

THE LOCAL NEWS.

GENERAL NEWS.

It is said that two new Confederate batteries have been created on the Virginia shore of the Potomac. One of them is nearly opposite the station of the flotilla, at Indian Head, and the other nearly opposite the mouth of Matawoma creek. At both heavy guns are mounted, as they throw shot quite across the river.

The Richmond Examiner says that the Confederate Court of Commissioners to determine claims for indemnity for losses by the war is to be organized at once. George P. Scarborough, of Virginia; Thomas C. Reynolds, of Missouri; and Walker Brooke, of Mississippi, form the said court.

Messrs. Wendell and Fisher say they are not to be connected with the future management of Brown's Hotel, in Washington. Mr. Potts is to be the sole manager.

At the last dates from the U. S. Potomac flotilla, the Harriet Lane and Yankee were near Indian Head, and the Anacostia, Resolute, Reliance, Jacob Bell, Stepping Stones, Murray, and Herbert, were between the new batteries, and the station of the Page in Quantico creek. The Union, Freeborn, and Satellite are below Quantico.

The war news from England is said to occasion no little excitement in diplomatic circles in Washington.

The "flood and fuel" famine in Ireland—though the accounts, as some of the English papers say, may be exaggerated, is, nevertheless, we think very serious. Active measures are being taken in England and Ireland, among the charitable wealthy, to afford relief.

The herring fisheries of England will prove an almost total failure this season. During the recent gales off the coast two hundred boats lost their nets, being obliged to cut them loose or be capsized.

In the U. S. Senate, a resolution has been introduced by Mr. Sumner, to allow negroes to take out Patents, which was referred.

Any quantity of bogus army and naval officers are circulating in Washington just now. The city is full of individuals, wearing upon their shoulders the straps, designating colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, and lieutenants.

A dispatch from St. Louis denies the statement of the insanity of Gen. Sherman.

The "receptions" at the President's House in Washington, now take place once a week or oftener.

The funeral of the late Col. Baker took place at San Francisco, Cal., on the 11th inst.

A letter from Harper's Ferry says:—"The Confederates had constructed a bridge from the main land to Herr's Island, in the Shenandoah, and brought off a locomotive, which they had previously disabled, and conveyed it to Winchester. The Confederates had considerably augmented their force at Martinsburg."

Gen. Jackson's force consists of about 5,000 regular troops, well-armed and provided for. His camp is on Lick Run, about five miles north by east of Winchester. He has eight pieces of artillery and two companies of cavalry. A uniformed troop of militia of 60 men are scouring the country around Winchester.

The steamer Europa arrived at Boston yesterday. The bearer of dispatches sent over by Minister Adams to the Federal government and the Queen's messenger to Lord Lyons, immediately set out for Washington, where, it is expected, they will arrive this afternoon. It is reported that shortly after the Europa touched at Halifax, the British steam sloop-of-war Rinaldo left, it is supposed in pursuance of orders to communicate with the commander of the British North American squadron.

Gen. Phelps's proclamation, upon landing his troops, at the mouth of the Mississippi, excites censure, even in ultra quarters at the North. He states in it that the creed of himself and that of the troops under him is that every slave State admitted into the Union since the adoption of the Constitution has been so admitted in direct violation of the Constitution, and that the original slave States in becoming parties to the Federal compact were bound in honor to abolish slavery. He assumes that slave labor is a monopoly which excludes the free labor of the North from entering into competition with it, and that the purpose for which the Federal troops were sent South is to revolutionize slavery out of existence.

A rumor was current yesterday that the banks in New York had suspended specie payments, and the alleged cause was the fear of a large export of gold to Europe in consequence of the rise in sterling exchange.

A meeting of the Presidents of the several banks in Baltimore was held yesterday, when a proposition was made to abolish the specie basis of settling their balances, and to fall back on the credit and interest system. It was, however, rejected, and a determination generally expressed to continue on in the usual course—that is, to settle all balances in coin.

The comments of the Northern Press on the Mason and Slidell affair indicate that there exists a good deal of doubt and hesitation as to the proper course to pursue. The New York Times and Tribune are for getting out of the difficulty by submitting the question at issue, between the Federal Government and Great Britain, to the arbitration of a neutral Power.

Gov. Andrew, of Massachusetts, has written a letter to a correspondent in New York, in which he speaks with intense indignation of "the numerous manifestations of misplaced sympathy exhibited by certain citizens of Boston towards the prisoners in Fort Warren;" singling out Mr. Mason as an especial object of denunciation.

Part of Gen. Sherman's division advanced to the mainland, near Port Royal Ferry, on Tuesday last, and destroyed some Confederate rifle pits. The Charleston Courier, which published the fact as a report from Beaufort, does not state whether the Federal troops continued to hold the position.

New York begins to show signs of a panic. Exchange on England has risen to ten per cent., and it is probable that holders of gold will begin to ship it in large amounts, the consequence of which will be the suspension of specie payments by every bank in the United States. The vessels arriving in port are in ballast, and the prospect of war will throw all freights into foreign bottoms.

The U. S. House of Representatives on Monday passed a resolution for adjournment until the 6th of January next.

The N. York coroner thinks that Bernard Levy, the broker, found dead in his office a few days ago, committed suicide.

It is said that a change in the military command of the Confederates at Goose Creek, Va., has recently taken place. Gen. Evans having been superceded by Gen. Hill—a former brevet second lieutenant of the U. S. Army.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the U. S. Senate Military Committee, is to bring in the bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, in accordance with the resolution offered by him a few days ago, and referred to the committee. The bill provides for the appointment of commissioners, to ascertain the value of the slaves, and the payment of the amount thus fixed to loyal owners.

The famous Abolitionist, Dr. Cheever, preached in New York, last Sunday a discourse, and, after descanting at some length on his favorite subject, slavery, he made a passing allusion to the late fire of Charleston. He said that the ordeal which this country was going through was terrible, and that nothing but a general conflagration could expel from the political temple what was necessary to be worked out.

The Philadelphia Evening Journal (Union and Adm.) denounces Mr. Cameron's anti-slavery scheme—and says it is probable, he (Cameron) will resign his seat, or be superceded in the Cabinet.

The Philadelphia Journal says, there is a very grave charge against Commissary E. C. Wilson. He is alleged to have allotted to a Mr. Ruthertford, the contract for a large quantity of hay at \$22 per ton. Jacob Sheetz, a responsible citizen of Lancaster county, bid for the same at \$19. More work for Van Wyck's Committee.

The steamer Africa has been detained, (as is supposed by order of the British Minister,) until Friday morning.

A letter from Williamsport, Md., in the New York Herald, dated the 13th inst., says: "It is reported this morning that Capt. Fiery, of the Maryland second, and thirteen of his men, were taken prisoners a day or two since, about fifty miles above this, on the Potomac. They have been stationed near Cumberland for some time, doing picket duty."

Cotton has reached the price of thirty-six cents a pound in the northern manufacturing towns, and tends to a rise. But still there are large stocks in the hands of spinners, who are making large profits on their cloths.

Encke's comet is now visible, with the aid of a telescope of moderate power, in the constellation Pegasus.

The 4th and 5th regiments of the Irish Brigade, under "Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher," took their departure from New York on Monday for Annapolis.

A continual fire is now kept up against Gen. McClellan by members of the U. S. Congress, and a portion of the press at the North and in the West.

The Norfolk Day Book, the only paper in Norfolk, is now printed on a small half sheet, and sold for half a dime a copy.

A letter in the New York Herald from Gen. Phelps's division at the mouth of the Mississippi, says, that the recent proclamation of that officer causes considerable dissatisfaction among the troops—and an allusion to the "landed wealth and exclusive privileges of the Catholic Church," &c., gives particular offence to a portion of them.

It is argued in the New York Herald that England cannot afford to go to war with the United States, as she would be certain, in that event, to lose Canada and the West Indies.

A man who had been to Richmond and Charlottesville at work, came into General Heintzleman's lines a few days ago, escaping the pickets, and reports that the Confederate army on the Potomac has lately been increased instead of diminished. He also states that considerable sickness prevails.

Great activity prevails in all kinds of work at the Washington City Navy Yard.

The late English news has caused great excitement at the West. Business is much unsettled. The Western papers, generally, call upon the United States Government, "not to back down an inch."

The feeling against the United States is growing stronger in Canada, according to the Canada papers.

The oath of allegiance to the United States was administered to the employees of the Congressional Globe office on Friday last, by Justice Donn.

The U. S. Navy Department has intelligence that, on the 28th November, the ship Montmorenci, of Bath, Me., arrived at the port of St. Thomas, having been overhauled on the 25th ult. by the Sumter. The ship was last from Wales, loaded with coal for the British Mail Steam Company at St. Thomas. The ship was ransomed for \$20,000, and allowed to proceed after taking a quantity of paints and other ship stores from her.

It has been determined to change the color of the pantaloons worn by the artillery, cavalry and infantry of the United States from the dark blue color to the light or sky blue worn by them a few years ago.

On Monday evening, Rev. J. R. Keech, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at Springfield, Harford county, Md., while riding along the road, was suddenly taken ill, and died soon after, at a friend's house in the vicinity, of heart disease. He officiated in his church on Sunday, as usual appearing in excellent health.

In the U. S. House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Bingham, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill authorizing the Provost Court of Alexandria to retain and safely keep any property now in its possession, taken as the property of persons in arms against the United States; passed.

On Monday, a foraging expedition, consisting of three regiments of infantry and a squadron of the Harris Light Cavalry, under command of Gen. Wadsworth, and several regiments of infantry and a squadron of Averell's Cavalry from Gen. Porter's Division, advanced along the district road on the Lee-burg Pike, to within a half mile of Fairfax Court House, where they succeeded in obtaining forage; and a Confederate picket who was communicating by means of signals, the advance of the expedition, was shot near the Court House.

A propeller, some warehouses, and 500 bbls. of flour, at Buffalo, N. Y., were destroyed by fire on Monday.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the U. S. Senate yesterday, Mr. Lane, of Kansas, made a speech on war matters, in which he spoke of wanting close quarters, not winter quarters. Mr. Carlisle, of Virginia, replied to him, arguing his (Mr. Lane's) incompetency and unfitness to criticize properly the conduct of the war, and in depreciation of the project of turning the war into one for abolition and negro stealing.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Elliott's confiscation and anti-slavery resolutions were taken up and referred to the Judiciary Committee. They were denounced in strong terms by Mr. Harding, of Kentucky. He declared that "this administration was pledged in the most solemn manner against any interference with slavery in the States."

We have further particulars of the late GREAT FIRE, in Charleston, S. C. The fire broke out about 9 o'clock at night of the 11th, in a sash and blind factory, and was caused by the carelessness of some negroes employed there at work. It had a sweep through the city from East Bay to King street, burning near six hundred houses, and destroying an immense amount of property—estimated by some at six or seven millions of dollars. Five churches and many other public buildings were destroyed. Many families have lost their homes—but charity has already commenced its work.—The buildings in the portion of the city where the fire broke out, and most fiercely raged, were principally of wood. This is one of the largest and most destructive conflagration that ever occurred in any of the Atlantic cities.

Mr. Hale, in the Senate, on Monday, was "very complaining and indignant" at the conduct of the present war, and said there must be more activity and energy in its prosecution, and that "it didn't want a very great degree of faith to hear the distant rumblings of that thunderstorm which will overwhelm this administration and this party in power, if they do not see the things that belong to the day and the hour, before they are hidden from their eyes."

MISCELLANEOUS.

MINCE MEAT.

LOOK OUT FOR SOMETHING GOOD. A VERY superior lot of MINCE MEAT, for sale in large or small quantities, at W. G. SIMPSON'S Bakery, dec 17—1w No. 149 King street.

TO RENT—A very substantial FIRE PROOF WAREHOUSE on the wharf, near Mr. George D. Fowle's Warehouse, secure from any damage of the lower floors being overflown by the highest tides. dec 11—1w* JOSIAH H. DAVIS.

JOHN H. DEVAUGHAN'S AMBROTYPE GALLERY, No. 111, King Street, OPPOSITE THE MARSHALL HOUSE. nov 29—1m*

JULIUS DINELT, DENTIST, OFFICE No. 17 Washington street, above King. WHERE HE CAN BE FOUND AT ALL TIMES. nov 22—1m*

JOB PRINTING, HANDBILLS, CARDS, BILL HEADS, CIRCULARS, &c., &c., neatly and expeditiously printed, on the lowest terms, at the Alexandria Gazette Office, near the corner of Prince and Fairfax streets. nov 6—1w

DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c.

JUST RECEIVED, a full supply of Brown's Bronchial Troches, Spaulding's Throat Confections, for coughs and sore throat, Ayer's Sarsaparilla, Cherry Pectoral, and a good assortment of other Drugs, &c., for sale at MILBURN'S Drug and Chemical Store, dec 17—2w N. W. corner King and Wash'n-st.

DRUG STORE.

HENRY COOK & CO., 89 King st., Alexandria, KEEP a constant supply of Drugs, Chemicals, Patent Medicines, Spices, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, Coal Oil, Etheral Oil, Lamp Oil, Lard Oil, Alcohol, Dye Stuffs, Paints and Paint Oil of all kinds, Window Glass and Putty, Coal Oil Lamps, Stove Polish, Paint Brushes, and every article usually found in a well regulated Drug Store. oct 11—1f

PORTLAND KEROSENE.

400 GALLONS of the above, which is universally acknowledged to be equal, if not superior, to any other, received and for sale at a reduced price. HENRY COOK & CO., nov9 Sarepta Hall, King street.

OIL! OIL!! OIL!!!

LARD OIL, Machine Oil, Linseed, both raw and boiled, Etheral Oil, pure Neatsfoot Coal Oil, Train and Tanners' OIL, received and for sale by nov9 HENRY COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.

GROCERIES.

NEW BUCKWHEAT, HAMS AND CITRON. THE SUBSCRIBER has just received the following articles, and invites the attention of customers and citizens. 2,000 lbs. new Buckwheat, in large and small packages; 1,000 lbs. small Family Hams and Breast Pieces Raisins, Currants and Citron; also, an assortment of small family cakes and crackers, to wit: Jumbles, J. nny Lind Cakes, Ginger Cakes, Ginger Snaps, and Tea Cakes, Soda, Water and Sugar Crackers, all of which will be sold at low prices for cash. JOHN T. COOKE, dec 13 Corner below Post Office.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

HENRY C. FIELD, BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER, No. 74 King street, Alexandria, KEEPS on hand, and is prepared to manufacture BOOTS and SHOES of all kinds. MILITARY BOOTS or SHOES made at the shortest notice, and of the best material. Persons in want of a good article in his line, will do well to give him a call. oct 7

DRY GOODS.

DRY GOODS. BRYAN & ADAMS, AGENTS, No. 76, King street. oct

JEWELRY, &c.

W. W. ADAM, DEALER IN WATCHES, JEWELRY, AND SILVER WARE. All kinds of WATCHES and CLOCKS repaired.