Richmond Dispatch.

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MONDAY MORNING.....DEC. 8, 1862.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXIII. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY MORNING DECEMBER 8 1862 NO. 135.

Richmond Dispatch.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

1 square 1 day	$0 75	square 1 day	[illegible]
1 do. 2 days	1 25	do. 2 days	[illegible]
1 do. 3 days	1 75	do. 3 days	[illegible]
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LARGER ADVERTISEMENTS IN EXACT PROPORTION.

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FROM FREDERICKSBURG.

The regular train on the Fredericksburg road was greatly delayed beyond its usual time of arrival last night. Advices from that quarter, however, repeat the story that "all is quiet," and that no active movements are in progress.

FROM THE VALLEY.

We have already noticed the evacuation of Winchester by our forces, and its subsequent occupation by the enemy. Coupled with this, there was a report in circulation on Saturday and yesterday that the "Maryland Line," stationed at Winchester, under command of Gen. George H. Stuart, had been captured at the time of the occupation. This report we are satisfied is without foundation, as it is barely possible, and not at all probable, that such a capture could have occurred without official knowledge of the fact reaching us ere this. Besides, we have Baltimore dates to the 4th, which make no mention even of the capture of Winchester, which is reported to have occurred on the 3d.

MATTERS IN GLOUCESTER—RAID ON THE OYSTER CRAFT.

A gentleman, from Gloucester on Friday last, gives us some information of the state of affairs in that county. The Yankee commander at Gloucester Point—Col. Davidson—had moved Mr. Dobson and his family from their residence and taken the building for his own headquarters. On Friday, the gunboat Chicora ran up York river and captured five oyster craft, and on Tuesday the Seth Low chased four boats into Caffey's Creek, and captured them. She then went up to West Point and broke up the oystering establishment of Mr. Sassingham, who, they alleged, had "taken the oath" and violated it by trading with the rebels.

The Chicora, which is commanded by Captain Parker, a native of Westmoreland county, Va., went up North river, into Mathews county, and a landing being made at Mr. Warner Taliaferro's, that gentleman's carriage was stolen and carried aboard. She then went up East river, where a negro, with his wife, came on board and asked to be taken away. To the inquiries of Capt. P. whether he had a good master and mistress, affirmative replies were given, and the negro was then advised "if he knew what was good for him," to go back home. The servant replied that he had gone too far, and was afraid to return, and was carried off. Capt. Parker telling the slave that his orders were not to refuse the application of any negro to be carried into the Federal lines. The negro's wife, however, who probably wouldn't be so available as a working "contraband," was left behind. While the Chicora was on this trip, two of her crew, an officer and a sailor, went ashore, and did a slashing business killing turkies and chickens; but our pickets pounced on them and took them prisoners before they could get back to their vessel.

Two Jews—one from Richmond and the other from North Carolina—were captured in Mathews county by our pickets last week. They had heard that salt was cheap down there, they said, and had gone down to buy a "few bushels." In the lining of their vests was found a plentiful supply of U. S. green backs, and they were taken into custody.

FROM THE SOUTH-SIDE.

A member of Dodge's New York Mounted Rifles deserted and came into our lines, near Zuni, a few days ago, and arrived at Petersburg on Friday. He is represented to be a likely, intelligent man, and has been in the service but three months, but expresses himself as fully satisfied with his war experience. He gives it as his opinion that there are not more than 15,000 now in and around Suffolk, and says that an attempt will be made to cross Blackwater, at or near Franklin, at an early day, and that the material for pontoon bridges reached Suffolk on Friday week.

Corcoran's Irish Legion arrived at Suffolk on Saturday week, and were received with some enthusiasm. Corcoran was not with the Legion, being left at Fortress Monroe, where he lies quite ill with typhoid pneumonia. Corcoran is said to have expressed a desire to be assigned to duty at Suffolk, with the hope that opportunity might be afforded of avenging some "indignities" offered him in Petersburg in February last.

The skirmish on Tuesday last, already noticed, occurred at Carrsville, Isle of Wight. Our forces were out foraging, and consisted of Major Griffin's battalion and one of Capt. Wright's rockett battery. The Yankees were informed of their movements, and succeeded in ambushing them. After a severe fight of about an hour our forces retired, with the loss of between 30 and 35, wounded and prisoners, and the rockett gun. We lost five horses and captured six. The gun of Wright's battery captured was taken below Richmond from the Yankees, and the battery is said to be the only one of the kind on the continent.

ENGLISH OPINION ON THE MEDIATION QUESTION.

Our Northern files bring us some interesting extracts from late English papers, relative to the course which the Queen's Ministers have chosen in respect to the mediation proposal of the French Emperor. The London *Times* alludes to the Northern penchant to abuse the Britisher, and to express unbounded confidence in France and Russia, and says: "All this is at an end now. In every household in every soldier's tent, both North and South, it will be known in a fortnight's time, not only that the French Emperor wishes to end the war, but that it cannot end in the subjugation of the South." It further says: "We cannot look upon the proposal of the French Emperor as wholly useless, inasmuch as it has called forth such clear opinions from the two leading nations of Europe, and gives, also, reason to believe that the Russia which the Republicans affect so much to admire is equally opposed to the policy of Washington." The *Times* expresses the opinion that the Northern elections, if adverse to the Republicans, will be merely the prelude to some sharper and more deadly struggle.

The *Morning Herald* is very pointed in its comments. It says "such is the language with which he [Lord Russell] mocks the hopes and insults the misery of half a million of starving English laborers." "Everything is to be sacrificed to the vain hope of retaining the parliamentary support of Messrs Bright and Cobden, and the still more absurd delusion that, by abject patience and dastardly submission, we may avert the vindictive wrath and pacify the causeless hatred of the mongrel rabble which controls the Government of the Northern States. Of all political crimes, since history began, this, which has just been committed by the English Government, is one of the most foolish and the most unpardonable. For cold-blooded cruelty and pusillanimous betrayal of duty, Lord Russell and his colleagues are hardly to be matched among statesmen, living or dead. If their rivals in guilt are to be found, they must be sought among the Generals and Ministers of Mr. Lincoln, and the agitators and self styled preachers of the Gospel, who bound them on to deeds of wicked ness unparalleled in the history of civilized warfare."

The *Daily News*, (Exeter Hall organ,) endeavors to show that the proposal of France would benefit the South and injure the North. 'Confederate paper would go up, and the South would supply itself with commodities which would enable it to enter upon the war next spring prepared to continue it for years. The proposal is one which would deprive the North of all the advantages of the approaching campaign, which it has been preparing for at the cost of millions, and in which its naval resources are calculated to give it peculiar advantages. The North is to be asked to forego the use of its large gunboat fleet just in the season when the rivers are full, and every circumstance is favorable for naval operations. There is nothing in the proposal to set over against these disadvantages for the North. What is more important is that the reinforcement of the South, which it would be the means of procuring, would enable the Confederate Government to dictate its own terms of peace."

The London correspondent of the New York *World* makes important disclosures relative to Napoleon's proposition to the European Powers and the relations of English diplomacy to the American question. He says France desires to see America united under one Government, while England prefers the establishment of two Confederacies; that the departure of Lord Lyons was delayed to enable him to receive instructions based on the result of propositions made by the British Government to the Governments of France, Spain, Italy, Russia, and Prussia, earlier in the autumn. The tenor of these propositions was similar to that of the subsequent propositions of Napoleon, with this vital difference: that the English propositions contemplated what M. de l'Huys, in his subsequent dispatch, describes as a "pressure" in case of their non acceptance.—The Powers replied substantially as follows:

"Spain, as a maritime and colonial State, nearly interested, declined committing herself to any action which might at once expose her possessions to immediate annoyance, and bring upon her the imputation of availing herself ungeneronsly of the distresses of the United States to secure indemnity for the past and security for the future.

"Italy regarded that her relations with the United States were such as to indispose her to become a party to any untimely pressure upon that country while passing through a crisis analogous in many respects, though in an inverse sense, with that from which the Italian kingdom itself is just emerging.

"Russia regarded the moment as inopportune for a demonstration of the kind intended, and did not consider herself sufficiently interested to warrant any action so emphatic at this time.

"France was unwilling to adopt measures which might, indeed, bring on a peace, but at the expense of the Union, the hope of seeing which re-established she was not yet fully prepared to forego."

"Such (the *World's* correspondent has reason to believe) was the tenor of the replies which finally determined the English Cabinet to hold their action on the American question in suspense. The French propositions were intended to take the place of those just rejected, and had they been accepted by Great Britain they would probably have commanded the adhesion of the other powers. Failing in this they have been published as a part of the history of the times, and to put the French Government right in regard to its intentions in this momentous matter.'

REPORT OF THE YANKEE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

This document occupies some twelve columns, closely printed matter, in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. It presents an extensive reference to the various exploits of the Abolition Navy since the commencement of the war, including the fight in Hampton Roads, the fall of Roanoke Island, New Orleans, Newbern, Forts Henry, Donelson, Pulaski, &c. He says that "since the commencement of national difficulties, four powerful squadrons have been collected, organized, and stationed for duty, on our maritime frontier, with a rapidity and suddenness which finds no approach to a parallel in previous naval history, and which, it is believed, no other country but our own could have achieved." He adds that these squadrons have been incessantly maintaining a strict blockade, of such gigantic proportions that eminent foreign statesmen in the highest scenes of legislation did not hesitate at its commencement publicly to denounce it as a "material impossibility." And yet, after this most imposing naval undertaking had been for a period of eighteen months in operation, and after its reach had been effectively extended along the entire sweep of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the same eminent authorities, with a list in their hands of all the vessels which had evaded or escaped the vigilance of the blockading forces, could not refuse in their official statements to admit, with reluctant candor, that the proof of the efficiency of the blockade was conspicuous and wholly conclusive.

The capture of New Orleans is alluded to as an undertaking of the greatest difficulty and of the greatest importance, and its accomplishment as the grandest achievement of the war, and as one of the most remarkable triumphs in the whole history of naval operations, and one which struck "just terror" to the heart of the whole rebellion.

The operations of our privateersmen has greatly affected the sensibilities of the Yankee Secretary. Speaking of the "290," which he terms a "piratical privateer," he says "she was built and fitted out in British ports, in flagrant violation of British law and of the royal proclamation of neutrality, and I have reason to believe that her crew is composed almost exclusively of British subjects, or persons who, pursuing a lawful voyage, would be entitled to ship and receive protection as British seamen;" and adds, "to what extent, under these circumstances, the Government of Great Britain is bound in honor and justice to make indemnification for the destruction of private property which this lawless vessel may perpetrate, is a question that may present itself for disposal. It is alluded to now and here, not only from a sense of duty towards our commercial interests and rights, but also by reason of the fact that recent intelligence indicates that still other vessels of a similar character are being fitted out in British ports to depredate upon our commerce." He says, further, that the Department has dispatched vessels to effect the capture of the "290," and there is now quite a fleet on the ocean engaged in pursuing her.

The amount of expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1862, is represented by the Secretary to have been $42,200,529 96. The amount expended includes the payment for the construction of fifty-two steamers; the purchase, alterations, and armament of one hundred and seventy-five steamers and sailing vessels; all the charter money paid by the Department, together with all the increased expenses incident to the enlarged navy. The amount appropriated for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, is $52,804,359.07. The estimates submitted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, amount to $68,257,255.01.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

Northern papers, of the 4th inst., have been received. The news from Burnside's army is not important. A letter from Aquia Creek, dated the 3d inst., says the writer is "constrained to believe that no part of the rebel army at Fredericksburg has made a retrogade movement on Richmond." He adds:

True, Lee is probably preparing to do so at a moment's notice, by sending to the rear, per rail, everything likely to embarrass him in such an undertaking, but none of his troops have yet started in that direction.

Our army never was better provided or in better condition than at this moment, and the fact that it has remained quiet here for the past week is of course taken by him as an indication that he is not to be moved on from this point.

From the statements of deserters, it is evident that great uneasiness exists on the part of the rebel commanders on account of Burnside's failure up to this time to essay to cross the river. Their fear is that when he does so they will find another army equally as large threatening Richmond from a different direction.

THE LATEST.

Headquarters Army of Potomac, Dec. 3, 3 P. M.—Yesterday morning parts of two companies, in all 60 men, belonging to the 8th Pennsylvania cavalry, under command of Captain Wilson, who were stationed at King George's Court-House, were attacked by about 300 rebels who crossed the Rappahannock in small boats. They crossed at a point some distance this side of the Court-House, thus getting in between this command and the main body of the cavalry. Forty out of the sixty made their escape, and there is reason to believe that more of them will yet return. Capt. Wilson is among the missing. How many were killed and wounded is not known. The enemy left three dead. Citizens living in King George's county, and who had applied for guards to protect their property, were known to be among the attacking party. They doubtless gave the information which led to the attack.

The following order was issued to-day by Gen. Burnside: All others who may be guilty of such gross neglect of duty will thus be promptly dealt with without respect to rank.

Headquarters Army of Potomac, Camp Near Falmouth, Va., Dec. 2.—General Orders, No. 190.—Capt. George Johnston, of the 3d Pennsylvania cavalry, while in charge of a cavalry picket on the 28th of November, having by his negligence, continued after repeated warnings from his commanding officer, permitted his party to be surprised by the enemy, and himself and a number of his officers and men to be captured, is, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, dismissed the service for disgraceful and unofficerlike conduct. The Commanding General hopes and believes that a lack of discipline in the regiment and brigade to which this officer belonged, did not warrant him in so gross a neglect of duty.

By command of Major Gen. BURNSIDE.
Lewis Richmond, A. A. G.

A flag of truce was sent over the river this morning for the purpose of conveying two daughters of Dr. Sylvester Conway, of Fredericksburg.

Deserters from the rebels continue to arrive daily. They represent their army as being very destitute, particularly in clothing. No salt meat has been issued since they left Maryland. Last week an order was issued by Gen. Lee that such soldiers as were without shoes make moccasins from the rawhides—otherwise they must do duty barefooted.

A Washington dispatch, dated the 2d, says:

Everything is now about ready for the departure of the Banks expedition, and it will probably leave for the scene of its operations about Thursday next. Reports have been in circulation of the supersedeure of Gen. Burnside by Gen. Hooker, but they do not rest on a sufficiently firm basis to announce them as correct. Gen. Burnside is believed to be doing all that Gen. Hooker or any other General could do in the same position, and so long as this is the case there certainly could be nothing gained by his removal. As to his activity, it cannot be questioned by any one; and if when his plans are perfected there is a reasonable show of success, he puts them in practice at the earliest moment.

Our latest intelligence from the army would seem to indicate an attack upon Fredericksburg during the present week. Some additional siege guns have been sent to Gen. Burnside, and if there is not warm work before the lapse of many days I shall be mistaken.

With regard to the enemy's movements but little reliable is known; indeed, they are so carefully concealed that it is next to impossible to fathom them. The report of their retiring upon Richmond, however, I am inclined to doubt—the more probable theory being that they have merely left the front for a more secure and better fortified position behind their second range of batteries.

THE FIGHT NEAR SUFFOLK.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The following has been received at the headquarters of the army:

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 2.

Major-Gen'l W. H. Halleck, General-in-Chief: An expedition sent out from Suffolk yesterday by Major Peck, captured to-day the celebrated *Pittsburg Battery*, which was taken from our army, and drove the enemy across the Blackwater at Franklin's.

We have over thirty prisoners, and are picking up more on the roads.

Many of the enemy were killed and wounded. Our loss is trifling.

(Signed) JOHN A. DIX, Major General.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The proceedings of the Washington Congress on the 3d were almost devoid of interest. The following resolution, offered by Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, was objected to and laid over:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to inform the Senate whether Dr. John Laws and Whitely Meredith, or either of them, citizens of the State of Delaware, have been arrested and imprisoned in Fort Delaware; when they were arrested and so imprisoned; the charges against them; by whom made; by whose orders they were arrested and imprisoned, and that he communicate to the Senate all papers relating to their arrest and imprisonment.

The Washington correspondent of the Associated Press, on the 2d, telegraphs the following:

The Democratic representatives yesterday showed how much they were emboldened by the recent successes of that party in the North. The manner of several was decidedly insurrectionary, and both their actions and language gave full evidence that they intended to support no measures that were not based upon the Constitution as all the Democratic Presidents had construed it.

ADVANCE IN THE NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Stocks are higher to-day under the influence of a rumor that the Secretary of the Treasury will recommend an additional issue of currency.

THE "ALABAMA."

BOSTON, Dec. 3.—The British bark Mary, at Queenstown, Nov. 19th, from Yarmouth, N. S., spoke Oct. 30th, in lat. 41, lon. 64.30, the rebel steamer Alabama.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

Misunderstanding between England and France—Distress in the Manufacturing Districts of England—The Removal of McClellan—France Supposed to Intend Interference in American Affairs on Her Own Account.

The steamer Hibernia has arrived at Portland, Maine. Her dates are late, and the intelligence interesting. The following is the condensation of the news by the Northern papers:

There is increasing distress in the cotton manufacturing districts of England, and it is attracting more attention from the Government.

Political offenders and returned Hungarian refugees had been arrested by the Emperor of Austria.

The steamers Saxonia and Hansen would take out a large quantity of arms for New York.

The British Anti-Slavery Society has issued an address to call for sympathy with the Emancipationists of the North.

The Spanish papers hint that Mexico is destined to become a *French Canada*.

It is reported that there is much disappointment in France at the course of Russia in regard to intervention.

The London *Herald* says that the relations of France and England have assumed an unsatisfactory character. English Cabinet councils have become frequent.

The elections in America are the theme of general comment in England. The prevailing impression is that these Democratic successes are a step towards peace.

It is rumored that an attempt had been made on the life of the Emperor Napoleon.

STILL LATER.

ST. JOHNS, Dec. 3.—The steamer China, from Liverpool on the 22d ultimo for New York, passed Cape Race at 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

The U. S. frigate Saratoga arrived at Lisbon on the 17th.

The steamer Bavaria, before reported ashore, got off and proceeded to Hamburg.

Gen. McClellan's removal caused a depression in American securities. The London *Times* says it is the first effect of the recent elections on President Lincoln. McClellan is sacrificed to the political jealousies of the party in power, being known to be conservative, and opposed to the violent acts of the Executive. The editor questions the success of the movement, as it makes Gen. McClellan a conservative martyr.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* regards the removal of Gen. McClellan as a defiance of the Government Democrats. No movement, it says, has been more favorable for bold Confederate movements. It questions Burnside's ability for the appointment.

The text of the Russian note refusing the French proposition for mediation, fully bears out the telegraphic summary.

There are vague rumors that France has sent another note to England in response to Lord Russell's reply.

The Liverpool *Post* explains that the steamer "290," recently launched, is not for the Confederates, but for the China trade.

The sailing of sundry fast coasting steamers, for the purpose of running the blockade, is reported. A steamer, name unknown, recently left the Mersey, with 600 tons of arms, &c., for the Confederates.

The *Times* and *Post* replies to Mr. Seward's reflections on the case of the Alabama, and emphatically deny that there are grounds for the Federals to complain in the matter, where they reaped the greatest benefits.

Garibaldi, in a letter to W. Cornell Jewell, pledges himself strongly in favor of the North as an opponent of slavery. He goes for the abolition of slavery before any constitutional question.

The Continental news is unimportant.

The *Times*, of Saturday, again expatiates on the probable effect of the Democratic successes in the American elections. It says that no sudden change in the Federal policy can be anticipated, but it is enough to know that the most of President Lincoln's measures have been condemned, and will probably be abandoned.

The *Morning Herald* regards Gen. McClellan's removal as a terrible mistake of President Lincoln, both in a military and political point of view.

The *Saturday Review* thinks that the Emperor Napoleon has movements afoot which do not appear on the surface of his mediation scheme, and says that the express mention of the name Confederate States, which they selected for themselves, virtually involves recognition; and the proposed armistice implies an opinion which may shortly be altered into language more intelligible than words.

This paper hints at a probable alliance with the Southern States in connection with the Emperor's designs on Mexico.

LATEST, (VIA QUEENSTOWN.)—The elections in Greece commence on the 6th of December and terminate on the 10th. The great probability of the election of Prince Alfred to the throne causes excitement among foreign ministers. The country is tranquil.

There had been a slight advance in cotton at Liverpool. Breadstuffs were unchanged. Corn was easier. Provisions were declining. Consols 93½@93¾.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

We give some extracts from our Northern files of the 2d inst., which will be found interesting.—The prayer delivered at the opening of Congress by Rev. Mr. Stockton, the Chaplain of that body, is extremely good. We give the following extract from it:

We pray that in our conflicts that just so far as Thou seest right Thou wilt give us victory and advancement. Be mindful, O Lord, of the havoc and desolation that is falling upon the land through this war. Remember the sick and the wounded and the dying. We pray for our brethren now in arms against us. We thank Thee that *it is so easy for us to obey this precept of our Redeemer—love your enemies. We cannot cease to love them.* May they soon be induced to relinquish the evil that is amongst them, and place higher value on the great principles of the charter of our independence, and show that they regard "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as the right of all mankind, and *as beyond all mere local advantages*, so that there shall be a restored Union, with increased goodness and love and glory and joy upon the earth for ever and ever.

THE OPENING OF CONGRESS—SCENES ON THE OCCASION.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing on the 1st inst. about the opening of the United States Congress, says:

At the opening of Congress to day the attendance upon the floor and in the galleries was unusually large. Long before the hour for the commencement of the session the floor was filled with members, exchanging greetings and mutual condolence over the result of the recent elections. It was apparent that the reassembling brought to many of them unpleasant reflections. There were those among the observers who professed to be able to select at a glance the defeated candidates for re-election. The galleries were crowded to overflowing, and even the corridors were thronged with visitors, the splendid new picture by Leutze, upon the western staircase of the House, being a point of general attraction.

After an eloquent prayer by Dr. Stockton, the House proceeded immediately to the regular order of business. When the usual announciation of organization had been made, and the States called for resolutions, the fight between the factions on the floor was at once inaugurated. It was easy to perceive that the vulnerable point of the radicals was the unconstitutionality of the arrests which have been made so indiscriminately during the recess of Congress. The subject was introduced by a resolution offered by Mr. Vallandigham, which was promptly laid upon the table. It was brought up again in another shape by Mr. Cox, and again tabled. But this opposition would not down; it forced itself once more upon the attention of the House, in the shape of a resolution of inquiry from Mr. Richardson, which was allowed to pass. It is evident, from the persistency of the opposition members in forcing this subject upon the attention of Congress and the country, that it is regarded as a weak point in the Administration policy, and will be pursued with much obstinacy throughout the session.

The timidity manifested by the Republicans in meeting the question leaves the impression that they would, if possible, avoid any contest upon this ground.

The Message was listened to in both Houses with earnestness and attention. Notwithstanding the outgiving of certain wiseacres as to its tenor in reference to the negro question, it evidently surprised a great many who hoped for an exposition of more radical views. It was apparent that the plan proposed by Mr. Lincoln and recommended with so much detail, was peculiarly his own, and that the proclamation of the 22d of September, although unwillingly acceded to, had not his cordial approval. The Message has greatly disatisfied the radicals, and elicits from them expressions of unfeigned disappointment, and, in some instances, violent abuse of the President.

The rabid Republicans of the Senate did not conceal their chagrin during the reading of that part of the Message which urged the purchase and deportation of slaves as the cheapest way to end the war. Having been for prolonging the war to destroy slavery, they don't now relish the idea of buying slaves to stop the war. From the fulminations of the radical organs, they expected the Message to be a rabid and fanatical document.—Since the adjournment to day they have given vent to their spleen generally, but suggest no remedy for the evils that their course has precipitated.

The malignants are not much seen to-night in public places. It is presumed that they are in consultation, as prescribed by Col. Forney. Mr. Sumner had quite a levee after the adjournment with several strong minded women, among whom was Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. To their anxious, humanitarian inquiries he made the encouraging remark that we had got our prow in the right direction. The Republican hero no longer cries "Onward to Richmond," but favors keeping in our front an army of fifty thousand men to protect Washington.

The recommendation in the Message as to the organization of banking associations, under a general act of Congress, is regarded as an indication of the renewal by the Secretary of the Treasury of the banking scheme presented by him at the last session as a part of his financial policy.

THE FIRST IRON-CLAD OUT.

The iron-clad steamer Passaic sailed from New York on the 24th ult., on a trial trip to Fortress Monroe. The New York *Herald*, speaking of the trip, says:

The buoyancy of the vessel was very marked, and during the heaviest sea experienced on the voyage, at no time did the water reach an elevation of more than two feet above the deck of the vessel. The vessel experienced a few hours' rough weather, and during the time behaved exceedingly well. It was regretted by those on board that it could not have blown quite a gale, so as to have given her a good trial amid the buffeting waves.

The ventilation was also found to be up to the constructor's mark, and no unpleasantness was felt from that cause. The vessel steered well, minding her helm with celerity and certainty; but a larger wheel will be put in the pilot-house. The compass worked admirably, the attraction, or rather duration, being only about one quarter of a point. She steames well, and in every respect fulfilled the highest expectations. The next thing that is to follow in her history will be active offensive service, in which here can be no doubt but that she will prove herself all that could be desired of her.

She may possibly act in conjunction with the Army of the Potomac, and should the Merrimac No. 2 make her appearance on the James river, so that Capt. Drayton can bring the Passaic into action, then look out for rebel splinters.

THE TIMES'S SPECIAL IN RICHMOND—FIRST LETTER.

The London *Times* publishes the first letter from its special correspondent in Richmond. He commences by quoting from the speech of Edmund Burke, in the House of Commons, in 1775, in which he said:

"The spirit of liberty in the Southern States is more high and haughty than in the Northern. In the Carolinas and Virginia they have a vast multitude of slaves. Where this is the case in any part of the world, those who are free are by far the most proud and jealous of their freedom. Freedom is to them not only an enjoyment, but a kind of rank and privilege. Not seeing there that freedom as in countries where it is a common blessing, and as broad and general as the air, may be united with much abject toil, with great misery, with all the exterior of servitude, liberty looks among them like something that is more noble and liberal. I do not mean to commend the superior morality of this sentiment, which has at least as much pride as virtue in it, but I cannot alter the nature of man.—These people of the Southern Colonies are much more strongly, and with a higher and more stubborn spirit, attached to liberty than those to the northward. Such were all ancient commonwealths, such were our Gothic ancestors, such in our days the Poles, such will be all masters of slaves. In such a people the haughtiness of domination combines with the spirit of freedom, fortifies it, and renders it invincible."

He then proceeds in a very interesting letter, from which we make some extracts:

THE FEELING IN RICHMOND.

The stranger who wins his way this day to Richmond will find the fullest realization of these prophetic words on a far mightier field of action than was within the purview of their inspired utterer.—It is not too much to say that the most fanatical believer in the ancient Union, be he Mr. Seward himself, would despair of the faith that is in him, and acknowledge himself, in Victor Hugo's phrase, the "somnambulist of a vanished dream," could he walk the streets of Richmond this day, and guage the spirit and feeling of its people after nearly nineteen months of such warfare as the world never contemplated before. The streets are crowded, the hotels refuse to contain their shoals of guests; everywhere the quietness and confidence of a people secure in its own strength is incontestibly evident. Everything necessary for life, most things requisite for its luxurious enjoyment, as it is interpreted on this continent, are to be found in abundance. There is absolutely only one commodity of which the absence is gravely felt, that commodity being ice. Does the Federal Government hope by such a frail rudder to steer the Southern Confederacy back into the harbor of Union?

EFFECTS OF THE BLOCKADE.

Of course, with many of the supplies sucked in through the most ridiculous of blockades, and transported over the enormous area which separates Richmond from the cities of the Southern seaboard, prices are high. The board and lodging in the hotels amount to four dollars per day; clothing and boots are extremely dear, but are to be had by paying for them; medical supplies are scarce, but are constantly being introduced in not insufficient quantities across the Potomac and through the cities of the coast. And here, from personal experience, I may express my conviction of the utter impossibility of blockading the Potomac and the Ohio, and shutting off the South from supplies, along a frontier which from Fortress Monroe to distant Kansas extends for some 1,500 miles. If the whole Federal navy was concentrated in the Potomac it would be utterly inadequate effectually to block the innumerable creeks and reaches of that river. Add to this that on both sides the stream dwells a population of which not more than five per cent. are in favor of the Union.

RAVAGES OF THE ENEMY IN VIRGINIA.

In nearly every county the court-house in which the assizes for each county used to be held is rudely demolished, doors and windows torn down, while within, upon the white walls, in every phase of handwriting, are recorded the autographs of the vandals whose handiwork surrounds the beholder. Stories upon stories have reached me detailing how the wives of the Federal officers, represented by my exasperated informants as having usually "hailed from" detested New England, forced their way behind the Federal troops into the fine family mansions of the Old Dominion, and personally superintended the abstraction and transmission northwards of old family china, silver, glass, pictures, books, furniture, and piano fortes. A Virginia lady, who remonstrated with one of these Yankee hen barriers, engaged in packing up valued family china, was met by the rejoinder, "You are a rebel, and have no rights that I am bound to respect; your property, therefore, is mine!" In short, such a picture of desolation as the northern frontier of Virginia and the lovely Shenandoah Valley, the Paradise of America, exhibit, can be likened only to the Palatinate after Tilly's final visit, as Thucydides paints it, after the annual Lacedæmon incursion during the Peloppennesian war.

THE UNITED AND DETERMINED FEELING AT THE SOUTH.

I have traveled far and wide through Virginia; I have conversed with men, women, striplings, and children, in that State, and in Maryland; I have seen men, formerly substantial and thriving, whose everything is devoured by the Federals; but never in one single instance have I heard a word of regret by reason of the war, a timid note sounded in regard to its issues, a sigh breathed over the departed Union, a ghost of a desire expressed in favor of compromise or reconstruction. On the contrary, one universal chorus echoes through the length and breadth of the land: "The net is broken, and we are delivered!" Mr. Everett and his votaries, who still believe in imprisoned loyalty as existing in the South, might as well search in the British Islands for a man who desired them to be annexed to France. So united, so homogeneous a community as the States of the Southern Confederacy finds no parallel in our annals. No war that England has waged for a hundred years has met with such cordial, unanimous, undivided support.

The war against the French Republic had its Charles Fox; the war against Russia its Richard Cobden. There is no such character in the Southern States. The victory of the Federals in this exasperated struggle means, not the defeat of the Southern armies, not the possession of Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans, which would no more lead to a conclusion of the war than the seizure of the Isle of Man. A Federal victory means nothing on earth but the extermination and annihilation of every man, woman, and child in the Southern Confederacy. There is no passion, no frenzy, in the universal language. The intensity of the hate flushes the cheek and clinches the teeth, but finds little expression in feeble words. If anything, the exuberance of animosity is more perceptible in the flashing eyes and eager earnestness of the women, but the settled and unconquerable firmness of the men requires nothing to be added to it.

The possibility of Richmond's falling is calmly discussed, and preparations have long been made for such a contingency. Surprise is expressed that the Federals have not long ago possessed themselves of several other Southern cities as well as New Orleans. The possession of a capital city in these days of railroads is a very different thing from what it used to be in the days of Wagram and Jena. Great suffering might be inflicted on women and children if Mobile and Charleston fell—suffering which there is only too much reason to fear would be most acceptable to the Federals, judging from the record of their deeds during the last year and a half. But every considerable city in the South might be reduced to ashes without changing the mood or undermining the resolutions of the feebiest heart, if any feeble hearts there be, in the Southern Confederacy.

HOW THEY BEAR THEIR LOSSES.

I am told by the highest authority that the official statement, comprising the most minute details of the Confederate loss at the battle of Antietam Creek, estimates the Confederate loss in killed, wounded, and missing, at 6,000 men. Another fact is noticeable. A Federal loss of infinite magnitude would evoke no sigh of sympathy, no moment of sadness, except so far as it was supposed to defer the restoration of the Union. But the whole Confederacy bewails the 6,000 victims at Antietam Creek with brotherly affection and sympathy.

Nor is that appalling indifference which amazes and paralyzes the spectator in Washington and New York affected here. Scarcely a lady but wears mourning, proud to display that she has lost a relative fighting in a cause dearer to her than life; scarcely a person but speaks sorrowfully and with affliction of a loss which seems to them appalling, though not much more than one third of that inflicted upon their *poco curante* foe.

THE SOUTHERN ARMY.

Well may a nation be confident of winning its independence which can exhibit such spectacles as every day produces wherever a Southern army is in the field. There, in poverty, hunger, and dirt, shoeless, with shirts ragged and rent, often without hats, their feet bleeding as they drag their weary limbs through dust and briar, are serving in the ranks the gentlemen and the *sangre azul* of the South. Many a man who, until the commencement of the war, had scarcely a thought beyond the Cafe Foy and the Boulevards of Paris, and to whose morning toilet every diversity of cosmetic was as necessary as water, has for months been marching under a musket, without one single change of raiment, feeding on green maize and raw pork, lying at night on the bare earth, with a single blanket between him and the canopy of heaven.

And these men, many of them bearing some of England's most honored names, and descended from England's best families, are in the field, and have been so for nineteen months, fighting against mercenaries who have repudiated England, as though she were governed by a Nero, and have escaped from German penury and conscriptions. Whatever may have been the truth last winter, it is not pretended now that the Northern armies are not mainly composed of men of foreign birth!—Where are the native Americans of weight and influence serving in the Northern armies? Why does not Wendell Phillips take the field? Men older than he are serving by dozens in the Southern ranks. Where is Charles Sumner's musket?—The Senate could spare Senator Baker, in no wise Mr. Sumner's inferior in intellect, and it were a noble answer to the South, which sneers at non-duellists for want of courage, to show how one of that class can comport himself upon the perilous edge of battle. It is but probable that with unopposed command of the sea and the great rivers during their autumn floods, the South may lose thousands more of her sons, in addition to that great sea of blood which has already been cheerfully poured out in her defence. But let her be left without a single city or village, with nothing but her internal fastnesses and her immense area of territory, and though every man in the North under fifty were to take the field, they would be inefficient ever to make such a nation as the South lie at the feet of her enemy.

NOTICE TO CONSCRIPTS—TO ALL PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 40 YEARS.—In obedience to General Order, No. 82, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, dated November 3d, 1862, OLD MARKET HALL is hereby appointed a place of rendezvous for Conscripts from the city of Richmond, which forms a part of the Third Congressional District, and Surgeon O. R. Early, Assist. Surgeon Chas. Selden, and Dr. L. Henly, are a Board of Examination for the Third Congressional District, composed of the counties of Hanover, Henrico, Charles City, New Kent, Elizabeth City, James City, Warwick, York, Williamsburg, and the city of Richmond.

All persons in the city of Richmond, between the ages of eighteen and forty years, whether residents of any other portion of the State or of other States, which the aforesaid orders have not been suspended, are hereby required to report themselves at Old Market Hall, to the Examining Board and Enrolling Officer, for examination and enrollment, on the days fixed in the annexed notice of the Examining Board.

This notice includes every person between the ages specified—those who have been heretofore examined and discharged, either by State or Confederate Surgeons—those who have at any time been discharged from the army—those who have furnished substitutes, and any and all persons who may claim exemption on any ground whatever. No person's discharge, exemption, or detail, from any source, will excuse from attendance at the place appointed.

Attention is called to XIII. ¶, sections 2 and 3, General Orders No. 82, as follows:

2. All the laws and regulations applicable to deserters shall be applied to such conscripts as fail to repair to the place of rendezvous for enrollment, or who shall desert after enrollment.

3. All the agencies employed for the apprehension and confinement of deserters, and their transportation to the commands of their respective commanders, shall be applicable to persons liable to duty as conscripts who shall fail to repair to the place of rendezvous after the publication of the call.

JNO. A. COKE,
Capt. and Enrolling Officer for 3d Cong. Dist.

The undersigned, one of the Examining Board for the Third Congressional District, under General Orders, No 82, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, hereby gives notice to all whom it may concern, that he has fixed upon the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th days of December for the examination of conscripts who shall assemble at Old Market Hall, from the city of Richmond, in pursuance of the above notice.

O. R. EARLY,
Examining Surgeon, P. A. C. S.

Inasmuch as there are many Government contractors and persons detailed on Government work in the city of Richmond, I can be found daily at my office, in the Richmond House, on corner of Governor (13th) and Ross streets, for the purpose of attending to that particular branch before the day appointed for the assembling of the conscripts.

JNO. A. COKE,
Capt. and Enrolling Officer, 3d Cong. Dist.
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RICHMOND BOOT, SHOE, AND TRUNK FACTORY, 119 Main street, between 13th and 14th sts.—A large supply of Ladies' Morocco BOOTEES; Goat and Calf-skin SHOES; Misses' and Boys' Calf SHOES and BOOTS; Men's double and single soled Boots and Dress Shoes. Also, a large supply of TRUNKS, of different styles, wholesale and retail.

The highest prices paid for LEATH