Richmond Dispatch.

The DISPATCH is published DAILY, Sundays excepted. Price for mailing $6 a year, or $3 for six months; three months $2; one month $1, in advance.
The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every TUESDAY and FRIDAY at $5, in advance.
The WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every FRIDAY, and mailed to subscribers at $3 per annum.

FRIDAY MORNING.....DEC. 5, 1862.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL XXIII. RICHMOND, VA. FRIDAY MORNING DECEMBER 5 1862. No. 133

Richmond Dispatch.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

1 square 1 day	$0 75	1 square 5 days	$3 75
1 do. 2 days	1 25	1 do. 6 days	3 75
1 do. 3 days	1 75	1 do. 12 days	6 25
1 do. 4 days	2 25	1 do. 1 month	15 00

LARGER ADVERTISEMENTS IN EXACT PROPORTION.

Advertisements published till forbid will be charged 75 cents per square of EIGHT LINES for the first insertion, and 50 cents for each continuance.

FROM FREDERICKSBURG.

The news from the army yesterday is unimportant, there being no change in the position of affairs to record. It is still believed that a fight must take place at no distant day. There have already been several skirmishes along the lines, indicating, it is believed, the near approach of a decisive struggle.

On Wednesday last Gen Hampton's cavalry captured a picket at Stafford Store, consisting of a Lieutenant and five men. Their names as we have learned them, are Lieut. J. H. Hoffman, Corporal A. F. Kelley, Privates Thomas Rainer, J. B. Campbell, C. Cook, and John Mason—all of them members of Company F, 1st New Jersey cavalry. Cook was captured on the 20th of August last, on the Rappahannock, by Gen. Robertson's cavalry, so that this is his second trip to Richmond.

Passengers by the train from Fredericksburg last night report that a skirmish occurred on Wednesday afternoon between a body of the enemy's cavalry and a detachment of the 10th Virginia cavalry, Col. J. Lucius Davis, in which some fifty of the enemy, with their horses and equipments, were captured. This occurred near Port Royal, in Caroline county.

FROM THE SOUTH-SIDE.

Reports were yesterday busily circulated of a skirmish which is said to have occurred at Frank's on Blackwater river, on Tuesday evening. A section of Dodge's New York Mounted Riflemen were represented to have encountered some of our cavalry and a section of Wright's Rockett Battery. The rattle is said to have lasted upwards of an hour and finally resulted in the loss of the section of Wright's battery engaged, and about fifteen of our men killed and wounded. The loss of the enemy is not known, as they were left in possession of the field. It is reported, however, that two of their horses were captured.

THE FIGHT AT LAVERGNE, TENN.

Through the politeness of a gentleman who participated in the affair, we are enabled to present to our readers an accurate, though not a very long, account of the heavy skirmish at Lavergne, Tenn., on the 26th of November. It might rather be called an artillery duel, for the severest part of the engagement was between the artillery on either side. The forces engaged were the advance of the opposing armies. General Wheeler, with his brigade, was posted at Lavergne, fifteen miles beyond Murfreesboro', and here the enemy made the attack with a much larger force consisting of cavalry and artillery. The fight soon became severe, and the discharges of cannon were rapid and incessant. Both sides seemed determined to drive the other off the field, or at least not to yield an inch of the disputed territory, and for some hours our troops fought with the most desperate bravery. At length, however, it became evident that it was useless to contend longer against a superior force, not in numbers, but in guns, and General Wheeler slowly withdrew his command to a point four miles distant. Fortunately he was here reinforced, and rallying his men, drove the enemy back and regained the ground he had lost. It was near the close of the fight when General Wheeler's horse was killed by a shell, and he himself was wounded in the leg. But for this circumstance, and the lateness of the hour, the Abolition force would have been totally routed. As it was, they lost nearly one hundred in killed and wounded, while our casualties are less than half that number.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.—The premium for gold yesterday was $2 25, as previously quoted, but Bank notes advanced about 10 per cent. The buying rates are 22½ for Virginia currency; 20 for North Carolina, and 23 for South Carolina and Georgia—selling rates, 25a30 cents.

Messrs. Tardy & Williams's auction sale of groceries took place yesterday. Brown sugar in hhds. sold at 66a75 cts.; crushed sugar, $1 30, clarified yellow 76a77 cts.; nails, 49½ cts. per lb; superfine flour $17a17 25; lard, 60 cts.; tallow candles 75a78 cts. The attendance was large, and the bidding for desirable articles active.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

We are indebted to a friend for files of Northern papers for a week previous to and including the 29th ult. They contain many items of interest not included in the latest papers. We give a summary below:

THE NORTHERN PRESS ON THE MEDIATION.—SEWS THE "TRIBUNE" IS GLAD THE PROPOSITION IS VIRTUALLY DEAD—THE "TIMES" ISN'T SATISFIED ABOUT ENGLAND—THE "HERALD" PERFECTLY CONTENTED.

The Northern journals are discussing the late mediation news with much vigor. The position of France attracts most of their attention. The New York Tribune says:

The news from Europe by the Arabia settles the question of mediation and of intervention by the European Powers in our affairs for the present, at least if not altogether. Russia holds back, England refuses, and France alone is willing to interfere in what is none of her business. That both Russia and England are wise, they, happily, are persuaded, and we are confident that France will be led into the path of wisdom, though it may be against her will. Should the Emperor propose to adopt a policy in which he would find no backers in the other great Powers, it might possibly lead to new complications from which it might not be easy to extricate himself with honor and credit. So shrewd a ruler will not fail to foresee such a possibility, and conclude that the safer and wiser way is to let us alone.

The apprehension of any interference on the part of European Powers in the war in this country has not of late been much felt; but so long as it remained a doubt it was a painful one. There will be a sense of relief now at its positive removal, and the nation will feel all the stronger in the sense that it confronts all the possible difficulties of the case in the suppression, pure and simple, of the Southern rebellion.

The New York Times remarks that "it is at last verified that the French Emperor has seriously meditated intervention, and has actually proposed to the English Government a joint offer of mediation to stop the American war;" and the Times then says:

The fact that it is Minister Drouyn de L'Huys, so recently taking his place in the Emperor's Cabinet, that initiates this movement, is significant, almost sinister, as indicating the willingness of the French Government to interpose its influence to stop the war, at a moment when all the advantages in a military aspect, are in favor of the Union—when its armies are largest and most efficient, and prepared to give the finishing blow to the rebellion. This disclosure is not in accordance with concurrent testimony from France during the war and up to the present time. We had been led very generally to believe that no Government in Europe was more firmly fixed in the view of the utter impolicy of meddling with the American rebellion than that of the French.

The divulgement at last of the consultations that have taken place between the Governments of England, France, and Russia, in regard to American affairs, will be beneficial to all parties concerned; and we suppose we on this side of the water are most deeply concerned of any. It will give a definiteness to American policy that will leave the Governments of Europe no room to doubt what will be the result when they shape and indicate their own course. Whatever is done and said hereafter will be done and said with a distinct understanding of the very grave issues involved.

The proposition of the French Emperor, it seems, was to unite with England in an offer of friendly mediation in the American quarrel. We were to be asked, perhaps, to submit to their judgment the question whether the seceded States should be recognized as an independent Government or not. In view of the fact that English Ministers hold the opinion that the American Union is a nuisance that ought to be abated, the nature of their ballot on our destiny, if once placed in their hands, will not be doubted, while the offer of the South to both England and France of perfect free trade, on the recognition of its independence, would hardly leave the latter a wholly disinterested umpire.

The reply of Earl Russell to the circular of Drouyn de L'Huys discloses more than at first strikes one. He declines to join the French Government in the proposed mediation—first, because as he avers, there are as yet no signs that it would be received by the United States Government with favor; but, secondly, (and it seems to us mainly,) because that, "up to the present time, the Russian Government had not agreed to co-operate, although it may support the endeavors of England and France."

We do not wish to suspect the English Government of malevolence toward us, verging to unfriendly demonstrations, but we do not like that phrase in regard to Russia. If it is "moral suasion" only that England was contemplating, in what respect was the absence of the "active co-operation" of Russia a bar to mediation, provided that Power "supported the (moral) endeavor" of France and England? Was there anything contemplated in the contingency of the utter rejection of mediation that rendered the "active co-operation" of Russia a desirable thing to have?

The Herald thinks the intelligence important, "because it now bears an official stamp," and says:

According to the official papers now laid before the world, England has emphatically refused to join the alliance, and correctly doubts if Russia will have a hand in the matter. She prefers her neutrality with the hope that the North and South will finally succeed in destroying themselves, when she can step in and gather up the pieces for her own aggrandisement and power.

Thus the matter stood on the 16th of November. It is clearly manifest from these developments that intervention never had any strength in Europe, and the recent conclusions of the rebel journals in regard to European recognition appear to have been based upon correct information. This news, of course, banishes in the South all hopes of foreign aid and comfort. It will be of service to the rebels. It will show them the folly of persisting in their rebellion. It must convince them that, unaided, they cannot withstand the overwhelming power of the loyal States. Let this lesson from the three Great Powers, bitter as it may be to the Southern leaders, have its influence with the people of the seceded States. They may now abandon all hope of outside assistance.

Whatever view we may take of the conduct and policy of Napoleon on this great question, we are indebted to him for being the means of setting at rest, officially and decidedly, the idea that had taken possession of many minds that the leading Powers of Europe would interfere in our domestic affairs, and thus destroy us as a nation.

The special Washington correspondent of the New York Herald expresses the belief that neither Mr. Seward, nor any one connected with the Foreign Department, may have been taken unawares by the French offer of mediation to England and Russia in our affairs. He says:

If I am well informed, the State Department has received at different times, through the agency of Mr. Dayton, an account of the dispositions of the French Government in reference to our affairs, which could not leave any doubt as to the ultimate design of the Emperor. I am much mistaken if there is not now on file in the archives a report of Mr. Dayton, of April last, giving the details of a conversation he had with the Emperor of France, in which it is stated that "although his Majesty expressed the most sincere desire for the restoration of the Union, he nevertheless hinted that, if at the end of the summer campaign the Federals had not obtained some decisive advantages, he would be put to the necessity of yielding to the repeated demands of the Confederates, and to receive Mr Slidell." At the same time he warned Mr. Dayton that, should he be compelled to receive him, the North ought to see in this step a determination on the part of France to inaugurate a new policy with the United States. This communication must have, of course, informed the State Department of what takes place to-day.

A great uncertainty prevails in political circles as to what will be the course of action of the French Government after the refusal of England. Will the Emperor wait for the good pleasure of the English Cabinet, or will he act alone? His understanding with Russia is in a more advanced state than his understanding with England, and is he likely to act conjointly with the Czar? Such are some of the questions now discussed among politicians very anxious to know, as you may well imagine, the development of the Napoleonic idea on that subject.

It is said in high places that the desire of the Emperor is to obtain from Mr Lincoln an armistice of six months, and the opening of one of the Southern harbors to allow French vessels to take a supply of cotton.

THE "SO-CALLED" CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT.

A British subject, in Philadelphia, has written a letter to the British Minister at Washington, begging him to intercede with the Confederate Government to prevent the destruction of ships bearing certificates of British property by the "290." The Philadelphia papers publish the following reply, received from the office of the British Minister, from Mr. Stuart, acting in the absence of Lord Lyons:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.

W. H. Trenwith, Esq., Philadelphia:

SIR:—I have received your letter of the 7th inst., in which you suggest that I should make an application to the Government of the so-styled Confederate States with reference to the ransom of British property on board American vessels, in consequence of the recent proceedings of the war steamer Alabama, and that I should furnish you with a letter of protest, for the purpose of protecting some merchandise which you have shipped on board the American ship Lancaster. While greatly regretting the risk to which British property is exposed, by being shipped in belligerent vessels, it is not in my power to accede to either of your suggestions.

You are aware that the so-called Confederate States have not been recognized by her Majesty the Queen, and for that reason I should not be justified in entering into communication with the Government of those States except under special instructions from her Majesty's Government. Neither do I feel at liberty to supply you, antecedently, with the protest which you desire, having no authority to issue such a document, and seeing no reason to believe that it would ensure more effective protection to your goods upon the high seas than the consular certificate with which you seem to have supplied yourself.

I am sir, your obedient servant,

W. STUART.

SHALL THE WAR SUCCEED?—A DARK FUTURE.

"Shall the War Succeed?" is the title of a significant article in the New York World, of the 27th. It asks:

"Who to-day is hopeful of the success of our arms, of protracted immunity from foreign intervention, the conquest of an honorable peace and a reunited country, save only the radicals, whose machinations have thrice cheated us of victories whose lack of national spirit invites foreign insolence, and whose labor of years has been to belittle the value of the Union which they now pretend to be alone able to save? Who does not say in his secret mind that the future is unutterably dark, the hope of saving the nation feeble as never before? Who does not denounce—friend or foe—the imbecility of the Administration the vacillations of its policy, the selfish intrigues of its highest members? Who cannot trace to the beginnings of the radical policy which now is dominant around the green baize of the cabinet table the beginnings and the causes of all our past disasters and our present hopelessness? The evils which the men who now sway the mind of President Lincoln combined with Southern extremists to bring upon the nation, the same men now labor to make irremediable.—But for them the country would never have been plunged into the present war. But for them the war might to-day be approaching its honorable and successful termination.

'Of the war, as now conducted, there is no visible end. Of the policy which now rules in the field and the council chamber, there is no issue, except bankruptcy, foreign intervention, separation, and a ruin of States and of people at which civilisation itself stands appalled."

THE MUD THE YANKEES ARE CONTENDING WITH.

A correspondent writing from Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, on the 21st, says:

A rain storm in Virginia is a far different affair in its effects from one up North, where, from the lighter character of the soil, it soon disappears from the surface. But down here, where the earth is hard, clayed and impervious, the water of even a few hours' storm seldom dries off in less than as many days. Imagine the effect, then, of a storm of several days upon the road, with the difficulties of travel increased by the passage of every successive vehicle. We are only in the beginning of our troubles now, with the roads converted into mud of putty consistency, and varying in depth from six inches to two feet. The once dry, and, in some places, almost parched surface of the earth, is converted into a grand plateau of streams and rivulets of dirty muddy water; rills have become brooks; brooks have become creeks, and creeks rivers, under the inundation from the clouds.

An Aquia Creek correspondent of the Tribune, writing on the 23d, says:

Supplies of provisions and forage for the army are landed both here and at Belle Plain—the mouth of Potomac Creek. The distance hence to Falmouth is fifteen, and from Belle Plain nine miles.—Owing to the want of a good landing at this point, most of the transports proceed to Belle Plain, whence their cargoes are hauled overland to the army. Only Franklin's grand division is supplied from this locality.

If the tales of the teamsters are true, the roads must be in the worst possible condition. That wagon trains can hardly worry over them is evident from the fact that both men and beasts in the army have been on very short allowances for the last two days. Officers have assured me that horses and mules have been without any food for forty hours. This is about the most inhospitable locality a mortal can be thrust into. The involuntary solitary sojourners give very sorry accounts of their sufferings during the days of rain. Another week will probably be required to bring the railroad in working order.

MEETING OF BROTHERS IN THE TWO ARMIES.

A flag of truce, with 119 Federal prisoners, arrived at Helena, Ark., on the 19th ult., and was received by the Federal officer commanding. A letter says:

Among the officers accompanying the flag of truce was a Capt. Rust, who, learning that there was in Col Vandever's command another Captain Rust, belonging to the 4th Illinois cavalry, expressed great curiosity to see him, as he had a brother North from whom he had not heard since the war broke out, and possibly this Capt. Rust might be the same, or be acquainted with him. But, judge of the agreeable surprise to each to recognize the long-separated brothers. The kind hearted Col. Vandever did all in his power to make their short meeting a happy one, so that when the time arrived for a separation it was not without much ill-suppressed regret, and many a wish that this war was over, that they bid adieu to each other—the one to fight for his country, the other to fight against him; but such have ever been the miseries of civil war.

BUTLER'S DIFFICULTY WITH THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

On the 15th of September, four citizens of New Orleans shipped on the Prussian ship Essex $34,000 worth of their goods for Liverpool, to avoid the confiscation act which went into effect on the 23d. Butler refused to let the vessel sail unless the packages were taken off. The London Times says of this transaction:

The captain has made the regular protest, holding General Butler responsible for damages, at the rate of $500 per diem, for detention and all further proceedings must turn on the promptitude of the protection to be afforded him by his own Government. Although a wide latitude has been given to the definition of "contraband," the world has never yet heard of family plated goods, shipped to a neutral and distant country, coming within its range; and if this new reading of international law is to be admitted or tolerated, there is not an article of human use which can be safe on the high seas. When the Federal Government captured New Orleans, they raised a cry that as they had thus restored that place to legitimate commerce, neutral nations could no longer complain of the absence of the means of trading, so far as these means could depend on the power of the Union authorities; but a port whence bullion may not be shipped is practically sealed for all ordinary purposes. The probability is, that as the Confiscation act, by which all the disloyal subjects of President Lincoln are to be stripped of their property, was to come into operation at New Orleans on the 23d September General Butler thought fit to disregard what might interfere, by seizing these articles (entered and stowed under the sanction of his own officers) in a foreign ship which was ready to sail eight days previously.

A BALTIMOREAN IN FORT LAFAYETTE.

The New York Freeman's Journal, in speaking of the confinement of political prisoners in Fort Lafayette, thus speaks of a distinguished citizen of Baltimore:

Our heart bleeds when we think of that venerable member of the Baltimore bar, T. Parkin Scott. We saw this accomplished gentleman at Fort Lafayette, day after day, sitting down to the bad soldiers' ration—inferior and badly-cooked pork, served on filthy tin plates, accompanied by brown bread and a hot decoction of burnt rye and molasses—without milk—called, by way of jest, coffee.—His pallant and thin straw pallet on an iron stretcher, was placed on the damp bricks of a battery, among the guns of the fort, and surrounded by men of every degree of social culture, and every kind of moral habits. As an old friend, and as a brother Catholic, we had, and enjoyed, as full a claim to his confidence as any other of the prisoners. But never did we hear—never did any other one hear—one word of wrath, of threat, or even of complaint, from this noble confessor. He suffered for his country, and, with a purity of intention that we regretted we could not emulate, he offered the sacrifice as a service to his God.

EXPECTS TO BE HUNG.

It is a pity that Brownlow was disappointed in the following expectations, written from Louisville on the 17th ult:

I shall start to-day to Nashville, and the last forty miles of the journey of two hundred is by private conveyance, and rather hazardous, as Morgan's guerrillas are continually arresting travellers in that quarter. My judgment is against taking this risk; but I am urged to go in connection with the interests of East Tennessee. If I fail to write again, the readers of the Press may know that the rebels have taken me, and may then infer that I have looked up a rope.

Northern advices have already informed us of the arrival of Parson Brownlow at Nashville, and that he had been addressing public meetings there.

RECEPTION OF RELEASED POLITICAL PRISONERS.

We find the following dispatches in the Chicago Times:

BURLINGTON, Iowa, Nov 15.—David Sheward, recently released from the Old Capitol prison, was welcomed here to-night by an immense concourse of his Union fellow-citizens, with torches, banners, and music. On the arrival of the procession at the Argus buildings, Mr. Sheward made an eloquent speech, in reply to a welcome from Gen. Dodge, after which he was serenaded at the General's residence, whose guest he is.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, Nov. 15.—D. A. Mahoney, editor of the Dubuque Herald, also just released from the Old Capitol prison, arrived this evening. He was met at the levee by a large concourse of friends, who escorted him to his residence. Quite a number of buildings were illuminated in honor of his return.

RECONNOISSANCE TO WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF RICHMOND.

The Washington Star, of the 27th ult., says:

The reconnoitering party sent out a few days since by Gen Neglee from Williamsburg towards Richmond, penetrated as far as New Kent Court-House, twenty miles from Richmond. They had a skirmish with a small party of the rebels, killed two and captured six, and also several muskets and small arms, abandoned by the rebels in their flight.

ARRESTED AS A SPY.

Lieutenant L. Wise, a nephew of Governor Wise, was arrested by Col. Shanks, in his camp, near Calhoun, Ky., some days since. He had come into camp under the pretext of wishing to sell a horse. Letters from rebels, conclusively proving him a spy, were found upon his person. While in prison at Owensboro' Colonel Shanks, by keeping an eye upon him, succeeded in securing a letter in cypher, written to him by Governor Wise, and addressed to the care of Selby Lee, Wheeling. He was sent to Louisville in irons, and will be treated as a spy.—Washington Star.

CAPT. M. F. MAURY.

An entertainment was given in New York last week to Gen. McClellan. The New York World says:

Among those present was the Mayor of Halifax, who made a very cordial response to a complimentary toast to the British colonies. The Mayor alluded to Commander Maury, who was in Halifax a few days since with his son, (after running the blockade via Bermuda and Nassau,) and who declared very publicly that he was visiting England to take command of a Confederate vessel of war.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The completion of a new fort was celebrated at Harper's Ferry on Monday. Miss Atwell, of Pittsburg, broke a wine bottle over the fort and named it Fort Geary. Capt. Fletcher, of the 14th infantry, was master of the ceremonies. Col. Van Buren, of the 102d New York volunteers, delivered an appropriate address.

James Dixon, Republican, of Connecticut; Reverdy Johnson, Conservative, of Maryland; Wm Sprague, Democratic Republican, of Rhode Island, and Solomon Foot, Republican, of Vermont, have been already elected by their respective State Legislatures to serve in the United States Senate for six years from 1863.

A large quantity of clothing was shipped last week from New York to the Department of the Gulf, for the fugitive blacks there who are in the employ of the Government. The clothing is gotten up very cheaply, and is issued to the blacks at cost price, the amount to be deducted from their wages.

The New York Post says that there is a movement on foot for the dispatch of two or three shiploads of provisions to England for the relief of the starving operatives in Lancashire. Eminent shipping men and merchants have taken the subject in hand, and it is proposed to send one vessel immediately.

The recruiting offices in Philadelphia are to be closed, and the recruiting sergeants are to leave for their respective regiments at once. It is said that the recruiting offices throughout the State have generally met with but indifferent success for some time past.

Galignani's Messenger, of Paris, of the 1st of November, says the brothers Cattabene (one of whom was implicated in the Parodi robbery,) are said to be forming at Turin a legion for America, with the authorisation of the Italian Government.

Mrs Edwin James has filed a suit for divorce against her husband, on the allegation of adultery. Mr. and Mrs. James have been living separate for some months past.

The tragedian, Mr Edwin Booth, commenced an engagement at the Boston theatre on Monday night. He appeared as Hamlet, to an overflowing house.

Four thousand men are still lacking from the quota of Michigan, and Governor Blair has issued imperative orders for a draft, to commence on December 30th.

The military Court of Inquiry into General Buell's campaign convenes at Indianapolis during the present week. General Buell has prepared a full defence.

The recent heavy rains have so raised the water in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal that several boats loaded with coal have reached Georgetown, and a number of others are on their way down.

General Magruder's command is Texas, in which he supersedes Brigadier General Herbert, of Louisiana. The Houston Telegraph speaks of it as a popular appointment.

The charter election at Norwalk, Conn, on Monday, resulted in the choice of the entire Democratic ticket, by a large majority.

There is a rumor current in New York that Gen. McClellan is about to become a permanent resident of that city.

Gen. McClellan visited Gen. Scott, in New York, one evening last week.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Sentences by Court-Martial.—The following decisions have been rendered by the Court-Martial now in session in the case of the prisoners arraigned before it, viz: Thomas G. Winn, detective officer, C. S. A., discharged from the service as such, fined $50, and imprisoned till paid, for receiving a sum of money from a party arrested by him; Pat. Behar, citizen, fined $50 for selling liquor, imprisonment till paid; Private H. Cross, company I, 22d N. C., desertion, walk with barrel jacket two hard labor per day for one month, ball and chain and hard labor for another month, extra duty for another, forfeit pay, etc., for three; Private Chas. Capps, company E, 1st N. C., desertion barrel jacket two hours each day for one month forfeit of pay from 19th October 1862 to 1st January, 1863; Private Samuel Leibrick, company C 53d Virginia, desertion, fifty lashes, wear ball and chain, with placard with "deserter" on same, for six months and forfeit pay during his term of service; Private James Farrel, Capt. Bossieux's company, neglect of duty, forfeit pay for one month, and do extra duty for same time; private S. C. Bott, President's Guard, violation of 46 h Article of War, not guilty; Mrs. Chas. Lewis, citizen, selling liquor, fined $50 and liquor confiscated; private A. L. Coate, Co. E, 1st N. C., desertion, wear barrel jacket two hours each day for one month, and forfeit pay from 19th October, 1862, to 1st January 1863; private R. Capps, Co. E, 1st N. C., desertion, wear barrel jacket two hours each day for one month, with word "deserter" painted on barrel, and forfeit his pay as the last one; Frederick Posthavens, citizen, selling liquor, fined $50, and confinement till paid; private Burwell Belsher, Co. B, 13th Va., desertion, barrel jacket, with deserter on it, for two hours each day for one month, and forfeit pay for six; private R. W. Lee, Co. I, 22d N. C., desertion, barrel jacket two hours per day for one month, hard labor, ball and chain, for another, and extra duty for a third, with pay, &c, forfeited for same period; private B. H. Lund, Co. I, 22d N. C., desertion, barrel jacket two hours per day for two months, fo feit pay for do. and receive 50 lashes on his bare back; private Caleb Austin, 9th Va Bat'n, conniving at the escape of prisoners under his charge, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, hard labor, ball and chain, for one year, with forfeiture of pay, and to be drummed out of the service at the end of said year; Mrs Mary Stephens, citizen, selling liquor, fined $100, and liquor confiscated; private Jacob Champion, Bossieux's company, neglect of duty, forfeiture of pay and extra duty for one month; private Harrison Ball, 26th Va regiment, desertion, one month's extra duty in camp and forfeiture of pay for the same period; private John Anderson, company H, 6th Va. desertion, fifty lashes on the bare back, and forfeiture of pay from the time of desertion to 1st of January, 1863; Charles S. Karigot, citizen, selling liquor contrary to law, to pay $50 and be imprisoned till the same be paid. The proceedings, findings, and sentences of the Court, in the foregoing cases, were all approved and ordered to be executed. One soldier will receive fifty lashes to day, at Castle Thunder, by the hands of a corporal of police.

Prison Items.—The following prisoners were received at Castle Thunder yesterday: Wm. Brabham and Wm. Pyle, of company I, 3d Va reg't, and J. W. Smallwood, of Lee Guards, as deserters; also, the following parties sent by the Provost Marshal of Stafford county, viz: Thomas D Coates, supposed deserter; John Simpson and Jacob Stipp, attempting to cross the lines to the enemy; M. J. Chase, company A, 24th Michigan, Federal prisoner, W. A Walker, company I, 21 N. C, deserter; Charles Johnston, a dangerous Unionist, (brought down in irons, said to have caused the deaths of many of our men by leading on the enemy;) D. C. Clouch, company I, 5th La, forged discharge; J. M Riddle, company K, 13 n Va., no papers and deserter; Francis Rossh, suspicious character; James M. Crafts company I, 1st Ga; Jas. Edwards, Rodger's cavalry, and Pat Brannon, company M, 1st Ga regulars, deserters.

Acquitted.—A hearing was had yesterday before Judge Lyons, sitting in term, on the merits of an application for release on a writ of habeas corpus sued out by Mrs. Mary Ann Piggott and her family, residents of Charles City county, arrested a few weeks since on the charge of disloyalty, by order of Gen Henry A. Wise. The parties were said to have entertained Yankees at their house while those vandals had possession of the country in and around their residence. Nothing but inferential evidence was offered in support of the allegation, while a great deal of proof was accumulated, from most respectable parties, that Mrs. Piggott and her family were true citizens of the Confederacy both in word and deed. Mr. Aylett appeared for the Government; Messrs. Nance and Williams for the defendants. The Judge discharged all of the parties.

Sentenced.—A number of prisoners heretofore convicted of various offences were carried before Judge Lyons yesterday, and sentenced according to the findings of the jury in each several case. Included in the number were John Murray, sentenced for eighteen years for the murder of Mike Leary; John Westerfield, for three years and six months for grand larceny; James Jones, for three years for stealing a trunk and contents from Capt James G. Hawthorne, and Albert G Short, for three years for the murder of George Bailey, a soldier. Execution of sentence in Short's case was suspended for fifteen days, in order to allow him time, if he thinks proper, to apply to the Supreme Court of Appeals for a new trial.

Set Aside.—About two years ago a man named Edward S. Gentry was carried before Mayor Mayo for an assault on a negro, and the offence being proved, he was ordered to be punished. Gentry, who is nearly white, appealed from this decision to Judge Lyons's Court, and the question as to his true status has been agitated before the Judge at every term since the case was docketed. Yesterday, to the relief of everybody, the case was finally heard on its merits and Gentry adjudged by the Judge to have less than one fourth negro blood, and therefore not amenable to the pains and penalties inflicted on the colored population, and which he sought to avoid.

Provision Against Accidents. A substantial railing has been placed on the north side of the canal, east of 8th street, on either side of the bridge, in order to prevent foot passengers from walking, by mistake, into the canal and finding a watery grave, as several have done. The two bodies said to be in the canal have not yet been fished out.

Places of Amusement.—We understand that Gen. Winder has issued an order that none but the civil police shall interfere with places of amusement in this city. The order is supposed to have been caused by the military stopping visitors to such places in search of deserters.

Abolition Prisoners.—Only two Abolition prisoners arrived at the Libby prison yesterday. Sixty more were expected last night by the Central cars from Gordonsville.

Arrested.—Beverly, slave of James H. Grant, was arrested by officer Adams yesterday and caged, for stealing $60 from Johanna Lloyd.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE COURTS.

Mayor's Court, Thursday, Dec. 4.—Claiborne Murray, arrested for stealing $500 in C. S. Treasury notes from John Kloss, on 17th, between Broad and Marshall streets, Tuesday evening, was examined and sent on to the Hustings Court, and allowed to give $400 bail for his appearance.

Thomas Consanuine, arrested as a witness in the case against Cyrus, slave of M. Crenshaw and M. Ottenheimer, charged with stealing R G Morris's cow, was allowed to give security for his appearance when the case should be next called.

Anna Thompson, proprietress of the house corner of Cary and 12th streets, having been arrested Wednesday night by the police for keeping a house of ill fame, was arraigned, together with Bridget McCarthy, Josephine Hester, Belle Morris, Jennie Richardson, and Clara Phillips, her boarders, to answer said charge. The police detailed the circumstances connected with their visit and the arrest of the inmates. Officer Seal said he had let off one man, (a Captain in the army,) who he found there with visible means of support, some evidences of which the man had in his pocket. The same officer encountered in the passage of the house a man named Robert J Broone, who, in answer to his inquiries said he was a blockade runner. The officer learned on minute inquiry, that he came to visit the girls in the house. Broone was arraigned for being "an idle, dissolute person, having no honest employment, and without visible means of support." By the representation of Capt. Booker, Assistant Provost Marshal this did not appear to be the case, Broone having been an officer in his service. All of the girls were required to give $500 security for their good behavior, and the same amount to appear before the Grand Jury and answer an indictment, should one be found. [They complied with this requisition after the adjournment of the Court.] Broone gave bail in $500 for his good behavior, and was discharged. Wm. Cooper and Dan Lewis, two servants, found in Anna Thompson's house, representing themselves to be free, but without certificates of the fact, were committed.

The case of George Murray, charged with attempting to shoot an unknown woman in the street, was called and continued on account of the absence of witnesses.

John T. Smith, a native of Richmond, and regarded as one of the worst specimens of juvenile depravity in this city, was arrested, together with Wm. Reed, for entering the storehouse of Geo. R. Howard, tailor, 14th street, and stealing a cloth overcoat worth $25. Reed pretended to be in search of a pair of pantaloons, while Smith walked to the rear of the store and put the coat under his talma. Howard, after an exciting chase, recovered his own coat and the thieves' talma. Neither of the accused were caught at the time, but were afterwards apprehended by the police on a description furnished of the appearance of the two men.—When the prisoners were called up for examination, it was found that Reed had taken occasion to evaporate from the prisoners' dock. No amount of dallying would make him respond. The examination of Smith resulted in his being sent on for grand larceny. This course had been pursued in a half dozen other cases heretofore pending against him, but with great good luck he has always passed the ordeal of a jury in safety. Reed and Smith also stand charged with robbing the Linwood House of a watch and other articles, for which they are yet to answer.

John W Brown, George Hoppell, and Peter H. King, were committed for examination before the next Hustings Court for grand larceny in entering John H. Scribner's room and stealing several hundred dollars' worth of wearing apparel from that individual.

Frank Crofield, driver of a sand cart, and Wm Pitts both of this city, having been arrested for breaking into a stable owned by Asa Snyder, corner of 9th and Cary streets, and stealing a chisel from Green & Allen; also, for setting fire to Snyder's building, and being suspicious characters, were examined for the above offences; also, for breaking into the Government clothing warehouse, on 14th street, and the confectionery shop east side of the Custom House, and committed for a further hearing on next Monday.

John Dunbar and James Elmore were committed for examination on next Saturday, for stealing a horse from Lieut. Hugh L. Berne, of the 2d Mississippi regiment, about six miles up the Brook road. The case was delayed for the evidence of a party to whom they offered to sell the horse.

Charles Gray, a soldier, was arraigned for getting drunk and yelling on Broad street. In explanation, he stated that he had been wounded at Sharpsburg and sent to the Louisiana Hospital.—After being cured, he said he was "recalled" there as nurse. The Mayor said it was a pretty situation for a nurse to be placed in. He should "retail" him before the Provost Marshal.

Brown, slave of C. Moffatt, found by the watch with a loaded pistol and no pass, was ordered to be licked.

Joel, slave of C. L. Atkinson, was ordered a thrashing for firing a pistol in Main street.

The case of James Tyrer, charged with swindling and obtaining money under false pretences, was continued till Friday morning, at 9 o'clock. This prisoner being a soldier, was brought up from Castle Thunder in custody of two armed men and a detective. Mr P H. Aylett appeared to prosecute for the Government, who, it appeared, was in some way a sufferer by Tyrer's alleged malpractices.—Prisoner was sent back to the Castle under guard.

Milly, slave of Mrs. Hilyard, was committed for trial for going at large and having in her possession a large lot of wheat and flour, supposed to be stolen.

Wilson, slave of Sally Carter, was likewise committed for trial for having on hand a lot of meal, bacon, flour, and sugar, for which he could not satisfactorily account.

John Henry, free negro from Brunswick, residing here without authority, was ordered to go back as speedily as possible.

Noah, slave of Robert Andrews, found at Anna Thompson's house, was ordered a whipping and committed.

The police having made an entry on Wednesday night into the tenement near the bridge on the street leading past the City Jail, the following parties were arraigned as the result of the raid, viz: Frank Mathews, Louisa Williams, Hannah L. Atwell, and Fanny Seymour, females, and Edward J. Costello and Washington Goodrick, males. The women were required as dissolute characters, &c., to give security in $500 for their good behavior, and the same amount to appear before the grand jury and answer an indictment. Costello having been found at an alleged house of ill repute, was required to give security for his good behavior. Goodrick, in addition to security for his good behavior in $1,000, was required to give the same amount for cursing and abusing Wm N Kelly, a police officer, while the latter, with others, was searching No. 49 a few nights ago, after gambling tools. The officers testified that Goodrick was very obstreperous on that occasion and wanted to fight the whole party, announcing himself as their superior as a Treasury detective, and themselves as mean sneaks and rogues. A warrant was afterwards procured, and on finding him in Mathews's house, he was arrested. The required bail was given.

Ellen, slave of Henry Lyeel, was committed as a runaway, and ordered to be whipped for being at the house of Frank Mathews.

George Nowlan and Taylor Weitzel, the latter a Government employee from Harper's Ferry, were brought up for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the street, and were discharged after an admonition.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 4.—The New York Herald, of Nov 29th, has been received here. It says Burnside did not advance because his pontoon bridges did not arrive in time. Burnside intended arresting the parties responsible for the delay. The rebels were busy fortifying the south bank of the Rappahannock, in plain view of the Unionists. The railroad between Aquia creek and the Rappahannock is completed, and trains were running on the 28th.

An arrival from North Carolina announces that Newbern had been attacked by 4,000 rebels, under Gen. Martin, who were repulsed.

The yellow fever had ceased at Port Royal, and active operations would soon begin in that department.

Fitz John Porter's trial before Court-Martial was progressing at Washington.

The Herald says McNiell, the Missouri butcher, was merely a militia General, not a Union officer, and presumes that President Davis will therefore withdraw his threat.

All the State prisoners in Fort Warren, including Maryland Secessionists, were liberated on Thanksgiving day.

FROM EUROPE.

The foreign news is unimportant. The London Post says the general disposition of the English people is to avoid intervention, because only one belligerent invites it. When there is a peace party at the North sufficiently strong to ask for mediation, England will accede. The French press is bitter against England's course.

Nassau dates announce the arrival of the steamers Herald and Leopard from Charleston.

THE VERY LATEST LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

PETERSBURG, Dec. 4.—The New York Times, of the 2d, is received here. Lincoln's message was read on Monday. It makes seven columns of the Times, and is a very sorry document. It opens by saying that since the assembling of the last Congress another year of health and bountiful harvest has passed. While it has not pleased the Almighty to bless the United States with a return of peace, we can but press on, trusting that in God's own good time all will be well. He calls his famous proclamation a contemplated emancipation scheme.

A Captain of a Texas regiment, and a clerk in the Quartermaster's department at Richmond, deserted near Fredericksburg Friday night. He makes all sorts of disclosures, as usual.

A Washington dispatch says it is no longer a question that the army of the Potomac owes its