This tax, while it is very certain that it would fall heaviest on those which, like ours, furnish the largest amount of paper in proportion to the price of their respective journals. It is not particularly agreeable to pay taxes, especially when you are making no money; but we are this day giving away papers to the soldiers in the Union armies which cost us over $5,000 per annum, and we are very willing to pay $5,000 more in the shape of a direct tax in support of the War. We prefer it in the hope that it is *to be* a war, and not a make-believe; but we make no conditions. To all schemes for taxing the manufacture of newspapers exceptionably and inordinately, we are resolutely opposed; but we do not perceive any necessity for discussing that matter. We assume that Congress is not devoid of common sense.

There are no new principles of taxation to be discovered at this day. The whole ground has been explored and exhaustively treated long ago. The only proper subjects of exceptional taxation are luxuries—Liquors, Narcotics, Playing-Cards, &c., &c. One hundred per cent on them will hurt nobody, for those who have a taste for them will have them while they have means, and their diminished use is not a result to be deprecated and guarded against. If Congress sees fit to put Newspapers in the same category, that will raise a question between the Newspapers and Congress, to be discussed before the People, and decided in future elections. But of this there is no probability.

A tax on Newspapers, as on other kindred Manufactures, which would be borne by their publishers, would not be an unpopular tax: one so heavy that the publishers would be compelled to transfer it to their readers would be. The Ten Millions that we propose to raise from Manufactures of Iron, Cloth, Paper, &c., would never be felt by the great body of consumers. Another Ten Millions or more might easily be raised from Alcoholic Liquors alone, to the actual benefit of the community. So with Tobacco. And as Tea and Coffee are already heavily taxed, it is not likely that Spirits and Tobacco will escape. Thus, with the inevitable taxation on Property, we shall be able to raise a revenue which will render our loans a perfectly safe investment—provided, there is at some time to be fighting that will end the war.

THE PROHIBITED SONG.

In compliance with the request of several persons, we reprint the admirable poem by Whittier, which the Handkerchiefs were not allowed to sing on the other side of the Potomac, Gen. Kearney and Gen. Franklin having solemnly declared it to be incendiary, whereupon Gen. McClellan has forbidden them to sing within his lines at all. Our readers will notice that this poem is suggested by a famous hymn of Martin Luther:

"EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT."
(LUTHER'S HYMN.)

We wait beneath the furnace-blast
The pangs of transformation:
Not painlessly doth God recast
And mold anew the nation.
Not burns the fire
Where wrongs expire;
Nor spares the hand
That from the land
Uproots the ancient evil.

The hand-breadth cloud the sages feared
Its bloody rain is dropping;
The portent that the fathers spared
All else is overstopping.
East, West, South, North,
It curses earth;
A land accursed,
And fiend and fiers
Live only in its shadow.

What gives the wheat-fed blades of steel?
What points the rebel cannon?
What sets the roaring rabble's heel
On the old Bay-State's pennon?
What breaks the oath
Of the men of the South?
What makes the strife
For the Union's life?—
Hark to the answer: SLAVERY!

Then waste no blows on lesser foes
In idle unavail and freemen,
God bids to-day the veil and shows
The features of the demon!
O North and South,
Its victims both,
Can you not cry,
"Let Slavery die!"
And union find in freedom?

What though the cast-out spirit tear
The nation in his going,
We who have shared the guilt must share
The pang of his o'erthrowing!
Whatever the loss,
Whate'er the cross,
Shall they complain
Of present pain
Who trust in God's hereafter?

For who that leans on His right arm
Was ever yet forsaken?
What righteous cause can suffer harm
If He its part has taken?
Though wild and loud
And dark the cloud,
Behind its folds
Its hand upholds
The calm sky of to-morrow!

Above the maddening cry for blood,
Above the wild war-drumming,
Let Freedom's voice be heard, with good
The evil overcoming.
Give prayer and purse
To stay the Curse
Whose wrong we share,
Whose shame we bear,
Whose guilt we share,
Whose end shall gladden Heaven!

In vain the bells of war shall ring
Of triumphs and revenges,
While still is spared the evil thing
That severs and estranges.
But, blest the ear
That yet shall hear
The jubilant bell
That rings the knell
Of Slavery for ever!

Then let the selfish lip be dumb,
And hushed the breath of sighing:
Before the joy of peace, must come
The pains of purifying.
God gives to prove
Each in his love
To bear his lot,
And, murmuring not,
Endure and work and labor!

The Storm at Boston.

BOSTON, Jan. 26, 1862.

The storm cleared up about midnight. It is fine and breezy to-day. The eight-o'clock train from New-York, which was delayed by a freight train off the track, arrived at 2 p.m. to-day.

POST-OFFICE CHANGE.—The name of the Post-Office in Floyd County, Iowa, formerly known as St. Charles City, has been changed to Charles City.

STEAMERS TO SAIL AND ARRIVE.—The British steamship City of Manchester will sail for Liverpool on Tuesday afternoon.

The steamship City of New-York is not expected to arrive at this port before Thursday next, as she will probably stop at Halifax for coal.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

The Aid of Colored Union Men.

THE PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS.

They Prefer a Tax to a Reduction.

RETRENCHMENT BY COLLECTOR BARNEY.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Reported Dissatisfaction of the Allies.

THEY HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY MIRAMON.

The Potomac Rebels in Winter Quarters.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1862.

THE AID OF COLORED UNION MEN SOUTH.

Sagacious and aged politicians here begin to express apprehension that it is already too late to win the aid of the colored Union men of the South; that the golden opportunity is lost. They see signs that the negroes, who panted to be our allies, but were repelled by our commanders, and abandoned in the interval between the contending forces, have made up their minds that the war is a war of politicians, and that success to either party will bring no change in the relation of the slave to his master or to the Federal Government. If the impatience and trust with which the colored Unionists of the South waited for our armies are gone, the greatest element of our war is wasted, and wise gray heads here say they are gone.

SENATOR BRIGHT'S TREASON.

Among the strange facts connected with the case of Bright is the one that the vote upon it in Committee was taken without discussion. Not one of the points so unanswerably made against him in debate in the Senate was presented in the Committee room.

BANKING IN THE DISTRICT.

Senator Grimes presented a bill on Friday to revive the charters of certain banks in the District of Columbia. It may save disappointment to speculators in corporate franchises to publish that Washington is so far colonized by New-York and New-England that it is dead sure that the business of issuing bank notes here henceforth must be based on a pledge of Free-State stocks and bonds and mortgages upon unincumbered District farms at half their valuation.

TAX ON THE PAY OF OFFICERS.

A proposition will soon be offered in the Senate, to impose a tax of ten per cent upon the pay of officers, from a Major-General down to a private. The army prefers a tax to a reduction of pay, and large numbers have petitioned for it. From this source, Government will receive a revenue of about $25,000,000. The petition from the officers states that they prefer a tax of even fifteen or twenty per cent to the reduction proposed by Senator Sherman. Many Senators and Members who have been consulted upon the subject, within the last 48 hours, approve the idea and will support it. It is also proposed to tax at the same rate the salaries of all Union employees.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDERY.

The Special Committee charged to select a site for a national foundery have determined to report in favor of one, but without designating the locality. This will have to be quarreled over in Congress. The Committee's justification for throwing this iron apple of discord into the House was their inability to agree themselves.

THE TROY AND ALBANY COLLECTORSHIPS.

Collector Barney notified the Secretary of the Treasury last evening that he intended to abolish the office of Collector at Troy, and allow the duties to be discharged by the Surveyor. He stated also that he intended to abolish two of the same class of offices at Albany, there being no necessity for them. He said he had commenced the work of retrenchment in the New-York Custom-House, having already abolished $50,000 worth of places, and intended to keep on doing so.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Mexican letters received from Havana to-day state that the Allies are greatly dissatisfied with their prospects in Mexico, and complain that Miramon and others have deceived them. They expected aid from a strong party, and they find the population as one man against them. They are convinced that their present forces are entirely inadequate to the task of bringing the Mexicans to terms. The troops at Vera Cruz are suffering greatly from sickness, 500 men out of 8,000 being in the hospitals. Whenever they have ventured beyond the range of their cannon they have been shot down, if few, or driven back if in force. Discontented, and virtually besieged, they quarrel among themselves. On one occasion a French regiment fought a Spanish regiment until a number were killed and wounded in each. In consequence of this brawl it was determined that the French force should immediately land at Tampico, where, as previous advices inform us, resistance would be made. The English were at the same time to attack Matamoras. Mr. Corwin writes that Doblado, who is the soul of the new Administration, declares that Mexico will make a successful resistance to the invaders, but adds that he has not learned on what territorial line of defence she will make it. The Allies have already, he says, differed among themselves on a number of trifling points, such as the relative positions at Vera Cruz of their national flags, which have been changed three times, and of the order of their signatures to proclamations and other public documents.

THE CASE OF GEN. BENHAM.

Gen. Benham, released from arrest, has applied to be put upon active service until his trial. Gen. McClellan has the subject, together with the charges preferred and defense of the General, before him.

MR. SEWARD'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

A pamphlet has just been distributed among Senators and Representatives, which is attracting attention, entitled Mr. Seward and his Diplomatic Correspondence. It very severely criticises his capacity as a diplomatist and a writer of the English tongue, and his skill as a writer. It purports to be written in Boston.

THE WAR INVESTIGATION.

The statement that the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War has determined to make no report to Congress, either at this session or the next, will probably soon be made the subject of inquiry in one or both Houses. If the Committee admit that such is their intention, a motion will be made to discharge them, and to set on foot a new investigation.

THE SUPREME COURT.

It is doubtful whether the House will pass the bill reorganizing the Supreme Court as it comes from the Senate. It is thought that the geographical reasons which were vainly urged in the Senate against the arrangement of the Circuit adopted, will prevail on the House, and that the bill will be amended so as to put Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin in one circuit, and the States west of the Mississippi in another.

THE REBELS HOUSED AT MANASSAS.

Recent intelligence leads to the belief that most of the rebel soldiers directly in front of Washington are housed between Bull Run and Manassas; a sufficient force to man the forts at Centreville only being left there. It is believed that a large portion of the army of the Potomac is distributed at various points in Virginia, upon the lines of railroads converging at Manassas. By this plan they can be more easily subsisted, and at the same time be rapidly transported to a point of danger.

THE COTTON GATHERING AT PORT ROYAL.

Col. Reynolds, the Government agent at Port Royal to superintend the gathering, ginning and transportation of cotton on the sea islands, arrived here yesterday and had a long interview with the Secretary of the Treasury. He has already secured more than $1,000,000 worth of cotton. The two or three thousand negroes just freed are industrious and orderly, and do their work well and cheerfully. They need clothing and medical attendance. He desires to take back with him an ample supply of the former, and several physicians who shall devote themselves to these interesting workmen.

HUMBUGGING REPORTS.

There was great after-dinner excitement this evening, in the hotels, over a very disastrous Union defeat in Tennessee, and a rumored miscarriage of Burnside's expedition. The possibility of these bar-room alarms, and indeed of any apprehension about the result of the war, would be instantly lost in the jubilee of a proclamation by Congress of freedom to the slaves who joined the Union ranks.

SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

The following is the bill of which Senator Wilson has given notice, and which he will introduce on Monday:

A BILL for the more effectual Suppression of the Slave-Trade.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That all persons who may be convicted of participation, directly or indirectly, in the slave-trade, either as owners of a ship or vessel, or officers or seamen on board any ship or vessel engaged in said trade, or who may fit out, or cause to be fitted out, or who may in any way be connected with or interested in the fitting out or sailing of any ship or vessel, or expedition, for the purpose of engaging in any manner in such slave-trade, be, and they are hereby adjudged to be guilty of the crime of piracy, and shall be punished therefor by imprisonment for life.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any citizen of the United States being of the crew or ship's company of any ship or vessel owned, in the whole or part, or navigated for, or in behalf of any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall land from any such ship or vessel, and on any foreign shore seize any negro or mulatto, whether bond or free, not a fugitive from the United States, and held to service or labor in any one of said States under the laws thereof, with intent to hold, confine, or sell such negro or mulatto as a slave, or shall decoy or forcibly bring or entice, or shall receive such negro or mulatto on board any such ship or vessel with intent as aforesaid, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate; and on conviction thereof before the Circuit Court of the United States for the district wherein he may be brought or found, shall be punished by imprisonment and confinement to hard labor for life.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if any citizen of the United States, being of the crew or ship's company of any foreign ship or vessel engaged in the slave-trade, or any person whatever, being of the crew or ship's company of any ship or vessel owned wholly or in part, or navigated for or on behalf of, any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall forcibly confine or detain, or aid and abet in forcibly confining or detaining on board such ship or vessel any negro or mulatto, whether bond or free, not a fugitive from the United States and held to service or labor in some one of said States, under the laws thereof, with intent to hold, confine, or to cause to be held in slavery or bondage any such negro or mulatto as a slave, or shall on board any such ship or vessel, order or attempt to sell such slave any negro or mulatto not held to service as aforesaid, or shall, on the high seas, or elsewhere on the waters of the United States, or anywhere on the land, transfer or deliver over to any ship or vessel any negro or mulatto not held to service as aforesaid, with intent to hold, confine or make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall and or deliver on shore from on board any such ship or vessel any such negro or mulatto, with intent to make sale of, or having previously sold, such negro or mulatto as a slave, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof before the Circuit Court of the United States for the district wherein he shall be brought or found, shall be punished by imprisonment and confinement to hard labor for life.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That no ship or vessel shall hereafter sail or depart from any port or place within the United States, for any place or port on the coast of Africa, until after her master or owner shall have given due notice of intended voyage to the District-Attorney of the United States for that district; and the said District-Attorney, upon receiving such notice, shall cause the vessel and cargo to be made of such vessel, to be examined until her actual departure, to ascertain whether she is designed, directly or indirectly, to be engaged in the African slave-trade. Every vessel cleared, or held out or departing, or attempting to depart from the United States, in violation of this act, shall be forfeited, with her equipments, stores, and appurtenances, to the United States; and every ship or vessel departing, or attempting to depart from the United States, in violation of this act, shall be forfeited, with her equipments, stores, and appurtenances, to the United States; and every ship or vessel departing from the United States to any port or place without a clearance, shall be forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That any ship or vessel upon the high seas or in and upon the waters of any bay, river, creek, or harbor which shall display the flag of the United States of America as a badge of its nationality, and which shall be found not to be a properly papered or registered American ship or vessel, the same is hereby declared to be guilty of a felony, and the owners, officers, and crew thereof shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year, and the ship or vessel, and all its tackle, furniture, and other appurtenances, forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That when any citizen or other person shall lodge information with the Attorney for a district of or in any State or Territory, as the case may be, that any negro, mulatto, or person of color, has been imported into any such State, contrary to the provisions of law in such cases made and provided, or having been so imported into any other State, shall have been brought into such district, it shall be the duty of the said attorney forthwith to sue out and obtain from a Judge of the Circuit Court, or of a District Court, or a Commissioner of the Circuit Court, a warrant authorizing and directing the Marshal to find out and bring before the Judge or Commissioner such negro, mulatto, or other person of color, wherever he may be found, together with the person in whose custody he may be, or who may have detained him under any color or pretense whatsoever; and such Judge or Commissioner shall forthwith and examine the matter summarily upon the return of said warrant, and if it shall be ascertained by the testimony of witnesses, that such negro, mulatto, or other person of color has been brought in contrary to the true intent and meaning of the acts in such case made and provided, then such Judge or Commissioner shall direct the Marshal of said district to remove such negro, mulatto, or other person of color, into his custody for safe keeping, subject to the order of the President of the United States; and the informer or delator who shall have lodged the information shall be entitled to receive, over and above the portion of the penalty accruing to him or them by the procedure of the acts in such cases made and provided, a bounty of $100 for each and every negro, mulatto, or person of color, who shall have been delivered into the custody of the Marshal and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to pay or cause to be paid the aforesaid bounty upon the certificate of the Clerk of the Court for the district where proceedings may have been had with the seal of office thereto affixed, stating the number of negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, so delivered; and it shall further be the duty of the said Judge or Commissioner, on any probable cause, to cause it into custody the person in whose custody such negroes, mulattoes, or other persons were found, for trial according to law: *Provided*, That any person aggrieved may appeal to the Circuit Court from such order directing the delivery of such negroes, mulattoes, or other persons, on executing a bond to the United States in the penalty of $1,000 for each of such negroes, mulattoes, or other persons of color, with sureties to be approved by the Judge or Commissioner, conditioned to remove them to the Marshal, with all costs, if such appeal shall be determined against him, and such appeal shall be tried by a jury if either party shall so require it.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Commissioner to reside in Africa, whose duty it shall be and, in every possible manner, in the suppression of the African slave-trade, under the direction and instruction of the President of the United States, and in the execution of the provisions of this act; and that the salary of said Commissioner shall be ——— dollars per annum, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That any officer or officers of the Navy of the United States, who shall, under the provisions of this act, or of any former act, arrest a vessel or vessels of any description, suspected of being engaged in the slave-trade, and which shall, upon examination, be not convicted of the charge under which the arrest may be made by said officer or officers of the Navy, the said officer or officers making the arrest, as aforesaid, be, and they or he is hereby declared to be relieved from any responsibility in the premises of said arrest, and freed from any suit or other action whatsoever, by the owners, captain, or crew, or others interested in the vessel so arrested as aforesaid; and that all suits, or other proceedings for damages, and entered against such officer or officers as aforesaid, for any arrest under this act, or any former act, be, and the same are hereby, declared to be null and void.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed: *Provided, nevertheless*, That all such acts and parts of acts, shall be and remain in full force, for the punishment of all offenses committed before the passage of this act.

To the Associated Press.

THE REPORTED DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GEN. SHERMAN AND COM. DUPONT.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1862.

Brig.-Gen. J. W. Sherman, in a communication to *The National Intelligencer*, deems it due to the interests of the public service to publicly proclaim the utter falsity of the statement made in several journals of the country, repeatedly brought to his notice, that a projected plan for the continuance of the expedition was abandoned in consequence of a disagreement and misunderstanding between Com. Dupont and himself to-day. He says the most friendly and cordial feelings and entire harmony of action have always existed between them.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

To-day being devoted by the Secretary of War to business with members of Congress, a very large number of them are availing themselves of this arrangement.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Select Committee on the Conduct of the War have frequent sessions. Such abuses or errors as are discovered requiring correction are promptly reported to the proper authorities. The Committee have thus become a valuable auxiliary, and much good has already been effected in a quiet way.

COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

Counterfeit money is circulating in the camps as well as in Washington. Yesterday the Metropolitan Police made several arrests, and among the effects of one of the parties were found about $600 in notes of denominations of $1, $3, $5, and $10—the counterfeits being on Penn Township Bank, Western Bank of Philadelphia, Farmers' Bank of Pottsville, Williamsburgh Bank, Warren Bank, Massachusetts Atlantic Bank, Boston, Montpelier Bank, Southport Bank, Connecticut Commercial Bank, Rhode Island, Waterbury Bank, and Farmers' Bank, Lancaster. A quantity of spurious halves and quarters have also been seized.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

The Expedition from Cape Girardeau—Capture of a Rebel Lieutenant-Colonel, Eleven other Officers and Sixty-eight Privates—Important Order by Gen. Halleck.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1862.

The following dispatch was received to-night at the War Department:

"ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26, 1862.

"Official reports just received from the expedition sent from Cape Girardeau to Benton and Bloomfield, captured Lieut.-Col. Farmer and 11 other officers and 68 privates, with a quantity of arms, horses, saddles, &c. Most of the rebel officers were surprised and captured in a ball-room.

"[Signed] H. W. HALLECK."

ST. LOUIS, Friday, Jan. 24, 1862.

Several of the Secessionists of this city who were recently assessed for the benefit of the South-Western fugitives, by order of Major-General Halleck, having failed to pay their assessments, their property has been seized for a day or two past under an execution to satisfy the assessment, with 25 per cent additional, according to General Order No. 24.

Yesterday Samuel Engler, a prominent merchant and one of those assessed, had a writ of replevin served on the Provost-Marshal for the property seized from him, whereupon he and his attorney, Nathaniel Cox, were arrested and lodged in the military prison.

Gen. Halleck has issued a special order directing the Provost Marshal-General to send Mr. Engler beyond the lines of the Department of Missouri, and to notify him not to return without permission from the Commanding General, under the penalty of being punished according to the laws of war.

Gen. Halleck also adds: Martial law having been declared in this city by authority of the President of the United States, all the civil authorities, of whatever name or office, are hereby notified that any attempt on their part to interfere with the execution of any order from these Headquarters, or impede, molest or trouble any officer duly appointed to carry such order into effect, will be regarded as a military offense, and punished accordingly.

The Provost Marshal General will arrest each and every person, of whatever rank or office, who attempts in any way to prevent or interfere with the execution of any order issued from these headquarters; he will call upon the commanding officer of the Department of St. Louis for any military assistance he may require.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26, 1862.

Official dispatches from Cape Girardeau, state that the expedition which left that place a few days since for Benton and Bloomfield, returned, having captured Lieut.-Col. Farmer, eleven other officers, and 68 privates of Jeff. Thompson's command. Also, quite a number of arms, horses, saddles, &c.

A telegraph line has been constructed from Rolla westward.

The following special order will be issued in the morning:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, MONDAY, Jan. 27, 1862.

The President, Secretary, Librarian, Directors, and other officers of the Mercantile Association, the President, Secretary, Directors, and other officers of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, are required to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by Article VI., State Ordinance of October 16, 1861.

Any of the above officers who shall neglect to file in the office of the Provost-Marshal-General within ten days of the date of this order the oath so prescribed will be deemed to have resigned; and any who, after neglecting to file this oath of allegiance within the time prescribed, shall attempt to exercise the functions of such office, will be arrested for contempt of this order and punished according to the laws of war.

Second: It is officially reported that carriages bearing the enemy's flag, are in the habit of driving to the vicinity of the military prison in McDowell's College. The commanding officer of the prison guard will seize and take possession of any carriage bearing the enemy's flag, and the horses, carriages, and harness shall be confiscated.

Third: It is officially reported that certain women are in the habit of approaching the vicinity of the military prison, waving hostile flags for the purpose of insulting our troops and carrying on communication with prisoners of war. The commanding officer of the prison-guard will arrest and place in confinement all women so offending.

Fourth: Any carriage or other vehicle bearing a hostile flag in the city will be seized and confiscated. The city police and patrol guards are directed to arrest persons in vehicles under such flags; also, persons wearing or displaying a hostile flag in the city.

By command of Major-General HALLECK.

N. H. MCLEAN, Asst. Adj.-General.

THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION

REBEL REPORTS EXPLODED.

They Have No Knowledge of Its Whereabouts.

No Gunboats Have Been Seen in Pamlico Sound.

FORTRESS MONROE, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1862.

The Norfolk Day Book of Saturday contains not a word of Gen. Burnside's expedition, excepting a paragraph on the weather, saying that it is under the impression that the Burnside expedition is the cause of it all. Some people relieved themselves yesterday by wishing that said fleet would either go to the bottom or go home, as they were tired of such bad weather, and never expected to see better while they are menacing the South.

An extract is given from *The Newbern Progress*, of Thursday last, which says, in reference to the reported presence of the fleet in Pamlico Sound:

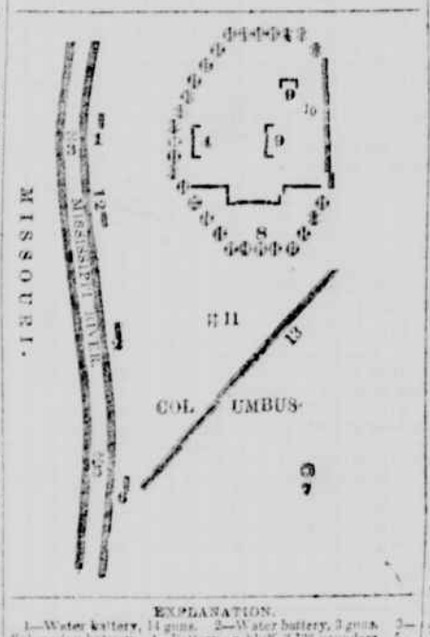
"Up to this writing (Wednesday), we are not sure that there is now, or ever has been, a Yankee gunboat over the swash at Hatteras or not. The latest news we have is from Capt. Hill, who arrived here yesterday, from Matamuskeet, Hyde County, through the Sound, and says he saw nothing in the Sound in the shape of a gunboat. We shall probably hear more before going to press, as Col. G. B. Singletary sought and obtained permission from the Commanding General, to go on a reconnoitering expedition down the river. He left Tuesday evening."

A postscript added to the above article says:

"Col. Singletary had not arrived when we went to press, and we are still in doubt."

A dispatch, dated Wilmington, 24th, says there was a heavy wind from the east north-east all night and to-day, up to 9 o'clock this morning. There is nothing new from the coast, except an apparent wreck drifting shoreward this morning, 15 miles east of New-Inlet.

THE DEFENSES AT COLUMBUS.



EXPLANATION.

1—Water battery, 14 guns. 2—Water battery, 3 guns. 3—Submarine battery. 4—Battery on bluff, 3 128-pounders. 5—Floating battery, 20 guns. 6—Battery, 3 guns. 7—Battery, 4 guns. 8—Strong intrenched work commanding front and rear. 9—Two batteries light guns commanding rear. 10—Hills all one mile long. 11—Church used as a magazine. 12—Steam-engine used for pumping water upon the bluff. 13—Railroad.

We have been fortunate enough to obtain (we shall not say how) a plan of the rebel fortifications at Columbus. The sketch was drawn from memory by one who has been there, and knows all about the place. Of course, it is not drawn with the precision which a practiced engineer would give, but it is sufficiently accurate to present an intelligible idea of the place and its surroundings. Many of our readers have been at Columbus, and will recognize the features at a glance.

Columbus is situated on a bluff just below a bend of the Mississippi River. The bluff is of limestone, and had an agency in turning the river at this point. It is about 75 feet high, and is flanked by a narrow strip of land at its base, overflowed at times by high water. The village is situated on its southern slope. The country in the rear has been heavily timbered, but the rebels have made good use of their axes, and hundreds of acres are leveled to the ground, presenting an abbatis as formidable to our troops as that around Washington to the rebels under Beauregard and Johnston. The railroad enters the town through an excavation about fifteen feet deep. With this general view of the surrounding topographic features, our readers will readily understand the accompanying sketch.

Commencing up stream, we find at figure 1 a 14-gun battery under the bluff. When our informant saw it, it was simply a breastwork, but it is now reported that the rebels are casemating it with the timber which was cut out at O'Neil's mill, which was burned by Gen. Paige on the return of the expedition last week.

In the river in front of the battery is a submarine battery or torpedo. Continuing on, we come to a stationary steam-engine (12), used to pump water upon the bluff for the use of the troops. Still further along, near the point where the bluff retreats from the river, is a three-gun battery (3). The Rev. Gen. arch-rebel Bishop Polk's headquarters are there. Continuing on to the lower end of the town, we come to a three-gun battery on shore, near the railroad depot; also, a floating battery of twenty guns, the wharf-boats, and some old flats having been used for the purpose.

Back of the depot, overlooking the town, is a circular work of eight guns (7) commanding the river, also the approaches to the town from the rear.

Ascending now the bluff (at figure 4) there is a work containing three guns, which carry projectiles weighing 128 pounds each. This battery has a range of the river for four miles.

Immediately south of this there is a strong intrenched work with a breastwork at the edge of the bluff, and a ditch and breastwork at the rear, thus commanding both front and rear. There are also (at 9, 9) two works mounting 16 guns, designed solely to protect the rear. Still further toward the rear is a long rifle pit as breastwork, extending from the edge of the bluff on the north to the railroad excavation on the south. An idea of the area may be had when it is considered that this pit is more than a mile long.

A church (11) is used for a magazine. Last week Commodore Foote made a reconnoissance of the place with two of his gunboats, whereupon the ammunition was speedily removed further South, beyond the reach of his shells. There are about 80 guns in all, exclusive of field artillery. The rebel force is variously estimated from 25,000 to 40,000 men, probably 30,000 is a fair estimate. Some of the regiments are well armed with Springfield and Enfield muskets, while some of them have only shotguns. There are not many 60 days men in Columbus, but mainly troops enlisted for the war.

It will be seen by this sketch that it is no trifling job which Com. Foote and Gen. Grant have on their hands. If an attack is made, there will be serious work. Com. Foote is extremely anxious to obtain the mortars which have been promised him again and again, but none of them have been received. The thirty-eight boats prepared for them are lying at the levee in Cairo. Why cannot the Naval Department send a portion of those now casting at Pittsburgh to Cairo? Let it be remembered that these batteries on the bluff will be entirely out of the reach of our gunboats in close action. But with these thirty-eight mortars, Com. Foote and Capt. Constable would produce a stampede surpassing that from Hilton Head. Without them, it may be feared that an attack will not dislodge the rebels from their strong position.

THE OLD POINT BOAT.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1862.

The Old Point boat has not arrived, owing, no doubt, to the heavy storm last night.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF THE BURNSIDE TRANSPORTS—A LIGHT-BOAT ASHORE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1862.

The storm has cleared away, and the sun is now shining.

In consequence of the rough weather the George Washington has not made the trip to Cherrystone since Tuesday.

The Adelaide did not arrive from Baltimore until about 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The Georgiana was detained last night. She left this afternoon for Baltimore.

A flag of truce this afternoon took to Craney Island several Rebel officers, who arrived yesterday morning from Baltimore. The boat also brought back several passengers to go North.

The United States transport Louisiana, of Gen. Burnside's Expedition, formerly of the line between Old Point and Baltimore, has been beached. She was burned, to prevent her from falling into the hands of the rebels. All hands were saved.

The light-boat on the Middle Shoal, placed there to supply the absence of the Cape Henry Lighthouse, went ashore last night on Pleasure House Beach. The crew were taken to Norfolk.

The paragraph relative to the loss of the Louisiana is founded on a prevailing report at Norfolk.

The Norfolk Day Book has an article from *The Charleston Mercury* headed, "Important from Florida," giving the particulars of the capture of Cedar Keys. There were three schooners and five fishing-smacks loading there at the time the Yankees took the place. The schooners were loaded with lumber and turpentine.

The Mercury's informant thinks they were destroyed by the owners on Thursday night, 16th, as soon as it was ascertained that the Yankees intended to attack the town. The President of the railroad went down with two companies of infantry to protect the property, and a message was sent to Gen. Wupier for assistance. During Thursday, firing was heard in the direction of Cedar Keys, and our fleet no doubt has taken the place.

FROM CAIRO.

SEIZURE OF COUNTY RECORDS BY REBELS—NEWS FROM SOUTHERN PAPERS.

CAIRO, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1862.

Since the return of the National troops from Kentucky, a detachment of rebel cavalry has visited Blandville, and removed the county records to Columbus.

The 32d Illinois Regiment, and the 7th Iowa Regiment, left to-day for Smith's Landing, at the mouth of the Cumberland River.

By a flag of truce, copies of *The Memphis Appeal*, of the 16th, 18th and 22d of January, are received, from which we extract the following:

"*The Little Rock Journal* of the 17th, says that Gen. Frost, the Camp Jackson prisoner, who has been on parole, is now at Jacksonport, with 100 adherents awaiting recruits to join his gallant old chief, Sterling Price."

The British residents of Mobile have organized into a company for home defense.

The Confederate News, of Columbus, of the 18th inst. has the following:

"Col. Neally's regiment and Kendall's battalion left yesterday for Mayfield Creek, to search for Lincolnites. It also intimates that half a million of dollars will be sent to that place for the payment of the troops.

"A letter from Richmond dated the 15th inst. states that John K. Jackson, Colonel of the 5th Georgia Regiment, has been appointed a Brigadier-General, and is in command at Pensacola."

The Memphis papers do not contain a word about the battle of Somerset, Ky., and the defeat and death of Gen. Zollicoffer.

The Memphis papers say that Federal money is a 25 per cent discount in New-York.

Gov. Jackson was at New-Orleans the week before last.

Jeff. Thompson has again appeared on the Missouri border. He visited Commerce yesterday with a force of 800 men, completely sacking the houses of the Union citizens of that place. An expedition will leave Bird's Point this evening in pursuit of the marauders.

THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

PEARCE AND KENNEDY REQUESTED TO RESIGN.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 26, 1862.

Resolutions were introduced into the Maryland Senate, on Saturday, to request Senators Pearce and Kennedy to resign, on the ground that their sentiments are in direct conflict with the settled view of the people of the State, and that it is right and proper that the State should, at this critical juncture, be represented by Senators whose hearts beat responsive to the throb of devotion to the integrity of the Union, felt by the great popular heart of the State.

A SHARP DODGE.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Jan. 24, 1862.

The British schooner Edwin, Capt. Gordon, which cleared hence on the 11th inst. for Barbadoes, has been run ashore near Back River, in the bay, the cargo landed, and the vessel burned. The captain, and certain passengers who had gone from this place concealed in the vessel, escaped into Virginia. It now turns out that the captain and owner are citizens of North Carolina, and she was put under the British flag to enable them to carry out their designs.

THE BODIES OF GEN. ZOLLICOFFER AND BAILLIE PEYTON, JR.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Friday, Jan. 24, 1862.

The bodies of Gen. Zollicoffer and Baillie Peyton, jr., are in process of embalming at Somerset.

All is quiet below.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

—Professor Agassiz, who has again arrived in the city from Cambridge, and the Hon. Edward Everett, just returned from a short Western tour, are at the Everett House.

—Gen. Anderson is still stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

—Commodore Montgomery of the United States Navy, the Hon. R. R. Duell of Cortland County, N. Y., Capt. Attinger and Capt. McKinstry of the United States Navy, Judge Killbreth of Ohio, S. B. Foote of Quebec, Dr. S. R. Childs of Saratoga, and S. R. Spaulding, E. A. Richards, and J. H. Weeks of Boston, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

—Chevalier Hulseman, the Austrian Minister to the United States, from Washington; Lieut.-Col. S. C. Oliver and lady, from Virginia; Jas. Ferguson and lady, from San Francisco, and John W. Moore of the sloop-of-war Richmond, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

—The Hon. John Rose, member of the Provincial Parliament, and Capt. De Winton of H. B. M.'s Army, from Canada, are at the Clarendon Hotel.

—Lieut.-Col. Tilneton and Capt. Humphrey, from Budd's Ferry; Col. E. W. Hinks of the U. S. Army, from Boston; Capt. J. C. Dunne of the U. S. Engineer Corps, and Capt. Hunt of the U. S. Army are at the Astor House.

—Major Sligreaves of the U. S. Army, Lieut. H. S. Taintor of Hartford, and C. W. Amory and R. Coffman of Boston are at the Brevoort House.

CLOTHING FOR CONTRABANDS AT PORT ROYAL.—At Derby and Birmingham, Connecticut, a few days ago, a contraband undertook to collect old clothes for his brethren at Port Royal. In a short time he gathered 120 garments, many of them very good.