Richmond Dispatch.

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THURSDAY MORNING.....JAN 8 1863.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXIV. RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8 1863. NO. 7

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Both Houses of the Legislature met yesterday at 12 o'clock. The Senate adjourned until to-day, there being no quorum present.

In the House Mr. Hugh W. Sheffey, of Augusta, was nominated for Speaker and elected without opposition. In taking the seat he made a brief and very eloquent address, which we regret we have not space to publish. He assured the House that though our arms continued to be blessed with victory the contest was by no means ended, and it behooved us to see that no distracting conflicts should occur among those who are the pilots of the State. He said that "Virginia, after the struggle is past, will stand as the majestic oak of the forest after the storm, stripped, it may be, of its leaves, but still with trunk and proudest branches unsceathed."

Geo. W. Wilson, of Botetourt, was elected Doorkeeper.

Tuesday next, the 13th, was fixed upon for the balloting for a Confederate States Senator.

After the Governor's Message was read the House adjourned.

RIOTOUS PROCEEDINGS IN DANVILLE.

A good deal of excitement was created in Danville yesterday by the riotous conduct of some of the soldiers (convalescent hospital patients) there. In the morning a countryman's wagon was upset by a soldier, who was arrested by the Mayor and put in prison.

The mass of the soldiers in the place, to the number of 1,200 or 1,500 then collected around the jail swearing to have the man out or tear the jail down. The Mayor was firm in refusing to liberate him. The military authorities at Richmond have been advised of the facts by telegraph. Last night at 6 o'clock the crowd was still around the prison.

CAPTURE OF YANKEES IN HARDY COUNTY.

Captain McNeill, commanding Company E, Col. Imboden's cavalry regiment, recently made a successful dash upon Milroy's ordnance and baggage train, five miles below Moorefield, and captured 75 horses and 45 Yankees. He succeeded in getting into camp with 17 of the Yankees and 48 horses. This feat was accomplished in full sight of the whole marching column of the enemy, and was done in about ten minutes. Capt. McN. had only 37 men with him at the time. The enemy shelled them furiously as they fled up the mountain side with their prisoners and booty, but without inflicting any damage.

TESTIMONIAL TO LIEUT.-GEN. JACKSON.

The citizens of the county of Augusta, in appreciation of the services of this distinguished chieftain, have presented him with an elegant horse and equipments. The following is his letter acknowledging his acceptance of the handsome testimonial.

CAROLINE COUNTY, Dec. 30, 1862.

To the Hon. Alex. H. H. Stuart and others:

Gentlemen: I have this day received the beautiful horse and equipments which have been presented to me by you on the part of citizens of Augusta county. I hasten to express my grateful appreciation of the honor you have thus conferred upon me. This evidence of regard will continue to be appreciated, not only for its intrinsic worth, but as the kind testimonial of the patriotic people of Augusta.

In reply to the complimentary manner in which you speak of my services, permit me to say that they have fallen far short of my desires.

I trust that God, who has thus far protected your homes, may continue to do so, and soon bless our country with an honorable and lasting peace.

With sentiments of high regard, I am gentlemen, your obt'l serv't, T. J. JACKSON.

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR LETCHER.

At the opening of the session of the Legislature yesterday the message of the Governor was read. It is characterized by that excellent sense and clear judgment which all of the State papers emanating from him have evinced, and we regret that the reduced size of our paper will not permit us to give it in full. As to do that is impossible we give a synopsis of its contents. He commences with an eloquent allusion to the victories which have been achieved by our arms during the past year.

RECONSTRUCTION.

In after times, the origin, progress, and results of the revolution will furnish a theme for curious speculation and inquiry. It will be a matter of amazement that a Government great and noble as ours was, should have been sacrificed to the fell spirit of a wild and reckless fanaticism; that a large portion of the people should have been so thoughtless and so wicked as to make war upon the institutions of a minority, and drive them into revolution for their defence and preservation. But however this may be, it is certain that the Union is dissolved; and it is equally certain that we can never again be reunited; and the man who preaches the doctrine of *reconstruction* is a traitor, and deserves a traitor's doom.

THE FEDERAL DIVISION OF THE STATE.

The admission of the forty five counties of Virginia as an independent State, by the Federal Congress, clearly indicates that that Government has no longer a hope of accomplishing the subjugation of the south; and they are looking to boundary in the adjustment of the controversy which they have provoked. They have overrun much of our State, and this new State thus formed embraces counties both sides of the Blue Ridge. If in any adjustment the portion of our territory embraced by these counties is to be regarded as part of the Northern Government, it requires no prophet to decide what the future of so much as remains is to be. It is bound necessarily to be free territory. I cannot suppose, in any treaty of peace that may be agreed upon Virginia will ever recognize the division of her territory, or ever assent to a treaty that will strip her of any portion of her domain. Nor can I think that the Confederate Government will ever assent to such an arrangement. When ever a settlement shall be made, come when it may, Virginia is to be regarded as a whole, her territory is to be preserved intact, and she is to take her place in the Southern Confederacy as she separated from the old Government. Her proportions are not to be diminished. Virginia is to be in the future as Virginia was in the past. She is to be as she has been, "the Old Dominion," full and perfect in all respects. We cannot give up a foot of the North west nor of the Middle West—not a foot on the Potomac borders, not a foot on the peninsula, nor on the bay, nor on the James river. It is better that this war should continue for an indefinite period of time than that Virginia shall be even partially dismembered. Let every Virginian, then, kneeling at the altar, swear that the old Commonwealth shall remain one and indivisible, and that he will never assent to an adjustment which will take from her one square foot of her territory.

FINANCES OF THE STATE.

The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of October, 1861, was $128 214 84 and the amount received from October 1, 1861, to September 30, 1862, was $8 354 811 12, making $8,683,047 96. The amount of warrants issued upon the Treasury from October 1, 1861 to September 30, 1862, was $8,658,416 45, leaving a balance in the Treasury October 1, 1862 of $24 631 51. This balance, with the estimated receipts up to September 30, 1863, which are estimated at $7,324,446 63 will make $17,356,078 14. From this deduct the estimated expenditures for 1863, $17,031,763 49, and there will be a surplus in the Treasury on September 30, 1863, of $324 314 65.

Of interest bearing Treasury notes there were in circulation December, 1862, $1,493 340. The issue of these notes in 1862 reached $5,045,960 and $3,552,620 have been redeemed. Of non-interest bearing Treasury notes there are $3,645,147 now in circulation.

EXPENSES OF THE WAR.

The total amount paid through the Auditor's office for the war, is $7,337,118 59, of which sum $1,711,951 19 is chargeable to the Virginia State Line. It is cause for congratulation, that although the pecuniary burden upon Virginia has been heavy from the commencement of the war, she has sustained it with a spirit and courage worthy of her revolutionary fame. All the demands upon her that have been presented, have been promptly paid as soon as audited. No creditor has been compelled to wait longer than was necessary to adjust his account, and ascertain the amount to which he or she was entitled.

THE SALT QUESTION.

The Governor says that after the passage of the salt bill by the Legislature, he visited Saltville for the purpose of executing the law, and found his duty very embarrassing. The owners of the works, after the Legislature had refused to buy them out, had made contracts to supply several States, and also to supply the Confederate Government with 22 000 bushels of salt per month. In view of these facts, and the many obstacles and difficulties which would necessarily have attended operating the works after they were seized, he determined to buy salt, which has been done and the salt properly distributed.

THE PENITENTIARY.

On the 9th of December last there were in the State prison 331 convicts—of which 260 were white males, 3 white females, 31 free negroes and 37 slaves. The total number of convicts employed in mechanical pursuits was 296. There are 107 free and nine convicts hired out. The report of the Inspectors for the year ending the 30th of September, 1862, the Governor formally confirms in commendation.

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not understand. It appears from the figures that the profits on manufactures in the several wards have amounted for the year to upwards of $25 000, and yet the balance against the institution for the same time is upwards of $6 000. In other words, "I do not see how profits should have been made upon every branch of manufactures, and yet the institution should not have been able to pay its expenses, and at the same time yield something very handsome to the State Treasury."

COMPENSATION OF CLERKS.

I transmit herewith the proceedings of a meeting of the clerks of the several departments of the Government of this State, asking for an increase of compensation, upon the principles of the bill passed by Congress at the last session. It is absolutely necessary that some action shall be immediately taken up on this subject, or we will lose all our most valuable and efficient clerks. Already several of our best clerks have resigned and entered the service of the Confederate Government, where the pay is better.

RECUSANT JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

I have received information that several of the Justices of the Peace in Mercer county have taken an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government. The first question that presented itself was, whether their offices thereby became vacant. This question was presented to the Attorney General for his opinion, and I regret to say that this experienced officer can find "no law vacating their offices *ipso facto*." As there are doubtless many cases of like kind in the State, I earnestly invoke your attention to the adoption of the necessary legislation to relieve the State from all such unworthy officers. The cases can be reached by investing the county Courts with authority, where the fact is established, to declare the offices vacant.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Shortly after the capture of Williamsburg, Dr. Galt the superintendent of the Asylum there, and his assistant physician, died, and their places were supplied by two physicians from the North who are now performing the duties. The Governor heard, from two discharged patients, who made their way to Richmond a few weeks since that the medical attendants were faithful and attentive, and they believed were well qualified for their positions. The supplies were ample for their support, but were badly prepared, owing to the difficulty of controlling the servants. They further stated that when their orders of discharge were delivered, they were informed that neither money nor provisions could be furnished, and they must make their way to Richmond as best they could. The Governor some months ago sent two gentlemen to Williamsburg under flag of truce, to examine into the condition of the patients there, but the Federals refused to allow them to enter their lines.

THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

There are now over 250 cadets at this institution. The institute has furnished 8 Brigadier Generals, 56 Colonels, 39 Lieut. Colonels, 38 Majors, 110 Captains, 116 Lieutenants, 19 Adjts. General, 26 Adjutants of Regiments, and 34 Adjutant-Generals Surgeons, Quartermasters and Commissaries—making a total of 245. Of these 57 have been killed and 72 wounded in battle, and 8 died in service, making a total of 138—more than one half.

THE CRIME OF EXTORTION.

The crime of extortion is denounced in the most scathing terms. The Governor gives a striking example of a cotton manufacturing company that has already divided 75 per cent. of profits and will divide 85 per cent. more at the close of the year—making a clear profit in twelve months of 160 per cent. upon the capital stock. The conscription bill, in its operation, takes possession of individuals, and puts them in service to our armies, without *their consent*. If the persons of men can be taken for the service of the country, why can not property and the enormous profits of the extortioner be taken possession of in the same summary mode, to aid the country's cause?

THE PRISONERS CAPTURED BY THE STATE LINE.

One hundred and eighteen of the prisoners captured by the State line in the brilliant affairs at Prestonsburg and Pikeville, in Kentucky, arrived here on the morning of the 27th of last month. I have had preparations made for their safe-keeping, and I have announced to the President of the United States the terms upon which exchanges can alone be made. In the meantime I have placed in the penitentiary, and put at hard work Captain Graham and Lieut. Wade, who are to remain at hard work as hostages for Capt. Dunkey and Lieut. Vanmer, now in confinement in the District penitentiary at Washington city.

I have also placed in solitary confinement Capt. Thos. Damron and Lieut. William Damron, and privates John W. Howe, Isaac Goble, David V. Auxier, Sam'l Pack, and Wm. S. Dills, who are held as hostages for the gallant Zarvona, who has been in confinement since July, 1861, and who has been treated (if the half I hear is true) with a brutality unparalleled in the history of civilized warfare. Five others, deserters from the Confederate service, have been turned over for trial. The other prisoners are confined and treated as prisoners of war, not to be released (with my consent) until some general rule shall be adopted in regard to prisoners and private citizens, which shall be just and honorable to the people of Virginia, and which will preserve their rights in future.

FREE NEGROES IN THE OVERRUN COUNTIES.

The Governor thinks it would be wise to enact a law requiring all free negroes now resident in those portions of the State which have been overrun by the enemy to be removed and put to work upon the fortification. I advise, therefore, that you pass a law authorizing Confederate commanders to arrest the free negroes, list them, and deliver them over to the proper officer of the Confederate Government for this or any other service in which labor is required. They will receive good wages and be provided with rations. When the danger passes by the, can return to their homes.

CONCLUSION.

May the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, who has watched over us with such benignant care, disperse the clouds which now lower around us, and preserve us from the horrors of subjugation. Still protect and defend us against the wiles and machinations of our unscrupulous enemies, and, in His own good time, establish our independence!

LATE NORTHERN NEWS.

We continue our extracts from our latest Northern papers. The loss of the Monitor is officially announced. She went down off Cape Hatteras, and about thirty of her crew were lost. The steamer Rhode Island went to her assistance and saved the greater portion of her crew.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BATTLE AT MURFREESBORO'—DESPERATE FIGHTING—ALLEGED CAPTURE OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS, ARMS, AND CLOTHES.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald* gives that paper a description of the two days' battle at Murfreesboro', which he says was one of the most furious battles of modern times, "sustained by both sides with splendid determination." Gen. Rosecrans marched from Nashville, on the Friday before the battle, with 45,000 effective men and 100 pieces of artillery, and skirmished all the way to the battle-field. The writer says:

The whole of Tuesday was spent by our forces reconnoitering. The enemy was found strongly posted with artillery on the bank of Stone's river, west side, his flanks resting on Murfreesboro', west side. The center also had the advantage on high ground, with a dense growth of cedar masking them completely. Their position gave them the advantage of a cross fire.

Gen. McCook's corps closed in on their left on Wilkinson's Pike; Negley (of Thomas's corps) worked with great difficulty to the front of the rebel centre, Rousseau's division being in reserve. Crittenden's corps was posted to comparatively clear ground on their left, Palmer's and Van Cleve's division in front, Wood's in reserve.

A battle was expected all day on Tuesday, but the enemy merely skirmished and threw a few shells, one of which killed Orderly McDonald, 4th United States Cavalry, not ten feet from Gen. Rosecrans. That afternoon the Anderson Pennsylvania Cavalry, on McCook's flanks, was drawn into an ambuscade and its two Majors Rosegarten and Ward, were killed. Crittenden's corps lost 4 killed and 21 wounded that day, including Adjutant Elliott, of the 57th Indiana, severely. McCook's loss was about 50. On the same day the rebel cavalry made a dash in the rear, on Lavergne, burned a few wagons, and captured thirty five prisoners.

That night dispositions were made to attack the enemy in the morning. After dark the enemy was reported massing near McCook, obviously to turn our right wing. This correspondent with the wishes of Gen. Rosecrans, who instructed Gen. McCook to hold his in check stubbornly, while the left wing should be thrown into Murfreesboro' behind the enemy.

At daybreak, on the last day of December, everything appeared working well. The battle had opened on the right, and our left wing was on hand. At seven o'clock ominous sounds indicated that a fire was approaching our left. Aids were dispatched for information, and found the forests full of flying negroes and straggling soldiers, who reported whole regiments falling back. Meantime one of McCook's aids had announced to Gen. Rosecrans that Gen. Johnston had permitted the three batteries of his division to be captured by a hidden attack of the enemy, and that it had somewhat demoralized our troops it was obvious. The brave Gen. Sill, one of our best officers, was killed, Gen. Kirk wounded, and Gen. Willich killed or missing, besides other valuable officers wounded.

Gen. McCook sent word to hold the front and he would help him, that it would all work right. The General, confident of success, continued to visit other parts of the field, and, with the aid of Gens. Thomas, McCook, Crittenden, Rousseau, Negley, and Wood, the tide of battle was turned.

Early in the day we were seriously embarrassed by the enterprise of rebel cavalry, who made some serious dashes upon some of McCook's ammunition and baggage trains, capturing quantities of ammunition, and [illegible] Rosecrans, and [illegible] Rousseau's division, the [illegible] fortune was caused by the capture of McCook's trains.

About 2 o'clock the battle had shifted again from right to left, the enemy discovering the impossibility of succeeding in their main design, had suddenly massed their forces on the left. The fire continued to approach on the right with alarming rapidity, extending to the centre, and it was clear that the right was doubling upon the left. The enemy had compelled us to make a complete change of front on that wing and were pressing the centre.

Gen. Rosecrans, with splendid daring dashes into the furious fire, and sending his staff along the lines, started Beatty's brigade forward. Some six batteries opened, and sustained a magnificent fire. Directly a tremendous shout was raised along the whole line, and the enemy began to fall back rapidly. He now galloped to the front of Crittenden's left, with his staff to order the line of battle, when the enemy opened a full battery and emptied the saddles of the escort. Van Cleve's division was sent to the right, and Col. Beatty's brigade in the front.

The General urged the troops forward. The rebels, terribly punished, were driven back fully a mile. The same splendid bravery was displayed in the lines, and the enemy made formidable demonstrations on our left, while they prepared for another onslaught on our right. Meantime orders had been issued to move our left upon the enemy but before they had time to execute them they burst upon our centre with awful fury, and it began to break. Rousseau's division was carried into the breach magnificently by their glorious leader. The enemy again retreated in the dark cedar thicket. Again they charged our right, and again we were driven back. By this time the number of our stragglers was formidable, and the prospect was discouraging but there was no panic. We were suddenly massed against their forces on the left, crossing the river or moving under cover of bluffs on the right, and for about two hours the fight raged with unrelenting fury, to the advantage of the enemy for a considerable length of time, when they were checked by our murderous fire of both musketry and artillery.

The scene at this point was magnificently terrible. The whole battle was in full view, the enemy deploying right and left bringing up their batteries in fine style, our own vomiting smoke and iron missiles upon them with awful fury, and our gallant fellows moving to the front with unflinching courage, and lying flat upon their faces to escape the rebel fire until the moment of action.

Shell and shot fell around like hail. Gen. Rosecrans was himself incessantly exposed. It is wonderful that he escaped. His chief of staff, the noble Lieutenant-Colonel Garesche, had his head taken off by a round shot and the blood bespattered the General and some of the staff. Lieut. Lylan Kirk, Gen. Rosecrans' aide, behind him, was killed clear out of his saddle by a bullet, which shattered his left arm. Three orderlies and gallant Sergeant Rich, aond, of the 4th U. S. cavalry were killed not ten feet from him, and five or six horses in the staff escort were struck.

Between 5 and 6 o'clock the enemy, apparently exhausted by his rapid and incessant assaults, took up a position not assailable without abundant artillery, and the fire on both sides slackened, and finally silenced at dark—the battle having raged eleven hours, the loss on our side being considerable, and the terrific nature of the field comparatively limited. Our casualty list that day, excluding captures, did not exceed, perhaps fifteen hundred, of whom not more than one hundred were killed. This is attributable to the care taken to make our men lie down. The enemy's loss must have been more severe.

When the battle closed the enemy occupied the ground which was ours in the morning, and the advantage was theirs. Their object in attacking us was to cut us off from Nashville. They played their old game. If McCook's force had held more firmly against Hardee's corps and Cheatham's division, the plan of battle would have succeeded. At dark they had a heavy force on our right, leading to the belief that they intended to pursue. Their cavalry, meantime, was excessively troublesome, cutting deeply into our trains behind us, and we had not enough enough to protect ourselves. The 4th regulars made one splendid dash at them, capturing 67, and releasing 300 prisoners they had taken from us recapturing 500 prisoners of the enemy.

Gen. Rosecrans determined to begin the attack this morning, and opened furiously with our left at dawn. The enemy, however, would not retire from our right, and the battle worked that way. At 11 o'clock matters were not flattering on either side. At 12 our batteries received new supplies of ammunition, were massed, and a terrible fire was opened. The enemy began to give way. Gen. Thomas pressing in their centre and Crittenden advancing on their left. The battle was more severe at that hour than it had been, and the result was yet doubtful.

Both sides were uneasy, but determined. Gen. Rosecrans felt its importance fully. If he is defeated he will be defeated badly, because he will fight as long as he has a brigade. If he is victorious the enemy will be destroyed.

At this hour we are apprehensive. Some of our troops behaved badly, but most of them were heroes. I believe all but Walker's brigade, consisting of the 17th and 31st Ohio, and two other regiments, were not in Wednesday's battle, being on guard, but they were engaged to-day. The enemy seemed fully as numerous as we. They did not use as much artillery. Generals Joe Johnston and Bragg were in command. Prisoners say they lost largely.

General McCook was brave to a fault and self-possessed. He narrowly escaped death many times. His horse was killed under him, and he was severely hurt by his horse falling under him.

11 P. M.—No later tidings of to-day's battle.—The rebels are destroying our wagon train on the Murfreesboro' pike.

A Dispatch to the Baltimore *American* claims that the Federals captured 3 000 prisoners, 50 guns and seven stands of State colors. He says the loss on both sides is "absolutely tremendous."

THE CONVENTION MOVEMENT AT THE NORTH—REMARKS OF JAS. BROOKS.

The fact that at a Democratic meeting in New York, on the 30th ult., resolutions in favor of a Convention of all the States, both Confederate and Abolition, were passed, has been noticed. We give a further account of the proceedings. The idea of any "Convention," save one to settle boundaries—between the Confederate States and the United States—will excite a smile of incredulity throughout the South:

After a few congratulatory remarks by the President the Hon. James Brooks was introduced, and addressed the meeting at some length. In conclusion he said:

"Gentlemen: It is quite time to begin the discussion of these matters here and elsewhere—South as well as North; now is the day and now is the hour to bring up the people—our once common people, both North and South, to the study of this subject. Our Constitution is necessary for our common liberty. Our common form of Government is not only necessary for our common liberty, but necessary to preserve us from European intervention and European arms. 'Divide and conquer' is the principle of monarchies against republics everywhere. Divide and conquer is the principle which now actuates the British Kingdom, if not the Emperor of France. Divide the North and South, and then, if possible, conquer both, when both are exhausted. Unity and universality of Government is, therefore, a necessity for us both North and South, and the quicker and deeper and wider this principle is comprehended universally, the quicker we shall all lay down our arms and stop this horrible effusion of human blood. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I love to speak for practical purposes, and hence I have prepared two or three resolutions to present for your consideration, for your discussion hereafter, not for action at this time and this place, but for submission to this Democratic Association. I see nothing else that is left to us except the principles that are embraced in these resolutions. Revolution is the last thing to be thought of under a form of Government like ours, where grievances can be redressed at the ballot box. We have to endure this Congress; we have to endure this President; it is wiser to endure them than to overthrow them by revolution.—It is possible—barely possible—that at last they may be awakened, and may hear and heed the voice of the people. Hence I have elected a State as a medium through which my resolution shall be presented to the people both of the North and the South. A State of the Revolution—one of the old thirteen, of high and holy history, which has never been false either to the North or the South, and which has ever been faithful to the Constitution of our common country—that is the State, the glorious State of New Jersey. [Cheers.] I propose, therefore, the following resolutions, to be submitted to this Democratic Association for discussion, for action, and, if you approve them, for presentation to the Government of New Jersey: and let me remark here that the Government of New Jersey is a homogeneous Government; the three branches are all of one faith and one opinion, and it is not so in any other Northern State of the Union."

We submit the resolutions:

Resolved, That the State of New Jersey, through her State Government, be respectfully requested to enterpose in order to arrest the exhausting civil war.

1. By inviting the non-slaveholding States and the loyal slaveholding States—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri—to meet in Convention in Louisville, Ky., on the — day of February next.

2. By requesting the permission of the President of the United States to send Commissioners to Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Tennessee, to invite them also to meet in like National Convention. And

3. *Be it further Resolved*, That the President be requested by the State Government of New Jersey, to declare an armistice with or for such State or States as may accept this call for a National Convention.

Resolved, That a committee be created on the part of this Association to inform the President of the United States and Legislature of New Jersey, and to urge upon them that their duty, in consideration of our common country, and patriotic glorious State, demands that they do their part in the Revolutionary Convention of the States.

The President, therefore, put the question, and they were carried unanimously.

IMPORTANT EXPEDITION FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

A dispatch from Fortress Monroe, dated the 1st says there have been stirring times there among the troops and war vessels. Gen. Hagie's division has left Yorktown and Gloucester Point, and is now lying in ships in Hampton Roads. The dispatch says:

Many other transports loaded with troops, stores, etc., arrived, and joined the expedition. The fleet is now putting to sea, and comprises about enough men, or all arms, to take and hold any point on the Southern coast.

The destination of this expedition is supposed to be North Carolina; but as a number of iron-clads accompany it, I presume it will go to some important Southern port—say Charleston, Georgetown, Savannah, or Mobile. At any rate, it will soon be at its destination, and wherever it goes a heavy blow will be struck.

The flag ship is the steamship Woodbury, which has Gen Hagie and staff on board. It is not known whether he will command the whole force or not—his own division comprising twelve regiments, including the 10th Pennsylvania volunteers.

A PROJECTILE TO SINK THE CONFEDERATE IRON-CLADS.

A letter from Washington gives an account of a "terrible projectile" which has been experimented with there:

To-day another trial of Stafford's projectiles was made at the Navy-Yard in this city, with his rifled sub-calibre shot. The most astonishing results were attained, even surpassing former experiments.—Three sizes or weights were used, for the purpose of ascertaining the greatest adapted to the largest power, penetrating and demolishing the strongest iron of eight one inch plates and twenty one-inch of oak, seven plates in front and one in the rear, was pierced and demolished, the timber being all rended into splinters and the bolts all broken. A penetration of six inches of iron was made with a shot of thirty-two pounds weight, with ten pounds of powder, from a fifty-pounder Dahlgren rifled gun. Whitworth and Armstrong are distanced with one sixth of the charge which they used. It has never yet been equaled. In these results Capt. Dahlgren is prepared to old the rebel iron-clads "a happy New Year," if they come within hailing distance.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN WASHINGTON—SCENES IN THE YANKEE COURT.

The fifteen thousand slain at Fredericksburg and the thirty thousand at Murfreesboro' have but little sympathy in Washington. No thought of those poor devils clogged the festivities of New Year's day there. From the *Republican*, the Abolition Court journal, we take a description of the scenes attendant on the opening of the year:

The throngs attracted to the residences of the several members of the Cabinet, who held receptions on the occasion, were unprecedented in numbers, in elegance of equipage and official costume, as well as in the large number of personages conspicuous in every walk of professional life.

Secretary Seward.—The accustomed hour of twelve o'clock, which custom designates for opening welcome doors on such festal occasions, had hardly arrived ere the tide was setting in the direction of the residence of this colossal patriot and statesman, who, in his position at the head of the Cabinet bears upon his shoulders in this hour, so largely of the destinies of a great and distracted people. Distinguished for the unostentatious elegance of his manners, he never could have been more happy in such amenities than he was on this occasion.

The diplomatic corps, in full Court costume, and the officers of the army and navy, in full uniform, as well as the civilians *en masse*, paid their respects to him with cordial greetings well calculated to dispense for an hour the grave and solemn cares which such stormy times as these weigh upon a great public man. His daughter, Miss Seward, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frederick Seward, the lady of the Assistant Secretary of State, were present to contribute their full share in the graceful and pleasant honors of the holiday entertainment. The distinguished Secretary was in fine spirits, and the dignified simplicity of his manners, combined with his happy mood, could not have failed to inspire in his numerous guests the most pleasurable recollections of their visit.

Secretary Chase.—The throng which pressed their way to the elegant mansion of this another colossal national pillar, the illustrious financial head of the Government, was no less imposing than in the case of his great associate, of whom we have already spoken. Secretary Chase, in his lofty symmetrical, physical proportions, in the massive, intellectual outlines of his evenly developed brow and head, in the large, pleasant and penetrating eye and finely developed features, is, unquestionably, one of the grandest of the great public men to look upon that this country has ever produced, and the marvelous urbanity of his manners renders him as delightful in his social courtesies as he is lofty and imposing in his personal appearance.

Among those whose names were announced, and who were ushered into the reception room while we were present, was the brave and patriotic old veteran, Gen. Wool, who, though he has seen so much wearing service for his country, and is more than threescore years and ten in age still steps and looks and sets more like a well-preserved youngman of 60. As we were looking with bounding pulse upon the massive brow of the noble old veteran, another hero was ushered into the room in the person of that magnificent soldier, General Heintzelman.

Miss Kate Chase, whose adornments, as a true daughter and a noble hearted woman—not less than her sweet, captivating manners and personal graces make her so universally admired—stood by the side of her father to do the choicest graces of the occasion. Her other, you gay sister, Miss Nettie, and Miss Parsons, of Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of an intimate friend of the family, contributed additional attractions to the visitation; and we would do injustice to our own feelings did we not make the most special mention of Mr. Chas. Wilson, the gentlemanly usher, who so admirably performed his duties on the occasion.

Secretary Stanton.—The multitude which honored the distinguished and able head of the War Office with a festal call was, perhaps, larger, as it fully equalled in dignity and elegance, that of either of the other Cabinet functionaries. At the time of our call the hour for such calls had been nearly terminated, and the house was still thronged, and scores of elegant public and private carriages lined the pavement for a long space on either side of the Secretary's spacious and elegant mansion.

The distinguished Secretary received the pressing throng in an easy and affable manner, which hardly allowed you to believe yourself in the presence of one whose fiat at the head of the military operations of the country so takes hold upon the stupendous interests at this time of one of the greatest nations upon the face of the earth. We think he left eminently a favorable impression upon all who honored him with their presence on the occasion.

His accomplished lady, with Miss Stanton, a niece, and Miss Wilkes, a friend of the family, both of them graceful young ladies, added their presence to the accomplishments of the entertainment.

Attorney General Bates.—The calls upon the Attorney-General were little less numerous and equally as complimentary in their character as in the case of those already mentioned. The able Attorney-General, venerable for a long career of eminent professional and patriotic public services, as for everything that most adorns the sanctuary of social private life, received his guests with the utmost ease and frankness, to which his dignified and polished lady, with their two agreeable daughters, and their guests, Miss Woodson and Miss Dorsey, added a full share to the gracefulness of the honors.

Secretary Welles and Postmaster-General Blair, in consequence of the late deaths in their families, held no receptions.

THE "SHIVERING, STARVING" REBEL SOLDIERS.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* thinks the rebel soldiers must be remarkably skilled in masquerading, or be peculiar adepts in the art of metamorphosing themselves. It says:

We have had an untold number of "reliable men" and women, who have been ready to swear that scarecrows in cornfields in May are princes in attire compared with the rebel battalions. They have had no tents, no blankets, no overcoats; their coats are out at elbows, their unmentionables in tatters, fore and aft, and their shoes lacking either sole or upper, or both. Yet, somehow, when we catch a lot of them they have changed all this by some wonderful legerdemain, and stand before us, if not in princely array, at least clad comfortably enough for all practicable purposes. In fact, we find them neither scarecrows nor skeletons, but soldiers; soldiers, well enough clad to fight with a will.

Now, we suggest that it is to us a matter of very little moment whether they have leather to their feet or wool and cotton to their backs; our only concern is with their ability to wield their arms, and their purpose to make fight. For our own part, the stories of these "reliable" persons from rebeldom long ago ceased to make an impression. Were a whole regiment of such to come from all points in the rebel States, and to testify, all with one voice, to the indescribable destitution of the rebels, we should not abate one jot of our preparations to meet them as soldiers and to be met with ample forces, well trained and fully equipped. We should make war on the only and sure basis, namely—to be fully prepared for any form with the enemy can possibly bring against us. If they are poorly clothed, badly fed, and demoralized, supplied with transportation, and generally with military equipments, then so much the more may we be certain, hence to win success even with a greatly inferior force to the enemy, if we only are adequately prepared. Let us, then, be not deceived by any such representations, but be ever on our guard against the wiles and machinations of our unscrupulous enemies.

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advance, begin to report the capture of regiments, companies, and regiments of men, equipped, fed, and starving soldiers, then we shall think the condition of rebeldom are in a sufficiently bad way to make the matter an element in our calculations of success or failure. Until then, we shall deem these reliable reports touching the condition of their wardrobes as unworthy of the credit heretofore laid on them.

THE GRAND ARMY AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The Confederate loss at Fredericksburg was so small that the battle soon ceased to engage our attention, and the grand army of Burnside has safely passed out of the public mind. The following extract from a letter dated "Opposite Fredericksburg, Jan. 1," will refresh our memories:

This is New Year's day, and it is very generally observed throughout the army as a holiday. Games and amusements were plenty, and "New Year" calls were the order of the day—the officers of many regiments, in a body, calling upon their General officers to offer their congratulations.

The officers and men, generally, were in good spirits, but there was almost an entire absence of the alcoholic stimulus which is usually an accompaniment of the day at home. The officers, being confined almost entirely to "hard tack" for their fare, in consequence of the embargo upon all kinds of edibles and liquids which now exists between here and Washington, complained loudly of their *scanty food*.

The restrictions upon all traffic between the army and Washington are so rigid that all passages between the points, no matter to whom they are directed, are opened and examined before leaving Washington, to discover whether anything contraband is contained in them, and some amusing stories are told of private stores for General officers being opened, and their contents confiscated as being contraband.

The sutler business has been almost destroyed by the obstacles which have been thrown in their way. Everything, even the army, and the privates have been [illegible] by the Quartermaster or Commissary Departments are at treble and quadruple rates. Were small stores cheap, however, it would make little difference to men, some of whom have not been paid for four and six months, and have not seen a "green back" for so long that they almost forget what it looks like.

From indications observable on all sides there is little doubt that important movements will take place before long, but where the army will go is a subject open to conjecture, and you are probably as able to guess as I am to indicate it to you were I entrusted with the secrets of headquarters, which I am not. You may rest assured that the army will not go into winter quarters here, notwithstanding the many predictions which have been made that it will.

The sick and wounded are being removed to Washington as rapidly as possible, and nearly every man who cannot perform a day's march has been sent away. The army is in good condition and in buoyant hopes that the next time they meet the rebels they will do it on a fair field where they can achieve success and revive the drooping hopes of the country. The mass of the men strongly desire to be home again with their families and friends; but feel also that they have a duty to perform, and that they cannot return home honorably until that duty is done.

It is said that the rebel camps in our front, on the other side of the river, have been considerably thinned out within the past week, and conjecture is busy to determine the point where the rebel troops have gone, if they have gone at all; for they still keep up a respectable picket appearance in our front. This state of uncertainty as to the whereabouts of our active and wary enemy and the expectation that orders may be issued to move at any moment, keeps us in a healthy state of excitement.

NASHVILLE OR MURFREESBORO' TO BE GIVEN UP.

The Baltimore *Gazette*, of the 24 inst., in an editorial in regard to the campaign in Tennessee and the movements of Rosecrans, says: "That the district of country through which he has marched is swept nearly, if not quite, bare of supplies, there can be no doubt whatever, and it is equally certain that he cannot divide his forces and hold both Nashville and Murfreesboro'."

PEACE FEELING IN ILLINOIS.

The Springfield (Ill.) correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat* writes:

I look for some strong anti-war demonstrations from a portion, at least, of the Democratic side of the Legislature this week.

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS.—General Willich, of Indiana, and thirty-eight other Federal officers, of different grades, reached Chattanooga Thursday evening from Murfreesboro'.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Fatal Accident.—Howard McCarthy, aged six years, son of the late John H. McCarthy, fell from a brick wall adjoining the residence of his grandfather, (Mr. Jacob Barns) on Grace street, near St. Paul's Church, on Tuesday last, striking on his head and producing concussion of the brain, from the effects of which he died yesterday.

To Be Hung.—The girl Margaret, condemned to be hung on Friday January 9th, for the murder of Frances Dorne Tardy infant child of Mr Sam'l C. Tardy, will be hung to-morrow, at the usual place of execution, between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock, unless the Governor should interpose and commute her punishment to imprisonment in the Penitentiary which he has refused to do already. So far as we can learn the condemned has made no confession of the guilt imputed to her by the verdict of the Hustings Court. Prior to the commission of the offence of which she stands convicted, she was a very zealous member of the Church and professes even now to be sustained by the consoling influences of religion.

Garroters Sent on for Trial.—A special session of the Hustings Court assembled yesterday at the City Hall, at 11 o'clock, to examine Michael Sullivan, Henry P. Harper, Robert Clarke, Edward Sullivan, Jerry Dunnavan, and Robert Lolsey, mostly lads, who were charged with having, on Tuesday night, December 30th, garroted and robbed Biel Ivey, on Franklin street, opposite the Varieties Theatre, of a silver watch and eighty-three dollars in money. It appeared that Ivey who was on a visit to the Theatre, had left the building and gone over to a grocery opposite. While there he was accosted by the above gang of juvenile ragmuffins, the largest one of whom threw his arm around his neck and bore him to the ground. The others immediately surrounded and relieved him of his valuables. John E. Brooke, special officer at the Theatre saw Harper running off and arrested him, and afterwards, on information furnished by Ivey, took Edward Sullivan in custody and recovered the watch. Afterwards he caught Dunnavant and obtained $72 dollars of the stolen funds. The parties were sent on for trial before Judge Lyons.

Horrible Desecration.—For some weeks a number of boys from the city have visited the battle-field of Seven Pines, and there *prized dead bodies from their graves* and stripped them of their cartridge boxes to obtain the balls of them and sell them as old lead. Many of these were the bodies of our own men, whose graves had been marked by friends that intended to carry them home during the winter. The head boards the only clue to recognition have been displaced, and the bodies, in many instances, left exposed. We call the attention of the commanding officers of the Department of Richmond to this outrage, with the hope that some measure may be taken to put a stop to it.

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