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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

All the public journals have advanced their rates; those which sought most vigorously to stem the tide of advancing prices have been compelled, at last, to succumb, and, at this time, there is no journal, in the large cities, which maintains its former prices. This example has been generally followed in towns of lesser note, and by sheets of smaller circulation; while many have been compelled entirely to abandon publication. Even at the increased rates, newspapers continue to be the cheapest of commodities, giving more in return for the stipulated price, than any other article offered to the public. The advance has been made in most instances, too late to prevent heavy loss, and even at the advanced prices the enterprises are far from remunerative, so that many of the best known and most agreeable caterers at the daily banquet of the people, have been compelled to seek in other avocations, the support denied them in their legitimate sphere.

The consideration of these things should induce communities to give a generous support to these local papers which being established in their midst, have become "household words"—which have been the chronicles of home life in shadow and sunshine—which are the record of the marriages, deaths, and the thousand other incidents which make up the history of communities—which are endeared to the public heart by many ties, none the less, because they have supported local interests equally when such support was pleasant and profitable, and when it entailed personal misfortune or private loss.

When a local journal, honored for years, because honorable in all its dealings with men and measures, deprived of its accustomed resources, is still maintained, under the most adverse circumstances, by the energy of its conductors, and sometimes without remuneration, it establishes a claim upon the community to whose interests it is devoted, which a discerning public will freely acknowledge, by lending it a cordial, hearty and generous support.

The St. Louis Republican makes fun of the "North Western Confederacy Plot," and says what is very true, that "startling developments," "astounding disclosures," and "surprising revelations," generally take well with the public, and are always great cards for the sensation newspapers. People of a credulous turn like to be "humbugged," and a secret brought to light is swallowed with voracious appetite.

It is stated that "the quantity of rain which has fallen in this neighborhood since the beginning of June is much less than the average for the same time in six years, and also than for any one year since 1850."

FROM GEORGIA.

ATLANTA, July 28, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON:—The enemy commenced extending his right about eight o'clock this morning. Lieutenant Generals Stewart and Lee were directed to hold the Lick Skillet road for the day with portions of their commands. About half past one P. M. a sharp engagement ensued, with no decided advantage on either side. We still occupy the Lick Skillet road.

I regret to say that Lieutenant Gen. Stewart and Major General Loring were wounded.

In my despatch yesterday I should have mentioned that Brigadier General Rector was severely wounded that day. J. B. HOOD, General.

ATLANTA, August 1, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON:—The following despatch is just received from Brigadier General Iverson, through Major General Cobb, at Macon, concerning the party of raiders who struck the Macon and Savannah road:

"Gen. Stoneman after having his forces routed yesterday, surrendered, with five hundred men. The rest of his command are scattered and flying towards Eatonton. Many have been already captured. I shall be in Macon to night, and with rations for my men and prisoners. A. IVERSON."

J. B. HOOD, General.

MACON, GA., August 1, 1864.

S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General:

General Stoneman with a cavalry force estimated at twenty-eight hundred, with artillery, was met two miles from the city by our forces, composed of Georgia reserves—local companies—and the militia which Gov. Brown is organizing here. The enemy's assaults was repulsed, and his force held in check along our entire line all day. Retiring towards Clinton, he was attacked the next morning by General Iverson, who, having routed the main body, captured Gen. Stoneman and five hundred of his command. Gen. Iverson's men are still capturing stragglers. HOWELL COBB, Major General.

MACON, August 2.—Trains from Atlanta arrive and depart regularly on time, Affairs there wear the usual aspect. The shelling yesterday did no damage.

The Yankees have apparently abandoned their advance across the Georgia Railroad, and are massing on their centre, and right, endeavoring to work down between the city and the river.

The raiders who cut the Macon and Western Railroad were driven towards Newman by Jackson's and Harrison's cavalry. Their advance reached Newman's just after the arrival of the train carrying Roddy's command to Atlanta. He attacked them in front, and the pursuers coming up, the Yankees broke and fled, leaving about five hundred prisoners, all their artillery—six pieces—and seven hundred horses in our hands. The rest sought to escape across the Chattahoochee, and it was supposed they would be taken. Three pieces of artillery taken from Stoneman have been brought here.

Governor Brown left this morning for Atlanta. The militia, who are pouring in, are being sent rapidly to Atlanta.

ATLANTA, August 2.—All quiet around our lines this morning. The enemy shelled the

city for half an hour last evening. Our army is much elated with the defeat of the raiders in their rear. The enemy is still passing towards our left.

Bishop Pierce, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, calls upon the Methodists of the State to meet on Wednesday, August 10th for special prayer for victory and the expulsion of the foe from the State.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

The accounts, as published in the Northern papers, of the situation of affairs on the Upper Potomac, are so contradictory and unreliable, that it is impossible to ascertain what is going on in that quarter. On Saturday all the information seemed to indicate a serious invasion of Maryland, already commenced in the occupation of Hagerstown, by a large force. This morning it is announced that the Confederates have withdrawn from Hagerstown, without inflicting any damage on the town, and are retreating up the Potomac. An "Associated Press" telegram from Philadelphia, last night, states that telegraphic communication between Harrisburg and Hagerstown has again been re-established and that up to six o'clock yesterday evening no considerable fight had taken place at the old Antietam battle-field as was rumored. To ascertain exactly where the Confederates are posted, is said to be very difficult. On Friday last the militia of Wheeling were called out, "in consequence of the threatened aspect of the situation in the vicinity of Cumberland, Maryland and New Creek, Virginia." Gen. Hunter has been superseded in command of the Federal forces on the Upper Potomac by General Sheridan.—Cumberland papers of Thursday last give details of the Confederate movements in that vicinity. No serious demonstration had been made on the city, though Gen. Kelly's forces had "a small fight" with the Confederates, three miles out of town on Monday last. Not much damage was done on either side. The Confederates had possession of the country both east and west of Cumberland, and had cut it off from railroad and telegraphic communication. It is thought that they have done much damage to the railroad. They also captured the railroad iron-clad battery, with a detachment of eighty of an Ohio militia regiment.

AN EXCHANGE has been effected of the officers on both sides, recently placed under fire, in Charleston, and on board the U. S. fleet off Charleston harbor—so that the Confederate and Federal officers return to their respective commands.

The consumption of beef, pork, sugar, coffee, and butter, in Boston, has much decreased of late; and the dealers in those articles complain of smaller sales. The high prices are effecting the same thing everywhere. All prudent families are retrenching their expenses in the way of food of all kinds.