

The Semi-Weekly News.

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

THOS. H. HANNING, 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.

Personal articles will not be published, either as communications or advertisements.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

Our Agents:

- Mr. N. SELIGMAN, Shreveport. Mr. J. H. LOFTON, Bellevue. Mr. H. C. CLARKE, Vicksburg. Mr. D. D. O'BRIEN, New Orleans. Mr. JOHN W. TABER, Natchitoches. Dr. W. S. DONALDSON, Mansfield.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1862.

Single Copies, 10 Cents.

See Every Page.

Old papers suitable for wrapping purposes, for sale at this office.

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 Almanacs have not yet arrived. We understand that the scarcity of paper in Memphis is the cause of delay; if they don't make their appearance pretty soon, we will have to give up the hope of their ever coming; however, when they do arrive, our friends will be made aware of the fact. In the meantime we will receive orders, and fill them in the order received.

It is rumored that the Federals have taken possession of Fort Donelson.

By reference to the order of the Governor, published elsewhere, it will be seen that he calls for 5000 volunteers for the service of the Confederate States. The necessity is urgent, and we doubt not but that the people will respond with alacrity. Now is the time to come forward and offer our services to the cause for which we are struggling.

If "a Palmetto Girl" will send us her name, we will publish the communication with pleasure; anonymous articles never receive the attention of the editor. This is an old established rule from which we never deviate.

Yesterday evening the Era No. 4 arrived at our landing through from New Orleans. She left on the 11th, and the captain informs us that the Fleta was about leaving New Orleans for this place. She experienced considerable difficulty getting here. Our thanks to the polite clerk, Mr. E. Burke, for late papers.

It is reported that two thousand stand of arms are en route from Richmond for the "army of Mobile."

On Wednesday morning last, there was a considerable quantity of rain here; the river is coming up again in consequence.

From the War.

On Tuesday evening we received further and more interesting details from our forces concentrated in the West. Evidently, they intend to pay the enemy in his own coin, having driven him inch by inch from every point on the field, capturing four pieces of artillery, together with a large number of prisoners. The loss of life is not mentioned; but the slaughter on both sides was terrific.

The dispatch says that the Federals changed their tactics in such a way that it became necessary for Johnson to change his front. On the evening of the 12th inst., Bowling Green was evacuated by our forces, and afterwards shelled by the enemy, setting it on fire and burning the major portion of it. As much as we dislike the evacuation of this stronghold by our people, we will not venture censuring them for the course pursued, for beyond a doubt, the motives are good; and we cannot but look upon the move, other than a requisite strategy to lead the enemy on to certain destruction, should they venture following up the retreating party. Like the tiger, ere it springs upon its victim, our gallant soldiers, retreat with the view of suddenly springing upon the Lincoln forces, hurling them to eternity. In our Western army will be found some of the best Engineers and Mathematicians of the country; it is therefore to be presumed that what has been done is for the best, and not to be hooted at by persons whose proficiency in military tactics admit of their views being depended upon, but who are distant from the fields of action.

The best military knowledge and experience has been concentrated in the West, and it is for the inexperienced to welcome every step taken as portending to the success of our army. It looks very small in our opinion, to hear any stay-at-home worthy, giving vent to his expressions about the movements of our Generals, as though his information was of more weight than that of all the officers in our army combined; let such men make themselves useful by leaving theory for practice, and exhibit to us their inestimable value, or forever hold their peace,—and they will discover that it is not as easy a matter to bombard the enemy's fortifications as it is to surround our postoffice, and let their opinions take wings and fly to the ears of the ready listener.

We have in the West, besides many prominent men not mentioned, Beauregard, Johnson, Buckner, Pillow, Hardee, Polk, Floyd, Tilgham, Hindman, and if with these noted personages, we cannot prove victorious, how, and when we ask the gossips, in all candor, can we? The crisis is of such a nature now, as to admit of none but serious discussions, for by underrating the skill of our leaders, we create dissatisfaction in the ranks of our companies, which should not, and must not be, for if we create it, the consequences will be fearful.—Let every individual who is overburdened with intellect, immediately proceed to offer his services to our government, and we warrant that our community will highly appreciate his determination.

There are sixty-seven rebel families at the Donegana House, Montreal, and on the receipt of the first news from England concerning the seizure of Mason and Slidell, so joyous were they that a supper was given by them at the house, costing \$1500. Louisville Journal.

Foreign Intervention.

Again, is this imaginary aid brought before the eyes of the reader, and if there is any thing which has retarded our progress in the cause of independence, it is this same delusive hope that has been thrown out to us, through Northern journals, and will continue to be so long as we exhibit any anxiety to grasp it, like a drowning man catches at straws. In the name of common sense, will the people not reflect for themselves? Will they be forever blinded by such cursed dispatches? What, we ask, do the Southern people care, whether France or England meditate interfering in the present difficulty? Not a fig, to use a common expression. Telegraph operators should meet with the censure of the press for sending dispatches of this character, for it has a tendency of making our people negligent.

If either of those powers desire taking that step, let them do it, and we will have ample time to hear of it; but by all means suppress the intimation that has been paraded in print for too long a time, that "they think of doing it." It looks too much like begging them to assist us, and further, when we launched ourselves into this fracas, did we not contemplate coming out victorious without any outside assistance? So we understood, therefore let us do it. The idea of any foreign power assisting us in our struggle for independence must be at once banished from our minds if we wish to succeed. No monarchical government intends extending aid to our cause, only if compelled to the step by necessity, mark us, for the simple reason that they are seriously opposed to our system of government, as interfering with theirs, so far as example is concerned. Before interfering in our struggle, they will ponder the question well, as to the probable consequences of the result, with themselves at home.

Let people know that they are dependent on their own efforts to accomplish any thing, and they will do it, for their exertions will be greater.

Mansfield Female College.

The Semi-Annual Examination of this Institution commenced on Monday, the 10th inst., and continued four days. It was a very satisfactory one to all interested—showing thorough training and good scholarship of the pupils. We would like to say something of the excellent recitations of many of the classes, but cannot for want of space.

On Thursday night the young ladies gave a concert of vocal and instrumental music, under the direction of Prof. Donaldson and Miss Cushman. The whole concert was a decided success. We heard several exclaim it was the best ever given in the College. We mention a few of the pieces performed and sung:

Air Suisse—by 12 performers, was quite a novelty, and executed in perfect time and expression, and very affecting.

Etude Mazourka—by Talery—was very well performed.

Kate Keracy—was prettily sung by a small Miss with a large voice.

Piano Solo—Le Crepuscule—was handsomely played by Miss J. of Shreveport.

Why don't the men Propose—sung by Miss S., elicited much applause and merriment.

Mollie's Dream, Waltz—was well rendered.

Mary of Argyle—sung by Miss Belle, was one of the gems of the concert. So pure a voice we have not heard for many a day, and was

sung with good taste and much feeling. I know a bank, whereon the wild Thyme blows—was beautifully sung by two young ladies, with excellent and well trained voices.

Sad hour of Parting—was very prettily sung, and much admired.

Katy Doring, (with variations)—was brilliantly played. Miss W— bids fair to be a fine pianist.

Several choruses were sung by about forty or fifty young ladies. They were pleasing and sung with good expression, and were well received. Prof. D. knows well how to manage these things to make them effective.

We cannot conclude this article without recommending this Institution to the public; it is one of the most prosperous in the Confederate States. Situated in an exceedingly healthy location, of easy access, and with the efficient Faculty it has always had, must insure it a liberal patronage. Even these hard times, it has not lessened the number of its pupils.

Tone's Bayou.

Capt. Crooks informs us that if immediate steps are not taken to prevent the water from running into Tone's Bayou, it will not be long before the navigation of Red River, at the best season, will be impossible by any size boat. Will our people not give their attention to this important affair. Now is the time to take steps towards remedying the evil, and if our people desire to see our city prosper, let them at once to the work, or the future prospects of Shreveport is forever blasted. Let there be no discussion about the matter for there has already been too much on the subject; it is the duty of every citizen to aid in this work, therefore, we trust that they will direct their attention to it without further delay. Only for this drawback to our river, we might today have boats at our port, but from present appearances it will not be long before the sight of a steamboat at our levee will be a thing of much curiosity. Citizens, to your duty; your all is at stake! your interests demands prompt action.

The following particulars of the safe arrival of the Victoria, we find in the New Orleans Picayune:

This steamer commanded by Capt. Forbes, coming from Havana to this port with a valuable "assorted" cargo, attempting to pass into Baratania Bay, on Friday night, got aground, within about a mile of Fort Livingston.

The next morning the Federal steamer South Carolina (a letter from a gentleman on board says the De Soto) came up within about three miles of the Victoria, as near as the blockader dare venture on account of the shallowness of the water, and opened fire upon the Victoria.—Whilst exposed to this fire at long range there were two hundred and eighty-five shells thrown at her by the enemy, but all but two, though many of them were disagreeably near, fell short of their aim. The damage done by these two was very insignificant.

Relief was dispatched hence on Thursday night to the beleaguered steamer and she was finally got off, with vessel, cargo, and everybody on board perfectly safe and anchored under the guns of the fort. Part of her valuable freight has already come up to the city, and the rest will arrive duly.

Three cheers for the Victoria and Capt. Forbes!

The Richmond Examiner learns from an army officer the solution of Zollicoffer's defeat, which it gives as follows:

It is the old story, hitherto unheralded, of intelligence being conveyed to the enemy by spies and traitors.—Within the General's own command there were as bitter enemies as those who killed him. The enemy knew all his movements, his condition, everything, by means of pony express. It was another Draneville affair with the difference at Draneville. Stuart's men were loyal; while in Somerset, there were individuals who were really the creatures of Fremont and Lincoln.

Such are the fruits of too much leniency. When will this policy be changed? All eyes are fixed upon the President. The people look to him for safety and protection.

The London Times of the 6th ult., says that "it had been reported that the coupons of the dividend due on the 1st inst. on the State of Virginia five per cent. bonds had been returned by Messrs. Baring, with the answer, 'No advice to pay.' On Saturday last, however, the requisite remittance had been received, and the payment will be made in the usual way. The State of Virginia has always maintained her credit, and looking at the manner in which the horrors of civil war are concentrated upon her soil, and the difficulty she experiences in effecting communication with Europe, her present punctuality deserves special record."

A Splendid Shot.—A letter from Lieut. Col. Hawley, of the Hartford (Conn.) Press from Tybee, gives the following:

Day before yesterday a party of Germans went up to Goat's Point.—One of the party stood on the summit of a small hill perhaps a hundred yards less than a mile from Pulaski, that is as near as we can get, and waived his hat. The others went back out of sight, but could see the rebels bringing a gun to bear. They warned their comrade but he would not heed. As he stood with his back toward the fort, a barbette gun sent out a little cloud, then came the thunder, the rushing ball, and the rash man lay disemboweled and cut in two on the sand. It was a splendid shot, and could not be equaled in a month's practice.

What Seward Says.—To keep up the spirits of the North and to counteract the effect of the news from Europe. The Washington correspondents give the following assurance of the entente cordiale between the North and Great Britain:

Notwithstanding the alarms and croakings of some of the foreign journals and letter writers about the stone blockade and other similar sinister reports, the dispatches received at the State Department are regarded as conclusive of a complete restoration of the entente cordiale between the United States and Great Britain, and of the best possible understanding with the governments of France, and other Continental States. Yesterday Secretary Seward and Lord Lyons exchanged congratulations on the adjustment of the Trent affair in a spirit to that which in the same case, animated Earl Russell and Minister Adams.

Montgomery and Selma Railroad. The Huntsville Advocate says:

A contract has been entered into by responsible parties, for the construction of a railroad between Montgomery and Selma. This is an important link, and when completed will give nearly a continuous line to Vicksburg.