

The Portage Sentinel.

JAMES W. SOMERVILLE, Editor.



Ship up with the flag! In a storm on the sea...

RAVENNA, OHIO: Saturday, December 21, 1861.

Late war news.

The United States steam transport Connection, from the Gulf Blockading Squadron...

The news from Missouri is important. All the troops stationed at Union have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march...

From Kentucky, the report is that our troops have crossed Green River, and are preparing for an attack from the rebel General Buckner...

A fight occurred at Mumfordsville a few days ago, in which our loss is reported as 10 killed and 20 wounded.

Opening of the Winter Campaign.

The opening of the long expected winter campaign is believed to be at hand. A dispatch from Louisville on Tuesday night says that General Buell's army, which is sixty thousand strong, is moving forward to Green river...

A Grand Suggestion.

The idea of seizing Texas, and giving it up to foreign, Northern and Northwestern emigrations is being received with great favor...

Exchange of Prisoners.

The government has fairly commenced the exchange of prisoners. Two hundred and twenty-four of those taken at Hatteras have been released from Fort Warren and have embarked on board a vessel for Fortress Monroe...

Affairs in Kentucky.

Military movements in Kentucky are now watched with great interest. Affairs there are rapidly approaching a crisis, and a glorious victory by the Union troops and the total destruction of the rebels in the 'Dark and Bloody Ground' may be confidently anticipated...

We learn from Saint Louis that Gen. Halleck's order relative to the assessment of secessionists, for the benefit of refugees from the southwest, is not yet carried into effect, but probably will be this week.

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The Army of the Potomac.

The National Intelligencer of the 16th remarks: We have heard of no important incident, in the military way, on the other side of the river, since our last issue. It is thought to be doubtful, however, whether this state of inaction will long continue...

A Foreign War.

The foreign news, especially the latest by the Europa and the City of Washington, has created no little excitement. The danger of a hostile collision with Great Britain, and perhaps with France, appears to be imminent...

CHARLESTON, Va., Dec. 21, 1861.

EDITOR SENTINEL: 'Prepare for a march!' is the order from Col. Tyler, and as soon as the rebel army is ready to move...

Since my last to you, the Paymaster has come and gone. He arrived in Charleston on the morning of Thanksgiving, and immediately commenced distributing among the boys of the Seventh, the long-looked-for gold, silver and Treasury notes...

Quartermaster Willis has entered upon his duties with an earnest zeal, and will, no doubt, conduct the affairs of that important department with credit to himself and to the good of the regiment...

The First and Second Kentucky and the Eighth Virginia Regiments will undoubtedly remain here through the winter. Gen. Rosecrans is making his headquarters at Wheeling, Gen. Cox is now here, and will make Charleston his headquarters...

Hoping in my next to give you a greater variety of news, I remain, Yours, respectfully, D. H. W.

GREEN SPRING RUN, Hampshire Co., Va., Dec. 16, 1861.

EDITOR SENTINEL: The campaign in Western Virginia, which has been a severe one, having been about 'played out,' large numbers of the troops have been removed to other fields of duty, and among them are the 7th Ohio Regiment...

We left Charleston about noon on Tuesday, the 7th, on two steamers, the Fort Wayne and the Decatur. The weather was beautiful, and the troops in fine spirits, and with colors flying and lands playing, we sailed merrily down the Kanawha...

At eight o'clock in the evening we came out upon the broad Ohio at Point Pleasant, and fondly gazed upon the shores of our beloved native State. After taking on coal, we started for Parkersburg, at which place we arrived about noon on Wednesday...

After removing our goods from the steamers to the cars, we started, on the North-Western Virginia Railroad, for Grafton, on board three long trains, at sunset. Passing through several log and diatom tunnels, we arrived at Grafton at four o'clock on Thursday morning...

At ten o'clock we arrived at Oakland, Md., where we halted for breakfast, building fires by the side of the railroad, with which to cook it. After remaining here two hours we moved on, winding around through the valleys and upon the sides of the Allegheny mountains until twilight, when we arrived at the city of Cumberland, Md., and were greeted with loud cheers by the Union citizens...

Green Spring Run is the nearest railroad station to Romney—15 miles. The Seventh Indiana Regiment is stationed here; also three companies of Maryland Home Brigade. The rebels are in possession of the railroad at Pan Tunnel, below here. The bridges are rebuilt as far as Big Capon—20 miles below Oldtown, Md., is just opposite here, across the Potomac...

The Columbus Journal makes the following statement of the condition of the recruiting service of Ohio, which may be regarded as semi-official.

The total number of infantry regiments in active service in the State is 100. There are completed and stationed in different camps in the State, four regiments; nearly completed, fifteen; organizing, twenty-three—making in all eighty-three regiments in the field, ready to take the field and organizing. Many of the regiments still organizing have several hundred men, and but few of them have less than three to five hundred.

There are two regiments of cavalry in the field, and there are three fully organized and ready to take the field on short notice, and one organizing with a fair prospect of its speedy completion. Besides these there are four detached companies in the field, and four companies organized and nearly completed, making in all six regiments and eight companies of Ohio cavalry in the service of the United States.

There are ten batteries of artillery in the field in the service of the Federal Government, and three batteries organized and ready for marching orders. Besides these there are fourteen batteries now organizing; making in the aggregate, when completed, twenty-seven batteries of Ohio artillery in the United States service.

The estimated number of men enlisted, and connected with the above regiments and batteries incomplete, including the four regiments completed, and awaiting marching orders, is in the neighborhood of thirty-five thousand. When the various regiments and batteries are completed, the State of Ohio will have in the service of the Federal Government eighty-three regiments of infantry, six regiments and two battalions of cavalry, and twenty-seven batteries of artillery.

The Release of Col. Corcoran.

A New York letter from Washington says: Judge Day, of this city, who went on to Washington to help intercede with the powers that be for Colonel Corcoran, telegraphed this afternoon that they have had an interview with the President, Secretary of State, and Gen. McClellan, and that the result is such as to justify the expectation that their wish will be gratified at an early day...

The fire made a clean sweep through the city, making its track from East Bay to King street. The Charleston Courier of the 13th instant gives a list of between 200 and 300 sufferers, and says that the loss is estimated at \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000. Mr. Russell at whose factory the fire originated, thinks that it must have been occasioned by an incendiary or by the negligence of the negroes...

The Removal of Confederate Congress.

We have corroborative proof that the removal of the Confederate Government was proposed in Congress, but withdrawn through Virginia's influence. We have also good authority for asserting that the removal will take place, if, in the meantime, General McClellan does not catch the whole batch of Senators and Congressmen snapping in Richmond, and remove them to Fort Warren...

The Pension Office.

The Pension office has withheld the payment of pensions to a number of persons, on sufficient evidence of their delinquency. It appears that some of the pensioners show a willingness to take the prescribed oath of allegiance and loyalty for the purpose of obtaining money from the government, but otherwise afterwards either join the rebels or otherwise give them aid and comfort...

Moderation in Congress.

The President, says the Press, is determined to adhere to the patriotic sentiment of his message, and his position is producing the happiest effects upon his friends in Congress. He does not lose sight of the announced objects of the war nor of his oath to support the Constitution. He stated to a gentleman on Saturday last, that nothing would induce him to change his views. In consequence of this well ascertained fact many of the ultra emancipationists are accepting confiscation and colonization as the true remedy...

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The Norfolk and Elizabeth rivers give full particulars of the extensive conflagration in Charleston, S. C. The fire broke out on the 11th instant in a small mill factory, at the foot of Royal street, extending to the machine shop of Cameron & Co. Before midnight the fire assumed an appalling magnitude, and Main street, from Market to Queen, was a mass of flame as tenement after tenement was enveloped in flames...

The buildings in the lower part of the city were the first to be consumed, and principally of wood, and extremely inflammable, which accounts for the remarkably rapid progress of the fire. At midnight the Circular Church and Institute Hall were burning, and the close proximity of the flames to the Charleston Hotel and the Mills House, caused them to be evacuated by their inmates. At one o'clock the fire extended more southward to the corner of Archdale and Queen streets, to the rear of the Charleston Hotel, and to the end of Home street; crossing Market street, the fire spread down East Bay to Cumberland street, and across to the Mills House, including in its destruction the Circular Church, Institute Hall and the Charleston Hotel...

All the buildings on King street, from Clifford nearly to Broad, were destroyed before three o'clock. General Ripley, who superintended the movements of the troops, who arrived on the scene at about this time, ordered several buildings on the route of the conflagration to be blown up. After some delay the order was executed, but not before the Theatre, Lloyd's Coach Factory, opposite the Express Office, the old Executive buildings, and all the houses from this point to Queen street had caught fire and were destroyed. At about 4 o'clock the wind changed the direction of the flames toward Broad street. Soon after St. Andrews Hall took fire, and subsequently the Cathedral, the spire of which fell shortly after five o'clock...

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The Mills House is only slightly damaged.

A message was sent to the Confederate Congress on Friday, by President Davis, in relation to the conflagration at Charleston, recommending an appropriation in aid of the sufferers. A resolution was accordingly unanimously adopted by Congress, appropriating \$250,000 as an advance on account of the claims of South Carolina upon the Confederate States...

A Reminiscence of Sidel.

The capture of Sidel and Mr. Eastie calls to mind an incident that occurred in Washington a few years ago, in which Mr. Sidel was suddenly and most unexpectedly rebuked by a brave and gallant gentleman. A young gentleman attached to the Spanish legation was smitten with the charms of the fair daughter of Mr. Corcoran, and though informed by the father and by others, that his attentions were neither wanted nor pleasing, he persevered most assiduously in pressing his suit...

The Boston Journal.

The heavy contracts which the Government made some time ago with parties in this city and vicinity, for the manufacture of bullets, are nearly filled, and we understand no more contracts for this instrument of warfare will be made by the Government. There is stored in Washington over 20,000,000 cartridges, all ready for use, and the War Department consider this a sufficient quantity for the present. The Government has also machines for the moulding of bullets in constant operation in the Watervliet Arsenal, and elsewhere. The contract of Marsh & Co., of this city, will be completed in a few days, and that of the heaviest contracts for the same material in New York, has been filled several days ago. The price of lead it is believed will fall considerably, and the pressing demand for that article which existed a short time ago, is no longer felt...

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The currency plan of Secretary Chase is the subject of discussion in financial circles, and meets with considerable unfavorable criticism. The New York Tribune's Money article of Saturday says: An active correspondence has been going on between some of our bank managers and Mr. Secretary Chase in regard to his financial programme, but we cannot learn that any modification of it has been brought about. A large majority of the banks of New York, Boston and Philadelphia are opposed to the scheme laid down in the Secretary's report, and consider its adoption as the signal for a general specie suspension. The bank managers are willing to go on lending the Secretary money for the presentation of the war upon the deposit of securities, but are unwilling to go on further as buyers. They also regard the abandonment of the Sub-Treasury system, and that the banks be made the fiscal agents of the Government. It is also suggested that the Secretary should issue \$200,000,000 of demand notes as a national currency to be advanced to banks on deposit of Government securities. The bankers of the three cities will, we understand, hold a meeting here on Monday to consider the important topics now presented to their attention.

The special Washington dispatch of the 15th to the Times thus speaks of Secretary Chase's plan of finance: The plan of finance proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Ways and Means Committee. The Secretary's views, as laid down in his able report, have been examined at length in another able and able account, which is now before the Committee, and which is carefully drawn bill, which it is thought will not only meet the requirements of the Government, but the general approval of the country. Greater advantages are to be offered to the banks and banking associations than they now possess. First, it is proposed to secure to the country a currency of universal value; and second, to obtain a large demand for Government bonds. It is proposed that a currency of currency be established in the Treasury Department, authorized to receive from all the banks, bonds of the United States on deposit as security for the payment of such bills as the Secretary shall certify are received in the Treasury. These bills to be made payable by the signature of the Cashier or President at the bank from whence they may be issued, in coin or demand notes. The benefit of this provision is to be applied to all associations for banking purposes now existing or hereafter to be organized. To add to the inducement for investing in the Government bonds it is proposed to receive and pay out through the Government agencies the notes of such banks as have secured their currency by a deposit of the bonds of the United States in the Treasury; and to induce their institutions as well as new ones to invest their own capital in these bonds, the Secretary intends to secure such banking associations as fiscal agents of the Government, with power to collect all taxes and other duty coming to the Government, and with authority to receive and pay out all bills that are secured in the Treasury. A bill to carry out all these objects embraced in the Secretary's Report is now before the proper Committee of the two Houses, and will probably be reported in a few days. Such a bill, it is supposed, will enable the Secretary to obtain all the money he requires for twenty years.

England and France.

According to the Public Ledger, the correspondence laid before Congress last week shows an attempt made by England and France to employ covert action in a manner favorable to the division of this country. Secretary Seward promptly refused to receive two simultaneous and identical communications from France and England on our internal affairs. The Ledger says the facts of this most important affair are these: Before the Ambassador sent out by Mr. Lincoln had arrived, France and England announced that they should act together. Mr. Seward replied that we should deal with each nation separately. Long before June 17th, the United States had learned through St. Petersburg of the attempt at concerted action, and possible recognition of the rebels, and when that action created the United States as not altogether a sovereign Power, but treated as the United States of America, the fact of which this Government is one, the intimation was conclusive in determining the Government of the United States not to allow such a paper to be officially communicated. Cost what it may, Secretary Seward was right in this. This country has no disposition for foreign war. We want the friendship of foreign governments, but to be split to pieces by foreign intrigues of governments will not do. We are glad to hear that the Secretary will now before the world, the people of all Europe will understand it, and will, we trust, compel their governments, even if famine and debt do not, to refrain from an attempt by indirect means—an act of wickedness which they dare not directly avow to their own people, or even to themselves.

Reported Attack on New Orleans.

The Cincinnati Gazette of the 17th says: 'Secretary Seward promises startling and agreeable news within ten days. The time has, we believe, a little more than expired, but we think he must refer to the attack on New Orleans, which our Cairo dispatch announces to have commenced. Our correspondent, who derives his information from a recent arrival from Columbus, gives no particulars, further than that a desperate battle was raging near the Crescent City; that the inhabitants were scared nearly out of their wits; and that reinforcements had been hurried down the river to the aid of the panic-stricken rebels. It will be seen, however, by our afternoon dispatches, that General Butler's expedition had reached Ship Island. We are glad to learn that it did not stop there, and that it is now, no doubt, heading for the gates of the Crescent City; if it has not already entered them. The following is the dispatch from Cairo of the 16th, referred to by the Gazette: 'A gentleman directed from Columbus, who has previously furnished us with valuable information and can be relied upon, gives information that four regiments of infantry and three gunboats have been dispatched to New Orleans, where a battle was being fought and the city threatened with demolition by our forces. The greatest excitement is said to prevail, the inhabitants fleeing in all directions. This move from Columbus is the one expected to be again: this point on Friday last.'

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From Washington.

The President has received no official information from England relative to the Masses and Sidel affair. The Cabinet has been in session for several hours today, during which our difficulty with England was discussed with great calmness and firmness. Whether the demands from England may be (and the English newspaper blatter is not taken as a true indication of the intention of that Government), our Government has resolved that Masses and Sidel shall never be given up. This may be relied upon as a fixed fact. The impression is that England would make a demand for the release of the rebels seized, but that a lengthy correspondence would settle the matter without a war.

A prominent non-influential citizen of Maryland, who has recently been in Richmond, reports that the Union sentiment in Eastern Virginia is rapidly increasing. He says that Congress does not legislate unfavorably on the slavery question, that portions of Virginia are safe for the Union. The rumors of a messenger arriving post haste with dispatches for Lord Lyons are false. No ultimatum from the English Government in regard to Masses and Sidel, is expected at the beginning of diplomatic correspondence. A man just arrived from Missouri, states that Senator Toik has gone over to the rebels, and is taking counsel with them at Memphis. His treason has long been flagrant as well as that of Johnson, his colleague. The Senate Military committee will report to-morrow or next day against the bill abolishing the distinction between regulars and volunteers.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 16.

The bill introduced to-day by Senator Wilson for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the district of Columbia provides that all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by a claim of African descent, are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claims to such service or labor, and subjection, service or labor proceeding from such cause shall not hereafter exist in the said District. That all persons holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act may, within thirty days from the passage hereof, but not thereafter, present to the Commissioners hereinafter mentioned, their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioners acquired such claims and any facts touching the value thereof. That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint the Commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the legal validity of the claims therein presented, and who shall appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid: Provided, however, that the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed a the aggregate amount equal to \$300 for each person shown to have been held by a valid claim: That the said Commissioners shall, within nine months from the passage of this act make a full and final report of their proceedings, finding and appraisements of the Treasury, which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects except as hereinafter provided, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with like exception, cause the amount so appraised to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be the lawful holders thereof, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation: Be it enacted, that for the purpose of carrying this act into effect, there is hereby appropriated from the Treasury of the United States a sum not to exceed one million of dollars.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 17.

The Santa Fe mail, with dates to the 20th inst., and a dispatch from Kansas City, twenty-five hundred miles, called by Gen. Connelley, from the second division, Major General Hovey, have been organized, and one company mustered into service. This mail brings intelligence of a horrible massacre at Fort Stanton. On the 10th of the Texans to that post last summer, all the citizens in the vicinity fled to the settlements, leaving their homes, crops, and everything in a state of confusion. The Texas had abandoned the place the Apache Indians took possession, and had command of all the country around. A party of twenty men determined to revisit the neighborhood, and obtain what they could of their remaining crop, when the whole number fell into the hands of the savages, and were brutally murdered. All is quiet at this place. Col. Weir, of the 4th Kansas Regiment, is in command. Col. Jennings West, Kansas City, with a Twenty-fifth Infantry, called by Gen. Connelley, from the second division, Major General Hovey, have been organized, and one company mustered into service.

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