

Disaster on the Potomac.

On Wednesday night, a collision occurred off Ragged Point, about twenty-five miles from the mouth of the Potomac, between the steamers George Peabody, of Baltimore, and West Point, of New York, each in the employ of the government, and having troops on board. The West Point filled immediately and sunk. The Peabody had her side stove in, but was not materially injured, being a new and staunch boat, while the West Point is said to have been a very old boat, hardly seaworthy. The collision is said to have been occasioned by the officers mistaking the number of times the bell of the West Point was sounded. The Peabody arrived at Aquia Creek on Thursday afternoon. The following is the statement of Capt. Doyle, of the West Point:

J. E. G. Doyle, master of the steamer West Point, certifies that between 8 and 9 o'clock, P. M., of August 13, steering from Ragged Point to get soundings, about five miles above Lower Macholie, about west by south across the channel, heard a whistle blow once two points on the starboard bow. I immediately answered it, which signal means, "keep to the right," our lights all burning at the time, our green light being the only one that could be seen from the other steamer, with which collision occurred. I saw the boat coming down on us, immediately stopped the engine and backed the boat; the other boat apparently going at full speed, her port guard and paddle box took our bow and stove it in, taking away about ten feet, leaving us in a sinking condition. I immediately hailed him to stay by, as we were in distress. He passed us, and I advised the pilot to beach the boat immediately, which order was complied with. My steamer headed for the Maryland shore, and sank in about four fathoms water. I did everything to avoid the collision, and used my utmost exertions to save all I could.

Through the kindness of Captain Bland and Post-Quartermaster West, of Baltimore, who kindly afforded me facilities for visiting the Peabody, I am enabled to send you the following partial list of the missing. The entire number missing is seventy-three, of whom a portion may be saved, as a number were picked up by small boats and schooners in the vicinity.

By direction of the President, Major E. Z. Laurence, of the Sixty-first regiment of New York volunteers, is dismissed from the service. In accordance with the sentence of court martial, held at the camp near Harrison's Landing, Second Lieutenants Charles C. Goodrich, George A. Rowley, Charles L. Neggle and T. S. Wright, of the regular army, have been cashiered for misbehavior before the enemy, and Captain Carberg Lay, of the Twelfth U. States infantry, for drunkenness on duty. Lieutenant John G. Kearney, of the Fifty-fifth regiment New York volunteers, for disobedience to orders, has been dismissed from the service. All these sentences were confirmed by General McClellan.

The important question, whether a French priest can enjoy the full rights of a citizen, and take unto himself a wife, is about to receive a solemn decision. In the case of the Abbe Brou, who brought an action against a mayor for refusing to marry him, M. Jules Favre pleaded, some time ago, before the civil tribunal of Perigueux, with so much effect that the court was equally divided on the subject. The legal consequence of such a state of things is, that the cause must be reargued before the same tribunal, reinforced by an additional judge.

The University of Virginia is announced to commence on the 1st of October.

The Movement of Gen. McClellan's Army.

The New York World, in noticing the recent movement of the army under Gen. McClellan, says that it is "a movement of great hazard and of the very highest importance.— Its successful accomplishment is so dependent on its concealment from the enemy that we pray God no disaster may result from their gaining a knowledge of our military counsels before they are put in execution.

"It is the purpose of Gen. Halleck to mass all the Union armies in Virginia, and bring them within supporting distance of each other. The chances are that he will now speedily bring Gens. McClellan and Pope within supporting distance of each other, and then stand on the defensive until the army is reinforced by the new levies. With the certainty of having 300,000 additional men in a few weeks, he will not unnecessarily throw away the immense advantage they will give him in the final encounter with the Confederates. The same general policy which leads him to unite the armies of Pope and McClellan will also cause him to combine the new army with the old, and march against the enemy with an overwhelming preponderance of numbers.

"It may turn out that Gen. Pope's advance on Gordonsville is a feint to distract the attention of the enemy from the contemplated movement of Gen. McClellan. The demonstration of the latter on the south side of the James probably had the same object. With a portion of the Confederate forces drawn away for the defence of Petersburg, and another portion sent forward under Jackson to defend Gordonsville, McClellan has probably been able to extricate his army in season to be out of danger from an attack by a superior Confederate force. The country will await intelligence from him with almost breathless interest."

A writer in the Mobile Register furnishes a statement of the white male population of the Southern States, based upon the census returns of 1850. From this statement, it appears that the white males in those States between fifteen and fifty years of age, number 2,030,000.

Yesterday morning, the One Hundred and Seventh regiment of New York, the first to reach Washington under the new call, arrived in that city on the cars from Baltimore. The regiment is fully equipped, ready for service, and numbers the full complement of 1,040 men.

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury writes:—Gentlemen who have ridden over the battle-fields of the Seven Pines and the battle-fields of subsequent fights, states that the flies exist in such swarms that it is with the utmost difficulty that a horse can be controlled in passing over them, the insects swarming out of the trees and ground, and lighting upon both horse and rider. The dead of both armies, but those of the Federal army especially, have been buried so slightly, that the scent attracts the flies to the localities.— This may account for the sparse collection of flies in Richmond, and it is remarked that the troublesome insects are fewer than for years past. Immense flocks of crows and buzzards also hover over the fields at times, attracted by the festering wreck of humanity beneath.

The importation of foreign corn into Great Britain, this year, it is thought, will be fully equal to that in 1861, which (according to a parliamentary return just issued) was 15,760,551 imperial quarters.

From Europe.

ST. JOHNS, August 15.—The steamer Glasgow passed the Cape at 3 1/2 o'clock this afternoon, with Liverpool dates to August 12.

The steamer Great Eastern was off Queens-town on the 5th.

The statement that the new Confederate steamer "No. 299," from Liverpool, put into Holyhead, proved unfounded. She was last seen on the 1st instant off Giant's Causeway, going at the rate of 14 knots an hour. The United States gunboat Tuscarora had been in search of her in the Irish Channel, but returned to Queenstown, which port she left again on the 7th, her destination being unknown.

The movements of the Tuscarora give rise to some animadversions in shipping circles.

The Times editorially argues that if England wishes to give the Federals a new impulse, she has but to take some step which can be represented as interference, and Lincoln will soon get his 300,000 men, and the chances of peace be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Strathleider had moved in Parliament for the correspondence with Mr. Mason relative to an acknowledgement of the Southern States. Lord Russell said it was not expedient to produce the papers. The agent of the Confederate States was not recognized, and all communications were unofficial.

Correspondence had taken place with Mr. Adams and Mr. Seward, but the British Government had replied as before. He stated that no communication had been received from any foreign power relative to a recognition of the Southern States.

Earl Malmesbury suggested that the Government should communicate with other powers with a view of offering mediation if a favorable opportunity arises.

Lord Russell agreed that it was desirable, if mediation is offered, that all the powers should join in it. He paid a high compliment to Lord Lyons, when the motion was finally withdrawn.

The Queen, in her speech proroguing Parliament, says:

"The civil war which for some time has been raging in America has unfortunately, continued in unabated intensity, and the evils with which it has been attended, have not been confined to the American continent; but Her Majesty having, from from the outset, determined to take no part in the contest, has seen no reason to depart from the neutrality which she has steadily adhered to.

Army Order.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Adj. Gen.'s Office, Aug. 12th, 1862.

General Orders No. 103.—The following is an order of the President of the United States, dated June 26th, 1862:

First.—The force under Major Generals Fremont, Banks and McDowell, including the troops now under Brigadier General Sturgis at Washington, shall be consolidated and form one army, to be called the army of Virginia.

Second.—The command of the Army of Virginia is specially assigned to Major General John Pope, as commanding general. The troops of the Mountain Department, heretofore under command of General Fremont, shall constitute the first army corps under the command of General Fremont. The troops of the Shenandoah Department, under General Bank shall constitute the second army corps, and be commanded by him.

The troops under the command of General McDowell, except those within the fortifications and city of Washington, shall form the third army corps, and be under his command.

By order of the Secretary of War.
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assist. Adj. General.

Private intelligence received at Charleston announces the capture of the iron screw steamship Memphis, which left that port heavily laden with cotton.