

JOHN VAN BUREN REASON FOR TAKING RICHMOND.

In nearly all the speeches which he made to the Democracy of New York, before the election of Gov. Seymour, John Van Buren insisted upon the capture of Richmond as the first and grand object upon which the whole military resources of the nation should be concentrated.

What did Mr. Van Buren want of Richmond? In his own language, he wanted it as "a halting place," in which to negotiate with the rebels.

It is under the above head that the Star of last evening publishes the following paragraph: "A Washington correspondent of the Tribune, alleging that the failure in the arrival of the pontoon train at Falmouth 'in time' delayed Burnside's army at least a month, says that Congress is about to investigate it, so as to fix the responsibility where it justly belongs.

It is not the President well justified, under the circumstances, before directing, or permitting the advance of a great army to decisive battle, in pausing to inquire into the truth of such allegations as are made in this paragraph in the Star?

THE MANCHESTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION. We give a pretty full report of the meeting of this society on our first page, which was held at Willard's Hall, on Monday evening.

Had we apprehended delay, we should have had a fuller report of all the speeches made, taken down by our reporter.

WE understand that Messrs. Bykes, Chadwick & Co., gave the free use of their hall to the association. The meeting, it will be seen, was fruitful in good results.

NORTH CAROLINA.—A dispatch from Newbern, North Carolina, says there is a good deal of dissatisfaction towards the Jeff. Davis government, among the people of North Carolina.

THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE make a strong appeal to the benevolent, in behalf of the suffering operatives of England. Large sums have already been contributed by our countrymen in the loyal States.

ELIAS HOWE.—This gentleman, the inventor of the sewing machine, and a man whose income is almost fabulous, is a private in the Seventeenth Connecticut regiment. He has just returned from Connecticut, whether he has been to get money to pay off the regiment to which he belongs, as they have had no money from the Government for a long time.

GEN. McCLELLAN.—This gentleman arrived in Washington on Monday evening, as we stated in our paper yesterday, and has rooms at Willard's. He testified yesterday before the McDowell court of inquiry, and will appear before it again to-day.

MISS CHESTNEY.—As will be seen in our advertisement of the re-opening of the Washington Theatre, Miss Chestney appears there tonight, in the character of "Lady Gay Spanker."

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Special Despatches to the Republicans.

GLORIOUS VICTORY IN ARKANSAS. THE FLOWER OF THE REBEL ARMY ROUTED.

THE TROOPS ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT. FROM LOUISVILLE.

LATE FROM NEW ORLEANS.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. December 9.—General Heintzmann's forces, on the way to reinforce Gen. Blunt, met the enemy yesterday, on Crawford's Prairie, ten miles south of Fayetteville, and was a decisive victory.

The enemy, 24,000 strong, divided in four divisions, under Generals Parsons, Marmaduke, Frost and Rains, all under Major General Hindman, embraced the flower of the rebel troops.

The Nineteenth Iowa also took the same battle, and fought most desperately, but was obliged to yield.

About 4 o'clock Blunt retired from Cave Hill with five thousand men, and, together with a strong force of artillery, attacked the rebels in the rear.

Several rebel field officers were killed, among them Col. Stein, commanding a brigade. He was formerly a brigadier general in the Missouri State Guard.

Lieut. Col. McFarlan, 19th Iowa, was the only rebel officer on our side killed. Major Hubbard, First Missouri cavalry, was taken prisoner.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The steamer Creole, from New Orleans on the 29th of November, via Havana on the 4th instant, has arrived.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 10.—Three thousand rebel cavalry, supposed to be under General Forrest, and intending to make another raid into Kentucky, or a dash upon Fort Donelson, were at Clarksville to-day.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY. Ex-Governor Morehead, of Kentucky, is now in Europe. He is making speeches, and takes occasion to read to his own State some lessons of fact, interspersed with threats.

Ex-Col. Ford is out with a card in some Ohio paper, in which he denounces in violent terms the report of the Harper's Ferry Commission.

General Grant's army is fast penetrating into the heart of Mississippi. It is thought that it will soon be in a position where it can give essential aid to McClelland or Rosecrans, whichever may be necessary.

The counties of Northampton, Accomac, Charles City, Elizabeth City, and Warwick, represented in Congress by Hon. Joseph Segar, have been exempted by the President from the effects of his emancipation proclamation.

The International Relief Committee make a strong appeal to the benevolent, in behalf of the suffering operatives of England. Large sums have already been contributed by our countrymen in the loyal States.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE, of Monday, has a double-headed item of news, that a large part of the Army of the Potomac had crossed the Rappahannock. Unfortunately for the truthfulness of this statement, our army is still stuck in the mud five miles this side of the river, and the general commanding the left wing is now in Washington, where he has been for several days.

WE call especial attention to the advertisement of the Pennsylvania Relief Association, which meets this evening, at Willard's.

F. E. P. SAND has been appointed acting ensign, and ordered to report to Rear Admiral Lee.

COURT-MARTIAL OF GEN. PORTER.

Tuesday, December 9, 1862.

The court met at 11 o'clock. Brig. Gen. B. B. Roberts, late Inspector General of the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. Pope, was sworn.

Witness was on the field during the entire engagement of the 9th of August. In view of what the Army of Gen. Pope had accomplished, when the battle of this day closed, he had no doubt at all that if Gen. Porter had made an attack, as directed by the order of 4 p. m. of the 9th, it would have resulted in the defeat and the capture of the main army of the Confederates who were on the field at that time.

Mr. PORTER presented two petitions protesting against the action of the advisory board of the Army.

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THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, Third Session.

Tuesday, December 9.

Mr. COLLAMER. When the Constitution provides that the writ of habeas corpus may be suspended, does it not necessarily imply that a writ of arrest or a writ of imprisonment is a legal one?

Mr. POWELL. The suspension only denies him the great remedial right of taking him out of the hands of the Government.

Mr. COLLAMER. You never try a party for guilt or innocence, on a question of habeas corpus.

Mr. POWELL. We know that it does not; it provides a judge to inquire into the causes of arrest. But does the suspension of this writ ever authorize the President to make arrests and imprison any man?

Mr. COLLAMER. The only question the court can entertain is, whether the process by which the man was imprisoned was a legal one.

Mr. POWELL replied, and contended that the people are entitled to these arrests should cease, and the recent elections should be held.

Mr. WILSON, of Mass., claimed that no such question was settled by the elections. The general white heart of the Republics party could not raise men enough to send to the field to whip Southern traitors, and still have men enough at home to vote down Northern Democrats.

Mr. COLLAMER. The resolution offered by Mr. Salisbury, relative to the arrest of citizens of Delaware, was the subject of the Department.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

December 9.

The Senate bill, for the admission of West Virginia, as a State, into the Union, was called.

Mr. CONWAY, of Kansas, addressed the House in opposition to the bill. He had no objection to the recognition of West Virginia as a State, and its admission into the Union, on the ground of the character of the people of that section, for he believed them to be loyal and opposed to slavery, a guarantee that would make a loyal and prosperous State.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE FRONT.

WEATHER MILD. CAPTURE OF SUTLER'S WHITE'S CAVALRY.

WHITE'S FORCE VERY STRONG. CAPTURE OF A SPY.

NO PERSON ALLOWED TO PASS WITHOUT A PASS FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARABIA. THE EXCITEMENT IN GREECE. SALES OF COTTON.

BREADSTUFFS QUIET BUT STEADY. THE STEAMER MISSISSIPPI ABANDONED BY HER CREW.

THE WRECK OF THE BARQUE PARANA. A PRIZE FIGHT FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

BURNING OF AN OIL REFINERY AT BUFFALO. A TWO HOURS' FIGHT OF DICKEY'S CAVALRY WITH THE REBELS.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POTOMAC. December 9. The weather is mild, and the snow has melted considerably.

An officer, who came through from Alexandria with a strong escort, was told at Dumfries that sixteen snipers, with their wagons, were captured by White's rebel cavalry last week, and made to drive their own teams to some rebel station in the interior.

White was represented as having a large regiment of cavalry. It has for several days been considered unsafe to pass beyond Dumfries without a strong escort.

A special court-martial met to-day, to try John W. Irvine, on the charge of being a spy; he having been captured within our lines. Accused was a private in the Ninth Virginia cavalry, and was captured near his father's house, in the vicinity of Hartwood. It is understood that the court have agreed upon a finding, the result of which is not known.

The following notice was just published: "No person will be allowed to cross the line in the direction of the enemy without a pass from these headquarters."

HALIFAX, Dec. 9.—The steamer Arabia has arrived, bringing Liverpool dates to the 29th ult. The excitement in Greece in favor of Prince Alfred continues.

The news is meagre and unimportant. Cotton is buoyant and advanced considerably for all descriptions. The advance is, however, partially lost. Market closing at a half penny to one penny higher for American.

The sales for the last week reached 39,000 bales. Friday's market, dull and unchanged—sales 2,000. Breadstuffs quiet but steady. Provisions, steady and unchanged. Consols closed on Friday at 92 1/2.

Further Per the Arabia. HALIFAX, Dec. 9.—The crew of the steamship Mississippi abandoned her at sea on her voyage from New York to China. They landed at the Cape of Good Hope.

The barque Parana for Shanghai was wrecked in Simons Bay on October 9th. The prize fight for the English championship, between Mace and King, took place on the 25th of last week. After fighting twenty-one rounds, mostly in favor of Mace, King knocked his opponent insensible. Mace could not come up to time, and King was declared the victor.

It is reported that Jno. C. Heenan will fight King for the championship, and £500 a side for money.

BUFFALO, Dec. 9.—Good's oil refinery was burned, last night, owing to the explosion of a still. Two men were injured. Several buildings in the vicinity were destroyed by the shock. Loss, \$4,000, and uninsured. The tobacco factory of S. P. Winger was also destroyed. Loss, \$20,000; insured, for \$12,000.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—A special Oxford (Miss.) dispatch, of the 7th instant, says: Colonel Dickey's cavalry had a two-hour's engagement with the rebels on Friday, and was the victor. The rebels had 5,000 men, consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The Federal loss is nine killed, fifty wounded, and sixty missing. The rebel loss is three hundred killed and wounded.

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