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ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the WEEKLY HERALD must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening...

THE SITUATION.

The news from the Army of the Potomac is not very interesting. Eleven guerrillas were brought in at Fairfax on Monday, by Captain Page...

The rebel pickets have lately been doubled for some distance above and below Rapidan Station...

The Second Massachusetts regiment of cavalry, one hundred and fifty strong, were attacked by about three hundred of Mosby's guerrillas near Vienna, on Monday, and Capt. Reed, who was in command, was killed...

Intelligence reached Memphis on the 20th that Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition found the Tallahatchie river guarded by Gen. Forrest's troops for fifteen miles in front of Holly Springs...

Advices from Vicksburg to the 16th report nothing new from Gen. Sherman.

We learn from Cairo that the gunboat Conestoga, taken below the mouth of Red river, recently captured four rebel officers while attempting to cross the river with a large rebel mail...

Nearly three hundred rebels have been captured in the neighborhood of Helena, and sent to Nashville, by Gen. Buford, during the past month.

Bugard General Schimmelfrinn, with the Forty-first New York Volunteers, had a skirmish with the enemy at St. John's Island, S. C., on the 12th inst., in which he lost thirteen men.

We have more interesting intelligence relative to the privateers. The Tuscaloosa has been seized at Simon's Bay, near Cape Town, by British authorities, in violation of the neutrality laws...

The market for beef cattle remained about the same state this week as last. There was a fair supply, but nearly all the offerings were held by speculators...

The market for hogs was very quiet. The bulk at 12 1/2 c. Cows were firm. One farmer was bought at \$100 to sell again. Veals were very moderate. Flour sold fully 6 c. 10 c. and wheat nominally 2 c. lower.

General Sherman's Mobile Expedition.—The General Prospect of the War. From rebel sources we have some cheering items of news concerning the progress of General Sherman's Mobile expedition.

CONGRESS.—Both houses of Congress reassembled yesterday, after three days' relaxation.

In the Senate the Vice President gave notice that he would be absent for a short time, whereupon Mr. Foot, of Vermont, was selected as presiding officer pro tem.

After the reception and reference of petitions, Mr. Carlisle, of Virginia, offered joint resolutions declaring that the war should be prosecuted for the sole purpose of the restoration of the Union upon the basis of the constitution...

The Military Committee were directed to inquire as to the expediency of increasing the number of West Point cadets to four hundred.

The bill to increase the pay of colored troops was then discussed, and after an executive session and the confirmation of a large number of appointments the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the report of the Conference Committee on the whiskey tax was presented, and after an interesting debate, in which Messrs. Stevens, Washburne, Fernando Wood, Elijah Ward and others participated, the report was rejected by a vote of fifty-seven against thirty-six.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.—The Montreal Steamship Company's steamer Bohemian, Captain Boardman, which left Liverpool on the 4th and Londonderry, on the 5th inst., bound for Portland, Me., struck on Alden's Rock, four miles from Cape Elizabeth, at the entrance of the harbor of Portland, about nine o'clock on Monday evening last...

The Hamburg correspondent of the London News, writing on the 3d of February, says: "Col. Kapf, a native of Wurtemberg, and commander of the exclusively German regiment of Stenben, in the service of the United States, arrived at Atlanta yesterday from New York, and on Monday morning to Kiel, to have an interview with the President. He is sent over by the Schleswig-Holstein Association of New York to offer the immediate services of a hundred officers and five thousand German soldiers, who have either all served in the former Schleswig-Holstein insurgent army of 1849-51, or been fighting in the ranks of the federal army in North America during the present contest."

The Board of Aldermen adjourned yesterday for want of a quorum.

The Board of Supervisors met yesterday, and passed the bill for the payment of several newspapers over the veto of Mayor Gunther. They adjourned to Tuesday next.

An interesting public meeting was held last evening at the Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 Broadway, the great question for discussion being the amalgamation of races. "White men must rule America" was the caption of the public notice, and the popularity of the idea was fully proved by the numbers who attended. The meeting, although large, did not come up to what was popularly expected of it.

It was, in fact, a peace meeting under another name. The speakers were among some of the best known in the city; but there was nothing either original or specially attractive in their vaticinations. The working men were invited to attend; but there were not many present. We have no space for the speeches of the evening.

James H. Weaver, one of the cormorant fraternity of substitute brokers—the first arrested, as also the first of the brotherhood to be treated to the hospitalities of Fort Lafayette—was yesterday discharged on paying over \$255, the sum of which he had defrauded a young recruit named Stueck. Weaver was arrested about six weeks ago, and, refusing to disgorge, Gen. Dix sent him to Fort Lafayette, where he remained until yesterday. Deputy Marshal Borst had the case in hand. His exposure of the fraud in the first instance it has been that since led to the detection and arrest of so many substitute brokers, and to the recovery of various sums of money, and its restoration to the recruits or their families.

the federal army in North America during the present contest." The New Monitor battery Onondaga proceeded down the bay yesterday to test her machinery and armament, and in all respects she fully realized the expectations of her constructors. It is rumored that she will be despatched to the Southern coast in a few days, under the command of Captain Melancthon Smith.

The bids for the \$2,000,000 county bounty loan were opened by Comptroller Brennan yesterday. The amount offered was \$5,150,700, and the bids ranged from par to five and a half per cent premium, while \$7,000 were offered at seven per cent premium.

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In the case of the Bank of the Commonwealth vs. Benjamin F. Mudgett and others, referred to in yesterday's HERALD, the jury yesterday rendered a verdict for the plaintiffs of \$1,000 and interest, and gave it as their opinion that Mr. Mudgett endorsed the note for \$1,000 under the supposition that it was only for \$100.

George W. Allerton, son of the proprietor of the Bull's Head Hotel, which was destroyed by the rioters in July last, obtained a verdict against the rioters in the Supreme Court, before Judge Peckham, yesterday of \$450 for destruction of personal property by the mob.

Charles Raenflie commenced a suit against the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, yesterday in the Superior Court for the recovery of \$10,000, alleged to be due on a policy of insurance upon the life of the plaintiff's brother.

The defense set up is that the case is one of fraud throughout; that some healthy person personated the sickly brother, and thus deceived the company. The case will prove quite interesting before it goes to the jury.

The markets were very dull yesterday as a general thing, and the transactions were very limited, especially to imported merchandise. The fall in gold had a tendency to depress the market; but holders were loth to grant concessions from previous prices.

On Chicago wheat was very moderate. Flour sold fully 6 c. 10 c. and wheat nominally 2 c. lower. Corn was 10 c. better. Whiskey was firm and hog products higher. Freights were very dull and rates mainly nominal.

Cotton was heavy. Groceries were dull and declining. Petroleum was dull and heavy for crude and firm for refined.

The market for beef cattle remained about the same state this week as last. There was a fair supply, but nearly all the offerings were held by speculators, who of course demanded and received full prices, ranging from 9 1/2 c. to 10 c.—the bulk at 12 1/2 c. Cows were firm. One farmer was bought at \$100 to sell again.

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plans being faithfully supported by the Washington political military Directory, the war would have been ended long ago. Now, however, as President Lincoln and his Cabinet are engrossed in their various schemes and tactics for the Presidential campaign, we have reason to believe that General Grant will be free to work out his great military designs, and that accordingly they will be so completely successful that the last army of the rebellion will have collapsed before the fourth of July.

Let President Lincoln attend to the combinations of his political campaign against Ohio and Fremont, and give to General Meade and the Army of the Potomac the opportunity which they desire for an advance upon the enemy, and before the return of summer, in conjunction with General Grant, they will put an end to the rebellion.

PATENT RIGHTS IN CONGRESS.—We learn from Washington that parties are at work to obtain from Congress an extension of Goodyear's india rubber patent right. This right has already had two extensions, and the company has amassed some twenty-five millions of dollars. It is now proposed to give it a seven years' further lease of extension upon the people and government of the United States, and a chance to accumulate twenty-five millions more. This is one of the biggest patent right operations of the times. The government is obliged to pay enormously for everything manufactured out of this patented rubber fabric in the shape of soldiers' blankets, clothing, and the numerous articles of comfort and convenience required for the use of soldiers in the field, whereas, if their manufacture were left open to competition, the cost would be greatly less. Why do not the newspaper correspondents in Washington watch and expose these things? If the correspondents of the Associated Press were worth a button they would do so without a hint from any quarter.

OLD ABE'S LATEST JOKE.—In his speech made at the opening of the Patent Office Fair in Washington a few days since, Old Abe reflected mournfully upon the difficulty of "saying a sensible thing now-a-days." This difficulty is perhaps the result of the very humorous and laughable condition of our national affairs. Every new event merely provokes new and most ridiculous mirth, and to be sensible in it to be absurd. Or it may be because Old Abe has hitherto in his jokes exhausted all that has been recognized as sensible from Solomon and Solon down.

THE ADMINISTRATION ALE BY THE EAR.—The Presidential contest has commenced with a vengeance. It has threatened and rumbled like a coming storm for some time, but finally has broken out, and its northwest wind is in full blast. Matters are at their dangerous point in this storm, and it is impossible that the present Cabinet can go on much longer as it has done and remain intact, with two or three Presidential aspirants in it, mining and countermining, and trying to blow each other to the moon. We shall presently see some one of these engineers "hoist by his own petard."

SECRETARY CHASE IN A QUANDARY.—Secretary Chase now says that he had no knowledge of the Pomeroy manifesto previous to its publication. But it has been published two or three days, and he has some knowledge of it now. How can he possibly remain in the Cabinet then, conscious that he is the prime spokesman of the party that entertains such views of the head of the Cabinet? He ought to resign or be ought to repudiate the Pomeroy party and its views.

MEADE'S ARMY.—Mr. J. R. Trembly's Despatch. ARRIVAL OF AN ESCAPED PRISONER FROM RICHMOND. One of the escaped prisoners from Richmond came into our lines near Mitchell's station yesterday morning. He travelled along the railroad to Louisa Court-house, and saw very few troops on the road. He hired a negro to pilot him through the rebel army. Coming in the night through the woods, avoiding the camp, he reached the river in safety, and crossed by lying down and pulling himself over on the ice. He was discovered by three sentinels just as he reached this side, but was out of reach of their guns.

REBEL PICKETS LATELY DOUBLED FOR SOME DISTANCE ABOVE AND BELOW RAPIDAN STATION, AS A RESULT OF A WEAKENING OF THEIR FORCES OR TO INCREASE THE CHANCES OF ESCAPE FOR DESERTERS, WHO STILL COME THROUGH ALMOST DAILY.

GUERRILLAS CAPTURED.—Eleven guerrillas were brought in at Fairfax yesterday by Captain Page, of Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth New York Volunteers, who, with his company, went out the night before to their place of rendezvous, seven miles on the Braddock road, and found them enjoying the festivities of a dance at a private business meeting. Some arms and ammunition found in a neighborly house were also brought.

FIRING IN THE HENGE CANYON.—Firing was heard yesterday in the rebel camps south of the Rapidan, and it was thought by some that they were celebrating Washington's Birthday.

ARRIVAL OF COTTON.—BURNING OF TWELVE THOUSAND BALS OF HAY.—CAPTURE OF REBEL OFFICERS, A MAIL, MONEY, HORSES, MULES, &c. CAIRO, Ill., Feb. 23, 1864. The steamer Graham, from Memphis yesterday, has arrived here, with ninety bales of cotton for St. Louis. Twelve barges, containing twelve thousand bales of hay, were burned at Memphis on the evening of the 20th inst. The hay was valued at \$200,000, and belonged to Goff, Cochran & Co.

Another account says the hay had been delivered over to the government.

The gunboat Onondaga, ten miles below the mouth of Red river, recently captured four rebel officers—two of them colonels—while attempting to cross the river with a large rebel mail, \$250,000 in New Orleans money, thirty bales of cotton, a number of mules, horses and wagons, and other property, to be delivered to the quartermaster at Natchez. The prisoners were retained on the gunboat. Nearly three hundred rebels have been captured in the neighborhood of Helena, and sent to Nashville, by General Buford, during the past month.

The steamer Olive Branch, from New Orleans on the 15th, with ninety-one bales of cotton and a large lot of sugar and molasses, for St. Louis, and the Second Illinois cavalry, Colonel Mead, returned veterans, has arrived here.

George Thompson in Boston. BOSTON, Feb. 23, 1864. The public reception of George Thompson at the Music Hall to night, was most enthusiastic. The hall was packed an hour before the time appointed for the meeting, and thousands were turned away, unable to obtain entrance.

MAILS FOR EUROPE. The Concord mail steamship China, Captain Anderson, will leave this port for day for Liverpool. The mails for Europe will close at seven o'clock this morning. Single copies in wrappers, ready for mailing, five cents.

COURT CALENDAR.—This Day, Feb. 24, 1864. Supreme Court.—O'Connell vs. The People, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 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1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTHWEST.—Retreat of Longstreet's Army from Before Knoxville.—The Strength of Johnston's and Longstreet's Armies.—Warner Reported to be Moving on Our Lines, &c., &c. CANTONADA, Feb. 23, 1864. The latest reports repeat, without confirming, Longstreet's retreat across the Fredericks River river. It is thought here that having failed to accumulate force sufficient for prompt energetic operations on our communications, he has grown fearful of concentrations against him or Johnston, and is now endeavoring to form a junction with the latter at Dalton before the spring campaign can open.

The largest estimates give Longstreet 30,000 infantry and fifty field pieces. Johnston can alone have at Dalton six divisions of infantry, about 60,000 men.

The two armies concentrated will probably muster sixty thousand men, and might prove dangerous. Great dissatisfaction