

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 1862. THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN is at 213 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania avenue and B street, (Up stairs).

MILITARY HOSPITAL FESTIVAL NOTES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1862. The hospitals, which have not been fully notified, can obtain their ample quota of Christmas provisions, intended for them by Mrs. Lincoln, by the presentation of a certificate of the superintendent of each hospital, at the Executive Mansion, on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, December 23d and 24th.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S REPORT.

This document will strike the country with surprise and profound astonishment. Hitherto General Burnside has been considered in the public mind from all blame for this disaster, but it would appear, that he now steps forth to assume all the responsibility of this stuporous blunder.

In his first paragraph, General Burnside says: "I have the honor to offer the following reasons for moving the Army of the Potomac across the Rappahannock sooner than was anticipated by the President, Secretary, or yourself, and for crossing at a point different from the one indicated by you at our last meeting at the President's."

It would seem from this that his orders to cross the Rappahannock were premature, but that he effected it at a point different from that indicated by the authorities here, and sooner than the powers in Washington ordered. This is a responsibility which all generals must assume, as they alone can be presumed to know what the exigencies of the hour demand. We see nothing in this declaration, therefore, taken by itself, which indicates any unusual responsibility. But still the fact remains, that his orders to move upon Fredericksburg were given him by the President through the War Department.

Thus far, therefore, General Burnside's responsibility amounts to this, that he selected the time and the point of crossing. The order to cross came from Washington.

There is, however, another paragraph in this very queer report, which places the entire responsibility upon the shoulders of General Burnside, beyond a peradventure, and here it is:

"The fact that I decided to move from Warrenton on this line, rather against the opinion of the President, Secretary and yourself, and that you have left the whole movement in my hands without giving me orders, makes me the more responsible."

We should think it did make him the "more responsible." It is a remarkable confession, this, and places Gen. Burnside before the country in no enviable light.

He is emphatically a failure, and should resign at once or be removed. We regret to be obliged to say these things of so amiable a man, but he is evidently in a position for which he has not the first qualification.

We expressed our doubts, when he was appointed, of his ability to take this command, and were censured by a city cotemporary, and accused of making an attack upon him. We think General Burnside might take command of 10,000 men, but an army like that of the Potomac is evidently above his management. The country will demand his resignation. He has assumed a terrible responsibility and upon himself for more, indeed, than any live man can stagger under. Our readers will see that this report, which we publish entire, completely exonerates the President, Secretary of War, and Gen. Halleck, from all responsibility, so far as the time of crossing, and the point at which the army crossed. In short, that the *modus operandi* of this movement was wholly General Burnside's.

But we forbear further comment at this time, and accept General Burnside's explanation as the true solution of this strange military movement, agreeing, as he chooses, to let all the responsibility rest on himself. Let him now resign, or let the authorities remove him at once.

THE PRESIDENT WILL STAND BY HIS PROMISES.

The late interview which the border State Congressmen held with the President has developed the fact that he will stand by his proclamation.

The President told these gentlemen that "he was an anti-slavery man, and considered slavery to be the right arm of the rebellion, and that he would be loyally opposed to it." We congratulate the country upon the firm stand the President of the United States has taken upon this important matter. It is characteristic of Abraham Lincoln, and when his mind is made up, and he is satisfied that he is right, he is not to be moved. We now feel confident that as our armies move, or make advance into slave territory, the rebellion will crumble before their irresistible tread, and liberty will be proclaimed to the bondmen.

There seems, indeed, to be no other way to crush out this wicked rebellion than this: give liberty to the slave. However it may have been in past years—and slavery may have existed by the permission of a wise, over-ruled Providence, "whose ways are not our ways"—the indications are now significantly apparent, on all hands, that the moral Governor of the Universe has determined its overthrow.

No human casuistry, no parleying of statesmen, no tricks of politicians, and no conniving of military men, can save an institution that is doomed to destruction by the decrees of Heaven. Neither can any of these things outwit Divine Providence, nor circumvent the Almighty.

In this connection, we would invite the reader's attention to an extract of a sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. Putnam, which we print on our first page.

Dr. Putnam is no fanatic—he is not an abolitionist, nor hardly an anti-slavery man up to this hour. But his words are full of meaning. "It is the duty of all men who desire to crush this rebellion, and end this war, as soon as may be, and thus secure a permanent peace, to stand by the President of the United States in this great struggle, that he may feel that a great people, without respect to party, are with him heart and soul.

NO CHANGE IN THE CABINET.

It is now definitely settled that there will be no change in the Cabinet of President Lincoln. Both Mr. Seward and Mr. Chase have withdrawn their resignations.

The President is entitled to have such advisers and Cabinet ministers as he alone may choose; and as he has on all occasions assumed the responsibility for all measures of the Government, both military and civil, it is but right that the people of the country should leave it to him to say who his ministers shall be. He may well be presumed to know best. The country will undoubtedly acquiesce in his decision.

Mr. Seward is entitled to great credit for his very able and successful management of our foreign affairs. Thus far, through his influence, have the interventionists of Europe been foiled, and he left the Cabinet at this juncture in our affairs, his absence therefrom might have proved a national calamity.

Mr. Chase's management of the finances of the country renders his remaining in his present position a matter of urgent public concern. Had these gentlemen been retired, the other members would, in all probability, have followed their example, and Mr. Lincoln would have found it extremely difficult to have made a selection of gentlemen able, capable, and well enough acquainted with the condition of affairs, at this time, to have moved off smoothly in the onerous discharge of all the duties of their several positions.

On the whole, the public mind here is fast coming to the conclusion that the President, in desiring these gentlemen to remain in his Cabinet, has acted wisely and for the best interests of the country.

A friend informs us of deplorable accounts from the Cherokee country. The scalping parties have destroyed the peace of the Indians who heretofore were happy and prosperous under a well regulated government of their own. The minority there, as in some of the Southern States, have set up a government for themselves, and, like their white brethren, are conducting their affairs more like fends than subjects of civilization.

The Britishers of Bermuda are troubled at the presence of Admiral Wilkes' movements. They are in exultation when a Southern pirate appears in their waters.

"A fellow feeling makes these wondrous kind"—to their brother pirates. Some Union gunboats are at the Bahamas, and the English officials there are in a feverish state of excitement on this account.

MR. VANDERBILT.—Charges are made against this gentleman on account of the unseaworthy vessels purchased or chartered by him for the Banks expedition. The *Tribune* denies that Mr. V. is guilty.

GENERAL BANKS.—It is now rumored that Gen. Banks is to supersede Gen. Butler at New Orleans. There may be some color of truth in this rumor, though we doubt its correctness.

The office of Secretary of the Interior was yesterday made vacant by the confirmation by the Senate of the Hon. Caleb B. Smith to be Judge of the district court of Indiana.

The rebel General Lee's report of the rebel loss at Fredericksburg is set down at 11,800. He says nothing of the loss on the Union side.

The Secretary of the Treasury has completed his finance bill, recommending a loan of nine hundred millions at not more than 7.50 per cent.

Hon. E. M. Stanton is now relieved of the responsibility of the Fredericksburg massacre, to the great joy of his friends.

General Burnside's responsibility will be more than he can bear, or we are much mistaken.

DEPARTURE OF GENERAL BURNSIDE.—Gen. Burnside left this city yesterday, at noon, for Fredericksburg.

General Saxton is not to be removed from his command in South Carolina.

Important from the Southwest.

WHEREABOUTS OF THE REBEL FORCES. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writing from Nashville on the 12th, gives the following as the disposition of the rebel forces at last accounts:

There is a heavy force in the vicinity of Nolichucky, also between Stewart's Creek and Murfreesboro'; a considerable body at Lawrence; small bodies distributed about the towns of that region; and Kirby Smith moved to Readyville, east of Murfreesboro, to-day.

There is also a small force at Cereville and Pine Wood, on our right. Forrest is out, with a brigade of cavalry, on secret service, and John Morgan is waiting, about twenty miles from Carthage, to discover another imbecile brigade commander.

THIRTY-SEVEN CONGRESS.

When it read that President Lincoln had signed the bill for the relief of the rebels, the House of Representatives, similar to those of the Declaration of Independence, rang like the battle of free government to the people of the United States.

MR. BAILEY moved that the Secretary of War be directed to issue orders for the relief of the rebels, and that the Secretary be directed to issue orders for the relief of the rebels, and that the Secretary be directed to issue orders for the relief of the rebels.

MR. BAYARD said he should, at the proper time, reply to the wanton assault of the Senator from Indiana on the Legislature of Delaware. The attack was utterly groundless and wantonly directed against the Legislature of Delaware, and the Senate went into executive session. After which, it adjourned.

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DATES OF TELEGRAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 21, 1863. The Secretary of State will hereafter receive members of Congress on business on Saturdays, commencing with Saturday, the first of next month.

WILLIAM H. REWARD. SICK AND WOUNDED OFFICERS. BRIGADE GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, Dec. 16, 1862. Sick and wounded Officers of the Regular Army in this city will call on Surgeon J. E. Barnes, U. S. Army, for professional attendance. Office No. 295 H street.

Sick and wounded Officers of Volunteers in this city will call on Surgeon M. Clymer, U. S. Volunteers, for professional attendance. Office 205 Pennsylvania avenue. The above named Surgeons are specially assigned to this duty. JOHN R. BERRY, Acting Surgeon General.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Notice.—The Island Hotel, located at the corner of 11th and Pennsylvania streets, is now open for the reception of guests. The hotel is situated in a beautiful location, and is well equipped with all the modern conveniences. The rates are very reasonable, and the service is of the highest quality. For further information, please apply to the hotel.

Notice.—The Washington Scientific Association will hold its annual meeting at the Hotel of the United States, on Monday, December 23rd, at 7 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the ballroom of the hotel, and will be presided over by the President of the Association, Dr. J. M. Smith. The program of the meeting is very interesting, and will include a number of papers on the latest scientific discoveries. All members of the Association are invited to attend.

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