Daily Register.

BAKER & LONG, Editors.

FRIDAY, - - - - DEC. 16, 1864.

THE MEETING TO-NIGHT.

We trust our city readers will not forget the meeting at the Court House to-night to devise some means for the relief of the poor. This cold weather appeals to us all in behalf of those who are destitute of fuel and are scantily clad.

The St. Albans Raiderar

The release by the Canadian authorities, of the parties known as "the St. Albans raiders" is exciting considerable interest in governmental circles. Much indignation is felt and manifested by prominent Americans in consequence of a decision which they think to be a mockery of justice and incompatible with that neutrality which England has professed.

The raiders were first arrested upon a warrant from a Canadian Justice of the Peace. Afterwards, it was held that the warrant was insufficient and a new one was issued by Justice COURSAL, of the Queen's bench. The trial was postponed, at the urgent solicitation of the prisoners, in order to enable them to obtain evidence from Richmond that they were regular soldiers of the Confederate army. Having failed to obtain this evidence, and the time of postponement having expired, the parties were brought up for trial a few days ago. The attorney for the defence objected to the jurisdiction of the court and, after a brief deliberation, Justice COURSAL decided that the proceedings had been irregular and informal and that the prisoners could only be held legally by a warrant signed by the Lieutenant Governor of the province. Accordingly he ordered them to be immediately released. This is, in brief, a history of the judicial proceedings in the case.

General DIX's order in relation to any future raids was contained in our telegraphic dispatches yesterday morning. He instructs his soldiers to pursue beyond the frontier and sieze, even within the boundaries of Canada, any parties who may take refuge there after committing hostile acts in the United States. Should such an event occur, it would probably lead to serious complications and, possibly, war with England. According to the Law of Nations, it may be held that the British power, by permitting hostile expeditions to be fitted out within her territory, to operate against us, and by shielding and covering their escape, commits an act of hostility herself, and, by the violation of her duty as a neutral, relieves us of any obligation to respect her rights in that character.

There are various indications, little things in themselves but links in a circumstantial chain, which go to show that our national relations with England are not quite so pleasant as they might be. The absence of any allusion in the President's Message, to the diplomatic affairs of the two countries; the bitter and, indeed, *ungentlemanly* tone of Mr. SEWARD's letter to Lord WHARNCLIFFE, who sought to do an act of charity to the rebel prisoners in our hands; the departure of Lord LYONS, the British minister, to return home, (on account of ill health, it is said) and the subsequent sale of his house hold goods, implying an intention not to come back; and now, the release of the St. Albans raiders; are all circumstances which *may* be the initiatory steps of a serious rupture between the British government and ours. We mention these things simply as straws which may or may not indicate that a breeze is stirring.

THE Republican leaders in New York are having "a high old time," and are pitching into each other in the most approved style of Kilkenny cat warfare. Ex-Mayor OPDYKE has sued THURLOW WEED for libel, and the case is now on trial and is daily bringing out some very damaging developments concerning both parties. RUFUS ANDREWS, whom WEED succeeded in ousting from the position of Surveyor of the Port, has just published a letter to WEED, which contains brimstone, phosphorus, pistols, daggers and all sorts of deadly weapons done up in rhetorical style. He likens WEED to "Fagin, the Jew," calls him an "unscrupulous old liar" and advises him to imitate Judas Iscarriot by hanging himself, since he has followed his example in other respects. The quarrel is a very pretty one and most persons look upon it with about as much indifference as to the result as the old lady manifested who "didn't care much which whipped," when her husband was fighting the bear.

LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

Richmond Dates of the 10th.

REBEL VIEWS OF MR. LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

From the Richmond Enquirer, Dec. 10.

After commenting upon the financial condition of the United States and the population as exhibited in the vote for President and alluded to in the message, the *Enquirer* says:

But "the good wine is reserved for the last," and the "condition of peace" closes the message, and herein the amiability, mercy and goodness of Mr. Lincoln stick out "like the ears of an ass."

We are informed that we can at any moment have peace simply by laying down our arms and submitting to the national authority, under the Constitution, for he says:—"After so much the Government could not, if it would, maintain war against them." That is to say, after we have surrendered we will not be "shot to death with muskets," as deserters are, but we would be "adjusted" by peaceful means of legislation, courts and votes, all, of course, in constitutional and lawful channels, which, disrobed of its tautology, means hanging and confiscation, or, as the *Herald* puts it, "give up the negroes and a farm of fifty acres to each negro soldier." Such is the message of Mr. Lincoln. Newspaper men are obliged to read it; but any one else who does so is guilty of time thrown away.

THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE.

From the Richmond Sentinel, Dec. 10.

The conclusion of the message is a response to the propositions of the "peace' men. We suppose, if anything can, Mr. Lincoln's emphatic brutal declarations will silence all ideas of that sort hereafter.—Absolute, unqualified submission, to be followed by spoliation of our property and the Africanization of our country, is superciliously laid down as his only terms of "peace." This proclamation of the Message will suffice to silence all objections of every sort to the use of our slaves in the public defense, if that or subjugation be the alternative. Even the New York *Herald*, in its comments on this part of the Message, condemns Mr. Lincoln for the impolicy of pressing us into a situation which leaves nothing to be hoped from his royal clemency, and which shows that the partial or even the complete sacrifice of our social institutions, would be a wise economy, if essential to the achievement of our independence. If such should be come our hard necessity, we should have to thank Mr. Lincoln once again, as we have often thanked him heretofore, for reconciling us to a painful duty, and making easy a difficult choice.

ARREST OF ALLEGED SPIES.

From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 10.

A man calling himself Sterling King, of Kentucky arrested at Wytheville upon the charge of being a spy of the enemy, was received yesterday and committed to the Castle by the Provost Marshal.

Dr. H. P. Rester of Edenton, North Carolina, recently arrested at Salisbury upon the charge of being a spy, was received in Richmond yesterday and committed to the Castle. King first attached suspicion to himself while visiting the Yankee prisons at Danville, and Rester is believed to have visited Salisbury for the purpose of obtaining information for the enemy.

ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP RAILROAD TRAINS.

From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 10.

The Quincy *Dispatch* of the 19th says the Yankees have been attempting to blow up trains of cars on the Florida Railroad with torpedoes. On Tuesday last a torpedo, containing sixty-eight pounds of powder, was taken up by our men, between Baldwin and Gainesville, some fifteen miles from Baldwin. Two trains had passed over the torpedo without exploding it. It was buried in the centre of the track, and was to be fired by means of a lock and cap attached to a musket barrel, and laid under one of the rails, and connecting with the torpedo by a gutta percha tube. A piece of iron happened to be left between the hammer of the lock and the cap, which prevented the explosion when the cars passed over.

THE UBIQUITOUS BEAUREGARD.

From the Charleston Mercury, Dec. 10.

The whereabouts of this distinguished officer has of late been a mystery. Four days ago he was certainly in Macon, Georgia.

ANOTHER RAID ON POLLARD, ALA.

The Montgomery *Appeal* says that no little excitement was created in that city on the 25th ult. by the circulation of a report that a large force of Yankees had landed at Pensacola, and were marching on Pollard. The figures named as to the strength of the party ranged from five to twenty thousand. Notwithstanding military movements indicated that the authorities were exercised about something of importance, the rumor was regarded as principally sensational. A raiding party may be out, probably nothing more.

REVIEW OF WARREN'S OPERATIONS.

From the Richmond Whig, Dec. 10.

Our telegraph column contained this morning, in a condensed form, the latest news received here with reference to the Yankee raid on the south side. By way of review we will state that on Tuesday night a heavy column of Yankees, composed of infantry, artillery and cavalry, left our front and moved out on the Jerusalem plank road. They were reported on Wednesday morning at Proctor's, some twenty miles distant, and still in motion. This column is said to embrace two corps of infantry, with a *quantum sufficit* of artillery, but a small force of cavalry.

A good many knowing people are exercised as to the destination of the raid. If they have no more cavalry than reported they will, of course, soon get to the end of their journey. On the other hand, we are inclined to believe they are better equipped than reported, and we will soon hear of the destruction of bridges, &c., in the direction of Weldon. This, we are frank to admit, will give us some inconvenience, but will not retrieve in the least the palpable and irretrievable failure which Grant has made in his "On to Richmond and Petersburg"

Winter, from present appearances, does seem inclined to wait longer for Ulysses, and unless he soon makes a desperate forward movement, the campaign, as far as he is concerned, will terminate ingloriously.—Can "the ablest General in the world," with a due regard for his fame, permit this? The fact is, he must not only raid but fight, and, if he attempts a fight, do something more than make "a reconnoissance in force."

We give the following distances, that our readers may understand the course taken by the raiders:

Jarrat's is thirty miles from Petersburg and Bellfield ten miles further south of the Weldon road. At this pointthere is a railroad bridge across the Meherrin river, to which the raiders no doubt will give attention, if they have time. Bellfield is in Greensville county, and is twenty-two miles distant from Weldon. The whole distance between Petersburg and Weldon is [illegible] miles.

Up to nine o'clock P. M. we were unable to learn anything further of the enemy's movement, but may state that, from the disposition made by General Lee, it is improbable that the raiders may come to grief ere they are forty-eight hours older.

NOW AT RICHMOND—MORE ABOUT THE JAMES.

From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 10th.

Snow falls on Manchester lines of Richmond An attack was expected this morning, but the interdict of winter may be effectual.

The enemy crossed a small force of infantry to the south side of James river on Wednesday morning, at Cox's Landing, near the mouth of Dutch Gap canal, and below battery Simms. They are upon the neck of low ground where they can do nothing, and cannot advance. Our picket line extends across their front and within three hundred yards of the canal. It is not desirable to hold this point with our forces, but simply to keep them in check in this useless position which they have assumed.

There is no truth in the rumor that they have effected any crossing at a point higher up the river.

Our mortars and batteries command the position, and are keeping up the usual amount of annoyances.

THE SITUATION BELOW RICHMOND—WINTER INTERDICTING ACTIVE OPERATIONS ON THE JAMES.

The sound of heavy guns was heard on yesterday evening on the lines below the city. The firing, though unexplained, is believed to have been nothing more than the shelling, by our river batteries, of the Dutch Gap canal, as the wind at the time was setting fair from that point. Winter seems to have set in in earnest; but still there is no grand attack from Grant. He let the golden days of autum slip by unimproved, and the winter cometh, when no man can fight.

We had not even a rumor from Petersburg on yesterday, which is conclusive evidence that nothing of importance had occurred or was going on there.

REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE ON HONEY HILL.

From the Savannah Republican, Dec. 8.

After giving a detailed account of the various circumstances of the battle, the *Republican* says:

From all indications it is estimated that the loss of the enemy is fully five or six hundred. This is the lowest estimate that we have heard. Many officers are of the opinion that their loss cannot be less than one thousand. Ours was eight killed outright and thirty nine wounded, three or four mortally. The enemy fought to some disadvantage, as they fired up hill and most of their shots ranged too high.

So much for the battle of Honey Hill.—The enemy were whipped long before its close, but they waited for night to save themselves from disaster in their retreat. Soon after dark they made off with all possible speed, and, as the evidences show, with the wildest fright and confusion.—Nearly everything was thrown away in their flight. The road and the woods for miles were strewn with clothing of every description, canteens, cooking utensils, &c., &c., whilst in their camp, about two miles from the battle field, they left everything. Any quantity of provisions, bottles of liquor, preserved meats, blankets, overcoats, &c., were abandoned in their hasty retreat. With the exception of shelling from their gun-boats next day, which was harmless, nothing has been heard of them since their galling defeat and inglorious flight.

FROM THE LINE OF THE SAVANNAH RAILROAD.

From the Charleston Mercury, Dec. 5.

We have nothing additional of interest from the coast below. Passengers by the Savannah train which came in last evening, reported that a fight was going on somewhere near Pocotaligo, as they passed that point; but we were unable to gather any definite details in regard to the progress or result of the reported action.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS—THE FLORIDA SEIZURE AND THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE.

SENATE.

Dec. 8, 1864.

The Senate was called to order at twelve o'clock by Vice President Stephens. (This is Mr. Stephens' first appearance in his seat during the present session.)

On motion of Mr. Ott, the resolutions in regard to the seizure of the Florida were called up.

The resolutions were then read as follows:

Resolved, That the seizure of the Confederate war steamer Florida, by the U. S. steam sloop-of-war Wachusett, in the bay of Bahia, on the 7th of October last, was a flagrant outrage upon the territorial sovereignty of Brazil, violative of the rights of this government on neutral waters, in disregard of the law of nations, and therefore a wrong done to every civilized maritime power.

Resolved, That it was the duty of Brazil, under the law of nations, to protect the property of the Confederate States whilst within its territory, against the hostile acts of every power, and having failed to give such protection, that the government is bound to enforce the restitution in *statu quo* of the steamer Florida by the authorities of the United States to the authorities of the Confederate States in the bay of Bahia, where is was unlawfully captured.

Resolved, That the President be requested to have communicated to all our commissioners abroad a full statement of the illegal seizure and capture of the Florida, together with the opinions of the government on the outrage, and that said commissioners be instructed to bring the same to the attention of the governments of Europe in which they respectively reside.

Mr. Semmes was opposed to the third resolution, which instructs our ministers to call the attention of foreign powers to the seizure. If that resolution was adopted the information would have to be communicated in some sort of back door manner, both England and France having refused to recognize the Confederate government. He moved to strike out that resolution.

Mr. Orr said that the governments of Europe had all recognized the Confederate States as a belligerent power, and it was simply to complain that our rights as a belligerent had been outraged that the resolutions were introduced.

Mr. Maxwell was disposed to agree with the gentleman from Louisiana. He felt more like recalling those commissioners than sending them fresh instructions.

The vote being taken upon the motion of Mr. Semmes, to strike out, it was decided in the negative. So the motion was lost.

Mr. Graham moved to amend by insert in the following:

That the Senate has seen, with great satisfaction, the manifestation of spirit and preparations with which the authorities of Brazil have interposed to procure redress for this flagrant violation of rights of hospitality and the law of nations,

Mr. Graham thought that if half the pains had been taken to secure recognition by the Brazilian government that has been taken with England and France, it would have met with more satisfactory results.—He hoped the Senate would adopt the resolution.

Mr. Orr said that it was known that the Governor of Bahia had acted very creditable in the matter; but we had no knowledge as to the position which the Emperor would take. He, therefore, feared that the resolution might be ill-timed or premature.

Mr. Graham thought that we had received sufficient information through the English press.

Mr. Hill didn't want to be thankful for too small a favor. Nothing that Brazil had yet done amounted to redress. It amounted to simply nothing, unless she did more.

The vote being taken, the resolution was lost.

The resolutions, amended in several unimportant particulars, were then passed.

The engrossed joint resolution, authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to Brazil, was then taken up and passed.

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