THE BEMIS HEIGHTS BATTALION.

Arrival and Departure of the Bemis Heights Battalion or Seventy-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers, Col. James Bedell McKean, Commanding—Formation of the Regiment, Sketches of the Officers, Historical Incidents, &c., &c.

The Bemis Heights battalion, Seventy-seventh regiment of New York State Volunteers, Col. James Bedell McKean, member of Congress from the Fifteenth (Saratoga) district, commanding, arrived at the foot of Fourteenth street, from Albany, early yesterday morning.

The formation of this regiment was initiated on the 21st of August last by the publication of the following stirring and patriotic circular, signed by Col. McKean:—

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:—

Traitors in arms seek to overthrow our constitution and to seize our capital. Let us go and help to defend them. Who will despond because we lost the battle at Bull run? Our fathers lost the battle at Bunker Hill, but it taught them how to gain the victory at Bemis Heights. Let us learn wisdom from disaster, and send overwhelming numbers into the field. Let farmers, mechanics, merchants, and all classes, for the liberties of all are at stake, aid in organizing companies. I will cheerfully assist in procuring the necessary papers. Do not misunderstand me. I am not asking for an office at your hands. If you who have most at stake will go, I will willingly go with you as a private soldier. I have assurances from several officers who have seen service on fields of battle that they will gladly join us. Let us organize a Bemis Heights Battalion, and vie with each other in serving our country, thus showing that we are inspired by the holy memories of the Revolutionary battle fields upon and near which we are living.

This appeal was not without its immediate effect, and the progress of the regiment towards completion was rapid and gratifying. Of the ten companies composing the battalion seven entire companies were recruited from Saratoga county, which has sent to the war altogether upwards of 1,200 men; the remaining three, with few exceptions, being from Essex and Fulton counties—two from the former and one from the latter. The men are taken from various pursuits, but mostly from agricultural, mechanical and professional callings, a large proportion of them being farmers' sons—a few have left college classes, and not a few are lawyers, doctors, ministers and school teachers. The regiment is a very strong one, in both an intellectual and physical point of view, and appears in New York eight hundred strong. It is named in commemorative honor of Bemis Heights, a revolutionary point of interest, situated about twelve miles east of Saratoga village, where the trace of battles known as those of Bemis Heights were fought on September 17 and October 7, 1777. Both of these memorable contests, which are now popularly referred to under the different names of the battle of Saratoga, Stillwater and Bemis Heights, is recorded among "The Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," deciding as it did the fate of the Revolution by preventing the junction of Burgoyne and Clinton. This same struggle also determined the course France pursued in the Seven Years' war.

SKETCH OF COLONEL M'KEAN.

Colonel James Bedell McKean, commanding the regiment, was born of Scotch descent in August, 1821, on the actual scene of what is known as the Battle of Bennington, which, as the boundaries now lie, was in Hoosac, Rensselaer county, this State, instead of in Vermont. Colonel McKean is a self-cultured man, alternately going to school for a short time, farming and teaching. At the age of twenty-four years, having previously served through all the militia gradations, he was elected and subsequently commissioned by the late Silas Wright Colonel of the 144th regiment New York State Militia, which body of citizen soldiery he continued to command for several years. At the proper age the Colonel commenced the reading of law at Waterford, in this State, under Judge Bullard, and was duly admitted to the bar. In the year 1854 he was elected County Judge of Saratoga county, the duties of which office he discharged for one full term, immediately after which, in the fall of 1858, he was chosen a representative in Congress for the Fifteenth Congressional district; and having been re-elected in the fall of last year (1860), he is a member of the Congress that convenes on Tuesday next; but inasmuch as his colonel's commission originates with Governor Morgan, it is probable that he will continue to hold his Congressional seat while doing his duty to his country as colonel of his regiment. Politically Colonel McKean was an old democrat till the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and he is now a decided partisan of the present administration, sustaining the cause of the Union in this crisis with might and main. He is among the most popular orators in Northern New York, being alike graceful, eloquent and persuasive; engaging in his manners, and yet remarkable for his decisiveness on all subjects and for political backbone, urgently favoring the adoption of strong measures for the reduction of the rebellion, both in the last Congress and at the late extra session. As a commander he has the air, bearing and traits that are desirable in a military officer, being prompt, ready and self reliant, united to which he has a voice equal to all the demands made on a field officer. All classes of the people in the section of country from which his regiment comes, and where he is best known, place the utmost reliance upon his discretion and indomitable grit. In personal appearance he is slightly above the medium height, fair complexion, iron gray hair, slimly built, and not of a strong, though energetic physique. Though volunteering as a private, Colonel McKean was unanimously called to the command of the regiment.

THE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

of the regiment is Joseph C. Henderson, of Albany. Col. Henderson is a hardware merchant, and has seen little of military life, though he has been for some time attached to the staff of Brigadier General Rathbone. He is a fine appearing officer, and is represented as being an efficient, industrious and attentive one. He commanded the regimental post during the raising of the command.

MAJOR HETZEL.

Major Selden Hetzel is a nephew of ex-Lieutenant Governor Selden; was raised in Monroe county; has had the advantage of a partial training though sound training at West Point, and is competent to the position he fills, being regarded as a superior officer. He joined the regiment from Rochester.

SKETCH OF REV. F. JUDSON, SENIOR CAPTAIN OF THE REGIMENT.

Captain Judson—senior line officer of the regiment, ranking next to Major—was born in Warsaw, Rensselaer county, in 1827, and after a little early schooling was bred a printer, serving his time in the office of the Troy *Daily Whig*, and is at present one of the proprietors of the *Saratogian*, a spirited inland paper. Captain Judson is alive in military matters, and his courage will be heard from in the contest.

INTERESTING FLAG PRESENTATION AT SARATOGA.

Just previous to the departure of the regiment from Saratoga, on Wednesday, a national flag was presented to the regiment by the young ladies of Dr. Beecher's seminary, which was marked by appropriate ceremonies and speeches, &c. The flagstaff is surmounted by a blade or *espontoon* found on the field of the second battle of Bemis Heights, and which belonged to a British flagstaff attempted to be planted on the American intrenchments on the Heights, which effort was gallantly foiled by American prowess.

The regiment was received and entertained in New York by "The Sons of Saratoga," resident in the metropolis, who yesterday presented them with a splendid regimental flag, bearing devices emblematic of the name of the regiment. On one side there is seen a representation of the old colonial flag in use at the time the battles of Saratoga were fought, consisting of thirteen stripes, alternate white and red, the field being the same as that of the British standard. The reverse side bears a representation of the surrender of Burgoyne, with the thirteen stripes and the thirteen stars in the field, the occasion of that surrender being the first one on which the present national symbol was used, the Stars and Stripes being then unfurled; the law relative to the ensign of the republic having been passed by Congress in the June preceding.

LIST OF THE FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS.

Colonel.....James B. McKean.
Lieut. Colonel.....Joseph C. Henderson.
Major.....Selden Hetzel.
Chaplain.....Rev. David E Tully.
Adjutant.....Winsor B. French.
Quartermaster.....Lucius E. Shurtleff.
Surgeon.....John L. Perry.
Assistant Surgeon.....George E. Stevens.
Quartermaster's Sergeant....Wendell Lansing.

LIST OF LINE OFFICERS.

Company A—Captain, Benj. F. Judson; First Lieutenant, Luther M. Wheeler; Second Lieutenant, John Patterson.
Company B—Captain, Lewis Wood; First Lieutenant, Wm. B. Carpenter; Second Lieutenant, Halsey Bowe.
Company C—Captain, Calvin A. Rice; First Lieutenant, George S. Orr; Second Lieutenant, L. Shurtleff.
Company D—Captain, John Carr; First Lieutenant, Winsor B. French; Second Lieutenant, Chester H. Fodow.
Company E—Captain, Ruel W. Arnold; First Lieutenant, Wm. Douglass; Second Lieutenant, James Farnsworth.
Company F—Captain, Judson B. Andrews; First Lieutenant, Jesse White; Second Lieutenant, John J. Cameron.
Company G—Captain, A. F. Beach; First Lieutenant, N. H. Brown; Second Lieutenant, George D. Story.
Company H—Captain, Franklin Morton; First Lieutenant, Jacob F. Haywood; Second Lieutenant, Martin Lemon.
Company I—Captain, —— Babcock; First Lieutenant, —— Haywood; Second Lieutenant, —— Cobb.
Company K—Captain, Clement C. Hill; First Lieutenant, Noble P. Hammond; Second Lieutenant, Stephen S. Horton.

Immediately upon arriving in the city the regiment was quartered at the Park Barracks where the men were breakfasted, the officers breaking fast in a separate apartment, where a welcome speech to the command was delivered by a son of Saratoga, to which the commanding colonel replied. After breakfast the regiment was supplied with Enfield rifles, and forming in hollow square in the Park, the presentation of the regimental standard already referred to, was made in a speech by Hon Hiram Ketchum, forcible, earnest, and marked by Revolutionary references. Colonel McKean responded in a most feeling and appropriate manner, concluding by giving the ensign to a Sergeant named Bemis, a relative of the proprietor of the land upon which the battles of Saratoga were fought. The regiment left at five o'clock by boat for Amboy, and thence took the cars to Washington.

HENRY'S REPEATING RIFLE.

We were yesterday shown one of Henry's repeating rifles, a new and destructive weapon that is being introduced into our army. It is a fifteen shooter, and it is so arranged that sixty balls can be discharged in three minutes, the rifle to be loaded but four times in that space. Another advantage is that the barrel will not become heated by the rapidity of the discharges.

The weight of it is but ten pounds, and it will throw a ball 1,200 yards, or over three quarters of a mile. The construction is so simple that it does not easily get out of order. A thousand men armed with this weapon will possess the strength of fully ten thousand ordinary fighting men. As there will be greater concentration of fire and less exposure of persons, Colonel Berdan, of sharpshooter fame, has endorsed this arm as one of the best rifles he has ever seen.

GENERAL HALLECK'S DIVISION.

OUR ST. LOUIS CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Nov. 24, 1861.

Terms of General Price's Treaty with Fremont—Advantage Gained by the Rebels—The Exchange of Prisoners—Northerners Recruited for the Southern Army—Movements of General Frost, of the Rebel Army—Advance of McCulloch on Lebanon—The Exclusion of Fugitives from the Union Lines, &c., &c., &c.

By the terms of General Price's treaty with General Fremont the parole of the prisoners taken by General Lyon at Camp Jackson, in May last, was to be exchanged for that of an equal number of Colonel Mulligan's men, captured at Lexington at the time the latter officer surrendered to an overwhelming force of rebels. Colonel John A. Gurley, of Cincinnati, has been for several days in negotiation with the rebel Commissioner, D. R. Barclay, of St. Louis, with reference to the exchange, and has allowed the latter to circumvent him. For every safeguard and pass through our lines given to one of the Camp Jackson prisoners a similar document, or a release of parole, should be granted for one of Mulligan's men. In the exchange of these precious bits of paper Mr. Barclay managed to secure eighty-five more than he gave to Gurley, and obtained other minor advantages. Yesterday Lieutenant L. J. Barnes, of the First Missouri Light Artillery, was detailed by General Curtis to meet Mr. Barclay and complete the negotiation. Lieutenant Barnes provided himself with a full list of the Camp Jackson prisoners, and the twain met and proceeded to business. Mr. Barclay presented several names that were not upon the Camp Jackson list, for whom he desired safeguards, and also objected to many upon the list as included in the exchange. It appeared that he had been making careful inquiry among the rebel plotters still in the city, and ascertained who of those captured on the memorable 10th of May were willing to enter the rebel army. He wished to obtain release from parole for these only, and hence his objection to certain ones who did not wish to fight.

It appeared, too, that Mr. Barclay had been making St. Louis a recruiting rendezvous for the Southern army, and that he presented as prisoners of war several rebel recruits who were never in Camp Jackson, or with any other rebel force. Lieutenant Barnes, during the pending of the negotiations, sent a gentleman to visit Mr. Barclay's office, and learned that a small band of newly enlisted rebels were making it their headquarters and completing their preparations for departure. Mr. Barclay refusing to be guided in his exchange by the original Camp Jackson list, Lieutenant Barnes declined further proceedings in the matter, and thus the interview terminated.

General D. M. Frost, of the rebel army, whose parole was given up in exchange for Colonel Mulligan, arrived in this city from Memphis three days since, and is now stopping at the Planters'. His business here is to take through our lines, in the direction of Columbus, the released Camp Jacksonites and the recruits for the Confederate States army. He has been delayed by the interruption of negotiations, and may be obliged from that cause to remain several days longer. He boards at a prominent hotel and has the largest liberty of the city, through virtue of the flag of truce under which he came. Though General Frost has, from the beginning of the rebellion, shown himself a gentleman, and during the whole time his parole lasted never made any attempt to violate it, still, it hardly seems proper to have a rebel officer for days within our lines with the privilege of learning all he pleases. Should one of our officers enter the confines of rebeldom under ever so large a flag of truce, he would be closely watched and circumscribed in his movements.

A rebel prisoner who was lately furnished with a release and safeguard visited a village a few miles from St. Louis, and at once commenced the most violent treasonable harangues, and ended his entertainment by knocking down a peaceable Union man who was endeavoring to persuade him to be quiet. As a safeguard gives a person full protection, and proclaims death for any one who shall force it, nobody dared to interfere with the bellicose rebel, and application was made to General Curtis for instructions. That officer at once said the safeguard only placed the prisoner on the footing of a private citizen, and that if he committed any outrage, or indulged in offensive public remarks, he would be liable to arrest.

Reports of an authentic nature come from Rolla to the effect that McCulloch is advancing in the direction of Lebanon, and threatening an attack upon our forces at the railroad terminus. It is probable that his advance is merely for the purpose of encouraging among his men the belief that our troops retreated from Springfield through fear of the rebels at Cassville, and that he is in full pursuit. It is not at all likely that he will approach nearer than within thirty or forty miles.

Most of the gunboats have been launched and sent to Cairo to receive their armament. There are now but five feet of water in the channel from St. Louis to Cairo, and if the present weather continues there will soon be sufficient ice to close navigation. The Mississippi is exceedingly irregular in its time of closing; in some years it closes as early as December 1, and remains so until late in February, while in others it continues navigable the entire year. The Missouri and the upper Mississippi are now quite low and rapidly falling, and even if ice does not close the river our heaviest boats will find great difficulty from low water. The gunboats, without their guns on board, draw four and a half or five feet, and, with the guns and their complement of shot and shell, cannot require less than six feet of water to move with certainty and celerity. The transports can go wherever the gunboats can.

General Halleck's order concerning the exclusion of fugitive slaves from our lines is causing much discussion in St. Louis. The advocates of Jim Lane's policy, and that adopted by General Fremont, argue that, as the war was commenced in the interest of slavery, it can only be ended by striking at the cause itself, and thus making the slaves free. Their opponents contend that we are not in the field for the purpose of exterminating slavery, but that our business is to put down the rebellion. From these two bases spring numerous arguments *pro* and *con.*, which one hears from "rosy morn till dewy eve," everywhere throughout the city. The satisfactory solution of the negro question for Missouri and for the Union army within her borders is the most difficult task yet set before our generals. The man who succeeds in ridding the department of the Missouri of further trouble with the ubiquitous nigger will be more deserving of public gratitude than he who invents a dozen new pleasures.

THE RE-ADVANCE OF THE REBELS.

OUR ST. LOUIS CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. LOUIS, Nov 26, 1861.

The Advance a Fixed Fact—Capture of Union Pickets by the Rebels—The Texans at Lebanon—Price's Movements—Rebel Troops being Raised in St. Louis—A Suspicious Advertisement—General Halleck a Strict Disciplinarian—The Inspector General at His Duties—General Fremont's Supporters in St. Louis Falling Off Rapidly—He Leaves St. Louis without Orders so to do, &c.

The advance of the rebels, which was expected after our evacuation of Springfield and the Southwest, appears to be a fixed fact. Our telegraphic advices of this afternoon inform us that a body of Texan Rangers holds Lebanon, fifty miles this side of Springfield, and that several of Colonel Boyd's pickets have been taken prisoners by the advanced videttes of the enemy. Colonel Boyd is encamped ten miles from Rolla, on the road to Lebanon, and has his pickets thrown out for a long distance from that post, to give early notice of any advance of the rebels.

It is not considered at all probable that McCulloch will venture to attack Rolla, or that he will come much further east than Lebanon. His movement in that direction is undoubtedly in conjunction with Price's advance upon the Osage, where he will doubtless make a stand at some point whence he can threaten our army at Sedalia. He will hardly dare to cross that stream, but will keep on the southerly side, where his lines of retreat are open and sure. His utmost attempt, in case he crosses the river, will be to reoccupy Lexington, and make use of the foundry there, which, by some oversight on the part of our commanders, has not yet been destroyed. That he may attempt to take possession of Lexington as soon as the Missouri river ceases to be navigable is within the range of possibilities.

The rebel commissioner, whose business with Lieut. Barnes, as stated in my last, was brought to such a sudden close, has again resumed and completed negotiations. He has furnished papers for the release of upwards of thirty of our commissioned officers now in rebel hands, in exchange for an appropriate number of the Camp Jackson officers and privates, the rule being to give two privates for every second lieutenant, and two officers of a lower grade for one of the next higher. Before any exchanges were made Lieutenant Barnes required that Mr. Barclay should give certificates for eighty-five men in return for the eighty-five the latter had received from Colonel Gurley, and for which no transfer had been made. General Frost still remains in St. Louis, but appears anxious to leave soon for Dixie and take with him as many men as possible for the ranks of the rebel army. The following appeared in the *Republican* of this morning:—

CAMP JACKSON MEN.

In order that the necessary arrangements may be made for transportation, the parties who are entitled to certificates of release and safe conduct, and who desire to accompany General Frost to the headquarters of General Price, will please call at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Fifth streets, and enrol their names, on or before Thursday next.

General Halleck is instituting the strictest discipline in the administration of affairs in this department. He is particularly stringent upon keeping officers with their commands, and only allows them to leave on important and pressing business. He orders the strictest economy in the expenses of the army, and particularly urges that there be no unnecessary travel by rail or steamboat that shall subject the government to outlay. What General Halleck will do when the actual difficulties of the campaign come upon him it remains for time to prove, but it is certain that he "opens well."

Major Totten (late Captain), Inspector General of this department, commenced this morning a tour of inspection. He begins with a close and critical survey of the St. Louis fortifications, their capabilities and condition, and the strength and efficiency of the garrisons. This task will require several days' careful attention.

General Fremont left this afternoon by the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad for his tour to New York and Washington. He went away very quietly, comparatively few being aware that he was intending to depart. His warm partisan friends have been intending to make a huge demonstration at the time of his exodus; but so rapidly has public feeling changed, and so many of his adherents have fallen off, that through fear of ridicule it was not deemed safe to make the attempt. Some of them are jubilant at the General's prospect of arrest, as he left contrary to his orders from Washington. Nothing would delight them more than to have an opportunity to say to the country that General Fremont has been made a martyr. It is said that he has his defence fully prepared, and will proceed at once to "extinguish" his enemies.

GEN. BUELL'S DEPARTMENT.

OUR LOUISVILLE CORRESPONDENCE.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 27, 1861.

The New Senators for Kentucky—The Convening of the Legislature—The United States Confiscation Act—The Question a Vexed One for Kentucky—The Union Troops Concentrating and Advancing—The Number and Condition of General Buckner's Rebel Forces—Bowling Green Fortified Equal to Manassas, &c.

The Kentucky Legislature—at least the Union members—convene in regular session to-day. The matters of most interest likely to come before the houses are the election of Senators and the United States Confiscation act.

For the places of Breckinridge and Powell, late Senators, and Burnett, late representative, the most prominent candidates before the Legislature and the people are Nathaniel Wolfe, Esq., Hon. James Guthrie, James Speed, Hon. Joshua Bell and Lucien Anderson, of the First district. The merits of these gentlemen have been discussed by the papers—indeed, they are newspaper nominations, except in the latter case; and it is not improbable that Mr. Crittenden will appear prominently before the Legislature. It is thought that John J. Crittenden, vice Breckinridge, and James Guthrie, vice Powell, will be the successful ticket before the Legislature. In the First district—the disaffected district of Burnett—Lucien J. Anderson, Esq., has announced himself a candidate for Congress, and will doubtless be elected without opposition. He is an ultra Unionist.

The consideration of the Confiscation act of Congress is about to produce considerable commotion among the Union men in this State. I know not, though I fear, the effect of its discussion by Congress on the general country; but it is very likely indeed that in Kentucky it will produce the very dissensions which the rebels have hoped for and depended on. The working of the act, the putting it into effect here, will present the "contraband" subject in another light. The law has not been enforced here yet, because it is not deemed politic to moot the question until the Legislature can consider it. The only form in which the Legislature can put the question "shall slaves be confiscated?" is, "Shall Kentucky acknowledge slaves not to be property, or shall she United States, by confiscation, become possessed of slaves and be a slaveholder?" Neither problem is soluble. Kentucky cannot acknowledge that slavery is illegal and slaves not property. It is as morally impossible for the government to become a slaveholder. The question will produce nice distinctions and broad differences. If the government should decide the question, and put it that slaves were not property, Kentucky would go to the confederacy South.

The forces of the Union army are advancing, the wings contracting and narrowing, and the lines becoming more distinct. The left wing, under General Thomas, has been materially advanced, while the right wing, under General Crittenden, has neared the column of the force under the late Senator, John C. Breckinridge. General Thomas, under instructions from the commanding General, advanced on the 23d his entire force from Danville to Columbia, in Adair county, where he has assumed command of the forces formerly stationed there, together with his own brigade. A portion of this force remained at Somerset, and another at Monticello, further south, but within easy march of Columbia.

General Crittenden, still at Morgantown, was threatened by a force under Breckinridge, but it is not of a serious character. The demonstration is merely a forward movement of a force to guard the approach by the Morgantown and Russellville turnpike to the latter place, on the Louisville and Memphis Railroad.

Late information from Buckner's headquarters states that the whole force at Bowling Green, consisting of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi troops, amounted to 30,000 men. The troops were illy prepared for winter, and, though arms of various descriptions were arriving almost daily from the South, a want of weapons was felt. Much sickness prevailed in the rebel camp (as in ours), measles and typhoid fever preponderating to an alarming extent.

Bowling Green has been strongly fortified, and the rebels doubtless mean to tempt us to that point, which they look upon as another Manassas stronghold. It is not improbable that is the intention. That they will move forward, as has been suggested, towards Glasgow and Columbia is by no means probable.

THE ANTI-COCHRANE MEETING IN KENTUCKY.

A meeting of Union men was held at Frankfort, Ky., on the 23d inst., to express sentiments in opposition to the recommendation of John Cochrane and Simon Cameron, in relation to arming the slaves of the South. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

That the government of the United States has no constitutional power to interfere with the institution of slavery in any of the States, nor has it the power to deprive any citizen of his slave property without due process of law, nor the power to appropriate such property to public use without just compensation.

That the exercise of any such power by any officer of the United States, whether civil or military, is a palpable violation of the express provisions of the constitution, and should be condemned by every department of the government, and by every citizen thereof.

That the proposition recently announced, for the emancipation of the slaves of those at war with the United States, and the arming of such slaves against their masters, is in violation of the rules of civilized warfare; is abhorrent to every principle of humanity and christianity, and in its results would add to the calamities of the present civil war the additional horrors of servile insurrection, murder, rapine and plunder, by the black race against the white, throughout the slave States of the Union.

That as friends to the constitution and government of the United States—as patriots, as philanthropists, and as Christians, we do hereby most solemnly remonstrate and protest against such a proposition, and do most earnestly implore and entreat every department of our government, and every officer and citizen thereof, to condemn and reject the same.

That we hereby tender our thanks to the editors of the Louisville *Journal* and Louisville *Democrat*, for the ability with which they have resisted this threatened violation of the constitution, and the firmness with which they have denounced this inhuman proposition and its fanatical authors.

That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded to his Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and that the Hon. John J. Crittenden be requested to present the same to the Congress of the United States and our representative.

GEN. BUTLER AND A SECESSIONIST.

[From the Boston Transcript.]

As the sleeping car on the Shore Line was leaving New York last Sunday evening, bearing numerous passengers, including General Butler and his Aid, a young gentleman who had evidently been taking a little too much wine, forced his society upon the General, not knowing with whom he was conversing. The General's Aid was for expelling the sassy individual, but General Butler decided to let him have his talk. In the course of the conversation, General Butler's political course was discussed, and the individual vowed that "as for Butler, he had been a little of everything;" that at the Charleston Convention "he voted for Douglas," and he couldn't understand "how it was he was run as a Breckinridge candidate for Governor in Massachusetts."

The General replied that, according to his memory, Butler voted fifty-seven times for Jeff. Davis at the Charleston Convention, and had never been a Douglas man. The individual proceeded further to remark that he thought Butler was a mighty smart lawyer, and had heard him often in Boston and Lowell, but that he never knew he was anything of a military man until the rebellion broke out. The General replied that the statement was all true, and asked the stranger what he thought of this outrageous war, and whether Virginia had acted wisely in having made herself the tail to South Carolina's kite.

The individual replied that, consulting her individual interests, Virginia had acted rashly, but upon general principles she had done right, and that the South had done right, ending by avowing genuine secesh sentiments. General Butler repeated his question, and received the same reply, then drawing himself back, informed the impertinent individual, in a very calm manner, that his name was "Butler, General B. F. Butler, and as the head of the Department of New England, he arrested him as a traitor and secessionist, and that he should be sent to Forf Warren in the morning."

The surprise and fright of the half boozy individual can very well be imagined, and it was some moments before he could realize his situation. The General continued very sternly, "that, as a United States officer, he should not allow any one to talk treasonable sentiments in his presence, but that as he saw he was under the influence of wine, he would order him to his berth, and, if in the morning he did not beg his pardon and avow Union sentiments, he should proceed to Fort Warren." The astounded individual crawled up into his bunk, but before morning dawned, the fear of again meeting the General, and the idea of "putting up" at Fort Warren instead of the Revere House was so terrifying, that he skulked away, and probably got off the train at New London.

TRIAL OF NEW ORDNANCE AT PORTLAND, MAINE.

[From the Portland Argus, Nov. 25.]

On Thanksgiving afternoon a trial of a new piece of ordnance, made by the Portland Company, was had at the Victoria wharves. The target was placed on a ledge about a mile down the bay. The experiments made show that our own mechanics can furnish the government with cannon equal to any now in service or that can be imported from abroad.

The gun used on this occasion was a rifled eight pounder, of cast iron, with wrought iron breech, resembling somewhat the famous Parrot guns. Two kinds of shot were used—one the invention of Mr. J. B. Johnson, and the other of John Sparrow, the Superintendent of the Portland Company. The Johnson shot is of conical shape, having at the base of the cone a composition band, which, by expansion, fits itself to the grooves when fired.

The Sparrow shot is also conical, having at the base a composition ring grooved to fit the gun, and also having a leather band attached to prevent windage.

After some experimental firing a match was had between Messrs. Johnson and Sparrow to test the relative merits of their inventions. The committee awarded to Mr. Johnson the prize for the best average shot, although Mr. Sparrow's string showed the best line shots, considered by artillerists as the best evidence of accuracy and skill. With the same elevation the Sparrow shot ranged some six feet higher than the Johnson shot, thereby showing greater power and excellence.

After the trial shots of Johnson and Sparrow several amateurs tried their skill; but the best shot was made by the Rev. Mr. Bolles, who struck the target close to the bull's eye. For the target shooting an elevation of five degrees was used, while at an elevation of twelve degrees a ball was thrown three and a half miles.

GENERAL CASS' VIEWS OF THE MASON AND SLIDELL SEIZURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS.

The London *Times* is notorious for its disingenuousness, dishonesty indeed, upon all questions affecting this country. Its reputation in this respect is so well established that we are not surprised at an atrocious example of this kind, referred to in the *National Intelligencer* of the 19th instant.

Not long since it seems the following paragraph was published in that London journal:—

English cruisers on the coast of Africa for the purpose of suppressing the slave trade were paralyzed by the claim put forward by the United States to resist, not only a right of search, but also a right of visit in the case of a vessel which chose to hoist the American flag. This resistance of the Americans caused a principle favorable to piracy to become part of the maritime law of the world. By that law the American marine must now be ruled. The merchant ships which will trade between Europe and the Confederate States have only to hoist an English or a French flag, and the great war steamers of the United States Navy must, in obedience to the law their own government has in other cases enforced, allow them to pass. Their holds may be full of warlike materials, they may be crammed with the Armstrong guns now being bought up at Liverpool; but, if the tri-color is flying at the mizen, the Minnesota cannot fire a shot to bring one of those vessels to at sea without peril of a war with France.

Now all this is sheer misrepresentation, without a shadow of foundation in truth. A brief retrospect will make this clear. The British government claimed the right in time of peace to search our vessels upon the ocean, and made the slave trade a pretext for the assertion of this pretension. Our readers will recollect with what high-handed proceedings this claim was enforced and the great number of vessels which were boarded in the Gulf of Mexico in the spring of 1857. They will recollect, also, the excitement which prevailed through the country on that occasion. The national honor, as well as the national feeling, demanded the interposition of the government, and a firm remonstrance was addressed to the government of Great Britain, distinctly declaring that no nation, in time of peace, had the right to search or visit upon the ocean the vessels of any other Power, and that this country would submit to the exercise of no such right. Orders were at the same time given to our armed cruisers to protect our vessels from any such attempt. General Cass, then Secretary of State, in his letter upon this subject to Lord Napier, dated April 10, 1858, thus lays down the doctrine contended for by our government. The letter is to be found among the Congressional documents:—

"The United States deny the right of the cruisers of any other Power whatever, for any purpose whatever, to enter their vessels by force in time of peace. No such right is recognized by the law of nations. Lord Stowell said, 'I can find no authority which gives the right of interruption to the navigation of States upon the high seas, except that which the right of war gives to belligerents against neutrals. No nation can exercise a right of visitation and search upon the common and unappropriated parts of the ocean, except upon the belligerent claim.'"

Lord Stowell, whose authority is here referred to, better known under the name of Sir William Scott, was the Judge of the British High Court of Admiralty, and the received expounder for the British government and people of all international questions affecting the navigation of the high seas. The remonstrance of our government produced its legitimate effect, and in the following month of June this claim to search our vessels in time of peace was formally relinquished by the British government, and its decision was communicated to the Department of State by a letter from Lord Napier, dated in that month, which has also been published among the same documents. We cannot turn to it at this moment, though we speak from a perfect recollection of it, but we have before us a report of a debate in the House of Lords upon the subject on the 17th of June, 1858, and which is conclusive upon this point. In that debate Lord Malmesbury, then the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, thus stated his views and the course he had taken. He said "he had no reason to conceal what he had done, since recent events (alluding to the outrages in the Gulf of Mexico). He admitted the international law as laid down by the American Minister for Foreign Affairs, though not, of course, without being fortified by the opinions of the law officers of the Crown." He characterized the despatch to Lord Napier as "a very able paper." Since that time no claim to search our vessels in time of peace has been preferred by the British government.

As we have shown, this international law, thus claimed by us, and thus admitted by Great Britain, maintained the immunity of the vessels of all nations upon the ocean in time of peace, and the right of the armed cruisers of a belligerent Power to board and search the vessels of neutrals never [illegible] support it has the opinion of Judge Marshall—and there is no higher one—who said "belligerents have a full and perfect right to capture enemy's goods, contraband of war. To the exercise of that right the right of search is essential."

The boarding of the Trent by Captain Wilkes to ascertain her true character and what she had on board in violation of the laws of nations, was then undeniably a lawful act. The authorities, derived from the most approved writers upon the laws of nations, and which have been published in the journals of the day, maintain the legality of the capture of the rebel ambassadors and their despatches; and the example of England in various cases involving the same principle, and which have been similarly quoted, proves her acquiescence in the doctrine and her practical adhesion to it.

Police Intelligence.

A CUNNING FOX EARTHED.—Jacob Halsey, alias Dutch Jake, an expert passer of counterfeit money, who has managed to elude the vigilance of the police for five years, was taken into custody yesterday by detective Slowey. The prisoner was in the habit of using women in his peculiar line of business, and always kept aloof from danger himself. His female catspaws were frequently arrested and one or two of them punished, but they invariably refused to "peach" upon Jacob and he escaped scot free. A few days ago, however, one of his women betrayed him to the police, and stated to the officer that she had been sent into New Jersey by the prisoner to pass counterfeit "tens" on the Waterbury Bank of Connecticut. Halsey was committed to prison to await a requisition from the Governor of New Jersey.

CARELESS USE OF FIREARMS—SHOOTING HIS WIFE.—Peter Munford, a pastry cook, residing at No. 44 West Thirteenth street, was taken into custody on Thanksgiving night, on charge of shooting his wife with a pistol. The prisoner, it appears, was cleaning the weapon, when it accidentally went off, and the ball entered his wife's shoulder, inflicting a dangerous wound. Dr. Alexander was called in to attend the wounded woman, and gave it as his opinion that she would not survive. Munford was taken before Justice Quackenbush, at the Second District Police Court, yesterday, and committed to await the result of his wife's injuries. The prisoner is a native of France, and has always borne a good character.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

FRIDAY, Nov. 29—6 P. M.

The money market continues extremely dull, the rate being the standard rate for call loans, and 5½ a 6½ for first class short paper, which is very scarce. The Sub-Treasurer reimbursed the banks $438,000 this morning, and made no call upon them. The private letters from Europe read more encouragingly, and justify the belief that the receipt of the news of the Port Royal affair will work a change in foreign sentiment. The proposed reduction of the armaments of Great Britain and France is regarded as an indication that under no circumstances will those Powers take part in our struggle.

Foreign exchange is very inactive at a decline. The leading bankers who asked 109¾ on Monday would gladly sell at 109, but cannot get it. The market rates for first class bills are about 108⅝ a ¾, and the market has a downward tendency. Some of the contrivers of the recent flurry in bills are understood to have burned their fingers rather severely.

The stock market was all stronger to-day, and closed firm after a smart advance. The bears are buying in their stocks at the usual difference from the price at which they sold them. As usual, Pacific Mail led the market; it rose 2¼ per cent, closing 88¾ bid. The railway stocks all improved considerably. Central rose ¾, Erie old 1½, Erie preferred 2, Michigan Central ¾, Michigan Southern ¾, guaranteed 1¼, Panama ¾, Illinois Central ¾, Galena ¾, Toledo 1, Rock Island ⅞, Burlington ¾. State stocks were irregular. Missouris rose ¼, Tennessees and Virginias declined as much. Governments were generally steady; the bid for the fives of 1874 is ¼ higher than it was on Wednesday. The following were the last quotations of the day:—United States 6's, registered, 1881, 92⅞ a 93; do. 6's, coupon, 1881, 93¾ a 93⅞; do. 5's, 1874, 83 a 83½; Indiana 5's, — a 79; Virginia 6's, 46¾ a 48; Tennessee 6's, 42 a 42½; North Carolina 6's, 59⅛ a —; Missouri 6's, 41¼ a 41½; Pacific Mail, 88¾ a 89; New York Central, 79¼ a 79¾; Erie, 32⅜ a 32½; do. preferred, 55¼ a 55½; Hudson River, 38¾ a 39; Harlem, 12¼ a 12½; do. preferred, 31⅛ a 32; Reading, 34⅛ a 35; Michigan Central, 50¼ a 50½; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana, 18¼ a 18½; do. guaranteed, 38½ a 38; Panama, 112¾ a 113; Illinois Central, [illegible] a 91½; Galena and Chicago, 71½ a 72; Cleveland and Toledo, 34¾ a 34⅞; Chicago and Rock Island, 54½ a 54¾; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 59¾ a 60; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 65 a —; Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien, 20 a 21½; Illinois Central bonds, 7's, 87 a 88; Delaware and Hudson Canal, 84 a 85; Pennsylvania Coal, 78 a —.

The forthcoming report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be read with unusual interest. It is understood that on the subject of the tariff the Secretary, after laying down the general principles which ought to govern our financial policy in time of peace, will show that, in time of war, the necessity of husbanding the specie strength of the country compels a departure from those principles, and will recommend not only that the high duties of the Morrill tariff be retained—except in cases where they were evidently established with a view to protection, and not revenue—but that the duties now levied on articles of luxury, manufactured abroad, be increased so as to reduce still further, if not wholly to prohibit, their importation. The country does not need the silks, laces, dress goods, costly carpets, jewelry, fine wines, &c., which we are in the habit of importing from Europe, and during the war we cannot afford to pay for them. A prohibition duty levied on such articles, as a war measure, will furthermore have the advantage of teaching the manufacturing nations of Europe that their interest, like our own, is inseparable from the success of the United States government; for until that success is complete, they will find no market here for their goods. The war ended, Mr. Chase will probably intimate that sound policy would require the enactment of a strictly revenue tariff—that is to say, a tariff imposing on foreign goods duties so light as to encourage importations, and levying duties upon objects of general consumption rather than upon objects which can be made here. The necessities of the case during the war secure to our manufacturers all the protection they are entitled to ask. With regard to the currency and the public debt, Mr. Chase will probably enter into a review of our financial history, with a view to show that the provision of the constitution conferring upon Congress the control of the commerce of the country has been unwisely allowed to fall into neglect. He will probably recommend an inquiry into the actual powers conferred on Congress by that clause, with a view to discover what remedies exist for the case of Northern creditors who have been defrauded of their just claims by Southern debtors, acting under pretended acts of spurious bodies called conventions and congresses. He will discuss the subject of United States notes, payable on demand at the various sub-treasuries throughout the country, and will probably show that it would be a great advantage to the fair trader if the internal commerce of the country were carried on with the aid