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Wilmington Journal.

VOL. 20. } CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA—WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1863. } NO. 11.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.
1 square, of 10 lines or less, for each and every insertion, \$2.
Special Notices will be charged \$3 per square for each and every insertion.
All Obituaries and private publications of every character, are charged as advertisements.
No advertisement, respecting upon private character, can, under any circumstances, be admitted.

WILMINGTON, N. C., DEC. 9, 1863.

The News.
From Virginia the affairs would indicate either that the army of Meade is about to go into winter quarters, or that the fight, if a fight there is to be, will take place at a point lower down the Rappahannock. The news from the west is equally unsatisfactory. We cannot give full details of the reports from Braxton Bragg, with the occupation of Cleveland on the line of the Georgia and East Tennessee Railroad cuts off communication between Longstreet and Bragg. We may rest assured that Grant will push his advantages to the utmost of his ability, and we cannot but feel seriously uneasy in view of the position of affairs in Northern Georgia, the more so, as a portion of our troops—small parties we must think—will be sent to the relief of the army in the recent campaign. The very intelligent "special" of the Richmond Dispatch thinks that there is no reason to apprehend an advance of the enemy now, if at all, this Winter.

It will be seen by the latest dispatches that Grant has fallen back behind the Chickamauga, and that Meade has retreated across the Rapidan. With full possession of the important position about Chattanooga, Grant exercises the most complete control over the Confederate forces. He interferes with Lee's operations and prevents a junction with Bragg. If Longstreet had captured Bragg, he could have made his way into Virginia with his prisoners as well as the captured material.

The Congress of the Confederate States will meet in Richmond on Monday next, this being the short session no time need be consumed in preliminaries, both houses being already organized.

The meeting of Congress has been looked forward to with much anxiety, chiefly, we believe in the hope that something may be done for the improvement of the currency. We are not sanguine of any prompt or efficient action being taken, and yet prompt action is a great recommendation. There will be a number of financial measures before Congress, as may easily be inferred from the large crop of such which has sprouted and are now ripening throughout the country and embellished the columns of the newspaper press, for nearly every paper has ven to take the subject with more or less ability, and all no doubt, to the satisfaction of that of their "readership."

The currency of the Confederate States will be a subject of great importance, and we are sure that the Government will do all in its power to meet the exigencies of the present crisis, for no half way measures will do that. The thing must be met or an explosion must be the result. How long such a result may be postponed we are not prepared to say, but this we will say, that we can see it so plainly that any attempt at concealment would be vain, that unless active and decided measures are adopted to meet the present crisis, we are sure that an explosion will be the result.

The act of the Southern Convention does not exactly meet our views. There are serious objections to it, and we think yet even with these objections we would infinitely prefer it to nothing. The most tangible objections to it are, first, that it violates the condition expressed in the preamble of the Convention, and second, that it only gives the coupons of the thousand million loan, and that it is not a loan, but a gift of the Government to the people.

We hardly need say that the objection could be got over without an act of violence, such as Congress performed in regard to the old loan, which are made inadmissible at all. The second objection has been already pointed out, and we are inclined to give it. The Raleigh Standard is enough against it as a dangerous and odious scheme. It says that the farmer and working men, and mechanics, and those small retailers and incomes, including the families of officers and soldiers in the field would have to raise the coin to pay the tax, and their property would be sold under the hammer if they could not obtain the specie. Now a man cannot be taxed on what he has not got, and his property has to be sold to him, and he has to have the means to get it, and if he cannot, it is a sale of his property, and a sale of his property is a sale of his property.

The Recreant.—JAMES S. ROBERTS, late secretary of New York Division of North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, writes to *Harper's Weekly*, that from the beginning of February to the 21st of September, an aggregate of eight steamers and quite as many sailing vessels had been captured or destroyed within the belt of the blockade, and that in the same period the blockade was held by the United States Navy, and that the blockade was held by the United States Navy, and that the blockade was held by the United States Navy.

The Kind of Democracy.—A correspondent of the English papers has been interesting in the remarks of the Duke of Devonshire, with especial reference to the revenues he derives in the slave trade. After discussing the manner of conducting trade into the country to capture the slaves, the writer states that an export duty of \$5 per head is paid to the King, which results in an annual income of \$25,000 to the monarch. That in addition to the \$25,000 is several thousand cases on slaves brought through the territories, which amount annually to the sum of \$30,000 more. That the same which he himself sells annually at an average of \$30 each, number about 2,000, and this gives him \$100,000 a year. The total income of the King of Dahomey out of the slave trade is therefore over \$300,000 a year.

From the New York World.

Exchange of Prisoners.
An article upon the alleged barbarities of the rebels, in the *Commercial Advertiser*, omits to state that at the very beginning of the conflict the administration made the mistake of proclaiming the privateers men pirates; of confining them as felons; of having them tried as pirates. Again, it forgets that an exchange of prisoners was requested more than once by the rebels, and that the Administration refused it, until forced into that measure by the voice of the people, speaking through the press.

Again, has any request made by the rebel authorities for information as to acts reported to them to have been contrary to the rules of war, received an answer from our authorities? Does justice stop the exchange of prisoners, contrary to the terms of the cartel? If the Union is to be restored, it will be not simply by force of arms, but by the aid of convictions. Is a good understanding likely to result from looking only at one side of a question? Does justice stop the exchange of prisoners, contrary to the terms of the cartel? If the Union is to be restored, it will be not simply by force of arms, but by the aid of convictions. Is a good understanding likely to result from looking only at one side of a question?

There are only two ways of conducting a war—one which seeks in every possible manner to diminish its necessary evils, and one which proclaims that each side will do to the other as it would be done by. The latter is the only one which admits, and one which denies reciprocal obligations. We believe that the spirit of resistance is increased by the latter course. We believe that the mistaken policy which has ruled our councils has bribed the South to fight more stubbornly.

We believe that the last Congress did more to make the war a more successful one than any other Congress of the Confederate States. We believe that the wretched equitable about paroles has made more men afraid of the sword than any other cause. Nor does this detract either from their patriotism or bravery. A man who is willing to suffer the privations of camp and the dangers of a campaign, may well hesitate to go in jail to gratify the obstinacy of a Secretary, to forward the views of a fanatic, or to serve the capriciousness of a commission.

The rebels offer to exchange upon the cartel. If we think it violated or suspect a trick, how easy to answer. Until the question arose in dispute under the cartel as we have seen, we can only make a special exchange upon the basis of it, man for man, so far as the prisoners go, and in the meantime let us see if we cannot clear up the difficulty. If we cannot we will leave our differences to arbitration.

Not such a course was taken to lonely necessities of hard war, which only gives us irritate. If the rebels are less gentle and humane than our soldiers, it is well to tell the world that men, whom we fondly hope to see fellow-citizens, and at great expense fight to keep fellow-citizens, and at great expense fight to keep fellow-citizens, and at great expense fight to keep fellow-citizens.

Latest from Vicksburg.—The *Mississippi* has intelligence from Vicksburg to the 31st ult. The report, published a short time since, relative to the arrival of numerous transports with Yankee soldiers, is now proved to be untrue. No transports had arrived, except three negro regiments from Milliken's Bend. There had been but one or two boat arrivals per week for some time, the Yankees being afraid, on account of our guerrillas, to attempt a frequent navigation of the river above or below. The citizens had learned that the city would be garrisoned by negro regiments, the coming winter, and were apprehending a perfect reign of terror.

The military commission appointed by Grant to meet on the 1st of October, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the purpose of examining into the claims of owners of property in the city of Vicksburg, has held its first sitting to take the oath of allegiance to the Yankee government—had not met, but it was thought would do so on the 4th ult. The "loyal citizens" appointed on this commission are Rev. Mr. Hopkins and Judge Houghton. Grant's order had not been enforced in any way, and the persons had taken the oath. Those who took it did so of their own choice. The generality of the citizens were as true as ever to the cause. They were suffering much, and presented appearances of great distress, but were yet hopeful, believing that the time for their deliverance from Federal rule would not be very far off. There was some ground for disgust among all classes for anything relating to the Yankees, and but three or four young ladies had civilly received any of them as visitors.

Many persons, unable to get away from the city, or to find employment to make a living, were engaged in teaching in the schools. The school of the basement of the Methodist Church taught by Yankees, and attended by three hundred and fifty negro men, women and children, was repaired. There was no foundation for the report that Prof. F. M. Stevens was teaching the negro school at the Methodist Church. He had nothing to do with that institution of learning.

From the Illustrated News.

A Chapter for Old Young Men and Young Old Men.
BY REX.
And it came to pass that there was a certain King named Pharaoh, and his kingdom was the Tiger, and the young man came to him to tribute pay unto him.

In those days, the young men would say one unto another, "Go days, and let us go up and fight against this Tiger that dwelleth in the halls of Pharaoh." Then they would arise, and gird up their loins and go against the Tiger.

Then would the Tiger arise and fight with them, and have the mastery over them, and prevail over them, and they would go out, carrying naught in their ships, and their mouths would be full of curses and bitterness by reason of the captivity thereof.

In those days, there dwelt a man who had walked in the presence of Pharaoh, and had considered the ways of the Tiger, and he said unto himself, "Now will I study the ways of this beast—even this Tiger,—that I may learn his way, and understand the principle wherewith to slay him."

Then he rejected and was exceedingly glad, and said unto his wife, "I will go up against the Tiger, and dwell in the Halls of Pharaoh, for he shall be delivered unto mine hands, and I will prevail over him by reason of the deed which I have discovered against him."

Then he rose and went up against the Tiger, carrying with him shovels of gold, and shovels of silver, and shovels of brass.

Now when the Tiger saw him coming afar off, he rejoiced and said—Now will I possess myself of the shovels of silver, and the shovels of gold, and the shovels of brass.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.
Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THOMAS, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.
ORANGE C. H., Va., Dec. 7d, 1863.
No fighting to-day. The enemy still make a show of force in the front, but are believed to be falling back behind the Rapidan river, without a fight, or going to Fredericksburg to winter. The weather is sunny.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.
ORANGE C. H., Va., Dec. 3d, 1863.
The enemy have recrossed the Rapidan. They came and returned without a fight. One hundred more prisoners go to Richmond to-day.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.
ORANGE C. H., Va., Dec. 3d, 1863.
The enemy recrossed the Rapidan on yesterday and during last night, at Germania Ford, distance 15 miles from their line of battle on Tuesday, going towards Culpeper C. H. The enemy began falling back about dark on Tuesday night and was not discovered by us until nearly day.

FROM RICHMOND.
RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 2d, 1863.
Contrary to general expectations the engagement between the armies of Lee and Meade has not yet taken place. Each side apparently is waiting an attack from the other.

FROM RICHMOND.
RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 2d, 1863.
An officer from Orange county to-night expresses the belief that Meade is slowly receding from Mine Creek towards Fredericksburg. If this be true his object is either to occupy that town for winter quarters, or, having the inside track, to make it a starting point of a race for Richmond.

FROM RICHMOND.
RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 2d, 1863.
The weather is clear and the temperature milder. A special dispatch to the Sentinel, dated Orange C. H., Dec. 2d, says that our cavalry made a successful attack on Gregg's division on the plank road, in the rear of Meade's army, on the 29th. We captured a Federal camp, one hundred and ten prisoners, a number of wagons, and killed and wounded many of the enemy.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.
FROM NORTHERN PAPERS OF THE 25th, 26th and 27th ult., we glean the following:

FROM CHATTANOOGA.
The following official despatches have been received at the War Department:

CHATTANOOGA, November 24, 12 p. m.—Yesterday, at half past 12 o'clock, General Granger's and Palmer's corps, supported by General Sherman's division, advanced directly in front of our fortifications, drove in the enemy's pickets, and carried his first line of rifle pits between Chattanooga and Carlen's Creek. We captured nine commissioned officers and about one hundred enlisted men. Our loss was about one hundred and eleven men.

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25, 6 p. m.—The fight to-day has progressed favorably. General Sherman carried the end of Missionary Ridge, and his right is now at the Tunnel and his left at Chickamauga Creek. The troops and now look to the valley east of the mountain. The enemy's pickets, and carried his first line of rifle pits between Chattanooga and Carlen's Creek. We captured nine commissioned officers and about one hundred enlisted men. Our loss was about one hundred and eleven men.

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Special to the Evening News.

ESCAPE OF MORGAN AND HIS STAFF.
MUSKIE, Dec. 4, 1863.
The Memphis *Argus* of the 2d has dispatches from Cleveland in confirmation of the escape of Morgan and all his staff from the Ohio penitentiary, by digging through the walls. One thousand dollars reward is offered for Morgan.

THE GENERALS ARE NUMEROUS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.
The steamer *Black Hawk* was fired into by the Red River, and the pilot killed; the Texas was burned.

GEN. HURBURN HAS BEEN ORDERED THAT ALL MILITARY GOODS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE YANKEE REGULATIONS, MUST BE SHIPPED NORTH FROM MEMPHIS. TEN OR TWENTY HOUSES ARE NAMED, AND REQUIRED TO SHIP THEIR GOODS NORTH.

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Special to the Evening News.

ESCAPE OF MORGAN AND HIS STAFF.
MUSKIE, Dec. 4, 1863.
The Memphis *Argus* of the 2d has dispatches from Cleveland in confirmation of the escape of Morgan and all his staff from the Ohio penitentiary, by digging through the walls. One thousand dollars reward is offered for Morgan.

THE GENERALS ARE NUMEROUS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.
The steamer *Black Hawk* was fired into by the Red River, and the pilot killed; the Texas was burned.

GEN. HURBURN HAS BEEN ORDERED THAT ALL MILITARY GOODS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE YANKEE REGULATIONS, MUST BE SHIPPED NORTH FROM MEMPHIS. TEN OR TWENTY HOUSES ARE NAMED