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WAR NEWS.

U. S. steamship Paulding, from Stono Inlet, S. C., 4th inst., has arrived at Fortress Monroe. She reports "the preparations for the siege of Charleston going on favorably for the Federal troops, but no important news."

The Light House at Smith's Island, Eastern Shore of Virginia, has been burned by the Confederates.

Gen. Pemberton has issued an order to the paroled army of Vicksburg, giving the men leave of absence for thirty days from the date of the order, to enable them to visit their homes. At the end of thirty days the command is to be reassembled at Demopolis, Ala., where it will be armed and equipped.

The latest reports from Memphis of the whereabouts of the Confederate army under Gen. Johnston, places it at Enterprise and Brandon, under the direct command of Gen. Hardee. The force at the former place is reported ready to move at a moment's warning.

Advices from Vicksburg and Port Hudson, received in Memphis, represent everything quiet on the Mississippi.

The correspondent of the New York Commercial notes that "the Army of the Potomac has taken a position where the movements of the enemy can be easily watched, while at the same time its natural sanitary advantages will conduce to the health of the troops." We quote: "Water in abundance, fresh from the rocks of the Blue Ridge, and in some portions of the army gurgling up with medicinal properties, is one of the great blessings with which our troops have been favored in their permanent camping grounds."

A fierce battle was fought on the 8th of July, in Idaho Territory, between a band of the Utah Indians and a company of the Seventh Kansas Volunteers, led by Lieutenants Brundley and Williams. After a two hours' fight, Lieutenant Williams charged them with the bayonet, and the Indians broke for the mountains, leaving twenty-one killed and thirty-nine wounded on the field of battle.

A Memphis correspondent of the St. Louis Republican mentions the arrival at Helena of General Steele with a large army from Vicksburg, and states that it is rumored a movement will in a few days be made in the direction of Little Rock.

A serious accident occurred in New York on Wednesday, about noon, on board of the revenue marine gunboat Naugatuck, by the bursting of her gun, which injured several persons seriously if not fatally.

Thomas Otis, sent in by the provost marshal of Alexandria, and committed to the Old Capitol, "is charged with being a horse thief, and with declaring his intention to go South and join the army."

The commutation money, paid by those drafted, will amount, it is supposed, to some forty or fifty millions of dollars throughout the country. The U. S. Collector at Lancaster, Pa., has received \$79,000, and exempted two hundred and sixty-five men in consequence.

Steamer Freeborn, formerly from New York, and owned by Captain Squires, of that city, has been purchased by the Navy Department for a gunboat, and Lieutenant Lampson is appointed to take command of her. She is going in pursuit of the blockade runners.

Captain Gustave Otto, formerly of the Lincoln Cavalry Regiment, arrived in Washington yesterday, and was arrested and sent to the Old Capitol Prison on some long standing charges of appropriating horses in Virginia, and sending them North for sale, &c.

James M. Blanchard of the U. S. Patent Office lost two sons in the month of July.—Sergeant Major Asa W. Blanchard fell at Gettysburg on the 1st of July. Assistant Engineer Lucien J. Blanchard, died aboard the U. S. steamer Alabama, off Cape Haytien, on the 25th of July.

There is a disposition to hurry the conscripts off to the field just as rapidly as possible. A detachment of fifty of the first Delaware regiment, Lieut. Davis commanding, is in Washington from the army of the Potomac, for drafted men from the district.

Gen. Burnside has ordered that no permits whatever shall be granted to visit the prisoners confined at Camp Morton and Camp Chase, Ohio, whether officers or privates. No clothing will be allowed to be sent in, except a reasonable amount of underclothing. No boots, hats, coats or pants. All letters will be examined and approved by the officers in command of the prisons.

A gang of rioters have been busy in Pittsburg, Pa. Taking advantage of the temporary withdrawal of the police, they assaulted and robbed parties on the highway, broke windows, and committed all sorts of depredations. It is supposed that they formed part of the thieving crowd recently engaged in the New York riots.

An effort is making in California to test the cultivation of tea. Mr. H. A. Sonntag, at the Mission, a short distance from San Francisco, has one thousand thrifty-looking plants of this year's growth, from seed procured by a gentleman in China. The climate of California is about the same as that of the best tea-growing sections of China.

The Medical Reporter says that a consumptive patient, now under treatment, is taking cream, with better effect than was experienced under the cod liver oil, previously tried.

A private letter from Havana states that sixty-two thousand boxes of sugar were destroyed during the recent fire in that city. A box of sugar, we believe, averages about five hundred pounds.

The supply of ice in Philadelphia is almost exhausted, the government having nearly swept the market. It now sells at \$20 a ton.

VERA CRUZ advices of the 16th of July report the death of the American consul on the 13th. No American or English vessels-of-war were on the coast; the French vessels seizing everything, English or American. On the 8th a French side-wheel steamer arrived at Vera Cruz with an English topsail schooner in tow, which was captured in the Rio Grande with a cargo of arms, valued at \$300,000, intended for Texas, though the schooner cleared from Liverpool for Matamoras. Her officers report five more loading for Matamoras.

Letters from Paris say that the feeling of apprehension that the peace of Europe will not remain long undisturbed, grows stronger and stronger every hour.

The Richmond Examiner appears to be as bitter an opponent of the Administration in the South, as the strongest kind of "Copperheads" are of the Administration in the North. The Examiner publishes the severest kinds of attacks upon Jefferson Davis.

The Buffalo Courier says that the statement that Mr. Vallandigham was notified to quit the Clifton House, at Niagara Falls, and turned out of doors, is an unmitigated falsehood, started by the Buffalo Commercial without the slightest foundation or shadow of truth.

Twenty-seven boys and one man fell into a well at Pittsburg the other day. They were standing on the boards laid over the top of the well. The man was killed but the boys were rescued without much injury.

The First District of Columbia negro regiment has been sent off for service in a distant quarter.

The monster steamer Great Eastern made her last passage out in eight days to Queens-town, and nine to Liverpool; a remarkable passage.

A man, who is alleged to have deserted from the 63d regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, afterwards enlisted as a substitute, and then deserted again, was taken, upon the orders of Col. Foster, provost marshal of Pittsburg, a few days ago, and after being tied to a whipping post, had his back cowed by a corporal in the regiment. Provost Foster, has published a card, in which he admits that he had the man whipped, and that he acted without authority of law, but undertakes to justify his act on the ground that he knew of no law under which to punish desertion, and is willing to submit to any award for committing assault and battery.

In Boston, on Wednesday, a child fell into a vault, going in so far that nothing but her feet could be seen above the surface. The child's mother, in order to save her from suffocation, jumped in after her, descending so that nothing but her head remained above the surface. She succeeded in saving the child and in handing her out but could not extricate herself until a teamster who was passing by, came to her assistance.