The Free Press.

GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT,
Editors and Proprietors.

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The Release of the St. Albans Bank Robbers.

The case of the St. Albans raiders has reached a very sudden and unexpected result. On the assembling of the Court Tuesday afternoon, Judge Coursol announced his decision, on the question of want of jurisdiction raised by the prisoner's counsel, concurring in their view of the case, and in spite of the earnest protest of the counsel for the United States, ordering the discharge of the prisoners, not only on that particular charge, but on *all* the charges.

Warrants were then procured for their arrest, from another Court, but before they were served, the prisoners had made such good use of their liberty, that they were *not to be found!* The stolen money has been returned to them by the Chief of Police, and they were off with their booty.

We await fuller information of this most extraordinary proceeding, before undertaking to remark upon it. What justification there is for the course of Judge Coursol; why other warrants and the officers to execute them were not in readiness to effect an immediate arrest of the prisoners; why the Canadian officials, who have had the case wholly in their own hands throughout, have permitted such a *farce* as this to be enacted under the name of a judicial proceeding—are questions on everybody's lips, and demanding answers.

The Release of the Raiders.

Wednesday morning's Montreal *Gazette* says:

The town was taken by surprise yesterday afternoon by the news that the St. Albans' raiders had been discharged by the Judge of Sessions declaring that he had no jurisdiction, on the ground that the Imperial Statute passed to implement the treaty, was [illegible] only when [illegible] by proclamation of Her Majesty in the Privy Council. [illegible] a warrant of the Governor General to give jurisdiction to a magistrate—which [illegible] Such is [illegible] the Judge of Sessions. [illegible] whether it is [illegible] it is [illegible] that the prisoners are discharged [illegible]—a piece [illegible] the Judge of Sessions is right, [illegible]

The American [illegible] people may naturally feel irritation at the liberation of these men who wrought so much mischief at St. Albans, upon a mere form of law touching the jurisdiction of a magistrate.—Probably the law officers of the Crown will take the necessary steps to have another warrant made out, in due form, if they do not feel satisfied by what has transpired, that proceedings under the extradition treaty are not sufficient to meet this case; or, on the other hand, try if something cannot be done under the neutrality laws; i. e., if the birds have not by this flown, and made their way to parts unknown. But there were, we are been told, quite a number of American detectives in town yesterday; and it is to be presumed they would look after the discharged prisoners.

After the discharge of raiders, the Chief of Police, Lamothe, delivered up to them their money, upon their demand. Some proceedings took place in this matter in the City Council last night; and as the Chief is to be formally examined by the Police Committee to-day, we do not think it is right to make any comments upon his conduct. We hear it is not unlikely an action will be commenced against the city for the recovery of the money, between $86,000 and $7,000 in American currency, Mr. Lamothe being an agent of the city.

After the discharge of the prisoners was ordered there was cheering in the Court; but this must not be supposed to represent the feeling of the citizens of Montreal upon the event which had occurred. It was simply the ebullition of a few sympathisers who had gathered in the Court House.

Mr. Devlin stated in the Council last night that the Chief of Police declined to execute a new warrant for the rearrest of the prisoners, signed by a judge, before taking half an hour to deliberate.

Winter has come in *good* earnest. The thermometer at half-past seven Tuesday morning marked 10° below zero. Monday was [illegible] uncomfortable a day to be out in as we often have in the winter.

[illegible] much snow has fallen here yet, but elsewhere there has been a good deal. In New Jersey, Saturday, it was two feet deep on a level. In New York city enough fell to make good sleighing. In Albany six inches of snow fell and on the East side of the Green Mountains the fall was large. The storm extended down to Tennessee, two inches of snow being reported at Nashville.—Despatches from the army of the Potomac say the country is a sheet of ice, the rain having [illegible]

The Holiday Candies.—We are pleasantly reminded of the approach of Holiday time, by the reception of a box of delicious confectionery from W. J. Campbell's toy and confectionery store, on Bank Street.—This well known depot of juvenile supplies, is "chock full" of beautiful and curious toys, from a penny whistle, up to speaking doll, which is only one remove below a live baby, together with choice candies and confectionery in great variety and profusion, much of it of Campbell's own skilful and conscientious manufacture. It must be a difficult customer that cannot be suited at Campbell's.

Real Estate.—We learn that the old Baptist Church building, opposite the post office, has been purchased by Mr D. Murray, late of the firm of Perry & Murray, for $3,500.

The Defence of Nashville.—Medical Cadet E. D. Sargent, who left Nashville Dec. 4th, writes to Walton's *Journal* that our force there is between *sixty and seventy* thousand men, while Hood's army cannot exceed *forty thousand.* He says:

Between 500 and 600 wounded were received from the battle of Franklin, while our badly wounded and killed, with our heavy artillery, fell into the hands of the enemy.

The rebels have 37 pieces of light artillery, while we have several hundred pieces at Nashville. Our fortifications are being constantly improved. We have immense stores of provisions and supplies, and can hold the place indefinitely.

The Defences of Savannah.—H. M. Davidson, who was made prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga, and released in the late exchange at Savannah, writes to the Cincinnati *Commercial* concerning the river defences of Savannah, as follows:

"Our trip down the Savannah on truce-boats to our fleet showed us the rebel fortifications at Fort Jackson. The river at that point is lined with huge siege guns; from the boat, I counted thirty-six. They command the channel. The river is blockaded with heavy timbers laid up in the shape of a log house, the interior of which is filled with stone and brick, and these obstructions are all fastened to one another with heavy cable chain, leaving only one passage wide enough for a boat. Just above this entrance lie two iron-clads pretty well manned. Above these at intervals are torpedoes; their situation is known by the sharp-pointed projection of a log about six inches from the surface. At one place in particular, there are four of these logs, side by side; these all point down the river.

There was not a man to be seen at or near the fortifications. The guns seem to be mounted right on the bank, and then earthworks thrown up for the protection of the men. The magazines are built on the surface, and then dirt thrown up to cover them. At first sight, they would seem the spot to look for the guns; but the guns are ten feet below these earthworks.

Off from the river, half a mile or more before you reach Fort Jackson, is an extensive fort. Whether this is considered a part of Fort Jackson, I could not ascertain. It has been built for some time, for the weeds and sea-grass have grown so high that, unless one was looking for a fortification, he would not notice it. I should judge that this fort covers several acres, but where the black war dogs look over its earthworks, the grass and weeds are cut down.

Beauregard has spent many an hour in laying the foundation and getting the range of this point of the river.

These guns, together with the obstructions in the river, are well intended to crush anything that intends to come up. But for its protection from a land force from the direction of Savannah, it offers but little resistance.

Sherman, no doubt, will meet with but little difficulty, if this point be his aim. The swamps will impede his progress more than anything else.

The force at Savannah is very small, consisting of old men, little boys and crippled officers.

I see in some of the papers that it is expected that General Sherman will release a large number of prisoners, but that is a sad mistake. Long before Sherman's force gets to them, they will be moved off, and for the last three months that has been their chief business."

It is thirty days now since Sherman cut loose from Atlanta. To reach the Georgia seaboard, at almost any point, he would have to travel about three hundred miles—so that he can scarcely be considered as fairly one at "tide water."

The Case of Burleigh, the Lake Erie Pirate.—The *Recorder* at Toronto has decided to postpone the case of Burleigh, the Lake Erie pirate, in order that evidence may be procured from Richmond, which, it is alleged, will show that he was acting under a commission from the Confederate Government. This course of the Recorder is in marked contrast with that pursued in the case of the St. Albans raiders, where a similar application was denied by Justice Coursol.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

The *Commercial* is in error. Judge Coursol granted the St. Albans raiders the thirty days they asked for. The thirty days' delay so secured, has just expired, and the hearing re-opened in Montreal Tuesday. Hon. G. F. Edmunds, counsel for the United States, left for Montreal to attend to the case, Monday.

Here is a Teutonic soldier's speech on the Presidential canvass:

I goes for Olt Abe. Olt Abe he likes the soldier boy. Ven he serves tree years he gives him one hundred dollar, and re-enlists him, and make him von veteran. Now Olt Abe he serve four years—we re-enlist him four more years and make von *veteran of him.*"—*Ex.*

Mr Abbot of Windsor, in his remarks before the Union Campaign Club of Burlington, repeated a better speech than that, which was made by a little Frenchman, in one of the Vermont regiments. He was in the hospital at Montpelier, and was dragged by the democratic managers into one of the copperhead conventions there, they supposing him to be a McClellan man, and thinking it would be a fine card to have a copper speech from a Union soldier. Jean Baptiste after a good deal of urging, took the stand and spoke as follows:

"*Ma frens*, I no understand why you make me come up here, when I dont talking man, and ain't speak English pretty good no how. But you *will* have me say something, so I tell you what I think. Gentlemen, we have Old Abe for president mos' four years, and he got big job. Now he got the wheel turn half way over. He turn up half way—*worst* half too—Pretty hard work. Now you want elect McClellan, he just turn the wheel back again.

Oh, it no use you *scrape*. You make me come here, now you can't scrape me down. Gentlemen, we must elect Old A'e Line in once more. Den he turn the wheel clear over—make all come round right. *Dat's bes way.* Good bye, Gentlemen."

The disgust and discomfiture of the Democracy can be imagined.

Careless Writers.—The report of Postmaster Dennison shows an extraordinary amount of carelessness on the part of the letter-writing community. Three million five hundred and eight thousand three hundred and twenty-five dead letters were received during the past year—over nine thousand a day. Many of these letters contained money, deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, checks, jewelry and other valuables.—Some of them were misdirected, others not directed at all, others unstamped and others only partially directed. Thousands of these dead letters were returned to the writers; but the great majority had to be destroyed.

Of course, many letters fail of delivery through the removal of parties addressed;—but in nine cases out of ten when a letter fails it is the fault of the writer. Among the letters returned to the dead letter office, from the Post Office in this place, for the month of November, were letters addressed to the following places, not one of which has an existence:

Mackville, Vt.; Jamestown, do; East Grove, do; Brinksville, do; Permont, do; Longpoint, do; Palfire, do; Fall River, do; Easton, do; Dunmondville, do; South Rocket, do; Paris, do; Parkersville, do; Verhersen Poughternuke, do; Rulenton, do; Burniston, do; East Coonsby, do; Estenpends, do; Nord Egne, do; Texas, do. Mallford Centre, Gratton, Nabel, Casville, Woodworth, Benton, West Alfred, James' Falls, West Tanton, Richerson, Northam,

Curious Facts.—In the Navy Ordnance Report just published, it is stated that on the field of Gettysburg there were 27,574 guns picked up, and of these 24,000 were found to be loaded, and half of them were double loaded. One-fourth had from three to ten loads in, and many had five or six balls to one charge of powder. In some cases the powder was above the ball, in others the cartridges were not broken at the end, while in one musket 23 balls, 62 buckshot, and a quantity of powder were mixed up together. To avoid such mishaps as these, breech-loaders are recommended for the naval service.

By far the greater portion of the small arms picked up Gettysburgh must have been *rebel* guns. We believe the buckshot cartridges so common on the rebel side, are not issued by the U. S. Ordnance officers.

A baker in Keeseville, N. Y., offers to give 200 loaves of bread to the poor at his bakery every Saturday morning.

The 6th Corps, in which are the Vermont troops, passed through Washington on the 6th, and joined Grant's army on the 8th.

VERMONT ITEMS.

The St. Albans cavalry company had a supper last week Tuesday, at which Gen. Stannard made a short speech, and J. S. D. Taylor read a little poem on "Patrolling."

A fire at St. Johnsbury last week Wednesday in the blind shop of L. C. Morris, spread to and consumed Colby & Guy's planing mill adjoining. Loss about $7000, insurance $1000. If there had been water in the shop, or any one to help the man who discovered the fire, it might have been easily put out. It was the first fire in the place for two years.

John Duffy, a citizen of Underhill, about 60 years of age, was found dead about daylight, Tuesday morning, on the highway between Underhill Center and the Flats. He had evidently had a fit, and had fallen from his wagon.

The Middlebury *Register* says: Last week the Trustees of the Rutland & Burlington Railroad reduced the wages of the track-men from $1.50 to $1.25 per day. Consequently, they all left the road.

There was a fire in Rutland on Sunday, which consumed the brick store of B. & D. C. Billings. The Town Hall was several times on fire but was not burned. The loss is about $12,000, scarcely anything being saved from the building. Mr. Randal, architect, occupied the upper portion of the building, and lost drawings, plans and books, which no money can replace. How the fire originated, is not yet known.

A stone cutter named Sair, at West Rutland, lost an eye on Saturday, by a chip from the block he was cutting, which cut through the eyelid and buried itself completely in the eye.

Two barns belonging to Levi Wolcott of Shoreham, were burned Saturday morning, with 17 sheep, for which he had recently refused $3,400.

The first military company in Chittenden County, under the new law, was organized Monday in Huntington with H. M. Judson, Captain, Geo. P. Burnham, First Lieutenant and Geo. L. Williams, Second Lieutenant.

The Newport *News* is to be suspended for two months. The publisher is to be kept open, and the editor hopes at the end of the time named, that the *News* will again be [illegible]

New Publications.

The P[illegible] History of the United States during the Rebellion—extending from November 6, 1860, to July 4, 1864, by Hon Edward McPherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States. 418 pp., 8vo.

[illegible] Amnesty, Habeas Corpus, Confiscation, Emancipation, Exemption, and every phase of the Slavery question; the "Legal Tender," State Taxation, and other features of our Financial Legislation, with Tables of the National and Rebel Debt; the Military Legislation, and all the Propositions for the four years, in reference to the War, Peace and Reconstruction, with the votes thereon, in both the Union and Rebel Congresses—a record, of itself, worth the price of the book.

It also contains the names of the persons composing the Union and Rebel Administrations and Congresses, with the changes therein, and such of the Rebel Legislation, Judicial Rulings, Proclamations, Orders, and Items, as throw light upon the progress of events, together with a great amount of other valuable historical matter,—the whole made perfectly available by a copious and exact index.

Price $4 00, free by mail. DINSMOOR & CO., sole agents for New England, (to whom all orders should be addressed,) 17 Niles Block, 33 School Street, Boston. Canvassing Agents wanted.

Walton's Vermont Register, and Farmer's Almanac, for 1865. This standard publication, with its full tables of Vermont Statutes is out in good season, and for sale by all booksellers.

Our State Legislature.—We select the following from the notices of prominent members of the late Legislature, given in Deming's Legislative Compendium. The notices are from different pens:

Senator Eaglesby took part in most of the debates of the session. His real [illegible] as a speaker and his position as President *pro tempore* of the Senate enabled him to exercise a controlling influence in deciding points of importance. In debate he is direct and forcible, though not always clear, sharp or logical. He gains [illegible] by [illegible] of qualities desirable in a legislator, rather than by marked or noticeable traits. He accomplished much in forwarding the business of the session, and was prominent in every matter of importance brought before the Senate.

Mr. Stewart of Middlebury, had the rather desirable trait of making the House think as he thought. He was rarely positive at first as to what course it was best to pursue, but gradually worked along to a conclusion, and managed to get the House around at the same time to his view. If the House inclined to kill a bill in which he was interested, he did not object, but had a modification of the bill which obviated just the difficulty urged against it. It would take him some time to prepare the amendment, and so the House would obligingly lay the bill on the table. When it came up again, House and bill were on good terms. Mr. Stewart combines in a remarkable degree, sound theoretical views with practical suggestions. A reference to first principles does not prevent him from seeing facts also. His argument in favor of uniforming the militia is in point here. Its basis was purely philosophical in its character. It is safe to assert that no other debater in the House could have presented an argument covering the same ground in as compact a form.

Mr. Nicholson, of Wallingford said a great deal. His style of speaking is that of the popular harangue. There are few men who can surpass him in awakening sentiment in an audience not disposed to be critical. The vivacity, spirit, and energy of his oratory are very noticeable and often effective. The volatile temperament, good nature, heartiness and enthusiasm which produce his style of oratory are not often found in combination. Whenever they are found the popular voice always applauds. Such oratory meets with more favor before the people than in a deliberative assembly. The gentleman from Wallingford was a popular man, and did his full share toward shaping the business of the session.

Mr. Dorr of Rutland was a leading debater, and his generous, social nature made him a favorite with many. He presents a statement or argument clearly and sometimes with a degree of eloquence. He is inclined to mingle tropes, metaphors, figures and comparisons in rather a luxuriant way occasionally, but not so as to detract from the real excellence and solid worth of his oratory. His manner of speaking is easy, and generally pleasing. As Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he was active and influential in directing legislation.

Mr. Barlow, of St. Albans, was esteemed, in the House, as a methodical business man. He participated in important debates, not attempting oratory, but suggesting, in a conversational way, things which the House inclined to adopt. He was not specially noticeable as a speaker, but his influence in a Legislative body is somewhat greater than would appear to a casual observer.

Mr. Barstow, of Shelburne, addressed the House occasionally, and was always listened to with respect. His high tone, as a man, won for him many friends. He seemed to be a scholarly person, more at home with the pen in his hand, than when addressing an audience, and was esteemed one of those described by the saying, "reading maketh a full man."

Mr. Wheeler, of South Hero, gained a reputation for eloquence. His most noticeable peculiarity is a vein of poetic sentiment. Hence his oratory, while sometimes convincing, always gains admiration when he makes a serious effort. It has been suggested that few men are so well qualified by natural endowment to achieve success in magazine writing, as the gentleman from South Hero, and that his traits of character and style remind the reader of English literature of Prof. Wilson. On subjects with which he is not entirely familiar, he inclines to use a superfluity of words. His habits of composition, always extempore, whether jotting down his discourses in short-hand characters, or speaking from the impulse of the moment, tend to produce this result. He identified himself during the session with measures for paying bounties to veteran soldiers, and for [illegible] taxation so as to remove part of the burden from the farmers of the State. On those subjects in which his heart was engaged, he spoke with unwonted eloquence. He is capable of a high degree of enthusiasm, but has been thought to lack something of entertaining a profound [illegible]. In his most serious [illegible] there always lurks a smile.

Senator Smith, of Franklin county, presents an argument in clear logical order and it is always comprehensive. It usually embraces the arguments of others who speak to the same purpose. He has the skill and ability of a disciplined, logical mind, although not the native energy or ambition which render such abilities conspicuous. His abilities and personal worth render him a favorite among those who enjoy his friendship or acquaintance.

LAWS OF VERMONT, A. D. 1864.

Designated by the Secretary of State for Publication in all the Newspapers.

An act in amendment of Section eleven of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes, entitled, "of the support and removal of paupers, and the relief of the insane poor."

It is hereby enacted, &c.,

Sec. 1. Section eleven of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes shall read as follows:

Whenever an order of removal shall be made, as provided by Section four of this Chapter, a copy of such order, certified by the justices making the same to be a true copy, shall be served on the overseer of the poor of the town to which the pauper is ordered to be removed, within thirty days after the making of such order, unless such pauper shall be removed within that time; and the service of such order of removal shall be in the following manner:

The Justices of the Peace making the order, to the said certified copy of the same shall append a notice, as near as may be, in the following form:

State of Vermont, } To any sheriff or constable
County, ss. } in the State,
Greeting:

By the authority of the State of Vermont, you are hereby required to notify the overseer of the poor of the town of [illegible] in the county [illegible] that A. B. was ordered to remove from the town of [illegible] in the county [illegible] [illegible] day of [illegible] A. D. [illegible]

Dated at [illegible] in the county of [illegible] this [illegible] day of [illegible] A. D.
C. D. } Justices of the Peace.
E. F. }

And such copy of the order of removal, together with the said notice thereon, shall be served on an overseer of the poor of the town to which the pauper is ordered to be removed, as writs of summons are now by law required to be served.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

An act in addition to Section thirty-eight of chapter [illegible] of the General Statutes.

It is hereby enacted, &c.,

Sec. 1. "The Trustees of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane" are hereby authorized to [illegible] in addition to the sum of one dollar and [illegible] cents provided for in Section thirty-eight of Chapter twelve of the General Statutes, the sum of fifty cents per week from the first day of August, A. D. 1864, until the first day of August, A. D. 1865, on each insane person placed in said Asylum, in conformity with the laws of the State of Vermont, relating to the insane poor, transient insane, or insane criminals.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

An Act in addition to chapter eighty-three of the General Statutes, entitled "of assessment and collection of taxes."

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. The provisions of section thirty-nine of chapter eighty-three of the General Statutes shall be construed, and are hereby declared to extend to the several national banks which are, or may be hereafter organized in this State, and the several cashiers thereof are hereby required to transmit, to the clerks of the several towns, in which any stock or shareholder of such national bank may reside, a true list of the names of all such stock or shareholders, with the number of shares standing against the name of each stockholder, on the books of such national bank with the amount of money actually paid in on each share, on the first day of April in each year hereafter, as soon as may be after said first day of April, and on or before the twentieth day of the month of April in each year.

Approved, Nov. 21, 1864.

An Act to amend section thirty-four of chapter eighty-four of the General Statutes.

It is hereby enacted, &c.,

Sec. 1. That section thirty-four of chapter eighty-four of the General Statutes be amended so as to read as follows:

Whenever any person shall be delinquent in the payment of any tax legally assessed against him in this State, and shall not have known personal property in this state sufficient to satisfy such tax, the collector of such tax may in his own discretion and in his own name commence a trustee suit founded upon such tax against such delinquent person, and may summon any person as trustee of such delinquent person, and the same service upon the process shall be made, and the same proceedings and judgment had as is now provided by law in the case of trustee suits.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

An Act to amend chapter one hundred and nineteen of the General Statutes entitled "of offences against public policy."

It is hereby enacted, &c.,

Sec. 1. Section twenty-nine of chapter one hundred and nineteen of the general statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

If any person without due authority from this state or the United States, shall hereafter enlist, recruit, or employ, or attempt to enlist, recruit, or employ any person in this state for military service without this state, he shall be guilty of an offence against the laws of this state, and he shall be punished by a fine not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or both of said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

An Act in addition to chapter one hundred and twenty of the General Statutes entitled "Of general provisions concerning crimes and punishments."

It is hereby enacted, &c.,

Sec. 1. When any person shall be convicted of any crime punishable with death, and sentenced to suffer such punishment, he may at the same time, at the discretion of the court, be sentenced to solitary confinement in the state prison until such punishment shall be inflicted.

Sec. 2. When any person shall be sentenced to suffer the punishment of death, and the court do not sentence such person to solitary confinement in the state prison as provided in the preceding section of this act, the sentence of death shall be carried into execution within the county in which the conviction shall be had at such time as shall be designated by the court passing final sentence; and said court shall issue their warrant, under the seal of said court, directed to the sheriff of such county, commanding said sheriff to cause the said sentence of death to be carried into execution.

Sec. 3. When a sheriff shall inflict the punishment of death upon any convict in obedience to a warrant, as provided in the second section of this act, he shall return the original warrant with his doings thereon, to the court from which said warrant issued, and the clerk shall subjoin to the record of sentence a brief abstract of the sheriff's return upon said warrant.

Sec. 4. So much of section seven of chapter one hundred and twenty of the General Statutes inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

An Act defining offences against the Government and providing for their punishment.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. That if any person or persons owing allegiance to this State, shall levy war, or conspire to levy war, against the same, or shall adhere to the enemies of the State, giving them aid and comfort, within the State or elsewhere, and thereof be convicted before a County Court duly holden within and for any county within the State, either on confession in open court, or on the testimony of at least what is equivalent to two witnesses to the same overt act of treason of which he or they shall stand indicted, such person or persons shall be adjudged guilty of treason against this State, and shall suffer death by hanging by the neck until dead, which sentence of death shall be carried into execution within the county in which the conviction shall be had, at such time as shall be designated by the Court passing final sentence.

Sec. 2. That if any person or persons owing allegiance to this State, knowing of any such treason to have been committed, or knowing of the intent of any person or persons to commit any such treason, shall not within fourteen days from the time of having such knowledge, give information thereof to the then Governor of this State, to some one of the senate of the Supreme Court of Judicature, or to some Justice of the Peace, such person or persons, on conviction thereof before the County Court, shall be adjudged guilty of misprision of treason, and shall be confined to hard labor in the State Prison for a term not less than five years and not more than ten years, and be fined not exceeding two thousand dollars, or either of said punishments, in the discretion of the Court.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Nov. 21, 1864.

News of the War.

When the Donegal left to come down Broad River, on the evening of the 6th, shells were seen flying and exploding, which indicated that our forces were determined to drive the enemy out of any position they might take after being driven from the bridge. Foster's scouts had communicated with Sherman who was marching on Savannah. The belief was that Sherman would be in Savannah on Wednesday the 14th.

Pocotaligo bridge is about 35 miles from Savannah. This bridge having been destroyed, and Sherman having cut other railroad communication, Savannah cannot be relieved by re-enforcements from any point north.

A dispatch from the Army of the Potomac dated Dec. 10th, says:

The demonstration made yesterday toward Hatcher's Run by a division of the 2d corps and some cavalry, did not result in bringing on an engagement with the enemy, with the exception of a skirmish at the crossing of the Vaughan Road, and another in the direction near Armstrong House. No fighting of consequence took place, the rebels falling back as our troops advanced.

The object of the move was evidently to keep them from sending a force to intercept Warren and it is believed to have been successful.

Our loss in the affair was 125 killed and wounded.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon, the command was ordered to return, and to-night [illegible] are back in their old camps.

Nothing positive has yet been heard from Warren. There is a rumor that he had a fight at Jarrett's Station, on the Weldon Railroad, in which he gained a victory, and was pursuing the enemy.

The troops suffered much last night from the change of weather.

Yesterday afternoon a severe storm of hail rain and snow set in, freezing hard. This morning the entire country was covered with a sheet of ice. To-night it is raining and the roads are in a very bad condition.

It is believed that Gen. Warren will have no difficulty in reaching his destination, notwithstanding the weather.

A dispatch from City Point, dated Dec. 11, says: The latest news in the Richmond papers is that on the 7th Sherman was east of the Ogeechee River, 25 miles from Savannah, moving on that city. Sherman had marched his army on the 6th 18 miles.

The steamer Donegal arrived at Philadelphia, Monday, from the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, having left Port Royal on the 7th.

A joint naval and land expedition, under Dahlgren and Foster, proceeded from Beaufort up Broad River on Tuesday the 6th, the object being to destroy Pocotaligo bridge, on the railroad between Charleston and Savannah.

The Donegal accompanied the expedition to Tillifinney Creek, but did not accompany it further. There were seven gunboats in the expedition. Soon after reaching a proper position a heavy fire was opened by them. The force landed and an action commenced. Before evening Pocotaligo bridge was reached and destroyed. Our troops then entrenched for such future operations as might be needed.

The Donegal came down to Port Royal the same evening, but could not bring any details of the losses. Of the success of the grand object of the expedition, however, there can be no doubt.

The following despatch from Secretary Stanton is published, dated

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13—8 P. M.

To Maj Gen. Dix

The Richmond papers of yesterday report Gen. Sherman at Bloomingdale, 15 miles from Savannah, on Saturday. He is reported by this morning's Richmond papers, as will be seen by the following telegram from Gen. Grant, to be in line of battle but 5 miles from Savannah:

CITY POINT, Dec. 12.

Hon. E. M. Stanton:

Richmond papers of to-day contain the following. The *Despatch* says:

Sherman is near Savannah, probably not 5 miles distant, but has not yet made an attack. It is still doubtful whether he will do so or make for the canal south east of the city. It is very certain he has not yet opened communications with the coast though he may do so very soon.

A telegraph despatch received from below Charleston states that Sherman was in line of battle—it will not state where—confronted by a strong confederate force.

Another paper states there has been no direct communication with Savannah for several days, but we apprehend the wires have been cut between that place and Charleston.

U. S. GRANT.

The severity of the weather has prevented any important movements by either side at Nashville.

Nothing of importance is reported to day from the armies of the Potomac or of the Shenandoah.

A despatch from the Army of the Potomac, gives the following account of Gen. Warren's expedition down the Weldon road:

It was known that the rebel army were procuring large supplies for troops by way of the Weldon Railroad to Stony Creek, whence they were waggoned to Petersburgh. A cavalry force sent there ten days ago not being able effectually to stop rebel operations, the 5th corps with Gregg's cavalry, and the 3d division of 2d corps were detailed, and effectually put a stop to it by destroying the railroad as far south as Hicksford and if possible that station also.

At daylight Wednesday morning the column started south on the Jerusalem road, the cavalry taking the advance. On arriving at a point 19 miles from Petersburg, they diverged from the road about one mile to the right where they reached Nottoway river, and commenced crossing and bivouacked on the south side for the night.

Thursday morning pontoons were taken up and they started, leaving a cavalry detachment to pick up stragglers and return with them. On reaching 2 miles beyond Sussex Court House, some cavalry was encountered and driven back to where the Weldon Railroad crosses the Nottoway. About noon, a small force of the enemy made a dash between our cavalry and advance of infantry, but were soon routed with slight loss on both sides. Here cavalrymen were found murdered and stripped of everything even to boots.

The advance commenced the destruction of the Railroad by burning the bridge across the Nottoway and continued on to Jarrett's Station, bivouacking there Thursday night. Friday morning the cavalry started, and in the afternoon the advance reached a point near Hickford, where the enemy was found in force, and having a battery in position with strong works on both sides of the Meherrin river. After the position was examined an attack was deemed impracticable on account of the strength of the works and [illegible] to carry the line of works and [illegible], which was successfully done.

During this charge [illegible] 1st Maine Cavalry is said to have been [illegible] killed.—Troops were seen moving into position at this point, as though they had just arrived, and fire from rebel batteries soon after showed they had been reenforced.

It now got dark and began raining, snowing and freezing. The troops camped in the vicinity for the night, and in the morning started on their return, reaching [illegible] C. H. and halting there Saturday night. The rebel cavalry and a small body of their infantry followed and endeavored to annoy our rear guard, but each time they were driven back with loss. This afternoon Nottoway river was reached and the entire command crossed in safety, where they found a part of the 9th corps, who had started to their aid in case of an engagement. The most effective blow has been dealt to the enemy by the destruction of some 15 miles of railroad which was extensively used by [illegible] cars passing over it every day, loaded with supplies. The track was torn up and the ties piled in heaps with the rails from adjacent fences laid on top. The rails were placed on top and burned [illegible] into every shape. All the depots along the route were burned and numerous mills, barns and dwellings from which the occupants had fled, or from cover which guerrillas had fired on our troops. One guerrilla was caught with a gun near where a shot had just been fired, and it is said our troops hung him near Nottoway river. Our loss on the entire trip will not exceed 40 or 50 killed and wounded besides a few stragglers who were captured.

The severity of the weather was the principal difficulty that the troops had to encounter but as there was considerable work on the line of march and plenty of work for them to do, they managed to keep themselves from suffering severely.

Swallowing a Christian.—A friend has a little girl, who, we are assured, will make a strong-minded woman one of these days, so powerful is the [illegible]

Yesterday she was taken to the [illegible] "Well, [illegible]

[illegible]

The amount paid into the State treasury by the States attorney for this county, Charles P. Marsh, Esq., of this village, being the proceeds of his office, exceeds by more than one thousand dollars the income of the whole State beside. It is the result of a faithfulness to public trust and a fearless execution of the law rarely witnessed. The States attorneys throughout the State can learn something as to their profit from the manner in which the duties of the office are discharged in this county.—*Woodstock Standard.*

A Voice from Fort Lafayette.

Southerners are charged with having attempted to burn down hotels. This is only a scandalous invention of the abolitionists. Several hundred of us southerners lodge here and there has been no attempt to set the place on fire.

A SOUTHERNER.

Hotel Lafayette, 29th Nov.

Missing Government Bonds.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in his report, alludes to the mysterious disappearance from the loan branch of this office, in [illegible], of 100 bonds for $1,000 each, prepared for issue under the acts of July 17 and Aug. 5th, 1861, and numbered 34,201 to 34,300. As they had not been signed by the Register nor sealed, they cannot be negotiated. The coupons, however, were sealed and complete, and were made payable in July and January, but no one has yet appeared to claim payment.

Wood.—We have heard of large prices paid for wood; but the following is the steepest:

The Macon, Ga., *Telegraph* of Nov. 29th, says: "We noticed on the street, yesterday, a one-horse wagon, containing exactly a [illegible] pine wood, for which the modest sum of [illegible] was demanded."

Young, the Raider.—Walton's *Journal* says: "We learn that Young, the leader of the rebel robbers, now at Montreal, says several offers to escape have been made to him but that he declined, as he expected to be discharged [illegible]. If he is not discharged, he says Vermonters, now our prisoners, will be held as hostages. That is a game that two can play at."

Seasonable Precautions.—Examine carefully your fires and chimneys. Don't put ashes into wooden vessels. Don't allow your pumps and pitchers to freeze up these cold nights. Don't leave your clothes out over night. See that your doors and windows are securely fastened before you retire—especially if you are rich. On the same supposition, don't keep your latch-strings and your purse-strings drawn too tightly in the day time. Remember who it is that the good book says you have always with you.

Serenade for December.

Your Troubadour's toes are beginning to freeze,
Your Troubadour's nose is beginning to sneeze,
A violent cold does his singing mar,
As he chants to the tune of a light *catarrh.*

Important to Tax Payers.—The Act making provision for the support of Government approved Nov. 22, 1864, provides as follows:

"For all taxes assessed by virtue of this act, and paid to collectors of the same, before the first day of February next, there shall be allowed by the collector to the individual, or corporations making such payment, three per cent, on the amount paid, which allowance the treasurer shall credit to the collector on settlement of the tax; *provided* the collector pays the money so collected into the Treasury before the fifth day of February next."

Personal.—Charles S. Dana of St. Johnsbury, has been appointed collector of the second district in place of George A. Merrill, resigned.

Henry W. Scott of Bennington, has been offered a salary of $2500 a year to go to Brazil and superintend the erection of an enormous powder mill for that government, the total cost of which is to exceed $150,000.

Quartermaster-General Pitkin, of Vermont, is at Washington to procure fifteen thousand stands of arms and equipments for the Vermont militia.

News of the Week.

By Telegraph.

DISCHARGE OF THE ST. ALBANS RAIDERS.

THE JUDGE DECIDES that he has no jurisdiction of the case.

The stolen money returned to the robbers.

THEY DISAPPEAR WITH THEIR BOOTY.

From GEN. SHERMAN.

A BATTLE NEAR SAVANNAH.

Attack on the Rebel works.

Grand charge by the Union troops.

THE REBELS DOUBLED UP AND DRIVEN BACK TO THE CITY.

FEDERAL LOSS 2500.

REBEL LOSS THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND.

Communications with Gen. Foster opened.

Advance of our forces above Grahamsville.

Retreat of the Rebels.

(Special to the Free Press.)

MONTREAL, Dec. 13.

The Court at the re-opening was tolerably well filled with spectators, and the appearance of the prisoners much the same as that which they wore as when last they appeared here. At the commencement of the proceedings Mr. Kerr objected that the Court had no jurisdiction in this case. He denied [illegible] His Honor's right to sit there at all in this investigation. Mr. Devlin said that after being granted a delay of a month, they had now met to hear evidence for the defence and not to listen to a legal argument.

After a few words from the court and [illegible] Johnson, Q. C., Mr. Kerr was allowed to go into the argument as to the jurisdiction of the court in the premises. [illegible] the Court said this was a matter of more importance, involving his right of jurisdiction, and consequently the validity of these proceedings from the commencement. He would therefore take time to consider of it before proceeding further; and for that purpose the Court would now adjourn till 2 P. M.

MONTREAL, Dec. 13.

Judge Coursol, this afternoon, ordered the discharge of the prisoners, on the ground of want of jurisdiction. Mr. Devlin, for the U. S., in an impassioned speech implored his Honor not to order the discharge of the prisoners upon the remaining indictments, but in fairness and justice both to the counsel of the U. S. and for those of the private prosecutors, the bankers, to allow of a hearing. He contended that the prisoners could be discharged only on the one particular indictment, and the court owed it to the [illegible] to be heard on the others. Should it be said in an English court of Justice that the Judge having decided in favor of the prisoners in one case be immediately discharged them in six others?

What would be said outside?

The counsel for the defence themselves know that the course which the court had taken was unprecedented.

If it suited his Honor [illegible] six warrants, and yet he had but one warrant before him! He called solemnly on the court to hesitate.

He (Mr. Devlin) could not remain silent while 13 men charged with robbery and even murder were allowed to go at liberty without their several cases being investigated. Our good name for justice and fair play was at stake and though some amongst us might sympathize with the prisoners he had yet to learn that they set at naught the jewel, fair play. He again called upon the court to hesitate before discharging these men and give the counsel for the prosecution a chance of being heard, for here the most important interests of all were at stake, namely, international ones.

If the Court still persisted in doing this, then we must be prepared to take the consequences. No country had dealt fairer with England in extradition matters than had the States. Their judges combined to give effect to the extradition treaty. The judges of our Supreme Court had concurrent jurisdiction with his Honor, and had the counsel known of the probable course of his Honor they would have desired the court to allow their judges to have a seat on the bench along with him.

Mr. Devlin again for the last time besought his Honor to hesitate before it finally ordered the liberation of these prisoners.

The judge reiterated his decision that he possessed no jurisdiction in any of the cases, and ordered the immediate discharge of the prisoners.

Mr. [illegible] called the attention of the Court to the fact that there was no application for their discharge on the other charges, to which the Judge replied that he did not care, and the prisoners were at once released.

After their discharge, chief of police Lamothe without authority delivered up to them the $90,000 belonging to the banks, in his charge, and which he had agreed not to deliver without order of court.

It is understood the raiders started West.

MONTREAL, Dec. 14.

The pretext for the release of the raiders was a supposed muddle between the Imperial and Canadian Statutes on the subject of extradition which the best legal opinion says has no foundation.

Mr. Edmunds had not arrived, the train being detained by snow, and the whole performance in the shameful play was stamped with the most indecent haste, the Judge refusing even to hold the prisoners on the other cases—not then up, even for an hour, and the chief of police had the money already in court to give to the thieves, and did it instantly, although most of it was not taken from their possession. The crowd in the Court House cheered as the curtain fell upon the last end of the dreary play, and the heroic warriors at once departed and scattered, so that the fresh warrant for their arrest will probably prove to be useless, especially as the chief of police refused to execute the warrant or allow his men to do so. The safety of American life and property must now depend upon the American people themselves, and not upon Canadian police or police magistrates.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 12.

Official reports have just been received from Gen. Rousseau at Murfreesboro', concerning the recent fight.

The railroad south of that place is believed to be uninjured, as also the road between there and Orville Creek; five miles north of there, to Orville, it is destroyed. Block-houses Nos. 5 & 6 were abandoned by Col. Morrison's forces, the enemy having surrounded them; but they bravely fought their way out, and reached Murfreesboro', without loss.

On Sunday the 4th, the block-house at Orville Creek was attacked by Gen Bates' rebel division; 74 shots were fired at it—doing no damage, however.

The same afternoon three regiments, with a section of artillery, went from Murfreesboro', under Gen. Milroy, and attacked and routed the enemy. The federal loss was four killed and 40 wounded. Night coming on our forces withdrew to the fort.

On Monday last the enemy were reinforced by two brigades of infantry, and [illegible] cavalry, under Forrest in person. Tuesday and Wednesday the enemy demonstrated against the Fort at Murfreesboro' and the town coming up to within one mile of the fort, and skirmishing heavily.

On Wednesday the enemy's infantry moved around to Wilkinson's pike, about a mile and a quarter north west of the fort, near where Negley's command was formed at the battle of Stone river. Seven regiments and a battery were sent out [illegible] when they [illegible] the rebels near Wilkinson's pike entrenched behind breastworks of logs and rails. We attacked and utterly routed the rebels who were driven off in great confusion. Our loss in this engagement was 20 killed and 175 wounded. The enemy's largely exceeded ours.

In this fight we captured 207 prisoners including 18 commissioned officers. Two rifled guns and twelve Napoleons were captured and one is now in position on the fort.

Just previous to Gen. Milroy's attack of the rebels, Buford's division of cavalry attacked Murfreesboro and entered the town shelling it fiercely and destroying many houses. Rousseau with one regiment of infantry and artillery drove them out of the town.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.

The steamer Golden City arrived this morning with mails and passengers that left New York Nov. 14. Advices from Acapulco consider it probable that the French will evacuate that place, which is threatened by Cavalry.

Dec. 8.

The official vote of California without the soldiers' votes gives Lincoln 15,691 majority. This is a slight gain on last year though the total vote is less than last year.

Nevada's official Union majority is [illegible]. She elects the entire Union State and Legislative tickets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

The rebels at last dates estimated Sherman's force at 20,000 muskets, and say that a most enormous wagon train accompanied the army. Little resistance has been met with and all the terrific fighting which is chronicled in the Southern prints was evidently nothing more than mere skirmishing, but the rebels anticipated a heavy battle before Savannah was reached.

Fights between Kilpatrick and Wheeler on the 3d, 4th and 5th inst., are reported in two of which the rebels acknowledged that they were compelled to retire. In one of them they claim that Kilpatrick was wounded.

Richmond newspapers think Warren's destination is certainly Weldon, N. C., which is only about 60 miles from Petersburg. The lodgement of a small force of Federals on the north side of James river between Drury's Bluffs and the Howlett House is now admitted by the rebel press but they say that the number of men is too few to be of any account.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 12.

The rebel Gen. Lyon crossed the Cumberland river with his command day before yesterday at Yellow Creek 20 miles below Clarksville. His force is reported to be about 2,500 strong. When last heard from he was moving towards Hopkinsville, and threatening that place. If he attacks the garrison it will be compelled to fall back to a stronger position as it is small. Breckinridge's position seems to be in doubt. A loyal man says he is at Sparta, Tenn., with about ten thousand men. Facts indicate that Breckinridge intends to re-enforce Hood and if possible reach the main rebel army; but the position of the troops under Stoneman and Burbridge, indicates that he will have difficulty in forming a junction with Hood.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

Gold sold to-day at 234¼

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.

The *Tribune's* Washington dispatch says, Charleston papers of the 6th state that Sherman was at Station No. 6 on the 5th inst., 60 miles from Savannah.

The rebel papers now contradict the report that they stated that our forces had effected a lodgment on an important point between Drury and Howlet House batteries.

The *Tribune's* dispatch says that Thomas telegraphed to Washington on Saturday that nothing could move around Nashville without slipping up. The Government feels entire confidence not only in Sherman's movement, but in others also, now on foot.

It is felt that the country will rejoice over the news of more than one victory before the close of this week.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.

The Charleston *Mercury* of December 5 says: It is reported that hostilities had been resumed somewhere near Pocotaligo, on Sunday, between rebels and Foster's forces.

The Richmond *Despatch* of the 9th says: Information reached here yesterday that a force from Grant's army had struck the Petersburgh and Weldon Railroad at Jarrett's station, 32 miles south of Petersburg, and were proceeding towards Weldon. Up to this time of writing we have no official advices from this expedition. We learn from an unofficial source that a heavy column of the enemy, consisting of infantry, artillery and cavalry had left our front at Petersburgh, since when they were not heard from till yesterday morning.

This column of the enemy is said to consist mostly of infantry, from which it is inferred to be simply a raiding party, similar to that one which visited Stony Creek last week, and that it is not prepared for a protracted and extensive expedition.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.

About 25 rebels recently appeared on the river bank opposite Memphis, who waved their hats, hurrahing lustily for Jeff Davis. A force of 150 negroes was placed on board a steamer which moved a mile lower down the river. Here the negroes landed and when filed out on the shore, the rebels broke and ran apparently in the greatest consternation. They were hotly pursued by the negroes till they came to a thick bushy place where the rebels had a large force who suddenly rose and fired. The negroes then fled in confusion and were hotly pursued by the rebels, who slaughtered them dreadfully. One report says only seven returned, but another says more got back. Some rushed into the river and were drowned.

CAIRO, Dec. 10.

On the 9th the rebels under Lyon captured the Government steamer Thos. G. Tutt, at Cumberland city on the Cumberland river, 20 miles above Donelson. The Tutt was used for crossing the river. The rebels were on the march into Kentucky. Their force is estimated at 4000.

The Tutt was loaded with Government forage, and was burned to the water's edge after the rebels had crossed the river.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 11.

The *Republican's* Cairo despatch says:

Considerable excitement existed at Memphis on the 9th inst., over a report that Beauregard was marching on Fort Pillow, with a strong force.

No heavy guns are supposed to be used by the rebels to blockade the Cumberland river. Osceola has been occupied by a small force of rebels.

NEW YORK, Dec 14.

The *World's* Washington despatch has an account of a battle in front of Savannah on Saturday, the 10th, which he says comes direct from a loyal resident of Richmond.

He says 20,000 of Sherman's men at an early hour crossed the Ogeechee river below Bloomingdale, some 12 miles south of Savannah, and massing between that point and Telfair. The left wing extended so as to cut the Charleston and Savannah railroad.

Communication had been effected the previous day with Gen. Foster who was again rapidly advancing on Grahamsville, the enemy retreating from their strong positions south of Pocotaligo bridge. They were evidently alarmed at finding themselves threatened both in front and rear, by superior forces.

Gen. Sherman who was on the field found