

from the door. Nevertheless, we were a little surprised by the receipt of a private letter from a lady in the interior of this State, from which we extract the following:

WHITFIELD, Nov. 21, 1861. DEAR SIR: I take the liberty to say to you that a person calling himself the Rev. Dr. S., editor, proprietor, or otherwise, of a paper called The World, printed in your city, is now traveling about in this region, calling on all the Postmasters, deacons and ministers in the towns and villages, using his influence to increase the circulation of his paper in the farming districts, by trying to induce you to purchase it, and that of your paper, by calling your associates in the churches and synagogues, and representing you to be a Universalist deacon, having no regard for the Sabbath, and being actuated by no motive in the publication of your paper but mere personal aggrandizement.

Now you may be perfectly aware of the whereabouts of the said individual and care as little about it. But as I feel that he is trying to do you a great injury among a class of people that have always been your best friends, I could not forbear telling you of it, &c., &c.

We beg leave to assure the writer of the foregoing and other friends that the conductors and managers of The World are all gentlemen and Christians—that is to say, we know nothing to the contrary, and wish to know nothing. We would fain hope that the Rev. Dr. S. is not a fair specimen of the crowd; and yet there is much in the conduct and tone of their journal that might incite to a less charitable judgment. It must be that it is "their poverty but not their will" that consents to such despicable modes of seeking patronage.

THEY AND NOW.

Twenty days ago our brave troops in Missouri had just routed the enemy in the battle of Fredericktown, and the four successive skirmishes of Lexington, Wet Glaze, Linn Creek, and Springfield. They had driven the Rebels down to the Arkansas line, and were still in pursuit, when Gen. Fremont was removed from the command for "incompetency." Since that time our army has evacuated Springfield, leaving all Southern Missouri to be anew overrun by the Rebels, while Union families by hundreds are flying for their lives. The enemy has been permitted to advance more than a hundred miles to the North, burn Warsaw, and destroy the Government supplies which were stored there, rob the steamer Platte Valley on the Mississippi, and the Sunshine on the Missouri, and capture a valuable train, loaded with guns, between Sedalia and Lerenworth. But, on the other hand, great vigor has been shown in giving orders for the rendition of fugitive slaves, in hunting down even the negroes who accompanied Gen. Fremont and his staff on their return to St. Louis, culminating in Gen. Halleck's order to kick out all fugitives who have sought protection in our lines.

We do not venture to make any comment upon these facts. Indeed, they need none.

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

We beg to remind those citizens who did not vote at the November election, that their names will not necessarily be put upon the registry for the approaching charter election, and that to-morrow (Tuesday) will be the last day on which the registration of their names can be procured. Property-owners, merchants, men of business of all kinds, neglect not this duty to-morrow, and thereby save yourselves much inconvenience on election-day.

Whatever may be the fate of William Smith, recently tried in Philadelphia, and found guilty of piracy, whoever reads the speech of Wm. D. Kelley, counsel for the prosecution, can hardly come to any other conclusion than that the verdict was entirely in accordance with the fact and the evidence. He shows, with great force and clearness, that the act with which Smith was charged was piracy by the law, and that any plea made on his behalf, on the ground of his authority to act under a Government existing by the right of rebellion, was without weight until that Government had a recognized existence as such from other Powers. The speech could not fail to convince any honest jury that their business was not to decide upon the expediency of hanging the prisoner, but whether he was guilty, upon a fair statement of the facts and the law, of the crime of piracy. The clearness with which the distinction is made could hardly fail to secure a verdict for the prosecution.

Whether justice shall not be tempered with mercy, whether the fact of the existence of a war, about which those who might take a letter of marque can hardly be supposed to make nice legal distinctions, and whether the barbarous threats of retaliation on the part of the rebels shall not exercise some influence over the mind of the Executive, in whose hands are the power of life and death, is another question. But the speech of Judge Kelley shows that in a case as clear as Smith's, as to the facts, the duty of a jury is a very clear one.

While Gen. Fremont was in command in Missouri, his enemies alleged that an improper use was made of the telegraph, which, we were told, was not always allowed to report the truth. For aught we know, this may have been the truth; and, if so, the system still remains unchanged, notwithstanding his removal. A dispatch from our special correspondent at Springfield, describing the scene on his resigning his command, was suppressed by the military authorities at St. Louis. We also hear from the friends of Gen. Fremont in this quarter that they find it impossible to send to him the simplest inquiry by telegraph, or to receive any communication from him through that channel.

During the whole one hundred days of Gen. Fremont's command in Missouri, we believe that only one application was made to him for the recapture of a fugitive slave. The proprietors of that sort of runaway property seemed to understand by instinct that he was not the man for their business. No sooner had he been removed, however, than his successor found a large part of his time occupied with such applications.

We are authorized by Mr. Edward J. Armstrong, builder, of Yorkville, to state that he has inquired of 110 of the persons whose names appear as informing Mr. Gunther, and not one of them authorized the use of his name, nor

do they intend to support Mr. Gunther for Mayor. Such devices recoil disastrously upon their inventors.

That Secession organ, the Courier des Etats Unis, in former elections a bitter opponent of Fernando Wood, now declares in his favor. "We must shut our eyes to his faults," says the Courier, "and vote for him blindly." Of course, every Secessionist in town will do this; but the loyal men will give their support to Mr. Ogdys.

A correspondent asks for a definition of Martial Law. We believe the Duke of Wellington—who ought to be good authority on this point—defined it to be "the will of the commanding general." It is, in other words, the subordination of legal forms and personal rights to the exigencies of war.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

His Position on Arming Rebels' Slaves.

ECONOMY IN PROSECUTING THE WAR.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

INCREASE OF REVENUE DUTIES.

The Employment of Slaves by Government

THE CIVIL CASES IN ALEXANDRIA.

Capture of Cannon in Eastern Virginia.

LIST OF UNION PRISONERS DIED IN RICHMOND.

THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

The Reports of the Secretaries approach completion. The great interest which the war will give to that of the War Secretary will be lightened by Mr. Cameron's distinct avowal of his policy of placing arms in the hands of slaves willing to use them for the cause of the Union. He will support this by argument and historical references, and so show that his leading position upon this vital question has been as deliberately as strongly taken. As a forerunner of the administration, hereafter, of the War Department until the close of the rebellion, the public will learn with interest that Mr. Cameron will appeal to Congress, and to the Governors of States authorized to bind the Government, to practice the closest economy, and will sternly require economy and accountability from every subordinate in the war bureau and the army in the field. Enormous as the war is, and will be, it will not be permitted to bankrupt either the Government or the people. Mr. Cameron's Report will also probably contain recommendations that will go far to abolish the distinctions between regulars and volunteers. Among these will be the repeal of the regulation which confers rank upon the regular officer over the volunteer of the same grade, leaving it to be determined by seniority according to date of commission.

Secretary Chase's report will recommend necessarily a large increase of revenue duties. The necessities of the Treasury during the war will require that the tariff be so shaped as to produce the greatest possible amount of income. A large incidental protection to American manufactures will of course be the consequence. Upon the vital idea of the war, it is said that Mr. Chase will fully develop the theory that the slaves in the Rebel States should be employed under wages to raise cotton, sugar, rice and tobacco for Government account. This policy has already been established by Mr. Cameron in regard to the ungathered and unginned Sea Island Cotton in Beaufort. The nation will heartily approve its recommendation by Mr. Chase to Congress as a wise disposition of the slaves than to leave them in the rear of our armies roaming at large, pillaging and marauding. It is a new form of emancipation, but an effective one.

Of the other reports nothing certain is known. Of the President's message nothing whatever is known. The statistical parts of the reports are in the hands of the printers.

THE ALEXANDRIA CIVIL CASES.

The question of the right of Provost Judge Freese to take cognizance of civil cases is still undetermined. It is untrue that the Attorney-General decided against it. What he did was to advise the President that as Congress was soon to convene, it might be well to postpone action in the premises until there could be legislation, instead of assuming a doubtful power. Congress will probably at an early day make some general provision for the ambulatory administration of civil justice, in all the territory which our armies have conquered or may conquer.

Judge Freese's action in one important class of cases has been so wise that his continuance on the bench will be universally desired. One of the best things he did was to release the slaves that were confined by their owners in Alexandria jail, at the commencement of the rebellion, some forty in number, and detail them for Government service, the men on the docks and fortifications, and the women as assistants in the hospital.

Notwithstanding his invitation to a dinner with the Fishmongers' Company, Yancey is still in poor spirits. He writes by the last steamer that he had "no present hopes" of success in his mission to foreign powers. Jeff. Davis's Message shows plainly enough that his other emissaries abroad have sent home equally discouraging reports.

THE CASE OF HENRY LAURENS AND THE REBEL EMBASSADORS.

Investigations in the State Department begin to leave it doubtful whether the case of Henry Laurens goes so completely on all fours with that of Mason and Slidell, as was at first supposed. Accounts differ as to whether Laurens was taken in a Dutch vessel or in a "Congress packet," but the weight of testimony is that he was on board the latter, which was probably a mail packet sailing under authority of Congress. There are other cases, however, more in point. Jeff. Davis, in his Message, admits that the two travelers were proceeding abroad as his "Ambassadors," which settles the hostile nature of their voyage.

Gen. McClellan received a dispatch from Gen. Dix to-day, announcing that Capt. Richard's cavalry, part of Gen. Lockwood's command, had captured nine fine brass field-pieces at the town of Only, on Onancock Inlet, near Gov. Wise's old residence. The rebels of Accomac and Northampton Counties had no time to hide them before they dispersed. There is now no open foe to the east of Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia oysters can again reach New-Yorkers.

RUMORS OF A SKIRMISH.

Rumors of a skirmish on the other side of the Potomac prevail in the hotels, but no such news has reached headquarters.

GEN. SUMNER PUT TO WORK.

Gen. Sumner will to-morrow be assigned the command of a division.

LIST OF UNION PRISONERS DIED IN RICHMOND.

The following is a correct list of all the prisoners of war who have died in the several Confederate States Prisons in Richmond, from Aug. 1, to Friday Nov. 15:

- 11th Regiment—H. F. Hale, John B. Miller, Richard Glasgow, John Demard.
- 12th—Henry Smith, John Williams.
- 13th—T. B. Nichols, John Williams.
- 14th—John Bradley, James Prescott, T. A. Campbell, Frae. Loree, T. H. McClung, Jacob Dietz.
- 15th—S. Tobin.
- 16th—A. M. Hunt, T. R. Johnson, G. M. Andrews, Chas. W. Tibbits.
- 17th—Benj. T. Bate.
- 18th—W. M. Smith.
- 19th—C. McDonald, Chas. McAvoy, C. N. C. C. Hason, jr., citizen of Rochester, N. Y.

RHODE ISLAND.

1st Regiment—Alfred Pennot, A. T. White.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

2d Regiment—W. F. Oxford, C. H. Chase, A. B. Bailey, A. C. Haynes, D. S. Brooks.

VERMONT.

2d Regiment—E. N. Kates, John Spring, John Leonard.

MAINE.

2d Regiment—G. M. Crosby, J. C. Gilman.

NEW-YORK.

3d Regiment—Horace Miller, Stephen Huseen, A. J. Lewis.

CONNECTICUT.

4th Regiment—S. B. Gay, G. W. Anderson.

MASSACHUSETTS.

11th Regiment—A. E. Farmer, S. Weld.

MINNESOTA.

1st Regiment—T. B. Garrison, T. F. Salls, E. M. Thomas, J. D. Dunbar.

WISCONSIN.

2d Regiment—John Hamilton, Charles E. Trowbridge, E. S. Koad.

PENNSYLVANIA.

15th Regiment—F. A. Zittle, Daniel Yeager, U. S. 3d—C. H. Evans.

U. S. 5th—J. Cunningham, P. Murray.

BRITISH VESSELS WITH REBEL ARMS.

One of the confidential dispatches, taken at Hilton Head, urged the Rebel authorities there to be on the lookout for British vessels laden with arms and munitions of war, and mentioned the interesting fact that the signal flag of a very large expected steamer would be "a blue flag, with the legs of Man arms, three human legs in the center in white."

APPOINTMENT OF AIDS.

Herr Von Eickstedt, formerly Captain in the Prussian Artillery, has been appointed Aid to Gen. Dix, with the rank of Captain. Capt. Sheffield, also a Prussian officer, Aid to Gen. Banks, with rank of Captain. Count De Villaneau, a French nobleman, has received commission of Captain, and will be assigned to duty on some staff not yet determined.

THE CALCUTTA CONSULSHIP.

Samuel A. Purshouse of Pennsylvania, recently appointed Consul-General at Calcutta, has declined.

PENSION.

The following pension was granted on Saturday: Charles Howe, ordinary seaman, injury, one-half disability, \$2 50 per month.

NEGROES IN THE REBEL SERVICE.

We have trustworthy intelligence that there are at Manassas, in the rebel service, several complete companies of negroes, untrained, armed, and equipped, and commanded by negro officers. From another source, we learn that the work of impressing the slaves into the military service of the rebels is now being prosecuted with vigor throughout the Seceded States.

OPERATIONS OF A SCOUTING PARTY.

A scouting party of 160 cavalry, sent out by Gen. McClellan to-day, went as far as Drainesville, about half way from his camp to Leesburg, and returned without seeing any signs of the enemy, who was in such force in the neighborhood on the day preceding the battle of Ball's Bluff that it was thought advisable for Gen. McClellan to use his whole force in making a reconnaissance. At that time, he encountered and drove in the Rebel pickets several times.

CLOTHING FOR UNION PRISONERS OF WAR.

A few weeks ago the Secretary of War authorized Gen. Wood to ascertain whether clothing and other articles necessary to the comfort of United States citizens now prisoners of war could be sent to them. The following letter shows that consent for that purpose has been given:

In view of this necessity manufacturers are invited to send samples in balls of one pound each, measuring from thirty to thirty-five yards per ounce, to the Agency at Washington, D. C. The name of the maker and the number of yards per ounce to be attached to each sample, as well as the price per pound. The twine must be very flexible, of four strands, well twisted, and strong. The quantity required during each quarter of a year will be about five thousand pounds.

OFFICERS RETIRED.

Major Thomas S. English and Capt. Abraham N. Brevoort of the Marine Corps have been retired by their own request. They have been in service more than forty years, the former having entered it in 1817, and the latter in 1820.

THE PRESSURE AT THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

It was stated in some of the papers that Secretary Chase was present at the late grand review. This is an error, as neither he nor his assistants have left their duties a single day to attend reviews since the outbreaking of the war.

THE CONSUL TO BAHIA.

Wm. Irwin of Pennsylvania, having yesterday received his instructions from the State Department as Consul to Bahia, Brazil, will proceed thither in the course of a few days.

ADVANCES TOWARD THE REBEL LINES.

On Friday, a portion of the New-Jersey Brigade, under Gen. Franklin, went to Springfield Station, and one regiment from Gen. Heintzelman's command proceeded to Burke's Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad—the latter 14 miles from Alexandria. There was no evidence of the enemy near either place. The 3d New-Jersey Regiment remained at Springfield during the night, and returned to the quarters yesterday morning. The pickets from Gen. Heintzelman's Division daily visit Occoquan Creek, about 16 miles below Alexandria.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

THE BURNING OF WARSAW CONFIRMED.

The burning of the principal part of the town of Warsaw is confirmed by a gentleman who arrived from there this evening. The main business portion of the town, consisting of one large block and several smaller ones, was in flames when the gentleman left. The town being scattered, it is probable that nearly all the residences escaped.

The Quartermaster and Commissary Departments were located in the large block, but a greater portion of the Government stores had been removed. It is supposed to be the work of rebels.

The troops who were there at the time were on the march to Sedalia, and left the morning following the fire, which occurred on Tuesday.

LATER—near Sedalia.—The town was fired about 9 p. m. on Tuesday. All the business portion is in ashes.

The troops which were stationed there left about 8 p. m., and are now here. A portion of the commissary stores, for which we had the transportation, were burned by order of the commanding officer.

It is thought by the commanding officer that the town was fired by the rebel citizens, as a man, dressed in citizen's clothing, was seen crossing from the building in which the fire originated.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 24, 1861.

Gen. Halleck has issued lengthy General Orders, making the entire officers of this department conform strictly with the Army regulations, and reducing everything to a complete and easily understood system.

FROM EASTERN VIRGINIA.

CAPTURE OF REBEL OFFICERS AND CANNON.

Very gratifying dispatches were received to-day by Gen. Dix from Eastern Virginia. They announce the capture of three Rebel officers (a captain and two lieutenants), and also the capture of seven cannon—all entirely new and in good order.

The dispatches state that all traces of disloyalty seem to have disappeared from both counties. Deputations of the people come in daily to get copies of the proclamation of Gen. Dix, and to ask for the protection which it promises them. They are evidently anxious to renew their allegiance to the Federal Government. County meetings will be held in both counties to-morrow, to take measures to this end, and Northampton joined to Maryland, the people will probably at first adopt the State Government of Western Virginia as a temporary measure, and then look to legislation by that State and Maryland for the final settlement of their political condition.

The Government has promptly responded to the assurances in Gen. Dix's proclamation. The Secretary of the Treasury has given orders to restore the light at Cape Charles, and the Postmaster-General has sent a special agent to renew postal connection with both counties.

EXPEDITION UP YORK RIVER.

A REBEL CAMP DEMOLISHED.

FOREST MONROE, Nov. 23, 1861. A Baltimorean, Nov. 24, 1861. Last evening the United States gunboats Cambridge and Hazel, from the fleet of Newport News, proceeded up the York River some distance, and at 10 o'clock opened a hot fire of shells on a rebel camp at Warwick. The attack was apparently unexpected, as severely if any resistance was made. Between 40 and 50 shells, fifteen and twenty seconds fuses, were fired from the guns of our vessels. The rebel camp was entirely demolished, and the supposition is that a large number of rebels must have been killed.

This much I learn from the signals from Newport News, but full particulars I have been unable to learn.

The firing was plainly heard at this point, and the excitement occasioned thereby has been immense. Gen. Phelps has been relieved of his post at Newport News, and Brig-Gen. Joseph R. F. Mansfield ordered to assume command instead.

Col. Max Weber of the 20th Regiment New-York Volunteers, has been appointed commander of Camp Hamilton.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FOREST MONROE, Friday, Nov. 22, 1861.

Several regiments have arrived here from Baltimore and Annapolis during the last twenty-four hours, and Old Point has assumed an unusually bright appearance. Formidable preparations are being made for active operations, the theater of which has not been disclosed. The ferry-boats on the Roads are being heavily armed. Gen. Butler came on from Washington this morning, and he spent the day at Old Point, the Rip Rays, and Newport News. He will proceed to Baltimore to-night.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 24, 1861.

The Old Point boat, which arrived this morning, brings but little news.

About midnight on Friday the gunboat Cambridge proceeded up the James River as far as Warwick, and engaged a rebel battery. No particulars have transpired further than that the rebel battery replied with spirit, but was finally silenced.

The Cambridge is said to have received one shot, but no particular damage.

THE SAN JACINTO AT BOSTON.

BOSTON, Nov. 24, 1861.

The San Jacinto arrived early this morning, and after landing Mason, Slidell, and wife at Fort Warren, came up to the city and anchored off the Navy-Yard. She experienced thick and rough weather during the passage from New-York.

A Committee of the City Government will call on

Commander Wilkes to-morrow, and tender such civilities on the part of the city as he may be willing to accept.

MAINE TWELFTH REGIMENT EN ROUTE.

PORTLAND, Nov. 24, 1861.

The Forest City, with the 12th Maine Regiment, which was detained last night by a storm, left this afternoon at 1 o'clock, for Boston, where the regiment will await a Government transport.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24, 1861.

Gen. Nelson's brigade, numbering 5,000 men, left by the river this afternoon for Louisville.

MASON AND SLIDELL EN ROUTE FOR FORT WARREN.

A letter from an officer on board the San Jacinto to his wife in this city, received yesterday, says: We arrived at New-York the 20th inst., at night, after a succession of head winds for the last three days. When we boarded the ship we were taken into the cabin by Capt. Wilkes. I saw an old gentleman, with white hair and an iron-gray mustache, playing a game of backgammon with a young man with a black mustache and dark eyes. I subsequently learned that they were Slidell and Macfarland. Nothing was said to them in relation to our business, but I suppose it was understood. I have not seen Mr. Mason yet. The officers speak in the highest terms of Mr. Mason's sociability, but they say that Slidell has not left his room since his arrest. I have been led to suppose that Mr. Mason was an overhearing, haughty, cold, reserved man, but such does not appear to be the case—although I think it would apply to Slidell. Everybody speaks well of Mason. He has been in the Ward-room with the officers, and chatted with the sailors. Macfarland and Easton are well liked by the officers and men for their quiet, unassuming good manners. We have just heard that Mr. Slidell has a sister living in this place. It is said they take their imprisonment very philosophically.

I forgot to say that we were going straight to Boston, but our coal gave out, and we were obliged to put in here for a supply. The officers have been on shore and ordered the coal. It will be brought on board to-day, and then we will start once more for Boston. Messrs. Mason and Slidell have apartments in the captain's cabin; Macfarland and Easton in the ward-room, with the officers.

Capt. Wilkes is a tall, bony man, with a great deal of quiet determination in his manner. The officers say that a number of old European officers that have seen him say that he is the very picture of Admiral Nelson, and I must say he looks like the pictures that I have seen of the old Admiral.

In relation to the capture, it appears that this vessel left the coast of Africa (where she has been cruising for the last two years) for the United States by the way of the West Indies. While laying in Havana, they heard of the escape of Slidell and Mason, and that they were then in Havana. Shortly afterward the San Jacinto left Havana for Key West, and then returned to a narrow channel that the Trent had to pass through. After waiting about twelve hours the Trent was seen. The Captain fired one gun blank to bring her to; then fired a round shot, which did not stop her. He then threw a shell at her that exploded beyond her. She then came to, when the Captain sent Lieutenant Fairfax on board (who, by the way, is a descendant of Gen. Fairfax of Cornwallis's army). The Lieutenant asked the Captain of the Trent for the list of passengers, but the latter refused it. At that moment Lieut. F. saw Mason and Slidell among the passengers, and told the Captain that he did not want the list. There was intense excitement among the passengers, particularly among the females. The men of the Trent called the San Jacinto a pirate, and said they would break the blockade in ten days. In the mean time, Lieut. F. coolly proceeded with his business, and removed the prisoners on board of the "Saucy Jack," as they sometimes call the San Jacinto. We shall go direct to Boston, and make arrangements to remove the prisoners to Fort Warren.

The right of visiting and examining, in the open sea, merchant vessels of another nation, of whatever may be their destination, is regarded by the British Government as the inalienable right of every nation at sea.

Lord W. Russell, as special envoy, wrote on the same occasion:

The right claimed by England is the necessary result of the state of war. If the principle is once admitted that a British frigate may search a neutral vessel at sea, and capture her if she follows naturally that any power can extend protection over all the enemies' commerce. All this is required to find that the British nation at war and at sea, and that the British nation at sea, is entitled to search and capture any vessel of an enemy's commerce, without any risk to herself—under the power of search is taken away, it will be a mere formality.

In 1807 the same declaration of the British law was solemnly made:

"His Majesty proclaims these principles of maritime law against the armed vessels of any nation, and against which the present hostilities of America are directed. Those principles are in the right and duty of His Majesty to maintain, and he is bound to do so, and he is bound to do so, to maintain them. They have at all times been essential to the maritime power of Great Britain."

In 1815, the right was so asserted:

"What must render the authority of the law from which the British nation derives its right, is that the defense of the maritime rights of this country against the armed neutrality which several nations had set on foot, compelling us to search and capture on the principle that trade is not a neutral ground. My lords, on what authority did they another support the rights of his country, which are the main pillar of the British empire, and which, if they were not supported, would be a mere formality, and that it had been settled by the uniform practice of nations, grown up into the positive law of Europe, and that no State or combination of States could alter it."

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