THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 9249. NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

IMPORTANT FROM PORT ROYAL.

ARRIVAL OF THE VANDERBILT.

BATTLE OF PORT ROYAL FERRY.

DECISIVE UNION VICTORY.

Sharp Skirmishing and Flight of the Rebels.

The "Seceshers" Destroy their Fortifications and Give Up their Position.

Noble Conduct of the New York Seventy-ninth and the Michigan Eighth.

A FLAG OF TRUCE FROM THE REBELS.

Names of the Commanders and Troops Engaged,

&c., &c., &c.

By the arrival of the United States steam transport Vanderbilt, Captain Lefevre, from Port Royal, yesterday, we are put in possession of some particulars of the battle of Beaufort Ferry, Port Royal, which will be perused with interest by those who wish success to the cause of the Union. The result of the engagement at Beaufort has been an overwhelming defeat of the rebels, who became seized with a panic when confronted by "Yankee" bullets and "Yankee" steel. Below we give all the particulars that could be gleaned about the battle.

The Vanderbilt left Port Royal on the 3d inst., and arrived in this harbor a little after nine o'clock yesterday morning. She was detained in the snow storm for some time, and consequently did not reach the Battery until nearly one o'clock. She brings 3,697 bales of Sea Island cotton consigned to Colonel Tompkins, United States Quartermaster, and also the result of the battle.

THE BATTLE NEAR PORT ROYAL FERRY.

The battle of Port Royal Island took place on New Year's Day. It was brought about from the fact that a week or ten days previous the United States steamboat Mayflower, while on a reconnoissance and making a circuit of Port Royal Island, was fired upon by a rebel battery, and one man killed. For this insult Gen. Sherman, acting in concert with Commodore Dupont, planned the expedition which has proved a complete success to our arms and a discomfiture to the rebels.

After the defeat of the rebels at Hilton Head they retreated to Port Royal Ferry, and there, strongly fortified and intrenched, they awaited an attack from the federal troops.

COMPOSITION OF THE EXPEDITION.

The military portion of the expedition consisted of Gen. Stevens' brigade, namely—the Roundhead regiment, Col. Leasure; Eighth Michigan, Col. Fenton; Fiftieth Pennsylvania, Col. Christ, and the Seventy-ninth, New York, Major Morrison, together with the Forty-seventh New York, Col. Frazier, and the Forty-eighth New York, Col. Perry, the entire force being under the command of Gen. I. I. Stevens.

The naval portion by the gunboats Pembina, Seneca, Ellen and Ottawa, all under the command of Capt. Raymond Rogers, of the flagship Wabash.

MOVEMENT OF THE TROOPS.

The troops were marched from Beaufort, during the 31st of December, to the mouth of Brick Yard creek, within which had been prepared flats and other boats for the transportation of Gen. Stevens' command. They crossed early on New Year's morning, having accomplished the passage by eight A. M. They had then some four or five miles to march before reaching Port Royal Ferry. The Ottawa and the Pembina were meanwhile delayed by the state of the tide at or near the mouth of the creek, one of them getting aground. A delay also occurred in the movements of the troops, owing, it is stated, to a misapprehension by Colonel Fenton of the orders issued to him; this delay, however, was but slight, and occasioned no serious inconvenience. The Seneca, in this time, had performed her portion of the task, fired into Boyd's Neck in an alarming manner, and afterwards, in conjunction with the Ellen, shelled the work at Seabrook, a mile or two to the west of the ferry.

THE ADVANCE OF THE TROOPS.

The troops under General Stevens advanced towards the principal battery (at the ferry) in advance of the gunboats, and on the way a skirmishing took place that still longer impeded them. A force, judged by General Stevens to be about one thousand strong, was posted in some woods on his right, and the first knowledge he obtained of its existence was by a firing from a light battery. A part (at least half) of the Michigan Eighth was deployed as skirmishers, to ascertain more particularly the position and strength of this battery, and despite its firing advanced to within a hundred yards of it, acting with great coolness and courage, and succeeding entirely in discovering the position of the guns, and also in drawing a heavy fire from a body of infantry. Having thus accomplished their object, they retired as skirmishers rapidly, but in complete order.

THE MOSQUITO FLEET OPEN FIRE.

The Ottawa and Pembina, being in range of the ferry, opened fire upon it with such effect that if any force remained until then in the battery it was driven out before our troops arrived, they being so completely bewildered as not to attempt to come from under cover of the woods, nor even attempting to offer any further opposition to the advance of our troops. Some nine or ten of the Michigan regiment were wounded in the skirmish, including Major Watson. One of the wounded has since died.

GALLANTRY OF THE NEW YORK HIGHLANDERS.

The Seventy-ninth New York was here ordered to land on and enter the fort, which they did in the most orderly and brave manner, but on reaching the fort found it entirely deserted—all the guns, except one twelve pounder, having been removed.

When the Union regiments were in possession of the fort, the gunboats were signalized, and they immediately closed in, in order to cover our troops; and they at once commenced the destruction of the fort. The gun was secured, the battery leveled, some remains of camp equipage, tents, &c., were demolished, and two buildings, used for military purposes by the rebels, were burned. The rebels seeing this, and evidently anticipating an advance of our force, set fire to numerous other buildings.

REBEL FORTIFICATIONS DEMOLISHED.

A small force of Unionists also crossed to Seabrook, under cover of the guns of the Seneca and Ellen, and completely demolished the fortification there; but it was deserted before our troops arrived.

At night our whole force was at Port Royal Ferry, completely covered by the guns of our four men-of-war. The insult to the Mayflower was suitably punished, and in the morning our forces were removed to Port Royal Island. Not a man was lost on the Union side during their withdrawal.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE SEAT OF OPERATIONS.

Port Royal Island, on which Beaufort is situated, is thirteen miles long and seven miles wide, and is formed by the Broad river on its western side and the Port Royal on the eastern shore. These are connected at the north of the island by the Coosaw river; and the Port Royal itself, which is really only a strait, loses its name in its upper portion, and is called Brickyard creek. Opposite the junction of the Broad and the Coosaw is Boyd's Neck. To the north of Port Royal Island is the main land, and about half-way between the two points where the Coosaw intersects the Broad and the Port Royal (or Brickyard creek) is Port Royal ferry, distant ten miles across the island from Beaufort. A correct apprehension of the geography of the country is necessary to render intelligible any account of the fight.

REBEL TROOPS ENGAGED.

Brigadier General.....Maxey Gregg.
Brigadier General..... —— Pope.

TROOPS.

South Carolina German Artillery, Battery A, Captain Kinapaux.
South Carolina German Artillery, Battery B.
South Carolina First Artillery, Colonel De Saussure.
South Carolina First regiment, Colonel Gregg.
South Carolina Fourth regiment, Colonel Sloan.
South Carolina Ninth regiment, Colonel Blanding.
South Carolina Twelfth regiment, Colonel Dunovant.
South Carolina regiment, Colonel J. L. Orr.
South Carolina Fifteenth regiment, Colonel De Saussure.

THE UNION TROOPS ENGAGED.

The following is a list of the officers engaged in this movement:—

COMMANDING OFFICER.

Brigadier General.....ISAAC I. STEVENS.

STAFF.

Assistant Adjutant General..Capt. Stevens (son of Gen.)
Ass't. Quartermaster General.Captain Wm. Lilley.
Ass't. Commissary General..Captain L. A. Warfield.
Surgeon.....Dr. George S. Kemble.

THE ROUNDHEAD REGIMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Colonel.....Dan'l. Leasure, Newcastle.
Lieutenant Colonel.....James A. Ekin, Elizabeth.
Major.....J. Armstrong, Washington.
Adjutant.....W. H. Power, Darlington.
Quartermaster.....A. H. Leslie, Newcastle.
Surgeon.....Fred. H. Gross, Pittsburg.
Assistant Surgeon.....Horace Ludington.
Chaplain.....Rev. R. A. Browne, N'castle.
Sergeant Major.....David Critchlow.
Hospital Steward.....S. K. Norgrave, Pittsburg.

Captains.

Company A.....—— Templeton, Wash'gton.
Company B.....—— Dawson, N. Wilm'gton.
Company C.....—— Cornelius, Portersville.
Company D.....—— Shurlock, Darlington.
Company E.....—— Bentley, Harlansburg.
Company F.....—— Cline, Princeton.
Company G.....—— Brown, Hendersonville.
Company H.....—— Moore, New Castle.
Company I.....—— Squires, New Castle.
Company K.....—— Van Gorder, N'castle
Company L.....—— Dick, Servickly.
Company M.....—— Lackey, Washington.

FIFTIETH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel.....B. C. Christs.
Lieutenant Colonel.....Thomas S. Brentholtz.
Major.....Edward Overton, Jr.
Adjutant.....J. A. Rogers.
Quartermaster.....Alfred Jones.
Surgeon.....Daniel M. Kibben.
Assistant Surgeon.....Joseph P. Vickers.
Chaplain..... —— ——.

Captains.

Company A.....Jeremiah Brandt.
Company B.....Hervey Herman.
Company C.....Daniel F. Burkert.
Company D.....Gordon Z. Dimmock.
Company E.....Wm. F. Diehl.
Company F.....Adolphus W. Bolerius.
Company G.....Wm. H. Telford.
Company H.....Charles Parker.
Company I.....Samuel F. Bossard.
Company K.....James B. Ingham.

EIGHTH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel.....William M. Fenton.
Lieutenant Colonel.....Frank Graves.
Major.....Amasa B. Watson (mortally wounded).
Adjutant.....David B. Harbaugh.
Quartermaster.....Asa Gregory.
Surgeon.....H. B. Shank.
Assistant Surgeon.....S. B. Wooster.
Chaplain.....William Mahen.
Quartermaster Sergeant.....J. B. Fenton.
Commissary Sergeant.....Elias G. Williams.

Captains.

Company A.....Simon C. Guild.
Company B.....Gilbert E. Pratt.
Company C.....Ralph Ely.
Company D.....Benjamin B. Church.
Company E.....Mathew Elder.
Company F.....—— Walbridge.
Company G.....E. W. Lyon.
Company H.....A. B. Turner.
Company I.....J. L. Quackenbush.
Company K.....John Pierson.

SEVENTY-NINTH NEW YORK STATE MILITIA.

Major Commanding.....David Morrison.
Adjutant.....Lawrence Blattie.
Quartermaster..... ——.
Surgeon.....James E. McDonald.
Assistant Surgeon.....Henry Heffron.
Chaplain.....Rev. Mr. Rizer.
Sergeant Major.....Robert Armour.

Company Leaders.

Company A.....First Lieut. John Falconer.
Company B.....Brevet Lieut. John Windsor.
Company C.....First Lieut. Wm. Simpson.
Company D.....Captain John Moore.
Company E.....Brev. 2d Lieut. G. Hamilton.
Company F.....Captain Robt. McNie.
Company G.....Brevet 2d Lieut. K. Gilmore.
Company H.....Brevet 2d Lieut. A. Graham.
Company I.....Act. Capt. Lieut. W. Elliott.
Company K.....Second Lieut. W. T. Lusk.

FORTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

Lieut. Colonel Commanding..James L. Fraser.
Major.....Daniel Lloyd.
Adjutant.....E. B. Cox.
Quartermaster.....G. C. Bingham.
Paymaster.....Fred. A. Sawyer.
Commissary.....G. B. Van Brunt.
Surgeon.....W. V. White.
Assistant Surgeon.....W. H. Tanner.
Chaplain.....Rev. Joshua Butts.
Sergeant Major.....O. Greenville.
Quartermaster Sergeant.....J. Anderson.
Commissary Sergeant.....E. H. Brown.
Color Sergeants.....D. Simpson & G. F. Stephens.
Hospital Steward.....E. Pendleton.

Captains.

Company A.....A. R. Nicholson.
Company B.....S. G. Johnson.
Company C.....J. Noble Warren.
Company D.....J. L. Smith.
Company E.....George Tucker.
Company F.....R. George Newell.
Company G.....Charles A. Moore.
Company H.....Lieut. Com'ng J. J. O'Malley.
Company I.....David Allen.
Company K.....J. H. Reynold.

FORTY-EIGHTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel.....James H. Perry.
Lieutenant Colonel.....William B. Barton.
Major.....Oliver T. Beard.
Adjutant.....Anthony W. Goodale.
Quartermaster.....Irving M. Avery.
Surgeon.....A. Perry, M. D.
Assistant Surgeon.....J. Mulford, M. D.
Chaplain.....W. P. Strickland, D. D.
Sergeant Major.....Samuel H. Moser.

Captains.

Company A.....L. H. Lent.
Company B.....E. K. Travis.
Company C.....Jas. Farrell.
Company D.....D. C. Knowles.
Company E.....W. B. Coan.
Company F.....J. M. Green.
Company G.....A. Elmendorf.
Company H.....D. W. Strickland.
Company I.....J. G. Ward.
Company K.....S. J. Foster.

SKETCH OF GENERAL STEVENS.

General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, better known as Governor Stevens of Washington Territory, was, up to the time of his joining the Second brigade of the Southern expedition, under General Sherman, the commander of the remnant of the gallant Seventy-ninth Highlanders, most of the officers of which have been until very recently prisoners in the South. He is about forty-five years of age, and was born in Andover, Mass. He entered the Military Academy at West Point in the year 1835. He graduated at that institution as the first scholar of his class, standing so high above all others that it is said there were fifteen degrees between himself and the cadet next in rank. His high rank was attained without remarkable labor, for he learned almost by intuition—a single reading of the most abstruse proposition in mathematics being sufficient to enable him to master it. Upon leaving West Point, in July, 1839, he was appointed a Second Lieutenant of the Engineer corps and was for several years employed in superintending the construction of seacoast fortifications, one of which was the important fort near Bucksport, upon the Penobscot river. In July, 1840, he was promoted to a First Lieutenancy, and in 1847 and 1848 he was the Adjutant of the corps. Upon the breaking out of the war with Mexico Lieutenant Stevens served on the personal staff of General Scott, and was in all the battles on the plains of Mexico. His bold reconnoissances, personal gallantry and profound knowledge of the principles of war attracted the attention of his general, who spoke of him as "the most promising officer of his age." He was brevoted Captain, commission dating August 20, 1847, and Major September 13, 1847, for gallantry in the battles of Contreras, Chernbusco and Chapultepec, and in the last battle, viz:—the attack on San Cosme gate, received a severe gunshot wound in the foot, from which he still suffers. He assisted in the United States Coast Survey of the Atlantic since 1849, and when General Pierce became President he was placed in charge of the Pacific Railroad survey. In 1853 he resigned his connection with the army on being appointed Governor of Washington Territory and *ex officio* Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Governor Stevens' treaties with the Indians are records of his ability during his administration of those offices. In 1857 he was returned as a delegate to Congress. He was Chairman of the Breckinridge Executive Committee in the Presidential campaign of 1860, and although thus intimately associated with the Southern leaders, he was never taken into their treasonable councils, and at the first declaration of secessionism he openly denounced them. His influ-

macy and influence with President Buchanan enabled him quietly to perform what was perhaps the most important service of his life. He urged upon the President the prompt dismissal of Floyd and Thompson from the Cabinet, and pressed him to trust to the counsels of General Scott. He was, during the winter, in daily consultation with officers of the army in relation to the defences of the city of Washington, and exercised a controlling influence over them. For these acts he deserves the gratitude of the country, no less than those other noble democrats, Holt and Stanton. At the close of the session of Congress Governor Stevens proceeded to Washington Territory, and while in the remotest part of that Territory heard of the attack on Sumter. He instantly offered his services to the government, and left for the city of Washington, determined to fight for the Union, even in the ranks. Although a mere colonelcy was offered him, his brilliant reconnoissance at Lewinsville, where he acted as Brigadier General, the safe retiring of his command from a superior force, and the engineering works he has erected near the Chain Bridge, show that his field of labor was not limited by his rank.

IMPORTANT FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Sharp Fight with Rebels at Huntersville.

The Rebels Defeated, with a Loss of Eighty Killed and Wounded,

&c., &c., &c.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6, 1862.

A special despatch to the *Gazette* from Huttonsville, Virginia, says that an expedition, consisting of 400 of the Fifth Ohio, 300 of the Second Virginia, and forty of Brocken's cavalry, which was sent out by General Milroy to attack Huntersville, was a complete success.

They attacked the enemy on Saturday morning, consisting of 400 cavalry and 350 militia. After skirmishing an hour the enemy retired with a loss of 80 killed and wounded. On our side none were lost. $80,000 worth of army stores and clothing were captured and destroyed.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6, 1862.

The *Commercial's* despatch from Huttonsville says that Huntersville was a depot for supplies in Western Virginia.

Their cavalry were armed with Sharp's carbines, and attacked us two miles from Huntersville. We drove them from point to point. Finally they beat a hasty retreat out of town as we charged through it. Their supplies, consisting of 350 barrels of flour, 300 salted beeves, 3,000 pounds of salt, large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice, bacon and army clothing, worth from twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars, were entirely destoyed. We captured a large number of Sharp's carbines, sabres and pistols. The Stars and Stripes were left floating over the Court House. Our troops returned to Huttonsville in fine spirits.

CHIEF OFFICERS OF TROOPS ENGAGED.

The following form the staff of the Commanding General and the field officers of the regiments engaged in the skirmish at Huntersville:—

COMMANDING OFFICER.

Brigadier General.....R. H. MILROY.

Staff.

Assistant Adjutant General..Captain W. G. George.
Aid.....Lieutenant Zeb. Baird.

FIFTH OHIO VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel.....S. H. Dunning.
Lieutenant Colonel.....J. H. Patrick.
Major.....William Gaskill.

SECOND VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS.

Colonel.....John W. Moss.
Lieutenant Colonel..... —— ——.
Major..... —— Owens.

CAVALRY.

Independent Cavalry Company of Indiana.....Captain Bracken.

General Milroy was formerly Colonel of the Ninth Indiana Volunteers, and served with General McClellan during his brilliant campaign in Western Virginia. He has since served under General Rosecrans and Reynolds, with great credit to both himself and his State.

OUR FIRST SNOW STORM.

Sleighing in the Central Park, on the Avenues and Other Places—Bright-eyed Beauties, Snow-clad Streets and Tinkling Bells the Order of the Hour—Incidents of the Storm—The Day in Brooklyn, &c.

Snow began to fall at about one o'clock yesterday morning, and continued until the ground was covered to four or five inches in depth. It having frozen quite hard for some time before, the ground was prepared to receive its fleecy burthen, and the snow lay slumbering upon its bed until morning began to gleam in the horizon, when it was disturbed by the unceasing traffic of life. At a late hour on Sunday night there was no appearance whatever of the pure white goddess which comes to adorn this nether sphere, and people retired to rest little thinking that their vision would be met with such a visiter on arising in the morning. The merry tinkling of the sleigh bells, however, saluted their ears on awaking, and the reality of slow-clad housetops, streets and avenues, with muffled milkmen wreathed in snow flakes, assured them that the first snow storm of 1862 had been ushered in. Visions of sleighing careered in fleecy clouds through the brains of the little ones, and they clapped their hands with childish glee as they received the assurance of sleigh rides during the day. And these expectations were not doomed to disappointment; for the snow continued to fall during the entire morning with greater or less strength and sufficient to guarantee a good day's sport.

The main portion of the city which was taken up by the votaries to this pleasure was, of course, the Central Park, and thither hundreds, nay thousands, of sleighing parties, on pleasure intent, sleighed their way. The different drives of the Park were crowded with those vehicles, and the scene, at the time, was a peculiarly enlivening and agreeable one. The parties who appeared upon the ground, most of whom were ladies, were of quite a select character, and sleighs of all colors and adornments whirled through the snow with their precious and beautiful freights. The merry tinkling of the bells reverberated musically through the snow-clad dells of the Park, and the glittering whiteness of every object, the warm breath of the foaming steeds as it circled through the freezing atmosphere, the muffled forms of the handsome young ladies as they chatted enthusiastically in the whirl of the advance, formed a delightful scene of enchantment which should be seen to be appreciated. There were single-horsed sleighs, two-horsed sleighs and four-horsed sleighs, all careering jovially through the snow, with their burthens of laughing countenances and healthful flushes. The belles and beauties of the city turned out in as large force as we have yet seen them, and Fifth avenue was represented with all its "pomp and circumstance."

On the different avenue railroad lines four horses were put to each car, and then moved but quite slowly on their trips. Some of the river steamboats were detained for a short time; but no accidents whatever are reported. The river being flooded with ice, and it snowing quite hard during the morning, the Staten Island ferryboats were detained for some short space of time, but ran as usual during the afternoon.

The trains of the Hudson River Railroad were detained for nearly an hour.

When snow falls in New York, as a matter of course it also falls in Brooklyn; and the citizens of that city are as prone to amusement on the score of sleighing as we are. On Flatbush avenue, Myrtle avenue, and other quarters where "sleigh can vegetate," the turnout was as brilliant as might well be expected, and last night sleighing was kept up throughout Long Island with much "gusto." On the Jamaica plank road teams dashed along in undiminished numbers, and Brooklyn beauties giggled to their hearts' content as they were borne over the whitened surface. On the occasion of night excursions on Long Island, sociable parties are inaugurated at the houses on the road.

Inauguration of the Governor of Wisconsin.

MADISON, Wis., Jan. 6, 1862.

The inauguration of the Governor and State officers took place to day. Ex-Governor Randall, on retiring, thanked his friends and co-workers, and expressed regret at parting. He was followed by Gen. Harvey in a few brief and appropriate remarks.

IMPORTANT FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

THE REBELS SHELLING HANCOCK, MD.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE UNION TROOPS.

THE REBELS COMPELLED TO RETIRE,

&c., &c., &c.

FREDERICK, Md., Jan. 6, 1862.

Advices from Hancock, Md., show Gen. Lander's arrival there; also that Gen. Jackson, with a large force, and one twenty-four and two twelve pounders, appeared opposite Hancock, and threatened to shell out our troops unless they evacuated.

Gen. Lander gave them a fitting response.

They commenced shelling, which continued up to the latest advices last night, doing little injury to the town and none to our troops.

At an early hour this morning the Third brigade left here for Hancock, leaving the Forty-sixth Pennsylvania at Williamsport.

The rest of the division are under preparatory orders, which are complete, and they are awaiting the order to march.

POINT OF ROCKS, Jan. 6, 1862.

Jackson, the rebel, summoned General Lander yesterday to surrender or he would bombard Hancock. General Lander took no notice of his summons or his flag of truce.

The rebels then bombarded Hancock, injuring some buildings and sending one shell through the hotel. Our artillery replied, compelling them to retire. They also set fire to the Cacapon bridge and destroyed it.

The communication is still interrupted with Cumberland.

A section of Knapp's artillery have gone to Hancock.

Our loss in men, if any, is unknown.

Bodies of the enemy have been observed moving up the river for some days at this point.

Colonel Geary arrived here from Frederick to-night.

The rebels have six pieces of cannon.

FREDERICK, Md., Jan. 3, 1862.

To-day General Banks and staff, accompanied by their ladies, took a special train hence and joined the Vice President and family at the junction. They proceeded thence to Sandy Hook.

At the Point of Rocks a national salute was fired by Captain Knapp's battery, attached to Colonel Geary's command. After reaching Sandy Hook the party proceeded to the Maryland Heights, where, on arriving at the battery, they were entertained by an exhibition of shelling out a picket station between Harper's Ferry and Bolivar, where the Union residents were stopped in their intercourse with each other. The party then returned to this city.

To-night a general invitation was issued for officers and citizens to call on the Vice President and ladies at Gen. Banks' headquarters. From seven to ten o'clock, notwithstanding a heavy fall of snow, several hundred ladies and gentlemen paid their respects to Mr. Hamlin, his lady, daughter and several other ladies. The excellent band of the Ninth New York regiment were present and performed several of their best pieces. The Vice President and his retinue took lodgings at the United States Hotel, and will return to Washington in the morning.

The great feature of to-day was the installation of the newly elected officers of Columbia Lodge No. 58, of Free and Accepted Masons. A procession was formed at the lodge, consisting of several hundred resident and visiting Masons (the latter being composed principally of officers of all grades and privates from the army), headed by the band of the Second Massachusetts regiment. After passing through some of the principal streets the body proceeded to the Lutheran church, where the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:—George S. Willard, W. M.; Herman C. Kehler, S. W.; Gideon Bantz, J. W.; Henry Goldenberg, Secretary, and John B. Overton, Treasurer. An eloquent and interesting Masonic address was delivered by Rev. Brother Quint, Chaplain of the Second Massachusetts. At three P. M. the body adjourned to the Dill House, where a sumptuous repast was prepared, after a discussion of which a series of regular toasts, mostly of a patriotic character, were drank. Your correspondent feels compelled to acknowledge the courtesy of the Committee of Arrangements by a special invitation; and a toast and remarks eulogistic of the press, which were happily responded to by Capt. Foulk, of Pittsburg. The day was one of unalloyed pleasure and will long be remembered in the annals of masonry in Frederick. Gen. Banks was prevented from participating in the affair by the arrival of Vice President Hamlin.

The Court Martial continues its daily labors, and has disposed of many important cases. On the occasion of General Banks' New Year's reception, the Court paid their respects to him in full uniform, forming a striking feature of the day. The General complimented them upon the faithful and rapid execution of their arduous duties, and intimated an intention of continuing them permanently for the division.

The military telegraph has been completed to Romney, with a branch to Williamsport. Messages have been sent from Cincinnati to Alexandria on a single circuit.

Refugees continue to arrive here from Virginia by way of Harper's Ferry, Williamsport and Hancock, and after a preliminary examination here are sent on to Washington. This morning a gentleman arrived here from the South with a large package of letters to various persons in the North, most of which were unobjectionable in their character.

General Shields, Senator McDougall and the Union.

CARD FROM GENERAL SHIELDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BULLETIN.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6, 1861.

Since my return to the State, a few days ago, my attention has been called to the following paragraph, which seems to have gone the rounds of the papers in my absence:—

GENERAL SHIELDS.

Senator McDougall, of California, made a speech at Jacksonville, Illinois, lately, and the Jacksonville *Journal*, in a sketch of his remarks, says—"The speaker referred to an interview between himself and General Shields, in San Francisco, in the fall of 1860, which shows that Shields was enlisted in the secession movement at that time, and visited California to further its interests, and tried to induce the speaker to join his fortunes with it."

This paragraph, short as it is, contains three separate and distinct falsehoods:—"That Shields was enlisted in the secession movements at that time" (or at any other time) is falsehood No. 1. "That he visited California to further its interests," falsehood No. 2. "That he tried to induce the speaker (Senator McDougall) to join his fortunes with it," falsehood No. 3.

If Senator McDougall is correctly reported in the above paragraph, it is only left for me to pronounce him the author of a base lie and a despicable calumniator. Your obedient servant, JAMES SHIELDS.

CARD FROM SENATOR M'DOUGALL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

ASTOR HOUSE, New York, Jan. 6, 1862.

I am advised that a question has been made concerning a statement made by me at Jacksonville, Illinois. Not having the paper making that statement before me, I can only now repeat what I purposed to state at Jacksonville. What I then intended to say was that Mr. James Shields, in the fall of 1860, stated to me at San Francisco, California, that he approved the secession of the Southern (cotton) States; that he thought they had just cause for secession; that the South had both the will and the power to achieve success, and that it was sound policy to favor them. If it is supposed that in discharging my official duty as a Senator of the United States, in acting upon the nomination of Mr. Shields as a brigadier general, I can be influenced by menace, I trust that all such hopes will prove unfounded. J. A. McDOUGALL.

Destructive Fire in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6, 1862.

A destructive fire took place this afternoon in the business portion of the city, which threatened at one time serious results; but through the energies of the firemen and the power of the steam fire engines the flames were stayed, after causing a loss of $75,000. The fire broke out in the large warehouse No. 45 Fourth street, above Chestnut, which was occupied by G. W. Lewis, wholesale druggist, being communicated to the floor by the upsetting of a stove, and the floor being saturated with essential oils instantly took fire, the flames ascending from story to story with furious rapidity, which were encouraged by the inflammable nature of the contents, and soon burst from the roof and spread to the adjoining buildings—No. 43, occupied by Wm. Mann, stationer and manufacturer of blank books, and No. 47, occupied by J. T. Delacroix, carpet dealer, and J. Miles & Son, boot and shoe manufacturers. The entire interior of Lewis' warehouse was destroyed, only the walls being left standing. The upper stories and back portion of the lower stories of Mann's building were burned. The losses are estimated as follows:—

G. W. Lewis' loss, $25,000—insured for $15,000 in the Commercial Insurance Company of this city, Northern Assurance Company of London, and Washington Insurance Company of Providence, R. I., each for $5,000.

Wm. Mann's loss nearly 40,000; insured for $30,000 in the Royal Insurance Company, Liverpool.

J. T. Delacroix's loss $5,000 by water.

Miles & Son's nearly $10,000; fully insured in this city.

Woodward & Co., tobacconists, $5,000 loss by water, and insured here.

The Keen estate are the owners of Lewis & Mann's building, and insured for $7,000.

There were various other losses of minor importance.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Bohemian at Halifax.

FOUR DAYS LATER INTELLIGENCE.

The War Feeling Subsiding in England.

Arrival of Rebel Envoys in Germany En Route to Paris and London.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND JAPAN,

&c., &c., &c.

HALIFAX, Jan. 6, 1862.

The steamship Bohemian, from Liverpool on the 26th, via Londonderry on the 27th of December, arrived here at two o'clock this (Monday) afternoon.

The dates per the Bohemian are four days later than those already received.

The advices from America were unfavorably construed in London, and the funds were drooping in consequence.

The English papers are still discussing the Trent affair in a hopeful view—that the rebel commissioners will be given up by the Cabinet at Washington, and a war be thus averted.

The English papers calculate on the despatch of the French government reaching Washington before Mr. Seward sends his reply to Lord Lyons in regard to the demands of the British government. The papers express the hope that the French despatch will reach Washington in time to influence the reply of Mr. Seward.

The London *Times* has a criticism on Secretary Chase's financial report, and expatiates at some length on the extraordinary extension of the borrowing system, declaring that it exceeds anything in England's history.

Pending the receipt of news from America, in response to the English advices by the Europa, there is much speculation as to what decision the United States government will arrive at in regard to surrendering up Messrs. Slidell and Mason. The result is being quietly awaited. The prevailing opinion, however, is in favor of peace.

In Liverpool peaceful hopes preponderate, and cotton is rising.

War risks at Lloyds have a downward tendency.

A number of gunboats had been ordered to the Mersey.

It is reported that the frigate Algiers has been stationed off the Straits of Gibraltar to prevent the passage of privateers.

The frigates Liffey and Melpomene were to leave Gibraltar on the 21st inst. for America.

The London and Liverpool markets were all closed in consequence of the holidays. There had only been one day's business done since the sailing of the Asia, on Tuesday, when 1,500 bales of cotton were sold in the Liverpool market, half of which was sold on speculation at ⅛d. a ¼d. advance. The Manchester market also exhibited a corresponding improvement.

There was nothing doing in the breadstuffs, provision or produce markets, which would reopen on Friday, the 27th ultimo.

The Bohemian reports:—On 2d January, in latitude 48 10 north, longitude 48 30 west, exchanged colors with the American bark Petrea, bound west. January 3, at four A. M., in latitude 47 10 north, longitude 51 west exchanged night signals with a steamer, supposed to be the Jura, bound east.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 25th ult.

The steamship North American, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool on the 25th ult.

The steamship City of Manchester, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 24th ult.

France.

The Paris *Presse* says that new Southern commissioners have arrived at some German port, and are now *en route* to Paris and London.

It is reported in Paris that the Orleans Princes are to return to Europe forthwith.

France is about to send reinforcements to the squadron off Mexico, and also to the squadron off the northwestern coast of America.

It is also rumored in Paris that a squadron of observation is to be sent to the eastern coast of America, under Admiral Renaud.

The Paris Bourse closed flat yesterday at 67f. 25c. for the rentes.

Spain.

The Madrid *Correspondencia* says that Spain is to send from six to seven thousand men to Mexico, and that the Spanish squadron will sail in three divisions.

Portugal.

LISBON, Dec. 26, 1861.

Great excitement is existing here in regard to the death of the late King. His body is to be disinterred and analyzed. The public are greatly stirred up in regard to the matter, and troops are patrolling the streets.

News from China and Japan.

LONDONDERRY, Dec. 27, 1861.

Advices from Canton, China, of the 15th of November say that Mr. Burlingame, the American Minister, had been well received there, and that he subsequently left for Shanghae, *en route* to the capital.

A few foreigners had been invited to visit Pekin.

The rebels were near Ningpoo, and the inhabitants were fleeing to Shanghae, where alarm had subsided.

Hong-Kow was reported to be invested by the rebels. It was reported that the "Braves" there had attacked foreigners in the streets and houses, and that placards were posted up threatening the extirpation of the Europeans.

News from Japan is received, but it is unimportant.

Financial and Commercial News.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.

Consols closed on Thursday at 90⅞ a 91⅛ for money, but declined on Friday to 90⅝ a 90½ under American advices. The weekly return of the Bank of England shows an increase in bullion of £145,000.

American stocks were quiet and steady. The latest sales were:—Illinois Central shares, 49½ a 48½ discount; Erie Railroad, 24½ a 25½.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

The sales of three days amount to 31,000 bales, including 6,500 to speculators and 1,000 to exporters. The market is bouyant, with an advance of ⅛d. a 1d. The sales on Friday were 15,000 bales, including 5,000 to speculators and exporters, the market closing with an advancing tendency at the following quotations:—

	Fair.	*Middling.*
Orleans	12¾	11⅛
Mobile	12⅛	11⅝
Uplands	12¼	11½

The stock of cotton in first hands in Liverpool is estimated at 558,000 bales, of which 216,000 bales are of American descriptions.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.

The breadstuffs market is generally quiet, with a declining tendency.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.

The provision market is firm and steady.

Arrival of a Prize Schooner.

The schooner Wm. H. Northrop, hailing from Nassau, N. P., and from Havana December 1, was brought into this port yesterday morning, by Prize Master Rhoades and five men from the gunboat Fernandina. She has a cargo of eighteen bags of coffee and a quantity of quinine and other medicines. She was taken on December 25, off Cape Fear, by the gunboat Fernandina, while attempting to run the blockade at Wilmington, N. C., and ordered to this port. She was formerly a Charleston pilot boat, of about eighty tons burthen.

Movements of Transports.

The United States steam transport Baltic, lying at the foot of Canal street, North river, is now taking in provisions, hay and oats for Port Royal. She will also carry three hundred horses of the First Massachusetts cavalry, and sail about the 11th inst.

The United States steam transport City of New York, lying at the same dock, has nearly completed loading, and will probably sail to-day.

The United States steam transport Roanoke is now on the dry dock, foot of Pike street, East river, for repairs.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

An Amendment to the Tariff Act Passed by Both Houses of Congress.

The Old Duties Only to be Levied on Bonded Tea, Sugar and Coffee.

The Increased Duties Already Paid to be Refunded.

INTERESTING DEBATE IN THE HOUSE.

The Balls' Bluff Battle and the Conduct of the War as Viewed by the Abolitionists.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army Abroad Again.

The New Banking Scheme Before Congress,

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1862.

MEETING OF THE CABINET.

A meeting of the Cabinet is in session to-night. It had not adjourned at ten o'clock. Secretary Seward returned to-night, and is in the Cabinet meeting.

REPORTED BATTLE ON THE UPPER POTOMAC.

The city is full of rumors of a desperate fight on the Upper Potomac. At headquarters it is known only that the rebels have been firing at Hancock, and our own forces have been firing at the rebels across the river, and that neither have been able to reach the objects aimed at. No later despatches have been received.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN ABROAD AGAIN.

General McClellan was so much improved in health to-day as to be able to ride out. General Marcy rode out also, for the second time since his recent severe illness.

PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TRENT AFFAIR IN ENGLAND.

Private letters received here from distinguished English politicians, settle all doubts as to the acceptability of the settlement made of the Trent affair. These correspondents state that the rabid hostility of the English people towards the United States had greatly abated, and that even a proposition on the part of the United States for an arbitration would enable the peace party there to avert hostilities. The return of the rebel prisoners, even upon the grounds stated in Mr. Seward's despatch to Lord Lyons, will effectually extinguish the war fever, and produce a reaction in favor of the United States and adverse to the rebels.

DISLOYAL FEMALES ARRESTED.

The discovery of treasonable correspondence with rebels, alluded to in previous despatches, has been carefully investigated. The rumors in reference to it had in the meantime grown in immensity, and pointed to a member of the family of General Lorenzo Thomas, Adjutant General of the United States Army. This morning it was currently reported that General Thomas and his family were under arrest. Upon proceeding to verify the report your correspondent found him attending as usual to the duties of his office, and only indignant at the imputation of disloyalty to any one connected with him. It is now presumed that this absurd story of the implication and arrest of General Thomas was maliciously put in circulation by parties anxious to injure him.

An investigation of the facts instituted this morning shows that the lady