

Office of the National Republican... 313 Ninth Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street, (Up Stairs.)

TO OUR PATRONS. We are now engaged in remodelling our system of delivering this paper, and hope, in a few days, to be able to deliver the paper promptly and regularly to each subscriber.

THE NEW YEAR. A year is numbered with the past. It never to return, and has borne with it human conduct and human history.

Our nation, it has been an eventful year, many thousands of our brave patriots have yielded up their lives for the sake of the nation's life.

What shall be its history? May we ever close see peace restored to our distracted country—honorable peace, not brought about by disgraceful compromises, as some would desire, but peace founded in justice, in righteousness, and in universal liberty.

Entering upon the new year, as we do to-day, we cheerfully make our bow to the patrons of the Republican, wishing them all a hearty, happy New Year.

THE PROCLAMATION.

At this present writing, we have not received a copy of the President's proclamation, which will be made public to-day, carrying out the proclamation of September 22. No doubt exists that it will be issued, and, indeed, it is supposed to have been read to the Cabinet yesterday.

Having steadily maintained that it was impossible to subdue the rebellion by military force, after revolt was suffered to harden into a permanent and holding back of the Union, we look forward with hope and confidence to the results of the policy of the President.

Policy has received the endorsement of the people and of the country, and must be continued by all patriotic citizens, without regard to former differences of opinion.

RECEPTIONS OF THE VARIOUS CABINET OFFICERS TO-DAY.

For the accommodation of those who may desire to attend the public receptions of the various Cabinet officers to-day, which we presume will commence at 12 o'clock, as usual, and terminate at 2, we give below their respective places of residence:

- Secretary of State—old club house, on Fifteenth and a-half Street.
Secretary of the Navy—H Street, between Fifteenth and a-half and Sixteenth streets.
Secretary of War—K Street, between Third and Fourth streets, opposite Franklin.

INAGURATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Abraham Lincoln is to be inaugurated to-day. Hitherto he has yielded his sound judgment to the impetuosity of selfish and gross men. His great heart has controlled his convictions, but the people may rely on a positive, sagacious policy from this day to the close of the war and even to the close of his Administration.

THE MONITOR AND PASSAGE LEFT FORTRESS MONROE ON Monday last for sea. These vessels were accompanied by two gunboats and the British frigate Melampus. Their destination is not known.

GEN. McCLELLAN has assumed his command of the Thirtieth Army Corps, which is now at Memphis.

GEN. BURNESIDE'S DEPARTURE.—We understand that General Burneside, after he had concluded his testimony yesterday, visited the President and Secretary of War, and had quite a lengthy interview with each. He was to leave in the evening for his field of operations on the Rappahannock.

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J. C. McCLANON has been elected to Congress from the Norfolk district of Virginia.

THE BRADSHAW BATTERY, Valiant, made a trial trip last Saturday. She was built in Boston, and is of the same model as the Passaic and Montank. Her trial was satisfactory.

TEXAS. In his order assuming charge of the department lately commanded by Gen. Butler, Gen. Banks announced that Texas had been added to the Department by special direction of the President. We may infer from this announcement, in connection with the report that Gen. Banks is about to send ten thousand soldiers to Texas, that the main purpose of his expedition remains without change, and as it was originally matured. He has, to be sure, landed at New Orleans, and not at Galveston, but this is probably to reach the same object in a different manner. By the more complete control of the lower Mississippi, and especially by the capture of Vicksburg, in which Gen. Banks can assist by establishing his headquarters at New Orleans, Texas will be so isolated from the rebels east of the Mississippi as to be more easily and thoroughly liberated from the malignant influences which have prevailed there.

There can be no doubt at all that the conquest of Texas is both more feasible than the conquest of Virginia, and of vastly more importance if it can be accomplished. By conquest, we mean something more than that many times repeated folly of marching armies through rebel regions, and leaving no permanent trace behind than "is left by the passage of a boat through the waves of the ocean." We mean that substantial conquest which can only be accomplished by reforming and reorganizing that condition of society, of which rebellion is the ever-springing fruit. This is the sort of conquest, real and durable, which, as we understand it, General Banks is expected to achieve in Texas. It is feasible in itself, weakened as the rebels of that region have been by their exhausting contributions of men to the Confederate cause, and hampered, as they are at home, by the genuine Union sentiment of the slavery-hating Germans of Western Texas.

If we can count that institution out of Texas, we need have no fear of the final establishment of any slaveholding empire upon this continent. Politically, it is a matter of comparative indifference what becomes of slavery in the border States, if we can only extinguish it west of the Mississippi, or rather, if we extinguish it there, we may be very sure that it will die out everywhere else. The capacity of territorial expansion is essential to it, and with all possibility of that finally destroyed, its fate is sealed.

The whole energies of the country, through its armies, and through immigration, should be thrown upon this great work of possessing, occupying and liberating Texas. With a white population of 430,000, according to the census of 1860, upon an area of 237,321 square miles, the work to be done in Texas is evidently quite as much that of peopling it, as of conquering it.

With Texas in the hands of a hardy, loyal and freedom-loving population, we shall have an impregnable barrier against French intrigues on the side of Mexico, and the complete solution of the cotton question. The agricultural capacity for a crop of twenty millions of bales exists in Texas, and only needs the development of the labor which will flow in there from the North and from Europe, as soon as the odious monopoly of the slaveholders is broken up. The cotton looms of the world will never again lack supplies, if free labor gets possession of this magnificent region.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

GEN. HAMILTON, it is stated, is fitting out an expedition for Texas, to be composed of a part of Gen. Banks's troops. Its destination will be Galveston. The main object of this expedition will be to cut off the supplies which the rebels east of the Mississippi have been receiving over the Houston and Opelousas roads.

IT IS NOW KNOWN that McNeill, who committed the horrid murders at Palmyra, Missouri, is not a Yankee, nor a Northerner, but an Eng. Bohman. What will the London Times say to this!

HON. WILLIAM WILLES is about to publish a work entitled "The Law Courts and Lawyers of Maine," from the earliest colonization of the State. It will contain sketches of all the old lawyers, and will be a very readable work.

THE COLORED PEOPLE and counterparts of Washington have a jubilee to-day.

THE EDITOR of the New York Express informed that we are not in favor of the dissolution of the 'Union.' Can the Express editor say as much for himself!

JEFF. DAVIS'S EX-COACHMAN is in London. He is quite a lion there.

GEN. JOHN A. DIX has been assigned to the command of the Department of New York, in place of Gen. E. D. Morgan, who resigns.

THE REBELS IN FRONT seem to be active just now. Stuart's cavalry is scouring the country and making raids and dashes here and there at pleasure. The rebel cavalry on land seems to be what Semmes' Alabama is on the sea.

GEN. BURNESIDE'S MARCH INTO Van Buren, Arkansas, was a promising and brilliant affair. We trust much good will come of it.

WE FIND ON OUR TABLE the first number of a German paper started in this city, called "Der Bellow." We cannot read it so we are not able to speak understandingly of its contents.

THE CABINET held an early meeting yesterday morning, probably with reference to the proclamation.

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THE PORTER COURT-CYRILL. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 31, 1862. Gen. Burnside was examined on Wednesday, and testified to having received unofficial telegrams from Gen. Porter, after that officer had joined the Army of Virginia, relative to the operations of the forces under Pope's command. He was satisfied that what was said therein, of Gen. Porter's character, was strictly correct. He was asked whether the indisposition evinced by many of McClellan's officers, to serving under Pope, was not chiefly caused by the withdrawal of the army from the Peninsula. He replied that almost every officer with whom he had conversed, had fully sanctioned the wisdom of that move. He had, however, no desire to make personal reflections on the capacity of Gen. Pope. Being further questioned in regard to Gen. Porter, he stated that he knew that he (Porter) had immediately obeyed the order requiring him to join forces with Gen. Pope, but whether he had used efforts beyond the dictates of duty to do so, he was not aware. He spoke also of an incident that occurred on the banks of the Chickahominy, in which Gen. Porter had displayed foresight. Whilst on the point of crossing that stream, the wagon trains were so much impeded by the movements of the troops; Porter had ordered the wagons to pass on beyond, and in doing so was compelled to change the position of his corps. McClellan was at first displeased with this maneuver, but after the army had crossed, fully assented to its judgment.

Brigadier General Butterfield, of Porter's corps, was next sworn. He said he was present when the order from Gen. Pope arrived, directing Porter to march at one o'clock a. m. on the 28th of August. Gen. Porter, he said, having sent out his aids to explore the road, was convinced, by their report, of the impracticability of starting before daylight, and decided accordingly. He gave an account of the march from Ellis's Ford to Bristow, during the latter part of August, and of the fall of the soldiers thereon. He believed that Porter had performed his whole duty.

Brigadier General Buford, chief of cavalry to the Second Corps of "Pope's" army, was called in and briefly questioned with reference to the report he had made to Gen. McDowell, on the 23rd of August, of the presence of a large force under Longstreet near Gainesville. He stated that he thought they had come through Thoroughfare Gap, and that they had approached from the direction of Gainesville about nine or ten o'clock a. m. The court adjourned until to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.

THE McDOWELL COURT OF INQUIRY.

A communication was received on Tuesday from General Sigel, stating that he was not prepared as yet to make any corrections in his testimony. This, together, with letters from General McClellan, designed to throw light on the declarations which he has previously made before this court, were read by the recorder and ordered to be appended to the day's proceedings.

Major Willard, aid-de-camp to General McDowell, was the only witness. He was examined concerning an interview between Generals McDowell and Sigel, on the 27th of August, near Buckland Mills, at which he was present. He said that he thought he had heard McDowell request Sigel to go to Manassas and to march also to Thoroughfare Gap, offering him for that purpose the command of one of his divisions. The court adjourned till Monday next at 11 a. m., in order to enable the recorder to bring up the record, a large correspondence remaining to be copied.

FORD'S THEATRE.—The following article should and would have appeared in our issue of yesterday, but from the window of our sanctum we could see from the high frames which have destroyed the theatre, but neither the hopes, the energy, nor the enterprise of Mr. Ford—who, we are pleased to learn, will proceed to reconstruct his house.

FORD'S—"Mind the 'war's' desolation" it would be surprising, perhaps, if those people more or less removed from the field of its immediate operation and results should be able to do more than to gaze at the ruins of the theatre, and to themselves the enjoyment of those intellectual recreations and amusements in which they had become used and accustomed before the commencement of hostilities. Here, in the Federal capital, the appetite for theatrical entertainments would seem to have grown by what it feeds upon; and, in truth, without being in anywise tedious or comparative, we may say, and "say it boldly," that we know of no one, in his speciality, who has done more (if so much) in this particular behalf, to provide refined intellectual food for the gratification of such an appetite, than the estimable and popular gentleman we have taken the liberty to name at the head of this brief paper.

It is, and it ought to be, satisfactory to his friends and patrons to know that such enterprise, such outlays of money for securing the "top of the talent" in each and every branch of a manager's whole duty; "all these things," if they have not yet made him a "Crown," have, in a degree, as it were, enabled him, like Midas, to turn all things he consents to touch into gold—"to the same moor or less." We have said "consents to touch," for his patrons have consented that it is not everything or everybody Mr. Ford will permit to be presented within the walls or upon the stage of his theatre, either here or in Baltimore. Indeed, he has, in this regard, been pronounced by some of the lovers of what has been called "yaller covey" drama, to be far too particular, precise and fastidious. But this, as we have already said, has been to demonstrate "the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first and now, was, and is, to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure." It has not been to make "the unskilful laugh," nor yet "the jillicious grieve;" and in all this, we but express the universal opinion, when we say he has succeeded to a marvel.

THE RECENT FIRE.—The burning of Ford's Theatre has turned out of employ some twenty-five or thirty very deserving people. These people, as necessary in the proper cast of plays, do not receive large pay, say from ten to twenty dollars a week, and when this is stopped, as in the present instance, their case presents itself as a matter for consideration. What shall be done for them? We suggest a testimonial that shall afford them substantial aid.

Will not somebody move in this matter, that something really remunerative may be realized in behalf of these persons, who, though they do not occupy the place before the public which is very properly accorded to stars, nevertheless do contribute largely to the public entertainment?

We suggest a benefit to Mr. Ford's most company, and let it be a rouser.

MISS CORLISS.—The testimonial tendered to Miss Corliss Richings will, in consequence of the burning of Ford's Theatre, come off, on Friday evening, at Washington Theatre. The advertisement announcing this arrangement will be found in another column.

SEE A SON IN THE ARMY AT BOSTON.—A meeting of the residents of Lincoln's company will be held during the week at Tremont Temple, Boston.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.—The delegation from this State had an interview with the President yesterday. At a late hour last night, we could not learn that the bill has yet been signed.

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FINANCIAL. The following is the act prepared by James Gallatin, Esq., of New York, which accompanied his letter to Hon. Mr. Hooper, of the Committee of Ways and Means, and is now before that committee for their consideration: MEMORANDA for an act to prevent the further depreciation of the currency, and to prepare for the resumption of specie payments throughout the United States at some future time.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, 1864, it shall not be lawful for any bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, to issue notes in the form of a currency, or circulating medium, payable on demand or otherwise, for any greater sum than one half the capital actually paid in and owned by such bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, and for every such note so issued in excess of said sum of one half the amount of capital paid in and owned by any bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, there shall be paid to the United States, as a penalty, by the party by whom the same shall have been issued, the sum of five hundred dollars, to be recovered for the use of the United States with costs of suit. And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to require every bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, in the United States, engaged in the business of banking, either as a bank of deposit, or of circulation, to furnish to him, at least every three months, a condensed statement, showing the condition of his or their affairs, in such form and at such time as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, and to be filed with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall forfeit, as a penalty, the sum of five hundred dollars for every day that shall elapse after the expiration of the said period of sixty days, before the said statement shall be so made and furnished to the Secretary of the Treasury, the said penalty to be recovered for the use of the United States with the costs of suit.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That after the expiration of one year from and after the suppression of the existing rebellion, upon the amount of all notes in the form of a currency or circulating medium, of or for denominations below the sum of five dollars each, issued by any bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, there shall be levied, collected, and paid, quarterly, at such times as the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine, a tax of one per centum per annum, being ten per centum for every such quarter.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That after the expiration of two years from and after the suppression of the existing rebellion, upon the amount of all notes in the form of a currency or circulating medium, of or for denominations below the sum of ten dollars each, but not upon those below the sum of five dollars each, issued by any bank, banking association, corporation, copartnership, or individual, there shall be levied, collected, and paid, quarterly, at such times as the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine, a tax of one per centum per annum, being ten per centum for every such quarter.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to issue or cause to be issued, in the form of the United States notes of legal tender, but there shall not be expressed upon them any other mode of payment than that of their receipt at par value and accrued interest for bonds or stocks of the United States, at such time or times as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, by endorsement on such certificates, or by public advertisement, or otherwise; and such certificates may, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, be in the form of the United States notes of legal tender, but there shall not be expressed upon them any other mode of payment than that of their receipt at par value and accrued interest for bonds or stocks of the United States, at such time or times as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to receive deposits of coin and bullion at the Treasury, or depositories, and to issue receipts therefor, in denominations of not less than ten dollars each, convertible into gold or silver, or into the United States notes of legal tender, the coin deposited for, or representing said receipts, shall be retained in the Treasury for the payment of such receipts on demand, and for the purpose of interest, and such receipts representing coin held in the Treasury for payment of interest on the public debt may be prepared in advance and issued in payment of such interest; and such receipts shall be received in payment of customs as gold.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That United States postage currency, stamp currency, and certificates of indebtedness may be received for bonds or stocks of the United States, at such times and in such amounts as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, by endorsement on such certificates, or by public advertisement, or otherwise; and such certificates may, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, be in the form of the United States notes of legal tender, but there shall not be expressed upon them any other mode of payment than that of their receipt at par value and accrued interest for bonds or stocks of the United States, at such time or times as the Secretary of the Treasury may determine, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to make his drafts in payment of the public creditors direct upon any bank or banking association in the cities of Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, for the proceeds of public loans of the United States, and that he receive from such bank or banking association and lodge with the Assistant Treasurer at the city in which such bank or banking association may be located, full and ample security in stocks or bonds of the United States, in the payment of such public loans so taken by such bank or banking association.

Sec. 8. [This section gives the authority asked for by the Secretary to sell and dispose of his bonds at the market value, and to receive the price he can obtain in his discretion; after the 31st of January next, so as to make the bonds payable at the end of five years at the option of the holder, and gives him power to make temporary loans by hypothecation of his stocks or bonds, or by receiving mortgages at thirty days, at an interest not to exceed five per cent., payable after, say, ten days notice.]

HARPER'S MAGAZINE, for the current month, contains interesting papers. J. Ross Browne commences an illustrated story of travel, entitled "A Californian in Ireland." Another illustrated article is upon Timby's Revolving Battery, which could not have been written with more precision, had it been prepared by Mr. Timby himself. Mr. Milburn, the "blind preacher"—by the way, a most pleasing, self-mannered man—contributes some of Carlyle's conversation with himself. "Carle and Dole" is the topic of another personal paper, which is made readable by some happily selected anecdotes of gambling. Other papers furnish the usual variety, and, altogether, this is a most readable number of the magazine. For sale by Billington.

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LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. A Reconnoissance Force. A Large Portion of Gen. Lee's Force has Moved up the Rappahannock. Chaplain Swearingen Heard From.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. December 31. A reconnoissance in force went out yesterday morning, which will probably be heard from in a few days.

It is believed here that a considerable portion of General Lee's army has moved from its late position on our front and gone up the Rappahannock. Its destination, however, is not known.

It has been ascertained, by flag of truce, that Chaplain Swearingen, of the late Brigadier General Jackson's staff, who was reported killed in the battle of the 18th instant, was only wounded and captured. He is now doing well, at a farm-house, about four miles in the rear of the enemy's front.

Leutenant Eddy, ordnance officer of General Whipple's staff, is a prisoner in Richmond. He was captured on the battle-field.

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. ROSECRANS. HEAVY SKIRMISHING. OUR FORCES IN HIGH SPIRITS. THE ENEMY IN LINE OF BATTLE. All Quiet on the Rappahannock.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—The *Impartial* has advised from Nashville that Gen. Rosecrans' army has moved on the enemy, driving them before him. There was considerable heavy skirmishing.

The Federals are in high spirits and are anxious to fight. On Monday, Rosecrans' advance was in sight of Murfreesboro'. The enemy in full view were driven up in line of battle. A battle is expected on Tuesday.

Dispatches received from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac indicate all quiet.

GENERAL BLUNT'S DISPATCH. HE SHELLS THE REBEL CAMP. He Intends to Cross the River and Give the Enemy Battle.

AMOUNT OF PROPERTY CAPTURED. FROM MISSOURI. MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE. EMANCIPATION CANDIDATES ALL ELECTED. FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

St. Louis, Dec. 31.—Gen. Blunt telegraphs to Gen. Curtis, under date of Beers, Arkansas, December 28th, as follows: My long range guns are now shelling the rebel camp across the river, five miles below here. If the enemy does not retreat during the night, I shall endeavor to cross my troops over in the morning and offer them battle.

Among the property captured are four steamers heavily laden with supplies, and a ferry-boat, with a large amount of ammunition. Quite a number of the enemy were killed.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 30.—Both houses of the Legislature completed their organization to-day, by the election of all the emancipation candidates.

There seems to have been a general feeling that Congress should lead off in the emancipation movement, and there is no doubt a prompt and liberal tender of compensation would greatly facilitate the emancipation measure in the Legislature.

There is a strong prospect that the senatorial question will be disposed of this week. By the constitution of this State, simply a majority is required to pass any bill over the governor's veto.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—At 3 o'clock this morning, the Keystone Mill, at the corner of Second and Noble streets, occupied by Thomas Schofield, was destroyed by fire. The mill worked night and day, on army goods.

All the hands escaped, except one woman, who was burned to death.

FURTHER OF THE BRILLIANT ARKANSAS EXPEDITION. REBEL STEAMERS BURNED. STORES, &c., DESTROYED. THE REBEL ARMY DISORGANIZED. FROM TENNESSEE.

A GENERAL ENGAGEMENT IMMINENT. FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Dec. 31.—The following additional particulars of the raid to Van Buren have been received: The army was ten miles this side of Van Buren yesterday morning, and would bivouac on mountain top last night and expected to reach Prairie Grove again to-day.

Gen. Schofield joined them a few miles beyond the foot of the mountains. The steamers *Violet*, *Kry West*, *Rose Douglas*, *Frederick Notrebe*, *Erie No. 6*, and *Van Buren* with their cargoes of grain and provision for the rebel army have been burned. Also a large amount of army stores.

The rebels burned their arsenal and ferry boat at Fort Smith to prevent them from falling into our hands, also a large quantity of forage and provisions on the opposite bank of the river.

A general conflagration was in progress when our forces left. Many deserters came to our lines, who report that two regiments of Missourians stacked their arms a few days ago, crossed the river and went home.

Another regiment of Missourians left a short time ago, taking their arms with them. Two regiments of Texas also stacked their arms and started for home; a regiment of cavalry was sent in pursuit, but instead of arresting them they joined the runaway.

Everything goes to show that the rebel army on the Rappahannock is completely disorganized. The Arkansas river is at a boatable stage, and the country bordering its banks, from a point 25 miles below Van Buren to Little Rock, is well provided with forage and food for an army. Our troops are in splendid spirits, having accomplished a most daring and successful raid without the loss of a single life.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 31.—A special dispatch to the *Commercial*, dated Murfreesboro', Tenn., December 30, states that the Fourteenth Army Corps made a general advance yesterday, and pushed the rebels back seven or eight miles.

Colten's brigade, of MeCook's division, have had a sharp brush with the enemy just beyond Louisville. Cannonading continued for an hour, the army wasting considerable ammunition in the process, and the rebels advancing briskly by deterring flank movements.

The One-hundred-and-first Ohio captured one gun and caisson. We lost one killed and three wounded.

The general engagement is imminent. Our army is sweeping up the Rappahannock from Murfreesboro'.

Heaving Brim is now being run.

The Report of a Rebel Entirely Correct.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 31.—The *Impartial* has reported from Nashville that Gen. Rosecrans' army has moved on the enemy, driving them before him. There was considerable heavy skirmishing.

From California. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The year just closed is admitted by all as the most prosperous in the history of California as far as mercantile and manufacturing interests are concerned. The agricultural and mining interests have never been in a better condition. The city and State are increasing rapidly in population and wealth.

Exchange on Atlantic cities remains the same as on the last steamer day, currency bills 20 1/2 per cent. discount and coin from 5 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange has advanced from 47 1/4 for Bankers, legal tenders 50 1/4, and 50 1/2 for Gold. The King and Queen of the Sandwich Islands were crowned at the so-called reformed Catholic church on November 29. Bishop Stanley and other missionaries performed the ceremony.

Latest from Corinth, &c. CORINTH, Dec. 31.—Information from Corinth up to Saturday night, states that the garrison is on half rations. Foraging parties, however, were able to supply the deficiency.

Colonel Lee, with a large cavalry force, is still in pursuit of Van Dorn. The trains are all running from Corinth to Jackson and from Jackson to Holly Springs. The road is also repaired from Jackson to a point nine miles north of Trenton. Every station house, and all the bridges between Trenton and Meecow, within twelve miles of Columbus are burned. All the bridge timber along the route is also destroyed and much of the track torn up.

The Federal force, to the number of 300, which left Trenton in the direction of the Tennessee River, had not returned when parties bringing this information left.

An instruction train which left Columbus yesterday went as far as Union city without meeting any obstacle. Two regiments and a battery left to-day, to assist in putting the road in order. The rebels have evidently left it, and it will be repaired this week.

Latest from Louisville. LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31.—All quiet south of here, as far as headquarters are advised.

The Forrest Divorce Case. ALBANY, Dec. 31.—The Court of appeals affirmed the judgment in the Forrest divorce case.

Condition of Affairs at Nashville. A correspondent writing from Nashville on the 23d, gives the following picture of that city: Writing *ex parte colono* carries me into the general subject of the condition of Nashville. War has desolated it. Distribution for rebellion has visited almost every conspicuous household. There is distress and mourning in almost every home. Noble and faithful, but just. Privation has destroyed cheerfulness. Nashville, once so renowned for social society, is sombre and dreary as a convent. There is no social life here. Poorly people exist. Most of the young men remaining at home either have had caste, or have lost it by declining arms. A few men, receding in years, remain to protect their property and families, and to promote the interests of the rebellion by covert means. Saunter through the streets, the eye wears with the gloom of closed shutters and deserted dwellings. The female population is much depleted, but a majority of the leading matrons and maidens of society remain. They are stately and reserved, but I will do them the justice to say that the major portion of them have not violated propriety since the army arrived here in November.

Perhaps two thousand have applied to the Provost Marshal General for passes since that time, and much less than fifty have been issued. Their departure, is it surprising that they should be reserved? Who could expect general sociability between them and us under the circumstances? Nevertheless, they seem to begin to realize that we do not hate their people, although they hate us. But their original animosity is peculiarly explained. "The war," say they, "is not personal." Not at all, unless they choose to make it "personal." It would probably be unfair to say that the slow progress of their arms in the direction of Southern independence has dimmed their proud spirits. It is more just to attribute their reserve to the poverty of poor people in the South at this terrible period is something which beggars description. There is but little work for those disposed to be industrious; compensation for the little labor that is done is inadequate; prices of all necessities are extravagant; fuel is very scarce and very costly; rents high. A little tenement of two or three rooms on an obscure street costs \$12 per month; water for two rooms, \$12 per annum; coffee water, \$6 and \$8 per cord. Sugar and rice the poor cannot buy.

The beautiful suburbs of Nashville, the pride of the people and glory of the City of Rocks, are desolated. The elegancies of war have compelled the sacrifice of many noble groves. The charms of stately mansions have thus been