Richmond Dispatch.

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FRIDAY MORNING.....DECEMBER 11, 1863.

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TERMS OF ADVERTIS

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MATTERS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

There was no news received yesterday from Northern Virginia. A report was circulated during the day that a fleet of Yankee transports were in the Potomac, and that Gen. Meade had gone to Washington to consult with reference to the transfer of the Yankee army of the Potomac from the line of the Rappahannock to the Peninsula or South side. This report doubtless has its origin in the appearance of the Russian fleet, which was recently at New York, in the waters of the Potomac. This fleet is understood to be moving up that stream with a view of paying a visit to the capital of the Abolition Government.

RAVAGES OF THE ENEMY WHEN LAST THIS SIDE OF THE RAPIDAN.

After Meade's army had crossed at Germanna and Ely's fords they subjected the unfortunate farmers within their lines to the most inhuman treatment. They burned the house of Mr. Reuben Gordon, son of Gen. Wm. F. Gordon, because, as they said, he was an original Secessionist, and did not leave a thing of any value whatever on the place.—The farms of Miss Sally Grymes, Mr. Skinker, Mrs. Willis, Captain Beale, Capt. Strother Green, Mr. John Spottswood, Major J. H. Lacy, and others, were desolated to that extent that not a meal's victuals was left on any of them. They broke up the furniture of the houses and took off all the clothing and bed linen from every house. The feather beds were emptied out in the yard, and the venerable Capt. Green and his children were reduced to sleeping between two mattresses. Mr. John Spottswood and Capt. Beale were taken off by the Yankees, leaving their helpless families without provisions or servants. Most of the negroes within the Yankee lines went off with them. Major Lacy's were saved by his overseer's activity in moving them off before the Yankees reached the Wilderness.

Kilpatrick's cavalry distinguished themselves in robbing the negro houses as clean as their masters', not a vestige of clothing was left anywhere. Their courage was shown in knocking down the lame and aged Capt. Green, who told them they were such brave men that if he had a thousand such he could storm Gibraltar. Let our cavalry remember the gallant Kilpatrick and his men, and their conduct in Gloucester, Middlesex, the Northern Neck, and Spotsylvania. Some of the prisoners taken said that Meade gave them their choice between re-enlisting for three years or going across the Rapidan and fighting Lee. They chose the latter. Meade has assured them that he will get a fight out of them before next May, when their term of service expires.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Report of the Secretary of War is a very lengthy and highly important document. It briefly refers to the operations of the army in its several departments, and says that the campaign in Mississippi was certainly disastrous. It is difficult to resist the impression that its disasters were not inevitable. That a Court of Enquiry to investigate the whole campaign met in Atlanta in September, but in consequence of the vicinity of the enemy requiring the presence of witnesses and judges at other points, it has been temporarily suspended. It is expected soon to reassemble. A deficiency of resources in men and provisions, rather than reverses in battle, caused the withdrawal of the army to Middle Tennessee. He alludes to desertion, straggling, and absenteeism, and says that the effective force of the army is but little over half, or two-thirds of the men whose names are on the muster rolls. He recommends the repeal of the substitute and exemption provisions, and that all having substitutes be put back into the field, and that the privileges which Congress granted to put in substitutes can be regularly and constitutionally abrogated by the same power. He says that no compact was entered into between the Government and the person furnishing a substitute, as has been alleged, but only a privilege which Government accorded. Instead of complaining of such abrogation, the person ought to feel gratified at what has heretofore been allowed him. He recommends an abridgement of exemptions and the conscription of them all, making details according to the wants of society at home. He says that the three years' men, when their terms expire, cannot be finally discharged, and should be retained, allowing them to choose the existing company under its present organization, in the same arm of the service. He recommends the consolidation of such companies and regiments as are reduced below a certain complement. He pays a glowing tribute to the heroism, endurance, and unfaltering devotion of the soldiers, and of the lamented dead who yielded their lives as sacrifices upon the altar of Liberty, and closes by saying that our very reverses showing a united and determined endurance of everything for independence, must convince the enemy of the futility of his efforts to subdue us.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.

The message of Gov. Lubbock states that the revenues of Texas for the year ending August 31st, were $2,468,361, including a balance of $36,866. The expenditures were the same, with a balance of $15,819.

The penitentiary of Texas is doing good service to the public. From December 1st, 1861, to August 31, 1863, it manufactured 2,258,660 yards of cotton goods and 293,298 yards of woolens. There was at the latter date, 28,962 of cotton and 6,789 of woolens unsold. Of the whole amount disposed of the army received 1,276,920 of cottons, and 257,751 of woolens. The gross earnings of the institution for the time mentioned were $1,174,439, and the expenses $468,653.

The Governor, "in view of the isolation of the States west of the Mississippi, whereby they are thrown upon their own resources," earnestly recommends an appropriation of at least one million dollars, (to be based on cotton bonds, or that cotton be purchased to be paid for in bonds,) in order to purchase arms and munitions for the benefit of the State.

The Governor is distinct upon the question of peace. There is to be no peace in Texas until the independence of the Confederate States is acknowledged.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

The *Senate*, yesterday, was called to order at 12 o'clock M. by Mr. Hunter, of Va., President *pro tem.* The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Read, of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Johnson, of Ark., introduced a bill, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed, to limit or define the term of office of each of the Secretaries of the Executive departments.

Mr. Brown, of Miss., offered a resolution that the state of the country demanded that laws should without delay be passed declaring every male citizen in the military service; to repeal the laws authorizing substitutes; to authorize the President to issue his proclamation commanding all foreigners to leave the country in sixty days or take up arms; to regulate details for necessary civil pursuits; to levy direct taxes; to make Confederate notes a legal tender after six months; to prohibit the trade in gold and silver and bank notes and U. S. Treasury notes during the war, or to prohibit blockade running under heavy penalties, and to declare these laws war measures, and make those violating the amenable only to military courts. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Wigfall offered a resolution instructing the Military Committee to inquire into and report upon the treatment by the military authorities of prisoners of war. Agreed to.

Mr. Sparrow, of La., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, calling upon the President to inform the Senate whether the Quartermaster General is now discharging the duties of that office, and if not whether the person who is has been appointed to the office of Q. M. General, by and with the advice of the Senate, and whether previously to his entering on the duties of his office he gave bond with good and sufficient surety in the sum directed by the Secretary of War, and the date and amount of said bond; and whether that person was at the time of said duties in the military service of the C. S., and under what law he had been appointed.

Mr. Phelan introduced a bill, which was referred to the Finance Committee and ordered to be printed, providing for the issue of $500,000,000 of coupon bonds in sums not less than five hundred dollars, payable in twenty years, and bearing interest of six per cent., payable semi-annually. The coupons when due to be a legal tender for all debts due in dollars or other coupons, and a refusal to accept the same when tendered to act as a discharge of the indebtedness in payment of which they are offered.

Mr. Davis, of N. C., offered a resolution, which was passed, calling on the President, if not inconsistent with the public interest, to furnish the Senate with copies of General Whiting's reports in relation to running the blockade at Wilmington, N. C.

At 1½ o'clock P. M., on motion of Mr. Brown, of Miss., the Senate adjourned.

In the *House*, Mr. Conrad offered a resolution that the President be requested to inform the House what amount of cotton has been exported from the Confederate States since the 1st of January last, and also the value of goods imported into the Confederacy in the same time, and, as near as possible, the class of these goods.

The resolution adopted by the Committee of the Whole, and recommended by them, to refer the subjects of currency and taxation in the President's message to a select committee of one from each State, was taken up by the House and altered so as to make the committee seven.

The calling of the States for bills and resolutions was then commenced.

Mr. Foote, of Tenn., introduced several bills, among them one for the repeal of the existing substitute law, and one for the increase of the pay of soldiers. They were properly referred. The same gentleman also introduced several resolutions, one requesting the President to withdraw all diplomatic agents from such foreign Governments as have not recognized us before the first day of February next, and to dismiss all foreign Consuls in this country; referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Also, a resolution in regard to unreasonable searches and seizures.

The Chair laid before the House a joint resolution from the Senate.

Mr. Preston, of Va., offered as a substitute for the Senate joint resolution, a resolution that the Committee on Printing be authorized to contract for the public printing, and to let the contracts to the lowest bidder, who shall execute satisfactory guarantees for its proper execution. On this proposition the ayes and noes were had with the following result: Ayes 40, noes 20.

Mr. Foote offered a resolution in regard to amending the present impressment law, so as to secure to the owner the actual value for his property at the time when, and place where impressed. This resolution was rejected.

Also, a resolution that the Committee on Quartermaster and Commissary Department inquire into the expediency of adopting suitable legislation for compelling quartermasters to give in, on oath, the amount of property held by them on entering office, and the amount now owned by them, with a view to distribute the surplus over and above their regular pay among our soldiers now in the field. On this resolution the ayes and noes were called and resulted—ayes 47, noes 9. So the resolution was agreed to.

Also, a resolution that the Judiciary Committee inquire into the expediency of so amending the present law with reference to the exchange of prisoners of war of African descent, so as to distinguish between those who were free when the war commenced and those who are recognized as slaves by the laws of the Confederate States. Agreed to.

Mr. Sexton, of Texas, offered a joint resolution of thanks to the officers and men of the Davis Guard, engaged in the successful defence of Saline Pass, on the 8th of September last. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Gray, of Texas, introduced a bill to authorize officers below the grade of Brigadier General to draw rations.

Mr. Staples, of Va., offered a resolution that the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire what, if any, legislation is necessary to prevent illegal impressments of private property.

Mr. Baldwin, of Va., introduced a bill to provide payment for slaves impressed under State laws, and lost in the public service.

Mr. Holcombe, of Va., offered a resolution that the special Committee on the Currency consider the expediency of requesting the State Banks of the Confederacy to loan their respective reserves of specie to the Confederate Government.

Mr. Sparrow, from the Military Committee, reported back the following bill, with the recommendation that it pass

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That no person liable to the military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service, nor shall any substitute be received, enlisted, or enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States; and that all laws heretofore passed permitting or allowing persons liable to military service to furnish substitutes for the same, or authorizing the acceptance, enlistment, or enrollment of any such substitute in the military service be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Mr. Wigfall moved to strike out the last clause of the bill, which being rejected, the bill was passed and sent to the House.

Mr. Boteler introduced a bill to provide compensation for horses unavoidably lost in the public service. Referred to the Military Committee.

After several other resolutions of inquiry were offered and referred, the House adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The *Senate* met at the usual hour. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Minnegerode.

Resolutions of inquiry were adopted as follows: Of increasing the capital stock of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad; of amending the act for the relief of indigent soldiers' families, so as to provide for those residing within the enemy's lines; of increasing the compensation of Commissioners of the Revenue; of reporting a bill to reorganize the State Penitentiary; of reporting a bill for the payment to A. Beckley, Brigadier-General commanding the 12th brigade of Virginia militia, $150 for services rendered by him, and of repealing or amending the Stay law.

A memorial was presented by Mr. Dillard, asking the Legislature to refund to him a sum of money improperly paid into the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Carson, after a short secret session, the Senate adjourned.

In the *House of Delegates*, Mr. Flood introduced a resolution inquiring into the expediency of "authorizing the Banks of this Commonwealth to redeem their notes issued prior to the 1st of January, 1862, in Treasury notes of the Confederate States, by an act declaring that the said Banks shall be discharged from the payment of all such of their said notes as shall not be presented for payment according to their tenor in the Treasury notes aforesaid before the 1st day of July, 1864, unless it be made to appear that such notes as may be thereafter presented for payment as aforesaid have not been the property or in the possession of an alien enemy since the 1st day of January, 1863, and that said committee report by bill or otherwise."

A resolution was also introduced, having for its object an appropriation for the benefit of the families of soldiers.

After which, on motion, the House adjourned.

FROM GEN. BRAGG'S ARMY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

DALTON, GA., Dec. 2d, 1863.

It is not known whether Gen. Hardee will remain in permanent command of the army; but if he should do so, then it will be necessary to assign Major-Generals to the command of the corps into which it is divided, since he takes rank among the junior Lieutenant-Generals. Of the officers of this rank the following is the order of their appointment, to wit: Longstreet, Kirby Smith, Polk, Holmes! Hardee, Jackson, Pemberton, Ewell, A. P. Hill, and D. H. Hill. Think of Jackson and Hardee coming after Holmes, and barely taking precedence of Pemberton!

Gen. Hardee has already declined the command of the army, except temporarily. He thinks that one of our very ablest officers should be assigned to duty here, and his modesty forbids him to believe that he is the proper person for the position.

This is the third time that Gen. Bragg has asked to be relieved. The first time, I understand, after the battle of Murfreesboro', the second just after the battle of Chickamauga, and the third and last time since the disaster at Missionary Ridge. In a few days I propose to prepare a review of his last campaign, commencing with the evacuation of Chattanooga and ending with his retirement from the command of the army.

The enemy has retired from our front across the Chickamauga towards Chattanooga, having burnt the town of Ringgold, destroyed the railroad bridges, torn up the track, heated and bent the iron bars, and laid waste the country along the route of his retreat. This movement would seem to decide the question as to Grant's future intentions, at least for the winter. As he cannot advance in the direction of Rome during the winter months, so he cannot move by this route without the aid of the railroad which he has been destroying. This may be a ruse, however, intended to throw us off our guard until he can accumulate supplies and transportation for a forward movement. It has been suggested that the Federal plans may embrace an advance upon Virginia through East Tennessee, and a junction of the armies of Grant and Meade under the walls of Richmond. But such an undertaking is hardly practicable, especially in mid winter. It is more probable that heavy demonstrations will be made in the direction of Knoxville, with a view to frightening Longstreet from his prey; and it may be that a reinforcing column will be sent to the relief of Burnside. Indeed, our cavalry scouts report that forces are already in motion for that destination, having, at last accounts, reached the neighborhood of Charleston.

Nothing has been received from Longstreet himself for several days. That he has opened fire upon Knoxville there can be but little doubt, but with what result is not known. He will probably retreat in the direction of Bristol and Lynchburg.

The repulse of the enemy by Gen. Cleburne was at Ringgold Gap, in Taylor's Ridge, about one mile this side of Ringgold. Gen. Cleburne informs me that the loss of the enemy was fully 2,000, and that his own casualties were very few, his killed being only thirty. Having checked the pursuit of the enemy until our trains could retire, Gen. Cleburne followed on, leaving, necessarily, his killed and twelve of his wounded in the hands of the foe. He captured, as has already been reported, three flags and about three hundred prisoners.—According to the report of these prisoners, Gens. Grant, Thomas, and Hooker, were all present at the affair, having come out, doubtless, to witness the humiliation of the Confederates. They discovered, however, that Bragg's army was not the routed and demoralized rabble they had imagined it to be, and consequently they abandoned the pursuit, and fell back upon Missionary Ridge.—They were not ambuscaded, as was at first reported. The fight was an open, stand-up affair, in which the enemy had the advantage in numbers and Cleburne in position.

Gen. Breckinridge has been relieved of his command with this army. Gen. Hindman is expected here in a few days, when he and Gen. Cheatham, being the two ranking Major Generals, will be assigned to the command of the two corps of the army.

You will be surprised and mortified to learn that this army is not free from the vice of intemperance. I refer to the painful subject here merely to warn those officers who are guilty of this abominable offence that, if I forbear for the present to publish their names, it is only to give them an opportunity to reform their habits and do their duty. If they persist in their criminal courses no power on earth shall prevent their exposure, if life be vouchsafed to me and you will print my letters. It is but just to add that this horrid vice does not prevail to much extent, and that I have seen only one private drunk in all this army. SALLUST.

FROM GENERAL LEE'S ARMY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Near Orange C. H., Dec. 8, 1863.

The situation seems to be this: Meade finding himself unable to force General Lee back towards Richmond by a mere display in his front, has retired certainly behind the Rapidan, and report says he is tearing up the railway between the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers, and preparing to go behind the Rappahannock to winter his army.

Our army is in its old position and preparing comfortable quarters for the winter, if, indeed, Generals Lee and Meade shall permit them. The roads, however, are now as hard as pavements, and the weather though quite cold has been clear for the last few days, and the winds have been just high enough to assist the sun's rays in the drying process.

A Post-Office has recently been established to go along with this army as it moves. Captain John L. Eubank, formerly in charge of Eubank's battery in this army, and Secretary of the last Va. Convention, is postmaster. He has gone to work in earnest and is discharging the duties with great satisfaction. There are about ten thousand letters sent from the Post-Office each day and as many received. This keeps the employees—*eight* clerks—quite busy from early morn until long past midnight of each day. In this connection I have been requested by Captain Eubank to call attention to a matter which may be of some practical benefit to the soldiers. It is this: At the present time there are not less than four hundred unpaid letters remaining in the army post-office for soldiers, and a large number of newspapers upon which the postage has not been prepaid. Now, it so happens that neither each soldier in the army, nor one from every company, but only one from each brigade, known as the brigade mail carrier, visits the army post-office daily to receive the mail. These mail carriers decline to take mail matter on which the postage is unpaid. The result is, these letters and papers never reach, to the great annoyance of those to whom they are addressed, and to the post office, on whose hands they accumulate in large and unwieldy packages. Cannot attention be called to this fact by all the papers? It will be doing the soldiers a service.

Sunday was a bright, beautiful day, and a large audience turned out at the Episcopal Church at Orange C. H., where Rev. Dr. Wilmer, of Albemarle, preached a most able and excellent sermon. Among his auditors were Gens. R. E. Lee, Hill, Fitz Lee, J. E. B. Stuart, and other leading officers of the army, besides many of the private soldiers. Dr. Wilmer frequently visits the army, and his sermons are always productive of good.

Our captures in prisoners since Meade first began his forward movement will amount to eight hundred, which will in some measure compensate for the losses at Rappahannock bridge.

To-day some fifty or sixty boxes of clothing arrived, containing shirts, drawers, socks, pants, and jackets, for the army. There is still a demand for blankets. X.

SNODDY IN THE YANKEE CAPITAL.—A Washington correspondent of the New York *Express* writes:

Since the breaking out of the war quite a number of our citizens have enriched themselves, chiefly by legitimate business operations. G. C. McGuire & Co., the auctioneers, have cleared $300,000 by a contract for mattresses and iron bedsteads; Savage & Co., hardware dealers, at least $150,000; Sibley & Gray, stove dealers, as much more; C. L. Woodward, in the same business, $100,000. These firms occupy contiguous places of business between 10th and 11th streets. John E. Evans & Co., hardware, $300,000; J. & E. Owen, merchant tailors, $75,000; Mr. Lutze, saddler, $50,000; Mr. Repler, blacksmith, $100,000, for shoeing Government horses. A poor wheelwright, for putting together wheelbarrows, bought at the North, $30,000—they were transported hither in pieces to save freight. Hudson, Taylor, and Philip & Solomon, stationers, $50,000 apiece. Mr. Taylor, has invested part of his property in a fine house at Poughkeepsie, New York. The landlords of the three principal hotels have cleared from $30,000 to $100,000 a year since December, 1861.

Jacob W. Murph is to be hung at Salisbury, N. C., on Friday next, for the murder of Jno. Cope.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

We have received the following summary of news from the Baltimore *Gazette*, of the 9th inst.:

THE YANKEE CONGRESS.

The first session of the 38th Congress commenced in Washington on Monday. In the Senate the credentials of several newly-elected Senators were presented. Mr. Davis made an earnest opposition to the admission of Senators from West Virginia, contending that, constitutionally, there was no such State as West Virginia, and therefore there could be no Senators from such a State. By a vote of thirty-six yeas to five nays the Senators (Messrs Willey and Van Winkle) were admitted to their seats.

The House of Representatives was organized by the election of Schuyler Colfax as Speaker on the first ballot. He received 101 votes; Cox, 42; Dawson, 12; Mallory, 10; all others, 17. Necessary to a choice, 92. The Speaker, on assuming the chair, declared himself in favor of "crushing out the rebellion" by all the means within the power of the Government. Lincoln's message was not delivered in either House.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

The telegrams from East Tennessee are only confirmatory of Gen. Longstreet's retreat. A dispatch from Gen. Foster, dated the 7th inst., 7 A. M., says that he had sent Gen. Wilcox with his infantry and artillery towards the mountains to attack the enemy's flank at Bean's Station.

A PROCLAMATION.

Lincoln has issued the following proclamation, dated at the Executive Mansion, Washington, 7th inst:

Reliable information being received that the insurgent force is retreating from East Tennessee, under circumstances rendering it probable that the Union forces cannot hereafter be dislodged from that important position, and esteeming this to be of high national consequence I recommend that all loyal people, on the receipt of this, informally assemble at their places of worship and render special homage and gratitude to Almighty God for this great advancement of the national cause.

(Signed,) A. LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The bogus "Legislature of Virginia" failed to organize at Alexandria on Monday for want of a quorum.

Lincoln has so far recovered that he was engaged in public business Tuesday night.

Gen. Meagher was captured by the enemy in citizen's dress near Mine Run.

Gold in New York Tuesday was quoted at 151.

The Yankee Army Police System—Gen. Morgan's Plans Betrayed.

Among the new institutions characteristic of that nation which has been introduced by the Yankees is an "Army Detective System." The Cincinnati *Commercial* contains a detailed and circumstantial account of a successful attempt by a Kentucky traitor to install himself as a spy for Gen. Morgan in February last, while he was the chosen instrument of the Federal detectives, under the notorious Truesdail. The party now assumes the name of Johnson; but Morgan and his officers at least know his real name. The treachery was entirely successful, and the spy both carried and brought letters for Morgan and his family, which letters were duly read at Nashville by the detectives before they were delivered; and thus, and in other ways, Morgan's plans were communicated to the foe. This revelation should furnish a warning to our officers not to take any but the most tried and faithful men into their confidence. In this instance, the spy saved Nashville when it was weak by false reports to Morgan of its strength; caused the capture of Capt. Charlton Morgan at Lexington; exposed Gen. M.'s plans, and possibly led to the later disasters which befell his command. The following is the spy's narrative, unblushingly furnished by himself:

NASHVILLE, Feb. 8, 1863.

I am a personal acquaintance of Gen. John H. Morgan; he is acquainted with my family in ——, Kentucky. I saw him at Lexington. I met him with about one hundred men about three miles from Stewart's Ferry, on the Wilson Pike, on Tuesday, one week ago. He was pleased to see me, and after due conversation I agreed to scout for him.

We left and went to near Lebanon that night, next day to Liberty, and the next day (Thursday) to McMinnville, where I stayed four days, when I came to Liberty on Tuesday, where I was arrested by some of Morgan's men and taken to Woodbury, where I was released by Col. Clark, and then went to Readyville. From there I went to Gen. Crittenden's headquarters, and thence to Gen Rosecrans's headquarters, and there I was ordered to report to Col. Truesdail, at Nashville.

My instruction from Gen. Morgan was to go to Nashville, deliver letters to his (Morgan's) friends in Nashville, and then to learn whether there were any commissary stores at the Chattanooga and Nashville depot; to see Mrs. Hagy, and if she knows of such commissary stores, and also ascertain where the commissary stores in Nashville are, particularly, and how all the steamers lie in the river, how many gunboats, and how they lie in the river. For this information, promptly delivered, he would give me five hundred dollars in greenbacks. He very pointedly charged me to beware of Truesdail's detective police, &c. I saw Mrs. Hagy to night, after advising with Mrs. Cheatham, who advised me to put on a United States uniform, which I got of Col. Truesdail, and went and saw Mrs. Hagy and others, and to visit all parts of the city to obtain the information the General directed. A shoemaker—first house on the left-hand side of Church street after you leave the penitentiary—is making boots for me with false bottoms, for carrying dispatches. I have not his name; it begins with H.

(Signed,) A. E. JOHNSON.

Truesdail, whom the Yankees denounce as an infamous swindler and scoundrel, takes the matter in hand:

NOTE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE TO GEN. ROSECRANS.

General: I have sent Johnson back with information not very inviting to Gen. Morgan; yet I am of opinion the latter will make a raid upon some point in your command within ten days. He has a chain of scouts this morning extending from Stone's river perhaps into the city, all the way through to Lebanon, Greenville, Smithville, and McMinnville, his general headquarters. One hundred of his men were at Stone's river last night, I am informed. Yours, &c.,

WM. TRUESDAIL,
Chief of Army Police.

The spy Johnson was sent back to Morgan with proper instructions, made his trip successfully, returned and reported as follows:

I left Nashville February 9, and stayed at Stewart's Ferry that night; next morning went four miles beyond Beard's Mill; next day went five miles beyond Liberty. On the 12th went to McMinnville, to Gen. Morgan's headquarters. When I went into his office the General was not there, but his brother, Charlton Morgan, was in. He said to me, "Is it possible that you have got through?" He then called one of the boys and sent word to the General that a man wanted to see him on important business. The General came over, and as he came in said to me: "Mr. ——, I am very glad to see you." He then turned to his brother and said: "I told you he would go through, Charlton. I am hardly ever deceived in a man." I told him I had some things for his wife from Mrs. Dr. Cheatham. He then invited me over to Dr. Armstrong's, where he was boarding. We went in and he introduced me to his lady, saying, "Here, my dear, is the gentleman I told you of; he is just from Nashville."—She asked me to be seated, and the General then asked me for information about Nashville. I told him that they were receiving heavy reinforcements there—that there were fifty-seven transports lying at the levee, loaded with troops and provisions.—He asked me if they had not been burned yet. I told him they had not. He says, "Well, they will be." He asked me when I would be ready to go to Nashville again; and I told him that I was ready at any time. He asked me if I did not want some money; I told him I did, and he gave me one hundred dollars—part in Confederate, and part in greenbacks and Tennessee money. He then said he wanted me to leave on Sunday or Monday for Nashville. On Monday I started for McMinnville. He told me to find out how many troops there were here, where they were going to, and how many transports there were here and their location.—Also, how many gunboats there were here, and whether they lay above or below the railroad bridge. He said for me to get all the information I could of the movements, location and number of the army. Monday night I stayed at Mr. Bradford's, five miles the other side of Liberty; next night stayed at widow Buchan's, five miles beyond Lebanon; next stayed two miles this side of Green Hill; and the next day, (Thursday,) came to Nashville. While I was in the General's office at McMinnville, Colonel Clark, commanding Duke's brigade, came in and asked the General if the troops could be paid off before going into Kentucky. Morgan said they could be paid. He asked the Colonel if he wanted any money. The Colonel said yes, that he wanted commutation for fifty days. In marching they do not issue rations. Heard Major Steel say that the command would be at Sparta in the morning.—Learned from officers at McMinnville that there were near 25,000 troops at Tullahoma, that they were fortifying there, and at Manchester and Shelbyville, and that Breckinridge was at Manchester. While at McMinnville I saw the telegraph operator, who invited me to his office. He was just sending to Bragg the news I had brought. While in his office he received a dispatch from either Richmond or Charleston, saying that France had interfered, and that commissioners were to meet in Central Mexico.

(Signed) A. E. JOHNSON.

Then follows, in the original, a letter from Mrs. Gen. Morgan to her sister, and other letters, and the spy proceeds with his statement:

Not only were the ladies thus wickedly deceived by "our man," but Gen. John Morgan was so completely sold by this—his own—spy that we suppose he has had his ears measured repeatedly of late to ascertain their increased length. The following facts will show how Morgan's brother lost his liberty, and "our man" came within view of a halter.

Coming into Nashville on his second trip, he brought a letter from Capt. Clarence Morgan, the General's brother, addressed to their mother in Kentucky, to be mailed at Nashville. This letter advised the mother that his writer would be at Lexington, Ky., upon a certain day, and desired her to meet him there. This letter contained the following note from the devoted Charlton Morgan to his lady love, as it would seem:

"McMINNVILLE, Feb. 14, 1863.

Dear Mollie—Meet me at Lexington. I will be there in four or five days."

Directed to "Miss Mollie Williams, care of Mrs. Mary Atkinson, Russellville, Ky."

Of course this letter came to the hands of the inevitable Col. Truesdail, and he forthwith advises Gen. Boyle, commandant at Louisville. The latter sends a force and arrests Capt. Morgan, and he was sent to Camp Chase as a prisoner of war or a spy—we are not positive which.

Returning on his third trip to Morgan's headquarters at McMinnville, "our man" found himself in trouble at once, and under arrest as a traitor to the South. Gen. John Morgan had received the day before a copy of the Nashville *Union*, containing an account of the arrest and imprisonment of his brother in Ohio. He well remembered that Johnson had that letter in charge, and he could not imagine any other cause for the calamity than Johnson's betrayal of the trust. But "our man" was equal to the emergency. He swore by all that was blue above, that he had faithfully carried the letter and placed it in the Nashville post office—which was true.

"You know full well, General," said he, "that old Truesdail and his gang have complete run of affairs at Nashville; and if Capt. Morgan was captured because of that letter, they must have read it while in that office. That the letter went to your mother is plain; for it seems she got it, and met your brother, and it was by watching her that they caught him."

What could Gen. Morgan say? Johnson was discharged from arrest; but matters were not easy, as before. Morgan was cloudy and ill at ease.—Finally Johnson was sent to Tullahoma and court-martialed, was tried, and discharged for want of convincing evidence. "Our man" was now satisfied that his *role* was about ended, however. Suspicion once attaching to a spy, his work is done and his neck is spanned by the halter. It is only the blind, generous confidence that suspects nothing, that serves the ends of the successful scout.—Johnson returned to Nashville speedily and secretly. While at Tullahoma, however, he made the acquaintance of the rebel General, Forrest, who wished to employ him as a scout, with apparently full confidence in his loyalty to the South; but one trial by court-martial was enough for Johnson.

Arrived at Nashville he reported at midnight to the chief of police. The next day he was publicly arrested on the streets as a spy of John Morgan and thrown into the penitentiary, where had just been confined a large number of Nashville rebels, preparatory to being sent to the North and to the South. He obtained their confidence and sympathies, and "dug us" some items of much interest to the Union cause.

The Yankee papers publish the letters of Mrs. Morgan ordering "black stick pomatum" for the General, No. 4½ slippers for herself, and laughingly observing, upon the receipt of a new dress, that she "was a belle, and could rival the evening dresses of Mrs. McK—," ordering a "No. 21 corset," and so forth.

The Siege of Charleston—A Hopeless Yankee Account of It.

The New York *Times* has a long editorial upon the siege of Charleston which is exceedingly cheerful reading to the Confederate public. We copy it entire:

For several months the advices from the vicinity of Charleston have uniformly been to the effect that we should soon have the gratification of announcing its fall; that Fort Sumter was battered to pieces, and must surrender without delay; and the public heart has been made sick with deferred hope, until now it has ceased to believe any predictions of the capture or demolition of Charleston.

Fort Sumter, we will venture to say, will not be taken by the present line of approach and mode of operation. And what military object is to be gained by its capture? We already perfectly command the entrance to the harbor, so that blockade-running has entirely ceased; we could command it no better were Sumter in our possession. Nor, if captured, would it be practicable to put there the heavy guns that would be needed to operate upon Charleston; for they could not well be transported to the ruin and mounted, under the fire of the numerous rebel batteries that line Sullivan's Island and Fort Johnson. Even if guns were successfully placed in position, we should be but five hundred yards nigher the city than now; and Parrott rifles throw into it with perfect ease from Cummings's Point, where they are already established. Nor does it seem that Sumter can be so easily taken as some have thought.—Not only are Fort Johnson and the works on Sullivan's Island armed with very heavy batteries, but the shores of the city and even its wharves are mounted with the heaviest guns in possession of the Confederates. Against these the army has no power whatever to act. One assault has already been made upon the ruins with very unsatisfactory results—the whole party fell into a decided trap, and any other would probably share the same fate. Although harmless for the offence, it still has resistive power of a very strong character. The lower tier of casemates cannot be destroyed; for the rubbish of the upper tiers of the work have so covered them that even the heaviest shell have no power to penetrate to them. A few men, comparatively, can still so shelter themselves that no assailing party can find cover from their deadly, because close, fire, and artillery fire added to this would make the ruins of Sumter but little safer than the crater of a volcano. Success in an assault is therefore very doubtful, and it would be folly to run the exceeding risk of a failure when success can give no decided military advantage. We may chafe and fret because our flag is not hoisted over those battered walls; but disaster would annoy and damage us more, and assuredly the dictates of public opinion and feeling should not be followed when likely to lead to grief.

The further progress of operations in the harbor is now, as before, a question for the monitors. It was intended that they should pass these batteries—if they have not done so, certainly no fault can be found with Gen. Gillmore for the failure.—And we do not believe that the monitors will undertake this task. The delays that have ensued since Sumter was deprived of its teeth seem to indicate that the future gives no promise of better fruition than the past. Let it be repeated—we doubt whether the monitors will attempt to run the gauntlet into Charleston harbor. All they can accomplish will be to burn Charleston; they cannot destroy the batteries that defend it, but they can burn the city—and Gen. Gillmore can certainly do that from Cummings's Point, without exposing our iron-clads to the prospect of loss. In fact, the blockade of Charleston harbor being perfect, any other game is not worth the powder, and the public may as well cease to expect any news of any such success as it has been led to hope for.

And why should Charleston be burned? What military advantage would we gain by burning that abominable rebel city? Unless we can take possession of the ground on which it stands, we achieve or acquire nothing by its destruction. For assuredly in no case could we be guilty of any such atrocity as that recently perpetrated by the English against the unprotected Japanese city of Kagosima—where, merely to glut a wild and savage lust for vengeance, they suddenly opened their artillery upon, and battered or burned to the ground, a city of 150,000 inhabitants. Charleston is now probably about deserted of its population, and were a bombardment necessary it would result in a very limited loss of life; but even as regards property we shall to the end carry on this war with a forbearance and magnanimity unparalleled in the annals of the world's wars.

When the batteries that surround it are destroyed then Charleston will be surrendered; but to expect that the harbor and all the strong works around it, and the command of the indispensable railroads that centre at Charleston, will be given up to save the city, or will be yielded less readily after its destruction, is an idle and unfounded expectation.—When a part of the great military advantages now held by the Confederates shall have been won by and transferred to us, then the safety of Charleston may be bartered for the remainder. Until then let us wait patiently, particularly as there is no reasonable prospect of our impatience hastening the end for which we have so long and so vainly looked.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LONDON.—A horrible tragedy has occurred in London. A man named Hunt hired a cab, in which he drove out with his wife and two children. Stopping at an ale-house, he sent the cabman in after a pint of beer, which was drank in the cab. Afterwards the man got out alone, paid the fare and told the cabman where to drive. On reaching his destination the driver found that his freight consisted only of three dead bodies; the woman and her children had been poisoned. Subsequently, on being arrested, the murderer himself took poison.

"LOCAL" DEFENDERS.—The second draft in Baltimore for conscripts to fill up the quota of Maryland, under the late call of Lincoln, resulted in the drawing of Charles W. Kimberly, "local" of the *American*, and John Starr, "local" of the *Clipper*, both blatant, foul-mouthed Lincolnites, and Anthony S. Chambers, local reporter of the *Gazette*, a moderate Southern-rights man. Three reporters out of six were drawn, which is a very remarkable circumstance. They all paid the $300 substitute money and don't go to the wars.

A party of deserters in broad daylight visited the house of John McGill, in South Carolina, near the North Carolina line, and robbed him of $4,000.

LOCAL MATTERS.

False Pretences.—James M. D. Irvin, a lad, appeared before the Mayor yesterday to answer the charge of forgery and obtaining money of the C. S. Government under false pretences. On the 26th of November last Irvin called at the office of Capt. John H. Wayt, Paymaster for the commutation of rations, and presented a bill and descriptive roll for George W. Finley, amounting to $103.20, representing himself as Finley.—Capt. Wayt paid him the money, when Irvin signed the receipt as George W. Finley. The next day Irvin again called at Capt. Wayt's office with similar papers, purporting to be for F. M. Bennett, company B, 44th Virginia regiment, and presenting a power of attorney for George W. Finley to receive his pay, attempted to collect the money claimed.—The order being informal, Captain Wayt declined to pay it, and on comparing the signatures discovered that that of Colonel Leroy Brown's was a forgery. Captain Wayt then took young Irvin into custody, and when on his way to Col. Brown's office young Irvin stated that if there was anything wrong about the papers he was not aware of it. He confessed that his name was not Finley, but Irvin; that he had received the papers from E. J. Forbes, who was then waiting for him at the Ballard House. Capt. Wayt being satisfied that Irvin had received money on false pretences, had forged or illegally signed the name of Geo. W. Finley, and that the name of Col. Leroy Brown was a forgery, he reported the case to the Mayor.

The counsel of the prisoner urged that Irvin had been the dupe of Forbes, who, but a few days previous, had obtained money of the Government by forged papers, and introduced witnesses to show that these surmises were correct.

Among other facts established was the important one that Forbes, when called