

The Semi-Weekly News.

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1862.

Persons sending us remittances will be good enough to send no other paper money than Louisiana State or Confederate Notes, Shreveport bills, and Texas Treasury Warrants. Other money sent will be returned.

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

It will be observed by reference to our dispatches in to-days paper, that some of the enemy's fleet are again in the vicinity of Vicksburg. Milliken's Bend, is 20 miles above Vicksburg, on the Mississippi river. Donaldsonville, burned by the Federals, is 83 miles above New Orleans; Bayou Sara is 176 miles above New Orleans.

NEWS FROM NASSAU.—The Wilmington Journal has Nassau dates to the 20th ult. The steamer Oreto, which had been seized and detained as a Confederate war vessel, was released on Friday of last week.

The Federal cruisers capture vessels bound to Nassau under English colors within sight of land, on the plea that they have run, or are going to run the blockade. We confess to a good deal of surprise at learning the extent and character of the outrages to which the once proud mistress of the seas has submitted at the hands of Lincoln's armed vessels.

Nassau is a "cessah" port—the very negroes go for the Confederacy—for the business of "running the blockade" from that port has given it a start which it never had before; and there, too, the price of provisions has gone up largely on account of the unprecedented number of vessels calling for supplies, especially in the way of vegetables. The Yankees will let nothing be shipped from any Northern port except on the shipper giving bond that it is not, in any event, to be carried to any port in the Confederate States. Even goods brought by the Cunard steamers to New York can only be reshipped on the same conditions.

Mr. A. M. Hull will accept our thanks for Mobile papers.

The forepart of this week there was only three fights in one day, in this place. Nollives lost. Brickbats, chairs, and spades were the weapons used. Blood flowed; Blackeyes are visible.

We are blessed with cool nights and mornings.

Rev. Jesse Lee, will preach at the Baptist Church on next sabbath at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The sum of \$403,070.60 has been realized from the sale of prize vessels and cargoes at Philadelphia.

New Orleans papers of April 25th, have come to hand. Wonder where they have been traveling to?

Fernando Wood has at last yielded to the pressure around him. From a letter defending himself from doubt we extract the following:

Since the breaking out of this dreadful civil war I have held out but one position and that is of warm support of the government—and at no time, either by word or act have I aided or abetted in hostility to it.

As an earnest of the truth of what I say on this point, I now offer for the cause of volunteering in this State, the sum of \$5000 if the contrary to this avowal be shown.

Very respectfully, yours, FERNANDO WOOD.

The News.

We have not lately received any important News, further than skirmishes. The aspect of the prosecution of hostilities for some time to come, is no different to what it was weeks ago. The Lincoln government is straining every nerve, and calling out every man capable of bearing arms. They find they have made a splendid calculation without counting the cost. The natural consequence arising from this is, that great dissatisfaction is visible among the people of that tremendous country, who were bent on subjugating a people, that took up arms in defence of their rights and liberties.

Lincoln accounts for the many defeats of his several armies, by saying that the people of the States in rebellion; have gathered together all persons who could bear arms. He therefore figures that the whole Confederate forces, can be easily overcome in a short time, by pursuing the proper course; ordering out all the militia, and making every man shoulder a musket, whether foreign or native born. By this means he calculates raising an army sufficiently strong, to run over, and trample under feet, the rebels by superior weight. In response to his call for more troops, however, he meets with many unexpected blunt refusals.

Our readers must be patient until Lincoln gets his immense force in the field, if they wish to hear stirring news, for the fights that have already been reported will sink into insignificance, if Abe means what he says.

Halleck's Dispatches Read by the Rebels.

A Memphis correspondent of the N. Y. Times writes on the 15th as follows: The telegraph line between Memphis and Corinth is exceedingly important. Gen. Halleck's messages to Commodore Davis, Gen. Curtis and the commandant of this post have all passed over it. Little of the line is guarded, but of late the rebels have refrained from cutting the wires. Their unusual amiability is now explained; they found a better use for it!

For a week the Memphis operators have detected something wrong in the working of the instruments, and surmised that some outsider was snatching their telegraphic secrets. They communicated this suspicion to the superintendent at Corinth, who promised to keep a sharp lookout.

Yesterday they discovered that their uninvited confidant could talk as well as listen. The transmission of a passage was suddenly interrupted by the ejaculation, "O pshaw!" A moment after it was again broken with "Hurrah for Jeff. Davis!"

Individuality shows itself as well in telegraphing as in the footstep, or in handwriting. Mr. Hall, one of the Federal operators at Memphis, instantly recognized the performer, not by his tune, but his time, as a young man formerly in Buffalo and other Northern offices, but now employed by the Confederates. Mr. Hall surprised him by replying promptly, "Ed. Saville, if you don't want to be hung, you had better leave! Our cavalry is closing in on both sides of you!"

There was a little pause, and then the reply: "How in the world did you know me? However, I've been here four days, and learned all we want to know. As this is becoming rather a tight place, I think I will leave. You'll see me again when you least expect it. Good bye, boys!"

The rebel operator made good his escape. He had cut the wire, inserted a piece of his own, and by a pocket instrument had been reading our official dispatches. Some of the utmost importance, giving the very information most desired by the rebels, were passing, and as they were not in cipher, he must have received them. One from Gen. Hovey, commanding at this post, in reply to a question from Gen. Halleck, stated the precise number of our available men in Memphis, and their exact location.

Yankee Doings on the Louisiana Coast.

Messrs. Editors: The writer of this resides in the district called the "Coast," in Louisiana, and gives as positive what he relates.

Nothing that takes place there is published, from the fact that no paper dare do it, for fear of being suppressed.

Not long after the capture of New Orleans a cargo was run in and distributed among the plantations of the Parish of Terrebonne. Butler got wind of it and sent a company of soldiers there who captured two or three wagon loads of goods. While escorting these wagons, one or two Federal soldiers were killed by some patriotic young men of the district. Not being able to catch the offenders, Butler immediately arrested several of the prominent citizens, and entirely destroyed the plantations of three or four

others, because their sons were suspected of being the actors. One paralytic old man, J. B. Bond, was removed from his house and placed in an old cabin, which was the only building remaining on his plantation, the rest having been burnt.

In the vicinity of Baton Rouge nearly every plantation has been stripped of its movable and negroes.

In the vicinity of New Orleans, Phelps has enticed to his camp most of the able-bodied negro men and is drilling them.

About ten days ago a regiment was sent down to the plantation of Mr. D. F. Kenner with orders to strip it, and faithfully did they execute the order. The mowing stock and stable boys, all the mules (200), sheep, cows, corn, &c., to the value of at least \$100,000, were taken away, and to give an idea of the wanton waste of property, an eye witness told me that corn (worth \$3 a bushel) was thrown into the furnace to raise steam on the boat. Mr. Kenner escaped.

Mrs. Kenner and children remained four days in the house frightened nearly to death—not prisoners, but advised by the Yankee officer to remain under his immediate guard as he perhaps would not be able to control his men if she endeavored to go away in her carriage. At the same time several planters of Ascension Parish were made prisoners—Mr. Henry Duval, Stephen Minor, Tassimond Landry, and others.

Mr. Kenner's superintendent and trainer, Mr. Graves and his two overseers, were also carried off. The accusat on against Mr. Kenner was that he was suspected of having entertained a band of Partisan Rangers at his house, and that he had encouraged the enlistment of men for the Confederate service.

Such is the manner in which the Lincolmites are waging war, and I have published this statement that it may reach the eye of our President.

Yours, Mobile Evening News.

The Malvern Hill Affair.

We have at length received reliable and definite information concerning the recent Malvern Hill affair, which dispels all doubt as to the real character of the fight.

After the resistance already presented by our troops, and reported in the imperfect details of the affair, our forces purposely fell back from Malvern Hill, with a view of drawing the enemy further on into the interior. The presumption was that, having possession of the hill, and consequently command of the position, they would project strong forces immediately beyond, whose reception our men were admirably prepared for. This, however did not prove a very safe conclusion, and although the enemy occupied the position in force, they either suspected a ruse or deemed it unprofitable on account of their distance from, or want of support, and speedily abandoned it leaving a small force in possession.

On Thursday morning a squadron of the 1st N. C. cavalry advanced upon the hill, having in reserve the rest of their command and the 10th Va. infantry. They expected a brisk fight, but saw, at first, only one man—a Yankee vidette, who was standing on the top of a house belonging to a Mr. Chew whose estate lay upon the hill. He was ordered to come down, which he did, but with hopes of escape, running as he gained the ground, into one of the negro quarters, where he was taken. His companions, it seems, were also on the premises, and made an effort to escape, but a negro woman belonging to the estate foiled them with the idea that they were going the wrong way, and pointed them to the direction of our men amongst whom they very soon found themselves mixed up, and were consequently captured.

Not a gun was fired in the capture of the hill. 36 prisoners in all were taken.

B. S. Moulton, inspector of government, informs the New York Tribune that in his judgment there are not less than 300,000 stand of arms in the warehouses in Franklin, Worth, White and Warren streets, New York.

New War Policy—Official.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, July 22d, 1862. Executive Order.

1st. Ordered that the military command within the States of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, in an orderly manner, seize and use any property, real or personal, which may be necessary, or convenient, for their several commands, for supplies, or for other military purposes; and that while property may be destroyed for proper military objects, none shall be destroyed in wantonness or malice.

2d. That military and naval commanders shall employ as laborers within and from said States as many persons of African descent as can be advantageously for military or naval purposes, giving them reasonable pay for their labor.

3d. That, as to both property and persons of African descent, accounts shall be kept sufficiently accurate in detail to show the quantities and amounts, and from whom both property and such persons shall have come, as a basis on which compensation can be made in proper case; and the several departments of this government shall attend to and perform their appropriate parts towards the execution of these orders.

By order of the President, EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The Worthington (Ind.) Gazette says that owing to the scarcity of harvest hands, one farmer in that county was compelled to let forty acres of wheat remain uncut and go to waste in the field.

Retaliation—Letter From the President.

Richmond, July 31st, 1862. Sir: On the 22d of this month a cartel for a general exchange of prisoners of war was signed before Major Gen. D. H. Hill, in behalf of the Confederates, and Major Gen. John A. Dix, in behalf of the United States. By the terms of that cartel it is stipulated that all prisoners of war heretofore taken shall be discharged on parole till exchanged. Scarcely had that cartel been signed till the United States commenced a practice, changing the character of the war, from such as becomes civilized nations, into a campaign of indiscriminate robbery and murder.

The general order issued by the Secretary of War in the United States, in the City of Washington, on the very day that the cartel was signed in Virginia, directs the military commanders of the United States to take the private property of our people for the convenience and use of their armies without compensation.

The general order issued by Major Gen. Pope, on the 23d of July, the day after the signing of the cartel, directs the murder of our peaceful inhabitants as spies if found quietly tilling the farms in his rear, or even outside of his lines; and one of his brigadier generals, Steinwehr, has seized upon peaceful inhabitants, to be held as hostages to the end that they be murdered in cold blood if any of his soldiers are killed by some unknown persons, whom he designates as "bushwhackers."

Under this state of facts, this government has issued the enclosed general order recognizing Gen. Pope and his commissioned officers to be in the position which they have chosen for themselves, that of robbers and murderers, and not that of public enemies, entitled if captured, to be considered as prisoners of war. We find ourselves driven by our enemies, by steady progress, toward a practice which we abhor, and which we are vainly striving to avoid. Some of the military authorities of the United States seem to suppose that better success will attend a savage war, in which no quarter is to be given, and no age or sex to be spared, than has hitherto been secured by such hostilities as are alone recognized to be lawful by civilized man in modern times. For the present we renounce our right of retaliation on the innocent, and shall continue to treat private enlisted soldiers of Gen. Pope's army as prisoners of war, but if, after notice to the government at Washington of our confining repressive measures to the punishment only of commissioned officers who are willing participants in these crimes, these savage practices are continued, we shall reluctantly be forced to the last resort of accepting war on the terms chosen by our foes, and the outraged voice of a common humanity forces a respect for the recognized rules of warfare. While these facts would justify our refusal to execute the generous cartel by which we consented to liberate an excess of thousands held by the enemy, a sacred regard of pledged faith, springing from the more semblance of brooding a peace, prevents our resort to this extremity, nor do we desire to extend to any other forces of the enemy the punishment merited only by Gen. Pope and such commissioned officers as choose to participate in the execution of his infamous orders.

You are, therefore, instructed to communicate to the commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States contents of this letter, and copy enclosed of general order, to the end that he may be notified of our intention not to consider any officers hereafter captured from Gen. Pope's army as prisoners of war.

Very respectfully, yours, etc., JEFFERSON DAVIS, To Gen. R. E. Lee, Commanding, etc.

Charge of Poisoning—A Whole Family Under Arrest.

By order of Bri. Gen. Pendleton, Mr. Alexander Falconer, his entire family and slaves, were placed under arrest on the 6th inst., on the charge of poisoning milk sold to certain Confederate soldiers, and taken to Petersburg and lodged in jail.—The Express gives the following:

On Tuesday evening a member of the Irvine Artillery, Captain Lane, stationed a short distance below Petersburg, went to Mr. Falconer's house and engaged two quarts of milk, for which he paid—the milk to be delivered yesterday morning. According to engagement, the soldier called for his milk yesterday morning, and took it to his camp, where the balance of his mess (two others) shared it. After they had finished breakfast, they passed what remained of the milk to two servants of an adjoining mess, who drank it.

These servants, we understand, took nothing else for their breakfast. Shortly afterwards all five of them were taken violently ill—the symptoms and sickness in each case being exactly similar, though some worse than others. It was the opinion of the Surgeon who attended them, that they had been poisoned—and that the poison had been administered to them by means of milk. These facts coming to the notice of Gen. Pendleton, he caused a strong guard to be placed around Mr. Falconer's house, with instructions to allow no one to

pass out until the time when they were all sent up to jail. The case has been turned over to the Mayor for investigation.

Five of the men who partook of the milk died on the 6th inst.

The penalty for passing counterfeit Confederate notes is death. An Act of the last session of the Provisional Congress provides this punishment for this crime, during the existence of the present war between the Confederates and the United States, until one year after the ratification of a peace. The same penalty applies in case of altering or passing any altered Treasury note of the Confederate States.

Excitement in Piquemine.

ARREST OF ONE OF ITS CITIZENS.

About 2 p. m. on Tuesday last our town was admonished by the whistle that a boat was approaching the landing. We started out up the street, but had got but a few yards, when the booming of a gun and the whistling of a shot overhead, caused us to "pause and consider." Immediately some mounted conscripts hurrying up the street, somewhat enlightened us as to the cause of the shot, the ball from which gun just grazed Stockley's brick drug store, and crashing through the chinatrees lining that side of Main street, pierced through the centre of one at Chere's corner, and fell in the street some little distance farther off.

These mounted men, we learned, were on the levee as the boats were approaching, preparing to go on the other side of the river, and it was to them probably, that we may attribute the visit of the boat or boats; (as there were two, the Burton, and a stern wheeler, the —) in fact, it is stated that the Federal Captain or Colonel said that it was owing to his seeing them that he landed.

After the landing, a company of soldiers came ashore in squads, and visited almost every part of our town arresting citizens of high and low degree, and of every age, who were marched around town and finally taken on board the Burton, while others were engaged in searching houses for arms.

During these proceedings the flat and skiffs along our landing were burned, while the steamer Louisiana Belle paid Mr. Brown a visit on the other side of the river—took his bedding, clothing, jewelry, &c., broke open armors and trunks, and burnt his flat and skiffs. Mr. Brown has been a quiet and inoffensive man during this unhappy war, and it looks hard if all that was done to him are brought about by plying his vocation as public ferryman.

The company that was seen on the bank of the river was in the act of going on the other side, when seen by the Burton, called there by an insurrection of the negroes that started at Arnon's and Brenger's plantations, many of whom the night previous were making their way to Baton Rouge, armed with self made knives and spikes, but discovered by two citizens at Manchac, were ordered to halt, and on refusing were fired into. Without the force alluded to, the citizens on that side of the river were in a perilous condition.

Late in the afternoon, the two boats started off down stream, the Burton leading and taking off the arrested citizens with her, and occasionally shelling the coast as she went along.—Piquemine Gazette.

See advertisement of negro girl to hire.

A dispatch from Gen. Pillow to a friend in Brandon states that Curtis' army have driven off, by force, nearly 400 negroes belonging to him, killed one of his overseers, and got three others in jail, and literally laid waste his magnificent plantations. He is thus nearly reduced to poverty at one fell swoop of the enemy, for his devotion to Southern rights.

THE YANKEE ARMY.—The statistics of the United States army show that it is now composed of 75 cavalry regiments, of 15,336 men; 17 artillery regiments, of 59,477 men; 604 infantry regiments, of 508,745 men; also some batteries and detached companies, numbering 17,896 men; making a total of 617,474 men. With the new levy of 300,000, the army will number 917,000 men.