Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY.

The Circulation of the DAILY APPEAL is larger than that of the Daily City Press Combined.

SECRETARY CAMERON'S REPORT.

The report of this Lincoln official furnishes another authoritative announcement of the Federal policy on the slavery question. It is a recast of his late speech indorsing the infamous harangue of JOHN COCHRANE, advocating the right and the expediency of putting arms into the hands of slaves to assist the cowardly minions of despotism in their war upon the South. Of course he thinks that a government, whose present Regency owes its existence to the sentiment of red-republican abolitionism prevailing in the North, should not do such violence to that sentiment as to claim the power to hold slaves as chattels; but, observed the word-monger, "it has a right to use the voluntary (?) service of the slaves liberated by the war from their rebel masters, like *any other property* of the rebels, *in whatever mode may be most efficient* for the defense of the government, the prosecution of the war, and the suppression of the rebellion."

This simply means that while "negroes" are to be in theory set "free," in practice, they are to be subjected to the onerous drudgery of digging ditches and throwing up fortifications and other works of defense, the construction of which now devolves upon the Federal soldiery. This is in close imitation of the late dodge of the British government in authorizing the Coolie system of slavery, and certainly exceeds it in degrading hypocrisy.

The Secretary concludes his observations upon the vital issue in the following language:

It is as clearly a right of the government to arm slaves, when it becomes necessary, as it is to use gunpowder taken from the enemy. Whether it is expedient to do so is purely a military question. The right is unquestionable by the laws of war. The expediency must be determined by circumstances, keeping in view the great object of overcoming the rebels, re-establishing the laws, and restoring peace to the nation.

It is vain and idle for the government to carry on this war, or hope to maintain its existence against rebellious force, without employing the rights and powers of war. As has been said, the right to deprive the rebels of their property in slaves and slave labor, is as clear and absolute as the right to take forage from the field, or cotton from the warehouse, or powder and arms from the magazine. To leave the enemy in the possession of such property as forage and cotton and military stores, and the means of constantly reproducing them, would be madness. It is, therefore, equal madness to leave them in peaceful and secure possession of slave property, more valuable and efficient to them for war, than forage, cotton and military stores. Such policy would be national suicide. What to do with that species of property, is a question that time and circumstance will solve, and need not be anticipated further than to repeat that they cannot be held by the government as slaves. It would be useless to keep them as prisoners of war; and self-preservation, the highest duty of a government, or of individuals, demands that they should be disposed of or employed in the most effective manner that will tend most speedily to suppress the insurrection and restore the authority of the government. If it shall be found that the men who have been held by the rebels as slaves are capable of bearing arms and performing efficient military service, it is the right, and may become the duty, of the government to arm and equip them, and employ their services against the rebels, under proper military regulation, discipline and command.

But in whatever manner they may be used by the government, it is plain that, once liberated by the rebellious act of their masters, they should never again be restored to bondage. By the master's treason and rebellion he forfeits all right to the labor and service of his slave; and the slave of the rebellious master, by the service to the government, becomes justly entitled to freedom and protection.

The disposition to be made of slaves of rebels, after the close of the war, can be safely left to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress. The representatives of the people will unquestionably secure to the loyal slaveholders every right to which they are entitled under the Constitution of the country.

Notwithstanding the want of boldness in the enunciation of the policy which he evidently designs to put forth—perhaps intentional, with the view of leaving a loophole of retreat through which to escape historical infamy—there is no difficulty in drawing a conclusion from the well-stated major and minor premises of CAMERON'S argument. As seen at once, he clearly maintains the right of his government to arm slaves—in other words, that this barbarous and ravage project is a "power of war." He then adds: "It is vain and idle for the government to carry on this war or hope to maintain its existence against rebellious force, without employing all the rights and powers of war." This completes the circle of the argument and places the Cabinet functionary where he properly belongs—in the category of the JOHN BROWN assassins, who neither asked nor received quarter.

CAMERON, as will be at once observed, makes the humiliating acknowledgement that it will be "*vain and idle*" for his government to continue this war unless his atrocious suggestion is carried out—a confession of inevitable defeat so long as we can secure and perpetuate the loyalty of our slaves, of which there is not the shadow of a doubt. This is a great point gained by us for our cause. Let the idea that we are invincible, unless our slaves can be transformed into assassins and incendiaries, once get lodgment in the northern mind, as it is now rapidly doing, and a whole issue of restoring a permanently disorganized Union will be staked upon this one barbarous experiment. It will be made and result in an ignominious failure, after which will come a fearful rebound of public opinion throughout the North, sweeping away the broken debris of a dismembered war party—which, like the statue of APOLLO, of Rhode, will only be recognized by its scattered fragments.

The motive which led CAMERON to assume this ultra attitude on the slavery question is quite manifest. FREMONT being overslaughed and deposed, he desires to become the idol of the Red-Republican radical wing of the abolition party. In this he has succeeded, despite the fact of his conservative colloquies in that class at the commencement of the war. The Secretary is very accommodating in his politics, quite as much so, perhaps, as in his morals; which is saying a great deal for him, inasmuch as his dishonest and swindling peculations have branded him as the greatest thief of the age. He makes bold now to become the great Mogul of the radical abolitionists, even though it be at the risk of fomenting feuds and dissensions of the most violent character in the Lincoln wigwam.

SUCCESSFUL FORAGING.—We learn that a force from Columbus, composed of small infantry detachments under Capt. J. D. Layton and Capt. Montgomery, and about thirty cavalry from Capt. Montgomery's corps, the whole under the command of Maj. J. C. Cole, made an important movement on Sunday night last, which resulted in securing to the provision resources of our forces at Columbus and vicinity twenty-six head of fat beeves, and three hundred and fifty-three head of fat hogs. The whole lot was intended to supply the enemy at Paducah, but the activity of our boys, at the proper moment, after the stock had been weighed and perhaps a counted for, prevented its use for the purpose originally intended, *i. e.*, to furnish supplies to the enemy. The stock was removed to a place of safety, and is estimated to be worth at least $[illegible].

TENNESSEE TROOPS IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.—The Nashville *Patriot* states that the Confederate government has ordered the transfer of Gen. Anderson's brigade of Tennessee volunteers, from the great theater of action from that in which they have been employed, and that the "boys" have already struck tents and taken up the line of march. Gen. Donelson's brigade have also been ordered into service in another field. It will be gratifying to those having relatives and friends in these brigades to know that they are not to winter amidst the mountains and snows of Western Virginia. Where they go, the public will soon learn.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on the 10th, a resolution was introduced, in view of the resolution of the United States Congress, in regard to a peace commission, which was debated under a suspension of the rules, and on motion, was referred to the committee on Confederate relations. A bill was introduced to amend the militia laws of the State, which was read the first time and referred to the committee on military affairs. A few bills were also read the second time, and the balance of the session was consumed in the discussion of the Confederate war tax bill, which finally passed its second reading by a vote of ayes 14, nays 6.

In the House, the bills from the Senate to construe the criminal laws of the State, and for other purposes, and for the benefit of J. W. Hutton, were passed on their second reading.

The bill to repeal the act creating the office of supervisor of banks was taken up, when the following amendment was offered:

Be it further enacted, That the banks in this State are hereby permitted to remain in a state of suspension of specie payments during the existing war and for one year thereafter: and the provision of sections six and eleven of an act entitled an act to reform and regulate the business of banking in Tennessee, passed February 8, 1860, be and the same are hereby suspended during the war and for one year thereafter, except so much of the sixth section as provides that the issue of said banks shall not exceed two dollars of circulation for one dollar of actual paid in capital.

Be it further enacted, That each bank in the State shall make quarterly statements, under oath of the president and cashier, to the Controller of the State, showing their condition. This statement shall show, under separate heads, the amount of coin, the sum due from banks in this State, the amount due from banks out of the State, and the entire amount of its bills, notes, and other assets. It shall also show the entire extent of its liabilities, including circulation, deposits, amounts due other banks in the State and out of the State, which statement the Controller shall cause to be published in a daily newspaper.

Be it further enacted, That no further call shall be made on the free banks for a deposit of bonds.

The amendment was adopted, and the bill, as thus amended, was then passed.

The bill to give sheriffs further time to wind up their unsettled business, was rejected, and the bills to authorize the removal of the county seat of Morgan county, and to require constables to open and hold elections in certain cases were passed. The bill to regulate private corporations was amended so as to require every transfer or sale of stock, and the price paid therefor, to be registered, when it was passed.

Mr. Hill, of Haywood, offered a resolution instructing our Senators and Representatives in Congress to endeavor to secure the passage of an act, law or resolution to allow messengers with clothing and provisions contributed by their friends, to enter the military camps once a week, and to pass over the railroads with their freight free of charge. Laid over.

House resolution, requesting the judges and chancelors not to hold their courts for trial of causes of debt during the war, was taken up, and after a lengthy debate, rejected—ayes 27, noes 29.

The following Senate bills were read the third time and disposed of as indicated: To provide for the payment of clerks in the paymaster's department of the provisional army of Tennessee, and for other purposes; rejected—ayes 22, noes 25. On motion of Mr. Somerville, the vote rejecting the bill was reconsidered, and the bill recommitted to the committee on military affairs. To repeal the second section of the act to abate the suits of aliens: passed—ayes 55, noes none. To increase the revenue of the State: withdrawn for amendment. To amend and define the criminal laws and prevent swindling and oppression: passed—ayes 42, noes 12. To amend the act of 1860, chapter 1, on the subject of the Registers of the Land Office. Passed, ayes 53, noes 6. To authorize the issuance of license to billiard tables for a less period than one year in certain cases. Laid on the table. To construe the criminal laws of the State and for other purposes. Rejected, ayes 24, noes 27. For the benefit of J. W. Hutton. Passed, ayes 23, noes 1.

The bill to repeal the act creating the office of Supervisor of Banks came up, when Mr. Fleming called for a division of the question, which was ordered, and the vote resulted on the proposition to abolish the office of Supervisor of Banks, ayes 48, noes 6, and on the propositions to relieve the banks, ayes 44, noes 1, so the bill was declared passed.

A SEVERE DOCUMENT.

We publish, in another column, a letter written by Mrs. Greenhow, of Washington, to the Federal Secretary of State. The document fully explains the position she has been compelled, by abolition tyrants, to occupy for several months past; and if any composition was ever more severe, it certainly has not fallen under our observation.

The Mobile *Register and Advertiser* gives a short sketch of Mrs. G. Her maiden name was O'Neil, and she married Robert Greenhow, for many years librarian and translator for the State Department—a man of erudition and mark in his day. He subsequently moved to California, where he died some years ago. His widow has since resided in Washington, moving in the best society, and well known to the public men of the day, especially to the statesmen of the South. She is a woman of decided talent, of great knowledge of the world and tact in society. Her sister, Mrs. Madison Cutts, is the mother of Mrs. Senator Douglas. But notwithstanding that near relationship to Judge Douglas' family, Mrs. Greenhow—she was a good deal of a politician—did not favor his election to the Presidency.

ARKANSAS INTELLIGENCE.

Col. Charles W. Board, of Jacksonport, was installed as a member of the military board on the 5th, as successor of Judge Totten resigned.

The Little Rock *Journal*, of the 8th, says: Since night before last, it has rained incessantly. It is hoped a rise in the river will be the result.

The Brownsville *Banner*, of the 7th, gives the particulars of a serious accident near that place. Messrs. J. W. Jackson and M. O. Hames were out hunting deer by means of the fire light, when Mr. Hames came upon Jackson, "shined" the eyes of his mule and shot, killing the mule instantly and seriously wounding Mr. Jackson, two shots having penetrated the abdomen. Mr. Jackson at latest accounts was lying in quite a critical condition.

A challenge recently passed from Edmund Burgevin, of Little Rock, to C. C. Danley, of the *Gazette*, of that city, which was borne by Gov. Rector. In the correspondence published, Mr. Rector says Mr. Danley "declined to return an answer of any sort;" whereupon Mr. Burgevin, in his card, consigns Mr. D. "to the position of a coward," etc.

BRING IN YOUR ARMS.

In order that our readers may be fully aware of their duty, we again call attention to the following sections of the new military bill, upon the subject of securing arms. There should be no delay on the part of those having arms in their possession, and who are unable to serve in the field, in handing them over to the authorities:

SEC. 17. That it shall be the duty of each militia man to bring with him to the muster of his company upon call of his captain, or other superior officers, any gun or guns and accoutrements he may have; a failure to do so which shall subject him to a fine of not less than fifteen dollars, and such other punishment as a court martial may adjudge.

SEC. 18. That it shall be, and is hereby made, the duty of the captains of companies to collect all the arms belonging to citizens within the bounds of their respective companies, who are not in actual service as militia men, which he will return to the colonel commanding, who shall appoint three disinterested freeholders to assess the value of said arms; upon the ascertainment of the value thereof, as thus provided, the colonel shall give his receipt for said arms to the owner thereof, to whom the State shall make compensation. It shall be the duty of said colonel to hold said arms subject to the order of his superior officers, and report the number as well as the value of each to the Adjutant-General of the State. A failure of any captain or colonel to attend to the duties herein enjoined shall subject him or them to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, and such other punishment as a court martial may adjudge.

☞ A bill legalizing all entries of land made under the homestead provision of the land ordinance of the late Alabama State Convention, has passed both houses and become a law. The congressmen of the land office had decided those entries made within six miles of any railroad to have been illegal and void, and, but for this law, the persons who had made those entries would have lost their land.

MISSISSIPPI INTELLIGENCE.

A negro woman, the property of Mr. Robert Fillmore, of Copiah county, Mississippi, was shot by some unknown person one night last week. She was standing before the fire, when she was shot from without, seven buckshot entering her head.

The Panola *Star* states that Gen. Alcorn has proclaimed martial law in Grenada, to the extent that liquor dealers shall not sell the soldiers intoxicating drinks, and has stationed guards at the entrance of all saloons to prevent the volunteers from entering and carousing around the altar of Bacchus.

The ladies of Panola, Mississippi, announce an entertainment to the public of that vicinity on Christmas eve, consisting of a concert, tableaux and supper, the proceeds to be expended for the benefit of their volunteer friends.

The *Mississippian* states that Gov. Pettus has ordered Capt. Norman's fine cavalry company, the Copiah Horse Guards, to the coast. In its ranks are three members of the Legislature, Messrs. Terrel, Seals and Denny, who will no doubt make as eloquent use of their arms in our defense as they have heretofore made with their tongues.

The Mississippi electoral college met at Jackson, as provided by law. J. Fred. Simmons was elected president of the college and John H. Echols secretary. Col. W. Drane, of Canton, was selected as manager.

The Legislature has elected Col. A. M. Hardin keeper of the penitentiary, and E. P. Russell clerk.

STATISTICS OF BOLIVAR COUNTY.—We copy the following from the Bolivar (Miss.) *Times*, of the 7th inst.:

The white population has very perceptibly decreased during the past year—Bolivar county having probably sent a larger proportion of her population to the defense of our country than any other county in the State, leaving only a present voting population of 317. By this decrease, however, the making of her crops and her productive resources have not been curtailed to any great extent, the assessment showing her slave population, under 60 years of age, to amount to 8,338. The number of acres of taxable land in the county is 584,868, at an assessed value of $6,474,530 26. This shows an increase of 16,657 acres of taxable land over that of the last assessment, four years ago; all the lands in the county now being subject to tax, with the exception of the school lands. We learn that the amount of money at interest within the county amounts to the sum of $75,036, and the amount loaned out of the county, $44,750. There is within the county 160 saddle horses, at an assessed value of $22,355; 104 pleasure carriages, at a total value of $12,780; 226 watches, valued at $17,250, and $2,894 worth of gold plate; also 79 clocks, valued at $506, and 29 pianos assessed at $7000. The amount of State tax on all personal property amounts to $8-129.55 and the military tax $4064.77.

TENNESSEE INTELLIGENCE.

Col. Cook's regiment of Tennesseans passed through Nashville on the 10th, bound—somewhere.

The Paris *Sentinel* states that Col. Clark's regiment of volunteers have received orders to go to Union City.

The Knoxville *Register*, of the 10th, states that an addition of thirty-two of the Cocke county traitors had arrived in that city, and been placed in jail. The *Register* adds that a "more crestfallen, mean looking set of men than these pets of Old Abe's, it has not been our misfortune to look upon since Andy Johnson and Horace Maynard cheated justice of its dues, and saved their necks from the halter, by fleeing to Kentucky."

Dr. J. L. Abernathy, of Gen. Carroll's brigade, has been detailed, under order of the medical director, to establish a hospital at London for the accommodation of the sick volunteers.

The McNairy *Banner* brings intelligence of the arrest of five citizens of that county, charged with treason. They were taken to Nashville for trial.

A man named West was found dead in the street in Purdy on Saturday last. Drunkenness and exposure was the cause of his death.

TEXAS.

The weather is reported exceedingly favorable throughout the State for cotton picking.

A match, candle and soap factory is being established at Hempstead.

THE LEGISLATURE.—We copy the following from the *State Gazette's* summary of proceedings:

In the House, a resolution was adopted instructing the sergeant-at-arms to remove from the beak of the eagle, over the Speaker's chair, the United States motto, *E Pluribus Unum*. We notice since, that the obnoxious motto is absent.

A joint resolution has been introduced, and will doubtless pass, approving of the promptness of the President in providing for retaliation, in case of the execution of the condemned privateers by the Lincoln government.

A very interesting and able discussion has occupied the Senate for several days of last week, upon Gen. Weatherford's bill, granting one hundred and sixty acres of bounty land to the Texas soldiers in the present war. The bill was referred, and will come up again.

The *Gazette* thinks that a stay law, or some other measure of relief, will pass the Legislature.

SALT.—The Houston *Telegraph* says:

We have received a beautiful specimen of table salt, manufactured by Mr. Sam. Isaacs, near Lynchburg.

Trains of ox teams continue to pass through Goliad, to and from the salt regions. Texas will soon be abundantly supplied with salt.

THE "SEA KING."—We copy the following mysterious paragraph from the *State Gazette*:

The invention of Mr. Crenshaw, which is secret yet, and for the bringing of which to the notice of the government, five hundred dollars have been appropriated, has been fully examined by a commission of three scientific gentlemen appointed by the Governor, who reported in its favor, and express the opinion that a single vessel properly constructed, will be sufficient to clear any part of the blockading fleet.

☞ The Baltimore *South* says it is generally anticipated in northern financial circles that the banks of New York will be compelled to suspend specie payments in a short time. It asserts that in spite of the small imports of produce, sterling exchange has maintained great firmness—a result attributable to the fact that, to a very large extent, the produce so profusely shipped has been paid for in American stocks, of which the sagacious English are quietly dibbling themselves.

☞ A few days since Corporals W. F. Leggett and J. D. Patterson were killed, and private J. H. Lefling wounded, at the Pensacola navy yard, by the explosion of a shell which they were examining, and which was fired from Fort Pickens during the bombardment. The men were members of the Covington Fencibles, 24th Mississippi regiment.

☞ James M. Donaldson was arrested at Bowling Green on last Sunday night on a charge of giving information to the enemy. He is an old citizen, and for many years was postmaster there, and a leading Democratic manager for the county.

GEN. PRICE.—A letter from Tipton, Mo., to the St. Louis *Republican*, dated the 5th, says the Federal scouts had reported Gen. Price at Osceola "with some twenty thousand men in all."

☞ The Masonic Grand Lodge of Alabama, at its recent session in Montgomery, appropriated $500 for the use of the sick and disabled soldiers of that State in the army of the Confederate States.

Federal Reports from Kansas.

KANSAS CITY, December 6.—By order of Gen. Hunter, Jennison's regiment moved to a point midway between Kansas City and Leavenworth yesterday. All communication between this place and Independence is cut off. Up. Hays, with 300 rebels, visited Independence on Monday, and seized all the horses belonging to the Pacific Mail company between Independence and Pleasant Hill, and made a general confiscation of the property of Union citizens. Three horse thieves were arrested this morning by some citizens and put in charge of the Home Guards. Colonel Nugent's command is expected here daily.

LEAVENWORTH, December 6.—Brigadier-General J. W. Denver has arrived, and has been assigned to the command of all the Kansas regiments.

A portion of Lane's Brigade remains at Fort Scott. The 4th regiment is ordered to Wyandotte. The 1st cavalry, known as Jennison's regiment, is stationed at Jonny Cake, in the Delaware reservation, nearly opposite Parksville, Mo. The 2d regiment is nearly recruited and will occupy the village of Kickapoo, ten miles above this city.

The river remains open, but trouble with marauding parties is anticipated when it freezes over.

Trains are again running on the Platte county road, and our mail communications cut are re-established.

Telegraphic News.

A Bounty for the Soldiers.

RICHMOND, December 11.—The act referred to in the Examiner this morning, granting a bounty of fifty dollars to each soldier, was approved by President Davis to-day. It also includes musicians, and all troops who have volunteered for twelve months or more in the service from any of the States, and also to all who may hereafter volunteer in the army of the Confederate States.

Late Foreign Intelligence.

Tuesday's Norfolk Day Book failed to come to hand until to-night. It publishes an extract from the New York Herald of the 7th, which announces the arrival on the 6th, at Portland, of the steamship North America, from Liverpool the 23d ult.

The brokers' circular reports the sales of cotton for the preceding week at 41,000 bales, including 20,000 bales to speculators and exporters. The market was dull and had declined ¼d on middling grades. The sales on Friday were 6000 bales: market quiet and steady. New Orleans 12¾, middling 10¼, Mobile 12¼, middling 11¼, upland 12¼, middling 11¾.

Capt. Browning, of the Harry Bunch, accompanied by the Nashville, attracts great attention in England.

It is reported that the Galway steamer Adriatic has been sold, and is apparently fitting out for the West Indies, but the impression is strong that she is destined for the Confederate States.

Views of Messrs. Mason and Slidell.

The Day Book states it learns from a gentleman just arrived from Boston, who visited Mason and Slidell, that they expressed their convictions that England would never admit the legitimacy of their arrest, but would demand the amplest reparation for the insult offered her flag.

Their Papers Preserved.

The papers of Messrs. Mason and Slidell were preserved from the capture, and have gone to England.

An Unfortunate Row.

A correspondent of the Petersburg Express, dating from Suffolk, Va., December 10, says: It is understood that a row occurred last night in the Polish regiment from Louisiana, which is encamped between Suffolk and Portsmouth. Three lieutenants were killed.

Rumors of Battle.

Rumors are rife in Richmond to-day of an expected battle on the Peninsula. Magruder evidently expects to be attacked. The forces at Norfolk are wide awake and anxious to entertain the Lincolnites. All the posts are apparently quiet, but the storm of war may burst at any moment. There is an intense pressure on McClellan to advance, by the Federal Congressmen. He evidently dreads the issue, but may be forced to give us a third fight, when he will be defeated.

Fire at Charleston.

BRANCHVILLE, December 12.—Passengers just arrived report that a destructive fire occurred at Charleston last night. The telegraph wires have been destroyed, consequently we have no particulars.

Missouri Reports.

NASHVILLE, December 12.—We have intelligence from Sedalia, Missouri, to the 6th. The latest advices from the South state that Price had moved a part of his force from Osceola to a point five miles distant, where he had established headquarters. Rains' command remained at Osceola.

A train of fifty wagons, from Lexington, laden with supplies for Price's army, passed within fifteen miles of Sedalia on Monday last.

There are four recruiting offices at Lexington, enlisting recruits for Gen. Price's army.

Judge Birch, who has been a prisoner in Price's camp for some time past, arrived at Sedalia to-day, having been released on parole.

Reinforcements for Pickens.

BOSTON, December 6.—The steamer Baltic sailed for Fort Pickens with the New York 75th regiment this afternoon.

Particulars of the Fire at Charleston.

AUGUSTA, December 12.—A destructive fire occurred at Charleston last night. It broke out at nine o'clock P. M., and lasted until five o'clock this morning. St. Andrew's Hall, the Catholic Cathedral, the Circular church, Institute Hall, and an immense number of other buildings were destroyed. Hundreds of poor families are destitute of homes and effects. The firemen and military worked with the utmost order, but the flames were almost uncontrollable. It is reported that the fire broke out at three points simultaneously.

Skirmish in Kentucky.

NASHVILLE, December 12.—A special dispatch to the Nashville Union, dated Bowling Green, 11th instant, states that a small body of Federals crossed Green river that morning. Terry's Texas Rangers drove them back, killing one.

Advance of the Federals.

Four thousand Lincolnites are at Munfordville, preparing to cross. A fight or a foot race is imminent.

Federal Foreign Relations.

A special dispatch to the New York Post, dated Washington, 6th, says President Lincoln avows his intention to adhere to a cautious, prudent policy in relation to foreign affairs, and that there need be no apprehensions of the occurrence of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain, unless the British government seek a pretext for a war.

There is no ground for serious trouble, and the government feels no anxiety on the subject, believing that a temperate policy will allay all excited feelings and tend to cement the friendly relations between the two countries.

Federal Caucus on the Negro Question.

A caucus of the Republican members was to be held on the evening of the 7th, for the purpose of agreeing upon the line of policy to be adopted in reference to the slave question.

Affairs in Scott County.

From the Knoxville Register, December 11.

A gentleman from Scott county furnishes us with the following statement of facts in regard to the condition of that border county, which is confirmed by what we have heard from reliable persons from the same vicinity:

The Lincolnites have taken possession of Scott county, by taking southern men prisoners, stealing property, etc. The Union flag has been hoisted in the town of Huntsville, the county seat of Scott.

The Kentucklians act in cooperation with the tories of Tennessee. Some few weeks since, a party of Lincolnites stole five horses from James Gilson, who lives near the Border. Gilson saw them, with their muskets and bayonets, in the act of stealing the horses. A few nights since, also, two horses were stolen from Franklin Smith, in Powell's Valley.

All the southern rights men in Scott county, and in a large portion of Campbell, on the border, have been compelled to leave their homes and come to the valley. Several have moved their property to the south side of the mountain to avoid the ravages of these men.

Our informant suggests that a force should forthwith be sent to take possession of the Kentucky counties lying on the border, from whence the foes sally into Tennessee on their raids.

There is, we are told, no abundance of pork there, a large quantity of salt, and many arms, including muskets, in possession of the Union leaders. The citizens of Campbell and Scott are making up companies to defend themselves, and will cooperate with the army.

Presbyterian General Assembly.

MONDAY, December 9.—An interesting report was read by Rev. Dr. Pryor, of Virginia, on the subject of inaugurating and maintaining a correspondence with other churches in the South which possess a like doctrinal faith and ecclesiastical order. An earnest and amicable discussion arose among influential members touching the propriety of instituting an interchange delegates with one or two of bodies named in the report. This discussion ended in the unanimous adoption of the report, whereby the assembly resolved to solicit fraternal correspondence with the following churches: "The Associate Reformed Synod of the South," "The United Synod of the Presbyterian Church," "The General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church," "The Congregation of Independent Presbyterians," and "The Synod of the German Reformed Church in the South."

This matter being harmoniously adjusted, the assembly proceeded to consider a very important report, submitted by Rev. Dr. Ramsay, of Virginia. This able document brought to the attention of the body the whole subject of its prospective interest in foreign missions.

Pending this discussion, the assembly adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M., to discuss the more popular features of this important branch of the church's operations.—*Augusta Constitutionalist.*

TROUBLE IN THE WASHINGTON WIGWAM.

Collision Between Lincoln and Cameron.

We have had intimations, by telegraph, of a difficulty between Lincoln and his Secretary of War, but the particulars were not furnished. The following, from the New York *Tribune* is the first explanation we have seen, and exposes the whole affair as Lincoln undoubtedly wishes it given to the public.

From the New York *Tribune*, December 11.

The readers of our daily of yesterday morning may have been surprised to find no allusion to the topic which excited most interest at the Federal metropolis—namely, the reported disagreement between the President and the Secretary of War with regard to that portion of the report of the latter which treats of the use to be made of the slaves of Confederates. Other journals had information on this subject, we had none; simply because, while their Washington dispatches respecting it were allowed to come through in due course, ours was suppressed by the government censor in the Washington telegraph office. Having received it by mail, we give it now as part of the history of the times, simply remarking that we do not understand that it was suppressed for lack of truth, but rather for excess of it.

THE SUPPRESSED DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—The call of the roll had scarcely ended in the House, when the temper of the people was strikingly manifested by their Representatives hastening, without delaying a moment for Presidential or other message, to pass a resolution commending the slaves of Confederates within the military jurisdictions. Before the vote upon it was recorded, a painful rumor pervaded the hall that the President had taken open issue on this very question with Secretary Cameron, and had recalled from the Philadelphia post office the undelivered copies of the War Department report, which the latter had mailed for the use of the new-paper press. The city was filled with rumors of a breaking up of the Cabinet; and the influence of the revolution we are passing through, in attaching men to principles while weakening their hold on laws and forms, was everywhere strikingly and most suggestively conspicuous. The excitement occasioned by this executive opposition to the necessities of the war and to the popular will, to-night sways the hotels and parlors of the city. The history of the difference between the President and the Secretary of War has at last taken this shape: The Secretary presented his report to Mr. Lincoln on Saturday. On Sunday afternoon he mailed it to the principal papers of the North and West, as is customary on the day preceding the reading of the message.

On Sunday night the President, having found time to read it, found it not in his heart to agree with the Secretary's doctrine of the right and the duty to make a military use of the slaves of Confederates—to arm them, if necessary—and in all ways to use them as we would any other property of the Confederates to suppress the rebellion. He sent for Mr. Cameron, and required him to suppress this whole portion of his report, on the ground that its movement was premature and ill-timed. The Secretary promptly and immediately refused to suppress a word of it. The discussion between them was protracted. It ended as it began, the President insisting upon the alteration, and the Secretary respectfully but firmly refusing to change a syllable of his recommendations. A subsequent interview in the afternoon had a similar conclusion of debate, but a new and strange conclusion of Executive will. The President announced his purpose to strike out the entire passage about the emancipation and arming of the slaves before sending in the report with his message to Congress. Mr. Cameron declared he would not consent to suppress the document in the hands of northern and western editors, and that the printers were at liberty to do with his report what they pleased. Which of the two copies will the people read and the army prefer?

The Invasion of the Mississippi Valley.

GEN. HALLECK'S PLAN.

The usually well-informed St. Louis correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, writes as follows to that paper:

The newspapers of the country are continually alluding to the expedition down the Mississippi river, as if that was actually the contemplated programme of the movement under Gen. Halleck. The movement will not be down the Mississippi river, but go up the Tennessee, where Gen. Halleck's forces—75,000 strong—will leave the river and march in the rear of Columbus, Hickman and other points toward Memphis. This maneuver will compel the rebels at Columbus and other points to fall back on Memphis, thus leaving the river clear for the gunboats and transportation vessels to pass up and down unmolested. The Confederates are occupying their time in fortifying New Madrid, Columbus and other points, and are mounting the same with a large number of guns. Upon the approach of our troops toward their rear, rather than be cut off from all communication with the South, the Confederates will have to fall back. No defenses have been thrown up on the Tennessee river, and the continual running up and down that stream of gunboats has kept the shores entirely clear of masked batteries and fortifications. Our army will meet with no resistance, and will by this movement accomplish the same result without loss of life and property that the river expedition might have done after severe loss on both sides, and a fearful destruction of property, both private and public.

The column of Major-General Halleck will move forward in conjunction with Gen. Buell's division of 60,000 men from Louisville, which proceeds through Kentucky via Bowling Green to Nashville. The friends of the Union have great reason to feel confident in the assertion made by those in authority, that the war will have been ended in about three months. As the attacking party the enemy are annoyed at the uncertainty of the points our commanders shall attack; for instance, Memphis will not be taken via Columbus and the river, Richmond will not be captured via Manassas; nor will the naval fleet make its conquests in the manner prescribed by the Confederate generals. Already these annoyances and defeats are creating great uneasiness among the Confederates, and the element in St. Louis is not now so sanguine as they were a few weeks since. The defenders of the Union, on the other hand, are confident, for

"Every thing declared to our wish,
—Paint—'Ill throw it boldly here and there
Come inadvertently the like of poor coward."

PICAYUNE BUTLER.

The following incident, related of this universally old renegade by the Boston *Transcript*, is a fair index to his true character:

As the sleeping car on the shore line was leaving New York last (Sunday) evening, bearing numerous passengers, including Gen. Butler and his aid, a young gentleman who had evidently been taking a little too much wine, forced his society upon the general, not knowing with whom he was conversing. The general's aid was for expelling the saucy individual, but Gen. Butler decided to let him have his talk. In the course of the conversation, Gen. Butler's political course was discussed, and the individual avowed that, "as for Butler, he had been a little of every thing;" that at the Charleston convention he voted for Douglas; and he couldn't understand "how it was he was run as a Breckinridge candidate for Governor of Massachusetts."

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

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

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

THE FEMALE PRISON IN WASHINGTON.—The Washington *Star* says:

The "Hotel Greenhow," as the female prison is called, is still an existing institution in Washington. Mrs. Greenhow is still in close custody. Mrs. Hassler has been released upon her taking a stringent oath of allegiance. Mrs. Onderdonk, of Louisiana, who was arrested in Chicago, was recently transferred to quarters with Mrs. Greenhow, and she now awaits her release with much impatience. Mrs. Posy is also a prisoner, and she has for company her daughter, a beautiful girl of fifteen, and one little son of five. She and her husband were recently arrested, near Fort Tobacco, Maryland, on the charge of giving the Confederates information of the arrival of our troops by displaying signal lights. Mr. Posy is in the old capitol prison.

A SCATHING LETTER TO WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

WASHINGTON, November 12, 1861.
No. 1605 Street.

To the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State:

SIR: For nearly three months I have been confined, a close prisoner, shut out from air and exercise, and denied all communication with family and friends.

I am told, sir, that upon your *ipse dixit* the fate of citizens depends, and that the sign manual of the ministers of Louis the Fourteenth and Fifteenth, was not more potent in their day, than that of their Secretary of State in 1861.

Therefore most respectfully submit, that on Friday, August 23d, without warrant or other show of authority, I was arrested by the detective police, and my house taken in charge by them; that every law of decency was violated in the search of my house and person, and by the surveillance over me.

We read in history, that the poor Maria Antoinette had a paper torn from her bosom by lawless hands, and that even a change of linen had to be effected in sight of her brutal captors. It is my sad experience to record ever more revolting outrages than that, for during the first days of my imprisonment, whatever necessity forced me to seek my chamber, a detective stood sentinel at the open door. And thus for a period of seven days I, with my little child, was placed absolutely at the mercy of men without character or responsibility; that during the first evening a portion of these men became brutally drunk, and boasted in my hearing of the "nice time" they expected to have with the female prisoners, and that rude violence was used towards a colored servant girl during that evening, the extent of which I have not been able to learn. For any show of decorum afterward practiced towards me, I was indebted to the detective called Capt. Dennis.

In the careful analysis of my papers I deny the existence of a line I had not a perfect right to have written, or to have received. Freedom of speech and of opinion is the birthright of Americans, guaranteed to us by our chosen idol of liberty—the Constitution of the United States. I have exercised my prerogative, and have openly avowed my sentiments. During the political struggle, I opposed your Republican party with every instinct of self-preservation. I believed your success a virtual nullification of the Constitution, and that it would entail upon us all the direful consequences which have ensued. These sentiments have doubtless been found recorded among my papers, and I hold them as rather a proud record of my sagacity.

I must be permitted to quote from a letter of yours, in regard to Russell, of the London Times, which you conclude with these admirable words: "Individual errors of opinion may be tolerated, so long as good sense is left to combat them." By way of illustrating theory and practice—here am I, a prisoner in sight of the executive mansion, in sight of the capitol where the proud statesmen of our land have sung their paeans to the blessings of our free institutions.

Comment is idle. Freedom of speech, freedom of thought, every right pertaining to the citizen, has been suspended by what, I suppose, the President calls a "military necessity." A blow has been struck, by the total disregard of all civil rights, against the present system of government, far greater in its effects than the severance of the Southern States. Our people have been taught to contemn the supremacy of the laws, to which all have hitherto bowed, and to look to the military power for protection against its decrees. A military spirit has been developed, which will only be subordinate to a military dictatorship. Read history, and you will find that the causes which bring about a revolution rarely predominate at its close, and no people have ever returned to the point from which they started. Even should the Southern States be subdued and forced back into the Union, (which I regard as impossible, with a full knowledge of their resources,) a different form of government will be found needful to meet the new developements of individual character. There is no class of society, no branch of industry, which this change has not reached, and the dull, plodding, methodical habits of the poor can never be resumed.

You have held me, sir, to a man's