

The Semi-Weekly News.

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1862.

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.

When subscribers see a Red pencil mark on their paper, it signifies that the time paid for has expired.

A subscriber living in Springville, Natchitoches Parish, informs us that a disease has made its appearance among the hogs in his neighborhood, and that they are dying very fast.

On last Tuesday, we had quite a refreshing rain here, and are told that throughout the Parish, light rains have fallen. During the rain in this place, we saw a certain Captain, not far from our office, rush out of his establishment, with an uplifted broom, which he let descend on the head of a poor rat, after chasing it some time, but with all his agility, the rat escaped, and ran into the jaws of a terrier, meeting with instant death.

We wonder why it is that our paper takes so long to get to Huntsville, Texas. The following shows how long the "News" is on its way: "Hit the mail on the head. Your paper is a week getting here, it should come in three days." Let the evil be remedied.

Mansfield, July 28th.

DEAR NEWS: I have just received a letter from Savannah informing me of the completion of the Ladies' Iron Clad Battery, built in that city, and is now ready for a fight, as soon as the Yankees chose to try an excursion to Savannah.

This battery is built on the most improved plan, and cost over two thousand dollars, which amount has been raised by the ladies of Georgia alone. All honor to them for their great energy and patriotism!

What says the ladies of Louisiana? Cannot they raise a sufficient amount to build one on Red River? An iron clad battery could be built on Red River in time for service in the winter, that with the assistance of our land batteries that will be erected during the summer and fall, would effectually clear the river against all the Yankee gunboats that could be brought against us, in fact such a boat in proper hands would be invaluable to us, not only as a defence, but to assist our transports in crossing the Mississippi river and prevent the mouth of our river from being blockaded.

W. S. D.

It seems strange to us that any more rumors of Foreign intervention should be published by the press, when they know, or should know, that all such reports are gotten up by the enemy, with a view of deceiving us, and with the hope of putting us off our guard. In our last issue we alluded to this same subject; and again take this opportunity of warning our readers against placing any confidence whatever in the rumor. That France finding that England would not join her in interfering in our war, has made propositions to Russia, is, in our opinion, simply ridiculous.

A. D. Grieffe, who it will be remembered was sent up Red River for provisions some time ago, from New Orleans, we learn by the Alexandria Democrat, has taken his departure from this ungenial clime for New York.

The Austin (Texas) State Gazette comes to us this week in mourning for its late editor, Col. John Marshall, well known to the craft as a wholesouled gentleman. The State of Texas has lost in his death a good citizen, and his country an able advocate and brave defender. Requitat in peace.

THE ENEMY ON OUR BORDERS.—Mississippi has now over 40,000 men in other States, and the Yankees being aware of the fact seek to invade her soil from Manchac and Baton Rouge on the South, Memphis and Holy Springs on the North and Vicksburg and Grand Gulf on the West.

Their calculations may be very nice, but when a certain gallant division from Beauregard performs its orders our enemy will learn to their sorrow that it is no easy matters to desecrate Mississippi soil.—Jackson Mississippian.

The Looks.

Our readers have all, probably like ourselves, been anxiously looking forward with great anxiety, for a correct report of the late battle near Richmond, and why it is, that we cannot hear further authentic particulars, seems strange. The silence regarding this reported great battle leads us to infer, that like too many bold achievements, when the truth is known, the complexion changes. It appears to have died away, like the explosion of a volcano, in the distance.

We receive now no intelligence from Richmond, and the forward movement of our army—which every person has been expecting to hear, seems to have been given up. It may be well that the public are kept in ignorance and suspense about the manœuvres of our army and the policy adopted by our government of not making public all of its affairs; yet we opine, that as a people striving to gain their independence it would be far better for them to be informed on all subjects, whether cheering or discouraging. There would be more of a unanimity of feeling evinced, the public would be satisfied, and come what might, the reception of any intelligence would meet with more grace.

We have no hesitancy in saying, and we are not alone in the opinion, that both armies will, with the exception of skirmishes, do no more actual fighting until Fall.

Why it is that all of the Federal fleet have left the vicinity of Vicksburg and gone down the river, would be difficult to conjecture, unless there is some truth in the report that seven iron-clad vessels belonging to the Confederates have made their appearance at the mouth of the Mississippi river. Yet the rumor of the approach of those vessels needs confirmation in our opinion. The dark clouds which for awhile hovered above us, are fast receding from our view, and every day brings with it cheering signs of a bright future. The enemy since the fall of New Orleans have met with naught but stubborn resistance from our forces, in all directions, and instead of an onward march they have been compelled to retrace their steps, they "marched up the hill, and then marched down again." Emboldened by our late successes, the forces in the Confederate service are vying with each other in daring deeds of valor, and the enemy are fast losing faith in their prowess. Already has the soil of Arkansas been cleared of their presence, and we trust it will not be long before all Southern ground will be deserted by them, and they be compelled to protect themselves from an aggressive army, determined to crush to the earth all obstacles until an honorable recognition of our Confederacy be heralded forth to the world, and our rights admitted, and the enemy sue for peace.

Another Revolution.

Our late successes is having a beneficial effect upon the people of the North, and they are now making strenuous efforts to check this war under innumerable pretenses; we need therefore not wonder should we hear of a revolution among themselves. On the 24th ult, Mr. Sausbury, expressed himself in the United States Senate in very strong language not to be misinterpreted. The abolition party received from him thrusts that they will doubtless feel.

He said it was his deliberate and solemn conviction that either abolitionism or constitutional liberty must die—the two cannot exist together. Abolitionism has, for the time being, dissolved the Union; and while it lives it will remain dissolved. No free people either will or ought to submit to its sway. It has been the author of all our political woes.

On the 1st inst according to the N. Y. Express, a meeting was held of the citizens of New York and vicinity opposed the further agitation of the negro question, and in favor of the restoration of the Union as it was, and the maintenance of the Constitution as it is. It was addressed by the Hon. C. A. Wickliffe, of Ky., Wm. Duer of New York, James Brooks, of the New York Express. Hon. Fernando Wood and others.

The call for the meeting was signed by 20,000 persons.—Among the resolutions we find the following, mild one, showing how they esteem the efforts of their abolition brethren:

"That this is a government of white men and was established exclusively for the white race; that the negro race are not entitled to and ought not be admitted to political or social equality with the white race, but that it is our duty to treat them with kindness and consideration as an interior and dependent race; that the right of the several States to determine the position and duties of the race is a sovereign right, and the pledges of the Constitution requires us, as loyal citizens,

not to interfere therewith."

The consequences that may arise from this seemingly determined course, about to be pursued in the North, may prove very disastrous to the Federals, and at the same time be of considerable benefit to our cause; for if they are to become divided, it weakens them, thus strengthening us, and it will then be in the power of our people, if they watch the moment, to take advantage of their family quarrels, and speedily terminate this war. They regret having enlisted in this contest; they are not frank enough to admit the fact, and they are striving now to have no blame rest upon their shoulders and thus evade it. The effect of this policy, we presume, will not be long hidden in the dark, and in a short time we will be better posted.

Commercial Rights of Neutrals—Important to the Cotton Trade.

The following important letter was published in the Mobile papers:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Richmond, Va., May 16, 1862.

SIR:—In answer to your communication of this morning, I have the honor to state that the government has no desire to destroy any cotton belonging to neutrals, but on the contrary, is willing to extend to it, full protection while in its power, provided, the like protection may be effective, when the cotton may fall into the possession of the enemy. The past conduct of the government of the United States, and the passive attitude of neutral nations, whose rights have been violated by the United States, have satisfied us that if cotton belonging to neutrals be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy, it will be seized and appropriated by them regardless of neutral rights, and that neutral powers will fail to afford any protection to the rights of their subjects when thus violated.

If, however, as you suggest, any official assurance shall be formally communicated by the government of any neutral nation, to this nation, of a nature to satisfy us, that cotton belonging to the subjects of such neutral nations shall be effectually protected against seizure and appropriation by the enemy, if allowed to fall into his possession, this government will have no hesitation in issuing instructions, to refrain from the destruction of such cotton, even when exposed to seizure by the enemy.

I am, your obedient servant,
J. P. BENJAMIN,
Secretary of State.
To C. G. BAYLOR, Esq.—

The Mobile papers, says the Mississippian, comment upon Mr. Benjamin's letter in the most favorable terms. We are glad to see that the distinguished Louisianian's unquestioned abilities are turned in this direction. The civil policy of this government is as vital as our military policy. Peace has its victories as well as war. The cotton question has been too long allowed to occupy a very injurious position. It is due alike to the dignity and intelligence of the Southern people that our free trade government should be the foremost to recognize the great principle of commercial freedom, set forth at Paris in 1856, to-wit: the commercial rights of neutrals during war.

The utilization of the cotton crop is secured by Mr. Benjamin's letter. With the sale of our great staple for neutral account we accomplish many desirable things. We turn over to Europe the protection of the crop against Yankee rapacity; we remove the cotton question as a demoralizing and distracting element in the midst of our own people; we strengthen Confederate credit abroad to the extent of \$300,000,000 in gold or its equivalent, and we secure the presence of our superior crop in the world's market in successful competition with the idle hopes of English abolitionism. It is believed by those well acquainted with the condition of our foreign relations, that Europe will move against the North upon the issue presented in Mr. Benjamin's letter to Mr. Baylor. In the meanwhile, let the planters cheer up. Cotton will advance rapidly and find a ready sale.

Edward L. Pearce, the agent of the Yankee Treasury Department at Port Royal, reports: "13,000 acres planted by free negro labor, on the island, one half in cotton; crops forward and well cared for."

It appears there is a prospect for a foreign muss, growing out of a flag of truce steamer having got from Mobile loaded with flour, and getting with it to New Orleans—another Yankee captain in disguise we presume—then buying merchandise from the Yankees, and getting their permit to pass through the blockade. On her arrival, the foreign consuls at Mobile at once took steps to have the blockade of that port declared broken, by the act of the federals. It was supposed European war vessels would interfere at once.—Huntsville (Texas) Item.

We publish the following for the information of the soldiers:

War Department,
Adj't and Inspector Gen's. Office,
Richmond June 17, 1862.
GENERAL ORDERS No. 44.

IV. To prevent misconception in reference to the discharge of men under 18 and over 35 years of age, under the Conscription Act, the army is informed that only such persons as have not re-enlisted for three years or the war will be entitled to their discharge on the 16th of July next. Those of the ages above mentioned who have so re-enlisted, whether they are in the twelve months regiments or war regiments, are not entitled to a discharge until they have served out their term of enlistment.

By command of the Sec'y. of War.
[Signed] S. COOPER,
Adj't. and Inspector General.

The Ranger published at Washington, Texas, says:

Last week an arrest was made at Navasota, by the Provost Marshal, of Verplank Ackeman, postmaster and merchant, for refusing to take Confederate money for debt. He was taken to Houston for trial.

The drouth is long and severe; the grass and all vegetation is near burnt up; the corn crop in the uplands is cut off one half, but as there has been as much again planted as was last year, there will be as great an abundance.—Texas Ranger.

TRADE WITH THE SOUTH.—The Cincinnati Times is not satisfied with the prospects of trade opened up with the South by means of the Lincoln armies. It says:

We sincerely hope that trade will spring into activity as fast as the national army goes South, but we do not think it safe to base commercial success upon that state of affairs. It has now been about three months since we came into possession of Nashville and points above Memphis on the Mississippi river, yet the receipts of the products of the sugar cane have been only forty barrels of molasses and two hogheads of sugar, while articles which have been shipped from here there found a dull market.

This is only the beginning of the lesson which the West has to learn, and that is, that it has been quarrelling with its own bread and butter, warring upon its natural allies and best customers, and been made cat's paw of the shary, greedy and fanatical Puritans of the East.

Woolen rags have at last been reduced to the service of the paper-maker. In England, old coats, and trousers, blankets, &c., hitherto fit for little else than manure, are by some secret process, bleached and transmuted into a white, fibrous pulp, which is freely bought up by the paper-maker at \$22 a ton, and excellent printing paper, suitable for newspapers, made out of it.

The plantations of General Bragg and Polk and Henry Quitman, son of the late Gen. Quitman, and many others, have been taken by the invaders.

RESIGNED.—Gen. Humphrey Marshall has resigned and his resignation has been accepted by the President. His late command was turned over to General Williams, who with his forces is in Mercer or Giles county, Virginia.

The Boston Light Artillery company has been disbanded by order of Gov. Andrew, in consequence of their refusal to enter upon active service for a longer period than six months. This action on the part of the government took place after 100 horses had been purchased for the company.

McClellan Publicly Accused of Treason.

[From the Chicago Post, July 2.]
Yesterday, during the excitement following the first reports of the fight before Richmond, the particular enemies of Gen. McClellan betrayed their bitterness very decidedly. Excited groups collected at every corner. In front of this office a very large crowd collected, anxious to ascertain the news. An excited controversy soon sprung up. In an animated controversy between Messrs. Milton S. Patrick and B. F. Haddock, the former expressed himself very freely and unreservedly against McClellan. Mr. Haddock rejoined warmly. Mr. Patrick, as a clincher, then declared that within a very short period, "Secretary Stanton had told Mr. John H. Dunham that McClellan was the greatest traitor in the North, and that all the material information furnished the rebels of Federal movements was furnished them by McClellan's family."

Mr. Patrick is a well known citizen of Chicago, a man of strong political prejudices, it may be, but still so far above suspicion that we dare not question his word without further evidence. He asserted the fact without any equivocation or reservation that Secretary Stanton had told Mr. Dunham that McClellan was a traitor. Mr. Patrick is, of course, only responsible for the story as it comes from or through Mr. Dunham. Mr. Dunham is a responsible and highly respectable merchant of this city, lately president of a bank, and we do not believe that he would state that Stanton had accused McClellan of treason unless he was sure of the fact. Now, if Mr. Dunham did not hear Mr. Stanton say that McClellan was a traitor, let him say so. The charge has been made publicly on the streets, and Mr. Dunham has been named as the party to whom the Secretary unbosomed himself. If the story is false, justice to the Secretary of War, as well as to McClellan, requires that it should be promptly branded as a falsehood. If true, and the Secretary of War did say that McClellan was a traitor, then the Secretary of War is himself a criminal for allowing a traitor to have command of the army. Let the facts come out.

Threatened Vengeance.

The New York Tribune's army correspondent, writing from Virginia after the late battle, indulges in the following strong language:

When loyal New York regiments, lifted from their feet by the fire of rebel brigades, cry out of their wounds and death for help; when the choicest of New England, Michigan and Pennsylvania troops, outnumbered in front and on both flanks by whole divisions of the enemy, beg for reinforcements, I say that the blackest crime that power can commit is to stalk upon the field of peril and say, "Soldiers, I have no faith in your commander—let your martyrdom proceed;" and so says the army of the Potomac, and it registers to-night vows of vengeance, as it marches, in the dark, from a position their diminished numbers disabled them to hold, but which is consecrated to them forever by their sufferings, their labors, and their wrongs. The politicians and statesmen who left us here to be outnumbered and cut off from our supplies and the possibility of retreat are doomed men.

Brownsville is gradually relapsing into the dullness of old as the cotton trade becomes more settled and regular. At one time we had scores of farmers and country merchants coming and going, bringing small lots of cotton, bacon, pecans, lard, flour, etc., but these small dealers are at present few and far between, and the business has dwindled down to receipts of cotton. This effect is the result of the conscription system, which has taken off most of the young men who drove the independent trading teams, and the business of transportation is now confined to contractors who bring out cotton and carry back merchandise in exchange. This produces the existing apparent dullness, and we do not perceive any sign of a renewal of the flush times that prevailed four or five months ago.—Brownsville Flag.