trial.

The Canada has thirteen Halifax and eleven Boston passengers.

Jan. 21, lat. 43, passed the Asia.

The Canada has had heavy westerly winds. She leaves for Boston at about 5 A. M., where she will be due Tuesday afternoon.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Army and Navy Gazette says the Canadian difficulty will, in all probability lapse, but not harmlessly. The display of attachment to Great Britain, and of patriotic zeal which the recent events called forth, will add to the many sources of irritation which the contest in America has opened, and will transfer to the Canadians a full share of the overflowing animosity with which Great Britain is regarded by the mass of the Northern people, but the Canadians have certainly established fresh claims to imperial sympathy.

Captain Corbett, ex-commander of the steamer Sea King, alias Shenandoah, was brought before the magistrate at London, on the 5th, charged with having enlisted, or attempted to enlist, British subjects for service in the Confederate Navy. The solicitor who appeared on behalf of the Government to prosecute, stated the case against the prisoner, who took the vessel to Madeira, and then announced to the crew that she was intended and sold for a cruiser, and urged them to enlist in the service. Evidence was given in support, when the case was remanded, the prisoner being admitted to bail in £1,000, and two sureties in £2,000 each.

The Richmond correspondent of the London Times, writing Nov. 27 and Dec. 5, asserts that never since the commencement of the war was more serene confidence entertained about the safety of Richmond and Petersburg, be Grant's force what it may. He also affirms that never was greater confidence and more hope entertained in reference to the present and future of Secessia.

The Times likewise publishes a letter from Spence, its secession correspondent at Liverpool, bolstering up the rebel cause and attempting to show that the North had gained nothing of importance during the past year. He believed the South will call out the negroes, and points to Gen. Lee as the probable successor of Jeff. Davis.

The North German Lloyd's and Hamburg American Companies are each building a new steamer in England, with the view to the maintenance of a regular weekly line between New York, Southampton, &c.

Another evidence of Queen Victoria's resumption of public functions, is the fact that she has commanded all the ships of war to recommence firing salutes when passing Osborne, during her stay there.

FRANCE.

The weekly returns of the Bank of France show a decrease of cash on hand of nearly 30,000,000 francs.

It was reported that Prince Napoleon will visit Turin, returning to Paris in February, in company with the King of Italy.

The Bourse on the 6th was unsettled, but closed firmer at 66f. 85c.

ITALY.

It is reported that Spain is about to recognize the Kingdom of Italy.

The committee of inquiry into the disturbances of last September, at Turin, have presented their report to the Chamber of Deputies. Its purport was not stated. The debate was adjourned for the printing of the report.

A new Italian loan of six millions sterling has been contracted with several financial companies on security of State domains.

It is stated that the Pope intends sending a hat and sword blessed each year, as is the custom before Christmas mass, to the Emperor of Mexico.

LATEST VIA LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL, Sunday, Jan. 7.—Evening. The political news of to-day is unimportant.

The *Oiban's* news of the fall of Savannah was received this afternoon, and caused considerable excitement, but it was too late in the day to develop any effect.

SPAIN.

The Congress has been definitely constituted. Senor Alexandra Castro has been elected President of the House.

La Pays asserts that Gen. Parker carries to Peru the following instructions: The Peruvian authorities shall disavow all participation in the outrage upon the envoy sent from Spain and upon Spanish subjects; and shall take judicial proceedings against the author of the violence committed. As soon as the prosecution is commenced, Spain, without awaiting the result, will restore the Chinchas. The Republic shall subsequently send a Plenipotentiary to conclude a treaty of commerce and amity between the two countries.

The Madrid Correspondencia says if it is true that Peru demands the restoration of the Chinchas before granting satisfaction, a conflict is unavoidable.

The Espinto Publico accuses France of sowing discord in Spain, in order to obtain an opportunity for intervention, and keeping the basque Provinces as an indemnity.

LATEST COMMERCIAL VIA QUEENSTOWN

Liverpool, Jan. 17—P. M.—Cotton—Sales to-day of 8,000 bales, including 1,000 bales to speculators and exporters. Market dull and unchanged.

Breadstuffs quiet and steady.

Provisions firmer.

Lard buoyant at 55s. for the finest old.

London, Jan 17—P. M.—Consols closed at 89¼ for money.

Illinois Central Shares 56@58 discount.

Erie Shares 37¾@38¼.

Liverpool, Sunday, 8th.—Havre circular not received.

LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

Liverpool, Jan. 9.—The Paris Bourse was very firm on Saturday, and the Rentes closed at 67f.

The Danish Government proposed to open the coasting trade of that country to all nations.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 22.—Trinity Episcopalian Church, on Washington avenue, was destroyed by fire this afternoon. The fire started in the roof in a defective flue. The fire consumed the organ worth $3,000. The pastor, Rev. E. C. Hutchinson, narrowly escaped death.

No persons were injured. The building cost $27,000, was completed three years ago, and was one of the finest churches in the city. The walls remain standing. The total loss is $20,000, on which there is $12,000 insurance.

☞ Brignoli's recent appearance in Paris was not his first there. He sang in that critical city some ten years ago in "Maior" and "Gil Barbiera," and made a favorable impression as a singer, and a very poor one as an actor. He is soon to sing with Patti in "Gazza Ladra," and is already talked about as the successor to Mario's position and popularity.

From Savannah.

An Interview with Gen. Sherman—The March through Georgia—The Reception.

The Boston Advertiser says:—"We are permitted to make the following extracts from a private letter received from an officer who met Gen. Sherman soon after his arrival at Savannah, and the conclusion of his 'agreeable march:'"

"We are just now full of Sherman, whose advent in this quarter has stirred us up as well as the rebels. I had the exceeding gratification of passing several hours with him on board the flag-ship. Before he said a word about the campaign, he talked of ——, and spoke of him in the same kind way that all his army friends whom I have met have done, and in high praise of him as a soldier. Then he went on about his march, though more in reply to questions than otherwise, and modestly enough. You can fancy the interest of all this.

"He has a keen eye and most expressive face, and no nonsense about him. He deals with these villainous Rebels in the right vein, and takes down their high tone most effectually, as we have seen by his letters, and as an incident which he related shows he don't let slip an opportunity for stripping them of their false pretences. The storming party at Fort McAllister lost some lives by the torpedoes planted in the ditch, and some hours after the surrender, a soldier stepping on one was fatally wounded.

"The garrison of the fort were set to work to excavate them, and the Major expostulated about thus exposing their valuable lives. Sherman turned on him with—'That man's life is worth more than the whole Southern Confederacy, worth more than Jeff Davis' life; he was an honest man and a good soldier. I have a mind to put you all in a house with these torpedoes, and blow you up.'

"Sherman said his army was as large as he wanted it; he had as many men as could be handled, and he could go anywhere with it; had not lost a wagon on the way, had not been harrassed in the least by the enemy, who had never seen his main body at all. He had left a trail behind him that would mark his path for a long time; had not left a fence standing over a tract forty miles wide, nor any live stock either; had forty thousand horses and mules, and his wagon train numbered twenty-five hundred. All the horses and mules that gave out were shot. Middle and Northwestern Georgia will surely remember Sherman for many generations.

"Savannah fell into his hands without resistance, and no doubt, if the swampy nature of the country will permit him to make his way through it, he will take Charleston with the help of the squadron. But South Carolina is a difficult State to march through in this corner of it, and I am not sanguine about such an attempt. But Sherman don't want to get his army afloat; he much prefers to march them on their feet.

"I think the rebellion is tottering to its fall; the beginning of the end can now be seen, and we may hope that 1865 will witness the dispersion of the rebel armies and the dawn of peace. Mr. Batter protests against the despotic nature of Jeff's Government, and his appeal for peace negotiations, that the free institutions of the South should not utterly perish by the continuance of the war, is a significant sign to come from South Carolina.

Gov. Brown, of Georgia, in his last proclamation, which is also a protest against the prevailing despotism of the Confederate Government, says that his people will prefer reconstruction (however odious) with the North to such despotism. Other signs are not wanting of tendency to a reaction throughout the South. When it gets fairly under way, it will sweep the country, and put down all further opposition to the power of these United States.

"I have been questioning an intelligent contraband," who belonged to one of the Rhetts, and who escaped. He says that there eight brothers Rhett, and that he left his master because his mistress had made him stand in the room to have his face slapped by a girl who had to get on a stool to reach him; that he objected to this arrangement, when she sent for 'the butler' to perform the operation, who boxed him until told to stop.

But not satisfied, his mistress gave him a note to carry to his master, which note he procured to be interpreted on the way, and thus had his suspicions confirmed that he was to be flogged by the Provost, whereupon he took his departure without further ceremony. He was the coachman—when the horses were to be fed his master saw the corn put in their troughs, and locked the stables and took away the key, which was not restored to him until the horses had finished eating."

THE LATEST PEACE RUMORS.

Washington, Jan. 22.—[Special to the New York Herald.]—The excitement in regard to peace matters continues, and there is no doubt that there is a desire and determination on the part of the administration to exhaust all the resources of statesmanship to bring about speedy reunion and peace. It is also believed, in well informed circles here, that the pressure of the peace party South, which is evidently numerous and powerful, will compel the rebel government to at least entertain any proposition which may be made for negotiation, even if not coupled with the condition precedent of a recognition of the Confederacy. The result of Mr. Blair's efforts is looked for with the greatest anxiety and interest.

THE RADICALS AND MR. BLAIR.

The radical republicans are bitterly denouncing Mr. Blair, Sr., to night, and charging him with sticking his nose into affairs where he has no business. They also boldly declare that they will give Mr. Lincoln to understand that he was not elected last fall, but that it was a principle and policy which succeeded. They also state that they do not want peace until they can get in a way satisfactory to themselves. It is evident that they consider that the peace negotiations now going on promise to be successful, and are therefore determined to make a fight upon it.

WHAT FASHION CAN DO.—Is an ill wind that blows nobody good. Some months ago a taxidermist of this city held several thousand dollars' worth of bird skins. He stuffed and mounted them as the demand of trade required. That demand was very limited. People, since the war broke out, have looked more to the procuring of bread and butter than of stuffed orioles. The taxidermist tried the auction rooms, but his birds scarcely brought a compensating price for the skill and time required in stuffing them. The French milliners got to pecking stuffed birds upon little girl's bonnets, and adults adopted humming birds as ornaments for their head gear. There sprang up at once a demand for stuffed birds. The operator to whom we have above referred sold his entire stock at a price such as was never before known for like merchandise. A wholesale millinery house in New York purchased all he had, and only regretted that there was a limit to the supply. The skins of foreign birds are largely limited. The taxidermists have a process of softening them, though they have been kept for years, so that the task of mounting them is as easily performed as if the birds were newly shot. The insides of the skins are coated with a solution of arsenic or mercury, and the birds become imperishable.—*Philadelphia North American.*

☞ In the recent death at Santa Cruz of Wm. Henry Fry, American journalism has lost one of its most brilliant and versatile members. Mr. Fry was not only a journalist—he was almost an Admirable Crichton. As a miscellaneous writer, a musical composer, a political writer, an orator and conversationalist, he was far above mediocrity.

☞ Boston has one hundred and four churches and halls opened on Sundays for religious worship, and the average attendance is found to be 63,475. The population of the city is 178,000.

Southern News.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 19.]

We have to repeat "the same old tune." No official despatches containing news of public interest received to-day; telegraph lines working in every direction.

FROM GEN. HOOD'S ARMY.

An officer from the Army of Tennessee has informed the Montgomery Advertiser that the reported demoralization of the army, which has reached us from Yankee sources, is to a great extent false. The enemy was reinforced heavily by Steele's and Hoseeran's forces on the night before the battle at Nashville. They attacked us the next day in force, and a portion of the left giving way, we retreated, the enemy pursuing; but we afterwards turned upon them and whipped them badly, capturing seventeen pieces of artillery and many prisoners. He left the army in the finest spirits, on its way to Corinth, which he thinks it must have reached ere this without difficulty there being no serious obstacle in the way.

SERVED RIGHT.

The Columbia South Carolinian says that some of the North Carolina tories are meeting a long reserved but deserved fate. Several weeks ago we recorded an advance by raiders to the plantation of Dr. Mills, eighteen miles from Spartanburg, where they committed ruinous depredations. A company of the citizens of Spartanburg started in pursuit, but, after a chase of two days, returned without achieving their object. Last week a number of the ringleaders, so supposed, were traced to Columbus, Polk county, N. C., and a posse of men, under Lieutenant Lane, went thither to secure them. Dr. Mills accompanied them. They reached the house of one Peyton Hunter, and on his arrest being demanded, he made at Dr. Mills with a Bowie knife, but fortunately stabbed no deeper than an overcoat.

A moment afterwards, Hunter fell pierced by seven balls. Five others, namely Frank Weaver, Samuel Hunter, —— Shenan, B. F. Hampton and Chas. Hunter, were also killed. The Hunters were members of the same family. Weaver was their distiller, and known extensively as the manufacturer of the "Weaver whisky." Three of the above party were mysteriously "lost" in the woods, while en route to Asheville. Lieut. Lane, of the attacking party was twice wounded while performing his duty, but will survive his injuries. It is said that the entire community in the vicinity breathe freer since the above "clearing out," and that the most dangerous nest of ringleaders in that section has been effectually destroyed. Captured correspondence implicates other parties

THE LATE RAIN AND FRESHETS.

The Wilmington Journal says that on Wednesday night some seventy feet of the railroad bridge over the Roanoke River at Weldon, were washed away. We have not learned which part of the bridge suffered; but lean to the impression that it was on the northern side.

The Salisbury Watchman, in an article on the same subject, says neither of the railroads have escaped serious damage. We learn that the Central Road has been materially injured between this place and High Point

The Danville Register of Tuesday states that the trains would pass over the Piedmont Road to Greensboro' the next day, Wednesday, the damage done the track by the recent freshet having been repaired.

The Clarksville Tobacco Plant says:—"The Roanoke river, at the time of our present writing—Thursday morning, Jan. 12th, 1865—is swollen to a greater extent than it was ever known to be in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The freshet of June, 1862, exceeded all previous ones considerably. The water mark then was particularly and carefully defined on the brick warehouse in this town. The water at daybreak this morning was exactly seven inches higher than in 1862. And this excess in inches is no small increase, when the river has spread out over the extensive low lands.

"The rain here commenced early Monday night, and continued to pour without intermission, and in torrents, until late Tuesday afternoon. The streams of the adjacent country were swollen beyond all precedent. We are not yet informed of the extent of the damage done, though we fear mills and bridges have been swept away.

CONDITION OF THE REBEL ARMY.

[From the Richmond Whig, of the 19th.]

In war the greatest wisdom of a nation should be in its councils, its highest physical force in its army. This is in full accordance with the sage proverb, "Old men for counsel, young men for war."

Armies must be supported, and in order to their support prudence would dictate that the old men and boys should be assigned to agriculture and other departments of production. It is not well to place vigorous men of middle age and strong, active and robust youths of eighteen, in agricultural employments, and turn out the little boys and old men to do the work of camps and battle-field. Nevertheless, this has, more or less, been the policy of the Confederate Government in the conduct of the war.

Nor is a corporal's guard of superannuated men and boys an adequate provision for the agricultural and police necessities of a county having a population of five to ten thousand negroes. Nevertheless, this, to a truly fearful extent, has been the policy of the Government. It has been in part relieved by another error, working its effect elsewhere, of excusing young men and middle-aged men from arms, and transferring them to agriculture, on the plea of necessity; while older men, much beyond the age usually allotted to arms, men of sober and matured knowledge in agriculture, with fixed habits, uniting them for war, with families at home, and with their physical force abated by age, have been called to meet the enemy.

The act of Congress of 17th February, 1864, makes all men between the ages of seventeen and fifty years liable to military service. According to the construction of this law in the War Department, a man who was fifty years old on the day before the law was passed is free from military duty; while one who was 50 years old on the day after the passage of the law is bound to serve during the war, even if it should continue for twenty years.—Now, the difference is founded entirely upon the difference of age. And what is that difference? It is two days! By this construction of the law, the man who is one day over fifty years at its passage is too old for military service, and yet, when the other man, who is one day under fifty at the passage of the law, becomes fifty-five or sixty years old, *he is still young enough for military service*. The judiciary has wisely contradicted this construction, but the Government does not appear to regard its decision. It is absurd to suppose that Congress intended that this law should bear the construction which the Government has given it.

The constitution of the army is otherwise materially at fault. As soon as the Federal Government indicated its purpose to introduce the negro into its ranks, and especially the Southern negro, it should not have been a serious question with us whether we should employ our slaves in some kind of military service.—But we have failed to do so. Our enemies not only had the advantage, which we could not prevent, but we have permitted them to come within our lines and there recruit our own negroes which we might have prevented. We might have defeated their policy of recruiting amongst our negroes by placing them in our own service, if not as soldiers, at least as accessories.

We have lost much by neglecting this policy hitherto. It is not yet too late to avail ourselves of it. Let us not blindly neglect it altogether. Much still may be made by us by even now utilizing a portion of the negro population that remains to us for military purposes. We should not leave our homes in the tracts of country overrun by the enemy and suffer our negroes to become hostile recruits. To do so is to put a rod into the hand of our enemies to break our own heads.

Some persons might be sensitive under the invocation of such assistance. But they would not be sustained by reason or precedent. Neither should we object that our negroes should not be parties to the war because they are not interested in the result. In fact they are interested. The condition of our slaves is better, happier than that of the Northern freed negro, to whose condition, even to a worse condition, the Yankee would reduce them; and our slaves are indebted to our people and laws for the difference. Our laws enure to the benefit, to the happiness of our slaves. They protect them and provide for their well being in the same way if not in the same degree as they provide for white people. The slave does not vote in our elections, but neither does our young white men of eighteen years, who are nevertheless, required to enter the lists of war.

MICELLANEOUS ITEMS.

[From the Richmond papers of the 19th.

From South Carolina.—Sherman, as will be seen by the telegram in another column, is moving on Charleston. Pocotaligo is a small town on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, fifty-five miles from Charleston, and forty-nine from Savannah. The Combahee river is about five miles from Pocotaligo, and empties into St. Helena Sound. Branchville is sixty-six miles from Charleston, on the South Carolina Railroad, and seventy-five miles from Augusta.

The Raleigh Confederate says that the present Legislature has created thirty-two new magistrates in Wake county, where there were already about one hundred and fifty. The Wilmington Journal says, of course, the object of this is fully apparent.

Six North Carolina tories, who had been marauding upon the citizens near Spartanburg, South Carolina, were pursued by the citizens, a few days ago, and all of them made to bite the dust.

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.

Fort Fisher Blown Up—Explosion of the Main Magazine—Several Regiments Buried in the Sand and Debris of the Fort.

Special Correspondent of the Herald.

TUESDAY MORNING, Jan. 17.

After nearly a whole night spent in and about the fort, I was on my way toward the landing to get on board the Blackstone, where by the kindness of Captain Berry, I had enjoyed the hospitalities of that ship since my departure from Fortress Monroe. As I neared the shore, shortly after sunrise, a sudden black cloud, shooting a thousand feet into the air, followed by a thunder sound attracted my notice in Fort Fisher.

The main magazine of the fort, containing an immense quantity of powder and fixed ammunition, had been accidentally ignited and blown up. Col. Pennipacker's Brigade, viz: the 115th and 169th New York and the 4th New Hampshire, had been ordered in to garrison the fort, and were bivouacked in the open plain. They were mostly buried beneath the falling mountain of sand, timber and debris. The most extravagant rumors prevailed as to the number of killed by this untoward event, some estimates placing it above the number killed during the fight. The explosion is attributed by some to a prearranged plan, and set off by a friction wire.

More careful inquiry and cooler heads, however, attribute the firing of the magazine to the carelessness of our own men, who, incredible to state, were allowed to enter the place with lighted cigars, or to light candles after getting in. Bad as the rebels are, and vindictive as they undoubtedly must be on account of the loss of this important fort, I cannot believe them capable of intentionally blowing up this magazine and murdering in cold blood so many men. It could not have been done. Later reports, though not wholly complete, state the loss by the explosion as follows:

	Killed.	Wounded.
169th New York Vols	20	75
115th New York Vols	20	50
4th New Hampshire and 12th Indiana	20	25
Total killed and wounded	70	150

The Assistant Surgeon of the 47th New York states that he went into the magazine on Monday morning, and found *there some men with a lighted candle*. He cautioned them that it was no place to bring fire into—a magazine full of powder. They replied, "they knew what they were about." He immediately left the place. Half an hour afterward the magazine blew up.

THE WOUNDED.

The losses in officers have been severe, and largely out of the usual proportion, as compared with the rank and file. In the Second Division of the Twenty-fourth Corps—Gen'l Ames' command—the commander of the Third Brigade, Col. Bell, is dead. Colonel Pennipacker, of the Second Brigade, is supposed to be mortally wounded; and Gen'l Curtis, of the First, is seriously wounded by a shell in the head.

All the regimental commanders in the Second Brigade are killed or wounded—Colonel Moore, of the 203d Pennsylvania, was killed after getting inside and reaching nearly halfway across the works.—Lieutenant Colonel Lyman was also killed inside the fort. Colonel Littell, of the 76th Pennsylvania, was wounded through the thigh just as he was following his colors into the first traverse of the fort.

Col. Wm. B. Coan, commanding the 4th New York, was wounded in the head—a severe flesh wound—while getting his men into position, before the charge began. Capt. Dunn, of the same regiment, was wounded inside the fort, after dark, and for lack of prompt attention, which in the confusion it was impossible to obtain, he died from hemorrhage. Captain Ferguson, of the 169th New York, is killed.—Captain Dawson, of Gen. Ames's staff had a fracture of his fore-arm. Captain Lawrence, of the same staff, was wounded.—Capt. Smith, of Gen. Terry's staff, was shot through the shoulder.

The total losses during the fight are not yet definitely known, but they will not probably exceed 400, exclusive of those buried up and killed on Monday morning by the explosion of the magazine. The lowest estimate of the loss by this terrible catastrophe is 100 killed and wounded.—Some estimates place it at twice that number.

Col. Allen, of the 169th N. Y. V., was seriously injured, and it is reported that he has since died.

Dr. Morris, Surgeon of the 117th New York, was blown up, and had to be dug out of the sand and debris which covered him. He was not seriously injured.

Acting Ensign Leighton, belonging to the Gettysburg, was standing on the parapet, and was killed by a piece of falling timber, and was partially buried. The casualties were chiefly confined to three of the regiments constituting the Third Brigade of the Second Division, viz: the 115th and 169th New York, and 4th New Hampshire.

In the charge the navy suffered out of all proportion to the number engaged, owing to their being exposed on the smooth sea beach, directly in front of the only gun which remained to the enemy—on the northeast salient of the work.

Captain Porter was killed early in the charge, and they left some sixty dead on the beach, and altogether lost about one hundred and seventy men. The flags of the naval vessels are at half-mast to-day in honor of the brave men who so nobly fell in their efforts to take the fort.

The loss of the navy will be made known through the report of the Admiral.

☞ Gen. Thomas has written a letter to the War Department giving a very encouraging view of military affairs in the Southwest. He says Hood cannot gather an army of 20,000 men, and that the Southwest is practically a conquered country.

News from Brazil.

The Reception of Mr. Seward's Reply—Movements of Rebel Pirates—Their Ravages on the Brazilian Coast.

We have received full files of the Correio Mercantil and the Jornal do Commercio, of Rio Janeiro, and the Jornal do Bahia, with dates to the 9th of December, inclusive. Our advices from Pernambuco are to December 15.

It was known at the Brazilian capital that the Government was in receipt of Mr. Seward's reply to the claims made in the Florida question, but nothing more had transpired.

There has just appeared a new and dangerous enemy of the United States. This morning the Argentine bark Adelaide arrived in our port from Baltimore, with a cargo of wheat flour, consigned to the house of Messrs. Phipps Brothers & Company, of this city. The captain, Mr. James P. Williams, makes the following statement: On the 13th of October last, the bark being then in latitude 1 46 north, longitude 39 west, at eight o'clock in the morning, we perceived a vessel making for us with great rapidity. At ten o'clock we found that she was a steamer, and shortly afterwards distinguished the English flag. At midday the steamer drew down this flag, substituting for it the flag of the Confederate States of the South and fired a shot to bring our vessel to. A few minutes afterwards we were boarded, by three officers and six men, armed with revolvers, one of the officers demanding the ship's papers.

The Captain was then ordered on board the steamer, where he was made to take oath that he would speak nothing but the truth. They inquired for the ship's manifest: they asked to whom the cargo belonged, and whether Messrs. Phipps & Brothers were citizens of the United States. The Captain replied that he did not know who were the owners of the cargo, but that Messrs. Phipps & Brothers were English citizens. After short delay they informed Captain Williams that a council of war had declared his vessel a rightful prize, and that he should proceed on board the steamer, with his clothing, passengers and crew. Captain Williams accordingly complied. When he was fully prepared to see his vessel set on fire, notwithstanding all his protests, he was told that from the contents of certain letters that had been opened they had come to the conclusion to bond the vessel, and they would hold Messrs. Phipps & Bros. responsible for the cargo, valued at thirty-eight thousand dollars, which sum must be paid thirty days after the recognition of the Confederate States.

On returning on board his ship Captain Williams found it in a most lamentable condition. They had opened a barrel of tar, spreading it all over the ship, besmearing different places, and carrying off lots of provisions, flour &c. With the papers returned to the captain they did not give the register nor manifest. The bill of health and some other papers were also detained. Some letters were opened, seals broken, &c. Captain Williams estimates the loss and damage to the ship at $500. He also states that the privateer is a ship of fourteen hundred tons burden, called the Shenandoah, and is commanded by Captain James T. Wardell. She carries eight guns, sixty-nine-pounders, and has smaller ones; her speed is fifteen knots per hour. When she released the bark the Shenandoah proceeded on her route by south-east. Before seizing the Adelaide the privateer captured some other vessels. She burned the Charter Oak, of Boston, and allowed the Kate Prince to proceed on her voyage, south.

The *Correio Mercantil*, of the 28th of November, has the following paragraph:

On board the Danish brig Anna James, which arrived here to-day from New York, there came as passengers the captains and six sailors of the North American ships Eliza and D. Godfried, which were captured and burned by the Confederate corsair Shenandoah—the first in latitude 16 south, west longitude 29 45, and the latter in latitude 0 25 north, longitude 27 15 west from Greenwich.

The *Correio Mercantil*, of Dec. 2, says:

The Council of war that is to try the naval and war Captain Gervasio Mancebo, ex-commander of the division of the second naval district, for the occurrence in the port of Bahia, between the steamer Wachusett and Florida, is composed of Senor Raphael Memes de Moraesse Valle, Chief of Division; President; Senor Francisco de Silva Lobao, Chief of Division; Senor Antonio Felix Correa de Mello, Naval Captain; Senor Francisco Xavier de Alcantara, Naval Captain; Senor Benjamin Carneiro de Camlos and Fernando Lazaro, Advocates.

The blockade of the ports on the Plata river by the Brazilian naval division is strictly kept up, but in such a way as to mitigate its rigors, and no complaints have been made by lawful traders." Up to the 15th of November thirty-nine vessels, under various flags, had been notified. Time was given them to the 20th to finish loading. The commandant of Salta, Leandro Gomez (a brother of the general of that name commanding the main body of the Uruguayan army,) was notified by the captain of the Brazilian gunboat Itaguay, who gave twenty days time for the vessels in port to go out. To this note, which was worded in proper terms, the commandant of Salta made a reply in violent language. After declaring that the note ought to have been addressed to the foreign agents, Gomez in his reply says:

Of the blockade of the ports referred to which the Vice Admiral, Iamandare, pretends to carry out, there can be only one opinion. It is an act of piracy, similar to the vandalic and iniquitous violation of the territory of this republic at Serro Largo by the forces of the Brazilian Government, on the specious pretext of forcing from our Government satisfaction for claims for the most part groundless and quite inadmissible. So, then, I have to inform you that I will repel this iniquitous blockade, by which the Vice Admiral hopes to ruin the wealth of this country, thus carrying out the views of the Imperial Government, whose traditions are engraved in letters of blood upon Oriental breasts, who have sworn to die a thousand times sooner than see the dignity of the country lowered or its independence lost.

The war on Uruguayan territory still goes on. From the province of the Rio Grande the news comes that a force of two thousand men of the Uruguayan army, under General Saa, has passed into Brazil, and reached a point near the India Muerta Arrayo, eighteen leagues from the frontier. By this operation the Uruguayans have carried the war into Brazil, in order to draw back out of Rio Grande the invading Brazilian force. In front of the Uruguayan corps is a force of fourteen hundred men, under General Gelly, to check its progress.

In the meantime, the Brazilian army has gone no further than Serro Largo, the point struck by its advance some time ago. It thus halts in its march, as if to gather strength, or to give the Uruguayan government time to yield and cease the war, while it also gives the latter time to collect forces to meet the invasion of its territory.

From the army of General Servando Gomez, and the rebel force under Flores, nothing has been heard since the report of the latter's defeat on the river Yi.

Montevideo is still safe and in a state of defence, all the males able to bear arms being organized into a national guard.

Trade is for the time at a stand.

The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 9th of December states that the mail steamer Iquiry, from Paraguay, had not arrived at Buenos Ayres. Some uneasiness was felt at the delay, in consequence of certain rumors in circulation that there had been a collision between the Brazilian packet Marquez de Olinda and two Paraguayan war vessels. It is said that President Lopez, of Paraguay, had declared that he would shortly express his views and intentions; that is as soon as he receives from the government of Montevideo official information of the entrance of Brazilian troops into the Oriental territory. The *Diario Official* says that the Brazilian government will know how to preserve its honor and dignity under all circumstances.—*Herald.*

From General Grant

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE JAMES, Jan. 19.—Over twenty deserters from the enemy were brought to General Ord's headquarters to-day, having entered our lines at various points. One who came in on Bermuda Hundred front, states that a report was current in the rebel army that Wilmington had been captured by our forces, with $23,000,000 worth of cotton. The cotton had been set on fire, but our troops arrived in time to save the greater part of it from destruction.

DAMAGE TO THE DANVILLE RAILROAD.

The reports of extensive damage to the Danville Railroad, occasioned by the late heavy rains, which were forwarded a day or two ago, are probably correct. There is certainly an extraordinary scarcity of supplies in the rebel army, owing to the lack of proper facilities for transportation. Rations are said to be so short that it is necessary to borrow food from the citizens, the commissary department engaging to repay them as soon as supplies can be brought up. Forage is even scarcer than commissary stores, and it is reported that the half famished horses have in some instances been reduced to a diet of leaves as a temporary refuge from absolute starvation.

GROWING TIRED OF THE WAR.

Evidences of an increasing weariness of the war, both among the Southern people and in the army, are steadily accumulating. And as the longing for peace is intensified by each new reverse to the rebel arms, the repugnance to the old Union is proportionally diminished. People can generally convince themselves of what they desire to believe; and as the hopelessness of their struggle becomes daily more apparent, and the restoration of the Union begins to seem inevitable, we perceive an evident change of sentiment among the inhabitants of the rebellious States, a disposition to believe that reconstruction would not be so bad a thing after all, if it would only restore to them the rights, immunities and tranquil prosperity they enjoyed under the Constitution of their fathers.

The Southern press, especially that of Richmond, does indeed continue to express with unabating vigor and the utmost unanimity all propositions for a settlement, except on the basis of Southern independence; and yet their editorials are fearful-ing, day after day, the strongest evidence of a growing opposition to the continuance of the war. For surely in those vehement, and often able editorials, in which peace resolutions and reconstructionists are so bitterly and scathingly denounced, the writers are combatting no "men in buckram," but on the contrary, contending with an element whose secondary they evidently fear, and whose weight is sufficient to demand their most strenuous and unceasing resistance.

Of the existence of such an element in the rebel army many proofs are presented. Only a few days since a deserter came in, stating that he had left his post on the picket line with the full cognizance of *some sixty of his comrades, many of whom were three officers*. The only reason why more of them did not accompany him was their uncertainty as to the treatment they might receive within our lines. A contraband recently brought from the Roanoke Valley to Gen. Lee's army, who made his way through the lines a few days since, states that a great change of sentiment has taken place among the wealthy planters of the section of country just named, and that these people are now almost unanimous in desiring the termination of the war, even by the restoration of the Union.

An Incident at Clifton Bridge.

For eight years after the Marquis of Northampton had laid the foundation stone of the Leigh Woods abutment, workmen and the public in general were enabled to pass over the immense chasm by means of an iron bar seven hundred feet in length, which was hung across the river. On the bar there was a "cradle" basket or car, and persons who wished to make the dangerous passage, paid a fee, which varied from one