THE WEEKLY SUN.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 26, 1864.

The Seizure of the Florida.

The angry comments of the Rebel press on the seizure of the rebel pirate Florida in Brazilian waters by a United States cruiser, affords another illustration, if any were needed, of the fact that quarrels between nations, like quarrels between individuals, are often needlessly aggravated by the interference of third parties. The capture of the Florida is a matter that only concerns the United States and Brazil, and England is the last country in the world that has any right to complain even if there was a violation of international law, as is alleged. She has placed herself beyond the pale of complaint, by acts compared with which the cutting out of the Florida in its worst aspect is a venial offense. She has never scrupled to violate a treaty right or invade a neutral state—provided it were weak—when her interests were deeply concerned. History is full of examples of this kind. In September, 1806, three British vessels attacked and burned a disabled French war vessel in United States waters, near Cape Henry! and though this glaring violation of neutral jurisdiction provoked remonstrance at the time, the excitement soon died away, and no reparation or apology was ever given. Again, in 1814 an English squadron attacked an American privateer in the Bay of Fayal, and, in defiance of the Portuguese authorities, continued the fire until the American captain was forced to scuttle his ship and seek refuge on shore, where he was still pursued by the English. The United States complained to the Portuguese government, and the affair was finally decided by the arbitration of a third Power, which decided against the claims of the United States for indemnity. Other instances are numerous. An English fleet, under Nelson, attacked and captured the Danish fleet at Copenhagen; two British frigates attacked an American frigate, commanded by the father of the present gallant Admiral Porter, in Valparaiso, a neutral harbor; and an English fleet assailed a Dutch fleet in Bergen, also a neutral port. In view of these acts, the conclusion is irresistible that the indignation of the English press at the seizure of the Florida is prompted by sympathy with the Confederates, rather than from any sense of outraged justice, or respect for international law.

As regards Brazil, the case is different. The government of that country has distinguished itself by its friendship and sympathy with the United States, and justice and good feeling demand that all due reparation should be rendered for any offence that may have been committed. But so far it does not appear that there has been any breach of comity or any violation of the laws and regulations of Brazil. At the commencement of the war the government of Brazil adopted regulations to prevent any abuse of the old law granting an asylum to belligerents in case of extremity. In this respect the Brazilian Government was far in advance of England and France, and voluntarily afforded securities against piracy at the commencement of the war, which have not yet been wholly granted by the two former countries. A circular from the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs not only provided that belligerents should not touch frequently at the same port, but even prohibited them from entering harbor during a passage. A violation of these rules was to subject the vessel to suspicion that she was cruising to capture hostile vessels in place of being engaged in a lawful voyage. Belligerent ships were expressly forbidden to make use of Brazilian ports, in any way, to watch or procure information of an enemy's vessels. A belligerent vessel could only gain shelter in case its life was in danger, and it was required to depart in twenty-four hours. These regulations enforced by France and England would have prevented the whole business of Confederate privateering and blockade-running; and, so far as Brazil is concerned, they produced that effect. The Alabama was long excluded from Brazilian ports but the captain of the Florida, less scrupulous, chose to violate the orders of the Brazilian Government. It is not pretended that his ship was in extremity, and it is notorious that at the moment of capture part of the officers and crew were ashore procuring supplies, not for "a lawful voyage," but to capture United States ships. Under these circumstances, and in view of the stringent orders and established policy of the Brazilian Government, the capture of the Florida seems to be quite justifiable. The only question that seems likely to arise is in respect to the manner of the seizure, which was irregular, but not illegal. A United States vessel performed a duty that was, perhaps, only strictly competent to the Brazilian authorities. In this transaction there is nothing that should aggrieve Brazil. The act was prompted by no hostile feeling against that country, but by a noble zeal against an organized robber of the seas, which deserves commendation rather than censure. It is the same as if a burglar and a murderer should be knocked down and captured by a citizen, instead of an officer of justice. The case, however, will go to the prize courts, when the circumstances will be judicially investigated, and any wrong will no doubt be fully atoned for.

The Crops of 1864.

We have received from the Commissioner of Agriculture a summary of the crop report for the current year, in advance of its regular publication. From this exhibit it appears that the product of agriculture is somewhat less than last year. This is perhaps attributable partly to the drought which prevailed during a part of the summer, and also to the decrease in extent of land cultivated, consequent upon the scarcity of labor. The falling off, however, is not so great as might naturally have been expected under these circumstances, and is certainly not calculated to create apprehension. The crop of cereals is far greater than will be required for home consumption, and will still leave a margin for exportation. The aggregate yield of wheat is 160,695,823 bushels, against 179,404,603 bushels last year. The percentage of decrease in the product of wheat is greater than of any other variety of grain. Rye shows a more favorable return, the falling off being less than five per cent.—19,872,975 bushels against 20,782,782 last year. Corn, on the other hand, exhibits a decided increase over the crop of 1863. The aggregate yield the current year is 530,731,403 bushels against 451,967,959 bushels for the past year—making an increase of nearly eighty million bushels. Oats also shows a handsome increase, amounting to nearly three million bushels, while barley shows a falling off of about half a million. Buckwheat shows a larger percentage of increase than any other grain, amounting to about twenty per cent, or three million bushels. The hay crop shows a material diminution from last year; the aggregate for the present year being 18,116,731 tons against 19,736,847 in 1863. The crop, however, is far in excess of what was generally expected in view of the protracted drouth during the time that grass stands most in need of rain. The potato product is all that could be expected, although a little less than the past year—96,250,838 bushels against 100,158,070. The exhibit of this crop, which is next in importance to wheat, is highly satisfactory. Great apprehension was felt during the hot weather that the yield would be entirely insufficient for home consumption. The decrease, however, is less than three per cent., and there will be a large surplus above the requirements for domestic use. The marked decrease in the tobacco crop will doubtless cause consternation among the lovers of the "weed"—the product being about thirty per cent. less than last year; also owing to the drouth. The increased yield of many of the minor crops is very great. Thus sorghum, flaxseed and cotton, far exceed the yield of 1863. The latter commodity, in Maryland, has advanced twenty per cent. over the crop of 1863; while in Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, and even Iowa, the great staple is evidently becoming an important agricultural product. There is a decided decrease in the number of fat hogs and cattle, as compared with the report of last year, averaging about twenty per cent. This is not very easily accounted for, although it may be assumed as a reason that the high price of hay and grain last winter induced farmers to sell those articles closely, and consequently winter over less stock than they would have otherwise done. But taking the exhibit as a whole, it is very satisfactory—much better than was generally anticipated. The falling off of about ten per cent. in wheat is really the only loss of special consequence, and in fact that is nearly equalized by the improved quality of this year's crop. There is certainly no cause of complaint in the products of agriculture for the present year. Every variety shows a fair yield, and will leave a considerable margin above the needs of home consumption. It is a subject of national gratulation, therefore, to know that the United States can at the same time carry on the most stupendous war known to modern history, supply it solely by home resources, and have enough left to help feed the outside world

An English View of General Lee's Army.

The London Times, November 5th, publishes an interesting inside view of the condition of General Lee's army and the confederacy, on the authority of a special correspondent at Richmond. He confirms the assurance that now prevails in the North that General Grant has the advantage of position over General Lee, and states:

As a general illustration it may be said that Lee is on the arc, Grant on the chord, of a circle; but as this expression does not exactly define the position of the two armies, whose lines (extending each of them over a length of 30 miles) do not pursue any uniform course or inclination, I will endeavor, at the risk of repeating what I have described many times before, to make my meaning clearer. Your readers will understand that, in such an attitude as is occupied by the armies of Lee and Grant, the army which takes the initiative and acts on the aggressive has an immense advantage. Lee is like a skillful one-armed prize-fighter, who is fighting a big bully with two arms, a heavier, taller, more active, and keener-sighted man than himself. The most tempting and promising opportunities offer themselves to him every day. He cannot afford to hazard even twenty lives in a tentative operation. The fact of his numerical inferiority to his enemy, and that he is tethered down and forced to keep always a large portion of his army before Petersburg, are disadvantages equivalent to the loss of an arm by a prizefighter. Grant, on the other hand, has, in the eyes of those who rightly survey the ground, such advantages as make it astonishing that, in the four months between the 12th of June, when he crossed the James River, and the present time, he should have made so little use of them. In his centre lies the James River, with its dozen of Yankee gunboats and monitors, covering the Federal base of operations, and making it even unapproachable by General Lee. It is doubtless with a view to getting still more out of these monitors that General Butler is attempting to cut a canal through Dutch Gap, into which he hopes to tempt the James River. It is not though here, I may say *par parenthese*, that any advantage will result to Butler's comrades from this canal, even if, contrary to Federal experience at Vicksburg, it proves a success. By means of the pontoon bridges which connect Bermuda Hundred with Deep Bottom, Grant can throw any number of men by night or day to the north or south side of the James. It is almost impossible for Lee to know if Grant's demonstrations, whether they threaten Richmond on the extreme Federal right, on the South side railroad on the extreme Federal left, are feints or realities. On the other hand, from the configuration of the ground, it is almost impossible for Lee to cut Grant's extended lines to any vital place. The most tempting place to assail those lines would be somewhere not far from the spot where Grant's line was struck. But the shape of the ground and the position of the forests is such that the lines can only be attacked at two or three confined points, and here naturally Grant has defended himself with triple tiers of fortifications, and keeps always strong bodies of men in position.

The correspondent then alludes to the exhaustion of General Lee's army, as follows:

From the 4th of May up to the present hour Lee's army has been continually in the trenches, either actually under fire, or at any rate not knowing at what moment it might be attacked by a savage and multitudinous foe. The Confederates have been fighting, or on the rack, without intermission for more than five months. On the other hand, the Federal General, who knew from the beginning that Lee was, through the paucity of his numbers, restricted to acting on the defensive, had it in his power at any moment to give four-fifths of his army an entire rest. There was nothing to prevent Grant's saying on the 1st of August, "I shall want great efforts from you on the 20th of this month; rest and recruit yourselves until that day." On the contrary, for 160 days Lee's troops have known no rest, either by night or day. We all remember how the work in the trenches told upon our officers and privates in the Crimea; it cannot be wondered that a far more uninterrupted pressure for more than five months should have told fearfully upon the poor Confederates, exposed to one of the fiercest summers ever known in Virginia, scantily fed upon meat—mostly salt meat—and bread, without vegetables, with only occasional coffee, with no other stimulant, and threatened ceaselessly by overwhelming numbers, who have at their command all that a lavish profusion of expenditure and the scientific experience of the whole civilized world can contribute. I cannot be blind to the fact, as I meet officers and privates from Gen. Lee's army, that they are half worn out, and that, though the spirit is the same as ever, they urgently need rest. I am in hopes that during the coming winter this rest will not be denied to them, as Lee's army becomes stronger; but be that as it may, I am convinced that when the true history of the Confederate campaign of 1864 in Virginia is written it will record a struggle unsurpassed in heroism and in the patience and self-denying endurance of the troops since the time when Cain was first spit upon the earth, and man first lifted his hand in anger against his brother.

It is then intimated that General Lee has a means of strengthening his position by abandoning Petersburg and falling back upon the western and higher bank of the Appomattox, holding the heights of Pocobontas, which girdles Petersburg on the north and west. This movement would greatly strengthen his defensive position as regards Richmond; but would involve the surrender of the city in the same way as Fredericksburg was abandoned for a stronger position at Maryland Heights. He adds:

My own impression is that the success or failure which may follow Hood's daring move in Georgia, of which I spoke in my last letter, will govern the operations of Grant against Richmond. The reciprocity and mutuality which have always existed between the various armies of the Federals on the one hand and of the Confederates on the other, in the East and West, were never more apparent than at this moment. If the Confederates maintain their present attitude before Richmond, and continue to hold their enemy back, until, as is here anticipated, a great disaster has overtaken Sherman in the West, I do not scruple to say that, in my opinion, Richmond will laugh its assailants to scorn. If, on the other hand, Sherman is able to extricate himself from his present critical position, by either beating or outwitting Hood, there will be reason for apprehension about Richmond during the coming winter, the like of which has never existed before.

The correspondent states that Lee's army is recruited constantly by deserters from General Grant, and describes the tremendous efforts of the Confederates to strengthen their forces. With reference to the negro arming question, he states:

But the most significant fact, as indicating that this struggle of the South for independence will never be abandoned for years to come, is that everywhere on the streets, in the railroad cars and among private circles, the propriety of arming and putting the negroes into the army is eagerly discussed. The idea has always in the South been a sentiment, and putting young children to do the work of men, and men, girls, to seeking from a feeble, inferior race the exhibition of physical courage and the exercise of qualities which have always been regarded as the attributes of a dominant and superior race. But it remains if occasion should call for the youth to exhibit how the negro will fight side by side with the master whom he has served, and love, since the memory of both will date for the amelioration of slavery and the freedom which seek to compass its forfeiture of freedom.

Report of the Confederate Secretary of War.

The report of the Confederate Secretary of War, James A. Seddon, has been submitted to the "President of the Confederate States." It presents no record of the strength or expenses of the Confederate army, and is chiefly devoted to generalities. It states that the approach of the elections in the United States, and the desperate condition of its finances compelled the inauguration of a last grand effort for the subjugation of the Confederacy. With this view, the greatest preparations were made for the Spring campaign, the fleets were greatly augmented, and the armies recruited and equipped with a lavish prodigality of resources. The campaign opened with an attempt to obtain possession of the States bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. Florida was invaded, and an expedition was organized to sweep through Mississippi and capture Mobile, while formidable armies penetrated the western limits of Louisiana. These enterprises were expected to give the enemy (the United States Government) a firm hold upon these States, and enable him to concentrate his energies for the decisive campaigns in Virginia and Georgia. But they were all defeated and repelled. A series of brilliant Confederate triumphs was achieved in Louisiana and Arkansas, at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, which extended to the interior of Missouri, resulting in the almost complete repose and tranquility of the entire trans-Mississippi region. Of the campaign in Northern Virginia, Mr. Seddon states:

But the primary object of the enemy was to effect the capture of Richmond, and the defeat and dispersion of the armies of Northern Virginia and Tennessee. He assembled his main army for this purpose in April last on the Rappahannock, under General Grant. Another was collected on the Peninsula, under command of General Butler, to cooperate on the south side of Richmond. A third was designed to penetrate to the James river through the Valley of Virginia, and the forces in Western Virginia and Kentucky were to cross the mountains and join it on its march. It is believed that more than two hundred thousand troops were combined for the execution of this plan in April last, and that from fifty to one hundred thousand men have been since added as reinforcements.

The army of General Grant was met at the Wilderness on the 5th of May last, and defeated. It was encountered with the same result at Spottsylvania Court House, the Po, the North Anna, and at Cold Harbor; after which it abandoned its march on Richmond, and crossed the James river to form a junction with General Butler, near Petersburg. The army of General Butler had landed on the south side of the James, at Bermuda Hundred, early in May, to cooperate with the army of General Grant, which was expected to arrive before Richmond in a short time. On the 16th day of May this army met with a defeat at Drury's Bluff, and was confined to its intrenchments from that time until it was joined by the army of General Grant.

The army of General Sigel, designated for the invasion of the Valley of Virginia, was defeated at New Market in May last, and the troops from West Virginia driven from the valley of the Upper Roanoke about the same time. At a later period these armies were united under General Hunter, and after a successful march up the Valley of Virginia were encountered by General Early at Lynchburg, and driven to the Ohio river. General Early, finding Washington city and Baltimore exposed, passed through the valley, defeating all opposing forces, crossed into Maryland, and penetrated to the suburbs of Washington city and Baltimore. The cavalry raids of Sheridan and Wilson were defeated, and the attempts to permanently obstruct our communications have failed. The campaign projected by General Grant with such mighty preparation has been frustrated, and if he depended alone upon the means that were provided and were deemed to be superabundant, his failure would be absolute. But a proclamation has been made for the draft of five hundred thousand men by the President of the United States to recruit his defeated and dispirited army, and we cannot yet claim security or quiet.

The Secretary states that the campaign in Georgia has so far been "less favorable to our arms." "Prudence or strategy" induced the General (Johnston to adopt a retreating and defensive line of action, and he gradually retired to Atlanta, though not without inflicting great damage and many checks upon the enemy. A change of commanders then took place, and a strenuous effort was made to hold Atlanta by force. It was bravely held for several weeks with the most praiseworthy results—until its hazardous movement of the enemy (Sherman's splendid flank operations) compelled the evacuation of the city. Mr. Seddon states that this was felt as "a serious reverse," and caused some depression of feeling throughout the Confederacy. But he relapses into the "sour grapes" view, and insinuates that Atlanta was no great loss after all; that the Confederacy was better off without it; it liberated the Confederate army for offensive operations, and in pursuing it "the enemy" down to an [illegible] he soon becomes beautiful [illegible] he has conjured up, and it [illegible] by such a situation have [illegible] our bold and enterprising leader with promptitude and energy. The communications of the enemy have been cut in many places. Our army is in his rear, and he, instead of [illegible] behind the strong intrenchments which recent experience is forced to come forth to encounter its skillful adversary on the ground of his choice, and where the best is ruin to the enemy, only success to us."

[illegible] that the Confederacy has regained a large portion of Tennessee and Kentucky, and "as a fair prospect of establishing a temporary ascendency in those States. On the operations in the Southern Valley states:

"Shortly after the fall of Atlanta a series of disasters befel our troops in the Valley of Virginia, and contributed to the disencouragement then existing. But when we consider the events of the entire campaign, the brilliant achievements of our armies in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri; the long and arduous and successful resistance made by the Army of Northern Virginia, in which every virtue of an army and the genius of consummate generalship have been displayed; the glorious defence of Petersburg and Richmond; the numerous successes that have crowned our arms in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi; the adventurous bold and effective efforts of our cavalry under Hampton, Forrest, Lee and others, we could have cause for congratulation and rejoicing. We have resisted the mightiest of the efforts of our enemies. We have encountered and defeated his largest and best appointed armies. We have thwarted his best laid plans. We have shown ourselves to be worthy of that separate and equal place among the nations of the earth which is our birthright, and which has been unjustly withheld from us."

A large portion of the Report is devoted to reorganization and recruiting of the Confederate armies, it is held to be absolutely necessary to call out the entire reserve force of the Confederacy, repeal all exemptions and return deserters to the ranks. He deems it unwise to arm the negroes, but thinks they may be useful if organized as teamsters, cooks and camp servants. Their hopeless inferiority precludes their engaging in higher duties of war. He adds: "For the present it seems best to leave the subordinate labors of society to the negro, and to impose its highest, as now existing, on the superior class."

He recommends a vigorous prosecution of the war: "The country should be as one great camp, and the whole people arranged in the most efficient military organizations compatible with the maintenance of the necessary works and productions of society for unflinching resistance to the utmost extremity. The subjugation of a brave people so organized and resolved is an utter impossibility."

The Secretary recounts the question of the deadlock in the exchange of prisoners, and presents it in a Southern point of view, accusing the Yankees of duplicity and cruelty to their own men. He devotes a large portion of his space to denunciations of the United States for arming slaves against their masters, and brands it as a barbarous policy. He denies the right of the Government to annihilate the right of property in slaves, and presents the following view, which is important as showing the grounds upon which the Confederate authorities refuse to exchange the negro prisoners:

"For a term subsequent to the independence of the United States, negro slavery was recognized among all the United States as a valid relationship, and its commercial population participated in the profits of the African slave trade, under the laws of the Union, within the present century. The ratio upon which representation in one branch of their Congress and direct taxes are apportioned is adjusted upon a recognition of the existence of a race of bondsmen within the limits of the Union. Their highest judicial tribunal has determined that slavery and the slave trade are not contrary to the law of nations, and that the voluntary removal of slaves by a master to a State where slavery does not exist does not prevent the renewal of the relation between master and slave upon their return to the State of their origin or domicile. The diplomatic correspondence and the solemn treaties of the United States show reclamation for escaping slaves abducted in time of war and of peace, and the recognition of those claims by a foreign power, and the payment of indemnity for the use of the masters to the Federal Government. At this time the Constitution of the United States contains a stipulation for the return of slaves escaping to one State from their owner in another State, upon his claim. The principle that a slave withdrawn from his master in war or peace, by desertion, capture or other act not sanctioned by the law of the State or the will of the master, does not change his condition within the State to which he belongs or prevent the right of the master from attaching upon his recapture, is not an exceptional or limited one. The municipal laws of one State have no more authority or recognition within the limits of another than it is compatible with the laws or policy of that State to allow, and it would be contrary to the universal usage and practice of nations for one nation to permit another, and that other an enemy, to abrogate, impair or modify relations between classes or individuals of her population, in time of war, by any change in their existence, forced or voluntary. The enlistment of slaves as a part of the army of the United States had but a single object. The act of Congress and proclamation which authorized it were formed to destroy political government and civil society in the Confederate States, by declaring all officers and agents of Confederate, State and municipal government to be outlaws, incapable of holding or transferring property, and subject to ignominious banishment, and declaring slaves to be emancipated and suitable for service in their armies, they sought an entire overthrow of their social order, and determined this should be a war of massacres and confusions, and not the highest trial of right between the people."

A bitter communication of "Yankee cruelty" then follows, with a significant conclusion that against such remorseless enemies it would be justifiable to arm the slaves as a last resort.

Wednesday, Nov. 16.

The Conspiracy of the "Fenian Brotherhood" in Canada.

Toronto, C. W., Nov. 15.—At the meeting of the City Council last night, it transpired that information had been received of an intended demonstration on Canada by the members of the Fenian Brotherhood from the United States. The Mayor stated that this information had been handed over to the government.

The St. Albans Robbers.

Montreal, C. W., Nov. 15.—The rebel raiders are making voluntary statements to the Court, boasting of their exploit, and bragging that their government will avenge them. Efforts are making to procure a delay of thirty days in the case in order to get instructions from Richmond.

GENERAL SHERMAN.

The New Movement—Federal and Rebel Views.

Intelligence from the West throws but little light on the actual situation of affairs in that theatre of war. It was doubtful up to Saturday last whether General Hood's army had crossed the Tennessee. It was not expected that he would take the risk of placing his army between General Thomas and the river. Both the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers were rising, and this fact would also be likely to deter him from the attempt. The forces left to cover Chattanooga, and protect the border states from invasion, are ample for that purpose. Among the many rumors respecting General Sherman's designs, the latest and most curious connects his movement with the recent peace negotiations in Georgia. It is stated that Gov. Brown sent a message to Washington, to the effect that Georgia would secede from the bogus Confederacy if General Sherman would capture Charleston and Savannah. The matter, so the story goes, was referred to General Sherman, and he promised to do so in good time. That time, it is presumed, has now arrived. A dispatch from General Sherman, sent to Washington two weeks ago from Atlanta, contains the following remarkable and significant statement:

Hood has crossed the Tennessee. Thomas will take care of him and Nashville, while Schofield will not let him into Chattanooga or Knoxville. Georgia and South Carolina are at my mercy, and I shall strike. Do not be anxious about me. I am all right.

REBEL VIEWS OF SHERMAN'S AND PORTER'S MOVEMENTS.

The following extracts from the Richmond Whig possess considerable interest in the absence of positive information respecting the operations and destination of Sherman's army and Porter's fleet:

What has become of the armada which assembled in the waters of the Chesapeake, and sailed with such formidable show, a few days ago, to the southward, and, as our authorities were inclined to believe, for Wilmington, and serious operations for the reduction and occupation of that important post and port? There has been ample time since it was said to have sailed for its appearance off the works at the mouth of Cape Fear river, yet we hear nothing of such an event. We are warranted in apprehending that some other point than that is the object of the expedition—that the attack will be made in some other quarter—and that the supposed unquestionable information of the War Department has been deceptive. But at what point may we reasonably expect the blow to be delivered? Can it be that Charleston is to be again tried? We fancy not. The state of preparation, the labors there of Beauregard and the lamented Harris, and the presence of the iron clads, are not promising elements for the success of such an operation. Is Mobile, then, to be attacked, either directly or from Pensacola? We think not. We do not believe an expedition for such an operation would be fitted out in the North. Looking along the coast, and scanning the signs of the times, we are induced to believe that Savannah, Georgia, and Stono Inlet, on the coast southward of it, will prove to be the objective of this expedition after all. The peculiar inducement to such an operation at this time would be the hope by the possession of Savannah, to make it the base for a diversion for the relief of Atlanta and Sherman, or, in case the latter should be forced to give up Atlanta and fall back out of Georgia to his base at Chattanooga, the possession of Savannah and the occupation of the coast of Georgia, could be held up as a compensating substitute, indeed, as an advantageous exchange. Some such motives have inspired this movement, we may rely on it, though the present condition of affairs at Atlanta, and the transfer of the actual theatre of war from Southern Georgia into Middle Tennessee, by the passage of our army under Beauregard, into that region, may cause some modification of the plan of operations in the contemplated quarter. In the course of a week, or ten days at most, there should be some certain development. The works at Savannah are well constructed, extensive and strong—properly manned they should make a stout defence. The immediate commander there, Gen. McLaws, has had a good deal of experience in the field as a division commander, is said to be alert, resolute, and possessed of sound sense and judgment in an emergency. We do not, therefore, apprehend disaster, while hoping that our authorities will strengthen his hands at the right moment to the utmost stretch of our defensive resources.

GENERAL GRANT.

Rebels Demonstrative About Something.

Washington, Nov. 15.—A letter from the Army of the Potomac says that on Saturday night the rebel pickets in front of the Second Corps made a noisy demonstration, and the sounds indicated that something of importance might result from it, but the next morning all was quiet and the line remained the same as previously. It is added that the rebels only indulge in these diversions for the purpose of warming their blood, the nights being very cold. A ride along the centre of the line does not enable a correspondent to obtain even an item of news, affairs being uncommonly dull.

From Fort Monroe.

Fort Monroe, Nov. 14.—All the buildings at Rocky Landing, on the James River, including Judge Rogers's residence, were destroyed by fire to-day. Lieut. Gen. Grant and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy were at Fort Monroe to-day.

The Disastrous Explosion on the Potomac

The following is from the Washington Star of Monday:

The gunboat Tulip, attached to the Potomac Flotilla, left St. Marys at 2 P. M. on this day for the Navy Yard here for repairs, and when passing Ragged Point, at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes, the boilers exploded with a terrific crash, rending the upper portion of the vessel to atoms, scalding the officers and crew and throwing them in all directions. Several of them who escaped without serious injury ran forward and lowered the gig, but before they could get it down the wreck of the Tulip sunk, carrying down with it most of those on board. Some of the officers and men seized what they could lay their hands on, and succeeded in keeping afloat for above an hour, until their condition was discovered by the tug Boat Hudson, Captain James Allen and engineer E. Granger, which picked up ten, who were all that escaped from the ill fated vessel. The ten picked up were Ensign Wagstaff, executive officer, and Master's Mate Davis (the only two who escaped uninjured), Master's Mate Reynolds, with leg broken, and engineer Teel, very badly wounded, with six men. Messrs. Wagstaff and Davis took the Ella for this city, and the others were sent to Point Lookout, where two of them died on Saturday. There were on board the Tulip, at the time of the accident, 60 officers and men, including the following: Acting Master W. Smith, who hails from Philadelphia; Ensign Wagstaff; Acting Master's mates Davis, Reynolds, Hollenbury, Hammond and Simons; Engineers Parks, Gordon and Teel. We understand that when she struck there was steam on but one boiler, but before proceeding far, steam was raised on the other, and the boat was proceeding slowly up the river. The first intimation of danger was a cry from Mr. Gordon, who was the engineer on watch, to run to the safety valve, and he made his way to the engine room; but scarcely had he gone through the door when the explosion took place. At this time Captain Smith, the pilot, James Jackson, Master's Mate Hammond, and the Quartermaster were on the bridge over the boilers, and must have been blown to atoms. The only trace left of Capt. Smith was his hat. As but 10 persons were picked up, 50 persons must have lost their lives instantly, and two of those saved died before the Ella left St. Inigoes. Two or three others of the 10 saved are not expected to live, among them we regret to learn, Engineer Teel. Capt. Smith has been attached to the flotilla for about two years past, and was a much esteemed young officer. He hails from Philadelphia, and after receiving his orders on Friday before leaving, he telegraphed to his wife that he would meet her at the Depot this morning, but alas, his expectations were vain! Engineer G. F. Parks, who was in charge of the engines, and went down in the wreck, hails from Brooklyn, where he leaves a wife and three children, with an aged mother. Engineer John Gordon, who was scalded, hails from Philadelphia, where he leaves a family.

The Pirate Florida—Description of Her Appearance.

The rebel pirate, now at Hampton Roads in charge of a prize crew, has been visited by a correspondent, who thus describes her appearance:

The Florida carries six 6-inch guns and two 7-inch, also one small howitzer. The heavy guns are of English manufacture, the two 7-inch being of the pattern known as the Blakely. The guns were usually so placed on the deck, that three of them could be brought into position at short notice at the stern, thus giving her the capacity of throwing from that part of the ship a mass of metal weighing 226 pounds. Save the guns and necessary rigging there is little to be seen above deck. The damage caused by her being struck by the Wachusett is not extensive, and can easily be repaired. The lower portion of the beam is within four inches of the copper. A considerable portion of the timber extending from the mizzenmast aft was displaced, and at the point where the collision took place the wood work was crushed in perhaps a foot and greatly splintered. The injured part is covered with canvas and otherwise patched up. The officers and crew of the pirate are said to have numbered 190, but it is a mystery how they managed to stow themselves away. The berth deck is exceedingly small, very low, and was when captured extremely filthy. As to the latter particular, however, Lieut. Commander L. A. Beardslee stated that the filthy and unwholesome condition it was in when boarded surpassed anything of the kind that he had ever before witnessed. Early and late for days and days he has kept the men at work scrubbing and cleaning, and although a vast improvement has been the result, still there is much more to be done in the same line. The deck is very black now, notwithstanding the innumerable sweepings and scrubbings it has received. It is also much out of repair, the seams between the planks in a number of places being so wide that in washing the water makes a perfect shower-bath on the cabin deck. For that reason the sailors cannot work in their cleaning process with the same facility as they could were the deck in a sound condition. The rigging and some of the sails on the two remaining masts were fitted by our own officers and men, the sails and ropes which were found on them having been considered useless. The boilers are greatly in need of repair, and the engines want a thorough overhauling. The names of Faucett, Preston & Co., Liverpool, England, on a plate above the engine room, tells us where the machinery came from. At present it is