Important from the Rebels.

# Jeff. Davis' Message to the Rebel Congress.

## RECONSTRUCTION DECLARED IMPOSSIBLE.

His Opinion of the Mason & Slidell Capture.

### APPEAL TO EUROPE.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

The few weeks which have elapsed since your adjournment, have brought us so near the close of the year that we are now able to sum up its general results. The retrospect is such as should fill the hearts of our people with gratitude to Providence for His kind interposition in their behalf. Abundant yields have rewarded the labor of the agriculturists, while the manufacturing industry of the Confederate States was never so prosperous as now. The necessities of the times have called into existence new branches of manufactures, and given a fresh impulse to the activity of those heretofore in operation. The means of the Confederate States for manufacturing the necessaries and comforts of life within themselves increase as the conflict continues, and we are gradually becoming independent of the rest of the world for the supplies of such military stores and munitions as are indispensable for the war.

The operations of the army, soon to be partially interrupted by the approaching winter, have afforded a protection to the country, and shed a lustre upon its arms, through the trying vicissitudes of more than one arduous campaign, which entitle our brave volunteers to our praise and gratitude. From its commencement up to the present period the war has been enlarging its proportions and expanding its boundaries, so as to include new fields. The conflict now extends from the shores of the Chesapeake to the confines of Missouri and Arizona. Yet sudden calls from the remotest points for military aid have been met with promptness enough not only to avert disaster, in the face of superior numbers, but also to roll back the tide of invasion from the border. When the war commenced the enemy were possessed of certain strategic points and strong places within the Confederate State. They greatly exceeded us in numbers, in available resources, and in the supplies necessary for war. Military establishments had been long organized, and were completed. The navy, also, for the most part, the army, once organized, with officers, were in their possession. To meet all this we had to create not only an army in the face of war itself, but also military establishments necessary to equip and place it in the field. It ought, indeed, to be a source of congratulation, that a spirit of the volunteers, and the patriotism of the people, have enabled us, under Providence, to grapple successfully with these difficulties.

A succession of glorious victories at Bethel, Bull Run, Manassas, Springfield, Lexington, Lesburgh and Belmont, has checked the wicked invasion which greed of gain and the unhallowed lust of power brought upon our soil, and has proved that numbers cannot avail when directed against a people fighting for the sacred rights of self government and privileges of freemen. After seven months of war, the enemy have not only failed to extend their occupancy of our soil, but now states and territories have been added to our confederacy; while, instead of their threatened march of unchecked conquest, they have been driven, at more than one point, to assume the defensive, and upon a fair comparison between the belligerents as to men, military means and financial condition, the confederate states are relatively much stronger now than when the struggle commenced.

Since your adjournment the people of Missouri have conducted the way in the face of almost unparalleled difficulties, with a spirit and success alike worthy of themselves and of the great cause in which they are siding. Since that time Kentucky, too, has become the theater of active hostilities. The Federal forces have notoriously refused to acknowledge her right to be neutral, and have insisted upon making her a party to the war, but have invaded her for the purpose of attacking the Confederate States. Outrages of a despotic character have been perpetrated upon her people. Some of her most eminent citizens have been seized, and borne away to languish in foreign prisons, without knowing who were their accusers, or the specific charges made against them, while others have been forced to abandon their homes, their families and property, and seek a refuge in distant lands.

Finding that the Confederate states were about to be invaded through Kentucky, and that her people, after being deceived into a mistaken security, were unarmed and in danger of being subjugated by the Federal forces, our armies were marched into that state to repel the enemy and prevent their occupation of certain strategic points, which would have given them great advantages in the contest—a step which was justified not only by the necessities of self-defence on the part of the Confederate states, but also by a desire to aid the people of Kentucky. It was never intended by the Confederate Government to conquer or overrule the people of that state, but on the contrary it was declared by our Generals that they would withdraw their troops if the Federal Government would do likewise. Proclamation was also made of the desire to respect the neutrality of Kentucky, and the intention to abide by the wishes of her people as soon as they were free to express their opinions. These declarations were approved by me, and I should regard it as one of the best effects of the march of our troops into Kentucky if it should end in giving to her people liberty of choice, and a fair opportunity to decide their own destiny according to their own will.

The army has been easily instrumental in prosecuting the great contest in which we are engaged; but the navy has also been effective in full proportion to its means. The naval officers, deprived to a great extent of an opportunity to make their professional skill available at sea, have served with commendable zeal and gallantry on shore and upon inland waters, further detail of which will be found in the reports of the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of War.

In the transportation of the mails many difficulties have arisen, which will be found fully developed in the report of the Postmaster-General. The absorption of the ordinary means of transportation for the movement of troops and military supplies, the insufficiency of the rolling stock of railroads for the accommodation of business resulting both from military operations and the obstruction of water communication by the presence of the enemy's fleet, the failure and even refusal of contractors to comply with the terms of their agreements, the difficulties inherent in inaugurating so vast and complicated a system as that which requires postal facilities for every town and village in a territory so extended as ours, all combined to impede the best-directed efforts of the Postmaster-General, whose zeal, industry and ability have been taxed to the utmost extent. Some of these difficulties can only be overcome by time and an improved condition of the country upon the restoration of peace, but others may be remedied by legislation, and your attention is invited to the recommendations contained in the report of the head of that department.

The condition of the Treasury will, doubtless, be a subject of anxious inquiry on your part. I am happy to say that the financial system already adopted has worked well so far, and promises good results for the future. To the extent that Treasury notes may be issued, the Government is enabled to borrow money without interest, and thus facilitate the conduct of the war. This extent is measured by the portion of the field of circulation which these notes can be made to occupy. The portion of the field thus occupied depends, again, upon the amount of the debts for which they are receivable, and dues, not only to the Confederate and State Governments, but also to corporations and individuals, are payable in this medium. A large amount of it may be circulated at par. There is every reason to believe that the Confederate Treasury note is fast becoming such a medium. The provision that these notes shall be convertible into Confederate stock, bearing eight per cent. interest, at the pleasure of the holder, insures them against a depreciation below the value of that stock, and no considerable fall in that value need be feared, so long as the interest shall be punctually paid. The punctual payment of this interest has been secured by the act passed by you at the last session, imposing such a rate of taxation as must provide sufficient means for that purpose.

For the successful prosecution of this war, it is indispensable that the means of transporting troops and military supplies be furnished, as far as possible, in such manner as not to interrupt the commercial intercourse between our people, nor place a check on their productive energies. To this end the means of transportation from one section of our country to the other must be carefully guarded and improved; and this should be the object of anxious care on the part of the State and Confederate Governments, so far as they may have power over the subject.

We have already two main systems of through transportation from the north to the south—one from Richmond, along the seaboard; the other through Western Virginia to New Orleans. A third might be secured by completing a link of about 40 miles between Danville, in Virginia, and Greensborough, in North Carolina. The construction of this comparatively short line would give us a through route from north to south in the interior of the Confederate states, and give us access to population, and to military resources, from which we are now, in a great measure, debarred. We should increase greatly the safety and capacity of our means for transporting men and military supplies. If the construction of the road should in the judgment of Congress, as it is in mine, be indispensable for the more successful prosecution of the war, the action of the Government will not be restrained by the Constitutional objection which would attach to a work for commercial purposes; and attention is invited to the practicability of securing its early completion, by giving the needful aid to the company organized for its construction and administration.

If we husband our means, and make a judicious use of our resources, it would be difficult to fix limit to the period during which we could conduct a war against the adversary whom we now encounter. The very efforts which he makes to isolate and invade us must exhaust his means, whilst they serve to complete the circle and diversify the productions of our industrial system. The reconstruction which he seeks to effect by arms becomes daily more and more palpably impossible. Not only do the causes which induced us to separate still exist in full force, but they have been strengthened, and whatever doubt may have lingered in the minds of any must have been completely dispelled by subsequent events.

Instead of being a dissolution of a league, it were indeed a revolution in which we are engaged, we might find in simple vindication for the course we have adopted in the secession which are now being enacted in the United States. Our people now look with contemptuous astonishment on those with whom they have been so recently associated. They shrink with aversion from the bare idea of renewing such a connection. When they see a President making war without the assent of Congress; when they behold judges threatened because they maintain the writ of habeas corpus, so sacred to freemen; when they see justice and law trampled under the armed heel of military authority and upright men and innocent women dragged to distant dungeons upon the mere edict of a despot; when they find all this tolerated and applauded by a people who had been in the full enjoyment of freedom but a few months ago, they believe that there must be some radical incompatibility between such a people and themselves. With such a people we may be content to live at peace, but the separation is final, and for the independence we have asserted we will accept no alternative.

The nature of the hostilities which they have waged against us must be characterized as barbarous, to say the least or understood. They have bombarded defenseless villages, without giving notice to women and children, to enable them to escape, at hours in the night selected the night as the period which might surprise them most effectually, without regard to their unsuspicious of danger. Arson and rapine, the destruction of private houses and property, and insults of the most wanton character, even upon non-combatants, have marked their footprints wherever they have set upon our territory. Although we ought to have been admonished by these things, that they were disposed to make war upon us in the most cruel and relentless spirit, yet we were not prepared to see them fitting out a large naval expedition, with the confessed purpose, not only to pillage, but to incite a servile war in our midst, if they convert their soldiers into incendiaries and robbers, and involve us in a species of war which claims non-combatants, women and children as its victims, they must expect to be treated as outlaws and enemies of mankind. There are certain rights of humanity which are entitled to respect even in war, and he who refuses to regard them forfeits his claims, if captured, to be considered as a prisoner of war, and must expect to be dealt with as an offender against all laws human and divine.

But not content with violating our rights under the law of nations at home, they have extended the injuries to us within other jurisdictions. The distinguished gentlemen whom, with your approval at the last session, I commissioned to represent the Confederacy at certain foreign courts, have been recently seized by a captain of a United States shipof-war on board a British steamer, on their voyage from the neutral Spanish port of Havana to England. The United States have thus claimed a general jurisdiction over the high seas, and entering a British ship, sailing under its country flag, violated the rights of Embassy, for the most part held sacred, even amongst barbarians, by seizing our ministers whilst under the protection and within the dominions of a neutral nation. These gentlemen were as much under the jurisdiction of the British government upon that ship, and beneath its flag, as if they had been on its soil, and a claim on the part of the United States to seize them in the streets of London would have been as well founded as that to apprehend them where they were taken. Had they been malefactors and citizens even of the United States they could not have been arrested on a British ship, or on British soil, unless under the express provisions of a treaty and according to the forms therein provided for the extradition of criminals.

But rights the most sacred seem to have lost all respect in their eyes. When Mr. Faulkner, a former Minister of the United States to France, commended before the secession of Virginia, his native state, returned in good faith to Washington, to settle his accounts and fulfill all the obligations into which he had entered, he was perfidiously arrested and imprisoned in New York, where he now is. The unsuspecting confidence with which he reported to his Government was abused, and his desire to fulfill his trust to them was used to his injury.

In conducting this war we have sought no aid and proposed no alliance, offensive and defensive, abroad. We have asked for a recognized place in the great family of nations; but in doing so we have demanded nothing for which we did not offer their equivalent. The advantages of intercourse are neutral amongst nations, and in seeking to establish diplomatic relations we were only endeavoring to place that intercourse under the regulation of public law. Perhaps we had the right, if we had chosen to exercise it, to ask a throw whether the principles that dictated to be binding must be effectual, so solemnly announced by the great Powers of Europe at Paris, is to be generally enforced or applied only to particular parties. When the Confederate States, at your last session, became a party to the declaration reaffirming this principle of international law, which has been recognized so long by publicists and governments, we certainly supposed that it was to be universally enforced. The customs and usages of civilized nations, if they are practice rather than their declarations; and, if such declarations are only to be enforced in particular instances, at the pleasure of those who make them, then the commerce of the world, so far from being placed under the regulation of a general law, will become subject to the caprice of those who execute or suspend it at will. If such is to be the course of nations in regard to this law, it is plain that it will thus become a rule for the weak, and not for the strong.

Feeling that such views must be taken by the neutral nations of the earth, I have caused the evidence to be collected, which proves completely the utter inefficiency of the proclaimed blockade of our coast, and shall direct it to be laid before such Governments as shall afford us the means of being heard. But although we should be benefitted by the enforcement of this law, so solemnly declared by the great Powers of Europe, we are not dependent on that enforcement for the successful prosecution of the war. As long as hostilities continue, the Confederate States will exhibit a steadily increasing capacity to furnish their troops with food, clothing and arms. If they should be forced to forego many of the luxuries and some of the comforts of life, they will at least have the consolation of knowing that they are thus daily becoming more and more independent of the rest of the world. In this process, labor in the Confederate States should be gradually diverted from those great staples which have given life to so much of the commerce of mankind in other channels, so as to make them rival producers instead of profitable customers, they will not be the only, or even the chief losers by this change in the direction of their industry. Although it is true that the cotton supply from the Southern states could only be totally cut off by the subversion of our social system, yet it is plain that a long continuance of this blockade might, by a diversion of labor and investment of capital in other employments, so diminish the supply as to bring ruin upon all those interests of foreign countries which are dependent on that staple. For every laborer who is diverted from the culture of cotton in the South perhaps four times as many elsewhere, who have found subsistence in the various employments growing out of its use, will be forced also to change their occupations. While the war which is waged to take from us the right of self-government can never attain that end, it remains to be seen how far it may work a revolution in the industrial system of the world which may carry suffering to other lands as well as to our own.

In the meantime we shall continue this struggle in humble dependence upon Providence, from whose searching scrutiny we cannot conceal the secrets of our hearts, and to whose rule we confidently submit our destinies. For the rest we shall depend upon ourselves. Liberty is always won where there exists the unconquerable will to be free, and we have reason to know the strength that is given by a conscious sense not only of the magnitude, but of the righteousness of our cause.

(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, Nov. 18, 1861.

## Important from Missouri.

### ADVANCE OF THE REBEL ARMY.

*Rolla, Nov.* 23.—Ben. McCulloch, with a large force, is now encamped between Springfield and Lebanon. His pickets extended last night over a space of 15 miles this side of Lebanon. This is reliable.

It was rumored in camp last night that an advance of the rebel army, 800 strong, was at the Gasconade Bridge, about 13 miles west of here. This, however, is not credited.

*Tipton, Mo., Nov.* 24.—The burning of the principal part of the town of Warsaw is confirmed.

[*Later via Sedalia.*]

The town was fired about 6 P. M. Tuesday. All the business portion is in ashes.

The troops which were stationed there left about 8 P. M., and are now here. A portion of the commissary stores, for which we had the transportation here were burned by order of the commanding officer. It is thought by the commanding officer that the town was fired by the citizens, as a man dressed in citizen's clothing was seen coming from the building in which the fire originated.

*St. Louis, Nov.* 24.—General Halleck has issued lengthy general orders making the entire affairs of this Department conform strictly with the army regulations, and reducing everything to a complete and easily understood system.

### From Washington.

*Washington, Nov.* 24.—A few weeks ago the Secretary of War authorized Gen. Wool to ascertain whether clothing and other articles necessary to the comfort of United States citizens, now prisoners of war, could be sent to them.—The following letter shows that consent for that purpose has been given:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORFOLK, Nov. 9, 1861.

SIR:—My Government will allow blankets and articles of clothing necessary for the comfort of prisoners of war to be sent to them. Any such articles you may send to me will be promptly forwarded by the Southern Express Company, and money may be sent to pay the freight here, or it may be paid on delivery. (Signed) BENJ. HUGER,

Maj. Gen., Commanding Department.

The Quartermaster-General of the United States will provide blankets and clothing for the prisoners of war, and forward them through Gen. Wool, in accordance with the terms of the letter from Gen. Huger.

It is further ascertained that this arrangement has been accomplished without compromising the Government in any respect whatever.

Thursday next has been set apart by the Washington authorities as a day for thanksgiving and prayer.

## Good News from Accomac, Va.

## THE REBELS DISBANDING.

### OUR ARMY JOYFULLY RECEIVED.

*Baltimore, Nov.* 20.—Information received at headquarters this evening, from Accomac County, Va., announces the disbanding of about 3,000 rebel troops, who had been in camp near Drummondtown. As the expedition advanced the rebel flags disappeared, and the Union citizens hoisted their flags, which had hitherto been concealed.

The proclamation of Gen. Dix had been scattered through the country, and when received in camp where the Union men had been drafted and forced into the service, they rebelled, and the commanding officers were compelled to disband their whole force. The secessionists said the force against them was so great that they thought it folly to resist, and the Union men met them with hearty cheers, and the greatest enthusiasm.

As far as the expedition had progressed, there was every evidence that a large majority of the the people were opposed to secession, and the troops were hailed as their deliverers from tyranny and oppression. The people are suffering for many necessaries of life, and were rejoicing at the prospect of an early restoration of the trade and commerce with Philadelphia, on which they depended for livelihood.

Information received from Northampton county warrants the belief that the rebels will also disband.

They have destroyed bridges and felled trees across the roads, but the proclamation has given boldness to the Union men, and satisfaction to the people generally. All who are not loyal will be disarmed. Union men who had fled into Maryland to prevent being forced into the militia, are returning.

ACCOMAC AND NORTHAMPTON, VA.

The recent occupation of this portion of Virginia by the Federal forces renders the following description interesting. It may not be generally known that Accomac and Northampton counties comprise the narrow neck of land between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic. The only reliable statistics at hand in relation to these counties are those furnished by the census of 1850. Accomac county contains 4,775 white males, 4,827 females—total, 9,608; total free colored, 3,295; total slave, 4,987; total population, 17,890; adults in the county who cannot write, 2,143; acres of improved land, 112,942; unimproved, 110,791; cash value of farms, $3,716,281; horses and mules, 2,793, milch cows, 3,134; other cattle, 10,100. The produce is principally composed of oats, corn, rye and wheat, amounting to one and a quarter million of bushels. The churches in Accomac are six of the Baptist denomination, three Protestant Episcopal, seventeen Methodist, one Presbyterian, one Universalist, making an aggregate of 29.

Northumberland county contains 1,531 white males; 1,571 females; total, 3,105; total slave population, 3,648; total population, 7,398; adults in the county who cannot read and write, 252; acres of improved land, 43,700; of unimproved, 59,841; cash value of farms, $1,212,980; horses and mules, 1,339; other cattle, 4,403. The produce is principally of wheat, rye, Indian corn, and oats. The number of churches is as follows; 2 Baptist, 2 Episcopal, 5 Methodist, 1 Presbyterian; aggregate number of churches, 10.

### News from the South.

## Horrible Mortality among Rebels.

### WESTERN VIRGINIA FREE OF THE ENEMY.

### *PANIC IN SAVANNAH.*

*Washington, Nov.* 23.—The Richmond *Whig*, in commenting on the message of President Davis, says:—

"We are two people from this time forward. We are aware the Yankees are determined not to quit us, happen what may. If they cannot conquer us, their calculation is that they will be conquered by us, and they have made up their minds to submit tamely to their fate. Well, if we must, we must, though we shall have a great aversion to the task. Our choice is, after drubbing them soundly, and making them pay the expenses of the war, to turn them loose upon themselves, a prey to their own wild passions."

The Richmond papers of Wednesday contain dispatches from the Confederate army, the substance of which is as follows:

The small-pox, a violent type of the typhoid fever, and the black measles, were prevailing with frightful mortality among the Confederate troops near Bowling Green, Ky. Large numbers were dying daily.

Gen. Floyd's army has fallen back four miles south of Raleigh Court House, and the National troops had been largely reinforced.

Gen. Lee's command has retired to Meadow Bluff.

The Richmond *Examiner*, of Wednesday, confirms the report that the rebel Col. Croghan was killed in the recent engagement between Floyd and Rosecrans.

A dispatch from Charleston, dated Nov. 17, says:—

"The unexpected failure of our shore batteries at Bay Point and Hilton Head to demolish at least one of the attacking vessels, has sadly shaken the popular confidence in the efficiency of our guns against the master frigates and iron clad gunboats, which they may have again to encounter, and now so alarmed are many of the sordid souls that infest all the Southern cities that the effect may already be seen in the lengthening of freight trains which leave almost hourly for the interior.

In Savannah the panic is even more general and decided, whole neighborhoods having been suddenly left deserted by the exodus of the wives and children of those who are in arms at Fort Pulaski and the batteries on the Savannah River."

SPEECH OF MR. W. L. YANCEY.

At the banquet given by the Fishmongers' Company at their hall in London, in honor of "Lord Mayor's Day," Messrs. Dudley Mann and W. L. Yancey—"Commissioners from the Confederate states"—were among the guests.

Mr. Yancey, in response to a complimentary speech, spoke as follows:—

"Upon the part of Americans, I sincerely respond to the sentiment just expressed by the Prime Warden for the restoration of peace in America. There exists now two American nationalities—the Confederate and the Federal American. I am a Confederate, or as the Federal American, unmindful of the character of our common forefathers, disdainfully terms me—a rebel. But the justice and the sense of right of the great Government so promptly decided in by France and Spain, speedily wiped out that stigma from our name, and my countrymen are acknowledged here, at least, to be belligerents. (Cheers.) Though intested to an enlarged and enlightened view of public law, and to the mere grace or favor of England for the acknowledgment of our unquestionable rights and status stands, I must freely express here tonight that deep sense of thankfulness which I am sure all my countrymen feel for this early public act. (Prolonged cheers.) From no other call it have come so gracefully. To your institutions Americans are indebted for the chief of those vital principles which have caused them to style the Republic—

The land of the free
And the home of the oppressed.

Such invaluable rights as the old English writ of *habeas corpus*, of a speedy trial by jury, of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, are the main pillars of American constitutional liberty, and I am both happy and proud to say accordingly at least throughout the Confederate American States as vital and practical rights, even during their stern struggle to preserve their "national life." (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I feel how unbecoming it would be in me to intrude upon such an occasion as the present any merely partisan views of the causes which have broken up the late Federal Union. No matter what they may have been, one thing is clear, and that is that the contest now going on is upon the part of the people of the Confederate States for the right to govern themselves, and to resist subjugation by the North. (hear, hear.) Their pursuits, self, climate, and production, are totally different from those of the North. They think it their interest to buy where they can buy cheapest, and sell where they can sell dearest. In all this the North differs radically from them, and now makes war upon us to enforce the supremacy of their mistaken ideas and selfish interests. (hear, hear, and cheers.) In defence of their liberties and sovereign independence the Confederate States and people are united and resolute. They are invaded by a power numbering 20,000,000; yet for 8 months has the Confederate Government successfully resisted—aye, repelled—that invasion, along a military frontier of 1,000 miles. Though cut off by blockade from all foreign trade, their internal sources have been adequate to the equipment and maintenance in the field of an army of over 250,000 troops. Can all this be and yet these 10,000,000 of whites be divided? The idea is preposterous. So much has been said about our efforts to obtain foreign intervention, that I may be allowed to declare emphatically that the Confederate States have neither sought nor desired it. They can maintain their independence intact by their own strength. As to their recognition by the Powers of the world, that of course they desire. They are a people, a nation, exhibiting elements of Power which few states of the world possess. But they have no reason to complain, nor do they feel aggrieved, because these Great Powers see fit for a season to defer their formal recognition and reception into the family of nations.

However they may differ with them as to the period when their recognition should take place, they fully understood that such action sooner or later is a question to be determined by those countries each for itself and with reference to its own interests and views of public policy. Other nations having trading relations with us require such an agent as ministers and consuls to us as we have to send such representatives to them. Why, then, shall there not be peace? Simply because the North in its pride will not admit that to be a fact—*at a stroke* which old England, followed by the first Powers of Europe, has recognized, and which the Confederate Government and armies have repeatedly demonstrated to be a stern and bloody fact—the fact that we are a belligerent power.

There can be no basis for negotiation never pace proposals, or consultations so long as the Confederates are deemed to be and are treated as rebels. (Hear.) But when our adversary shall become sufficiently calm to treat us as a belligerent power, the morning of peace will dawn in the horizon. When that hour shall arrive I think I may say the Confederate Government will be ready and able upon one point only—its honor and its independence. For the great interests of peace and humanity it will yield much that is merely material or of a secondary importance. (Mr. Yancey sat down amid loud and continued cheering.)

### The Grand Review.

(*Special Correspondence of the Sun.*)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.

*To the Editor of the N. Y. Sun:*

The grand review at Bailey's Cross Roads yesterday, nearly depopulated Washington. "Everybody" went—and, in the absence of so many officials, business at the different Departments was actually suspended, while the streets were deserted, and all through the forenoon the Long Bridge was densely packed with a moving mass of horsemen, vehicles and pedestrians, hastening to the show. The hotel omnibuses went early in the day, heavily laden with passengers at $1 50 a head, and carriages of all descriptions were in active demand and commanded fabulous prices, some quotations being made as high as $10; ten and twenty dollars being the extreme of liberality on the part of the stall-keepers. I heard of one contraband individual who paid $30 in advance for a carriage, and then had the satisfaction of seeing it driven off at a tearing speed by its owner as soon as the hirer had alighted, leaving him to take an interesting walk of 8 miles over a dusty road homewards.

Other experiences equally dismal were the order of the day, one good lady confiding to me her sorrow at being obliged to return without seeing the review, after spending a long day in a variety of ineffectual attempts to pass our outposts in search of the review ground, which her stupid driver had a vague idea must be somewhere in the vicinity of the rebel encampment.

The review was as magnificent a spectacle as the gathering of sixty or seventy thousand disciplined men can be made; the very massing of such a multitude being the grandest feature of the whole. As it was designed for a practical experiment in the mobilization of the army, every detail connected with a movement was as carefully observed as though an advance had been actually intended. The surgeons were ordered to be present with a full supply of their medical equipments, the ambulances to be in place, and the soldiers provided with great coats, knapsacks and 40 rounds of cartridges. This last provision was perhaps intended to guard against any emergency, and to prevent surprise the pickets were more than doubled at the outposts, and similar precautions taken.

But no alarm occurred, and the different battalions and regiments went through their evolutions and dispersed quietly to their quarters, without difficulty or accident, beyond a few trifling mishaps to individuals. The ground was not suited to very extensive manœuvres with so large a body of men, and the exercises were confined to a simple inspection of the troops by the President, Gen. McClellan, Secretaries Seward and Cameron, and others who passed down the extended line amid salvos of artillery and cheering from that immense body of men which must have been heard far beyond the rebel outposts, but two miles away. This inspection over, the troops passed in review before the commander-in-chief, each regiment returning to its quarters as soon as it had gone by the General.

The movements of the army showed how thoroughly Gen. McClellan has his men now in hand, and with what effect he will be able to wield them when the proper moment comes. When that is to be you know as well as I, or probably the commander-in-chief himself. The advance of our army depends unquestionably on circumstances beyond human control, and it is as safe to say that Gen. McClellan will assume the offensive tomorrow as next week, or the fortnight after. He is ready, and when there is an opening for the blow it will come. It is a significant fact that no movement is yet observed for going into winter quarters, though the season advances rapidly, and the snow will ere long be whitening the ground. This does not prophesy of inaction, and we may confidently look for news ahead.

It appears likely that our military settlement at Port Royal will be largely reinforced, with a view to making it the base of active operations in South Carolina. I hear of facts that point to this. In any event, if we hold the ground we already have, in South Carolina, of which there can be little doubt, Port Royal has a future of which we little think. So fine a harbor will not readily part from the control of northern enterprise, however war matters may turn, and under the inspiration of a new spirit of industry, these cotton fields about Port Royal entrance will soon change, their products from trees and plants to bricks and mortar. Meanwhile, who wants to invest in corner lots on Hilton Head?

In conversation with a senator from Rhode Island, whose recollection of matters in that state goes back toward the time of the deluge, I learned some interesting facts in regard to the parentage of Gen. Sherman, now Commander-in-Chief of our forces in South Carolina. He was born, it seems, in Newport, R. I.; his father being as honest coachman in the employ of Mrs. Gibbs of that place, the widow of Gen. Gibbs, one of the wealthiest families in the state. Though a coachman, Sherman's father was a man much beyond his position, in cultivation and capacity, and a special favorite with the family of Mrs. Gibbs, by whom he was allowed to freely use the horses belonging to the estate in working his little farm, and received other tokens of consideration and kindness not usual between employer and employe.

Passing from his position as coachman, Mr. Sherman finally became possessed of a lumber wharf at Newport, and engaged in that business until by prudence and industry, he became possessed of an estate valued at $70,000, which, at his death, was left to his family. His success is ascribed in some measure also to his connection with a Baptist church at Newport, formed more nearly in the Apostolic plan of a community of interest than is common now, each member assisting the other in advancing his worldly interests so far as he had opportunity.

Though Gen. Sherman's father died a man of considerable wealth, he must have become possessed of it late in life, as the son's history is that of a poor and friendless lad, forcing his way through the world by his own inherent force of character. The story of his walking all the way to Washington to procure an appointment to West Point, is well known, and it was his own efforts which procured him the place, which he subsequently did himself so much credit, graduating near the head of his class.

Let me add, for the benefit of the curious, that in personal appearance Gen. Sherman is a man of the pale and smooth-shaven aspect of Fernando Wood, and of the same spare form and light build, though shorter by some inches and quite unlike in other respects. He is far from being so diplomatic and smooth-spoken as Fernando, being a man of quiet nervous temperament and inclined to be brusque, or at least distant in his manner. As a soldier he is strictly regular in all his ideas, pinning his faith to the regulations and not inclined to listen to suggestions of newspaper popularity.

### Special Correspondence of The Sun.

THINGS ABOUT WASHINGTON—AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT—THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND HIS HOUSE—A CRADLE WANTED, PERHAPS—TRADE WITH SOUTH CAROLINA—REVIEW OF GENERAL SMITH'S DIVISION.

Washington, Nov. 23d.

They are getting ready for the winter at the White House, and I notice some changes making there which will effect a decided improvement in the internal appearance of the Presidential mansion. A magnificent carpet has just been laid in the East Room, which is a single breadth of nearly forty feet, woven upon a north of England loom, the only one in the world equal to such a work. It is of a plain light pattern, quite similar to its predecessor, but its bran new aspect gives a fresh lustre to the Room, and brings out the colors of the rich green and gold papering of the walls, as though that too was new, which is possibly the case. Feminine genius is evidently at work here as well as in various other matters of cleaning and renovating now being attended to in the Lincoln household, giving the head of the nation a bit of experience in the matter of house-cleaning, from which all good husbands have periodically to suffer.

Speaking of family matters, is there such a thing as a cradle belonging to the White House, or has the reign of a bachelor President banished all such suggestive bits of furniture? Rumor has it that there is soon to be a call for one there, and from all I can learn, appearances certainly warrant the report.

I had evidence of the Executive's love of a joke at an interview with the President yesterday, in relation to some matters connected with the Port Royal expedition. Scarcely had the party I was with taken their seats, when Mr. Lincoln started his attendant in search of the last copy of *Vanity Fair*, "somewhere in Mrs. Lincoln's room," and when it came read to us with great delight the exclusive report, secured for that veracious paper, of the speech of welcome made to our officers visiting Beaufort by the single representative of the chivalry left there. I may add that the President expresses his strong approval of the cautious course pursued thus far by our army under command of Gen. Sherman, at Hilton Head, in thoroughly securing their present position before advancing to new conquests.

The office of the President, in which we were received, is in the second story of the White House, at the rear, overlooking the beautiful lawn, and with a view of the broad Potomac winding under the long bridge in the foreground, and stretching away to the beautiful hills of Virginia, fading off into the distance. Beneath the window were a party of young girls in the Presidential grounds, sitting under the shadow of a clump of tall trees, protecting them from the heat of the noonday sun, which in this latitude has not yet wholly lost its power. Another youngster, evidently a genuine Lincolnite, was sailing about the room in a most independent manner, on a pair of parlor skates, with one eye bandaged, as though the treacherous playthings had already given him a fall. Mr. Lincoln's office is plainly furnished, with large maps of Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, and the United States, hanging about the walls for ready reference. The waiting-room adjoining is a similar apartment, more scantily furnished, hung about with charts of the coast survey, which, with several plaster busts standing here and there, are disfigured by the pencil marks of some tasteless vandal. In one corner stood a long open box, with the cover addressed in large letters "Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States," containing six feet of rich plank, covered on both sides with sheet iron, and having straps at the sides, as though intended to be carried as some sort of shield, probably the present of an officious inventor.

I have observed the reports that Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, is about to open a trade with South Carolina, and chancing to know precisely how much truth there is in them, will here set the matter right. Mr. Simmons is much interested in the question of securing the cotton discovered at Port Royal, and is urging upon the Government the importance of taking some measures for this purpose, and arrangements will no doubt be speedily made to this end, and are indeed now actively in progress. This much is true, but it is not true that the Rhode Island Senator is about to go South with a cargo of Yankee notions, though it is his purpose to speedily visit Port Royal, on a sort of tour of observation and inquiry, as near as I can learn.

A most interesting review of Gen. Smith's division, at which but few were present, occurred yesterday afternoon, near Lewinsville, over 10,000 men participating.

During the sham fight which closed the proceedings, the troops, drawn up into line of battle, kept up a most vigorous and destructive fire upon an imaginary enemy, and for a short time the roar of the cannon and the sharp crack of small arms was quite exciting. To judge from the amount of noise made, the damage inflicted upon the imaginary enemy must have been fearful, our men escaping injury, excepting one who fell from his horse during a cavalry charge. The division showed to most excellent advantage, and if the men stand as well to their guns in the actual conflict, you can expect a good account of them. The day was clear and beautiful, and the ground chosen admirably adapted to such a display, being the precise location of an actual fight, which occurred not long since.

The Washington *Republican* has the following incident in its account of the Review yesterday:

"Col. Church, of the New York *Sun*, who was on horseback busily engaged in taking notes of the exciting scenes before him, and being in front of Col. Friedman's cavalry when they made their charge, very narrowly escaped serious injury, which was only avoided by his superior horsemanship; he was slightly wounded by a sabre cut, but returned to the city last night, and is doing well."

Instead of being in front of Friedman's cavalry, I had a position among Gen. Smith's staff during the entire affair, and as for the sabre cut I have indeed a rent in my pants—but the wound was imaginary. As I saw two officers who were reported in the *New York Times* as killed, moving about very briskly yesterday, I may think myself fortunate in escaping with so small a reporterial injury.

### Special Correspondence of the Sun.

FROM GEN. BUTLER'S EXPEDITION — THE STEAMSHIP CONSTITUTION—TRIP FROM BOSTON TO PORTLAND—THANKSGIVING DINNER MISSED—DESTINATION OF THE EXPEDITION.

On Board Steamship Constitution,
PORTLAND HARBOR, Nov. 12th, 1861.

The *Herald's* descriptive correspondent of the transport steamer Constitution should have taken our just completed trip from Boston to this port, etc giving to so glowing an account of her "gently gliding o'er the wave." Many allowances, it is true, are to be made for the amount of human freight upon her upper works, but our long experience at sea compels us to say that the vessel labored too hard, and yielded much too easily to the land swell of our northern coast, to answer to the excellent sea-going vessel which the correspondent describes.

Of the seventeen hundred souls whom we have on board, composing the 9th regiment Connecticut volunteers, Col. Cahill, commanding, and that of the 26th regiment Massachusetts volunteers, Col. Jones, many were sorely disappointed in their expectations of partaking with their friends of Thanksgiving dinner. For the evening before Thanksgiving the steamer was hauled out into the stream, leaving much of the great bulk of stores, dunnage, &c., to follow. The precaution of taking the vessel from the dock proved a wise one, else we would have had to count a score more of brave soldiers left to unlimited absence by the aid of bad whiskey. The total lack of intoxicating beverages at Camp Chase, led to an over indulgence at Boston, in the by-ways from camp to the steamer's point of departure.

At 4 P. M. on the 21st, amid a volley from the guns of the steamer, and music from the bands of the 9th and 26th, we bid, with deafening cheers, farewell to Boston and to her docks, which were thronged with people to see us depart. After a rough passage we reached this harbor at 1 o'clock at night, all *guard duty* upon the trip having been rendered quite unnecessary, for the most turbulent were meek as lambs under the severe strokes of sea sickness which prevailed.

The Custom House books at Boston show us a cleared for Port Royal, with a probability of stopping at Fortress Monroe. We are now here for the 1,000 Maine troops and to obtain coal, which we much need for ballast. Col. Jones of the Mass. 26th, and of the ever memorable "19th of June riot" at Baltimore, is temporarily in command in the absence of Gen. Butler, who follows in two weeks. DORR.

### Sailing of the Constitution.

*Portland, Nov.* 23.—The steamer Constitution sailed at 2 o'clock this morning without our 12th Regiment, owing to the lack of accommodation. The Forest City will follow this morning with our regiment, having been chartered for the purpose. Col. Jones has sealed orders to open when twelve hours out. The weather is fine, and there is good prospect of a favorable run.

## CITY NEWS.

THE BRITISH STEAMER United Kingdom, Captain Craig, arrived yesterday, from Glasgow via Portland. Left Glasgow on the 9th and Portland on the 22nd inst.

CITY MORTALITY.—Deaths for the week ending November 23th, 397; increase over the previous week, 5; over same week last year, 26. Acute diseases, 217; chronic, 134; external causes, &c., 46. Adults, 172; children, 225; males, 209; females, 188; colored persons, 5.

THE LITTLE FELLOWS at the Lodging-House always enjoy a good dinner on Thanksgiving. We sincerely hope their friends will not forget them on the national feast-day, but send donations of food and clothing to the Superintendent, at the Home, No. 128 Fulton st. These little remembrances will be sure to work a reward.

WM. H. HAWKINS was brought before the U. S. District Attorney yesterday for a personal examination. He is a negro sailor, sent here from London by the U. S. Consul, under an extradition warrant, charged with the murder, on the high seas, of Capt. Henry Adams, of the bark Lamergier.

### LEGAL REPORTS—MONDAY.

**United States Commissioner's Office.**

*Westervelt's Exit.*—On Saturday the Court ordered that Minthorn Westervelt, tried on a charge of piracy, upon which the jury disagreed, be admitted to bail in the sum of $5,000; and on Monday Mr. Commissioner White attended to the formality of receiving it. John S. Westervelt, of Staten Island, and Francis Moun, gave the bond, and the sureties justified in the amount of bail required.

**United States District Court.**

*The Slaver Cora.*—The second and third mates of the slaver Cora now pleaded guilty of voluntarily