

THE LOCAL NEWS.

GENERAL NEWS.

By the Europa, at Halifax, we have dates from Liverpool to the 12th instant. The British government, it appears, is satisfied with the course of the American government in surrendering Slidell and Mason, but some of the propositions contained in Secretary Seward's letter are said to be not admissible, and will be left for further discussion and consideration. The London Times and the Paris Moniteur denounce the stone blockade. The Confederate steamer Nashville and the United States steamer Tuscarora were still at Southampton. On the reception of the news of the settlement of the Trent affair at Paris the funds at the Bourse advanced 1 per cent. Since last advices cotton had advanced at Liverpool $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 per cent. Flour and breadstuffs declined.

Utah is holding a Constitutional Convention and preparing to ask admission as a State of the Union.

The Postmaster in Washington has issued a notice that Treasury notes will not be received in payment for stamps unless they are purchased in sums of two dollars and fifty cents.

The various schemes of taxation before the U. S. House of Representatives Committee of Ways and Means have as yet resulted in no well digested plan.

The N. Y. Tribune announces, that in consequence of the times it has not made a dollar during the past year, and it presumes that all other newspapers have had the same bitter experience.

Punch's Almanac advises the farmers to sow their Ps, keep their Us warm, hive their Bs, shoot their Js, feed their Ns, look after their potatoes' Is, and then take their Es.

It is stated that the amount of treasury notes issued by the department has now reached forty millions. About a half million is still being issued daily.

A correspondent of the Detroit Tribune, who is endorsed by that paper as an experienced *cuisinier*, gives a receipt for a partial substitute for coffee, which has proved to be good. It is to cut raw carrots in thin slices, and brown slowly in the oven; then grind or pound them, and mix with coffee in equal portions; or the slices may be put to boil with coffee without being broken.

Secretary Stanton in an interview with the Congressional Military Committee, said that a full and complete list of all the contracts made by or for the War Department since the commencement of the war with the name of every contractor, was in preparation, and that no further contract or purchase should be made before the first of February, or until full investigation be made.

The property of several persons who were assessed in St. Louis for the benefit of the Union refugees was seized on Friday and sold. One of the assessed, Samuel Engler, who got out a writ of replevin against the provost marshal, was arrested and ordered to leave Missouri, and not to return without permission of the commanding officer. His lawyer, Nathaniel Cox, esq., was also arrested, but he was subsequently released. The provost marshal is ordered to arrest any local officer who hereafter will interfere in any way with the execution of a military order.

The remains of General Zollicoffer and young Peyton, killed in the battle of Somerset, are now being embalmed at that place with the intention of being sent to their friends.

The London Herald says that if the Mason and Slidell affair is settled England and France have an inducement, on commercial grounds, to recognize the independence of the Confederate States, and that unless the step is manfully taken by the ministers at once, it is certain to be taken by Parliament on its assembling. The Daily News says that any recognition of the Confederate States is too abhorrent to English principle to be readily a subject for apprehension.

Rev. E. W. Syle, late Missionary to China, is now the pastor of Trinity Church (Episcopal) in Washington.

The Orphans' Court in Washington has decided the long contested "Barney Case," by giving the guardianship of the children to Dr. Harvey Lindsley. An appeal was taken from the decision.

A proposition has been offered in the Maryland Legislature to request the Senators from that State in the U. S. Senate, Messrs. Pearce and Kenedy, to resign their seats—they not being strong enough Union men.

The gale of Friday night last was one of the most fearful on the Chesapeake bay, ever known.

Two "contrabands" coming up from Old Point to Baltimore, on Saturday, on the steamboat, were stopped and sent back.

The Edward Everett, a fine vessel belonging to Baltimore, has been lost at sea. The Captain and some of the crew, at least, were saved.

The flood still continues in California. The area of land now overflowed is about 20 miles broad and 250 miles long, making upwards of 3,000,000, mostly arable land. This unprecedented succession of tremendous storms has washed the mining regions where the ground was previously upturned and dug over, producing great changes, and rendering probable a large increase of gold produce from placer diggings the ensuing season.

Dispatches from North Carolina indicate that the people expect an invasion of the coast, and it is understood that the militia of the eastern counties will be ordered out.

According to the Grafton Western Virginian, the late rains did considerable damage to the bridges, trestles, &c., on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in that section of country. The repairs, however, have in most cases been already completed, and the cars are again running.

Some time since, a negro man belonging to a professed Union man, living in the vicinity of Annapolis, ran away from his master, and secreted himself on board of one of the gunboats belonging to the Port Royal expedition. He was taken to Beaufort, and after working there as cook for one of the regiments for some weeks, the case was made known to Commodore Dupont, the slave was sent to Fortress Monroe, and has now gone to his owner near Annapolis. He was asked if he wanted to go back to his master. "He rather reckoned he would now, as he had seed a good deal of trabelin'."

The debate in the Senate for several days past on the question of expelling Mr. Bright, of Indiana, for alleged disloyalty, has attracted much attention, and the galleries have been generally well filled. All the members of the judiciary committee, except one, are opposed to the expulsion, and several of them gave their reasons therefor today. The probabilities are that Mr. Bright will be permitted to retain his seat, as a two thirds vote is necessary for expulsion.

Two companies of cavalry, under Major L. Halderman, of the First Kansas regiment, left Lexington on a reconnoitering expedition on the night of the 16th, which resulted in the arrest of Captain Whiting, Joe Shelley, and several others, and the capture of a large lot of horses, mules, wagons, commissary stores, &c., taken from Col. Mulligan's command, and a considerable quantity of boots and shoes and other articles taken from the steamer Sunshine, some time since, all of which were turned over to the Federal troops at Lexington.

The steamship City of Manchester arrived at New York on Saturday, from Liverpool, whence she sailed on New Year's day, bringing the mails. She experienced a succession of severe storms and sustained some damage.

Hon. A. S. Diven, of New York, in a letter to one of his constituents published in the Elmira, New York, Press, says:—"Such is the state of feeling in Congress and out of it, that our fate must be decided by the cast of a die. It ought not to be so, but it is so. Patience and confidence, long suffering and sacrifice, would render our success certain. But our people lack these elements, and the Government must incur the risk of a battle, or break down financially for lack of support from the people. I think the Government comprehend this, and as soon as possible will gratify the public demand for a great battle. It will be a system of battles commencing, I think, in the West, with Cairo for a base; on the East, from Fortress Monroe, or perhaps Burnside's Expedition, from Roanoke; and the grand battles on the Potomac. This is conjecture. But the intention to fight is not conjecture with me. I know."

The New York Post of Saturday evening says:—"There is less pressure of 7.30 Treasury notes on the market to-day. The entering of them on the board books will in a few days give them a more settled value.—At the money brokers' offices the clean notes are saleable at 2 per cent. discount, the endorsed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ @ 4 per cent.; but the board makes no distinction."

A man named William B. Rutzer, hailing from the State of New York, has been arrested in Baltimore, on the charge of exchanging Government horses, after they had been purchased, for a class of broken down and worn out nags. Rutzer had been employed to take charge of the horses, and took advantage of his position to practice fraud.

The storage establishment of R. H. Wyatt, Pearl street, New York, was burnt on Saturday night, involving a loss of \$300,000, fully insured. The Fulton Bank, corner of Fulton and Pearl streets, and several other buildings, were also burned yesterday.—Loss probably half a million dollars—doubtless insured. One of the hospital buildings at the quarantine was burnt yesterday morning.

It is stated that during the past six weeks there has been forwarded to Washington, from Baltimore, 15,000,000 feet of lumber (including heavy timber stock,) 12,000 cords of wood, and 10,000 tons of coal.—Since the 20th of October 9,000 car-loads, carrying 300,000 bales of hay, have been sent from Baltimore to Washington, together with 5,000 car-loads of oats and corn—nearly 3,000,000 bushels. On the average, 100 cars of the largest capacity, heavily laden with freight, have passed over the road every day since the 20th of October. In addition to this, five regular passenger trains, and from one to six extra trains for troops, have passed daily to and from the points above named.

The privateer Sumter, on her arrival off Cadiz with the crews of the American vessels she had burnt, asked permission to enter the harbor. The U. S. Consul protested against her reception; but the Spanish authorities decided that if the Sumter delivered her prisoners to the custody of Spain she should be sheltered. This was done, and the privateer went into the Spanish port without any salute.

Counterfeit money is circulating in the camps as well as in Washington. The Metropolitan police have made several arrests, and among the effects of one of the parties were found about \$400 in notes in the denominations of one, three, five and ten, the counterfeits being on Northern banks. A quantity of spurious halves and quarter dollars had also been seized.

Despatches from Mr. Corwin, Minister to Mexico, with two treaties negotiated by him, have been received in Washington. One of the latter, said to be an extradition treaty, provides that neither nation shall surrender to the other fugitive slaves or political offenders. The other is a postal treaty.

The voyage of the British steamer Rinaldo, from Boston to Bermuda, was a very buisterous one. On the day the Rinaldo arrived at Bermuda the naval commander-in-chief, Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, entertained a party at dinner, and Commander Hewett and the four Southern gentlemen, his guests, were invited to Clarence Hill, where they spent the evening. The Rinaldo left again on the 10th, hoping to reach St. Thomas in time to place the commissioners on board the Royal West India Mail steamer bound to England.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia News says:—"The chief points of interest at Alexandria are the military hospitals. Of these there are three in active operation—the Mansion House, Fairfax street, and Washington street hospitals. There are now about seven hundred patients in the above mentioned buildings, besides which two more have been recently opened at Wolfe and Pitt streets, and are almost ready for the reception of patients."

The confirmation of Minister Adams' dispatch relative to the appearance of the privateer Sumter in European waters, and her destruction of three American vessels, creates great excitement among the shipping merchants in New York, and in commercial circles, and it is believed that the underwriters will again raise the war premium.

The railway track which crosses Pennsylvania avenue at the foot of the Capitol, connecting the Baltimore and Ohio depot with the line to cross the Long Bridge to Alexandria, is being relaid with heavy new iron.

The New York Herald says:—"We rejoice to perceive that a band of itinerant ballad singers, who had obtained permission from Gen. Cameron to visit the camps for the amusement of the soldiers, but who abused the privilege by singing abolition songs, have been expelled."

The London Times opposes warmly any thing like an "ovation" to Messrs. Mason and Slidell upon their arrival in England.

An Acting Quartermaster of the Ira Harris Cavalry, who had charge of the transportation of about one hundred and seventy horses belonging to the regiment, has been arrested at Baltimore, for trading off the animals, and replacing them with stock not worth ten dollars a head.

It is reported that Gen. Stone enjoys Gen. McClellan's sympathy in regard to his Senatorial correspondence and controversy.

The U. S. Postmaster General strongly recommends a tax on telegraph messages.

Some outrages have been recently committed by disorderly soldiers in St. Mary's County, Md.—cause whiskey. A guard has been stationed to break up the traffic. Mr. Wedding a quiet citizen had his house burned, furniture destroyed, and himself beaten severely.

The Baltimore Sun says there are more vacant houses in Baltimore than were ever before known.

The statement that Lovering, recently hung at Millintown, Pa., had confessed that he murdered Miss Bayor, in Berks county, is said to be a hoax. There are so many lies now published in the papers that one can scarcely believe anything that he reads in them.

The shock of an earthquake was felt on the evening of the 22 instant, at Salem, Beverly, Lynn and Marblehead, Mass. At the latter place it shook the buildings.

The confirmation of John Tucker, of Philadelphia, as U. S. Assistant Secretary of War, was suspended. Senators who have heard of his connection with the War Department desire to know something of his antecedents.

For the last two days some physicians and wealthy citizens of Boston, New York and Philadelphia have been in session in Washington to arrange some plan for the greater efficiency of the Medical Department of the U. S. army.

Letters from Honduras, dated December 18th, state that an unprecedented rain storm had prevailed in that country, followed by the flooding of a portion of the country, and the drowning of four or five hundred persons. Great destruction of property was caused by the flood.

WAR NEWS.

It is reported that the steamer Louisiana, of the Bay Line, but employed as a transport in the Burnside expedition, went ashore a short distance north of Hatteras during the gale of Monday night of last week. She had seven hundred troops on board, all of whom were placed on board of other vessels. It was then found that great difficulty would be experienced in getting her off, and by order of the Federal commander she was fired and entirely destroyed. Six or seven other vessels and canal boats are also said to have gone ashore on the North Carolina coast, and were burned to prevent the possibility of their falling into the hands of the Confederates.

From Old Point, we learn that the Federal lightboat off Lynnhaven had been driven ashore by the storm, and captured by the Confederates, and taken without the reach of the Federal vessels. There were seven men on board, all of whom were taken prisoners. Another report says that the light boat taken was that moored off Willoughby Point, inside of Hampton Roads. She drifted to the mouth of Lynnhaven Bay, and was there taken.

Information has been received that the expedition at Port Royal and Beaufort, under Gen. Sherman, was to move northward, to form a junction with the forces under Gen. Burnside, preparatory to effecting a landing and making an assault on the interior of N. Carolina. At the last advices from Hilton Head, it is stated by another authority that all the floats and launches—of which there were great numbers—were collected or collecting, and preparations were making to transport troops. Two of the regiments at Hilton had received not simply marching orders, but orders to move, and they were preparing to go, towards what point was of course not stated, but it was there supposed that the movement was to be against Savannah.

Information has been received at Norfolk confirming the account that Gen. Zollicoffer and Col. Peyton had been killed at the late battle in Kentucky, and that the loss on the part of the Confederate troops was about four hundred in killed, wounded and missing.

The Cincinnati papers bring us long accounts of the late battle in Kentucky, in which Gen. Zollicoffer, of Tennessee, was killed. These accounts are written in a sensational style. It appears that Gen. Schoepf did not actively participate in the engagement, Gen. Thomas having command of the troops on the field. It is represented that the fighting on both sides was desperate.

A dispatch states that twelve Confederate officers and sixty eight privates have been taken prisoners at Cape Girardeau.