

THE LOCAL NEWS.

GENERAL NEWS.

The N. Y. Herald says that Gen. Lane's command in what is now called "a great Southwestern expedition" is to consist of 32,000 men—including 1,000 "contrabands" to be employed as teamsters and laborers.—The field of operations assigned the expedition by the President is Southwestern Missouri, Arkansas, the Indian Territory, and as much further South as he chooses to venture.

Some negroes captured in front of the lines of the Potomac and sent on to Richmond, are charged with having been guilty of "treasonable correspondence." They were examined by the Commissioner, who reported that they "deserved to be hung." The case was referred to the Committee on Courts of Justice.

Senator Sherman, from the U. S. Senate committee to examine and report as to compensation of all officers of the government, &c., has reported a bill in relation to the government printing, which completely abolishes the Congressional Globe, and transfers it to the Superintendent of Public Printing, who is created not only printer, but stationer and newspaper publisher general for the whole government.

It is said that General Fremont is preparing an elaborate statement in reference to the charges made against his administration of the Department of the West, which is to be presented to the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War.

There is a great flood in the Ohio river.—Both at Cincinnati and Louisville the water yesterday was rising rapidly, and overflowing the lower parts of those cities.

At Sacramento, California there is another flood, portions of the city having been under water from two to eleven feet deep.

Accounts from New Orleans state that the citizens there are expecting an attack upon the place—and that the city is not sufficiently defended by fortifications.

John B. Henderson has been appointed a Senator of the United States from the State of Missouri, in the place of Mr. Polk. He was a Douglas Democrat and a Union man.

A protracted discussion took place in the U. S. Senate, yesterday, on the proposed expulsion from the Senate, of Mr. Bright, of Indiana.

There have been twenty deaths of soldiers in the hospitals and camps in and near Washington since the last report, a few days ago, of which two were in Berdan's sharpshooters at camp, and nine in the Pennsylvania regiment, and three at the Eruptive hospital.

A large number of British vessels loaded with grain have been reported lost within the past six weeks, from, it is said, being loaded by means of elevators, which renders it impossible for the grain to become settled and compact.

Gen. Scott's coachman, whose capture by the Confederates after the battle of Bull Run was believed to have been with his own consent, has returned among the exchanged prisoners.

The report that General Wool has sent a notification to Norfolk to move the women and children out of that city is not confirmed by official intelligence.

A writer proposes through the Atlanta (Ga.) Intelligencer to raise a subscription by individuals for the relief of Ireland, portions of which are in great distress from the failure of the potato crop. The writer starts the subscription with two bales of cotton.

The New York journals now furnish almost every day copious extracts from the Southern papers—so that, though we never see a Richmond, or Charleston, or New Orleans journal, we know what they say, from the re-publications at the North.

Since the general circulation of the small bills of various Northern Banks, many counterfeits are afloat. So look out.

Dytheria is said to prevail in and about Leesburg, Va.

The schooner John Forsyth, from Washington for New York, arrived at Baltimore yesterday. On Monday night last, while running the Potomac blockade, her foremast was struck by a thirty-two-pounder ball from one of the Confederate batteries on the Virginia shore, so much injuring it that she could not proceed on her voyage. She went in for repairs.

At the flat board in New York yesterday the stock market was weak and prices generally declined.

The arrival of the British steamer Rinaldo at Bermuda, with Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board, is confirmed.

The U. S. War Department, in answer to a resolution of inquiry, replies that no survey for a railroad from Washington city to connect with the Northern Central Railroad beyond the limits of Baltimore has been undertaken or directed by that Department.

W. H. Russell, the London Times' correspondent, is still in New York, at the New York Hotel.

The Potter Committee, appointed to investigate the fidelity of clerks and other employees of the Government about Washington, have suspended their labors, and are preparing their report. The Committee have come to the conclusion that at least five hundred persons employed in the Departments are disloyal to the Government.

The Mexicans are making great preparations to resist the allies.

The sutler of a U. S. regiment in Virginia has been expelled by the Colonel for shaving Treasury notes.

Several clerks in the office of the Auditor for the Treasury Department, in Washington, were removed from office, yesterday.

At the last accounts the subject of the Railroads in the Eastern portion was under discussion in the Virginia Legislature at Richmond.

The Committee on Elections in the U. S. House of Representatives, have reported against the right of Mr. Joseph Segar, of Virginia, to a seat.

Gen. Sumner, U. S. A., has recovered, and will soon resume command.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, "Mr. Allen, of Ohio, offered a resolution declaring that no part of the appropriations now made or hereafter to be made, or of the taxes now or hereafter to be raised by act of Congress, shall be used or applied to the prosecution of a war for the purpose of emancipating slaves in the slaveholding States. Laid on the table—yeas 31, nays 37."

The Boston Advertiser states that Com. Dupont has written a private letter, to the effect that an attack upon either Charleston or Savannah was no part of the programme of the expedition to Port Royal.

The Pennsylvania Central Railroad bill has been defeated in the Provisional Legislature of Virginia, now in session at Wheeling.

In Executive session of the U. S. Senate, while on Cameron's nomination, Adjutant General Thomas came in for a scathing review on the part of numbers in the body.

The New York Post of Friday says:—"A letter received in this city to-day from Charleston, dated January 5th, states that only one of the banks of that city was burned; the Mills House, before reported burned, was saved."

The New Bedford Mercury, a Republican journal, is publishing extracts from private letters from responsible sources at Hatteras, giving an insight into the tricks resorted to by sally hunters hailing from North Carolina. These letters declare that those at the North, who have been sending provisions to the people near Hatteras, have been "sold"—and that the now famous Mr. Foster is not the only "bogus" personage in that neighborhood.

In relation to late telegraphic dispatches from Cairo reporting an advance of large bodies of Federal troops, the correspondents of the New York journals who hastened there to accompany the advance, state without exception that the public has been victimized by a hoax which had its origin with the authorities at Cairo.

The newly appointed U. S. Senator from Missouri, Mr. Wilson, has had his "anteecedents" investigated, and is said to have been, but a few months ago, a "Southern sympathiser."

It is stated in the New York Post that "an expedition from Post Royal against Savannah is in progress."

In the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Steele, of New York, when the legislative appropriation bill was under discussion, made a speech "setting forth the constitutional rights of Southern slaveholders, and denouncing fanaticism and abolitionism."

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"It is well understood that the U. S. army on the Potomac is not to play a part in the great drama until the curtain shall rise upon the last act. But it is noticed that some of the more disciplined regiments of the Potomac forces are sent upon Southern expeditions, while new regiments take their places."

Mr. Christopher Raborg, Sr., one of the oldest citizens of Baltimore, died on Sunday.

Many of the "strikers" at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, are returning to their work.

The U. S. government received yesterday, as presents from the Emperor of Japan, two elephant tusks, eight feet in length, a sword inlaid with gold and pearls, and other articles of minor value, including a handsome box containing a brief address or letter to the President.

The U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs has gone out West.

Cassius M. Clay, late U. S. Minister to Russia, upon his return, is to be appointed a Major General.

Gen. McClelland and his staff, with many other Army officers, waited upon Secretary Stanton, in Washington, yesterday.

The Philadelphia North American (Rep.) comments upon the recent "false news" allowed to be sent by telegraph from Cairo, and says:—"We submit that this ventilation of false news by authority is quite as reprehensible as any premature exposure of military movements has recently been.—What the object could be cannot be divined, but it is certain that nothing in the possible exigencies of the service at Cairo can possibly require the manufacture of a tissue of falsehoods such as that."

Opinion gains ground that the destination of the Burnside expedition is the eastern section of North Carolina and Pamlico and Albermarle Sounds the scenes of its first operations.

According to the last census Illinois is to have fourteen Representatives in the next Congress of the United States.

Romney, in Hampshire County, Va., is on the South Branch of the Potomac, and has five or six hundred inhabitants.

The Richmond Examiner has a long review of the "Southern situation," in view of the large armies of the Federal Government, and what it considers the mistaken policy of the Confederates in acting merely on the defensive. The Examiner is free in its censures of the policy it opposes.

The Richmond Examiner says that "the post office receipts of the Confederate government have fallen off about half a million of dollars, compared for a corresponding period of time under the U. S. government, notwithstanding the excision of the franking privilege, the fact that since the 1st of June last there have been more petty offices discontinued than established, and the amount of public and private correspondence induced by the war and incident to the army." It proposes "cheaper postage."

The Washington Republican says:—"We have good reason to believe that no officer of the U. S. army, nominated for appointment or promotion, will be confirmed by the Senate, if he can be proved to have delivered up any black man coming into the lines from the Confederates, since the date of the publication of the instructions of the Cabinet to Gen. Sherman on that subject."

The project of finance concerted last week with the deputation of bankers, was badly received in New York, causing an immediate fall in U. S. securities, of one and a half per cent.

It appears that to the U. S. army of the Potomac there are daily one hundred and five tons of hay supplied, in addition to the large quantity of corn, oats, &c. In the department at Alexandria some eighty tons of hay are daily issued in addition. Great facilities have been provided at Alexandria for the receiving and issuing of forage to the army in Virginia.

The U. S. Treasury notes bearing 3.65 interest are to be issued under the law of July last.

The small pox has broken out in the upper portions of St. Mary's county, Md.

Thomas A. Scott, U. S. Assistant Secretary of War, does not intend to resign.

The Prussian government endorses the course of England in the Trent affair. Mr. Seward replies to the Prussian minister courteously, telling him that the United States does not desire to do what is wrong, or to disturb the peace of the world.

Charles J. Moore, late President of the Exchange Bank of Virginia, at Weston, Lewis county, Va., died at that place on the 11th inst.

Ex-President John Tyler is said to be quite ill in Richmond.

The wheat crop in Georgia is said to be looking in a very promising condition.

A French fleet left Havana for Vera Cruz on the 9th.

Wm. B. Hill has been appointed Secretary of State of Maryland.

WAR NEWS.

We have late and important war news from Kentucky. The Federal troops had encamped in the vicinity of Somerset, where they were attacked early on Sunday morning by Gen. Zollicoffer's forces. The battle raged until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Confederates retreated to their entrenchments, the Federal troops pursuing.—The loss in this day's fight is reported as heavy on both sides. Among the Confederates killed was their Commanding General Zollicoffer and Bailie Peyton, a son of the ex-member of Congress of that name. A dispatch received via Cincinnati, states that the combined forces of Generals Thomas and Schoepf attacked the Confederate entrenchments yesterday, and captured the works with all their camp equipage and a large number of prisoners. The death of General Zollicoffer is confirmed, his body being in the hands of the Federals. The loss in the battle yesterday is also reported as heavy.—Another dispatch from Louisville says that after the retreat of the Confederates on Sunday, Gen. Thomas followed them up to their entrenchments, intending to attack them yesterday morning, but found the fortifications deserted, the Confederates having retreated across the Cumberland river, opposite their encampment at Mill Spring, and left behind them all their army stores and wagons, which fell into the hands of the Federals. The bodies of two hundred and seventy-five of the killed and wounded of the Confederates were found on the field. The Federal loss is not fully reported, but the Indiana regiment lost seventy-five killed and wounded. Somerset is a town containing about fifteen hundred inhabitants, and is situated in Pulaski county, eighty-four miles southeast of Frankfort, and five miles north of the Cumberland river.

A dispatch from Cincinnati states that four regiments of Federal troops had advanced as far as South Carrollton, Kentucky, on the route to Bowling Green. The Confederates in the vicinity of the last named place are said to be destroying the railroad, laying trees on the track, and otherwise obstructing the advance of the Federal troops, but it was further reported that they were making preparations to abandon their position on the approach of the Federal forces.

A Cairo dispatch states that the recent river reconnaissance by the Federals towards Columbus, Kentucky, has been successful.

The St. Louis Democrat, a republican paper, of the 17th, contains a dispatch from Ironton, to the effect that a large body of Confederates under Gen. Jeff. Thompson, attacked a force of eight hundred Federal troops under Col. Miles, about twenty-three miles from that place, and after a desperate battle, in which many on both sides were killed, the Federals were defeated, and compelled to retire from the field by the superior numbers of the opposing forces. A large quantity of baggage fell into the hands of the Confederates, and at last accounts the Federals were still retreating towards Pilot Knob. No report of this battle had reached us by telegraph.

Information, it is stated, has been received in Washington that the Confederates have evacuated their position at Manassas, and retired further South. The object of the movement is supposed to be to counteract an approach of the Federal troops from the seaboard.

Advices from Hancock state that Jackson's retirement from Hancock, and his pretended retreat towards Winchester, was a ruse, and that, without returning to the latter place he returned with 12,000 men to Romney. Gen. Lander, following out his instructions, fell back on Jackson's approach.

It is said that a Confederate hospital has been established at or near Manassas, Va., where all sick or disabled soldiers, in that section are to be taken—and none sent to Richmond, hereafter, until they are well enough to travel, or be comfortably removed. Many of the deaths in the hospitals in Richmond, are said to have been occasioned by sending the patients there, before they were able to bear the fatigue of the journey.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"Though it is generally considered that the financial scheme recently announced as concluded between the banks and the treasury will be adopted by Congress, yet a preference is expressed in some quarters for the original proposition of the Committee of Ways and Means for the emission of a hundred millions in treasury notes, which shall be a legal tender for all debts, public and private."

Washington's Birth Day is to be celebrated this year, in various cities at the North and in the South.