New Orleans Daily Crescent.

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15, 1866.

THE CONTINENTALS ON HAND.—Ladies and gallants be preparing for the great affair of the season! The Continentals, our own portly, substantial and martial Continentals, whose quaint uniforms and exact array have been missing during the last four or five years, and whose splendid annual celebrations have been suspended, will give a grand fancy dress and masked ball on the anniversary of Washington's birth day, at Odd Fellows' Hall. See the advertisement. Look at the list of managers and enough will be found left of the "gay and festive cusses," after the vexations and vicissitudes of the war, to insure an entertainment of old time sumptuousness and recreative elegance.

ARRIVAL OF THE ALABAMA FROM LIVERPOOL.—The British steamship Alabama, from Liverpool Dec. 13th, via Havana 9th inst., crossed the bar at Southwest Pass at 2:30 P. M. on Saturday, but did not reach her wharf at post 48, Fourth District, until 10 o'clock last night.

We had the pleasure, yesterday, of receiving a call from Capt. Thos. Lyons, the popular chief engineer of the fire department of Mobile. Capt. Lyons comes to New Orleans in order to investigate the workings of our fire department, more especially as to the different varieties of steam engines, as it is desired to introduce those valuable engines into Mobile. We bid him welcome to our city, and sincerely hope that he will find his visit a pleasant one to himself and useful to the city he desires to serve.

NEW MUSIC.—Mr. L. Grunewald, No. 120 Canal street, has our thanks and acknowledgments for the following new musical productions: "Valse Brilliante sur Maria di Rohan," from Donizetti, for the piano forte, by Fred. Burgmuller; transcriptions from La Favorita and La Semiramide, by H. Sanderson; and a bouquet of melodies from "Il Trovatore," arranged for the piano forte by Fred. Beyer.

LECTURES.—We are glad to perceive that Mr. E. E. Overall, the enterprising *empressario* of the News Rooms, contemplates inaugurating a series of lectures, or rather several series, in connection with his institution. There are to be three courses—one each for Winter, Spring and Autumn. The first lecture of the first course will be given on Wednesday evening, Jan. 24th, for the relief of the family of Jefferson Davis, and the proceeds of the second will be devoted to the benefit of the widow of "Stonewall" Jackson. The entire course will be for the advancement of charitable objects.

HOTEL OF SANTA ISABEL.—We see with pleasure that Messrs. Lay, Hancock and Taylor, gentlemen who understand the business, have opened a fine hotel for the accommodation of those of our citizens going to Havana, under the above name. This establishment is kept entirely in the American style, which is vastly superior to that of Spanish public houses, and is situated No. 136 "calle de Habana." We consider it as quite an improvement to Havana.

CLOTHING AND FURNISHING GOODS.—Those desirous of combining the qualities of outward show and personal comfort, in the way of wearing apparel, are requested to call at the store of Messrs. Garthwaite, Lewis & Stuart, Tulane Buildings, Nos. 31 and 33 Camp street, where they will find a large assortment of clothing and furnishing goods: impenetrable overcoats, that make sport of the keenest bites of Boreas; transcendental vests, that comfort at the same time that they dazzle, and cravats to suit all tastes, from the sober, notarial black to the flashy red of the youthful exquisite. Travelers are also requested to come and visit Messrs. Garthwaite, Lewis & Stuart's large stock of trunks, valises and traveling bags. For further particulars see advertisement.

CALL AND EXAMINE.—The fact is, this is the only true way of doing business or anything else. It seems pleonastic to speak of Moody's shirts, that have acquired such continental celebrity, their fame being spread all over the land by a judicious abuse of telegraph posts, joined to the excellence of the article. But a good piece of information cannot be too widely promulgated. By reference to Moody's advertisement it will be seen that in order to suit all characters, and to pander to the tastes of the amateurs of foreign manufactures, he has imported lately from Paris a large assortment of French linen shirts which he offers for sale at the lowest prices at his old stand, corner of Royal and Canal streets. "Get your shirts, etc."

BOOTS, SHOES, ETC.—We refer all those desirous of getting a fit in the way of boots and shoes, for themselves or their children, to Mr. Walter A. Pecks' advertisement, published in another column. Mr. Peck was recently made arrangements with Mr. James Martin, to renew his business in that line, at No. 113 Canal street, where he proposes, at the cheapest rates, to boot his customers to their hearts desire, resting assured that when they will have tried his wares they will not refuse to *foot* his bills.

LAND AND SAW-MILL FOR SALE.—By reference to advertisement published in another column, it will be seen that E. Blessey, No. 74 Carondelet street, offers for sale a tract of well timbered pine land, with a good steam saw-mill, situated in Baldwin county, Alabama, seven miles east of Point Clear hotel. A steamer runs regularly every evening, from Mobile to Point Clear. For further information, address Geo. M. Turner, care of Chamberlain & Co., Mobile, or apply to E. Blessey, as above.

RED JACKET BITTERS.—Country dealers can now procure abundant supplies of these bitters. Messrs. Gray and Norris, the chief agents here, having secured a full stock for the present, and made such arrangements as will prevent any future dearth of an article that seems to be in almost universal demand. Our advertising columns furnish a list of the wholesale grocers and druggists from whom supplies can be purchased.

THE FENIANS.—*The War Rumored to Have Begun.*—The Fenian Congress resolved itself, Tuesday, into a court martial, to try the seceding Senators, after the presiding officer refusing to entertain the motion to expel them for contempt in not appearing to answer charges.

A telegram from New York, dated the 9th, states:

Report says a banking house in this city has received a dispatch from Ireland, stating that a force of constabulary went to a point near Killarney, County Kerry, to suppress the Fenian drilling parties. The constabulary were repulsed, but being reinforced by two companies of military, rallied. The Fenians were meanwhile also reinforced, and again repulsed the assailants. There is possibly some truth in the story, its circumstantiality being in its favor.

TOADYISM IN WASHINGTON.—A Washington correspondent of the Mobile Advertiser thus writes:

We have an annual system of "tickling" at the capital, which is a source of amusement and profit to the ticklees, but quite the contrary to the ticklers. In the various departments are heads of bureaus, or head clerks, who covet a gold watch, a silver pitcher, or some other trinket, and to whom a few subordinates, either from love or necessity, are delighted to "toady." The poor, low-salaried dependents are called upon for their contributions, which they can ill spare from their families, the bauble is bought, and speeches are made attesting the worth and noble qualities of the recipient, and the love and duty of his admiring friends. These little episodes have been so numerous during the past week as to afford quite a sum of items to our evening papers. The system is a nuisance, disgusting to the lookers-on and oppressive to the employees.

The thing is undoubtedly a nuisance, but the correspondent is not at the bottom of the secret. In many cases the article "presented," is paid for, partly if not wholly, by the recipient. It is a cheap, though disgusting, way of getting one's name in the newspapers. If the papers were to stop publishing such "presentations," we would soon see the end of it.

Jones is a strong believer in guardian angels. If it were not for them, he asks, what would keep people from rolling out of bed when they are fast asleep.

NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

THE CRESCENT IS PUBLISHED DAILY (Sundays Excepted) AND WEEKLY, BY J. O. NIXON, No. 94 CAMP STREET. TERMS—DAILY, $16; WEEKLY, $5 PER YEAR.

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Financial and Commercial Panics.

The sensational press of the North and East having for the past several days come to us groaning under the weight of editorial fears and apprehensions for our future success and ultimate solvency, both national and individual, we cannot better occupy a leisure hour than in exposing the fallacy and groundlessness of such utterances, especially at the present time and under existing circumstances. Every decline in stocks at New York, every alteration in rates of gold, every evidence of a speculative movement is eagerly seized by these would be solons, and with lightning speed is wafted as an unmistakable indication of approaching bankruptcy to the most remote sections of the country. Panic in the share market, panic in the currency, panic in the government securities, is the usual heading which these croakers give to their alarm items, with the hope, doubtless, of creating or diffusing a general feeling of distrust at a time which loudly calls for our most profound gratitude on account of the increasing prosperity and happiness which are being daily showered upon us, after the vicissitudes to which we have been subjected during the past four years. Nothing can be clearer to the vision of those who do not see through jaundiced optics, than that the people of this country are recovering from the effects of the late unhappy war with greater rapidity and are exhibiting more recuperative power than has ever been manifested before by any nation of ancient or modern times. The cessation of hostilities between the North and the South is of such recent date that most people have come to look upon it as but the work of yesterday. Yet in the brief period which has ensued, tens of thousands of the truest and bravest and sturdiest patriots that the world has ever seen, have unobstrusively withdrawn from fields of carnage and misery and death, and resumed their more congenial avocations in fields of industry, of peace and of promise. The great resources of the country are being successfully developed. Every profession, trade and calling appears to be in a flourishing condition, and to a dispassionate observer there never was a time which offered less pretext for habitual croaking than the present. The South alone suffers seriously from and feels keenly the effects of the war, but from her midst no word of complaint goes up, and her children wisely occupy themselves in efforts to ameliorate their own condition. The magnitude of the national debt is, however, the most prolific theme of our social disorganizers, and in order to expose their inconsistency, it is only necessary to direct the reader's attention to the following brief statement of facts. According to the published report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the national debt amounted to $2,716,581,536, on the 1st inst., whereas the national wealth of 1860, as taken from official data, was $14,167,000,000, and the annual increase from 1850 to 1860, was 8½ per cent. The same ratio would give us an aggregate wealth in 1865 of $18,112,000,000, whilst the national income for that year is estimated at $4,318,000,000. Pursuing the subject further, we find that at the above rate of increase the aggregate wealth of the country in 1870 would be $24,216,000,000, and in 1880 $48,236,000,000. At the latter date the ratio of debt to capital would be but little over 6 per cent., and that of annual interest to annual income would amount to only a fraction more than ½ per cent.

With the above facts before us, it is difficult to see how any same man can indulge in misgivings or distrust as to the future of our country, and none but the most criminal will lend themselves to the unholy work of destroying public confidence or creating unnecessary panics. The writer of this found it necessary, in the discharge of his editorial duties during the temporary revulsion which prevailed in 1860, to present a resume of the several panics which had previously been experienced in the United States, and as some readers of the CRESCENT may not have seen it at that time the present is deemed an opportune occasion for its reproduction.

The first panic occurred in 1781, and arose from the depreciation in paper money, issued by Congress during the revolution, from 1776 to 1780. These issues amounted to over $350,000,000, which at the close of 1781 were not worth over one cent on the dollar.

The next revulsion was in 1818, and resulted from excessive importations, commencing in 1815, (after the close of the war of 1812, which was in January of the former year,) and continuing throughout 1816 and 1817, from the effects of which the country continued prostrated until 1824.

Another crisis was experienced in 1825, caused by a sudden and heavy decline in cotton and various securities, after an extraordinary inflation. This, however, was only temporary and was much less disastrous in its consequences than the previous ones.

There was also a panic in 1833, which commenced with the removal of the government deposits from the United States Bank by President Jackson, but as it had its origin in an unnecessary alarm, while the country was in a comparatively sound and healthy condition, it was of short duration, although while it lasted it caused a large number of failures in several of the States.

Still later came the revulsion of 1837, when nearly all of the banks in the Union suspended; and a large proportion of the merchants, manufacturers and business men, as well as many of the banks, failed, and were utterly ruined; after which business and property continued depressed for many years. The causes of that revulsion and so great distress were the excessive imports of 1834, '5 and '6, whereby our foreign debt was nearly doubled—the expansion of the paper currency, which led to extravagance, speculation and an inflation of prices—and large sales of public lands, amounting for the years 1835 and 1836 to over forty-one millions of dollars.

The foreign debt of the country, including National and State stocks and bonds and amounts due for imported goods footed up in the aggregate about $200,000,000 on the 1st October, 1837; $282,000,000 on the 1st October, 1839, and $200,000,000 on the 1st October, 1842, which, however, was gradually reduced till it amounted to only $160,000,000 on the 30th June, 1847.

The last great panic occurred in 1857, and proved to be one of the most violent and disastrous which has ever swept over this or any other country. It commenced with the failure of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company on the 24th of August, but soon extended to other banking companies, and to many merchants, manufacturers and business men in every section of the Union who had large payments to make.

This, like most of the others, can be ascribed to a variety of causes, of which the principal were excessive imports of the manufactures of Europe, the accumulation of large foreign debts, and the exportation of large amounts of specie to pay the balance of trade against us, and the interests on our foreign debt—the immense amount invested for ten years previous in unproductive railroads, extensive speculation in stocks, and extravagance stimulated by reason of fancied wealth arising from the possession of large foreign debts, and the inflation in all kinds of securities consequent on flooding the market with such stocks and bonds as were everywhere held as collaterals for payment of loans, etc., and the alarm and distrust which pervaded in every part of the country.

Mrs. Clement C. Clay.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 29, 1865.—Mrs. Clay is still here, and there are no indications of her visits to her husband being brought to a speedy close. She remained with her husband till nine o'clock last evening, and this morning without stopping to take breakfast at the hotel rejoined him again in his prison apartment in Carroll Hall; and it is an apartment with little of the rough and stern features of a prison about it, no ponderous prison bars and damp walls and scanty and unwholesome food, and rude, lynx-eyed jailor.

His is a snug, cosy room, and the same description is applicable to that occupied by Jeff Davis, with cheerful appointments of furniture and cheery fire in an open grate, and books of varied range—historical, biographical and all the departments of belles letters, poetry, fiction and the fine arts. Thus far Mrs. Clay has taken her meals with her husband, and however epicurean and fastidious her tastes, I will guarantee she has no occasion to find fault with the prison *cuisine* as developed in the meals served her husband. This restriction is placed on her visits—an officer is present all the time. Thus far this rather disagreeable duty of forming the third party has devolved on Capt. Hitchcock, Provost Marshal.

Paymaster General's Report.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Lieut. Col. T. M. Winston, Chief Paymaster of the Department of the Gulf, for a copy of the annual report of Major General B. W. Brice, Paymaster General of the Army of the United States, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June last, and lay the interesting document before our readers in *extenso*.

As will be seen, the report is remarkably clear, and singularly concise, in view of the magnitude of the transactions which it embraces, and General Brice has reason to felicitate himself and his subordinates upon the extraordinary achievements of his department.

None but those who are familiar with the administration of the affairs of a great army can realize the high order of talent, the marvelous faculty for organization and system that must have been applied to accomplish, and particularly in a time of war, the results shown in the consolidated figures of this report. As General Brice justly says, in referring to the final payment of troops mustered out during the past summer: "No similar work of like magnitude, regarding its immensity both as to men and money, and the small limit of time in which it has been performed, has, it is believed, any parallel in the history of armies." Nor is it alone as proof of great administrative ability the historian will find the report interesting; he will also find in it financial data to measure the colossal proportions of the army with which the Confederate States struggled so long.

In this Department General Brice has been fortunate in the selection of a deputy. Since his arrival here in January last from Oregon, where he was stationed previously during the war, Col. Winston has disbursed sixty millions of dollars, and while he has had the opportunity of establishing for himself a high character for probity and ability in the discharge of his official duties, he has, in his private intercourse, won the respect of all classes.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, October 21, 1865.

HON. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:

Sir—I have the honor to submit a report of the official transactions of the Pay Department of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865.

The tabular statements herewith presented exhibit the details from which the following statement in gross is made:

Balance in hands of paymasters and unissued requisitions in treasury at the beginning of fiscal year, July 1, 1864	$86,039,808 87
Received from the treasury during the fiscal year (including unissued requisitions in treasury as shown by 1864)	357,200,000 00
Received by paymasters from other sources, exclusive of sums transferred among themselves	6,815,137 50
Total to be accounted for	450,054,946 37

Accounted for as follows:

Disbursements to the Regular Army	$7,839,225 47
Disbursements to the Military Academy	153,669 11
Disbursements to the Volunteers	300,724,055 95
Total disbursements	308,716,950 53
Amount of unissued requisitions in the treasury on June 30, 1865	65,900,000 00
Balance actually in hands of paymasters on June 30, 1865	75,435,995 84
	$450,054,946 37

This large amount in the hands of paymasters at the end of the fiscal year was an unavoidable necessity, from the fact that at that precise period of time the Department was everywhere throughout the country under the greatest pressure of payments to mustered-out troops, and money in large sums had to be kept thus distributed.

From the above it will be seen that the sum actually disbursed during the fiscal year, and in process of disbursement at the end thereof was $430,054,946 37.

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, besides the above sums in the hands of paymasters, and the unissued requisitions stated, $34,000,000 have been disbursed, and distributed for disbursement, making a total expenditure of $464,054,946 37 during the last fiscal year and the present one to this date.

Of this large sum more than one half ($270,000,000) has been paid to disbanded volunteer troops mustered out of service.

From the early days of June to the present time, this Department has made final payment to more than eight hundred thousand volunteers. The number paid cannot be definitely stated for the want of time for full official returns to be received from the many various and distant points of payment throughout the country, especially as these payments are still continuing. Enough, however, is known with certainty to establish the fact that the figures stated are not in excess.

This is an extraordinary exhibit of work performed chiefly within the three months of June, July and August: two hundred and seventy millions of money paid to eight hundred thousand individual men.

When the manner of these payments is observed, with a knowledge of the particularity required in each case, the accounts varying in amounts, each to be separately computed in its several items of pay, clothing, bounty, etc., with such stoppages as may be chargeable deducted, the final amount stated, and the signature of each officer and man to be appended in duplicate to the receipt rolls, a just appreciation may be formed of the stupendous labor involved. No similar work of like magnitude, regarding its immensity both as to men and money, and the small limit of time in which it has been performed, has, it is believed, any parallel in the history of armies.

The troops for discharge were, under the orders from the Adjutant General's Office, transported to their respective State rendezvous as rapidly as the proper officers of the various organizations could dispatch the duty of mustering out.

This Department engaged to prepare with funds and officers at all the sixty different places of designated rendezvous throughout the States, and to make prompt payment in the shortest practicable time, on the arrival of each organization, so as substantially to avert delays, with all their evil consequences, at the places of rendezvous. How far this pledge on our part has been redeemed the country can answer. The facts of record in the War Department show no delays of moment occurring in any quarter—none at least chargeable to this Department.

The work is mainly accomplished—satisfactorily accomplished—beyond the most sanguine anticipations of those who could understand and properly measure the vastness of the undertaking.

For this result the country is indebted largely to the zeal, intelligence, and sleepless industry of a corps of experienced paymasters, who signalized themselves in this the closing act of their military staff service by a faithfulness and devotion which reflects the highest honor upon them as a body and as individual officers. To them, under the skilful management of their supervising district chiefs, this Department owes its success; and I take occasion, as the head of the Department, in this public official communication, to render to them the homage of my grateful acknowledgments. The credit is theirs, for without their experience and cordial co-operative efforts, not all the powers of the government combined could have wrought so favorable a solution of a difficult problem.

It becomes my duty, also, to notice here, in most favorable terms, the valued services of the officers and clerks connected immediately with this office. They appreciated the emergency, and bent themselves to the difficult work which, for a time, pressed upon the office with almost overwhelming weight.

With payments simultaneously progressing at sixty different points, widely separated; with the necessity of keeping each one supplied with funds from day to day, and a necessity, also, that each should have no more than required for immediate disbursement; drawing from the treasury at the rate of $20,000,000 per week, and compelled to make close estimate and careful watch of its daily distribution, so that the demand at each given point should be surely supplied, and yet no more than supplied; telegrams and letters continually pouring in, noting the movement and destination of troops, and the repeating these notices to the proper points of rendezvous; applications and appeals constantly arriving, requiring immediate answers; new questions arising and referred to this office for instructions, etc., kept our thoughts, our pens, our press, and the telegraph in constant requisition by day and by night. Mid all this, I am happy to bear testimony that every one labored with cheerful alacrity—in some instances, indeed, during the heated season, even beyond their strength.

It may be said of these, as I have said of the paymasters in the field, but for their willing efforts, rendered with self-denying devotion, the work could not have been a success.

The unstinted facilities extended, sir, by your authority and orders, in the free use of the military telegraph, the printing press, and all other agencies that could be profitably applied to the end, together with the liberal confidence which you were pleased to repose in this office, leaving to it an almost unrestricted discretion to manage, without hindrance, its own details; your concurrence in and support of its acts and orders—these reveal the vital secret of a result so favorable.

I cannot close this branch of my subject without a grateful expression of indebtedness to the officers of the Treasury Department for the courteous and zealous attention with which, during the trying exigency, they always entertained the importunate demands of this office. What often seemed a hopeless impossibility, obstructing the financial path, were, by their fervent efforts, readily dispelled; and thus all our requisitions were met with most satisfactory promptness.

At the date of the last annual report, beside the small number of officers constituting the Pay Department of the Regular Army, (and which is without casualty or change since,) there were in the service 409 additional paymasters, contingent appointments under the law of July, 1862.* Afterward, up to March 3, thirty-eight others were appointed and confirmed—

Making a total of	447
Accounted as follows:	
Resigned	99
Commissions declined	1
Dismissed	4
Appointments cancelled	21
Dropped	2
Died of disease	5
Lost at sea	1
Killed by guerillas	1
Died while prisoners of war	7
Mustered out	111
Total casualties	257
Remaining in service	190

This reduction may still continue, following with even pace, as their services can be spared, and their accounts be rendered, the progress of the reduction of the army.

The sudden disbandment of our volunteer hosts, beside their final payment on the ordinary forms of muster-out rolls and other discharge papers, has devolved upon this department an inordinate accumulation of "referred claims," transmitted for adjustment and payment. These have arisen from various causes, but chiefly from the inability of the officers charged with the execution of the muster-out papers, to reach a complete history as to pay, clothing, bounty, etc., of large numbers of enlisted men, so as to enable a final settlement at the time of discharge. To all such, certificates of discharge are furnished upon which are indorsed the fact of non-payment; and the holders are directed to forward the same, as the basis of their claim, to the Paymaster General for adjustment. Such magnitude has this demand attained that it has been found necessary to organize a special division of paymasters as an attachment to this bureau, to take exclusive cognizance of this class of claims.

The "Division of Referred Claims" is now composed of a Chief Supervising Paymaster of much intelligence, judgment and experience, with twelve other paymasters, also competent officers of experience, and a corps of sixty-four active clerks. The peculiar labors of this division could not be near so well performed under any other organization, having, as this does, enlightened paymasters to supervise every branch of the work, each being responsible for his own.

Every claim sent to this division requires for its elucidation a careful and laborious search through all the previous rolls on file in this and the Second Auditor's offices, besides constant references to the Adjutant General's Office, to trace out through the past records all the facts touching the case, (the charges, stoppages, forfeitures, etc.,) that there may be stated with accuracy the balance due the claimant. This done, vouchers in form, covering that balance, are filled out and transmitted to the claimant for his signature, which, returned to the paymaster, the latter remits a check for the amount. From this it will be seen how tedious is the work of this division, what careful industry it demands, and how inevitable are the delays complained of by impatient claimants.

The clerical force of this Bureau is without material change since the date of my last annual report. For months past, in anticipation of an early permanent reduction of that force, I have refrained from recommending new appointments to fill such vacancies as have occurred by resignation and other casualties.

This course, I apprehend, may continue without injury or material inconvenience to the public service. Such, however, is the sudden accumulation of the business of the Bureau, by reason of the present influx for examination of rolls and other classes of vouchers, resulting from the recent and continued large payments to disbanded troops already adverted to, that but a very slight reduction in the number of clerks employed will be practicable for some months to come.

I need hardly urge the unqualified conviction that the compensation allowed by the government to this indispensable class of the public agents is quite inadequate, in view of the present exorbitant cost of the necessaries of life. The clerks of this Bureau, as a body, are highly meritorious and deserving public servants. None, I am sure, better than they, have, by faithful industry, earned just title to favorable consideration. It becomes my duty, therefore, respectfully but urgently to recommend a reasonable increase of the rates of compensation now by law fixed for clerks employed in this Bureau. Especially is this demanded by every consideration of the public interest, of enlightened public economy, for the clerks of the higher grades, and for the chief clerk. I feel sure I have only to present this subject to your attention to insure your influence in the furtherance of a consummation so proper.

In another paper communicated to you, dated the 11th instant, I have had the honor to submit for your consideration a plan for the better organization, and a permanent increase, of the pay department of the army, to which I respectfully invite your attention in connection with this report.

The entire of the regular army and of the volunteer forces of every description retained in service, and not embraced in orders for muster out, have been paid, or are provided for and in process of payment, to the end of the last fiscal year (to 1st of July last.) Most organizations have been paid to the latter date of September 1.

All discharged troops have been paid in full; and all being discharged, or under orders for discharge, are provided for, and will be paid as fast as they arrive at their respective places of rendezvous.

Paymasters are held in readiness to make another payment to the troops who shall be continued in service, whenever the needful funds for that purpose may be available.

In conclusion, I beg to present to your attention the following remarkable summary statement of the results of this Department during the past four years of war:

The total of money disbursed by the Department from July 1, 1861, to the present date, is one thousand (twenty-nine millions two hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars	$1,029,239,000
Total disbursements in the Department for same period, supposing that nothing is made from enemies, (and it is believed that more than one half will be collected from these sources)	$514,619
Total expenses for disbursement, including pay and allowances to paymasters and their clerks, mileage, traveling expenses, etc., an average of 350 paymasters and 140 clerks, for the term of four years and four months—a large average	6,429,000
Add deflections and expenses	$6,943,619

Thus it is seen that the total of every character of expense to the government arising from the disbursement of the pay to the armies during the period stated is less than *seven-tenths of one per cent.* of the sum disbursed.

Surely this is a cost most wonderfully cheap for the execution of duties so important and responsible. It is much questioned if there is another instance on record of public disbursement so cheaply performed.

Respectfully submitted.

B. W. BRICE, Paymaster General.

AFFECTING INCIDENT.—During the ceremonies attending the inauguration on Wednesday last, after the conclusion of Gov. Marvin's address, the band of the 7th Regulars, which was in attendance, played "Hail Columbia" in admirable style, and when Gov. Walker had completed his inaugural, they struck up "Dixie," which electrified the audience and called forth repeated cheers. All felt its inspiring strains. Many, among those who had imperilled their lives in defense of a cause now gone forever, wept, as they remembered the toils, the sufferings they had endured in vain, and the hopes, forever blasted, which once animated them.—[Floridian.

OBITUARY.—Curious combinations are oftentimes found in the advertising columns of our newspapers. The following, which we may, under the circumstances, venture to style the *ultio cum dulce*, is the announcement made by a lately bereaved wife:

Died, on the 11th instant, at his shop, No. 20 Greenwich street, Edward Jones, much respected by all who knew him and dealt with him. As a man, he was amiable—as a hatter, upright and moderate. His virtues were beyond all price, and his beaver hats only three dollars each. He has left a widow to deplore his loss, and a large stock to be sold cheap for the benefit of his family. He was snatched to the other world in the prime of life, just as he had concluded an extensive purchase of felt, which he got so cheap that his widow can supply hats at a more reasonable rate than any house in the city. His disconsolate family will carry on business with punctuality.

The French Canadian organization in New York has followed the example of the Fenians, and split in twain. One faction desires to establish a Canadian Republic, with a capital and departments at Elmira, New York, and to invade Canada; while the other is opposed to any hasty action.

(Special to the New Orleans Crescent.)

LETTER FROM MOBILE.

MOBILE, January 13, 1866.

Ed. Crescent—Agreeable to my promise to you before leaving the Crescent City to send you a few lines from Mobile, I will now endeavor to fulfil it. After celebrating the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans I left New Orleans on that fine passenger packet the Magnolia, Captain M. Everidge commanding, and T. V. W. Graham purser, with a full cabin of passengers and loaded to her guards with freight. After a fine trip we arrived on Tuesday evening.

Business of all kinds is good here; the receipts of cotton being very heavy. Yesterday the largest sale made in five years took place, amounting to 2300 bales, principally on English and French account. A good sale of horses, mules and wagons has just taken place, at which 154 mules and 54 horses were sold. The mules sold as high as $215 each; the horses averaged $75; 222 wagons were sold and averaged $35 each.

The steam blockade runners Virgin and Red Gauntlet are still in port here, in command of Ensign F. R. Inscke, U. S. Navy, but will be turned over to the Navy Department to-morrow, upon the payment of $20,000 charges incurred on them. It is supposed that the Secretary of the Navy will soon offer them for sale. The late Confederate gunboat Morgan, built in 1863 at Mobile, has been purchased by Capt. M. Everidge, of the steamer Magnolia, and thoroughly overhauled from stem to stern. She will to-day enter the trade between New Orleans and Mobile, under command of that popular and experienced steamboat officer, Capt. David Stonott. She will start on her trial trip at 12 M.

As the Manhattan is hauled up for repairs, and there is no mail to-day, I send this and late papers by the Morgan.

I cannot help giving you the following item, which occurred on Monday last at the Mayor's Court. You may rely on its being true to the letter. Councilman Hurtel has been the presiding magistrate during the absence of Mayor Withers. A citizen had been arrested and locked up for the night. Early in the morning he sent word to Judge Hurtel that his wife was dying, and that it was absolutely necessary that he should be at home upon the occasion. Judge H., who is well known for his kindness of heart, granted the request and released him. On his return home he found his wife filling his position, that of dyeing old clothes. Judge H. acknowledged the joke and asked the reporters to take a *smile*.

Major Hastings is pushing forward his arrangements to colonize Brazil. One set of emigrants have already sailed from New Orleans. The vessel could not accommodate all that were ready to go. Major H. is now making preparations for taking out the remainder of the colony, with whom he expects to embark in person early in the month of February. The colonists are mostly from the interior of Alabama. They propose to make a settlement on one of the tributaries of the Amazon.

Yesterday, in company with Geo. F. Harrington, Esq., I visited the Freedmen's Bureau for the first time. We were courteously and kindly received by Col. Geo. D. Robinson, the superintendent of the district of Mobile, and Lieut. Col. Geo. E. Yarrington, the newly appointed judge of the provost court. Gen. De Rossy, commanding the district, makes a very popular officer, and the most kindly relations exist between him and Gen. Withers, the Mayor, which augers well.

The new court martial, of which Gen. Wood is president and Brevet Major Norton judge advocate, convened yesterday morning. The case of Capt. John C. Ford, of the Veteran Reserve Corps, and late of the quartermaster's department, was taken up. There are two charges: first, "with knowingly and willingly misappropriating property of the United States intended for the military service thereof," and second, "with receiving a bribe for misappropriating property of the United States intended for the military service." The court adjourned until Saturday, in order to give the prisoner time to prepare his defense. Wm. Boyles, Esq., appears for the defense.

The Provost Court has authority to try all civil cases not involving titles to real estate, and such cases of a criminal character as do come within the scope of the civil magistrate. The great number of negroes congregating here at present makes the duties of Judge Yarrington very onerous, and his energies are taxed from early morn till late at night, in settling cases of every shade of difficulty *between the shades*. The number of cases coming before Judge Y. number from fifty to seventy-five per day, and many have to be passed over in a summary manner. Cotton stealing is as prevalent among the negroes as the small-pox. They are very fond of going to law, even upon a most trivial case among themselves. The small-pox is increasing very rapidly, as you will see by an editorial in the Tribune of to-day, and it is causing a great deal of alarm among the white citizens.

The planters regard the labor of the negroes as entirely unreliable now, though high hopes were entertained about the 1st of January that their services could be secured for the year. A large number refuse to contract at all. We must have cotton. The manufacturing and commercial interests of the country depend on it. The success of the financial system of the government depends upon it. To have it, white labor must be introduced. The German, Swiss, Irish, Swede, etc., can make cotton and their services can be secured.

On Friday evening last, the propeller Joseph Sparks, ran on the obstructions, as she was entering the port, and parted entirely in the center. She is a total loss. No lives were sacrificed.

Mr. Eddy took his benefit at the theater, here, Friday evening, with one of the most crowded audiences that have attended the theater for many years.

Everybody is on the tiptoe of expectation of the arrival of the great showman, "a. Ward" and his "Betsy Jane."

The following report of cases before the Freedmen's Bureau, and other statistics for the week ending on the 6th inst., may be of some interest to your readers:

For collection of wages from white employers	256
" " " colored employers	15
For whipping and other ill treatment from the hands of white citizens	78
From the hands of colored citizens	3
For protection from white mobs in the streets, while employed at their daily work	15
Total	365

Number of rations issued to destitute citizens for the past week 5614, as follows:

Number of white persons drawing rations	578
" colored persons	93
Number of persons in hospital at Dog river, of both classes, drawing rations	169
Total	840
Number of days	7
Total number of rations	5,817

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Arrivals at the Principal Hotels.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.—Wm T Jennings, N Y; Geo. L. Day, Dien Swift, Jos B Kimball, J K Roberts, N Y; Robt C Spond, Ky; H Dayberry, city; T L Wilcox, Md; William Them, Scotland; T V M Graham, city; F Davis, city; C Hanten, Vicksburg; N B Stanbuck, Troy; G L Davidson city; J M Bell, W H Kershner, Baltimore; J L Bullis, U S A; J Rehock, La; T G Colvit, Washington; T M Condye, La; S H Ingham, T T Parsons, S Wall, La; J Hedges, Miss; J J Kindrick, C M Green, M H Crowell, B F Stevens, Baton Rouge.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL.—Phillip Cater, A D Atkinson, W White, N Y; O A Jonnson, B Conyers, Dr J B Hall and wife, city; C M Baker, Mobile; A Finley, Ala; G W McAllister, T G Munroe, Philadelphia.

ST. JAMES HOTEL.—J W Rust, J M McGehee, La; J Crawford, Miss; A Lay, J Herbert Jr., W Bird, T H Brown, J L Garrett, Claiborne; J B Mitchell, A H Colvin, M J Boughner, Dr. J K Stevens, W S Custis, Jackson parish, La; W B Gill, N N Brown, Claiborne; T B Hopkins, J B Kennedy, R L Whyte, W Walker, N M Goode, R W Phillips, Miss.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

SOUTHERN MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Troops Being Withdrawn from the South.

STEPHENS' LETTER A FORGERY.

Reconstruction Committee on the South.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

The Imperialists Advancing on Acapulco.

DEFEAT OF GENERAL ALVAREZ.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

INTERESTING MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

(Associated Press Dispatches.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—The number of National Banks is sixteen hundred and twenty-six, absorbing the three hundred million dollars authorized by Congress.

A delegation of Creeks and Seminoles, of the Southern agency, is at Washington.

Vigilant detective measures have been taken by the military at Fortress Monroe to prevent the success of any plot to rescue Mr. Davis, should one exist.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Flour quiet. Wheat in speculative demand at $1 23. Corn, 44½c. Oats dull. Mess Pork, $27. Packed hams, 17c. Lard, 18c. Hogs, $10 75.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Official intelligence from Chihuahua to December 8th says President Juarez was quietly resting there. It seems the French had sent another expedition to Chihuahua, and should this prove to be in great force, the Mexican government will again abandon that city.

The Second Assistant Postmaster General leaves Washington to-morrow for the South, to make better arrangements for mail facilities.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—The Commercial's special says an appeal has been made to the War Department for the restoration of Gen. Sweeney, the Fenian commander-in-chief, to his position in the regular service.

Gen. Grant, by order of the President, is withdrawing all the troops except the garrisons from the South.

The Supreme Court was in consultation yesterday on the constitutionality of the test oath, on which a difference of opinion exists.

Secretary McCulloch's Finance bill will be amended before its passage.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—The Post says some of the Fenians believe Head Center Stephens' letter a forgery, designed to overthrow the exposition of O'Mahoney before the truth could be known.

It is reported the Reconstruction Committee intend sending for many Southern leaders, Union and Confederate, for the purpose of examining into the condition of the Southern States.

The prospects of the admission of the Tennessee delegation are slight, but probable.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 13.—Major Henry Parmlee, President of the California State Navigation Company, died on the 7th inst.

The Golden City sailed for Panama on the 10th, with nearly a million dollars in treasure.

The war in New Zealand continues. There was much excitement over gold discoveries there.

The steamer Colorado, just arrived at San Francisco, reports the death of Capt. R. W. Sealt, of the U. S. steamer Saginaw, at Acapulco, of fever.

Wm. Mackay, cashier of the sub-Treasury at San Francisco, is a defaulter to the amount of $30,000. The government will loose nothing.

PORTLAND, Oregon, Jan. 12.—The steamer Oregon is still aground. Her freight has all been saved.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—Advices per steamer Scotia say three additional frigates are about to leave Spain for the Pacific.

A decree prohibiting the circulation of the *Independence Belge* in Paris has created great excitement. Rumor says a similar course will be taken with the English and American journals.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—A letter from Acapulco, the 5th inst., says an imperial force of 3000 men sent from the City of Mexico was advancing on that point irresistably. The head had passed the Rio Mascala, defeated Gen. Alvarez, and had taken possession of Chipanongo.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 14—Midnight.—The weather is growing cold fast.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—Midnight.—The thermometer has fallen 15 deg. since 6 o'clock.

The reports from Northern cities indicate severe weather appro