

FRANCE, ENGLAND AND GERMANY.—The French official journals speak with great complaisance of the prospect of a war between England and the German Powers, while they all declare that France will certainly keep clear of the entanglement. The English are beginning to see that in event of such a war two or three privateers would sweep her commerce from the seas, as two or three privateers, built by her subjects and in her ports, have nearly swept the American flag from the seas. Now, this would produce an immense development of French commerce; and it is well known that the extension and enlargement of the commerce of France has been for the last ten years the principal aim of the present Emperor, in his colonial and foreign policy, in his foreign wars and aggressions, such as those in Cochin-China, in the islands of the Pacific, and on this continent. To this end he has made and is making the most gigantic efforts, and is expending vast sums of money.—If an English war with Germany would practically consummate his great idea, why would he not encourage it?

MORE GOOD THINGS FOR THE ARMY.—The Sanitary Commission, says the *New York Tribune* of the 9th inst., keep up their work with the assiduity which has characterized their operations from their organization. Their agents are indefatigable in forwarding those supplies of vegetables and delicacies which are so much needed to recruit the health of the sick and preserve the health of the well soldier. Yesterday two ship-loads of their supplies were sent from Baltimore and Philadelphia respectively, and this morning the steamer Commander will leave this port for City Point with an assorted cargo for the army, made up as follows: 1,400 barrels potatoes, 100 barrels onions, 50 barrels sourkroot, 50 barrels beets, 200 dozen cans tomatoes, 100 dozen cans condensed milk. The well soldiers have their share of these supplies as well as the sick.

THE PRESIDENT, in accordance with the joint resolution of Congress, has issued a proclamation appointing the first Thursday of August next as a day of humiliation and prayer for the people of the United States, recommending them to confess and repent of their manifold sins, and implore the compassion and forgiveness of the Almighty; and to pray, that if consistent with His will, the existing Rebellion may be speedily suppressed, and the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the United States be established throughout the States; that the Rebels may lay down their arms, and speedily return to their allegiance; that they may not be utterly destroyed; that the effusion of blood may be stayed, and that amity and fraternity may be restored, and peace established throughout our borders.

AN EXPEDITION under Col. Grower, sent out from Decatur, Ala., June 28, by Gen. R. S. Granger, to surprise Patterson's brigade of Roddy's division, was partially successful. When near the camp they were discovered by the rebel surgeons who gave the alarm. The rebels broke and ran, but the Eighteenth Michigan came in on double-quick, killing and wounding a number, and capturing one Lieutenant and nine men, their wagons, ambulances, camp and garrison equipage, officers' baggage, and a lot of mules. Unfortunately our cavalry could not cross the railroad lines in time to come up with the fleeing rebels, or their entire command would have been taken. The infantry marched fifty miles this hot weather in thirty-six hours.

MORAL COURAGE.—A great deal of talent is lost in this world for the want of a little courage.—Every day sends to their graves a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making a first effort; and who, if they could have been induced to begin, would in all probability have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is, that to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating risks, and adjusting nice chances; it did very well before the Flood, when a man could consult his friends upon an intended publication, and then live to see its success afterward; but at present a man waits, and doubts, and consults his brother, and his particular friends, till one fine day he finds that he is sixty years of age; that he has lost so much time in consulting his first cousins and particular friends, that he has no more time to follow their advice.

CAPT. WINSLOW, OF THE KEARSARGE.—Capt. J. A. Winslow of the gunboat Kearsarge, who has so distinguished himself in the taking of the Alabama, is a native of Wilmington, N. C., where he was born in 1811. His mother was a Southern woman; his father was from the North, and descended from the old Plymouth stock of Winslows. John Winslow was educated Dedham, in this State, and at fourteen years of age entered the navy as midshipman, being indebted to Daniel Webster for his place. His family reside in Roxbury. Our naval officers had little faith in the capacity of the Kearsarge to cope with the Alabama. Even Capt. Winslow, we learn, has repeatedly advised the Navy Department to strengthen the blockading force off Cherbourg. He said he would do his best, however and nobly has he done it.—*Boston Trans.*

A LESSON FOR ENGLAND.—The destruction of the Alabama by the Kearsarge is a striking vindication of the superiority of the heavier armament of our gunboats as compared with the lighter medal of the English models. The armament of the Alabama was made in accordance with the English ideas, and her fate will be a rude shock to a cherished British notion. This is a curious repetition of the experience of 1812, when our vessels, armed with 48-pounders were constantly superior to the English ships armed with 32-pounders. The Kearsarge has a battery of two 11-inch shell guns throwing two hundred and sixty-four pounds of metal, one 30-pound rifle pivot throwing thirty pounds, and two light 32-pounders throwing sixty-four pounds making a total of five guns throwing three hundred and fifty pounds of metal.

A HOME FOR SAILORS AND MARINES.—Although much has been done for the soldiers in all parts of the Union by the benevolent and patriotic, still it appears as if the sympathy for our country's defenders is on the increase. It is now proposed to hold a National Sailor's Fair in Boston, having for its object the establishment of a home for disabled sailors and marines. The ladies and gentlemen connected with this movement are now energetically arranging the preliminaries, and they hope to meet the generous aid of every section of the country. The sailors have done so nobly during the present war that it seems unnecessary to urge their claims for recognition. We hope that by this fair they will gain a home worthy of their best deeds and present glory.

At the recent attack on Frankfort, Governor Bramlette, finding his defenders too few, took his gun and entered the ranks as a private.

A LETTER from Gen. Butler's forces says their bands discourse fine music, but that the General distinguishes only two tunes. One is "Yankee Doodle," the other isn't!

SOME idea may be formed of the epistolary tendencies of the Army of the Potomac, from the fact that one hundred and twenty thousand army letters pass through the Washington Post Office daily.

WE UNDERSTAND that Brigadier General Tyler was neither wounded nor taken prisoner at the battle on the Monocacy. He made his appearance much to the surprise of his friends, at Frederick.

TIT FOR TAT.—Gen. Hobson captured Gen. Morgan in Ohio; and Gen. Morgan captured Hobson in Kentucky. Morgan dug out and renewed the war without exchange; and Burbridge dug Hobson out without exchange. So we are square all around.

A STATE Militia Company having been called for to garrison Fort McClary, at Bangor, Me., Vice President Hamlin appeared in the company armed and equipped as a private soldier. Now, will not some Copperhead hasten to accuse Mr. Hamlin of mean motives?

SEMMES says he was fired upon five times after he had struck his colors and while the Alabama was in a sinking condition. Nobody will credit the statement of the pirate, but who will not say that humanity demanded of Capt. Winslow that he should have kept up the fire as long as a vestige of the ship was to be seen, or a man above the surface of the water. Pirates and piratical craft have no right on the bosom of the ocean—they belong deep down in the channel.

THE Philadelphia *Ledger* of the 5th inst., tells the following of two lucky gold-seekers:—Two brothers from Maine yesterday deposited in the U. S. Mint 1,371½ ounces of gold, for which they received \$24,780. They have just returned from Barrac City, in Idaho, where they were engaged in digging about five weeks. The highest amount obtained in any one day was \$2000, and the smallest amount \$250. Upon leaving, they sold their mine for \$14,000. They have been absent from home about ten months.

THE DEERHOUND CASE.—Strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the President and Secretary of State to have our Government formally demand from the British authorities the rendition of the pirate Semmes and that portion of his crew who were picked up by the Deerhound. It is claimed that, when the Alabama struck her colors, all her crew at once become prisoners of war to Capt. Winslow, and that the Deerhound was summoned by him to the rescue of the drowning men solely through motives of humanity; and that she afterward surreptitiously, and in violation of the rights of war, carried our prisoners to the English coast. Secretary Seward will resist this pressure.

DISCHARGE PAY OFFICE,

No. 389 H St. North, Near 13th St. West, WASHINGTON, D. C.

AT THIS OFFICE ALL ENLISTED VOLUNTEERS Discharged from the U. S. Army make a final settlement of their accounts, whether discharged to accept promotion, re-enlist as Veteran Volunteers, or on account of Disability.

All Soldiers having business at this office are earnestly requested to present their claims personally, and not put them into the hands of CLAIM AGENTS, as they are attended to promptly and always take precedence to claims presented by those agents.

Maj. D. TAYLOR,

March 16, 1864.] Paymaster U. S. A., in Charge.