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WAR NEWS.

We glean from the Northern papers of this morning, the following items of war intelligence.

A dispatch from Cairo states that Gen. Polk is at Brandon, Miss., in the absence of Gen. Johnston. Forrest lately moved west of Holly Springs with 3,000 or 4,000 men. He has sent as many men south to be armed.—Ferguson is in command at Luxahoma and Sardis, with 2,200 men.

The report comes to Memphis, though it is not generally credited, that the Confederates have lately moved upon and captured Pine Bluff, Ark.

The New York Herald of yesterday, has a special dispatch from Culpeper, which says that General Stuart, with 5,000 cavalry, had crossed the rivers, far to the right of the Federal army, and reached Leesburg, the Federal forces there falling back towards Fairfax. Whether his object was to cut short the railroad near Bull Run or the Baltimore and Ohio road near Point of Rocks, was not known.

Private advices from Chattanooga indicate the concentration of large forces in front of Foster, in East Tennessee, and Grant, at Chattanooga. It is believed that the campaign will open with an attempt to recover Knoxville, and that the bulk of Lee's army will be transferred to that army, Lee, himself, taking the general command of the Western armies.

On Wednesday night a party of Confederates made a raid into the village of Vienna, and captured fifteen horses, two of which belonged to the U. S. government, one to Dr. Lockwood, of Washington, another to Dr. Lloyd, of that place, and the others to Messrs. Armstrong, Sweetzer, and others, sutlers.—They also made an attempt to get to the horses of the 2d District regiment, but the guard discovered them, and firing, raised an alarm, when they made off, cutting five of the horses loose that could not travel fast enough for them.

The last news respecting the troubles in Germany is that England has protested against the Federal occupation of Schleswig, thus manifesting her sympathy with Denmark in a decided manner, and showing a disposition to adhere to the settlement of 1852. The people of Norway have also given expression to their regard for Denmark, and have requested their Government to support the Danish cause.—Meantime, the Federal occupation progresses. The German troops who entered Holstein on the 24th of December had advanced to Wendstadt by the 30th, and were expected to reach Rendsburg on the last day of the year. This town is on the border of Schleswig, on the Eider, fifty miles from Hamburg, and is noted for its fortifications. It has 10,500 inhabitants. The Danish army was retiring, and would probably abandon Holstein entirely.

FROM NORFOLK.

"All the officers of the municipal government of Norfolk are ordered to make a report to General Butler's headquarters, in detail, of the amount of moneys received by them, whether fees or otherwise; the sources from whence received, and the amount of money expended since the organization of said government—the report to be made under oath on or before the 20th inst.

John Ford, of Norfolk, convicted of violating his oath of allegiance by corresponding with persons within the Confederate lines at Richmond, and endeavoring fraudulently to avoid the confiscation of rebel property in the city of Norfolk, has been sentenced to hard labor in the Norfolk jail for the term of one year; to wear a twenty-four pound ball chained to his right leg by a chain three feet long, and to be employed at cleaning the streets or any hard labor assigned him in said city, and at the end of that time to be sent beyond the limits of the department, and never permitted to return.

An order has been issued by Butler to the officers of the city government of Portsmouth of the nature of that issued to the authorities of Norfolk."

Advices from Mexico, as published yesterday, informs us that General Uruga, who, with five thousand Mexicans, attacked the French on the 17th of December at Moralia, was defeated with a loss of two thousand killed and wounded. President Juarez, in a letter dated San Luis, December 8, admits that his only hope of resisting the French is in a guerilla warfare. The President estimates the difficulties of his position and says that the French army being very superior to that of Mexico in discipline, as well as supplied with all the modern inventions in gunnery, the Mexicans would be compelled to succumb eventually in any pitched battle. The Washington Chronicle, in commenting upon the news says:—"Louis Napoleon has well-timed his movement, and it looks as though complete success would attend his strategy, and whether the Austrian Archduke, or a Spanish Prince he installed as Emperor of Mexico, the Emperor of the French will probably reach the climax of his designs before a helping hand can be extended to our sister Republic."

James Keith, son of Mr. Quincy A. Keith, president of the Kentucky Central Railroad, was frozen to death a night or two ago, while on his way from Cincinnati to his home, five miles out on the Lexington turnpike.

Fred Douglass lectured in New York on Wednesday at the Cooper Institute, on the "Mission of the War." The large hall was crowded by an audience of mixed white and black, the former somewhat predominating. Douglass' speech, in the most radical portions of it, was loudly cheered. It was hardly radical enough however, to suit the audience.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, the consideration of the enrollment act was resumed. An amendment was adopted prohibiting any person in the service from becoming a substitute in any regiment or company except among troops of the State where he was originally enlisted or drafted. The question of the rate of commutation elicited considerable debate and the sum to be paid was finally fixed at four hundred dollars, an advance of one hundred dollars over the amount required by the old law.

In the House of Representatives a bill was reported and passed providing that packages of clothing, at the rate of eight cents for two pounds, may be conveyed to soldiers in the army through the mails. Mr. Washburn, of Ill., reported a bill appropriating \$17,000 to indemnify the owners of the British schooner Glen for illegal seizure. Mr. Schenck reported back the Senate bill authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War, at \$3,000 per annum, which was passed. The House then adjourned until Monday.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, on Thursday, a bill was reported to compensate "loyal citizen" of Maryland for property taken, damaged or destroyed by the armies of the United States in the Confederate States. The bill repealing the law prohibiting the manumission of slaves in the State was passed.

In the House of Delegates, yesterday, a bill was reported providing for the calling of a convention to revise the constitution of the State, and for the election of delegates thereto, the election to be held on the 6th of April next, and the convention to assemble on the 27th of the same month.

The U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee, on Wednesday morning, resumed the investigation of the conduct of Senator Hale by examining Mr. McKay, of Boston, who paid him the money, and Mr. Houghton, of Boston, a lawyer, who was employed in the case. Senator Hale will, at the next meeting, introduce evidence to show that it was simply a business transaction, and that he was induced to do it at the earnest solicitation of friends.

The French Government has decreed a measure of importance to the maritime intercourse between France and the United States. By an imperial decree of December 20, 1863, cotton is admitted free into the French ports, if imported direct from the country where it is produced, in ships carrying the French flag. The same duties, hitherto levied, will have to be paid on cotton imported under a foreign flag.

The bill amending the "charter of the city of Portsmouth," which had passed the lower house of the legislature sitting in this place, was unanimously rejected in the upper house, after several members had spoken in favor of Gen. Butler.

President Lincoln has approved and signed the act extending the payment of bounties to the first of march.