...ad Federal Movement.

... Federal Exploit on Little River.

WASHINGTON, January 21.—Rear Admiral Lee, has forwarded to the Navy Department a report from Lieutenant Cushing, dated Comfort, N. C. Jan. 8th. detailing the particulars of a reconnoissance near Fort Caswell, on Little River, with only twenty-five men. While proceeding up the river, they were fired upon by the rebels from a bluff on the left bank. Landing and forming without firing a gun, they moved forward until they came in sight of a fort and camp fire, whereupon they made a bayonet charge, Lieut, Cushing judging that the enemy were ignorant of his force. The charge was successful. They captured the fort, our men going over one side as the rebels escaped on the other.

The fort was found to be an earthwork, surrounded by a ditch, with a blockhouse inside pierced for musketry.

Lieut Cushing learned that the fort had been held by a company of infantry, who left it in such haste that their stores, ammunition, clothing and a portion of their arms were captured. He distroyed all the property he could not bring away, and returned to Beaufort, with the loss of only one man, who was wounded. The officers and men of this expedition behaved nobly.

[Cor. New York Commercial Advertiser.]

It is no longer a secret to the enemy, that Gen. Foster, with a very large force, is proceeding on transports and by the overland rout to the attack upon Wilmington. The enemy is already aware that there is a large fleet of war vessels in Beaufort Harbor, and among these vessels are the Montauk and Passaic.

Wilmington (N C) is accessible by boats by two inlets, although it is probable that the inlet at the mouth of the Cape Fear River will be chosen instead of New Inlet, some distance above on the coast, as the latter at this season of the year is somewhat dangerous for vessels drawing over nine feet of Water. The defenses at the mouth of the Cape Fear River are Forts Caswell and Johnson. Both are well armed. Except sand batteries there are now no defenses to New Inlet.

That portion of the land force under Gen. Foster which has been embarked on transports will doubtles proceed to Masonboro Inlet, which is directly east of Wilmington, effect a landing, and march across to a flank attack upon that city. The other portion of the land force will probable pursue the same course as that taken by Gen. Foster in his recent movement on Goldsboro, and on reaching the railroad, moved down upon Wilmington, and at the same time engaged any rebel reinforcements that may be sent forward.

FROM REBEL SOURCES.

[From the Richmond Whig, 16th.]

Wilmington, N. C. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

All quiet here. It is believed that the fleet and land forces have left Newbern and Fort Macon. Their destination is, probably, Goldsboro and Wilmington, simultaneously. All non-combatants have been requested to leave town.

Raleigh Saturday, Jan. 15.

The *State Journal* has advices from Kinston of this date. Forty regiments of abolitionists left Newberr yesterday in the direction of Wilmington crossing Brice's Creek. A courier from Major Nethercutt reached Kinston this morning, and says the enemy, 6,000 to 10,000 strong, are advancing toward Kinston, concentrating at Cole Creek.

New York Dry Goods Market.

[From the N. Y. Economist, 17th.]

The whole domestic dry goods market has been very active and excited this week,, and the prices of cotton goods have taken a large per cent. advance than in any other weeks during the past twelve months. The cost of producing cotton goods is constantly increasing, by reason of the advancing values and scarcity of cotton, and with exceedingly light stocks on the market manufacturers are not at all disposed to sell unless goods will bring a fair valuation. Since the close of the last autumn's trade, prices of goods remained stationary until the last week of December, on account of the light wants of the jobbing trade, and as cotton kept advancing, goods were below cost of production. Now, with spring near at hand, goods are advancing nearer to their true value.

The retailers have not yet been in the market, but we advise them to begin to to purchase at once, and to purchase now all the staple goods that they will want for the spring trade. Prices must continue to advance, The Government must have funds immediately to pay off debts already due, and to provide for those constantly accruing, and the only way at present to raise funds seems to be by issuing paper money, which will advance gold and inflate the prices of merchandise.

BROWN SHEETING AND SHIRTINGS.—The market has been very active and excited the past week, and prices have advanced 3@5c ⅌ yard, and still are tending higher. Standard heavy sheetings closed this evening at 34c net cash; medium 34c; light 33c; heavy sheeting 27½; light 22c. It is ascertained that the stock of heavy sheetings, is not over 3,000 bales, and none are being made. On low grades there is a moderate production.

BLEACHED SHEETINGS AND SHIRTINGS.—Sales have been very large, though not so heavy as on brown goods, The market has been very excited and prices are advanced about ten per cent.

DENIMS.—The market has been very active, and prices are 5@7½c higher. Amoskeag are all sold out, excepting the Manchester ticket, and but few bales of these are left. York are 47½c Oxford 35c, Mount Vernon 40. A good demand and higher prices are expected during the spring.

Ticks have advanced this week in the same proportion as denims.

Stripes are advanced 3@5c ⅌ yard.

Prints. The market has been very active, and excited, and prices have advanced on some or other makes of goods nearly every day of the week.

Cottonades. Cottonades have participated in the general speculative movement; Goods that a few weeks ago were 40c are now 50c.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

During the five days battle near Murfreesboro, a portion of our army being repulsed by the enemy with great slaughter it became a question of much solicitude and especially with the Medical Staff how our killed and wounded could be removed from the field, and what disposition should be made of them.

Never before on the field, in the history of this rebellion was the plan and its execution more complete. Litters, stretches and ambulances were used under the direction of Regimental and Staff Surgeons, and our dead and wounded removed with great dispatch, saving our army the mortification of submitting our killed and wounded to the inspection of the enemy.—All this was done in the midst of danger under the batteries of the Confederates, shot and shell flying and falling in every direction. It gives me great pleasure in this connection to mention the names of Dr. Swift, Medical Director of the army of the Cumberland, Staff Surgeon of Gen. Rosecrans, under whose fine dicipline and vigorous efforts, the medical corps operated, also Dr. Griffith, Medical Director of Gen. Sheridan Dr. Beebe of Gen. Thomas, Dr. Phelps of Gen. Crittenden and Dr. McDermott of Gen. McCook. All these gentleman and many others were untiring and efficient in the general management of moving our sick and wounded from the field.—*Extract from notes of battle of Murfreesboro, by A. L. McArthur.*

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

Tuesday, January 27, 1863.

The Legislature.

This body has now been in session three weeks, and has disposed of a vast amount of business. The members are mostly working men, and permit no time to be wasted needlessly.

Many important measures have been introduced and referred to the appropriate committees, and a few have been finally acted upon.

In another column we give the proposition for re-districting this State into Congressional districts. As far as we are advised, the plan proposed is reasonable and just, and doubtless, will be adopted without material amendment.

The Legislature has also under consideration a proposition for re-districting the State for the election of members of the General Assembly. It is admitted by every reasonable man who knows anything about the matter, that the present Legislative apportionment is unequal and unjust. It was agreed upon by the last Abolition Legislature in the hopes of sustaining their rapidly sinking fortunes in the State, and hence a new apportionment should be made in order that all sections of the State be allowed their just representation in that body.

The present session is the first regular session of the Legislature held since the official census has been declared. The propriety, therefore, of making a new apportion under the present enumeration of population does not admit of a doubt. Let the apportionment be made with a due regard to population and territory, and the people will sanction and perpetuate it.

A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives, during the last week, by Mr. Morrill, of Hancock county for an act to amend an act entitled "An act to prevent the immigration of free negroes and mulattoes into this State." The bill provides severe penalties for the prevention of negro immigration to this State; and, if adopted, of which there are strong grounds of belief that it will be, will secure Illinois against the negro inundation which threatens to overflow the State.

The exegiencies of the times require the adoption of Mr. Morrill's bill, or something similar to it. The people of the State by an immense majority have declared against negro immigration, and the Legislature would not be faithful to the trust reposed in them, if the matter was not attended to.

In future we shall endeavor to keep our readers more fully advised of the doings and acts of our Law-makers. The session, indeed, promises to be one of vast importance to the future welfare and greatness of our State; and, consequently, all feel an interest in its deliberations.

The Negro in Chicago.

The people of Chicago are fearfully afflicted with the negrophobia. White men are not thought much of in that devoted Abolition stronghold. Indeed in order to command respect and consideration in Chicago, a black skin and a head covered with kinkey hair is requisite.

The niggers are aware of their superiority in the Abolition city of Chicago, as their numbers and conduct there attest. Judging from the motley appearance of the crowds that throng the streets a stanger would naturally conclude that about one-sixth of the population of that city was composed of niggers. The niggers put on more airs there than white men and claim precedence on the sidewalks. Therefore, it is expected, when a white man meets a nigger in Chicago, that he will give him the sidewalk, of course. We would advise all the colored population hereabouts to emigrate to Chicago, if they wish to be considered better than white folks.

To prove to our readers that there is no exaggeration in the above remarks, we copy from the Chicago *Tribune*, the following account of the manner in which the contemptible nigger, Fred. Douglass, was recently treated in that city:

"Notwithstanding the severe rain storm last evening, the announcement that Fred. Douglass, the distinguished colored orator of America, was to lecture at Metropolitan Hall, drew out an immense audience. The hall was densely packed, in all departments, with ladies and gentlemen of the highest degree of intelligence and respectability.

Mr. D. was presented to the audience by Rev. J. H. Tuttle, who prefaced his introduction of the speaker with a few appropriate words. As Mr. Douglas arose, he was greeted with loud and prolonged applause. The theme selected by the speaker as a basis for his address on this occasion was 'Truth and Error.'

At the close of his remarks, Mr. Douglass was greeted with rounds of applause, as indeed he had very often been during the entire lecture, and was surrounded by an eager circle of ladies and gentlemen who congratulated him upon the eloquence of his lecture, and his able effort in behalf of his suffering brethern.

Legislative Excursion.

Both houses of our Legislature adjourned on last Thursday for the purpose of giving the members an opportunity to attend the Legislative Excursion north, for the purpose of visiting the penitentiary.

The excursion came off on Friday and Saturday, and from what we can learn was a pleasant affair. The train arrived here on Friday morning, and the cars were filled with Representatives, Senators and invited guests who repared to the penitentiary and spent most of the time till the departure of the train, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in examining that institution and partaking of the hospitalities of the Warden, Hon. S. K. Casey. The members in a body seemed pleased with the manner in which they found affairs, and resolutions complimentary to Mr. Casey were adopted.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN.—By notice in another part of this paper it will be seen that this renowned lecturer will speak at Young's Hall, in this city, this evening. He is an original genius and tells many wholesome truths. The Abolitionists, however, do not like him because he does not follow in the wake of Sumner, Greeley and Beecher. Let him have a good audience.

THE PORK TRADE.—Large quantities of pork have been brought in this city during the past two weeks. The advance in price has induced farmers to bring forward their pork and as a consequence our buyers have had a busy time of it.

Let Us Legislate Upon Facts.

Since those who administer Government have given *prima facie* evidence that the object of the war is more for Abolition than Union, it is expected that the Representatives of the great State of Illinois will join their brethren of New Jersey and Indiana in recommending an armistice.

The fact must be obvious to every intelligent mind that this Union cannot be restored by the continuance of the war on the principles upon which it is at present waged. The events of the last six months are enough to convince every one that the attempt to hold the States together by destroying the rights of a portion of them and reducing them to subjected provinces, prove that it is idle to hope that it can be done.

People are just beginning to get their eyes open in regard to the designs of our Abolition rulers, and, judging from the expression of popular sentiment, are resolving that the ground shall not much longer drink the blood of men who have no cause to quarrel with each other.

There is no need of this war, nor any good reason why it should be continued if the hope of restoring the Union as it was be abandoned. Let our Legislature, then, be not backward in speaking out the sentiments of the people of Illinois on the subject.

The people of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and New Jersey have already declared against a war for Abolition, and our rulers at Washington may as well be made to understand this fact, first as last. Our Legislature, therefore, should inform President Lincoln that notwithstanding Illinois is willing to give the last dollar from the treasury and to send forth every man capable of bearing arms, if the Union could be restored thereby, no more money or men will be willingly given as a sacrifice for negro emancipation.

Let Abraham Lincoln and his Abilition counselors be given to understand that they cannot have aid of our people in persecuting and carrying on a crusade which can only result in utter ruin and destruction to the North as well as the South. In the midst of the murderous strife, let a voice for reason, justice, mercy and the constitution, go up from our Legislature and good may come of it. Surely enough blood has been shed to satiate the fiendish thirst of the most ultra Abolitionist of the North or the most radical Southern fire eater.

The Sepoys to be let Loose.

Thaddeus Stevens, the leading Lincoln member of Congress, has introduced a proposition in the House of Representatives to authorize the President to raise, equip and organize one hundred and fifty thousand negroes, as artillery, infantry and cavalry, to supply the place of the soldiers whose terms of enlistment will soon expire.

This is but in keeping with the President's emancipation proclamation; and is evidence that the war is to be turned into one of bloody extermination, if the Abolitionists have their way.

If these negro Sepoys are to be turned loose to murder and exterminate with fire and sword, the enlistment of white soldiers will be impossible hereafter. The Abolition proclamation is one step towards making a restoration of the Union impossible.

NEW JERSEY FOR PEACE.—The Legislature of New Jersey met on the 12th., and on an organization being affected, a series of resolutions, proposing an armistice for six months, and that on the third month after the commencement of the armistice the people of each Congressional district to elect one delegate to a National Convention to meet at Louisville, Ky., on the 2d Monday of the ensuing month, to arrange terms for an amicable adjustment of all difficulties, were offered, and, it is said will be adopted. The Governor and Legislature of New Jersey are in favor of bringing this unnatural and appalling conflict to a close as speedily as it can be done with honor and justice to all concerned.

RESIGNED.—The telegraph announces that the gallant Col. C. C. Marsh, of the glorious old 20th regiment, has resigned. Col. Marsh is one of the oldest Colonels in the service and has seen more fighting than any of them, yet because he would not swallow Lincolnism, wool and all, he is overlooked, while others with not half his experience and claims have been promoted to Genralships all around him. He did right to resign.

HONORS TO A PEACE MAN.—Hon. James W. Wall, the new Senator from New Jersey, was serenaded in Philadelphia, on his way to Washington, and responded in a few remarks, expressive of his devotion to the country and its constitution. We extract the following sentence:

Fellow citizens, I have received at the hands of the Legislature the State of New Jersey the high and responsible office of Senator of the United States Senate. I go there, my friends, as I understand it, *to advocate, as far as my limited abilities will permit—to advocate, I say, peace in that body.* (Cheers for "peace.") I cannot say friends, how this is to be brought about, but I believe I speak the sentiments of the people of New Jersey, and not only of the people of New Jersey, but of the loyal people of Pennsylvania, when I say that they will hail the hour that shall bring us from out this lurid tempest of war into the calm and blessed shade of a long and lasting peace. (Cheers.) My friends, I go also, as I understand it, upon the floor of the Senate of the United States to advocate those great principles of civil liberty which were handed down to us from our fathers, (renewed cheers) those great principles which are embodied in the amendments to the constitution of the United States, every one of which, I am sorry to say, has been trampled under foot by the present Administration.

Capture of New Orleans.

A letter from Richmond, Va., publishd in a Belfast paper, contains the following singular statement in regard to the taking of New Orleans by our forces:

"I remained in Richmond for six weeks (evidently in September and October last) While there I was witness of the trial by court martial of Brig. Gen. J. K. Duncan, and Flag Officer J. K. Mitchell, the former late commander of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and the latter commander of the Confederate flotilla on the Mississippi river—these being the principal defences of New Orleans. They were both found guilty of having, for the sum of four hundred and seventy five thousand dollars, allowed the United States fleet to pass the forts without making any resistance. I told you, when in Belfast, that this city was treacherously sold, and it has been so proved. General Duncan is now living at ease in Yankee land, in Pennsylvania, and Mitchell in Massachusetts. Had it not been for those two traitors, the Federals would never have taken this city."

Secret Sessions.

Every day's events render it more clear that Gen. McClellan has been the victim of Abolition spite and jealousy. We have contended all the while that the authorities at Washington were determined on his destruction, and the history of the last year's movements confirm this view of the facts.

During the progress of the McDowell investigation, many things have been brought to light to show that there has been a conspiracy on the part of the Government officials to prevent McClellan from winning decisive military success. The letters of the President, written in February and April last, brought to light by the investigation, form no unimportant link in the history of the war. One of them, dated February 3d, propounds certain interrogations in reference to Gen. McClellan's plans, it appearing that the President himself at that time had a plan, distinct and different from that of the then General in-Chief. His plan was to move on to Richmond directly by way of Manassas. McClellan was in favor of advancing upon the rebel capital by the Peninsula. As an evidence of the impracticability of the President's plan, we need but refer to the fall of Gen. Pope and his gallant army.

In the other letter brought to light, is the President's acknowledgment that he detained McDowell's corps from reinforcing Gen. McClellan. McDowell had between twenty and thirty thousand men, and when McClellan was fighting before Richmond it is generally admitted by men scienced in military matters that if he had been re-inforced by ten thousand fresh troops, victory and the capture of the enemy's capital would have been certain. Now, McDowell's force was not needed to defend Washington, and there is no accounting for the action of the President in the matter, unless upon the grounds of jealousy or cowardice. The former was probably the case.

Thus was McClellan's brave soldiers exposed to the destructive fire of overwhelming forces of the enemy for days, and reinforcements purposely withheld, for reasons of the character given.

Indeed, for the past year, the studied policy of the Administration has been to dispose of McClellan. If it had not been for this, we have no doubt that the rebellion would be much nearer suppression than it is at present. If McClellan had been properly sustained and re-inforced, Richmond would be ours to day; and the sacrifice of thousands of precious lives would have been avoided.

☞ We take pleasure in calling public attention to the card of Dr. Henry Folke in another column. Dr. Folke is one of the oldest and most experienced physicians in this part of the country, and we are glad he has made his home amongst us for the practice of medicine.

The President on the Currency

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have signed the joint resolution to provide for the immediate payment of the army and navy of the United States, passed by the house on the 14th, and by the senate on the 15th. The joint resolution is a simple authority, amounting, however, under the existing circumstances, to a direction to the secretary of the treasury to make an additional issue of $100,000,000 in United States notes, if so much money is needed for the payment of the army and navy.

My approval is given in order that every proper facility may be afforded for the prompt discharge of all arrears of pay due our soldiers and sailors. While giving this approval, however, I think it my duty to express my sincere regret that it has been found necessary to authorize so large an additional issue of United States notes, when this circulation and that of the suspended banks together have become already so redundant as to increase prices beyond real value, thereby augmenting the cost of living to the injury of labor, and the cost of supplies to the whole country.

It seems very plain that the continued issue of United States notes, without any check of the issue of suspended banks, and without adequate provision for the raising of money by loans, and for funding the issues so as to keep them within due limits, must soon produce disastrous consequences; and the matter appears to me so important that I feel bound to avail myself of this occasion to ask the special attention of congress to it.

That congress has the power to regulate the currency of the country can hardly admit of doubt, and that a judi[illegible]sure to prevent the deterior[illegible]cy, by a reasonable ta[illegible]culation or otherwise, [illegible] equally clear.

Independently of this general consideration, it would be unjust to the people at large to exempt banks, enjoying the special privilege of circulation, from their just proportion of the public burden.

In order to raise money by way of loans most easily and cheaply, it is certainly necessary to give every possible support to the public credit. To that end an uniform currency, in which taxes, subscriptions to loans, and all other public debts may be paid, is almost, if not quite, indispensable. Such a currency can be furnished by banking associations authorised under a general act of congress, as suggested at the beginning of the present session. The securing of this circulation by the pledge of United States bonds, as therein suggested would still further facilitate loans, by increasing the present, and causing a future demand for such bonds.

In view of the actual financial embarrassments of the government, and the greatest embarrasments soon to come if the necessary means of relief are not afforded, I feel that I should not perform my duty by a simple announcement of my approval of the joint resolution which proposes relief only by increasing the circulation, without expressing my earnest desire that measures, such in substance as those I have just referred to, may receive the early sanction of congress. By such measures, in my opinion, will payment be most certainly secured, not only to the army and navy, but to all honest creditors of the government, and satisfactory provision made for future demands on the treasury.

A. LINCOLN.

President's Special Message

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

Washington, Jan 10.

As the reading of the document [the President's special message accompanying the $100,000,000 Treasury note bill] proceeded, curiosity gave place to astonishment. The recommendation to Congress to adopt Secretary Chase's banking scheme provoked laughter over most of the House. Mr. Washburne's motion to refer the message to a special committee was speedily laid on the table by a vote of 62 to 20.—While thus placing the document where the House could handle it to-morrow, the expression of irritation at what was called the interference and dictation of the President was very general. The message fell on a very thin Senate. The printing of it was refused by the few members present, and the adjournment took place in a greater and more general expression of resentment at what a distinguished Senator called the President's growing habit of returning bills with his signature, accompanied with lectures to Congress for having passed them.

From Burnside's Army.

NEW YORK, January 23.

A letter to the New York *Times*, dated "Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Tuesday evening, January 20th," says: "The right and left wings of the army are in motion. We shall endeavor to cross the river about ten miles above Falmouth. All operations below are mere feints to deceive the enemy. One corps of infantry is to proceed down the river and feign crossing at several points. A real crossing will be made below. Should a certain emergency arise, Major Spalding and Major Magruder are to construct pontoons above The 15th New York Engineers and regulars are also to throw over several bridges. One train of pontoons is to be held in reserve, directly opposite Fredericksburg.

"On Saturday evening a company of the 15th New York Engineers were busily employed in throwing up artillery intrenchments about ten miles below here.

"The great victory of the West has had an exhilarating effect upon the army. The soldiers are hopeful."

The World's letter of the 20th says:

"Hooker and Franklin moved to-day at one o'clock, marching in heavy order, with tents, knapsacks, blankets, &c. They took the road towards Hartwood Church, which is directly northeast of the United States ford. Sigel moved at four o'clock in the afternoon in the same direction. They are bivouacked about eight miles out to-night. Sumner will probably move in the morning in the same direction."

The New York Tribune letter confirms the above and adds:

"We are impatiently and anxiously waiting for the arrival of the pontoons. It was the original intention that Hooker's grand division should have crossed several miles above, at the United States ford. We believe the plan has been changed, and both Hooker and Franklin are to throw their grand divisions across the river at Plank's ford. A brigade of infantry, in command of the rebel Gen. Wilcox, is guarding the passage of the river. Their forces we shall encounter upon the first effort at crossing.

"The exciting and hazardous effort of building bridges will be assisted by the crossing of a large number of men in boats the plan which proved so successful at Fredericksburg It is understood that a train of 40 boats, filled with armed men and rowed over by bridge-builders, will clear the rebel rifle-pits on the opposite bank; and render a rapid construction of bridges certain.

"Since writing the above it is learned that the head of the bridge train has arrived to within half a mile of the river.—Should fortune smile favorably upon our undertaking during the next twelve hours, we hope to have driven the enemy before us and have gained the rear of Fredericksburg. Then it is expected that Sumner's grand division will cross the Rappahannock near Falmouth. Then will follow the building of the railroad bridge across the Rappahannock. The timbers are all ready, every beam and plank, and they will be thrown together with the greatest rapidity, and communication be established by rail with our supplies."

A dispatch to the World says; "Although the usual rumors have prevailed here for several days, there is no information to show that there has been any engagement on the Rappahannock. One of the severest storms which has visited this section for months would have prevented any general engagement yesterday, while passengers from the army, to-night, fully confirm these inferences. Up to the time they left, the storm had abated but little. In addition to all this, there are good assurances that when anything takes place it will be allowed to be made public by telegraph. Certainly no battle has been fought yet."

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
IN CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA., Jan. 20.

General Order No. 7.

The Commanding General announces to the Army of the Potomac that they are about to meet the enemy once more. The late brilliant actions in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas have divided and weakened the enemy on the Rappahannock, and the auspicious moment seems to have arrived to strike a great and mortal blow at the rebellion, and to gain that decisive victory that is due to the country. Let the gallant soldiers of so many brilliant battlefields accomplish this achievement, and a fame the most glorious awaits them.

The Commanding General calls on a firm and united action of officers and men, and under the providence of God, the Army of the Potomac will have taken the great step towards restoring peace to the country, and the Government to its rightful authority.

By command of Maj. Gen. Burnside.
LEWIS RICHMOND, A. A. G.

From Washington.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.

Washington, Jan. 23.

In the McDowell court of inquiry, today, Lieut. Col. Alexander was examined with reference to an alleged conversation between himself and Gen. McD.,—testifying that the latter had not a conversation with him evincing an indisposition to have his corps join and co-operate with the army of Gen. McClellan on the Peninsula.

The President sent to the Senate to-day the correspondence between the Mexican Minister and Secretary Seward, showing the position of affairs, regarding the shipment from New York for the French army in Mexico of articles deemed contraband of war. It is voluminous, and maintains the course pursued by this government.

A message from the President was received in the Senate to-day, communicating a resolution of the corporate authorities of Washington, with a memorial, relative to the construction of railroads from Washington. He says the subject is one of great practical importance, and hopes the subject will receive the attention of Congress.

A letter from Gen. Kelly, commanding on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to Gen. Halleck, has been presented to Congress, showing the necessity and means for keeping open that thoroughfare to Washington, and urging it as of vital importance to the government.

Gov. Andrew, of Mass., is here, urging the passage of Thad. Stevens' bill for a hundred and fifty thousand negro soldiers.

The following was presented in the Senate to-day:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire whether Major General Burnside has, since the battle of Fredericksburg, formed any plans for a movement of the Army of the Potomac, or any portion of the same, and, if so, whether any subordinate Generals of said army have written to or visited Washington to oppose or interfere with execution of such movements; and whether such proposed movements have been arrested or interfered with, and, if so, by what authority.

Admiral Wilkes.

New York, Jan. 25.

The steamer British Queen, from Havana the 17th, and Nassau the 19th, has arrived.

The Bahama *Herald* of the 17th announces the arrival of the British war steamers Galatia, from Bermuda, and Spiteful, from Havana, and says it is reported, from a highly creditable source, that the commander of the Galatia had received positive orders to take Admiral Wilkes whenever and wherever found, and convey him to Bermuda, where he will be detained till further orders from England.

The British ship Vesuvius took a million and a half of specie from Mobile to England.

The steamers Anna Childs and Flora had arrived at Nassau from England probably to run the blockade.

The steamer Nina had arrived from Georgetown with cotton.

From the North.

From the Memphis Bulletin, Jan. 17,

We have information from the South to the 11th. The news are very interesting:

Four days before Gen. Sherman made the attack on Vicksburg, there were very few troops there, and if the attack had been made it could have been easily taken. But about that time, the enemy received information of the approach of the Federal army, and began to prepare to meet it.—When the attack on Vicksburg was finally made, there were only about 3,500 troops there, and against these Sherman made comparatively rapid progress. But all day Sunday reinforcements were poured into the place. About ten thousand came up from Mobile, about fifteen thousand came from Bragg's army, and all of Price's corps, together with most of Pemberton's army. By sunday night, there were no less than 40,000 men there, and all eager for the fray. They had utmost confidence in their ability to hold the place against any force that could be brought against them. It is confessed that Sherman's force fought them in a most determined manner, and that he did not achieve success merely because success was impossible under the circumstances. It is not now believed that any number of men can take Vicksburg.

Our advices from Port Hudson are to Tuesday week, and are to the effect that the place was considered impregnable.—The rebels have a report that some weeks ago Gen. Banks came up the river, and made a slight demonstration, but after a brief engagement he retired, stating that the place could not be taken by fifty thousand men Thus, it turns out that Port Hudson had been abandoned long before Gen. Sherman left Vicksburg. At Port Hudson there are only about 15,000 troops and they are regarded as all that is necessary to hold it.

Rosecrans is a man much feared by the rebels. It is admitted that he has played Bragg out. It is true, as stated by his friends, that about 20,000 of Bragg's force had been taken from him and sent to Vicksburg, but then it is equally true that Lee had sent him abou the same number from Virginia, and, contrary to the general belief here, they had reached him before the Murfreesboro fight commenced.

The failure of Washburne's cavalry to cut the Mississippi road has been prolific of mischief. They did set one of the bridges on fire, but immediately thereafter they ran off, and before three feet of it had burned, the people in the vicinity put it out. The result was that one hundred car loads of army stores were shortly after transported over the line, and the enemy enabled to retire *via* Grenada and Jackson instead of Columbus, Mississippi, as was intended. Price's division did retreat that way, but afterwards came back to Grenada.

The enemy have been for some time fortifying Grenada. They are repairing the Miss. R. R. and advancing as the work is completed. The road was to be completed to Oakland on day before yesterday, which time their advance would be moved to that point.

Gen. Pemberton lost much in popular estimation when he retreated from Oxford to Grenada, but the Vicksburg affair has helped to rescue his reputation.

From Mexico.

New York, Jan. 24.

The steamer Pacific brings Havana advices of the 16th:

The Mexican advices give a rumor that Gen. Dobles committed suicide to avoid being made prisoner by Mejia. Another report is of a serious misunderstanding between Gens. and Comonfort; that numerous desertions had taken place from the Mexican garrison at Puebla; also, that a conspiracy has been discovered in a brigade of Gen. Oberan, and that five officers had been shot.

Further advices state that the entire French force in Mexico is 8,000, but reinforcements to the number of 15,000 were expected by the end of December.

New York, Jan. 24.

By the arrival of the steamship Shelldrake from Havana, we have the following:

Havana, Jan. 14.

Our sugar crop is begining to make its appearance in market. The crop promises to be a very large one.

The news from Mexico is of a highly interesting and exciting character. The French communication between Vera Cruz and Orizaba has been completely cut off by the Mexican guerrillas, and can only be re-established and kept up by the French posting a strong guard all along the route. The Mexican guerrillas are in strong force all along the route, and worry the French unceasingly.

It is reported that the French have been repulsed and driven back from before Puebla with great loss. The French Gen. Berthier's vanguard, 4,000 strong, was completely surprised by 800 Mexican cavalry, and about 2,000 of the French troops were killed and wounded. Several French officers were taken by the lasso and dragged off.

From Memphis.

Memphis, Jan. 20.

Among the many regiments that have suffered from battle and sickness, the 16th Wisconsin stands prominent. It entered the service less than a year ago 1,000 strong. It now musters exactly 100 men, Maj. Reynolds commanding, Col. Allen is at home, in bad health, endeavoring to get recruits.

Gen. Grant has returned, having been to Napoleon, it is supposed, to consult with Gens, Sherman and McClernand.

Joseph Bullock and Edward O'Maillie, of Bolton's Chicago Battery, are among the wounded in the late railroad accident. The former had his back injured; the latter received a contusion on the head.

It is stated that Gen. Grant sent an order to Gen. McClernand to leave Arkansas as that is in another department.

It is thought Gen. Grant will command the next expidition in person.

All trade with rebels has been or will be cut off on the river, as well as in the interior, until the rebel stronghold falls.

Gen. Grant has telegraphed Gov. Johnson to postpone the election for Congressmen in Tennessee.

Major General McPherson and staff have arrived.

An order has been issued requiring cotton speculators to pay $100 for permission to trade; the money to be used for secret service and hospital purposes.

From New Orleans.

New York, Jan. 25.

Advices from New Orleans state that on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 8th, there was a rumor at New Orleans that the Winona, one of our gunboats, had been sunk by the south battery at Port Hudson. It is also reported that Stonewall Jackson, with 40,000 men, had reinforced Vicksburg.

There was nothing from Galveston up to upon of the 8th.

It was reported at Key West, on the 17th that the pirate Alabama, off Havana, had sent a boat ashore.

A RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.—The Chicago *Journal* is not so intensely Abolition as it might be. It admits the truth occasionally. Of late it has become disgusted with its party friends in Congress. Here is its opinion of them:

"The fact is, if there was a majority of men in Congress who possessed half as much statesman-like qualities and patriotism or honor as does the leading member of the cabinet, who is an eye-sore to these petty marplots, the government would be stronger to day than it is, and its prospects for the future would be vastly more encouraging. There are too many mousing, small brained and narrow-minded politicians, and too few statesmen and patriots in the present Congress, and it is a lamentable fact."

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.

SENATE.

Mr. Lane, of Ind., presented the credentials of Hon. David Turpie, elected Senator from Indiana.

Mr. Anthony offered a resolution instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of publishing monthly the names of all officers of the army who are on leave, with the date of the leave of absence, and by whom such leave of absence was granted.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Stevens reported a bill providing for the appointment of a Deputy Register of the Treasury, with a salary of $2,500 per annum, and his term of office extending for two years from date.

The bill was amended by making the salary of the Deputy Register $2,000 per annum, and limiting the term of the office to one year from date.

The bill then passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the bill to provide ways and means for the support of the government.

Among the amendments which are subsequently to be voted upon in the House is one authorizing the Secretary to dispose of bonds on such terms as he may deem most advisable, for lawful money, of the United States, or for any of the certificates of indebtedness that may at any time be unpaid, or any of the Treasury notes heretofore issued under the provisions of this act.

Mr. Cox moved to amend by making the revenue payable in legal tender, as he said, *pro forma*, to express his fear of the effect of increasing paper money upon western interests. He had always opposed its issue. He now opposed it, because every dollar of new issue burdened the West by increasing the protection to New England manufacturers, the customs being paid in coin. The price of coin goes up as paper money increases. The price of coin enters into the price of the articles upon which there is a money tax. The consumer pays it; for instance, the importer purchases one dollar's worth of paints in England.—When he enters them for consumption, he pays 30 per cent, duty, and he adds that to the original percentage, making $1 30 He also adds the difference is exchange, 60 per cent, making, with the first cost and duty, $ 90 On this sum he charges his profit of 10 per cent, or 19 cents, which makes $2 09. On this sum the retailer adds his profit of 20 per cent, or 42 cents, making the cost to the consumer $2 51.—Thus, under the present tariff and paper money system, the manufacturer gets an equal protection of 150 per cent. Do you wonder that the manufacturers of Massachusetts divide their regular 10 per cent., and from 20 to 60 per cent. extra, on the 1st of January? The Naumkeag Mills, at Salem, divided 60 per cet. extra and the Pepperill Mills, at Biddeford, Me., divided 50 per cent. Many other mills divided large extras at the same time. Do you wonder that certain persons in Massachusetts want the war to continue, for selfish purposes? These and other facts show how the agricultural interests are impoverished and how the life blood is sucked by these manufacturing vampires from the veins of labor, through a high tariff and inconvertible paper money. Agriculture gets no protection. Its surplus above domestic commission seeks a foreign market, and receives no benefit from prohibition or protective tariff, or from an inflated currency. Hence agricultural products do not rise. Let this process go on a few years, and the wealth of the West will be transferred to the pockets of New England monopolists and capitalists. This is a poor way to sustain the credit of the government which depends on taxes, confidence, and Union. It is a poor return for the patriotic devotion of the West to the Republic.—If such a policy prevail, it will increase, and not mitigate, the feeling in the West against New England. I speak this in warning and in earnest devotion to the whole Union.

Mr. Morrill, of Vt, remarked that, as the gentleman from Ohio was a distinguished leader of the other side of the House, it was perhaps necessary to say that it was the almost unanimous conclusion that the interest on the permanent debt should be paid in coin. If this feature of the bill were stricken out, whence would the treasury procure coin for this purpose?

Mr. Cox's amendment was rejected.

The second section was amended so as to authorize the Secretary to issue $300,000,000 in Treasury notes, the interest not exceeding 6 per cent., payable semi-annually in coin, and the principal payable any time after three years from date; and notes receivable for internal duties, and all debts and demands due to the United States, except imports; nothing in this section to be constructed to authorize any additional issue of legal-tender notes.

Mr. Pendleton moved to strike out the third section of the bill, providing for the issue of $399,000,000 legal-tender notes, saying that, on this subject, the administration was divided against itself.

After some discussion, Mr. Pendleton's amendment was rejected.

A new section was adopted, that, after the 1st of March, 1863, the coupons of all bonds of the United States heretofore issued, or which may be issued under this act, at any time thirty days before they become due, be received for customs, as coin, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

The Committee, before completing action on the clause taking bank paper, laid the bill aside.

Mr. Armstrong addressed the Committee on the subject of the ship canal from the lakes to the Missippi. He said it was the duty of statesmen not only to crush the rebellion, but to cement the Union. He spoke of the devotion of the West to the Union, and said that no sectional appeal could ever shake the loyalty of the glorious band of loyal States. The West would regard as traitors alike those who suggested a peace with any portion of the Mississippi in rebel hands, and those who suggested a Union with prtriotic, brave New England left out. The northern frontier must be defended. This canal is the cheapest and best means of defending it. While the Atlantic coast is protected by forts from Maine to Florida, and by a navy, the northern frontier, not less important, is entirely defenceless and within easy cannon-range for hundreds of miles of foreign territory. The Northwest cheerfully pays her proportion for the defence of the Atlantic, and will pay further the large appropriations required; but we ask in justice that the northern frontier should be secured. He showed that the lakes, by the Canadian canals, were accessible to the British gunboats, and that the lake cities and commerce were exposed to destruction. He read a letter from Admiral Porter, showing that we had now almost more than fifty gunboats, which would pass from the lakes, to the ocean by this canal. He then presented the fiscal, commercial, and agricultural interests seeking protection.—58,000,000 bushels of bread-stuffs were shipped from Chicago during the past year. The commerce of the lakes was at least $4,000,000,000 per annum. Corn was now king, and kept peace between Europe and America. This enlarged canal is the cheapest mode of defending the lakes This will turn the Mississippi into the lakes, and unite forever the East and the West.—Every dollar thus expended in defence cheapens transportation. The capacity of the proposed Illinois canal will be twelve-times that of the Erie Canal. The largest steam