

New-York Daily Tribune

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1863.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

Upon the arrival of the Chesapeake at Hall's... The British Government officials, who attempted to hold them, were seized by prominent citizens and prevented from performing their duty.

The Morning Star arrived on Sunday, with New Orleans dates to the 13th. Three or four thousand troops, under Wirt Adams, Crosby, and Logan, appeared in the vicinity of Natchez about the 1st inst.

Capt. H. T. Anderson, 51st Indiana regiment, and Lieut. J. T. Shelton, 17th Iowa regiment, escaped from Liberty Prison, Richmond, a week ago, and arrived at Baltimore on Friday.

The damage done by the Rebels in their raid on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad has been so far repaired that trains ran there on Saturday.

The special correspondent at New-Orleans of The Boston Herald, under date of the 19th inst., says Gen. Washburne holds the coast of Texas from the Rio Grande to within 100 miles of Galveston.

Dispatches received at army headquarters from Gen. Grant as late as Friday night, make no mention of the alleged fight on Monday at Bean Station between our advanced pursuing forces and Long street's rear guard.

In a dispatch from Harper's Ferry to The Baltimore American, we have the important information that on Thursday last, Gen. Averill and his cavalry were in Stanton, and tore up the railroad for six miles between that place and Gordonsville.

An army officer, direct from Chattanooga, has informed the editor of The Indianapolis Journal that Gen. Grant is still suffering from his latest New-Orleans loss, has grown thin and stooping, and shows marks of great loss of health and strength as to escape from its recovery, though he still works as indefatigably as ever.

Our special correspondent says that Gen. Schofield will probably be relieved in a day or two, and perhaps Gen. Rosecrans will take his place.

GENERAL NEWS.

By the arrival of the Morning Star at this port yesterday, we have dates from Havana to December 15, from Vera Cruz to December 1, and from the City of Mexico to November 25.

Capt. Fiske and his party have arrived at St. Paul from their journey over the plains. His party consisted of fifty-three men, three of whom deserted on the 26th of July and went to Pembina, where they connected the story of the massacres which we received some time since.

The daughter of a well-known commission-merchant in Chicago has instituted a suit against a prominent physician of that city for a breach of promise of marriage—damages \$25,000.

the 19th inst. his office was destroyed by troops who stopped a short time there while on their way to the army. He proposes to resume publication in a few days.

A Fortress Monroe dispatch says the steamer Spaulding arrived from Morehead City, N. C., on Friday night, bringing a report that the gunboat Daylight had been blown up by the explosion in her magazine of a shell from Fort Fisher, and most of her officers and crew were killed.

Commissioner Osborn has committed H. C. Torson, William Smith, and Evra Edwards, on a charge of murdering Charles Corbett, first mate, on the high seas, and throwing his body overboard, when on a voyage to St. Helena, in September, 1862.

A meeting has been held at Portland, Me., to take measures for celebrating the anniversary of the issuing of the President's Emancipation Proclamation on the 1st of January.

Gold has not varied materially from 151 1/2 to 152, and closed at 151 3/4. Government Stocks were strong. Other Stocks were excited and irregular.

Our readers will have already noted that the House of Representatives last Thursday, on motion of Mr. Green Clay Smith of Kentucky, by 33 Yeas to 64 Nays.

Resolved, That as our country, and the very existence of the best Government ever instituted by man is imperiled by the power of the sword, we are far from the most vigorous prosecution of the war, until the Constitution and laws shall be enforced and obeyed in all parts of the United States; and that we oppose any armistice, or intervention, or mediation, or proposition for peace from any quarter, so long as there shall be found a Rebel army against the Government; and we ignore all party names, lines and issues, and recognize but two parties in this war, patriots and traitors.

Now let us see how the Border Slave States voted on his resolution above: Yeas—Delaware—Smithers—1, Maryland—Cresswell, Winter Davis—2, Kentucky—W. H. Randall, Green Clay, Smith, Yeaman—3, Missouri—Blow, Boyd, Lusk, McHenry—4, Total 10.

Here is a vote of nearly three to one from the great free State of Ohio against the proposition of a Kentuckian that the Union shall live though slavery should die to preserve it.

—But let us see how our own State appears on this record: New-York—Yeas—A. W. Clark, Thomas T. Davis, Fenton, Hendricks, C. T. Hubbard, O. Kollege, S. E. Miller, D. Morris, Odell, Pomeroy, Van Valkenburg—12.

—So that New-York stands equally divided on an issue just decided in the affirmative by her people by an emphatic majority of Thirty Thousand. And among those voting Nay are five (in Italics above) who at home pass for "War Democrats"—at least did so when they were in want of votes.

We are not complaining of any of these votes. Gentlemen will make up their own record as they see fit, and then justify it to their constituents as they can. We only remind them of the advice of a sagacious old legislator to

his green young successor: Always vote the way that don't need any explanation.

THE TWO FINANCE REPORTS.

While perusing the Reports of Messrs. Chase and Memminger, developing the condition of the coffers placed severally under their charge, we have noted some comparisons and contrasts, which we will give in brief for the benefit of our readers.

The debt of the Federal Government, at the close of the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June last, was \$1,098,793,181. But, of this sum, \$70,000,000 existed before the present war commenced. Hence, the debt which has accumulated since the Rebellion broke out is about \$1,028,000,000.

The debt of the "Confederacy," on the 30th of September last, as stated by Mr. Memminger, was, "exclusive of foreign loans," \$994,363,139. How much these foreign loans amount to is not stated.

On the other hand, the Confederate coffers (estimating, for the reasons stated, for one quarter) have received, during their last fiscal year, only \$1,246,397 from customs, paid, doubtless, in its depreciated paper; and but \$5,565,317 from taxes.

From these two sources, our Government has received within a fraction of \$120,000,000, while the insurgent Secretary has obtained only \$6,750,000. And he is compelled to admit that, though there has been a tax law on the statute book of his Congress, its provisions have been set at defiance by the States and the people.

On the other hand, Mr. Chase feels assured that the receipts from customs and internal revenue will, during the current fiscal year, reach, say from customs \$72,500,000, and from internal revenue \$78,000,000, being \$150,500,000 more than was received from these two sources the last year.

The Federal Treasury obtained from the sale of bonds and the issue of Certificates of Indebtedness during the year ending June 30th, \$465,083,222. Memminger (estimating for one quarter) was able to force off in the shape of bonds and certificates, during his last fiscal year, \$251,067,790.

The contrasts and comparisons suggested by these two classes of figures are full of meaning. The Rebel Secretary could not persuade his co-conspirators to invest in his bogus bonds beyond what they were compelled to do in order to get pay for such of their goods and chattels as the Government seized, though they bore interest at 8 per cent per annum; while the people on this side of the Potomac and the Ohio, having confidence in the stability of their institutions, purchased the Five-Twenties, bearing 6 per cent interest, by hundreds of millions, as a permanent investment for themselves and their children.

In the last fiscal year our expenditures were \$714,769,995, while those of the insurgents were \$692,491,412—our War Department requiring \$599,293,600—their \$593,914,325. Judging from the figures he gives us, Mr. Chase estimates that, should the war continue to be prosecuted with its present gigantic proportions, it will require, in addition to those sureties, such as receipts from customs, internal revenue, and kindred sources, that Congress provide \$736,646,841 to carry the Government triumphantly on to the opening of the year 1865.

But it is in the modes and means of sustaining these vast operations—the plans and policies for replenishing their respective coffers—that the greatest difference between the loyal and the Rebel financier is discovered.

gold. In Washington, \$1 50 in "Greenbacks" will procure \$1 in gold, and the margin between them is diminishing. In Richmond, \$15 in "Greybacks" is required for a gold dollar, and the margin between them is widening.

To carry us forward to January, 1865, no novel system of finance, scarcely any new legislation, is necessary. Mr. Chase informs us that deposits for temporary loans with the Treasurer and his Assistants, will give him at least \$25,000,000, and we doubt not it can be made to furnish him double that amount.

Let us turn our eye Southward. The Report of Memminger, like the Message of Davis, is a frank document. He develops the deplorable condition of his coffers, with a sincerity that seems to draw its inspiration from despair.

These are the reports, such the plans, such the hopes of the two financial Secretaries. The one, relying upon the patriotism of the people, the resources of the country, and the justice of our cause, is confident, buoyant. The other, drawing courage from despair, would emerge from the difficulties that surround him by repudiation and coercion.

The World dips into the John P. Hale business ostensibly to vindicate Mr. Hale from imputations that nobody has made, and incidentally says: "We understand Mr. Greeley to have made an explicit denial that in the Des Moines business he ever promised his paper or position for pay."

THE RAPPANNOCK.

The foreign news, published on Saturday, stated that the new Rebel steamer Rappahannock, bought, like every other armed Rebel steamer now afloat, in England, was in the roadstead of Calais.

The (London) Daily News reports that a ram, supposed also to belong to the Rebels, had sailed from Hull. The report is probably correct, and there is no doubt that she was sent to sea by the Rebel agents.

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A gentleman who has resided in Richmond during the past five years, and who has recently reached this city, having left Richmond Dec. 1, furnishes the following interesting information: The population of the city and forts together, about 2,000 men, who are principally the employees of the Government.

to scour the ocean in search of the Rappahannock and the Hull iron-clad, but what their chances of overhauling them are, should they have been already two weeks at sea, we know from our experience with the Alabama and Florida. Should they not have been already overtaken by the prompt action of the British Government, we shall probably not hear of them again till we get reports of their depredations from the crews of American vessels burnt and sunk at sea.

A PROPOSED CONVENTION.

There is a rumor about town of a Peace Convention, with an eye to the next Presidency, to be held here in the course of a few days. We look in vain in the Peace journals for any announcement of the fact, or any call for such Convention; but this may be merely because the preliminary arrangements are not yet in a sufficient state of forwardness.

Those who call it, we understand, are moved rather by distrust than by hope, and regard it as the last desperate measure, short of revolution, to which they can resort. Peace is its object—peace at any price—and their reliance is first, upon an appeal to their Southern brethren, and next upon one to those of the North who are ready to accept any terms upon which the South will be willing to return to their allegiance.

The necessary papers have been issued from the Treasury Department for the establishment of a National Bank at New Orleans, with a capital of half a million, under the National Currency act.

WHAT REMAINS OF THE FIVE-TWENTY LOAN.

Only eighty millions of the five hundred millions of the "Five-Twenty" loan remain unabsorbed.

COMMISSIONS IN NEGRO REGIMENTS.

Of 1,051 applicants for commissions in negro regiments, 50 have been commissioned by the Board for Appointment, viz: For Colonels, 3; Lieutenants-Colonel, 10; Majors, 25; Captains, 104; 1st Lieutenants, 153; 2d Lieutenants, 253.

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH OPERATORS' SOCIETY.

A meeting of telegraph operators was held today, to ratify and adopt the Constitution formed by the National Convention of Telegraph Operators held in the City of New-York last November.

HYDRO-CARBON OIL FOR GENERATING STEAM.

The report of the Commission appointed by the Navy Department, consisting of three Civil Engineers, who have made careful experiments for five months, showing the practicability of using petroleum or hydro-carbon oils for the purpose of generating steam, has been issued, and proves satisfactorily, it is said by those who have seen it, that the results show a great saving, not only for merchant steamers, but that a naval steamer can keep the sea under steam three times as long, with less labor and greater economy as compared with coal equal weights of each being consumed, thus indicating a complete revolution in the mode of generating steam.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA.

The Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates of Virginia, at Alexandria, agreed last night on a bill calling a convention for abolishing slavery in that State, which will be passed to-morrow.

FUNERAL OF MAJ.-GEN. BUFORD.

The funeral of Maj.-Gen. Buford took place this afternoon, and was largely attended. Eight Major-Generals acted as pall-bearers. President Lincoln attended the services. The escort consisted of Battery I, 3d U. S. Artillery, a company of cavalry and the 8th Regiment of the Invalid Corps. The bells were tolled and flags were at half-mast.

TO DELINQUENT COLLECTORS.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has addressed a letter, of which the following is a copy: Treasury Department, Office of Internal Revenue, Washington, Dec. 18, 1863. Sir: I have to advise you that the amount for your account, although I have repeatedly informed you of its importance, and urged you to render it, you are still delinquent.

COLLISION.—About 14 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the South-avenue ferry-boat New-York came in collision with the East River, with the steamer Flier, carrying away most of her after cabin. The New-York received no damage.

LAUSCH.—At 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Messrs. Finholt & Pine, of No. 32 South Second Street, Brooklyn, E. D. launched a finely modeled ship of 300 tons burden, called the Evening Star. She went off in very fine style and without accident. She was built by Messrs. Jewett & Co., and is intended for the China trade.

armor was received from Washington, and in some cases their manufacture commenced in Richmond even before they were made here. Our informant says that the prices current undergo no variation.

Four quoted at 87 1/2 per cent actually sells at 81 1/2, and other things in proportion. The arrival of a French corvette, for the purpose of attending to the removal of the French tobacco, had created considerable feeling among the merchants and the people, and loud objections were made to its being given up, unless the French would raise the blockade.

All hopes of foreign intervention had died out. The refusal of England to allow the runs to sail excited much indignation, inasmuch as the Rebel authorities had sent gold in advance to pay for them. South Carolina was openly denounced in the streets, with derogatory wishes that the State might be sunk.

The people were very anxious for an exchange of prisoners, and thought the cessation was a plan adopted by our Government to prevent them from rejoining their army. The systematic starvation of our men was spoken of as being policy, to compel us to resume exchanges.

THE FUNERAL OF MAJ.-GEN. BUFORD.

The funeral of Maj.-Gen. Buford took place this afternoon from Dr. Gurley's Church. The Secretary of War, Maj.-Gen. Halleck, Hitchcock, Gen. Merritt, and a large number of officers were present. The pall-bearers were Maj. Gen. Schofield, Donibaldy, Pickles, Casey, Heintzelman, Warner, Hancock and Angur. Maj. Gen. Stoneham commanded the escort, consisting of a regiment of invalids, two sections of artillery, and a squadron of cavalry. The body was escorted to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as usual for West Point.

DINNER TO CONGRESSMEN.

Postmaster Cleveland of Hartford gave a dinner to the Congressional delegations of Rhode Island and Connecticut at Willard's last night.

A DINNER FOR THE INDIANA DELEGATION.

Commissioner Dole of the Indian Bureau gives a dinner to-morrow night to the Indiana delegation at the Metropolitan Club-House.

To the Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1863.

THE DINNER TO SPEAKER COLFAX.

Thirty gentlemen were present at the complimentary dinner to Speaker Colfax last night. They were connected with the prominent journals of the country, and were of various political opinions. It was a pleasant and harmonious gathering. Samuel Wilson, esq., presided, and at the conclusion of his remarks proposed a sentiment which elicited from Speaker Colfax a brief, appropriate, eloquent, and patriotic speech, in which he said the House of Representatives had chosen newspaper men for Speaker, Clark, and Postmaster a good share for the profession—and that the Senate it was nearly the same way, the Vice-President, Secretary Farnes and Sergeant at Arms Brown, coming in for the highest elective honors. He concluded by offering the sentiment: "The American Press, misappreciated by patronism, morality, and humanity, it cannot fail to develop constantly increasing power and vigor, and consequent independence." Representatives Brooks and Baldwin, Senator Anthony, Superintendent of Public Printing, DeLoach, and Clerk of the House McPherson, afforded much pleasure to the company by their responses to the calls upon them.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The necessary papers have been issued from the Treasury Department for the establishment of a National Bank at New Orleans, with a capital of half a million, under the National Currency act. Also for a third bank at St. Louis, with a capital of over one million, with the privilege and prospect of increasing it to five millions of dollars.

The first National Bank of this city will commence to-morrow, with the issue of notes recently prepared by the Treasury Department for circulation by such institutions.

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A meeting of telegraph operators was held today, to ratify and adopt the Constitution formed by the National Convention of Telegraph Operators held in the City of New-York last November. Twenty-five names were placed on the roll, and the Constitution was unanimously adopted. A district organization was perfected by electing William H. Young as Director, T. N. Loucks as Treasurer, and Fred W. Royce as Secretary. A district organization will soon be commenced at Alexandria, Va. The meeting to-day shows that the association is in a flourishing condition in this section.

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