

The Semi-Weekly News.

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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See Every Page.

Persons sending us remittances will be good enough to send no other paper money than Louisiana State or Confederate Notes, or Shreveport Corporation bills, none other will be received. Individual and other corporation bills are of no use to us, as we cannot get them off our hands.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Owing to the enormous high price of paper and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, besides the rapid increase of our subscription list, we are compelled, in justice to our patrons and ourselves, to increase the price of subscription. (See terms on first page.)—It must be borne in mind that we do not furnish our readers with one paper every week BUT TWO, one on Tuesday and the other on Friday, being a decided advantage to news-seekers. Besides this, we are striving regardless of expense, to make such arrangements as will enable us to get the latest intelligence possible. We will continue to do this whenever an opportunity presents itself, and hold ourselves in readiness, to compensate any one who will furnish us late reliable news.

Our present subscribers will be privileged to renew their subscriptions at the expiration of their time, at the Old Rates, if they wish. That we will not be compelled to stop the publication of the "SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS," for the want of paper, can be relied on as a certainty. We thank our patrons for past favors, and hope to merit their patronage. We still do Job Printing at low prices.

We are under obligations to Lieut. J. C. McKay, of Greer's Regiment, for a late paper.

Captain Bridges has our thanks for like favors.

According to a Washington telegram of the 6th ult. the following is the Federal view of the different rumors of intervention by France or England:

"The rumored statements of foreign intervention to induce the Government to cease its efforts to put down the rebellion, as well as those about projected arrangements and compromises with the rebels, are without foundation.

Preparations for the defense of Richmond are rapidly going forward and troops are continually pouring in. This, coupled with the President's recent message to the Virginia legislature assuring that august body that Richmond would never be given up to the enemy, indicates that preparations are being made to make Henrico county rival in military glory the plains of Marathon and Waterloo. The ruthless invader will be driven from the soil at every hazard.

The Natchez Courier of the 21st has the following:

Four of the enemy's crews, last Wednesday, ventured too far from their gunboats for their own comfort. A short distance from Quitman's landing, they were "snapped up" by some wily conscripts afloat in that section, and when last heard from had taken passage for the interior with two dark-looking pilots aboard. They are in a safe port ere this, and firm at anchor.

The Duty of Journalists.

We have made it a rule since the commencement of hostilities with the Federals, to permit nothing to appear in the columns of our paper which would tend to give information, much sought for by the enemy; though, at the same time, we are free to admit, that we entertained no idea of our paper ever coming before their eyes. As time passes on however, so varies the aspects of things; the crisis has now come, and we are to survey the position of the enemy with a calm, calculating eye, for he is not far distant from our doors. It behooves us, then, to weigh well our words, not to express ourselves enigmatically, but publish our sentiments, as would be expected from every loyal person.

Items of intelligence of a local bearing should under no circumstances be issued to the public eye, if there is the least possibility of its proving beneficial to the enemy. Of course the editorial fraternity, just now are sorely perplexed for information, with which to fill their papers, yet this should not be an excuse for conveying, through their respective columns, intelligence which will be grasped at by the enemies of the South. Trifling or insignificant as some papers may appear, they may be the means of great harm. These reflections crowd themselves upon us by perusing an Indiana Daily paper, in which we find to our astonishment copious extracts from the Opelousas Courier, published in the Parish of St. Landry. The editor became jubilant over one of the extracts he discovered in the Courier, and among his expressions, we note this particularly: "The rebels are showing their faith, or rather their want of faith in their own government by their works." The article of the Courier bore nothing on its face, that would attract the attention of any one but a cunning enemy, and yet there was sufficient in it upon which to base an editorial of importance.

We are surrounded by persons ever ready to give aid to the enemy at any moment, or in any form they can, and mark us, whenever any intimation is given by papers published in our country, be the locality it may, that moment is a copy secured by some secret agent, and smuggled across the lines. Let us then bear this upper most in our minds, and act in accordance.

A Negro Military Police for Southern Cities.

Under the above caption the New York Times speaks as follows:

The Confederate leaders count largely upon the aid they are presently to receive from the climate in repelling the Union armies. The occupation of New Orleans cannot, they believe, continue longer than June, because of the summer heat, malaria, and fevers to which Northern troops will be exposed; and as last fall they argued that if they could only hold out until winter, Europe would come to their assistance, so they now persuade themselves that summer will bring to their redemption that tremendous destroyer—yellow fever.

It is not to be doubted that, with the coming summer, sickness will very seriously affect the usefulness of our unacclimated soldiery in the South. On the Atlantic, as on the Gulf shores, bilious diseases will make sad havoc among rank and file; and if the yellow fever appears, and as it is likely to, such places as New Orleans and Mobile will be wholly untenable. It will be for the Secretary of War to meet this difficulty.

The only means seem at this moment to be the enrollment and arming of the negroes, in the various cities we may hold on the coast, furnishing them with white officers of skill and accustomed to the climate, who shall drill and discipline them, and exert over them a proper military control. We know no reason why the preservation of order may not be safely entrusted to this class of persons. They have been employed in the ranks by the Confederates themselves; they make good and tractable soldiers; the English have no better troops in the West Indies; and we can safely reckon not only on their fidelity, but on their immunity from climate diseases.

The subject we are happy to see, is engaging the attention of the government. A communication in another column, from our Port Royal correspondent, shows that the temper of the blacks has been tested by the direction of the War Department, and they have shown an unsuspected alacrity in volunteering to bear arms, and do their devoir in field or garrison. Of this chivalrous mood—for chivalry in South Carolina is not, it seems, a thing of color—the government cannot too promptly avail itself. All the time between this and the dog days will be needed to organize and discipline these Hamitic police brigades.

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of the Citizens of Caddo Parish, convened in accordance with previous notice in Shreveport on the 2d day of June 1862, D. A. Flournoy was appointed chairman and J. C. Moncure secretary.

The chairman stated the object of the meeting to be to devise measures of defense for this section of the State of Louisiana; and for this purpose to obtain the co-operation of the parishes West of the Mississippi, and to send delegates to a convention of said parishes proposed to be held at Vernon, Jackson parish, on the second Monday (9th) of June. A Circular issued by the meeting of the citizens of Bienville parish was read by the secretary, whereupon the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

1st Resolution: That we the people of the Parish of Caddo heartily approve of the Resolutions adopted and the objects recommended by a committee appointed for the purpose by a meeting held at Mt. Lebanon La. on the 19th day of May 1862 and pledge our parish to co-operate with adjoining parishes and all others in carrying out the objects proposed in said Circular.

2d Resolution: That seven delegates be appointed by the chairman to represent the parish of Caddo in the Vernon Convention, on the second Monday in this month, that the vote of said parish in said convention, shall be cast as a unit, and that a majority of said delegates shall cast said vote.

3rd Resolution: That said delegates appointed to said convention shall have the power to appoint a substitute in the event of his not being able to attend, provided, said substitute shall be a resident of Caddo parish.

4th Resolution: That the Police Jury be requested to endorse the appointment of delegates made by this meeting, and adopt the said delegates as representatives of this parish, and to pledge the faith of the parish to furnish its pro rata of the means necessary to carry out the plans of defense which shall be adopted by said convention and that a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the Police Jury.

5th Resolution: That the secretary be required to make out a copy of these resolutions to be furnished to the delegates to the convention at Vernon, and that the city papers be requested to publish these proceedings. The chairman then appointed the following delegates under the second resolution, viz.: Col. M. Watson, J. C. Moncure, L. M. Nutt, V. H. Jones, Wm. Flournoy, R. J. Looney and N. E. Wright.

The meeting then adjourned.

D. A. Flournoy,  
Chairman.  
J. C. Moncure,  
Secretary.

Description of Fort Pulaski.

We find the following federal description of the above place and the city of Savannah, in the St. Louis Republican:

The importance of having Fort Pulaski in our possession cannot be over-estimated. It is about eighteen miles from Savannah, and is the principal defense of that important city. So long as the rebels had it in their hands they effectually shut out all of our large war vessels from proceeding to Savannah, although by the energy and foresight of Commodore Dupont, several of our gunboats reached the rear of Fort Pulaski by way of Warsaw Sound, and shot it off from any communication with Savannah. Fort Pulaski was visited, in May last, by Mr. Russell, of the London Times, and he then pronounced it to be one of the finest and most scientifically constructed forts he had ever visited. The fort is an irregular pentagon, with the base line or curtain face inland, and the other faces casemated and bearing on the approaches. The curtain, which is simply crenelated, is covered by a redan, surrounded by a deep ditch, inside the parapet of which are granite platforms ready for the reception of guns. The parapet is thick and the scarp and counterscarp are faced with solid masonry. A drawbridge affords access to the interior of the redan, whence the gate of the fort is approached across a deep and broad moat, which is crossed by another drawbridge.

The walls are exceedingly solid and well built of hard grey brick, strong as iron, upwards of six feet in thickness, the casemates and bombproofs being lofty, airy and capacious though there is not quite depth enough between the walls at the salient and gun-carriages. The work was originally intended to mount 128 guns, all of large calibre, and it is probable that the rebels had that many guns mounted at the time of its investment by the Federal troops. Everything the rebels required to withstand a long siege was in the fort; the platforms and gun-carriages were solid and well made; the embrasures of the casemates admirably constructed, and the ventilation of the bombproofs carefully provided for. There was also three furnaces for heating shot. The fort was one of the best of its size in the world, and would have been impregnable if it had been defended by soldiers fighting in a righteous cause. Fort Sumter, at the time of its bombardment by the rebels, was not as well prepared for a siege as Fort Pulaski at the time our forces opened the bombardment, yet the heroic band in the former fort made a more gallant resistance than those in the latter.

Vessels drawing fifteen feet of water can now ascend to the city of Savannah itself, and that place is now at our mercy. True, Fort Jackson, about three miles above the city, is in the way; but, as it is only a small earthwork, mounting a few guns, it

can easily be shelled out by our gunboats.

Office Semi-Weekly News, Friday, June 6, 1862.

Advices from Little Rock say that fighting commenced at Corinth on last Thursday, the 29th ult. No particulars. A gentleman from Des Arc, Ark., reports a fight on White river.

Our friend and fellow citizen Lt. A. J. Jewell, arrived in our city on last Wednesday, looking as well as ever. He will accept our thanks for a file of papers.

FROM CORINTH.—General Beauregard has issued an order requiring the burning of all extra tents—officers are allowed only 16 pounds of baggage. He declared that the Confederate army had assumed the offensive, and that he did not wish it to be encumbered with unnecessary baggage or tents.

Gen. Beauregard has also issued an order excluding all correspondents from the lines—making it a penalty of death if improper news be transmitted.

The enemy have not fallen back as reported some time since. Skirmishing is going on daily.

We learn from the Memphis Appeal that a rumor prevails, apparently well authenticated, that the Federal commander on the river had made a demand for the surrender of Fort Pillow, which was refused. No intimation was given as to when the attack would be made.

We find the following in the St. Louis Republican:

Washington, April 20.—A memorial is now numerously signed by colored persons to show for themselves, relatives and friends whom they represent, that while appreciating humane actions now inaugurated to give freedom to their race, they believe this freedom will result injuriously, unless there shall be opened to them a region to which they might emigrate, suited to their organization, &c.

The following correspondence passed between Gen. Smith and the Federals:

HEAD-QUARTERS,  
Vicksburg, May 26, 1862.  
To the Officer Commanding U. S. Naval Forces below Vicksburg.

Sir: I am informed that the negro force belonging to the estate of a Mr. Johnston, whose life was unfortunately lost a few days since, is on the levee surrounded by water, their houses being on the point of tumbling down.

The owners of plantations adjoining, have requested that a flag of truce boat be sent to ask you to allow this force to be removed together with their provisions to this city, with a view of being sent to the interior. Should this be accorded on behalf of those asking, the boat now bearing the flag of truce, will take the negroes away. Mr. E. B. Towne a neighbor of Mr. Johnston will take charge of the removal of the negroes. Very respectfully, M. L. SMITH,

Brig. Gen. Comd'g

U. S. STEAMER IROQUIS,  
Below Vicksburg, May 27, 1862.

Sir: Your request for the removal of the negro force belonging to the estate of Mr. Johnston cannot be granted.

Very respectfully your ob't serv't,

JAS. G. PALMER,  
Commanding Advance Squadron,  
To M. L. Smith, Brig. Gen. Comd'g at Vicksburg.