

### The Shreveport Weekly News

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JOHN DICKINSON,  
Editor and Proprietor.

### THE SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS

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On Wednesday morning we had quite a heavy sleet storm, which was followed by a cold drenching rain.

All of North Mississippi has been evacuated by the Federals, to reinforce the troops to be brought in action against Vicksburg.

We have been repeatedly asked whether it is safe to travel by the way of Monroe, in going to Vicksburg? We think not, and make the following extract from a letter published in the Jackson Appeal, that our readers may judge for themselves. The letter bears date of the 23d ult.

This morning a large fleet is plainly in sight of the town above the canal, at which they seem to be engaged. A large force yesterday was reconnoitering that famous ditch, and a small number of citizens who were making their way across the bottom on the Vicksburg and Shreveport road, were captured.

The Vicksburg Whig of the 27th says that the water has been turned in the ditch dug by the Yanks opposite Vicksburg.

Passengers by boat say that the Legislature of Kentucky have voted that State out of the Union. She is to cast her lot with the seceders.

GEN. STEPHEN D. LEE.—Many have asked, says the Mississippi, "what Gen. Lee is it who commands at Vicksburg?" His name is Stephen D. Lee. He is a South Carolinian by birth. He was an officer in the United States army, and resigned his commission when the war broke out, and attached himself to the army of South Carolina; was made a captain in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States; superintended the construction of the fortifications at Port Royal; went to Virginia and fought in some of the battles of that State; has been made a General for bravery and good conduct and has been assigned to the command at Vicksburg. His success so far indicates that he is the right man in the right place.—[La. Democrat.

Elsewhere we publish a letter from our army correspondent, which, though long on its way, will be found interesting. It was the first sent but last received.

We learn by a letter received from Dr. W. S. Donaldson, that the small pox has almost entirely disappeared in Mansfield. Up to the 2d instant there had been no new cases for fifteen days. We are pleased to hear this.

LINCOLN UNDER HIS TROUBLES.—Lincoln is said to be "growing grey" under his troubles. The editor of the Cincinnati Commercial, who saw him out recently in public, writes:

The President and his wife visited the capitol on Saturday to look at the new buildings. The President's face in repose has a careworn expression that seems to appeal for sympathy. He may find a good many things yet that remind him of stories he heard in Illinois, and the stories may not be, remarkably sober or neat, but no one can look in his face and believe that he is insensible to the responsibilities pressing upon him. Those who see him often say that his hair is turning grey rapidly.

Reliable information from Kentucky of the 13th says:

Gen. Woolford made a speech to his men in the presence of 3000 citizens of Lebanon, telling them to go home for twenty days. It is within that time Lincoln did not modify his Emancipation Proclamation, he would not call on them to fight against the South but would himself take the field in behalf of the South, against the North.

Signed, G. A. Elsworth,  
Morgan's Operator.

### Let it be Attended to.

Long ago we advised the recalling of our commissioners, Mason and Slidell, and suggested the propriety of giving the different Consuls in the Confederate lines, notice to pack up and leave for their homes. Our reason was, that as the nations they represented did not recognize us, we could not permit them to remain among us. Whether the theory was advisable then, we will not argue, but do think that the time has arrived, for some step of the kind to be taken by the Confederacy. In keeping a viper in our embrace, we endanger ourselves more than if we were to cast it from us, and watch its movements.

By reference to the dispatches in to-day's paper, it will be observed that through that class of men intrigues have been on foot of which we little dreamed. Whether the French Emperor enacted a part in it or not, is a matter of no import, for it is sufficient for us to know that where there is smoke, we may expect to find fire. That the hellish designs of those consuls emanated from higher personages, we have not the least doubt, and we trust the lesson imparted will not be permitted to pass by unheeded.

Our commissioners have sought enough interviews, and been subject to too many incivilities, to be allowed any longer stay among the crown heads. They should be recalled, for this is what, in our estimation, ought to be done, by a government with our pretensions. The consequences likely to arise from pursuing this course, we are fully aware of; it may, at the worst, be considered a declaration of war with all the civilized nations. This is nothing more than may be expected if the war does not soon end. On the contrary, it may be the means of bringing the powers now entreated, to a proper sense of their duty towards a people battling for their liberties, and rather than engage in a profitless war, they might be induced to grant us the recognition we seek.

### Don't Wait to be Drafted.

By published orders, we learn that Governor Moore calls immediately for nine regiments of infantry, three companies of artillery, and six companies of cavalry. If the call is not filled by voluntary enlistments, by the first day of March (which is short notice, when we take into consideration that no general notice has been given, up to present writing, through the papers of the seat of government, or any other but one), the Militia will be called on in such proportion as is necessary to complete the number required.

Such being the case, we give our citizens notification of the fact, without official authority or charges to the State for the same, that the hour has arrived for Cadde to show her patriotism.—though nearly drained and left exposed to the danger of being by rallying to the standard of the State, voluntarily, rather than to be dragged like an unwilling slave.

Whenever a Parish responds to this call by sending her quota of men as volunteers, said Parish will not have to furnish militia for active service. This fact, when understood by our people will, we feel confident, cause them to exert themselves and prove that Cadde is the banner Parish. Organize at once and report by letter to the Adjutant General's office, and you not only escape a draft, but secure a bounty of fifty dollars and eighty acres of land. This is a matter of necessity and will not admit of any reflection. "To be (drafted) or not to be, that is the question."

Companies must consist of not less than sixty-four privates, nor more than one hundred, and have the right to elect their own officers. The pay of privates will be sixteen dollars per month.

All foreigners, whether naturalized or unnaturalized; all residents, permanent or temporary, and all transient persons will be enrolled.

Lieut. Col. Hawkins will accept our thanks for the loan of late papers.

### Army Correspondence.

SNYDER'S BLUFF,  
January 16th, 1863.

Dear News—I am just returned from picket duty, and having a little spare time, I intend to use it for you. Arriving at Vicksburg but three days ago, and learning that the 2d La. was camped at this place, I borrowed a horse and buggy from a friend, and was soon among my old comrades.—The road from Vicksburg to this point runs through the battle ground which afforded me a fine view of the field of strife, in which our arms were so triumphant. Snyder's Bluff or Snyder's Mill as it is sometimes called,

is 12 miles from Vicksburg. It is a very strong fortification, and about fifteen miles from the mouth of the Yazoo river. From this place to Vicksburg runs a long range of broken hills, which are natural fortifications, and science has made them impregnable. From the base of these hills to the banks of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers, is a low flat bottom or swamp which is mostly covered with heavy timber. The enemy landed all his forces below this point, at the same attacking our batteries on the bluff. His line of battle extending from this place to Young's Point, near Vicksburg, making it nearly eleven miles long. I will not say much about the battle, only this, that the immortal city of Vicksburg still lives. They failed in taking it by water and by land. According to latest accounts the enemy acknowledge a loss of 5000 killed and wounded. Our loss is nearly 100. So much for fortifications. The gunboat Benton came around the bend within half a mile of our batteries, the other gunboats were around the point, out of view of the batteries. The Benton concentrated all the fire, while the flag ship had it all her own way for a long time. The Benton was struck 32 times, seven shots penetrating. There is one gun in our battery, a 24 pounder, which never shot her load at the flag ship and two shots were sufficient for that ship went down the river in half an hour. The Captain of the Benton was killed, and 12 privates killed and wounded. Commodore Porter is also badly wounded. One shot at the battery was one private killed and one slightly wounded. The engagement lasted about two and half hours. At the foot of the battery is the famous ruff. It is the work of a woman, and a stupendous piece of work. The first brigade, first division, Army of the West, is stationed here. Gen. Louis Hebert commanding Post. The hill has picked the ruff, and put the guns on the bluff. When I was here I found the old regiment camped in an old corn field, without any tents, blankets, cooking utensils, or even a change of clothing, and on blankets and baggage on a station on the Miss. Central R. R. 75 miles distant, in consequence of which the men suffer a great deal, being exposed to the cold rain and the drenching of winter, but the noble fellows bear it all without a murmur. No news of importance. The boys are anxious to see the "News." Send it along.

### The Exemption Amendments.

The following is the amendment to the exemption law introduced in the Confederate Congress by Mr. Brinkdale, which the telegraph informs us, says the Jackson (Miss.) Appeal, has passed the House:

An act to repeal certain parts of an act entitled "An act to exempt certain persons from military duty." The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That the parts of the first section of an act entitled "An act to exempt certain persons from military duty," etc., approved Oct. 11th 1862, which exempts one person, either an agent, owner or overseer on each plantation, on which one person is required to be kept by the laws of any State, and on which there is no white male adult not liable to military service, and in States having no such law, one person on each plantation, or overseer on such plantation, on which there is no white male adult not liable to military service; and for additional police for every twenty negroes on two or more plantations within five miles of each other and each having less than twenty negroes on which there is no white male adult not liable to military duty, one person, being the eldest of the owners or overseers on such plantations, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Some little discussion ensued, when the bill was introduced, Mr. Barksdale explaining it at some length, and expressing his belief that its early passage was of vital and instant importance. To this Mr. Clark of Ga., replied that he deprecated that style of remark in the House, which would have the country believe that this revolution would be thrown away and the cause lost, unless some particular measure was promptly treated and acted upon by the House, to which Mr. B. replied:

He did not so assume. But it was known from Federal official reports that the enemy had called a million of men in the field. His navy was unparalleled in the number of its vessels and the splendor and formidableness of their equipments. At every point the enemy was preparing to precipitate himself upon us, and in this condition of things it was not absurd nor extraordinary to say that our success might depend upon our bringing all our available force promptly and effectively into the field.

The clause of the old exemption law which he desired to have repealed, exempted not a thousand but tens of thousands of men. Moreover, it had been a Pandora's box, from which a swarm of evils had issued. Now that the seasons had interposed a truce to active hostilities, we should busy ourselves to bring out and develop all the elements of strength we had in the South to cope with the enemy and contest the fortunes of this war.

Wilcox, who was a prisoner in Richmond, having been brought here from the first battle of Manassas, has issued some instructions to his corps, from which we take the following extract:

3d. On going into action let all remember the necessity of keeping cool, closing up well on the enemy, and taking good aim. Cavalry charges are always to be met, not by random firing, but by a well directed volley, which will inevitably scatter the horses. Artillery fire is more frightful in sound and appearance than in reality and the quicker men move over the ground to the front the smaller will be the loss. Ammunition should not be hoarded. One well aimed bullet does more execution than ten that are not aimed, so that four good shots are worth more than forty rounds fired at random. Many battles are lost because ammunition is not just at the critical moment.—Even rapid firing can be best conducted coolly and with regular aim.

### Sinking of the U.S. Gunboat Hatteras by a Confederate Man-of-War.

OFF GALVESTON, TEX. Jan 13, 1863.  
At the first Galveston disaster you know all. The rebels occupy the city with a strong force of 4000 or 5000 men. The city is well fortified with batteries all around.

On Sunday evening a strange sail appeared off the harbor. The gunboat Hatteras went in chase, nearly ten o'clock. A heavy fire was soon opened, and the ship was soon disabled. The Hatteras was a purchased iron vessel, and the gunboat Santa Fe, started in pursuit. The firing ceased between these vessels reached the spot—some twenty miles from Galveston. At daylight, next day, Capt. Leary, of the Santa Fe, picked up a boat containing an officer and five men, belonging to the Hatteras. They reported that at 7 o'clock on Sunday evening the Hatteras ran aground on a sand bar, which looked like the Alabama she was called by Capt. Leary, and reported that "I am for Delaware Major's summer signature." Captain Blake said, "Well, you know I sold a boat board of you." A boat was hoisted—the one spoken of having been picked up.

Just as this boat showed off the strange steamer opened a fire on her, and the Hatteras, both vessels being engaged, a furious combat—lasting about half an hour but even if they were twenty minutes, the officers on the boat saw the Hatteras stop, evidently crippled; then they were seen cleaving on board the rebel steamer. The Brooklyn and Santa Fe crossed all night and next day found the wreck of the Hatteras, sunk in six fathoms water. Some of her boats were picked up which contained arms and bloody clothes. The Hatteras was a purchased iron vessel, and the gunboat Santa Fe, started in pursuit. The firing ceased between these vessels reached the spot—some twenty miles from Galveston. At daylight, next day, Capt. Leary, of the Santa Fe, picked up a boat containing an officer and five men, belonging to the Hatteras. They reported that at 7 o'clock on Sunday evening the Hatteras ran aground on a sand bar, which looked like the Alabama she was called by Capt. Leary, and reported that "I am for Delaware Major's summer signature." Captain Blake said, "Well, you know I sold a boat board of you." A boat was hoisted—the one spoken of having been picked up.

### TELEGRAPHIC.

Vicksburg Jan. 22.—The enemy has been hauling troops from his magazines below Young's Point, all day, and some twenty boats are now lying a mile and a half above the mouth of the canal. Troops can be seen from the city, and tents and camp fires are also visible this afternoon.

Occasional shells have been thrown from our batteries during the day.

Seven prisoners, captured near Milliken's Bend confirm the report of the fall of Arkansas Post.

Richmond Jan. 23.—The revelations of the letters to Mason and Slidell published in the Northern papers, strengthen the conviction, that our ambassadors abroad should be recalled.

It appears that two French consuls in Texas have been intrusted to separate that State from the Confederacy, and induce it to place itself under the protection of France, in consequence of which both were expelled from the country. It is believed, however, that Napoleon had no part in the plot.

Lord Russell, it seems, secretly meets Mason with the courtesy due a private gentleman, and while Slidell is making calls at the Tallies, intrigues are set on foot by French subjects to detach a portion of the Confederacy from the other.

It is advised in influential quarters to annul every consular exequator in the Confederate States, and not allow any foreign consuls to remain here and plot at leisure our destruction.

Rodney, Miss., Jan. 22.—A courier arrived at St. Joseph, La., at two o'clock this evening, from Major Harrison's headquarters, six miles above Carthage, reports that 200 Yankee cavalry surprised the Texas cavalry this morning.

The Yankees were repulsed with the loss of their Colonel, who was mortally wounded and captured by our men before he expired.

He said his command started out with the avowed intention of capturing Major Harrison and his battalion. No one hurt on our side.

Major Harrison was sent down for reinforcements, and expects the attack to be renewed. Our men taken wholly by surprise, being dismounted,

ed, but fought them on foot.

Fredericksburg, Jan. 21.—The Yankees are building an immense warehouse at Aquia Creek, and repairing the railroad; putting batteries in position in front, and giving other evidences of an intention to make this the permanent base of operations for winter quarters.

A large dwelling, formerly belonging to Gen. Bankhead, was burnt yesterday morning. The conflagration caused the explosion of some shell in the building, which produced great excitement, and both armies were drawn up in line of battle.

Wilmington, Jan. 23.—Scouts officially report that the enemy has burnt the bridge at Jacksonville, on the Court House, and retired toward Newbern. All quiet here.

Tallahassee, Jan. 22.—Lieut. Col. Hutchinson, with one hundred men of Morgan's cavalry, made a dash yesterday upon the enemy's camp at Murrellsboro, and captured and brought off safely one hundred and fifty prisoners and thirty wagons.—Major Holman, of Wheeler's cavalry, since my last report, has captured and destroyed another large transport on the Cumberland, loaded with subsistence.

The enemy has made no show of an advance upon Bragg from Murfreesboro.

Richmond Jan. 23.—The Engineer predicts it will turn out that the Yankee gunboat Hatteras was sunk by the Florida Capt. Mait, who being near Galveston, and learning of the probability of the capture of the Hatteras, determined to aid her in sailing from Galveston.

In the Senate Mr. Hunter introduced a bill to regulate the currency, the provision of which corresponds with the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury. Several other propositions and bills of no special importance were introduced when the Senate adjourned until Monday.

In the house, Mr. Foster offered a resolution of thanks to Wheeler's cavalry, which was laid over.

The house unanimously passed Mr. Hillen's bill repealing that clause in the exemption act exempting the agent, owner, or overseer on plantations and one person in addition as a police for every twenty negroes on two or more plantations within five miles of each other.

Mr. Clackett offered a joint resolution that no person be permitted to be retained in custody in the case of the capture of a vessel of a country of the United States and the territorial integrity of each.

Pending this the house took up the exemption bill reported by the military committee, but taking final action.

Parkins offered a resolution looking to the liberation of persons taken prisoners in civil life.

The bill introduced by Mr. Burke, of Miss., to repeal the slave clause of the exemption act, was passed when the house adjourned until Monday.

Richmond, Jan. 23.—The N. York correspondent of the Liverpool Mercury says, that after the removal of McClellan, the President and Cabinet were so divided, that Washington should be captured that a fast steamer with steam up, was kept to carry them and their families away at a moment's notice.

The submarine cable to be laid between New Orleans and Port-au-Prince will touch at Fort Mifflin, Beaufort, N. C., Port Royal, S. C., Fernandina, Key West, and Port Piquet.

Charleston, Jan. 23.—The steam propeller, Princess Royal, from Glasgow, was captured at an early hour this morning off this port by the Yankee blockaders. Capt. F. O'Connell, of Charleston pilot, and several passengers escaped in a boat and reached the city last evening. Valuable dispatches which were on board from Capt. Maury, C. S. N., now in Europe, to the Confederate Government, have been saved and brought to the city.

The Princess Royal had on board a cargo of great value to us, consisting of machinery for gunboats—White-wolf guns, rifles, powder and some workmen, who were to instruct parties here in reference to manufacture of new projectiles.

The bulk of her cargo was about 900 tons weight and measurement.—Capt. Lawton was sick in the cabin at the time of the capture and had a terrible voyage, experiencing terrible gales in high northern latitudes.

Charleston Jan. 23.—One day's letter advices from Nassau report the sailing of a number of steamers for Southern ports.

A dispatch from Hardeeville, says that Capt. Fair's artillery attacked a gunboat at Buckinham's ferry. No loss on our side; that of the enemy not known.

Richmond Jan. 23.—Advices from Fredericksburg represent all quiet. The tempestuous weather has probably disconcerted the enemy's plan and defeated his programme for the capture of Richmond and Wilmington.

He will not be able to accomplish anything in Northern Virginia and Eastern North Carolina this winter.

Butler has arrived at home at last and made another characteristic speech. He said: "Within the first month after my arrival, 14,000 of the bone and sinew of New Orleans had taken the oath of allegiance; not by lip service only, but from their hearts, and from that day I found no man owning slaves who would take the oath of allegiance, except for the purpose of saving his property. I found working men true to the Union and slave holders false to the Union,

and I dealt kindly with the working men and dealt harshly with the slave holder.

From the Monroe Register.  
Delhi, La. Jan. 26.—Major Harrison was attacked by two hundred and twenty Federal cavalry at Grove's, on the 23d. He was protected by the trees and fence. He fired one volley at them, and drove them back wounding nine or ten and killing Col. Stewart, of McClelland's staff. He was buried at Fisk's. The important papers found on his body were sent to Vicksburg. The Major is expecting the enemy to attack him soon at Love's place, Bayou Vadell.

Jan. 27.—A letter from Maj. Harrison says the enemy has a battery and considerable force below Vicksburg, stopping our communication.

Jan. 3.—Scouts report the Yankees closely kept in camp at Young's Point, have stopped working on the ditch. They retired from Richmond at night, after being kept at bay two hours by Harper's men. One hundred and forty-eight boats at the Point.

The enemy, about 200, tried yesterday to cross Roundway Bayou, at Richmond; they were held bay by Harper's men; nobody hurt, at sunset, when firing ceased. Our forces at Arkansas Post made their escape by capturing their captives and the boats, carrying them to North.

Tallahassee, Jan. 30.—Three Yankees came here yesterday night. I lost my horse and my instruments; in the morning they were this side the bayou opposite Richmond, where they and a skirmish with Harper's company, firing for about an hour across the bayou. One Yankee killed and several wounded. None of our men hurt. E. G. Eschliant, Operator.

Jan. 31.—Saturday morning the enemy advanced on Richmond, La., with 200 cavalry and one piece of artillery, and got as far as Bayou Roundway, where they were held upon and held in check, and at last driven back with the loss of an adjutant killed and nine men wounded.

The Yankees were opposed by Capt. Harper's company, and shot by thirty pieces, men, and reinforcements to General J. F. Gagnard, and fifteen men from Capt. Parke's company.

The stationers fired on Richmond, and the women and children without doors.

Feb. 1.—In the skirmish yesterday one Yankee regiment and three privates wounded. No one hurt on our side. The only damage done was to the houses in Richmond. They fired on the town with their rifles.

Feb. 2.—Heavy rain during the night at Vicksburg this morning.—The firing lasted for over an hour.



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