THE DAILY PRESS
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AMUSEMENTS.

PIKE'S OPERA-HOUSE.
J. W. GUEST.....Lessee and Manager;
A. W. FENNO, Stage Manager, M. SIMMONS, Treasurer.
THE HIT OF THE SEASON.
Third night of the beautiful and talented Miss DORA SHAW.
THIS (Monday) EVENING, Dec 23,
CAMILLE.
Camille.....Miss Dora Shaw.
Overture.....Orchestra.
To conclude with the successful Burlesta of
THE UNION INVINCIBLE
Columbia.....Miss Dora Shaw.
In rehearsal, a grand military spectacular drama, in three acts, called the RIFLE BRIGADE; also, GREAT EXPECTATIONS.
PRICES OF ADMISSION—Parquette, Circle and Balcony, 50 cts; Children, half price; Gallery, 25c.
Box Office open daily from 10 to 4 P. M.

WOOD'S THEATRE,
Corner Sixth and Vine streets.
Manager, Geo. Wood; Stage Manager, G. H. Gilbert; Treasurer, G. T. Collins.
PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES.—Dress Circle and Parquette, 30 cents; Gallery, 15 cents.
THIS (Monday) EVENING, Dec. 23, first appearance of the distinguished Tragedian,
MR. JOSEPH PROCTOR,
Since his successful professional tour through Europe. On this occasion will be presented
JACK CADE, THE BONDMAN OF KENT.
Jack Cade.....Mr. Proctor.
After which, Dance.....M'lle Aubrey.
To conclude with
THE DEBUTANTE.

NATIONAL THEATER.
Novel and Brilliant Attraction!
SEVENTH WEEK.
DAN RICE'S GREAT TROUPE.
First representation of the Chivalrous Equestrian Drama of
St. George and the Dragon.
Also, of the Comic Pantomime of
The Miser of Bagdad,
With a grand melange of entertainments.
NOTICE—The regular Dramatic Season will commence on the 8th of January. Ladies and gentlemen of ability can apply to the Manager.
de23 JOHN BATES.

HELLER, THE ILLUSIONIST
Grand Magic and Musical Soiree
FOR ONE WEEK
AT SMITH & NIXON'S HALL,
COMMENCING
On Monday Evening, Dec. 23
ROBERT HELLER, THE CELEBRATED STUDENT in the mysteries of the ANCIENT MAGI, Inventor of Modern Miracles and Originator of the Wonderful and Mysterious Science of
Second Sight,
Also, Associate and King's Scholar of the
London Royal Academy of Music,
Will appear as above in a
GRAND PSYCHOMANTIC AND OPERATIC OLIO,
In the course of which the following bewildering and remarkable marvels will be presented:
CARD MANIPULATIONS EXTRAORDINARY,
THE DOVE AND THE FLOWERS,
QUICK AS LIGHTNING,
HOW THE MONEY FLIES,
WITH A POCKET HANDKERCHIEF,
THE MIRACULOUS RINGS,
THE DEVIL'S PUNCH,
THE MAGIC PLUMES,
THE BROKEN PLATE,
THE WATCHES OF THE AUDIENCE ALL WRONG—no two alike,
DUCK-HUNTING EXTRAORDINARY.
The psychomantic and wierd-like mystery of
SECOND SIGHT,
As only exhibited by this celebrated student of the Occult Science, who will, in the course of the evening, execute a brilliant Fantasia from "LA SONNAMBULA" on the Piano forte.
Doors open at 7 o'clock. The entertainment to commence at 7½ precisely.
Cards of admission, 30 cents. de20 tf

NEW ARRIVAL
—OF—
Williams & Orvis'
Improved Noiseless Double-thread
$25
FAMILY SEWING MACHINE.
THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR these UNRIVALED MACHINES has called for a large increase of our stock, and we now invite the soldiers' past, b'ouse, vest and dress makers of this city to call and see a Machine for $25 that will do MORE WORK, in less time, and DO IT BETTER, than any other in this market.
Samples of heavy and light work, with circulars, forwarded on application at our Central Office for the West,
164 RACE-ST., CINCINNATI,
(Commercial Building), or
de-tf No. 323 Washington-st, Boston.

OVENS.
SELF-VENTILATING!
The Alligator Coal
—AND—
FOREST QUEEN WOOD STOVES,
THE GREATEST IMPROVEMENT IN
COOKING-STOVES.
BAKING IN PURE, FRESH, HOT AIR,
Giving the meat a flavor equal to roasting, instead of baking in greasy, foul, burnt air.
PATENTED Dec. 7, 1858. | PATENTED July 31, 1861.
ADAMS, PECKOVER & CO.,
de2 COR. FIFTH AND ELM, Cincinnati.

Soldiers' Back Pay.
I WILL GIVE PROMPT ATTENTION in procuring the back pay of soldiers who have claims against the United States. Also, in procuring pensions for those who have been wounded while in the army, and for widows whose husbands have been killed while in the service.
FRANKLIN HALLIDAY,
United States Commissioner.
de9-tf Office in Custom-house.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 9, 1861

COAL! COAL!
THE OLD HARTFORD CITY COAL-YARD again open, corner Third and John.
HARTFORD CITY,
SYRACUSE AND
YOUGHIOGHENY COAL.
de16-tf WM. CHURCH.

JOHN R. HUNTER,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
CINCINNATI.
OFFICE—75 WEST THIRD-STREET,
de6 (Evans Co.'s Bank Building.)

Cincinnati Daily Press.

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THE DAILY PRESS.

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THE CINCINNATI PRESS COMPANY.

MONDAY.....DECEMBER 23

Railroad Bulletin.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS.

LITTLE MIAMI.

	Depart.	Arrive.
Morrow Accommodation	7.40 A.M.	2.00 P.M.
Day Express	10.00 A.M.	6.00 P.M.
Camp Dennison	5.15 P.M.	8.10 A.M.
Columbus Accommodation	4.00 P.M.	10.30 A.M.
Xenia Accommodation	5.50 P.M.	8.00 A.M.

CINCINNATI, HAMILTON AND DAYTON.

Cincinnati & Chicago Air Line	7.30 A.M.	9.15 A.M.
Dayton and Sandusky	7.30 A.M.	5.45 P.M.
Dayton, Toledo and Detroit	7.30 A.M.	9.15 P.M.
Hamilton Accommodation	9.00 A.M.	5.10 A.M.
Richmond and Dayton	3.30 P.M.	9.15 P.M.
Dayton, Toledo, Detroit and Huntsville	5.30 P.M.	11.25 A.M.
Hamilton Accommodation	6.00 P.M.	6.55 A.M.
Eastern Night Express	10.00 P.M.	7.10 A.M.

MARIETTA AND CINCINNATI.

Mail	8.55 A.M.	5.45 P.M.
Accommodation	3.30 P.M.	10.45 A.M.

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI.

Mail	7.00 A.M.	10.05 P.M.
Express	7.20 P.M.	8.45 A.M.
Aurora Accommodation	3.15 P.M.	7.55 A.M.

INDIANAPOLIS AND CINCINNATI.

Mail	4.45 A.M.	5.00 P.M.
Accommodation	2.45 P.M.	12.20 A.M.
Chicago Express	8.00 P.M.	9.45 A.M.

DAYTON AND MICHIGAN.

Toledo, Detroit & Chicago Express	7.30 A.M.	11.25 A.M.
Toledo, Detroit & Chicago Express	5.30 P.M.	9.15 P.M.

CINCINNATI AND CHICAGO AIR-LINE.

Mail and Express	7.30 A.M.	9.15 P.M.

CINCINNATI, WILMINGTON AND ZANESVILLE.

Morning Express	10.00 A.M.	6.45 P.M.
Accommodation	6.00 P.M.	8.00 A.M.

KENTUCKY CENTRAL.
(City Time.)

First Train	7.00 A.M.	10.45 P.M.
Second Train	3.00 P.M.	6.40 P.M.

SOUTHERN ITEMS.

We find these items in late Southern papers. The Savannah *Republican* says:

ON OUR FEET.—A circumstance, apparently Providential, has occurred within the past few days, which, properly improved by the Government at Richmond, will enable the States of Georgia and South Carolina to take care of themselves without assistance from any other quarter. At a future day it will come to light, but present policy is to leave the enemy to find it out, which they will do when they leave their safety retreats on the coast.

If there ever was a cause that had the smiles of Heaven, it is ours. The Good One seems inclined to aid us, in spite of ourselves.

Some fifty negroes made their escape from White Point, Westmoreland County, Va., across the Potomac lately, says the New Orleans *Delta*.

The Rebel Policy in Kentucky.

The Bowling Green correspondent of the Nashville *Union and American*, writing on the 10th, says:

The war policy to be pursued by the Confederates occupying this portion of the State is an enigma, the solution of which can not be easily arrived at. The latest movement but one that has been made since the return of Breckinridge's brigade from Russellville was that of Saturday last, when the same command moved from their old camping ground to a woods distant about three miles from town, where trees are being felled, huts erected and every thing necessary for the establishment of comfortable winter quarters being prepared.

General Hindman's legion, together with two additional regiments detached from Hardee's division, were ordered to Green River yesterday, and will probably occupy the same position near Mumfordsville as that held by the Kentucky brigade upon the advent of Confederate troops into the State over three months since. The public at large can as readily and with as much accuracy arrive at a probale conclusion of the meaning of two columns of a portion of the army moving in different directions, one evidently making arrangements for remaining here during the winter, the other apparently the advance guard of a forward movement—as can any of the pretended wiseacres of this place.

Again another move was made last evening—the sending of Colonel Scott's Louisiana Cavalry to Russellville, at which point they will undoubtedly remain during the winter, in order to check or give timely warning of any actual or meditated advance that may be made or feigned by Crittenden. Seeing that General Buel is timorous of attacking this place, and that no immediate Federal advance is to be made upon it, the gege of battle may be offered them in the vicinity of their present encampments, north of Green River—at least such a conjecture is plausible when taken in connection with the fact that a few days since one of our Generals remarked that "we will not all go into winter quarters."

Action of the Baltimore Banks.

A meeting of the Presidents of the several Baltimore banks was held in that city on the 17th inst. A proposition was submitted that the Baltimore banks should abolish the specie basis of settling their balances, and fall back on the credit and interest system. The proposition was strongly opposed and defeated.

It appears that the banks of Baltimore, ever since the suspension of specie payments, have regularly settled their balances every day, and all differences are promptly paid in gold, which is the basis of their operations, and by which means they have always stood well in the Clearing-house, while they have suffered no inconvenience for a sufficiency of coin to supply all needful demands.

It was understood at the meeting that whatever course may be pursued by the New York banks, the Baltimore banks will maintain their integrity, and continue to work on a coin basis, unless some unforeseen circumstance shall compel them to depart from the rule, of which there is no present probability. By working on the specie basis, the paper issues have worked up to the coin standard, and they are now in a healthful condition.

Some of the banks have issued no small notes, but have preferred to use specie for small amounts of change. The feeling at the meeting was almost unanimous to hold on to the gold basis by which the bank issues will always stand at the gold value.

FOREIGN MILITARY AND NAVAL PREPARATIONS.—In obedience to the orders which were issued by the British Government on the receipt of the first news of the *Trent* affair, great military and naval preparations had been commenced. The papers contain elaborate accounts of the warlike operations in progress. An extraordinary force of laborers had been set at work in the Tower of London to prepare firearms and munitions of war for service abroad. Large amounts of arms had been transported to Woolwich, in readiness for immediate shipment. The Royal Marines at Chatham were under orders for service. The iron-clad frigates *Warrior* and *Defense* were ordered to be in readiness. The screw steamer *Melbourne* was loading at Woolwich on the 4th instant, with an immense quantity of arms and ammunition for Canada.

The business of the Patent Office has been reduced $100,000 during the year. Many of the clerks have been dismissed, and others have had their salaries reduced twenty per cent.

Strange and Most Interesting Discovery in the New Zealand Wilds.

As most of our readers are aware, Australasia, from the time of its first discovery, has not only rewarded the explorer and delighted the naturalist with many strange birds and beasts, but the remains of a gigantic species of the former, supposed to have been long extinct, were found in some of the caves which exist in the rocky ridges of its remote and solitary parts. From the skeleton of this colossal bird it was found to have surpassed in size any of the feathered tribes now known to man. In fact, it was believed to be larger than the great species whose bones are found in the interior of Madagascar, at no great distance from where those of the Dodo, another extinct and ungainly species, have been discovered; and only the roc of the Arabian fables surpassed in size. This New Zealand bird was called by naturalists the Moa; and when contemplating with intense interest its thigh bone, large as that of an ox, they never dreamed that one of these strange and towering creatures, suggestive of another geological period, and almost of another world, might still exist in some far-off and hitherto unexplored valley. This, however, extraordinary and unexpected as is the discovery, appears to be the case. According to the *Nelson Examiner* of the 12th of June, Mr. Brunner, the chief surveyor of the province, and Mr. Maling, of the same department, together with a native of the country, were engaged in surveying the ranges between the Riwaka and Takaka valleys. On going to their work one morning they were astonished by observing the footprints of a gigantic bird, such a one, in all probability, as those whose bones having been found and taken to Europe, were received with so much avidity, and investigated with such profound and learned scrutiny by scientific men. The foot-print of the savage in the sand scarcely created greater emotion in the mind of Crusoe than did those of this colossal representative of a supposed extinct race in the breasts of the surveyors. The wonder of the native was equal to theirs—civilized man and aborigine stood alike confounded at the new evidence of the marvels of nature in that wild and unfrequented part of her vast domain. They followed the tracks for a short distance, but eventually lost them among rocks and scrub. Wherever the ground was soft, the foot prints were distinct and well defined. They measured fourteen inches in length, with a spread of eleven inches at the points of the toes, and they were about thirty inches apart. The native was at once interrogated by the surveyors, but was at a loss to conjecture by what bird the tracks in question could have been made. He had never seen any thing of the kind before. The loss of the trail was provoking, for the gentlemen in question, although thus furnished with irrefragible testimony that there, in those wild solitudes, did exist some bird upon whose living form the eyes of man had never rested, were apparently prevented from further pursuit of the remarkable discovery.

They revisited the place, however, and on a subsequent morning discovered other tracks over their own footsteps, in some instances, and by this it was established, beyond doubt, that the enormous bird who made them had passed there the previous night. Now, what is this strange and weird creature that thus, beneath the southern cross and under the Australasian sky, revisits the glimpses of the moon, and stalks in solitary state at midnight through those solitudes? No sooner had the surveyors announced their discovery, than there was a rush to the Museum to examine the footbones of the skeleton of a large Moa there preserved. The middle toe of the skeleton was found to be eight inches and a half long, without the integuments, while that of the bird who made the foot prints was ten inches, according to the impressions. The bones of the Moa in the Museum, too, were evidently those of a very large bird, and there is nothing known of any other species which would approach it in size.

The belief, then, is, from the size of the foot-prints and the great stride of the bird, that the Moa is not altogether extinct, but that a solitary specimen, if not more, still exists, and still, by moonlight, wanders in the lonely valley where its gigantic race once abounded. There can be no question as to the truthfulness of the gentlemen who discovered the tracks. They are in the employ of the Government in a scientific character, and they know that a fiction of this sort would insure their discharge if they invented and promulgated it. The district is full of limestone caves, similar to those in the adjoining district of Aorere, in which a large quantity of Moa bones were found about two years before. A discovery of this interesting character has made some stir in the colony, and it is the intention of the Government to have the character of the gigantic bird which wanders in those solitudes ascertained. If it is a living Moa, it will be like 'one risen from the dead;' if not, it must be a bird of some species new and strange.

The New Congreve Rockets.

We have already referred to Major Barry's Rocket Battalion, now at Washington, enlisted in New York State. The following is interesting, as describing their remarkable armament more in detail, constituting it one of the most formidable engines of war:

Each battery comprises four rocket guns and four caissons. The guns are of very peculiar construction, formed in sections which may be detached or united with the greatest ease. Each section consists of two rings or collars, to which are attached the ends of iron bars, spirally twisted, and the whole forming a tube. Three of these tubes united comprise the gun. No carriage is used, but in its place a stand, on which the gun may be elevated or depressed. This stand is light and portable; easily carried by one man. The gun is breech-loading, and no charge need be used except that contained in the missile itself.

The rocket is of a very complex construction, made in long tubes. The largest are thirty-two inches in length. There are many sizes and various descriptions. The tubes have three or four chambers or compartments. The posterior chamber contains the powder which acts as the propelling agent. The others contain the explosive mixture, and a fuse is so arranged as to keep up the rotary motion communicated by the spiral barrel, and at the same time to increase the velocity of the projectile. The rocket may be used as a fire ball, a percussion cap or a bomb shell.

The range of the rocket is from five hundred yards to five thousand three hundred yards, according to size and power. The smallest rocket weighs ten pounds and the largest two hundred pounds. With the two-hundred-pound rocket a mark no larger than the mast of a ship may be hit three times out of four, at a distance of three thousand yards. The firing can be very rapidly performed. There is much facility in loading, the rocket being inserted at the breach of the gun.

The rockets are ranked among the most terrible engines of war in existence. When the missile of medium size is in motion, a body of fire, fifteen inches in diameter, produced by the spiral fuse, accompanies it, filling the air in every direction. It may be so arranged as to produce a continuous and almost inextinguishable fire, consuming every combustible substance with which it comes in contact; or it can be exploded in the air, falling in burning fragments. Or, by affixing a percussion cap, may be made to burst at the instant of falling. Of course, being lighter, it has not the same power as the bombshell ordinarily used, but its destructive capacity is infinitely greater than a bomb.

"The Evil Hour."

When a mother looks upon her babe in the cradle, she regards him in his present loveliness, and is happy and satisfied. As he grows older, and the latent human passions begin to be developed, she becomes anxious for the future; but still hope predominates over fear. She believes that her son will be a good and noble man. If she is a faithful Christian mother, she has good ground for her faith and hope. There may be instances where such parents have been disappointed, but we think such cases are very rare. The conscience must be cultivated, and the fear of God constantly enjoined, or the youth will go astray at every turn. An amiable, loving spirit alone will not keep him from falling into sin.

Joseph Dean was what every body called a good boy. He did all he could for his widowed mother, and being an only child he could do much. Mrs. Dean was poor. She owned a small house and a few acres of land, and that was all. Her son was her great treasure, and in him she felt rich.

As Joseph was approaching manhood, he had a desire to see more of the world than he could do in the place of his birth, and to do something more remunerative than tilling his mother's little farm. He went to the city, and was so fortunate as to get into business which satisfied his desires. His mother heard from him often, and whenever he could leave, he went to see her, carrying some little comfort or luxury. She missed him sadly; but yet she was reconciled to his absence, because she believed it was best for him, and would in the end be best for her; he might become a rich man, and come home and repair the house, and put the farm in good order, and take care of her in her old age.

Joseph remained in the business he had chosen for some years, and was prosperous, laying up money until he counted by thousands. Then the spirit of change revived again, and she resolved to go to a distant part of the country to improve his worldly condition. The proposition almost broke his mother's heart. How could she part with her son; so handsome, so kind and noble, what could she do without him? Her pleadings were all in vain. He had made up his mind and must go. He went, and we fear he went in his own strength and not in the fear and love of God. Did his mother pray in faith for him? She did not profess faith in Christ, and perhaps did not pray at all.

The months wore away wearily, and no tidings came of Joseph. It was very strange he did not write. A year went by, and his mother heard not a word from him. Had he died among strangers; or had he sailed for some foreign land, and his letters failed to reach her? The days grew very long to her, and the nights wearisome. The winds reminded her of the perils of the sea, and the scorching sun of sickly climates. Where, oh! where was her son?

The little keepsakes he had given her were looked over and over, and the history of each recalled with a new heartache. The farm was neglected, and the house needed repairs; but widow Dean seemed to care for nothing but tidings from her darling son. Her hair became bleached with sorrow, and her eyes dim with weeping. Her neighbors tried to comfort her; but what did they know of the deep sorrow of her heart?

After years had gone by, one day the door of the cottage opened, and a stranger presented himself before Mrs. Dean. He was shabby and haggard, and had a wild and anxious look. Who was this? Could he be her son? "Are you Joseph Dean?" said the mother. "No, that is not my name; my name is Johnson." The voice was Joseph's; but the person, oh, it was but the wreck of her noble son. All that he would ever say of himself was, that in a distant city he was taken to a place where something was given him to drink, and after that he did not know any thing for a long time. When he awoke his money was all gone. Poor Joseph; in an evil hour he had fallen into sin, and that one act proved his destruction. Of his subsequent life, he could give no account; but that his mind had been disordered there was every reasonto suppose. He remained with his mother, but never could be induced to mingle at all with men, and would not answer if addressed by any other name than that of Johnson. The farm and cottage were never improved, but fell from year to year into a state of greater decay. Mrs Dean died, and Joseph was left alone. There he lived a hermit life until his locks were white. One day it was observed that his door had not been opened for some time, and on going in, Joseph was found lying on his bed, *dead*. He had evidently died suddenly, probably from disease of the heart.

How many, like poor Joseph, fail to fulfill the promise of childhood and youth—they fail because they are not armed for life's conflict. Nothing but divine grace can give them the victory; and not seeking this aid, when the evil hour comes they fail.—*American Messenger.*

Military Movements in Kentucky.

A gentleman who left Somerset, Ky., on Thursday last, says that Zollicoffer, with six thousand men, had thrown up fortifications this side the Cumberland, about ten miles above the point at which he crossed, and six miles from Somerset. At the crossing place below there were two thousand rebels, on the south side, guarding the boats. It took Zollicoffer four days to get his six thousand men across. The ferries are, therefore, not extensive, and in case of a fight and defeat, he could not recross with the Federal troops at his heels. General Schoepff marched out of Somerset yesterday morning with three Ohio regiments and two Tennessee regiment, four companies of Hoskin's Regiment, and a battery. The Thirty eighth Ohio, with one battery, remained in Somerset. It was the object of General Schoepff to draw out Zollicoffer and fight him. He would not attack the fortification. If the enemy refused to come out, his camp would probably be shelled from the opposite side of the river. This would be practicable. Our informant says the two thousand men left below to guard the boats could not, owing to the impassable character of the intervening ground, interfere with the crossing or working of our artillery. If reinforcements should arrive from London, Zollicoffer would be bagged, and, in any event, he is regarded as in a critical position. A fight may have taken place on Wednesday. General Schoepff was confident of success. He had altogether six thousand men and two batteries.—*Louisville Journal*, 21.

We learn from the Paris (Ky.) *Citizen* that Mr. Victor M. Kenney, jr., son of Colonel Victor M. Kenney, of Bourbon County, who was in the Confederate army at West Liberty, was killed on Wednesday of last week by a picket. He was bearing dispatches between Prestonsburg and West Liberty, and having passed one line of pickets, and not knowing of another line, when he came in sight of the second, supposed the picket to be an enemy, and attempted to run and was shot through the head.

MURDERED BY THE REBELS.—David Maxey, who lived about five miles from Hardyville and ten miles from Green River Bridge, in Kentucky, was killed in his own house by some of the Southern cavalry scouting in that neighborhood, a few days ago. They chased their victim to the second story of his house, and shot him twice, causing instant death.

Western Virginia has done nobly in raising troops to support the Federal Government. That portion of the Old Dominion has now in the field twelve infantry and three cavalry regiments, and three artillery batteries, making an aggregate of twelve thousand men.

BY TELEGRAPH.

NIGHT DISPATCHES.

NEWS FROM PORT ROYAL.

Late from Ft. Pickens.

LATER FROM EUROPE

ARRIVAL OF THE ARAGO.

GENERAL SCOTT A PASSENGER ON HER.

Embarkation of Troops for Canada.

A large force of Engineers, it is stated, will be immediately sent to Canada. One-hundred-pound Armstrong guns are now being rapidly distributed among ships preparing for sea. The *Defence*, an iron-plated frigate, is to have a crew of 450 men. She will be manned without the least difficulty. The Cunard steamships *Australasia* and *Persia*, are to carry troops to Halifax, and a number of others have been chartered. The screw-steamer *Orpheus*, carrying twenty one guns, called last evening at Plymouth Sound, whence she is to convey the screw transport *Melbourne*, with troops, arms, and stores to the St. Lawrence or Halifax.

The London *Herald* says that the first battalion of the Rifle Brigade, now stationed at Dublin, and the first battalion of the Sixteenth Regiment, stationed at Sheffield, received orders yesterday to embark.

Great Mass Meeting at Dublin.

A great mass meeting was held at the Rotunda at Dublin to take into consideration the aspect and position of Irish national affairs at the present crisis. The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That the population of the Republic, from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, being largely composed of men of Irish birth and blood, it would be unnatural to suppose that Ireland could remain an indifferent spectator between England and America.

Resolved, That the events of the hour imperatively dictate to all Irishmen a forgetfulness of the past differences, and a united rally for the old cause of their country.

Resolved, That a chairman, two secretaries and a committee of twenty-one members, each having been duly and separately proposed and seconded, be chosen by a majority of voices at the mass meeting, to take into consideration the advisability of an organization in the present state of affairs at home and abroad.

The Liverpool *Post* says the whole purpose of the meeting was to express, on every variety of phase, sympathy with America. It was quite natural that this should be the tendency of the Irish, even apart from their hatred to England, for scarcely any Irish family is unrepresented in the United States. The meeting, however, was useless and needless.

The Blockade Ineffectual.

It is stated that evidence will be laid before the European Governments, to prove that the blockade of the Southern ports is ineffectual, and consequently illegal.

It is also stated that the State Legislature of Missouri has passed a Secession Ordinance.

The London Times on the Washington Cabinet.

The London *Times'* city article says it must be kept in view that the designs of Mr. Seward are reported for some time to have been the cause of disagreement in the Washington Cabinet, and that the decision of the present question, therefore, is not entirely in the hands of that personage. Later advices are awaited for with great anxiety, as it is seen that the course of circumstances may be much modified by anything that may take place between the opposing armies in the interval from now and the arrival of the British demands. A victory by the Federalists might perhaps so satisfy the mob as to enable the Government to act independently; and on the other hand, a defeat might be equally productive of a pacific tone. At the same time, however, there is danger that the bad features of the situation may be aggravated by the intelligence of some new offense on the part of the Federal Commissioners.

How European Stocks are Affected.

LONDON, *Friday Evening*—Consols opened weaker to-day, and went lower, owing to sales and the news from America, coupled with a general uneasy feeling. Railways were heavy in the morning with Consols, but a reaction of ½@¾ per cent. from the lowest point took place. Foreign Stocks were heavy in the morning. Mexican became rather better than their worst. Consols closed after official hours at 90¼, being a shade firmer. Foreign Exchanges were again higher.

Kentucky Legislature Recommends the Dismissal of Cameron.

LOUISVILLE, Saturday, December 21.

At Frankfort, the House, 69 to 11, concurred in the Senate's amendment to the bill reported by the House Committee on Federal Relations, thanking the President for his modifications of Fremont's proclamation and Cameron's report, and requesting the President to dismiss Cameron from the Cabinet.

Nashville papers record the death of Dr. Griswold, of the Thirty-eighth New York, a political prisoner at Charleston.

Advices from Major Helveti say that they are kindly treated as prisoners at Nashville, and are doing well.

Southern papers say that Parson Brownlow has been imprisoned since the 7th.

River falling slowly; 5 feet 1 inch in the canal. Weather cloudy and portending snow. Mercury 35.

Miscellaneous Matters—Destruction of Missouri Roads by the Secessionists.

ST. CHARLES, MO., Saturday December 21.

A preconcerted movement was made last night by Secessionists along the North Missouri Railroad and rebels recently returned from Price's army, by which about one hundred miles of the road were nearly destroyed, or at least rendered useless. Commencing eight miles south of Hudson, they burned the bridges, wood piles, water tanks and ties, tore up rails for miles, bent them, and destroyed the telegraph line. This was continued to Warrentown, where the work of destruction ceased. How many were concerned in this villainous work is not yet known, but there is no doubt that it was a premeditated and simultaneous movement of the citizens along the road, as no single party could have accomplished so much in one night. Three hundred of the villains are known to have been engaged in the destruction of the bridge track at Warrentown.

Portions of the Fleet for Charleston Returned.

NEW YORK, Saturday, December 21.

The steamship *Daniel Webster*, from Port Royal on the evening of the 17th inst., reports 16 vessels of the stone fleet sailed that day for Charleston under escort of three gunboats. A portion of the stone fleet for Savannah returned to Hilton Head minus five vessels beached near Tybee. The *Unadilla* and another had gone to reconnoiter the shores of Edisto Island, at the mouth of the South Edisto river. No advance had been made by General Stevens' Brigade into the interior. Flag officer Bell sailed to day in the *Champion* for the Pacific squadron.

(Special to Commercial Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, Saturday, December 21.

Large numbers of our volunteer troops are suffering severely from sickness; others, disabled by wounds, are leaving this city and returning to their respective homes to recuperate, having long furloughs for that purpose; others have obtained honorable discharge from the service. It is generally believed here that Congress, on Monday, will take a recess until after January 5.

Fort McRae Shelled.

NEW YORK, Friday, December 21.

The Philadelphia *Enquirer* of this morning has a special dispatch from Baltimore, stating that news had been received from Richmond to the effect that Fort Pickens had opened fire on Fort McRae three times since the 22d ult., but with what effect is not known. On the 30th ult., an incessant shower of shells was thrown into the fort by Colonel Brown.

The Emperor of France on Good Terms with the English Government.

In London, in reference to the important question of the attitude likely to be assumed by France, the opinion continues to be that, however desirous the Emperor might be to give some employment to his navy, and to divert public attention in France from the state of French finances, he is not likely to do any thing to cause a difference with the British Government, because serious results might follow in France if distrust there should increase, and cause a further depression in trade.

The London *Globe* warns its readers that they must take the French version of the dispatches sent to Lord Lyons for what it is worth, and purely as the French ideas of them.

The *Shipping Gazette* has an article on the question of our corn supplies in the event of a war with North America. It does not regard their future prospects with feelings of alarm. The *Shipping Gazette* is perfectly satisfied that our importations of food the coming year will excel in extent those of the last four of five seasons.

The London *Daily News'* correspondent, writing from Paris, says that it is the very general opinion that the *Patrie* was imperfectly informed of the intentions of the French Government, when it spoke of France joining England in an armed mediation.

Battle at Drainsville Considered a Brilliant Affair.

WASHINGTON, Sunday, December 22.

The victory at Drainsville, on the part of our troops, is brilliant—especially as they had never been in any action. Letters found on the dead bodies of the rebels show the intense hostility of the South to the North. One said, "It was impossible for the Federals to remain much longer on the Potomac. The effect of the news from England, and the pressure of Congress, will compel McClellan to advance, and in such event a victory by the Confederates is certain."

The *Times'* dispatch says notes have passed between Lyon's and Seward, about the *Trent* affair.

Thirty-four Car Loads of Gen. Pope's Prisoners taken to St. Louis.

SEDALIA, Sunday, December 22.

Thirty four cars loaded with prisoners taken by General Pope, go to St. Louis to-night. The prisoners are a motley crew, ranging from sixteen to seventy years of age. Many of the arms captured are United States muskets, and some of the men are dressed in United States uniforms taken from our troops at Lexington. Several United States wagons were also recaptured.

A Battle near Hudson—Federals Victorious.

PALMYRA, MO., Sunday, December 22.

Major McKee, with 103 men of Colonel Bishop's Regiment, encountered and repulsed 400 rebels four miles south of Hudson, and killed 10 and took 17 prisoners and 30 horses. Five of our troops were slightly wounded. The rebels had attacked a stock train, captured all the stock, held the railroad men as prisoners, and were in the act of unloading the stock, when the train, stock, and men were rescued by our troops.

Particulars of the Recapture of the Notorious Col. Magoffin, of Georgetown.

OTTERVILLE, MO., Sunday, December 22.

I learned yesterday that among the prisoners taken by General Pope, last Thursday, was the notorious Colonel Magoffin, of Georgetown, Missouri. About two weeks ago Colonel Magoffin sent word to the commanding officer that his wife was dangerously ill, and begged to be permitted to see her ere she died. He was informed that if he would give his parole as a prisoner of war his request would be granted. He did so and went home, and the next that was heard of him was that he commanded the whole force which defended the bridge that Colonel Davis carried by assault. That he fled with his party, and was not taken until after the rest of the rebel force had surrendered, and in consequence of the darkness of the night he was not recognized until the next morning.

It seems that Colonel Magoffin, having visited his home and arranged his affairs, sent a messenger recalling his parole; but instead of surrendering himself, as officers usually do, he left, and before this messenger reached Sedalia was in the rebel army; and when the fight came on, feeling that he deserved and would probably receive different treatment from those who had not forfeited all right to be treated as prisoners of war, fought desperately, but unavailingly. General Pope refused to accept his parole, and ordered him to be placed in confinement, until General Halleck decided what disposition to make of him. He is one of the most desperate and unscrupulous of the marauders in this section, and it is to be hoped that he will receive the punishment his crimes deserve.

Preparations to Recapture Ft. Hatteras.

NEW YORK, Saturday, December 22.

The *Herald's* Fort Monroe special states that eleven steamboats, propellers, and barge launches are being built at Norfolk Navy-yard, to attempt the recapture of Hatteras. They are to rendezvous at Roanoke Island, where they will be joined by gun-boats now fitting out at Norfolk. Eleven hundred men are said to be employed in Norfolk, under Englishmen, making guns and projectiles from recent English patterns.

General Scott a Passenger on the Arago—Troops ordered immediately to Canada.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Saturday, December 21.

The Arago has arrived off Cape Race, from Havre the 11th, and Southampton the 12th instant.

General Scott is a passenger on her. His health is improved.

The *Warrior* would be supplied with eight Armstrong one-hundred pounders, and would change her forty-pounders for seventy-pounders. She would be ready for three years' service.

The Grenadier Guards are to hold themselves in readiness to embark at a moments notice. Other troops have been ordered to proceed immediately to Canada.

The *Niagara's* advices caused an advance of ⅝ in Consols; they closed on the 10th at 90⅝ for money, and 90⅞ account. The French press, except the *Moniteur*, say France will remain neutral, if there is war between England and the United States. A large staff of medical officers have been ordered to Canada.

Captain Williams, of the *Trent*, received a letter from the British Government, approving his conduct. At Lloyds, risks on American vessels have been refused.

Cotton firmer and slightly advanced. Breadstuffs generally dull. Wheat quiet and declined. Corn heavy and declined.

General Scott, previous to embarking on the *Arago*, had a long interview with Prince Napoleon. There is no abatement of warlike preparations in England.

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