Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY.

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

BOWLING GREEN THE BATTLE GROUND.

The vigorous effort that is being made to expel the Confederate army from Central Kentucky, does not attract that degree of attention from our people which its vast importance deserves. They have been thrown into panics so frequently by sensation dispatches from impetuous military commanders, and have had the nocturnal repose of their families disturbed to such an extent by starting addresses emanating from well-intentioned but nervously-disposed old gentlemen, that the cry of "wolf" makes but little impression at the present time upon their impervious sensibilities. Nevertheless the movements that are rapidly transpiring in Kentucky, certainly indicate a speedy advance of the Federals upon Gen. JOHNSTON's army at Bowling Green. A column of over sixty-thousand men has crossed the Ohio river at Louisville, and is pressing steadily onward towards the South. The army of Gen. BUELL, now in the department of Kentucky, according to the testimony of the St. Louis *Democrat*, numbers *one hundred and ten thousand* strong, and our latest advices represent that it is receiving daily accessions.

The late proceedings of the Federal Congress foreshadow the policy of the Lincoln administration regarding the war in Kentucky. The bill appropriating thirty millions of dollars to raise twenty thousand twelve months' volunteers, as an additional force for BUELL's division, passed the House of Representatives several days since, and was sent up to the Senate with a fair prospect of becoming a law. This movement, if successful, will increase the Federal forces in Kentucky to 130,000, which can be strengthened still more by another reinforcement of 20,000 from the camps of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, at any moment they are needed. The temper of the Congressional debate on this bill, shows that the evident purpose of the enemy is to make the West the great theater of the impending conflict, and that the 200,000 men which Adjutant-General THOMAS deemed necessary for the reclamation of Kentucky, will be raised, if necessary, at the expense of a draft on McCLELLAN or ROSENCRANZ.

The original determination of the enemy to advance simultaneously upon Columbus and Bowling Green—which was probably entertained a month ago—seems from all we can learn to be now abandoned. A very startling rumor has reached them, and been published in their papers with much nervous apprehension, that the rebels have been planting their torpedoes, submarine batteries, and various other infernal machines, below Cairo in the bed of the Mississippi river, and so powerful has been the moral effect of the intelligence that forthwith the gun and steamboat pilots deserted by scores, and the remaining few refused to serve in the down river expedition. Hence the probable cause of this change of programme from the invasion down the Mississippi to an expedition up the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, in conjunction with the land attack on Gen. JOHNSTON. We believe, accordingly, that the flotilla which was being constructed with the view of making New Orleans its destination, will now have an eye on Clarksville or Nashville. No stone should be left unturned to confront its advance by preparations so formidable as to insure its discomfiture.

We may be mistaken in our opinion, but the probability of an early movement on Bowling Green seems to receive corroboration from the spirit of the northern press, which clamors loudly for increased energy and vigor in army operations since the reception of the late belligerent intelligence from Europe. The tone of the most influential journals exhibits a morbid desire to see the Washington government put forth its full strength against the South before the approach of winter, with the hope of achieving some brilliant victory, which is to be held out to the European powers, and particularly Great Britain, as an *in terrorem* argument against any interference in the American war. They firmly believe that the present success of the Federal arms in a pitched battle, with 50,000 or 100,000 men on each side, would prevent the impending recognition of the Confederate States, frighten England and France from their disposition to disturb the blockade, and, in fine, cut the Gordian knot of the San Jacinto-Trent complication in a shorter period of time than Seward-ian diplomacy can untie it.

These considerations have produced much impatience throughout the North at the inactivity of Gen. McCLELLAN, who is now urged to advance in the face of certain defeat. To prevent another Bull Run affair, the "Grand Army" of the Potomac must remain in its intrenchments. But then the popular clamor must be appeased, and how is this to be accomplished? Evidently by the vigorous prosecution of the war in Kentucky—in fact this expected movement on Bowling Green.

Whether our surmise be true or not will be apparent in a few days, and speculation, therefore, can be of but little avail. When the battle comes on, we have confidence that the victory will be ours.

THE NEWS.

We have received a copy of the St. Louis *Democrat* of the 23d of December. The foreign news is important, and shows no disposition on the part of Great Britain to abate her warlike attitude, though the rise of consols and the fall in the price of cotton indicate that public sentiment does not regard hostilities with the United States so imminent as at first.

The return of Gen. SCOTT so soon looks as if his mission had something to do with the Trent affair, though in what capacity we are totally at a loss to say, except it be to prevent as far as possible the co-operation of France with England in the position assumed by the latter.

The disaster at Knob Noster, Missouri, is somewhat exaggerated in the accounts we publish. A letter from Sedalia to the *Democrat* states the exact number of prisoners at 965.

LATER FROM PADUCAH.

GEN. PAYNE SUPERSEDED—GEN. SMITH STILL IN COMMAND.

By our grapevine line, we are in possession of news from Paducah up to the 25th.

The imbroglio between the Federal generals at Paducah has at length been brought to a close. Gen. Smith has been retained in command. Gen. Grant has been superseded by Col. McArthur, commanding one of the Illinois regiments, much to the disgust of Gen. Wallace and his abolition Zouaves. To give vent to their indignation, on Christmas eve, the troops friendly to Wallace and Payne, seized upon a fire engine, and wherever they could find water near a "secesh house," they amused themselves by throwing water upon it until the well or cistern was exhausted. This they call baptizing in the cause of the Union. Gen. Smith placed a strong guard upon all the coffee houses, otherwise the entire army would have got on a big drunk, and the city would have been at the mercy of a lawless set of hireling soldiery.

"Up the Cumberland and Tennessee," is the watchword at Paducah.

HON. DAVID M. CURRIN.—We were pleased to have a call on yesterday from our talented and efficient Representative in Congress, Hon. David M. Currin, who is on a brief visit to his family during the recess taken by that body. He looks unusually well and in fine spirits, and represents the affairs of State at the national capital as progressing with all the dispatch and harmony that could be desired.

☞ We are indebted to the Hon. A. H. Garland, of Arkansas, for a copy of the President's message in pamphlet form, with an appended report of Albert Pike, Confederate commissioner to the Indian nations, of the results of his mission.

LATE NORTHERN INTELLIGENCE.

The Terre Haute *Journal* says that corn is selling at Mattoon, Illinois, at eight cents per bushel.

Senator Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, who has been sick some time, writes to a friend at Washington, that his illness was not so serious as reported, and that he expected to be in his seat immediately after the holidays.

Indiana has now in the field about sixty thousand men, and will increase it five thousand by the first of January. Governor Morton, in his Washington speech, said 57,000; but it was erroneously transmitted 37,000 by telegraph.

Miss Slidell is reported as being made quite a heroine in England, owing to her conduct upon the occasion of the arrest of her father.

As the subject of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia is now agitated, it may be of general interest to know that, according to the recent census, the number of slaves at Georgetown is 277, in Washington 1744, and in the remainder of the county 834—making a total of 3183. Free blacks in the District 11 131; and the total population of Washington is 61,122.

Attorney-General Bates has been confined to his house, in Washington, by illness, several days, but is now recovering.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* of the 21st publishes a special dispatch from Baltimore stating that news had been received from Richmond to the effect that Fort Pickens had opened fire on Fort McRae three times since the 22d ult., but with what effect is not known. On the 30th ult., an incessant shower of shells was thrown into the fort by Col. Brown. The report is, of course, without foundation.

A private letter received at New York, dated the 18th, states that the stone fleet, which had arrived safely off Savannah, for which port it was originally destined, had sailed, in company of a man-of-war, for Charleston. It was intended to sink the ships in Charleston harbor, and the plan was stated to be to sink a double row of ships across the harbor in the following order:

* * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * *

In this way it was supposed the harbor could be permanently closed.

Speculations of the Financiers.

The financial editor of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing on Friday last, speculates by saying that "the advices from Washington tend to strengthen the opinion that has recently been gaining ground, notwithstanding the war clamor from both sides of the Atlantic, that our present difficulty with England will be arranged without the aid of gunpowder. *That this is the belief at Washington, we are warranted in saying, by private advices received by this evening's mails from a high source.*"

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—The New York *Tribune* pretends to give the details of the papers transmitted to the U. S. Senate, last week, by the State Department, concerning the affairs with Mexico. Among these it says is a project of a treaty with Mexico, the provisions of which are of such importance that it is even thought it would, if confirmed, lead to the withdrawal of England and France from the Spanish alliance. The treaty, according to the *Tribune*, provides that the Federal government shall pay $11,000,000 to Mexico, to be applied to the satisfaction of English and French creditors, and for a grant to the United States of all commercial privileges; the adjustment of outstanding debts and the right of transit across Mexican territory for troops and munitions of war. It is thought, at Washington, that the treaty will be speedily confirmed and sent at once to Vera Cruz.

CRAWFISHING.—Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, expresses the opinion, based upon his advices from Washington on the 21st, that the northern people need entertain no apprehensions of a rupture with England upon the late affair of the Trent. He says that the Lincoln Cabinet, "looking to the absorbing and paramount issue—the suppression of the southern rebellion—will yield to the present demands of England as the conditions of her neutrality, even if these demands involve the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the protection of the British flag, and a disavowal of and apology for their seizure by Capt. Wilkes." If the editor of the satanic press is advised, a back-out is contemplated by the powers at Washington.

☞ Gov. Pickens, of South Carolina, has appointed William Whaley, Edmond Rhett, Paul Hamilton Waring, E. M. Seabrook, and Nathaniel Heyward, to compose the committee authorized by a resolution of the General Assembly, "to ascertain the character and value of property which has been or may be destroyed by the enemy, or by order of State or Confederate authority, or by the voluntary action of owners, to prevent its falling into the enemy's possession, during the existing war, and to report to the Legislature at its next session."

FEELINGS OF UNITED STATES NAVAL OFFICERS.—We are fully authorized by a gentleman of New Orleans, (says the *Bulletin*,) who was lately a prisoner on board the steamer South Carolina, lying in the gulf, to state that Capt. Alden, the United States naval officer in command of that vessel, declared unequivocally to him, our informant, that if the war now carried on against the South, were a war upon slavery, he, Capt. Alden, would immediately resign his commission, and that every officer on board his ship would follow his example!

☞ The prisoners captured by the Federals in Missouri, were expected to arrive at St. Louis on the 23d. Among the list are Col. Magoffin, brother of the Governor of Kentucky, Col. Price, who had been with Price in all his battles, Lieut.-Col. Robinson, and Maj. Harris. The tobacco warehouse and Dr. McDowell's college, were prepared for their reception.

☞ We have received a communication from Madison county, signed "A Farmer," in reply to our late articles on the Cotton Planters' Association. We would merely say to this correspondent that whenever he learns to couch his thoughts in language that is respectful, we may consider the propriety of giving publication to his effusions.

☞ The Missouri *Democrat* suggests to Gen. Halleck that he employ the prisoners recently captured, in repairing the railroads in Missouri. Is it forgotten that there is such a thing as retaliation?

☞ Thornton Grimsley, a well known citizen of St. Louis, died very suddenly on Saturday morning last.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.—A northern paper gives the following account of the battle of Alleghany Mountain, in Western Virginia:

The affair at Cheat Mountain resolves itself into this: that the rebels, before stationed at Greenbrier, having withdrawn to winter quarters at the summit of the Alleghany mountains, on the road to Staunton, Gen. Milroy moved out and attacked them with 1800 men, and drove them headlong to the other side, so that now there is said to be no rebel force within thirty or forty miles of Cheat mountain. This achievement becomes all the more brilliant when we remember that the snow is from eight inches to knee deep in that quarter, and that the rebels supposed they had made their position all the more impregnable by destroying bridges, blockading the roads, and commanding all the approaches with their cannon.

BLOOD-THIRSTY.—The St. Louis *Democrat* is fiendish in its desires, as will be seen by the following extract from its only editorial on the 23d:

We take it for granted that the North Missouri railroad bridge-burners will be arrested as speedily as practicable, and it will be an act of mercy to the balance of the State if they are tried by a military court, as soon as arrested, and if found guilty, strung up as soon after conviction as decency will permit. "Hang 'em" as the Confederates hanged the men who sought to do their country a service by delaying the transportation of troops to beat back the Federal army. Hang 'em as the Union men in the South have been hanged for offenses that in a civilized community men would be ashamed to punish at all. Hang 'em in the name of the victims of the Platte river bridge disaster. Hang 'em as an example to the incendiary wretches who, even as we write, may be with torch in hand trying to burn a bridge on the Pacific or Iron Mountain, or Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad. Hang 'em as an example to the infernal scoundrels who shoot at innocent women and children from behind woodpiles as the railroad train rushes by in the darkness of night. Hang 'em quickly and hang 'em high.

Let us see now whether fear will effect the craven heart of the assassin and bridge-burner. Further trifling with these wretches is an insult to common sense and a disgrace to the nineteenth century. Seeing there is no other way, let us try the rope argument.

Telegraphic News.

The Mason-Slidell Affair.

NEW ORLEANS, December 27.—The Baltimore Clipper, of the 24th, says it is asserted in Washington that the difficulty with England, growing out of the Mason and Slidell arrest, will be peaceably adjusted in a few days.

PER CONTRA.—A gentleman who has just reached Richmond from Washington announces, in official quarters, that Lord Lyons had made a demand for the restitution of Mason and Slidell on Monday, Dec. 23, and that the Lincoln government positively refused to restore them.

Arrival of Gen. Scott.

Gen. Scott has returned to New York. He was a passenger in the Arago.

Later—Arrival of the Persia.

The Steamer Persia has arrived at Cape Race, bringing Liverpool dates to the 16th. No markets reported.

Death of Prince Albert.

Prince Albert died suddenly, on the 15th, of gastric fever.

Warning to the British Commercial Marine.

A few vessels of the British merchant marine had been warned by the government that a war with the United States was imminent.

The editor of the Petersburg *Express* says that passengers from Norfolk report another arrival from Europe. A flag of truce reached Norfolk to-day. The death of Prince Albert is announced, but no particulars are given.

England Preparing for Hostilities.

Warlike preparations continue in England, and the English ship owners have dispatched an agent to this country, with orders to hurry home all British bottoms immediately.

Feeling in France.

There is said to be no sympathy whatever in France for the United States. If a war with England ensues, France will certainly take sides with England.

British Troops for Canada.

The Persia and Australia passed Cape Race, freighted with troops and munitions of war for Canada.

A Distinguished Citizen Deceased.

Hon. Francis E. Rives, of Petersburg, died to-day.

Latest Northern Speculations.

A special to the Delta, dated December 27th, says that northern papers were received as late as the 25th. They do not indicate what the precise course of the Federal government, in relation to the Confederate commissioners, will be, but the general opinion appears to be that they will be surrendered. Fears are entertained that should the Federal government surrender the commissioners, with an apology, England will insist that the blockade is inefficient, and illegal.

French Views of the Imbroglio.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Times says there is a universal feeling in France against the United States. In case of war between the North and England, France will inevitably join the South. La Patrie says that the act of Com. Wilkes was a gross outrage, which, if approved by the Federal government, will show that they are insane; that France will join England in recognizing the Southern Confederacy, chastising the North, and re-establishing trade with the South. The Press takes sides with the South. The Debats says Wilkes' act was useless and impolitic.

Seward's Policy Predicted.

The Constitutionel declares that Seward intends to provoke a war with England, with a view of relinquishing the present war, and seizing Canada to compensate for the territorial loss in the South.

Finances in New York.

The decrease of specie in the New York banks last week, was twenty-six millions. There has been no agreement concluded as yet between Chase and the bankers.

From the Southern Atlantic Coast.

The Charleston Mercury of this morning says that the enemy's gunboats exchanged a few shots with the Coles' Island battery yesterday.

Dispatches state that a fleet of twelve gunboats passed up to White Point, and made a demonstration against Gen. Evans' position. Reinforcements have gone to the latter, and a fight there is considered imminent. Demonstrations have been made at other points in North Carolinia, when one of our batteries disabled a gunboat on Tuesday.

Five steamers anchored off Coles' Island last night, and a battle is expected to-day.

The Blockade Ineffectual.

AUGUSTA, December 27.—It is reported here that the Gladiator has arrived at a Confederate port, loaded with a large amount of arms and ammunition.

The schooner Prince of Wales was chased ashore by the Lincolnites, near Georgetown, and burned by the captain.

Death of Gen. Cocke.

RICHMOND December 27.—Phillip St. George Cocke, brigadier-general in the Confederate army, accidentally or designedly killed himself at his residence in Powhatan county, yesterday. He was a wealthy and public-spirited gentleman, and a brave and accomplished officer.

The Blockade Ineffectual Again.

MOBILE, December 27.—The schooner Break-o'-Day, from Havana, ran the blockade this morning, loaded with coffee, brimstone and sundries. She was unsuccessfully pursued by a blockading vessel until the guns of Fort Morgan opened upon the pursuer.

Federal Reports from Kentucky.

NASHVILLE, December 27.—A dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial, from Frankfort, dated the 19th, contains advices from Somerset, Ky., which state that on the day previous, at daylight, Gen. Shoepff with all his force marched out to attack the rebels under Zollicoffer, who was in position on Fishing Creek, with six thousand men and some artillery.

Shoepff's force consists of two East Tennessee regiments, Hoskins' 17th Kentucky, the 31st, 35th and 38th Ohio regiments, and Standart's Ohio and Hewitt's Kentucky batteries, consisting of ten guns. Gen. Shoepff was confident of defeating Zollicoffer, and had a hope of capturing most of his men. The battle took place yesterday or to-day (?).

From Missouri.

The St. Louis Republican, of the 20th, says: Gen. Halleck this morning received a dispatch from Gen. Pope, stating that after a forced march he had captured one hundred and fifty, out of some fifteen hundred rebels, recruited at Lexington, together with their baggage and camp equipage.

Prentice Gagged.

The Louisville Courier, of to-day, states that the Federal authorities have notified the publishers of the Louisville Journal that a change in its political course will be necessary to secure a continuance of its publication.

Later From Port Royal.

NEW YORK, December 21.—The steamship Daniel Webster, from Port Royal on the evening of the 17th inst., reports that sixteen vessels of the stone fleet sailed that day for Charleston, under escort of three gunboats.

A portion of the stone fleet for Savannah, returned to Hilton Head, minus five vessels, beached near Tybee.

The Unadilla and another had gone to reconnoitre the shores of Edisto Island, and the mouth of the South Edisto river.

No advance had been made by Gen. Steven's brigade into the interior.

Flag Officer Bell sailed to-day on the Champion, for the Pacific squadron.

From Tybee.

A stiff wind prevailed all day yesterday, and the sea ran high, consequently the Federals could do nothing in the way of landing troops on Tybee Island. The Federal ship reported ashore in the north breaker is still there, and appears to be settling down. The probability is she will be a total loss.

Several of our scouts went out on the island on Sunday night, and brought off two fine wild hogs. They saw no Federals, and if there were any on the island, they must have been in the vicinity of the big light.

We learn that on Sunday night, about sunset, a man named William Barr, a member of the Irish volunteers, who was corporal of the guard, approached a sentinel and told him that he intended to go out and procure some oysters. Barr took a boat and left the shore. After he was beyond the range of the sentinel's gun, he changed his course and went towards the Federal fleet. As Barr has not returned, the impression is that he has deserted to the enemy.

We regret the circumstances, not only on account of information which the deserter may carry to the enemy, but because his treachery will be a source of deep mortification to the Irish volunteers, one of the most efficient and gallant corps in the service.—*Savannah News, Dec. 24th.*

GENERAL SCOTT'S LETTER ON THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.

MY DEAR SIR: You were right in doubting the declaration imputed to me, to-wit: that the Cabinet at Washington had given orders to seize Messrs. Mason and Slidell even under a neutral flag; for I was not even aware that the government had had that point under consideration. At the time of my leaving New York it was not known that the San Jacinto had returned to the American seas; and it was generally supposed those persons had escaped to Cuba for the purpose of re-embarking in the Nashville, in pursuit of which vessel the James Adger and other cruisers had been despatched.

I think I can satisfy you in a few words that you have no serious occasion to feel concerned about our relations with England, if, as her rulers profess, she has no disposition to encourage the dissensions in America.

In the first place it is almost superfluous to say to you that every instinct of prudence as well as of good neighborhood prompts our government to regard no honorable sacrifice too great for the preservation of the friendship of Great Britain. This must be obvious to all the world. At no period of our history has her friendship been of more importance to our people—at no period has our government been in a condition to make greater concessions to preserve it. The two nations are united by interests and sympathies—commercial, social, political and religious—almost as the two arms to one body, and no one is so ignorant as not to know that what harms one must harm the other in a corresponding degree.

I am persuaded that the British government can entertain no doubt upon this subject; and if it does I feel that I might take it upon myself to say that the President of the United States when made aware of its existence, will loose no opportunity of dispelling it.

Nor is there anything, I venture to affirm in the seizure of these rebel emassaries which ought to receive an unfriendly construction from England. Her statesmen will not question the legal right of an American vessel of war to search any commercial vessel suspected of transporting contraband of war; that right has never been surrendered by England; it was even guaranteed to her by the treaty of Paris, and British guns trowning down nearly every strait and inland sea upon the globe, are conclusive evidence that she regards this right as one, the efficacy of which may be not yet entirely extinguished. Of course there is much that is irritating and vexatious in the exercise of this right under the most favorable circumstances, and it is to be hoped the day is not far distant when the maritime States of the world will agree in placing neutral commerce beyond the reach of such vexations.

The United States government has been striving to this end for more than fifty years; to this end, early in the present century and in its infancy as a nation, it embarked in a war with the greatest naval power in the world; and it is even now a persistent suitor at every maritime court in Europe for a more liberal recognition of the rights of neutrals than any of the other great maritime nations have yet been disposed to make. But till those rights are secured by proper international guarantees, upon a comprehensive and enduring basis, of course England cannot complain of an act for which, in all its material bearings, her own naval history affords such numerous precedents.

Whether the captives from the Trent were contraband of war or not, is a question which the two governments can have no serious difficulty in agreeing upon. If Mr. Seward cannot satisfy Earl Russell that they were, I have no doubt Earl Russell will be able to satisfy Mr. Seward that they were not. If they were, as all authorities concur in admitting, agents of the rebellion, it will be difficult to satisfy impartial minds that they were any less contraband than a file of rebel soldiers or a battery of hostile cannon.

But even should there be a difference of opinion upon this point, it is very clear that our government had sufficient grounds for presuming itself in the right to escape the suspicion of having wantonly violated the relations of amity which the two countries profess a desire to preserve and cultivate.

The pretence that we ought to have taken the Trent into port, and had her condemned by a prize court, in order to justify our seizure of four of her passengers, furnishes a very narrow basis on which to fix a serious controversy between two great nations. Stated in other words, an offense would have been less if it had been greater. The wrong done to the British flag would have been mitigated, if, instead of seizing four rebels, we had seized the ship, detained all her passengers for weeks, and confiscated her cargo. I am not surprised that Capt. Wilkes took a different view of his duty, and of what was due to the friendly relations which subsisted between the two governments. The renowned common sense of the English people, I believe, will approve of his effort to make the discharge of a very unpleasant duty as little vexatious as possible to all innocent parties.

If, under these circumstances, England should deem it her duty, in the interest of civilization, to insist upon the restoration of the men taken from under the protection of her flag, it will be from a conviction, without doubt, that the law of nations in regard to the rights of neutrals, which she has taken a leading part in establishing, requires revision, and with a suitable disposition on her part to establish these rights upon a just, humane, and philosophic basis. Indeed, I am happy to see an intimation in one of the leading metropolitan journals which goes far to justify this inference. Referring to the decision of the English admiralty courts now quoted in defense of the seizure of the American rebels on board the Trent, the London *Times* of the 28th of November says:

"So far as the authorities go, the testimony of international law writers is all one way: that a belligerent war cruiser has the right to stop and visit and search any merchant ship upon the high seas. * * * But it must be remembered that these decisions were given under circumstances very different from those which now occur. Steamers in those days did not exist, and mail vessels, carrying letters wherein all the nations of the world have immediate interest, were unknown. We were fighting for existence, and we did in those days what we should neither do nor allow others to do, nor expect ourselves to be allowed to do in these days."

If England, as we are here encouraged to hope, is disposed to do her part in stripping war of half its honors by accepting the policy long and persistently urged upon her by our government, and commended by every principle of justice and humanity, she will find no ground, in the visit of the Trent, for controversy with our government. I am sure the President and people of the United States would be but too happy to let these men go free, unnatural and unpardonable as their offenses have been, if by it they could emancipate the commerce of the world. Greatly as it would be to our disadvantage at this present crisis to surrender any of those maritime privileges of belligerents which are sanctioned by the laws of nations, I feel that I take no responsibility in saying that the United States will be faithful to her traditional policy upon this subject, and to the spirit of her political institutions.

On the other hand, should England be unprepared to make a corresponding sacrifice; should she feel that she could not yet afford to surrender the advantages which the present maritime code gives to a dominant naval power, of course she will not put herself in a false position by asking us to do it. In either case, therefore, I do not see how the friendly relations of the two governments are in any immediate danger of being disturbed.

That the over prompt recognition, as belligerents, of a body of men, however large, so long as they constituted a manifest authority of the nation, wounded the feelings of many countrymen deeply, I will not affect to deny. For his act, with some of its logical consequences which have already occurred, the breasts of many the sincerest friends England in England wish them evil. But, the statesmen to whom the existing under the [illegible] of these two great peoples [illegible] 1862, by mutual concession higher responsibilities and [illegible] and wisdom may rest assured that [illegible] disastrous as a war between [illegible] America, cannot occur without [illegible] graver provocation than has [illegible] either nation.

SOLUTION [illegible] OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

PARIS, December [illegible] day of January last [illegible] treated with [illegible] contempt.

To ——, Editor. [illegible]

—— and Richmond Dispatch.

The Confederate [illegible] Missouri.

We take the following [illegible] Democrat's special dispatch [illegible]

OTTERVILLE, MO., [illegible] I learned yesterday that among [illegible] taken by Gen. Pope last Thursday [illegible] Col. Magoffin, of Georgetown [illegible] two weeks ago, Col. Magoffin sent word [illegible] the commanding officer that his wife was dangerously ill, and begged to be permitted to see her ere she died. He was informed that if he would give his parole as a prisoner of war, his request would be granted. He did so, and went home, and the next [illegible] that was heard of him was that he commanded the whole force which defended the bridge that Col. Davis carried by assault, and that he fled with his party, and was not taken until some time after the rest of the rebel force had surrendered, and in consequence of the darkness of the night, he was not recognized until the next day. It seems that Col. Magoffin, having visited his home and arranged his affairs, sent a messenger recalling his parole, but instead of surrendering himself as officers usually do, he left, and before his messenger reached Sedalia, was in the rebel army; and when the fight came on, feeling that he deserved, and would probably receive, different treatment from those who had not forfeited all right to be treated as prisoners of war, fought desperately but unavailingly.

Gen. Pope refused to accept his parole, and ordered him to be placed in confinement until Gen. Halleck decided what disposition to make of him. He is one of the most desperate and unscrupulous of the marauders in this section, and it is to be hoped that he will receive the punishment his crime and forfeiture of his parole deserve.

YANKEE VESSELS IN WARSAW SOUND.—It was reported yesterday afternoon that three of the enemy's vessels made their appearance in Warsaw Sound yesterday morning, and that in the evening two of them remained at anchor off Skidaway, in sight of our batteries.—*Savannah Republican, 24th.*

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

From the St. Louis Democrat, December 23.]

SEDALIA, December 21.—General Pope arrived yesterday, his troops under Generals Steel and Davis, to-day. They left here Sunday. The main body passed through Hall's Store, Chilhowee Warrensburg and Knob Noster, but the cavalry scoured the country very widely in different directions. Two squads visited Clinton, spreading terror among the rebels, taking some prisoners and getting information in regard to Price, his whereabouts and fears.

Monday, twenty-one miles were made before four o'clock, P. M., and the forces bivouacked on the Clinton road, a few miles south of Chilhowee. Several rebels were surprised and captured on the ground and thus communicated with those Gen. Pope intended to cut off, and they went flying toward Rose Hill. A fine array of cavalry and a section of artillery under Lieutenant-Colonel Brown were sent in pursuit, but the enemy passed through the town a few hours before their arrival.

After some spirited chases they retreated, having approached nearer Price's main force than their instructions permitted, leaving the enemy the other side of Grande river and bringing in a handsome complement of prisoners.

Capt. Foster, fourth Ohio cavalry, advanced with his company to Johnstown and took sixteen rebels, among them the notorious Captain McGowan.

Meantime Gen. Pope reached Warrensburg, gathered up his scouting parties and attended to the malcontents of the town. On the 19th he advanced towards Sedalia. So far, considerable terror had been produced among the secessionists and some one hundred and fifty of them were captured, together with some wagons, arms and horses, but the great objects of the expedition seemed likely to be unattained. The weather had been pleasant, nature had opened and closed each day with glorious sun-risings and settings, and each night had manifed the sleeping prairies in gorgeous moonlight. The marches of the infantry, with the exception of that on Monday, had been long; the men were in excellent condition, but wanted the moral stimulus of meeting the enemy and making him theirs. Not long, however.

About the middle of the afternoon, before going into camp on Clear creek, near Knob Noster, cavalry to the number of about four hundred, made up from companies B, C and D, fourth regiment regulars, Lieuts. Emery and Gorden, and from the first Iowa, Major Torrence, under Gen. Davis, were ordered down the creek in pursuit of a crowd of rebels, said to be encamped a few miles below, and reported to number twelve hundred.

Gen. Pope also sent orders for Merrill's Horse to advance upon them from Warrensburg, but the different regiments had hardly pitched their tents before a messenger arrived announcing that Gen. Davis had surrounded the entire force, and that firing had commenced. At once a squad of cavalry and two pieces from one of the batteries, under Capt. Paddock, Gen. Steele's adjutant, were sent forward. The camp was all astir. Every one wanted to volunteer. Lieut.-Col. Kennett, twenty-seventh Ohio, offered to accompany the artillery with his infantry. Col. Thayer, of the first Nobraska, and Majors Butler and Noyes, of Gen. Pope's staff, did go as volunteers. Before any one came up, however, Gen. Davis had driven in the pickets of the enemy, penetrated his camp, and forced him to surrender.

The rebels were commanded by Colonel Robinson and Alexander, and had taken a strong position in a bend of the river, with the stream on one side and timber on the other. Their advance pickets were stationed between one and two miles from their camp. They fired upon our men, wounding one, but were driven in. Their next pickets, numbering from forty to sixty, guarded a bridge, but fled before the fire of the regulars under Lieutenants Emery and Gordon. A portion of their men deployed as skirmishers found the enemy formed in line. The firing was short and sharp. A white flag was sent to Gen. Davis, asking thirty minutes delay. He returned it, allowing only time for unconditional surrender. Immediately they marched out and laid down their arms. They were so concealed behind timber that but one of them was killed. None of our men were killed; ten were wounded.

Before midnight Gen. Davis arrived with his trains in camp. All was excitement. Lieutenant Colonel Kennett, twenty-seventh Ohio, with his regiment and a large detail from others, were ordered to take charge of the prisoners for the night. Soon their fifty-nine baggage wagons were unloaded, their tents were up and there was a rebel camp in our view—a novel and amusing sight to our soldiers. Their tents, rude as most of them were, did not cover them, and many laid down with only a blanket to shield them from the bitter frost of the night. Few had the Confederate uniforms. Most of their clothes and blankets were of home manufacture. Among their stores were flour, hams, butter, apple-butter, cheese, preserves, dried apples, whisky, etc., etc.

Some were well dressed and had brought abundant supplies from home. No doubt fond mothers, wives, and sisters had done much to contribute to their outfit. What criminal infatuation! Most of the wagons were from the farm, a few were regular United States army wagons. The horses and mules captured numbered perhaps three hundred—some of them of the finest quality. The number of revolvers, swords, and guns taken, is not yet exactly known. Our exact count of the prisoners is said to make them nine hundred and five. Having no muster rolls, they have no means of knowing their own number. Every courtesy was tendered the officers, and great effort was made to render the privates as comfortable as circumstances would admit.

This expedition has shown that our forces can so move as to surprise even our argus-eyed enemy, and has had excellent effect upon the men.

Some writer from this point, I notice, has greatly over-stated the rebel force in this vicinity, and misrepresented our troops here by exaggerating them with inactivity. Previous to this last expedition, two of infantry and one of cavalry, in considerable force, to say nothing of the many scouting parties, had been sent out by General Steele, each bringing in more or less prisoners. No difficulties deter the general in his endeavors to understand exactly the movements of the enemy in this region. And it would not be surprising if he could tell the exact location of Price's headquarters better than many who boast their wisdom in these affairs. ALONG.

HALE AGAINST LINCOLN.

Hale, the notorious abolition Senator from New Hampshire, has evidently been disappointed in his expectations of favors from the Federal administration. On the 16th he made a speech in the Senate, in which the following scathing paragraph occurred:

You may gain your victories on the sea; you may sweep the enemy from the broad ocean and all its arms and rivers, until you can hoist, as the Dutch admiral did, a broom at your masthead, to indicate that you have swept the ocean, and you may crush every rebel who is arrayed against you, and utterly break their power; and when you have done all that, and when you have established a military power, such as the earth never saw, and a naval power such as England never aspired to be; and if constitutional liberty shall be buried among the ashes of the conflagration in which you have destroyed your foes, then you have got a barren victory, and in all your glory you have achieved everlasting shame. I want to strengthen the arms of the government, and I do not want to call them to account beyond what I feel it my imperative duty to do, but I want that vigilance and that power which is to be put forth to be stretched across the Potomac south instead of north. The honorable Senator from Massachusetts says he believes that these arrests have done more to secure the liberties of the country than all the army have done.

Well, if we can stand here two months from to-day—and God knows whether we shall be in the land of the living or not—and the remark of the Senator from Massachusetts be as true then as it is now, you will find an army against you compared to which the army on the other side of the Potomac is nothing. I don't believe the administration of this government understands the character of the issue in which we are engaged. I venture to predict, though I am not a prophet, that this people, who are pouring out their blood and treasure with a heartiness and willingness that no other people on the face of God's earth ever did, if they shall find in the future that they have been terrified with, and that imbecility and indisposition stood in the place of courage and manly energy and perseverance in the serious, vigorous, energetic, prosecution of this war, then there will be such a storm come upon your heads as history has never yet recorded. And it don't want a very great degree of faith to hear the distant rumblings of that thunder storm which will overwhelm this administration and this party in power, if they do not see the things that belong to the day and the hour before they are hidden from their eyes. I care as little as any man for any comments upon the poor speeches I make.

From Washington—Federal Reports.

WASHINGTON, December 22.—The victory at Drainsville on the part of our troops is brilliant, especially as they had never been in any action. Letters found on the dead bodies of the rebels show the intense hostility of the South to the North.

One said it was impossible for the Federals to remain much longer on the Potomac.

The effect of the news from England, and the pressure of Congress will compel McClellan to advance, and in such event a victory by the Confederates is certain.

Special Dispatch of the New York Times.]

WASHINGTON, December 22.—Notes have passed between Lord Lyons and Secretary Seward about the Trent affair.

Railroad Bridges Destroyed—Track Torn Up.

ST. CHARLES, MO., December 21.—A party of about 300 rebels burned a bridge on the North Missouri railroad last night, destroyed about a mile of the track, and tore down the telegraph line for some distance. Four other bridges are reported to have been burned between Warrenton and Hudson, and several miles of track destroyed, but the report needs confirmation.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—The promotions and appointments in the army of the United States made by the President since the publication of General Orders No. [illegible] of August 17th, have just been officially promulgated. From this pamphlet it appears there have been 215 promotions and 650 appointments, of all kinds, in addition to the 60 brigadier-generals of volunteers, the whole number of these being 110. Among the declinations is Jas. Shields, of California, to be a brigadier-general. The appointments as aide-de-camp to General McClellan, number 32. Thirty-one officers have been honorably retired under the law upon that subject.

Last Monday there were thirty-seven resignations of volunteer officers in the army of the Potomac, and on Wednesday twenty-four; or about seventy-five during the week. A few of these resignations were to take higher appointments in other regiments.

If any correspondence has taken place between Lord Lyons and Secretary Seward, it has been of an informal and confidential character, as no official communications have passed between them with reference to the Trent affair.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.]

WASHINGTON, December 21.—Large numbers of our volunteer troops, some suffering severely from sickness, and others disabled for life by wounds, are leaving this city and returning to their respective homes, to recuperate, having long furloughs for that purpose. Others have obtained an honorable discharge from the service.

It is generally believed here that Congress on Monday will take a recess until after the 5th of January.

Special Dispatch to the New York Herald.]

The President in his special message communicated to the Senate yesterday, referred the whole subject of the tripartite expedition to Mexico, and asked the Senate to advise him what course to pursue.

Special Dispatch to the New York Times.]

Ex-Minister Jones, of Iowa, has been arrested on a charge of writing letters from Bogota to Jeff. Davis, proffering the utmost anxiety for the success of the disunion movement, and promising to join him on his return from New Granada.

Thomas Francis Meagher was to-day appointed a brigadier-general by the President; also Gen. Palmer, of Illinois.

Southern Intelligence via Northern Channels.

From the Louisville Journal, 21st.]

We had an interview yesterday with a gentleman who had just arrived from Tennessee. He set out from Murfreesboro on horseback, and made his way by way of Tompkinsville, Columbia, and Lebanon, to this city. His opportunities for observation while in Tennessee were excellent, and he made the most of his opportunities.

He spent several days recently at Bowling Green