

NEW YORK HERALD.

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OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS: \$5 per annum in advance... THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday...

Volume XXVII, No. 47

- AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway... WINTER GARDEN, Broadway... WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 34 Broadway...

New York, Tuesday, January 28, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

No official information from the Burnside expedition has been received at Washington, though, as will be seen by the Southern news, believed referred to, the mysterious action of the fleet is the source of considerable excitement and alarm among the rebels all over the South.

In pursuance of the order recently issued by Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, with regard to the appointment of Commissioners to visit Richmond and other Southern cities where prisoners of war from our army are confined, and minister to their comforts, ex-Governor Hamilton Fish, of New York, and Bishop Ames, of Ohio—a leading dignitary of the Methodist Episcopal church—have been selected as such Commissioners, and have accepted the service. We give sketches of both these eminent gentlemen in our columns to-day. It has been arranged that the Commissioners shall accompany a body of rebel prisoners from Fortress Monroe, under a flag of truce, to the land of rebellion, and if the rebel authorities consent to the fulfillment of their charitable mission, they will proceed to its execution; but if they should refuse, Bishop Ames and Mr. Fish will return. It is to be hoped, however, that the rebel leaders will not object to the humane mission of our Commissioners.

A change has just taken place in the Ordnance Department at Washington which still further illustrates the sagacity of our new Secretary of War. The position of Chief of the Ordnance Department, one of the most important bureaus of the War Department in the present condition of affairs, has been heretofore occupied since August last by Brigadier General Jas. W. Ripley, an officer who has been in the service for forty-seven years. He has now been replaced by Brevet Major Alexander Blyden Dyer, a much younger and more active officer, who graduated at West Point in 1837. He stands at the head of the Captains of Ordnance in the Army List of September, 1861. We give in our columns to-day very interesting sketches of General Ripley and Major Dyer, the retiring and succeeding Chiefs of the Ordnance Department.

We publish in our columns to-day another installment of extracts from rebel newspapers, relative to our recent victory at Mill Spring and other interesting subjects. The Petersburg Express of the 25th inst. considers "the tidings gloomy and discouraging." The Norfolk Day Book of the same date thinks "it is the most serious reverse that we have yet experienced." It further admits that "a cordon is being drawn around Virginia, and she may be within the foul coils of the serpent unless the important point now referred to be strengthened immediately."

Secretary of State Hunter has been elected to the Senate of the rebel bogus Congress, which position will oblige him to resign the former post. The Union light boat, lately stationed near the Middle Ground, at the mouth of the Chesapeake, went ashore at the Pleasure House beach, near Cape Henry, on the 24th inst., and with its crew, consisting of seven men, were captured by the rebels.

By an order recently issued by the Assistant Adjutant General of Virginia, the two hundred and fifty rebel soldiers who were captured by the Union expeditionists at Hatteras, N. C., and subsequently released from Fort Warren, Boston harbor, are released from parole, they having been exchanged by General Wood of the United States Army.

The Burnside expedition still continues to excite the fears and apprehensions of the rebel newspapers. The Norfolk Day Book of the 25th says: "That a gentleman who reached that city on the 24th direct from the North Carolina coast, states that the report of a large Union fleet being in Pamlico Sound, turns out to be entirely unfounded. The same paper considers the expedition an entire failure, and that the next news from Europe will be that the Southern confederacy has been recognized by France and England, and that these nations have determined to disregard the fugitive blockade."

says that the gale on the North Carolina coast has been perfectly awful for the last few days, and that the surf has been beating around Burnside's vessels in a furious manner, and that at least eight vessels of the expedition have been driven ashore and burned to prevent their falling into the hands of the rebels. The same paper states, in another column, that the large number of vessels lately reported in Pamlico Sound had disappeared and the coast was clear at the last accounts. It considers the expedition all "a mystery," as it evidently is to the Southern journalists. It must be remembered that these stories of the expedition come exclusively from rebel sources, and must be received accordingly with the value which attaches to them.

Our correspondent in the Bahamas, dating at Nassau, N. P., on the 18th of January, furnishes a lengthy letter in denial of the position assumed by the writer of a communication published in the Herald of the 16th of December, to the effect that the inhabitants of the island were in every way hostile to Northern American interests, insulting to Northern American visitors, and active in rendering aid and sympathy to the trade and cause of the Southern rebels. The first items of the charge he denies in toto, but acknowledges that the majority of the colonists consider the Southern people have the best side of the cause in the present civil strife. He says: "That the sympathies of the majority are in favor of the South there can be but little doubt. And why? A great many of the leading people are the lineal descendants of royalists who, when the United States rebelled, and in 1776 declared their independence, came to and settled in the Bahamas; besides which, merchants have a great deal of Southern business."

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, petitions in favor of the establishment of a national army west of the Alleghany Mountains, against all further traffic in public lands, in favor of the continuance of the coast survey, for the employment of homeopathic physicians in the army, and in favor of the emancipation of slaves, were presented and referred. Resolutions adopted by the New York Assembly in regard to frauds upon the government were also presented. The Committee on Naval Affairs made a report in reference to the answer of the Secretary of the Navy to the resolutions in regard to Mr. Morgan's purchase of vessels for the government. We give the report among the proceedings of Congress in to-day's paper, from which it will be seen that the committee censure the action of the Secretary. A joint resolution was adopted to the effect that the Superintendent of the Census Bureau furnish the War Department with statistical information from time to time, with the view of developing, concentrating and bringing into use the mechanical resources of the country for the suppression of the rebellion and future defence of the nation. A resolution making inquiry as to whether the ship-of-the-line Alabama can be converted into a steamer was laid over. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill providing for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade. A resolution amending the joint rules of both houses so that in certain contingencies either house may hold secret sessions on matters pertaining to the suppression of the rebellion was discussed at some length, and postponed until to-day. The resolution in reference to the expulsion of Senator Bright was then taken up, and Mr. Latham, of California, made a speech against expulsion. At the conclusion of his remarks the Senate went into executive session.

In the House of Representatives, a bill in aid of the construction of a military road via forts Leavenworth and Riley to Denver City was referred to the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad. Mr. Colfax introduced a bill to render more uniform the postage on printed matter. In Committee of the Whole a debate on the rebellion and slavery question took place, and the Military Academy Appropriation bill was reported to the House without amendment and passed. The consideration of the bill making appropriations for the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the government was then resumed; but the House adjourned without taking action on the subject.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The State Senate at Albany was in session last evening, but no business of great importance was transacted. Some bills were introduced. Among them was one for an amendment of the Revised Statutes, so as to facilitate the effecting of judgment on judgments, and one empowering the Governor to appoint a commission of three citizens to remedy the defects in the present laws with regard to taxation, so as to bring about an equalization in the proposed national taxes. The latter was laid over for the present. The bill amending the insurance laws with regard to agencies of foreign companies was ordered to a third reading. Progress was reported on the bill amending the general insurance act so as to provide for the retention of funds sufficient to cover the amounts of unearned premiums. In the Assembly a large portion of the morning session was occupied with a variety of subjects of no general interest. Debates were indulged in over a report in reference to the rules of the House, and matters similarly devoid of interest to the public. The resolutions in favor of an amendment of the excise laws, and an amendment of the constitution to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, were called up and discussed, and various motions were made and amendments proposed; but no vote was reached. The Assembly held a short evening session, which was consumed in a continuation of the debate on the resolutions relating to the national direct tax.

The steamship City of Manchester—as will be seen by an advertisement in the Herald—will sail from this port for Liverpool, by the way of Queenstown, at three o'clock this (Tuesday) afternoon. The City of Manchester is despatched on this voyage as an extra ship by the Liverpool, New York and Philadelphia Steamship Company.

The regular Havana packet Columbia will sail from this port to-day. She will touch at Port Royal, S. C., and leave a mail.

The Seventh New Hampshire regiment, Colonel Putnam, recently quartered in this city, has been, it is stated, ordered to the South. As soon as means of transportation can be procured by the Quartermaster's Department, the embarkation of the regiment for Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, will take place. It is believed other troops will soon follow. Two full regiments—the Ninetieth and Ninety-first of the State of New York—are at Key West.

The Seventy-sixth New York regiment, Colonel Greene, at present stationed on Riker's Island, is also understood to be under marching orders, to what point is not stated.

Our Bahamas correspondent, writing from Nassau on the 15th inst., says:—Our Legislature meets for despatch of business on the 15th of February. Governor Bayley (who is expected to arrive here soon, with the newly created Bishop of the Bahamas) may open the session; but should be not come in time the duty will devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor, C. M. Nesbitt.

fought on Sunday—the first on the 21st of July, 1861, and the other on the 19th of January, 1862. We give below a table showing the losses on both sides at each battle:—

Table with columns: Killed, Wounded, Prisoners, Total. Rows for Bull Run, Mill Springs, and Total.

The levying process is still going on in St. Louis to secure the assessment for the benefit of the Union refugees. One thousand eight hundred dollars' worth of books, belonging to Dr. Robert Barclay, lawyer, was seized on the 23d inst.; and on the 27th eight hundred dollars' worth of carpets was taken from the store of James Kennard & Son, to pay an assessment of three hundred dollars on each.

An order has been received in Cincinnati commanding all the members of the gunboat service to report at Cairo immediately. A sudden movement is expected.

A full battery of twelve-pounder howitzers, the finest and best equipped the State has yet furnished, left Indianapolis, Ind., on the 24th instant, for Kentucky. The Fifty-second Indiana regiment will leave for Kentucky this week.

A public meeting in St. Joseph, Mo., has endorsed the Unionism of Senator Wilson.

The entire debt of the State of Indiana amounts to eleven million four hundred thousand dollars. We have been informed that a large deputation of citizens of the State of Maine, conducted by ex-Senator Evans, visited Washington last week and made an application to President Lincoln for a pardon for Captain Gordon, convicted before Judges Nelson and Shipman of dealing in the slave trade. In the event of a pardon being denied, the deputation pray for a commutation of the punishment. The President has not yet given an answer to the deputation; but, as rumor anticipates on the one hand a favorable and on the other an unfavorable response, we must wait for the President's decision in this case, which is of so much importance as this particular crisis of affairs.

The ice in the Central Park yesterday was very rough and unpleasant to skate upon; but, considering the state of the weather on Saturday, it may be classed as tolerably good. Skating was allowed during the usual hours of the day and evening, and after dark the ice was illuminated. The returns of the gatekeepers gave twenty-six thousand as the number of visitors up to seven o'clock, and full six thousand more persons arrived after that hour. There is a great outcry for the promised music, and we hope that, as all our neighboring ponds have that necessary addition to the sport the Central Park will not lag behind. Several propositions have been made for this purpose, but, at present, without any definite result. The prize for the ladies' skating match, to be presented by the Messrs. Walton, is now ready, and is very handsome and elegant in its construction. Nothing is now wanting to make the affair pass off with the exception of good ice and a few ladies' names. We hope the lady skaters will come forward.

The trial of Samuel H. Merritt, charged with shooting John Swain for uttering excessive sentiments in a larger bier saloon in Prince street, on the 31st of May last, was commenced yesterday in the General Sessions. The Attorney General, Mr. Dickinson, appears for the prosecution, and Messrs. Brady and Holmes for the defence. Two witnesses were examined, who detailed the occurrence. The case will in all probability be finished to-day.

United States Commissioner J. B. Henry held an examination into the charge against William Donaldson (not the William Donaldson who was on the British steamer with Captain Comstock) yesterday; but, as there was no proof of the accused having been engaged on the Montauk, he was discharged.

According to the City Inspector's report, there were 391 deaths in the city during the past week—a decrease of 22 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 12 less than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 3 deaths of alcoholism, 3 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 73 of the brain and nerves, 5 of the generative organs, 12 of the heart and blood vessels, 155 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 5 of old age, 67 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 6 premature births, 31 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 28 of uncertain seat and general fevers, 7 of diseases of the urinary organs, 6 from violent causes, and 1 unknown. There were 271 natives of the United States, 5 of England, 1 of France, 26 of Germany, 73 of Ireland, 4 of Scotland, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The cotton market was rather more active yesterday, with a good spinning demand. The sales totaled up about 600,000 bales, in lots, on the basis of 32c. a 33c. for middling uplands, chiefly at the latter figure. The foreign news had a depressing influence on the market for four, which fell off about 5c. per barrel. What, from the same cause, was heavy and rather easier, while holders manifested a good deal of firmness. Transactions were to a moderate extent. Sugars were quiet, and the only sale of moment in this was 100 sold by auction, and 600 boxes were sold to the trade at \$45 c. Pork was rather firmer and in fair request, with sales of new mess at \$12 75 to \$13, and new prime at \$9 25 to \$9 50. Lard and beef were firm. Freight engagements were to a moderate extent, chiefly for Liverpool and London.

British Indignation Over Our Stone Fleet Blockade of Charleston.

With the pacific settlement of the Trent affair it appears that Mason and Slidell have "fallen from their high estate" in England, down to the status of a pair of runaway negroes; but it does not appear that this adjustment has appeased the yearning bowels of John Bull for our Southern cotton. His sympathies still incline that way; and, in counting the enormous profits which he would derive from the opening at this time of a brisk trade with Jeff. Davis and his confederates, the burly John sees everything connected with our war to put down this great rebellion through a dark and distorted medium. If "Lincoln's blockade" were only raised the shoddy factories of England could soon enrich themselves and the cotton mills of Manchester by supplying our Southern rebel armies with woollen shoddy in place of their cotton overcoats. This English cupidity, and English jealousy of our "model republic" and its commercial development, combine to keep alive the sympathies of John Bull for Jeff. Davis and his hopeless enterprise—the disruption of this powerful Union into two, three or half a dozen fighting republics of the South American order.

Charleston is one of the most atrocious crimes which have disgraced the history of mankind—that, in fact, it is without a parallel; for thus the London Times has declared it, in one of its several foolish articles on the subject. Mark how a few historical facts will silence this impudent and empty declamation. For everything which we have done in the prosecution of this war, on the land and water, we can appeal to the usages of civilized nations and the laws of war; for every atrocity charged upon us, and for every atrocity which the ingenuity of savages could devise, we could appeal to British precedents. There were numerous examples of this sort for the seizure of Mason and Slidell, and there are at this day in the roads of Boulogne the remains of an experimental British stone blockade, from which we obtained the hint of our granite embargo against Charleston. Here we might pause, in having effectually silenced our flippant accuser. But, when he speaks of the most atrocious crimes in the history of mankind, we are reminded of some of the most atrocious which blacken the escutcheon of England.

Without dwelling upon that horrible massacre of the Irish garrison and some two hundred women and children at Drogheda, after the capitulation of that fortress to Cromwell, a massacre which was approved by the British Parliament; without reciting how the Scots at Glencoe were rewarded by the butchery of the whole tribe, while yet engaged in dispensing their hospitalities to their treacherous visitors; and passing by all that fearful catalogue of atrocities which marked the subsequent civil wars of England, as the crimes of a country not yet emerged from the darkness of barbarism, the history of the philanthropic England of the nineteenth century will furnish sufficient matter for our present purpose.

In the year 1814 the city of Washington was entered and occupied by the British army under General Ross. By his orders the Capitol, President's House and other public buildings were destroyed—an atrocity without a parallel in the wars of any other civilized nation. In 1839 the Emperor of China was involved in a war with England, from his confiscations of British opium brought into his dominions against his express prohibitions, and destroyed because of its fatal effects as a poison among his opium eating and opium smoking people. In this business England, by the enlightened public opinion of the present day and of the future, will be held guilty of a most infamous atrocity. We think, too, that her skirts were stained with some unnecessary acts of vandalism in the Crimea, and with some needless cruelties in the suppression of the late rebellion in India. We are quite sure that the impartial and enlightened historian will set down the late wanton destruction of the summer palace of the Chinese Emperor as an atrocity which could serve no other purposes than those of pirates and robbers, who invade an island or town only to plunder, burn and destroy. But again, while the British press can find so much in the acts of our government, fleets and armies, in this war, to denounce as so very disgraceful that they call for the interposition of other nations, it is remarkable that our virtuous British contemporaries can discover nothing amiss on the part of Davis and his confederates. They have sunk a number of old hulks in the entrance to Norfolk and in the main channel to Savannah, in the way of a blockade against us; they have destroyed hundreds of canal locks, and culverts and dams, railway bridges, locomotives and machine shops, and hundreds of miles of railways, in many instances for no conceivable purpose except that of savage revenge against Union stockholders; they have turned the whole population of some beautiful rebel villages adrift, and have laid them in ashes, for fear that they might otherwise become in some way useful to our troops. But, worst of all, against "the common rights of mankind," our innocent rebels have extinguished the friendly lights of one hundred and twenty-five lighthouses erected by the United States along our Southern seaboard for the guidance of the mariner of every flag against the hazards of shipwreck. Of course all these acts are directed against the United States as an enemy; but what apology can the London Times advance for the extinction of these one hundred and twenty-five lighthouses, in view of the "common rights of mankind?"

The simple truth is, that while this war, on the part of the government, is prosecuted with a degree of charity, forbearance and moderation which is exciting the indignation of a considerable portion of our citizens of the loyal States, the rebels are wasting, burning and destroying with a vindictiveness utterly unworthy an intelligent people. Their atrocities, however, are beginning to react against themselves; and we dare say that before the expiration of another month England herself will be convinced that this rebellion has exhausted its strength, and that its days are numbered.

USE MADE OF THE TRENT AFFAIR BY RUSSIA—ENGLAND IN A TIGHT PLACE—When our domestic troubles assumed a character menacing the integrity of the republic, Russia was the only Power that held towards us the language of cordial sympathy. The letter of the Emperor, to which Mr. Seward returned so stinted an answer, will be long remembered as one of those spontaneous acts of friendship which, performed in the hour of adversity, and when all the rest of the world held the language of discouragement towards us, cannot easily be effaced from the national heart.

On the question of international law involved in the capture of Mason and Slidell, Russia held herself cautiously aloof from the concerted efforts made by the other European governments. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg was, unquestionably, not sorry to see an issue raised which must, whatever way it eventuated, curtail the domineering pretensions that Great Britain had hitherto always maintained on the ocean. But it had the delicacy and good feeling to leave to our government its own discretion in the matter, confident that its decision would be in strict consonance with the liberal principles that have always guided its conduct on this question of neutral rights.

Now that the result has justified its anticipations, the Russian government is one of the first to push to its legitimate conclusions the victory gained to the commerce of nations by the position in which we placed England in the Trent affair. It calls upon the Cabinet of St. James to give to the world solemn guarantees that it will be bound for the future by the principles which it has itself, contrary to the precedents previously established by it, enforced. We do not see how England can now, with any show of decency, resist the pressure for a convention which will demand justice, and which will oblige the United States to release the vessel which she seized last night, and which will oblige

tainly be brought to bear upon it by all the other European governments. In taking the lead in forcing her to assume a consistent position on this question, Russia evinces the same friendly feeling and intelligent appreciation of the motives and policy of our government that have all along marked her conduct towards us.

The Past and Present of "Those Fellows," Mason and Slidell.

When the gallant Captain Wilkes, misconceiving the precept and practice of his own government, but following English precedent and conforming to English laws, stopped the Trent off the Bermudas, and took from her deck two rebellious traitors, the English nation became terribly excited. The mane of the British lion bristled threateningly in England. The tail of the British lion wagged ferociously in Canada and the other British provinces. The voice of the British lion was a savage growl, and it said to us, "Deliver up Mason and Slidell, or I'll exterminate you."

From the position of a couple of fugitives from deserved halts, Mason and Slidell were suddenly elevated into the levers which moved all the world. About them all civilized Europe was concerned and anxious. Russia, Prussia, Austria and a dozen other Powers wrote letters about them. France was excited and nervous at the prospect of a general war throughout the world, because of Mason and Slidell, and sent long despatches to our government upon the subject. England fumed and fretted; sent over special messengers; prohibited the export of saltpetre; shipped troops, cannon and ammunition to Canada; excited that little province to the fighting point; prepared her steel-clad Warrior to bombard Annapolis; discovered that Secretary Seward had always hated England, had said as much to the Duke of Newcastle, had long been seeking, and at last had found, a pretext for an Anglo-American war; and all Great Britain assured itself and the world that we Yankees were the most insolent, criminal and intolerable people on earth; that the rebels were the best, bravest and most worthy of mankind, and that Mason and Slidell would be taken away from us by force. The rebels congratulated themselves upon the immediate European recognition of the Southern confederacy, the raising of the blockade by European fleets, and the annihilation of the North by European armies—all because of Mason and Slidell. Verily, these two arch rebels were important men at that time, and upon them all mundane affairs hinged.

But the American government preferred the permanent triumph of a vindication of its own policy and an assertion of its own correct appreciation of neutral rights to the evanescent credit of being too proud to do justice; and so Mason and Slidell were sent back to England, and a splendid diplomatic note from Secretary Seward prepared the way for their reception. The rebels read the note first, and were mightily chaffed by its arguments, its logic and its conclusions. Still, after the first deep disappointment had been alleviated by the sober second thought, they concluded that the case was not so bad as it might have been, and that Mason and Slidell, landing in Europe from an English war vessel, and with all the solat of popular ovations, would be pretty sure to succeed in their original mission. Canada and the provinces read Secretary Seward's letter next, and took off their shoulder straps and trousers' stripes, stopped playing at soldier, and waited, with due humility, for England to say what should come next. Then, at last, Europe received the letter. England regarded it as "perfectly satisfactory;" thought that we Americans were excellent fellows, after all; became "eulogistic of our government," and accepted our return of Mason and Slidell as "an indemnity for the past and no small pledge of future security." France was delighted to take the same view of the case. Russia congratulated us upon "the uprightness and intelligence of our policy." Prussia, Austria and the other smaller States followed in the track of their more powerful neighbors, and everybody now says that the United States is a very great country, and Seward is a very great man.

But how have the mighty Slidell and Mason fallen! From the hub upon which all the universe turned, they have become as the finest and truest of the dust of the balance. Instead of going to England triumphantly in a national war vessel, they are kicked off the Rinaldo at St. Thomas, and left to get to Europe the best way they can. Already John Bull is grumbling at the trouble these "fellows" have given him, and sorrowfully thinks of the ten or twenty millions of dollars they have cost him. He has found out that these rebels, and not Mr. Seward, are the "blind and habitual haters and revilers of England." He scornfully calls them "worthless booty;" and, for fear they should trouble him further, even with their gratitude, he tells them that "England would have done just as much to rescue two negroes." Poor Commander Williams was not so far out of the way when he compared Mason and Slidell to fugitive slaves. They are, indeed, like a couple of their own darkeys, who, having at a vast deal of time, toil and expense been brought from their Southern "bondage" to Northern "freedom," find themselves helpless, uncared for and insulted—without a friend or sympathizer in the world—those who rescued them being the first to kick them out into the cold, and those from whom they expected the most favors being the most bitterly hostile.

We commend the many morals of this affair to our readers, and leave it an open question which will astonish, depress and weaken rebellion the more, the late victory of the Union arms at Somerset, Kentucky, or the victory of Union policy, Union diplomacy and Union uprightness in this affair with those "fellows," Mason and Slidell!

WHAT THE STATE LEGISLATURES OUGHT TO DO.—Just now, when the question of taxation is being discussed, and pending the passage in Congress of the necessary measures for raising an annual revenue of a hundred and fifty millions to meet the expenses of the war, it is highly desirable that the State Legislatures should take the matter into consideration. Of these there are eight or nine now in session—namely, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and New York. It would be well for them to pass bills authorizing and providing for the collection of the quota of revenue attaching to their respective States as soon as it is levied—so making the machinery already established in each State available for this extra purpose. We are convinced that this may be done with only trifling additional expense; and the State Legislatures, by anticipating the action

of Congress, will remove all ground of objection as to the difficulty and cost of collecting a sufficient income to meet the wants of the country.

THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRING—RURAL BRAMBLETS OF LOSERS.—In the Union accounts of the casualties on both sides at the recent battle at Somerset, those of our army were set down at thirty-nine killed and one hundred and twenty-seven wounded, while the rebels were stated to have had one hundred and fifteen killed and two hundred and sixteen wounded (one hundred and sixteen taken prisoners), and forty-five prisoners unhurt. The Norfolk Day Book acknowledges to three hundred killed, and adds that the rebels lost all their horses, tents and equipages, with eleven guns spiked or thrown into the river. The Richmond Dispatch of a later date informs its readers that from accounts received at the War Department, the defeat was more decisive than even Northern statements had led it to believe. It expresses its fears for the safety of the communications between the rebel capital and the South, placed in danger by this victory of the Union troops, and urges the vital importance of completing the connection between Richmond and Danville and the North Carolina railroads. The "Onward to Richmond" howlers will see from this chart of General McClellan's plans, traced out by the fears and quakings of the rebel junta, that the longest road is oftenest the surest one.

Abolition of Slavery in Western Virginia.

On the 27th inst., the Legislature of West Virginia, in convention to-day Mr. Battelle, of Ohio county, offered the following propositions relative to slavery in the new State:—

No slaves shall be brought into the State for permanent residence after the adoption of this constitution. All children born of slave parents in this State on and after the 4th of July, 1865, be free, and the Legislature may provide, by general laws, for the apprenticeship of such children during minority for subsequent colonization. The above propositions were referred to the Committee on General Provisions, which committee will probably report some day this week. It is not expected that the committee will report any provision of the above character, the majority being adverse to the consideration of slavery; but it is thought that when they make their report a proposition embodying the sentiments of the free State men will be brought forward, and will be, from present indications, fiercely contested.

Seizure of a Danish Vessel.

The Danish bark Jurgen Lorenzen, Reimer, from Rio Janeiro, out fifty-six days, bound to Havana, but in consequence of some informality in her papers supposed to be bound to New Orleans, was captured by the cutter of the United States Navy, the Albatross, on the 25th ult., in latitude seven degrees north, longitude thirty-two degrees thirty minutes west, by the United States ship Morning Star, and ordered to Philadelphia, in charge of Lieutenant Gerard and a prize crew.

The Canadian Mails.

The Canadian mail train got off the track three times last night. The train has been off the track at Yarmouth, ten miles from this city, since twelve o'clock last night. The engines from here have reached Yarmouth, where the down engine is captured. The mail train is expected here by twelve o'clock.

European Steamers Inward Bound.

The steamship Europa sailed for Boston at five o'clock this (Sunday) evening, when she will be due early on Tuesday morning. Wind southwest. The steamship City of New York sailed for New York at five o'clock on Saturday evening, and will be due in this city on Sunday.

Sailing of the Hibernian.

The Hibernian sailed at one P. M. for London and Liverpool. She took news and despatches from New York up to noon to-day.

Death of Ex-Comptroller Wright.

Ex-Comptroller John C. Wright died at Shenandoah to-day.

Death of a Bank President.

David F. Robinson, for many years President of the Hartford Bank, and one of our most active and prominent citizens, died last night after a brief illness, aged sixty-one years.

Markets.

Stocks weak. Pennsylvania State 6 1/2, 53 1/2; Reading Railroad, 19 1/2-16; Morris Canal, 3; Long Island Railroad, 10 1/2; Pennsylvania Railroad, 40 1/2. Sight exchange on New York at 100.

Scott and His Generals.

An excellent steel engraving, under this title, has just been published by Cowan & Rogers, No. 122 Broadway. It contains busts of the late veteran Commodore-in-Chief, and all the leading generals engaged in the present war. General Scott forms the central piece of the picture, and is an admirable likeness. Portraits of General McClellan, Banks, Wood, Dix, McClellan, Sherman, Anderson, Butler, Fremont, Sigel, Lyon and Sherman surround him. This picture, which is the best we have seen of the prominent military chiefs of the Union army, will prove a pleasing souvenir of the war.

Ex-Lieutenant Parker, of the Navy.

Your valuable journal yesterday contained an extract from the Richmond Dispatch, relating to the perilous escape of Lieut. John Henry Parker, lately dismissed from the United States Navy. The writer of this would not deprive the ex-lieutenant of all the glory he may obtain in Secession by his doubly dishonorable conduct in resigning and deserting after having taken two oaths of allegiance since the 16th December last, both of which are on record in Washington to his eternal disgrace. Soon after the arrival of the Daotah at this port, all of the commissioned officers were summoned to the cabin; the commander read an oath and subscribed to it; the same was then handed to Lieut. J. H. Parker, and he signed it, as did all of the officers present, in relation. Some three or four days subsequently the commander of the Daotah called up all of the officers of the ship, and stated that a new form of oath had been sent from Washington for the officers to take. In this instance, on the former occasion, that pink of chivalry, ex-Lieut. J. H. Parker, was the first to take and subscribe to the oath, without a question. Though he reports in Richmond that he declared on the occasion that it could not be so construed as to prevent his resigning, the proof to the contrary is positive. Ex-Lieut. Parker very cunningly kept a rein over his tongue for the three months previous to his desertion, though his secretarial proclivities were pretty well known to most on board, and he never knew that a strict watch was kept on his movements on the return voyage from China. A WAREHOUSE OFFICER.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The applications for seats for the opening night of the Opera (to-morrow) are pouring in rapidly. There is every promise of a large and unusually brilliant house.

STREET THEATRE.—Miss Johanna Wolf, a rising young actress, takes her benefit at this house to-morrow evening. She plays in Scriba's popular comedy, "La Bataille des Femmes," and a vaudeville.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—To-night Lord Byron's play of "Werner" will be produced at this establishment, with Mr. J. W. Wallack, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Wheatley in the cast. Next week "the combination" proceeds to Boston for a short season, "The Colleen Bawn," with Mr. John Wood and Mr. Collins, temporarily replacing them.

THE NAVY.

Your correspondent at Hilton Head, S. C., makes a mistake in stating that the Mohican was the first vessel which noticed the steamer Rebel when she ran the blockade. The bark Esbeck, U. S. A. Frigate, was the first, first discovered her, and first at her side as she was in range; but owing to a strong wind prevailing off shore she could not give chase, and the Mohican, hearing the noise, steamed up, and received from the Esbeck the intelligence of a large steamer trying to enter the harbor. Before, however, she could get close enough to do any serious damage she had left the harbor. MONROE.