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THE WAR IN THE WEST.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 28.—A body of fifteen hundred Confederate cavalry last night dashed into Augusta, Ky., a town on the Ohio river, about forty miles east of this city, drove out a small force of irregular troops, under Col. Rudford, cleared out the citizens and burned the town. The gunboats in the river could effect but little in its defence. The inhabitants and troops escaped into this state. We have no details. Col. Wm. H. Polk, of Tenn., passed through here to-night *en route* to Washington, with important dispatches from Gov. Johnson to president Lincoln. Their nature has not transpired.

LOUISVILLE, Sept. 28.—The Confederates are again at Shepherdsville this morning. Forrest's cavalry are in strong force at Middletown, eleven miles from here. Last night the enemy divided their forces to hold the country without risking a general engagement. They appear to contemplate attacking our force at Richmond, and report says a large Federal army has left Cincinnati for that town.

ARRESTS.—At an early hour on Saturday morning Policeman Pyles and Stallins arrested two men named William Payant and Alfred Hardingham, at the Camden Station, having in their possession two valises containing, with other articles, about \$100 worth of medicines with which they were about to take their departure in a train and make their way to the South. They had on their persons \$650, of which the greater portion was in Confederate States Treasury notes and Southern Bank notes. The remainder was in U. S. Treasury notes. They have made frequent visits to the South as it now appears. They had employed an officer to wake them up at their dwelling houses, at three o'clock in the morning, when, for certain circumstances, the suspicion of the officer was aroused and they were arrested. In addition to the money and medicines they had a number of letters about them directed to parties in the South.—*Balt. Am.*

It is stated that the news of Gen. Pope's retreat produced a very great sensation in the French capital. Mr. Slidell immediately sought for and obtained an interview with M. Thouvenel, at which he urged on the Minister the necessity of a recognition.

No Confederates have been seen in the immediate vicinity of Harper's Ferry for several days, but it is understood that they are in strong force beyond Loudoun Heights, and may soon make demonstrations from the crest of the mountains, which it is believed they are fortifying under the mask of the trees.

Gen. Harney, U. S. A., has been suddenly ordered from St. Louis to Washington on important business. The St. Louis Republican says no man is more fit to take the place of the late Gen. Philip Kearney than General Harney.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The formal betrothal of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandrina of Denmark is semi officially announced, and it is stated that the marriage is based entirely on mutual affection.

The Shipping Gazette, in a leader, calls attention to the dispatch published in the Newfoundland Royal Gazette, from the Duke of Newcastle, dated the 1st ult., intimating that Earl Russell had been informed by the American minister in London, that it is the intention of the United States government to issue letters of marque, with a view of checking the hostilities carried on by southern privateers against the United States.

The London Times, in a leader on the English harvest of 1862, says the results are unexpectedly favorable. It is not an average crop, but it is very little short. The crop in France is good.

It is reported that three of the finest steamers on the Clyde, the Trona, the Giraffe, and the Clydesdale have been sold to the Confederate government.

The question of substitutes for cotton continued to attract attention. The Times gives space to another letter from the "Inventor" of the article, which has already been so much talked about.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 27th says: "The Confederate army is daily increasing by accessions of stragglers and conscripts. Whatever are the intended movements of Gen. Lee, he is successful in keeping them concealed.—What is concealed from our people finds little chance of making its way to the enemy."

The Richmond Dispatch says that a Federal cavalry force visited Warrenton Junction on Thursday last, where there are a number of wounded, who were left there after the Manassas battle.

The contrabands on the plantations at Beaufort, Port Royal, St. Helena and Ladies' Islands, South Carolina, number 3,817 effective and 3,110 non-effective. It is reported that they will produce this year only 6,500 bush. of corn, 1,500 bushels of potatoes, and 3,400 pounds of cotton. The corn and potatoes will not be sufficient for their own consumption, and the amount of cotton will not reimburse the government for the expenses incurred on their account.

The Washington Star says:—"It is very generally believed that Jeff. Davis is about to send 50,000 of his best troops on a forced march over the mountains to Wheeling, in the hope of being able to take that city and to destroy the Government arsenal, &c., near Pittsburg, and then to take Cincinnati and cross over into Kentucky and form a junction with Bragg and Kirby Smith, all before the Federal troops, that are really soldiers, can be placed in position to interfere with any portion of this proposed striking enterprise."

It is now said around the Washington hotels that Col. Ford lost the orders of Col. Miles, directing him to abandon Maryland Heights before the late fall of Harper's Ferry.

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM.—This noble institution, for a quarter of a century or more so ornamental to our city, so honorable to its citizens, and so loudly speaking in commendation of their enlarged philanthropy and Christian benevolence, is now, for lack for funds to continue its beneficent operations, in actual peril of being utterly broken up and scattered; and, unless from some quarter, or some expedient not yet resorted to, resources can be opened for it, besides those which are and have been furnished by its long tried friends and patrons, the day is very near at hand when a catastrophe so unwelcome and distressing must be looked for without fail.

What other men may happen to think of such an issue, in relation to an institution so long, so fondly and so justly cherished in our midst, to the writer of this, is not known; but in regard to himself, he is constrained to confess that he can look upon it with no emotion other than that which is consequent upon the incursion of some fearful evil—some dread calamity. What is to become of those poor helpless, shelterless orphans, now so comfortable and so kindly cared for? Whither are they to look for help, amid the storms and privations of another approaching winter? Are they to be thrust out into our streets—parentless, houseless, homeless—to wander abroad, naked and hungry—without a hand to feed, or a sympathizing friend to pity and relieve them? Is this to be their hapless destiny? Oh, no, it cannot be!

At any rate it shall not be—must not be—until one more effort shall at least have been made to save both our city and our citizens from having such a foul and reproachful blot affixed to their hitherto untarnished escutcheon; and I am happy to know that arrangements are now being made to ascertain, by actual experiment, whether, by human instrumentalities, such a calamity can be averted—that is, a committee of gentlemen has been appointed who will in a few days canvass every ward in town, and call upon every family, to solicit donations and subscriptions, in money, provisions, groceries or dry goods, as may best comport with the convenience or ability of the donor; and even small amounts in such a cause will be most heartily welcomed, and most gratefully applied. It is hoped and believed that the committee will be met with cordial greetings into whatsoever family they may go; and though all may not be able to contribute perhaps even a widow's mite, yet all may, and I trust will, greet the messengers with the encouraging salutation, *God speed you in your noble enterprise.*

ZETA.

The Richmond Dispatch states that the city of Richmond, Va., has contracted for ten thousand bushels of salt, which will be furnished to the householders of the city at five cents per pound for each person in his family, including old and young, white and black, male and female.