

The Semi-Weekly News.

**THOS. H. MANNING,**  
PUBLISHER.  
**JNO. DICKINSON**  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

To Correspondents.

We will be pleased to receive contributions from our friends, in and around Shreveport. An occasional article from our planters, relative to the crops, will be very acceptable. In fact, we desire correspondence from every section of the States.

Personal articles will not be published, either as communications or advertisements.

Those friendly to our undertaking, who may hear of any local, or other items, that will prove of interest to our readers, will favor us by handing in the same at the office of the News.

In writing, be brief and concise, bearing in mind, that lengthy communications are seldom appreciated by newspaper readers.

Job Work must be paid for on delivery.

AGENTS.

Mr. JOHN W. TABER, is our authorized agent in Natchitoches.

Mr. D. D. O'BRIEN, No. 6, Exchange Place, New Orleans, is our authorized agent for that city.

Mr. H. C. CLARKE, Bookseller, is our authorized agent for Vicksburg and Natchez.

Mr. J. H. LOFTON, is our agent at Bellevue, Bossier Parish.

Postmasters can act as Agents, & retain 50 cents from the amount forwarded, for every yearly subscriber.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1862.

Single Copies, 10 Cents.

See Every Page.

Persons indebted to this office will much oblige us by settling up immediately if possible. Flour, pork and beef, will be as acceptable as money.

Our friend H. C. Clarke, Publisher, bookseller, and stationer in Vicksburg, has made us the recipients of further favors. Again do we return our thanks to him for his attention to, and remembrance of, the editor of the News. We notice, by the way, that this gentleman is about issuing a second edition of his Confederate States Almanac for 1862. We are pleased to hear it, for the work is a good one, and should be in the possession of everybody.

We learn from the captain of trading boat Garabaldi No. 1, which we mentioned in our last had sunk, that everything was saved. She sunk 95 miles below here.

The notice of a fight between two companies in Red River county, which we published in our last, extracted from the Jefferson Herald and Gazette, proves to be without foundation. The same paper says that the fight did not occur.

The vote on the Cotton relief Bill in the House of Representatives stands 45 yeas to 22 nays. The Governor however, has vetoed the bill.

We acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to attend a fancy dress ball, to be given this evening by Mr. and Mrs. Danbreun. A press of business, we fear, will prevent our attendance.

It is announced in a letter from Mesilla that Mr. Kelly, editor of the Times, who was severely wounded in affray with Col. Baylor, was recovering.

The total number of American vessels reported lost and missing during the year 1861 amounts 723 of all classes, the first value of which is set down at \$5,523,000. Partial losses not included in this statement.

The News.

We have met with the first decisive defeat since the commencement of our struggle for independence. The dispatches received and published to-day under the telegraph head, inform us not only of a signal defeat, but also that the gallant Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer is no more in the land of the living. He met his death like a brave soldier while leading his men on to battle our enemy.

The disaster alluded to occurred at Mills Spring, Eastern Kentucky, about thirty miles above the Tennessee line. Our loss in killed, missing, and wounded, is estimated at not less than five hundred. Two batteries of artillery besides equipments are in possession of the federals. From accounts the fight was terrible and hard-contested; we drove the enemy back three times, but were finally outflanked after a whole day's fight, and forced to retreat to our entrenchments. Our forces were about six thousand strong, that of the enemy fourteen thousand. It is reported that Gen. Crittenden was wounded, which devolved the command upon Gen. W. H. Carroll.

As much as we deplore such a result, we cannot refrain from saying that, in our opinion, it is one of the best things which could happen, for, it will awaken us to a true sense of our duty. We were becoming too prosperous for our own good, and the consequence was that negligence began to make its appearance in our ranks, and had this misfortune not befallen us, we would have assumed too reckless a way to ultimately succeed in vanquishing the foe. We hail it as a God-send, for now fresh energy will be exhibited on the part of Southrons; the cry of "avenge the death of the brave Zollicoffer," will be raised in every camp, and answered from every hill and dale, and the federals will rue the day on which the noble General met his death from their hands.

From appearances about our city last week, we can safely say that, despite all which may be said of the dull times, there is more actual business transactions now, than there has been for at least the past two years. Merchandise is sold to a good advantage, keeping the merchants busy filling orders; and though they all profess not to be making, still their smiling countenances betray the true state of affairs. Besides the outgoing of goods, etc., daily arrivals of cotton, flour, hides, wool, butter, eggs, and other requisites, may be seen. Thus looking at the commerce of our city in its proper light, every one must be willing to acknowledge that we (not newspapers) are doing an excellent business, and so soon as we are blessed with good navigation, more lively will things look. There is at present stored in the different warehouses in this city a large quantity of various things ready to be shipped to New Orleans at the first opportunity.

The Memphis Appeal of 21st inst. says:

We learn that a private dispatch was received from Bowling Green last night, announcing, upon the authority of late northern papers, that England had recognized the Southern Confederacy. Whether the intelligence is "reliable" or not, we are unable to say.

The above we publish for what it is worth. No other similar report have we seen elsewhere, and therefore conjecture that it is not very authentic, still, we would not be at all surprised to receive some such intelligence at no distant period.

The Semi-Weekly News.

To convince our readers that the proprietor of the News is not yet compelled to suspend the publication of his favorite paper, we place at the head of this number a beautiful cut, representing agriculture and commerce. This new outlay we made preparatory to enlarging the Semi-Weekly News, which we intend doing if we can get the paper. We have sufficient paper of the present size to answer our purpose a long time, we are, however, watching every opportunity to get a size larger.

We have from our commencement left nothing undone, so far as laid in our power, to make the News interesting to its patrons, and sought after by the public, and purpose still taxing our energies until we succeed in establishing our undertaking on a firm basis. The foundation we have built of rock—we have weathered the most disastrous storm, and will prepare for future storms, taking advantage of the calm, by placing on the foundation, a superstructure of the best material, after the completion of which we can ride all storms with safety to our craft.

TEXAS ITEMS.

The Austin Gazette gives a list of all the specie belonging to the State in the Treasury, and shows that the Legislature appropriated every dollar of it to the per diem and mileage of its members, failing to provide for anybody else, except in Treasury warrants.

The Governor vetoed this Bill and the Senate sustained him.

The Trinity Advocate learns that there has recently been received at Brownsville a large lot of powder for the Confederate States.

The Nacogdoches Chronicle has suspended publication.

A large building for a woolen and cotton factory is being erected at Dallas.

We find the following in the Galveston News:

Charles Brown, who was confined in jail on the charge of treason, by attempting to communicate with the enemy's fleet, committed suicide on the 8th inst., in Galveston. He resided near Anahuac, and is said to have borne a bad reputation for some time past.

Escaped.

Col. Magoffin, who was recently captured by the Yankees at Sedalia, Missouri, escaped from durance vile in his St. Louis prison last week, and is again with Price. This is the second time the gallant "rebel" Colonel has outwitted the abolition thieves.

We find the above in one of our exchanges, and hope it may prove to be true. Col. Magoffin, of Missouri, is worth a whole steamboat-load of such men as Mr. Magoffin, late Governor of Kentucky. The latter means well but he is weak, and has permitted the Lincolnites to deceive and use him greatly to the damage of our cause.

The Forward Movement.

The Cincinnati Commercial of the 16th inst., says:

A great many persons have been very incredulous about the reported forward movement from Cairo. The St. Louis newspapers have spoken of it as a small matter. We have received letters assuring us it was of no importance. But according to the dispatches last night, our forces are actually advancing upon Columbus. There is every appearance of an attack upon that place. If the move-

ment is only a feint, it has a very real appearance. The probability is, that Gen. Polk regards it as a tolerably serious demonstration. We shall soon see the effect of rifled cannon-shot, and 13 inch mortar-shells upon Columbus, where we hope the rebels warned by their experience at Hilton Head, have not had time to cover their guns with casemates. We shall soon see what virtue there is in those torpedoes prepared by Lieut. Manry, and the chain stretched across the river. If our costly gun-boats are any consequence, let them expiate.

Six Lincoln vessels of war were off Apalachicola on the 20th inst.

HEADQUARTERS 1st Division,  
Western Department,  
COLUMBUS, Ky., Jan. 7, 1862.

Dr. W. S. Donaldson, Mansfield, La.:

Sir: I am directed by the Major-General commanding, to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 28th December, with enclosure (\$95), and to say that he has made the 12th Regiment, Louisiana Volunteers, the beneficiaries of the donation.

In the name of the sick soldiers from Louisiana, the General desires to return to the ladies of the Mansfield Female College his hearty thanks.

I am sir, very respectfully  
W. B. RICHMOND,  
Aid de Camp.

HEADQUARTERS 12th Reg. La. Vol.  
COLUMBUS, Ky., Jan. 8, 1862.

W. B. Richmond, Aid de Camp—

Commanding General.

Dear Sir: Your note of yesterday, enclosing check for ninety-five dollars, donated by the young ladies of the Mansfield Female College to the sick soldiers from Louisiana, has been received, and while thanking the generous spirits who made the donation, allow me also to acknowledge a high appreciation of the selection made by the commanding General, and to say that, although we have many prostrated by disease there are still scores, ready and willing at his bidding, to lay down their lives, if need be in defence of the virtue of our noble women, and our rights as freemen.

Respectfully,

(Signed,) THOS. M. SCOTT,  
Col. 12th Reg. La. Vol.

Latest from Matmoras.

Seven Thousand Mexican Troops Reported Coming—Confederate Suspicions.

The Houston Telegraph has a letter of the 23d ult., from its Brownsville correspondent, in which he says:

The siege of Matamoras goes cowardly on. This is the 33d day of the siege, and up to the present moment scarcely a foot has been lost or gained since the first day. Much valuable property has been destroyed, and a few killed and wounded; large quantities of powder burnt, and lead wasted; and no prospect of a change so far as either of those parties have the power to effect it. But we have hopes from another quarter. News of a definite, and said to be of reliable character, reached here last evening, to the effect that Vidaurri, with 7000 men, was on the march for Matamoras, sent by the Federal Government (with whom he has made peace,) and instructed to put down all sectional and party strifes, and thereby unite the whole nation against the common enemy, Spain. He is invested with the full command of the military department of the North, and his headquarters are to be at Matamoras. I give you the news for what it is worth, though I must state that it is fully believed by the most

intelligent citizens in this quarter, on both sides of the creek.

We feel a little anxious to see a few more troops down here from the interior, in view of so large a Mexican force being near us. Can't you quietly urge the necessity of a few more infantry soldiers coming down? They are needed, or will be, I fear. We don't want any more artillery or cavalry; there are enough of those here now—how many, I suppose it would be improper to state—but tell the infantry to come along, and as fast as they they can.

In an editorial notice of the letter, Telegraph remarks:

The sham fight at Matamoras is, of course, unworthy of further attention, but the approach of Vidaurri, with 7000 men, to make his headquarters at Matamoras, as a representative of the Mexican Federal Government—the Government that has been making the late treaties with Tom Corwin, receives a loan of ten millions and protection from the United States, for some purpose or other—we say this military movement demands attention, and measures should at once be taken to keep the closest watch on the doings of that republic. A force of 7000 Mexicans, joined to as many Northern troops, might give us some trouble, especially if supported by raids upon our coast. It still looks as though Texas might be a theater of war within a twelvemonth or less.

An exchange comes to us with a notice that "Truth" is crowded out of this issue. This is almost as bad as the up country editor, who said: "For the evil effects of intoxicating drink, see our inside."

From Gen. Crittenden's Division.—By a private letter from Gen. Crittenden's command, we learn that a skirmish recently took place between our forces in Kentucky and the enemy, in which the Yankees were completely routed, with a reported loss of twenty. The letter states that on Thursday (the 9th,) the general ordered a part of his command across the river, and when we arrived at the bank the Yankees commenced a brisk fire on us. We were ordered to return the fire, when they threw down their arms and run. A man that saw the fight says there were twenty of the enemy killed. There was nobody killed on our side, and only two wounded. We took a large amount of arms and ammunition."—Knoxville Register.

Gen. McCulloch.—The purposes of Gen. McCulloch's visit to Richmond is to superintend the procuring of arms for his command now performing the duty assigned by Government of protecting the Indian territory and the northwestern border of Arkansas from incursions of the enemy from Kansas. Although injurious criticisms have been made by journalists who write without a knowledge of the facts, his movements and objects are well understood and appreciated by his troops and approved by the Government. He has co-operated with Gen. Price in Missouri, as far as he could do so consistently with the duty assigned him of guarding the frontier, and so far as his army remaining inactive at present, the recent fight of a portion of it under Col. McIntosh bespeaks anything but indifference to the cause, or a disposition to shrink from the dangers of the campaign.

(Richmond Dispatch.)

Old Buck, we understand, has written a long letter to a distinguished Kentuckian in defense of his administration. It is sealed, and no