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GENERAL NEWS.

The return to Fortress Monroe of Col. Hanson, of the Second Kentucky regiment, Confederate army, who was sent to Gen. Huger by Gen. Wool to be exchanged for Col. Corcoran, and the report that Gen. Huger declined to effect the exchange, has created considerable surprise at Washington. Letters from Gen. Wool explain the matter by giving the reply of Gen. Huger, which is that no more exchanges will be made until the privateersmen in the Federal possession are delivered up.

There was a great excitement in Cumberland, Md., on Monday night, in consequence of the defeat of Gen. Banks. A large crowd assembled in front of the residence of Col. McKaig, a prominent secessionist, when a pistol was fired from a window of the house. The crowd then commenced throwing stones at the windows, which they completely demolished.—The stable of McKaig was set on fire and destroyed.

Gen. Alfred Beckley, of Raleigh court-house, who commanded a brigade under Wise, at the battle of Gauley Bridge, gave himself up to Gen. Cox upon the advance of the Federal forces through his town, recently, and gave in his allegiance. He had resigned his commission in the Confederate army, disbanded his men, and was living at home quietly. General Cox sent him to Gen. Fremont, who had him sent to Columbus, Ohio.

The United States gunboat Naugatuck has arrived at the Washington navy-yard, from James river, for repairs. She has on board the wreck of the Parrott gun which burst during the late engagement at Fort Darling.

The National Intelligencer argues from correspondence from Port Royal, and other points in South Carolina, that the negroes won't fight, and that they avoid every opportunity offered of enlistment.

One of the principal captures made by the Confederates during Gen. Banks' retreat, was between 600 and 1,000 European rifles. The Federal supplies of medicines, surgical instruments, and hospital stores at Winchester, were burned by order of Dr. Baxter, U. S. A.

Col. Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War, has returned from the West and tendered his resignation. He has occupied the place which he leaves for nearly a year. He long ago expressed the intention to resign this spring.

John M. Brodhead, of Washington, has been appointed by the President a commissioner under the act for the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia, in the place of Hon. S. F. Vinton, deceased.

The municipal election takes place in Washington on next Monday.

It has heretofore been stated that it having come to the knowledge of Gen. Butler that a large amount of specie was secreted at the office of the consul of the Netherlands, in New Orleans, he ordered a guard to take possession of the office. This was done, about \$800,000 in Mexican dollars secured, and the consul put under temporary arrest. The money, it was claimed, had been deposited with the consul, as agent of Hope & Co., Amsterdam, by the Citizens' Bank of New Orleans. Gen. Butler made the seizure on the ground that he had reason to believe that a portion of the money belonged to the U. S. government, having been carried off from the New Orleans Mint by the Confederates after the war broke out. The consul, (who is a Frenchman,) after his release, hauled down his consulate flag. Subsequently, nearly if not all the foreign consuls sent a protest to Gen. Butler.

The official report of Gen. Beauregard of the battle of Shiloh is published. Although admitting that the great object of the movement was not accomplished, and that he sustained a severe loss, he yet claims the result as a great Confederate success. Gen. A. Sidney Johnston, the Hon. George M. Johnston, (Provisional Governor of Kentucky,) Brig. Gen. Gladden and Brig. Gen. Hindman, were killed or died from wounds received in the battle.—Among the wounded were Major Gen. Cheatham, Brig. Gen. Clark, Brig. Gen. Johnson, and Brig. Gen. Bowen. The whole Confederate loss is stated as follows:—Killed outright, 1,728; wounded, 8,012; missing 969—making an aggregate of 10,699. Gen. Beauregard says that the Federal loss was much heavier than the Confederates, as their dead left on the field outnumbered those from the South two to one.

The Boston Light Artillery, which had completed all its preparations to leave for Washington on Tuesday, came to an unexpected destiny—in fact, to a sudden disbandment. The company during the preceding day had displayed a dislike to the term of service to which the State Militia is liable. The law has been changed to provide that militia ordered into service shall be liable to serve until sixty days after the meeting of the next Congress. This would make the period about eight months; whereas it was generally expected that the term would be but three months. The dissatisfaction assumed a more decided aspect on Wednesday. The Governor accordingly issued an order to disband the company. This was carried out, and the Quartermaster-General took possession of the property of the company.

The N. Y. Express says that the Federal forces in Norfolk have held communication over land with the forces of Gen. Burnside, but at what points it is not permitted to state.

A military commission is to be assembled to try editors and correspondents for publishing war news from the Federal armies without authority.

The Toronto (Canada) Leader, in an article on the civil war, says:—"When one brushes away the haze of interaction and the daily details of the war, and the outline of the preparations on both sides are allowed to stand out boldly in relief, their magnitude almost strikes one with amazement. Six hundred thousand men pitted against each other in two localities; and either army, apparently indifferent about risking a battle. Modern wars afford no parallel to such extraordinary preparations."

The Washington Republican says:—"Two females belonging in the vicinity of Dranesville, Va., visited this city yesterday, and in passing the Old Capitol prison in their carriage, one of the ladies waived her hand at the prisoners within. This being in direct violation of positive orders in relation to the prison, the guard promptly arrested the ladies, and took them to the central guard house. It is said that the father of the lady in question is confined in the prison, and she, being ignorant of the rules, very innocently violated the order. The ladies will doubtless be released."

On the 12th instant the U. S. steamer Hatteras captured the Confederate steamer Governor A. Mouton in Berwick Bay, bound there from Sabine Pass. She was loaded with Confederate Government provisions. Also, on the 1st instant, the Confederate steamer Magnolia, while attempting to leave Berwick Bay.—She was loaded with cotton and turpentine—252 bales of the former. On the 6th instant, the same U. S. steamer chased on shore the Confederate steamer Fashion, also loaded with cotton and turpentine. She was there fired by her own crew.

Last Tuesday, two steamers, the Stepping Stones and Cœur de Lion, went up the Appomattox to Port Walthall, which is within five miles of Petersburg. Port Walthall is connected by railroad with both Petersburg and Richmond. The steamers encountered no batteries. At a place called "Seven Mile Reach," they exchanged some shots with bodies of cavalry and infantry.

Mr. Simmons, in the Senate on Thursday, while commending his scheme for raising abundant revenue without casting heavy burdens upon any, said: "I have little love for wealth. I never knew a man to have so much of it as to excite my envy, or so little of it as to forfeit my respect."

James Carson, who wounded Major Watrous in New York last week, surrendered himself yesterday. He charges that Watrous had dishonored him as a husband and as a man, and that under the frenzy induced by the discovery the deed was done. Watrous is yet alive and may recover.

About forty or fifty slaves in all have, under the operation of the fugitive slave law, been returned to their owners, in Washington, within the last few months.

Gen. Prim, late commander of the Spanish army, in Mexico, has arrived in New York.