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VOL. 5.—NO. 120.

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PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1861. W. H. Dinsmore, Company F, in the thigh,

THE REBELLION. ENGAGEMENT AT DRANESVILLE.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. McCALL. John W. Stockdale, Company F. John Sexton, Company E. LIST OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED. WOUNDED. THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

Number of Troops in the Union Army.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE SKIRMISH AT MUMFORDVILLE.

SITUATION OF AFFAIRS AT SOMBRESET. THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR.

SMITH O'BRIEN ON THE QUESTION. Strange Report from a Secession

Paper. LATE NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

CAPT. RICKETTS' ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. CONDITION OF THE UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI. MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

THE FIRE IN CHARLESTON.

The Stone Fleet at Charleston. &c..

THE FIGHT AT DRANESVILLE. Further Particulars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- We have had a splendid little affair in front of Washington this afternoon, which will furnish food for the "Onward to Richmond" party for a faw days, until General McClol-Isn is ready for a more formidable movement. The following is the official despatch from General McCall to General Marcy, recounting the facts :

Official Report from Gen. McCall, DRANESVILLE, Dec. 20, 4 P. M .- Gon. Ord's brigade, with the First Regiment of Panagelvania Rifles and Easton's battery of artillery, had a brisk affair with the enemy, consisting of four regiments and a battery of artillery, near this place at 12 M. to-day.

I arrived during the action, and sent for Gen. Reynolds, who was left at Difficult Run. The We found forty killed of the enemy and ten wounded on the field. Our loss is two killed and three wounded. We have taken two causons, with

the harness, the horses having been killed. The regiment of Rifles behaved finely. Lieut Colonel Kane was very slightly wounded, but is still in the field. I have collected the dead and wounded, and am about to move back to camp. GEO. A. MCCALL. Brigadier General Commanding,

Details of the Battle. General Ord started at six o'clock this morning. His command consisted of four full regiments, the "Buckteil Rifles," Lioutenant Colonel Kate and Easton's battery, consisting of two twenty-four and two twelve-pound howitzers. They proceeded on a foraging expedition in the direction of Dranes-ville. General McCall, anticipating they might be attacked, ordered First and Second brigades to fullow at eight A. M. The First Brigade, General Reynolds, advanced on the Leesburg turnpike, and took a position on Difficult Creek, to await further orders. Two hours later General McCall,

with his staff and escort of cavalry, followed by the same rute. Meantime General Ord advanced to the Thornton House, near Dranesville, when his command was suddenly fired upon by a force lying in ambush in dense woods adjacent. This was the signal for battle, and a brisk engagement promptly en-

General McCall, who arrived a few minutes proviously, took command. In a moment's time, Easton's battery was planted alongside the Thornton House, and fired rapidly and with terrible effect in the enemy's ambush. Colonel Kane's "Bucktail Riflemen" were placed in advance, and fired upon the enemy wherever they made their appearance. to-day. They state that they left Centreville very The rebels, who had a battery of six pieces, returned the cannonading, and replied to the Rifles with muskets. The fire was kept up some threetery, being too hot for them.

quarters of an hour, when the enemy retreated rapidly, the fire of the whole brigade, Rifles and bat- | ber of killed on the part of the rebels than we sup-Our troops stood up bravely under the sharp volleys of the rebels. Their steadiness was praised by Gen. McCall and his officers. The rebels took the direction of Fairfax Court

House, leaving on the field a number of their killed and wounded. Our troops pursued them a short distance, and returned. The scene in the woods presented all the horrors of a sanguinary battle-field, with the dead and dying lying strewn in various directions. Forty dead bodies of the rebels were picked up, and fifteen wounded

prisoners were taken and placed in Hunter's and other houses in Dranesville. General Ord captured eight wounded prisoners and two caissons with ammunition. In their haste the enemy left behind arms of all descriptions clothing, &c. Their loss is estimated at 150 killed and wounded. Among their killed was Colonel Tom Taylor, of

Frankfort, Kentucky, and commander of the First Kentucky Regiment of rebels. The forces of the enemy consisted of three infantry regiments-First and Eleventh Kentucky and Tenth Alabama-with a cavalry regiment and a battery, all under command of Colonel John H. Forney, of the Tenth Alubams, acting brigadier general. The dead rebels were left on the field. The loss on our side was six killed and eight

wounded, most of whom belonged to the "Buck-Colonel Kane received a slight wound At nine o'clock our troops had returned to camp, bringing in fifty wagon loads of forage. The regiments of General Ord's brigade were Pennsylvania Reserves: Thirty fifth, Colonel W W. Ricketts; Thirty-eighth, Colonel C. F. Jackson; Thirty-ninth, Colonel John L. McCalmont, and Forty-first, Colonel John H Taggart, with the

Forty-second, or "Bucktail," Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Kane. The prisoners belong to the different regiments engaged in the action. Neither is dressed alike. The clothes they had on are ragged and filthy. Each was without any overcoat, and their general looks betray anything but nutritious fare. Three prisoners, belonging to the Tenth Alabama, state that their regiment was organized seven months ago. Formerly, they were under command of Gcn. Johnston, but after the battle of Bull Run were transferred to General Beauregard's division. Of

the condition of the rebel army they gave the most deplorable account, confirming the previous statements received, as to the want of proper clothing and food, and the general discontent prevailing listo winter quarters, at Manassas. Since their connection with the army they have only been paid

dimly obsoure that nearly all had given up hopes of any further enlargement of their evaluations any further enlargement of their evaluations at the central portion of the State, at Elizabethtown, any further enlargement of their exchequers at the hands of their commanders. General Hancock's division, under orders of Gen. McClellan, marched toward the battle ground to support General McCall, but their services were

not needed. When General McClellan learned that General McCall's troops were engaging the enemy, he umped into his saddle, and, accompanied by Col. Colbourn, proceeded to Minersville, where he learned the result, as given above, and returned. KILLED AND WOUNDED. WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The following is a list of the killed and wounded in the battle fought at

Sixth Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment, KILLED. Samuel C. Walter, Company A. Daniel Darling, Company C. H. Lathrop, Company C, in the breast, supposed

Dranesville vesterday :

Nortally.

W. H. Jayne, Company C, in the hip severely.

James Surene, Company C, in the hip, severely.

William Van Dyke, Company D, in the thigh, severely.
Captain Daniel Bradbury, Company F, in the leg, severely

slight. Edgar Smith, Company G, in the shoulder, se-Thomas Conway, Company II, in the forehoud, slightly.
Charles Yahn, Company H, severely.
Benjamin Seeley, Company H, in the face, se-

verely.

John W. Brown, Company K, in the leg, se-George Brown, Company K. in the arm, slightly. Edwin Demander, in the breast; severely. The above regiment was commanded during the Ninth Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment (38th), Commanded by Colonel Jackson.

Alexander Smith, Company A, in the neck.
John Schmidt, Company B, in the arm.
Wm. Earnest, Company C, in the leg.
Capt. Robert Galway, Company D, in the leg.
George Morter, Company D, in the thigh and

rm. Joshua McMaster, Company D. in the thigh. Wm. C. Witcher, Company D, in the loins.

John Raymond, Company D, in the arm.

C. E. Patten, Company D, in the thigh.

Wm. Linsey, Company D, in the hip.

John F. Hume, Company D, in the arm.

Corporal Piersell, Cempany D, in the head,

Corporal Fiersen, Joseph J. In the neck.
Ralph White, Company E, in the neck.
Capt. S. W. Dick, Company E, in the thigh.
Wm. McGift. Company E, in the arm.
John Halds Gappany F, in the arm.
John Milliaco, Company F, in the hip.
Edwin Davis, Company H, in the leg.
Silas B. Newell, Company H, in the hip.
John H. Weber, Company I, in the thigh. The major of this regiment had his horse sho under him. The Bucktail Rifles, Forty-Second Penn-

Lieutenant Colonel Kane, who was in command, was wounded in the cheek. KILLED. George Cook, Company E; Corporal Samuel Gul-braith, Company E; George Raup, Company B. WOUNDED.

C. Wolfe, Company B, severely. John Panel, Company B, severely.

John Panel, Company B, severely.

John Bolt, Company F, severely.

John F, Barns, Company K, severely.

James Glenn, Company K, severely.

James Glenn, Company K, severely.

Jesides these several others were slightly

Twelfth Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment, (41st.) under Command of Col. Taggart. Only one man was wounded, viz.; Wm. R Fox, of Company K, in the leg.

Colonel Tom Taylor, commanding the Kentucky (rebel) Rifles, was killed, and his saddle brought away by Colonel Easton. Taylor, it will be recolected, occasioned much excitement, at the commencement of the war, by unexpectedly appearing at Arlington with a flag of truce, and was afterwards brought to headquarters at Washington blindfolded. and subsequently conveyed outside of our linesthe object of his mission, an exchange of prisoners,

being unaccomplished. The detachment from General McCall's division which took part in the battle did not arrive at Dranesville until about noon, and remained there till 21 o'clock, when the enemy appeared in force, coming from the direction of Centreville. Previous to this, General Ord had placed his

forces in position to repel an anticipated attack, The fire was first opened by the rebel battery, throwing solid shot, shell and canister. This was immediately responded to by Easton's battery with marked effect. The infantry on each side soon engaged in the conflict, and at times they were not more than sixty yards apart. After fighting about an hour, a shell from our

caissons, making fearful havoc, three of the rebels having their heads completely blown off, and others being horribly mutilated. At this time the enemy wavered and showed a disposition to run, when Gen. Ord gave the command to charge, which was gallantly obeyed, and at once the rebels precipitately fled. They were pursued for upwards of a mile, when Gen. McCall. arriving on the ground, ordered a recall to be sounded. Our troops then fell back to the position

just vacated by the enemy. Twenty-one of the wounded rebels received surgical treatment from Dr. Lowman and his assistants, having been taken into a neighboring house for that purpose. They would have been brought to Gen. McCan's camp had the ambulances arrived in propor

All of our men killed and wounded were, how ever, brought away. A large number of trophies were secured by our troops, such as swords, pistols, and guns. In the pockets of the dead rebels were found Richmond papers of the 19th inst. They contained no items of particular interest. Several letters were found on the bodies of the rebel officers, showing the feeling of intense hos-

tility prevailing in the South. In one of them dated Centreville, Dec. 19th, addressed to a friend, and but partly finished, it was said that it was impossible for the Federals to remain much longer in their present position. It said that the effect of the news from England and the pressure of Congress would necessarily compel General McClellan to advance, and that in such

in their present position would be certain. During the stampedo of the rebels, eight of them were taken prisoners and brought to Washington early on Friday morning, in order to obtain forage, and very unexpectedly met with our troops, who

had proceeded to the same point on similar business. They also said that there was a larger numdered in the retreat, came up to one of our regiments, not knowing that they were Federal troops, and inquired the direction to Centreville; but, instead of being taken prisoners, they were shown

the way to Washington. The victory on the part of our troops is considered the more brilliant, as they had never before been in action. They have been highly complimented, both by Major General McClellan and General McCall.

Four companies of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry were also with the brigade, but the condition of the country was such, being thickly wooded, that they could not render service to the extent they desired. General Ord, while passing through the woods

during the action, lost his sword, but was immediately supplied with another, which had been taken from a dead rebel officer.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

The Grand Army of Kentucky. The Grand Army of Rentucky.

It is estimated, from statistics that are reliable, that General Buell has to-day an army in the field of not less than 110,000 men, to which the States of Indiana and Ohio are adding about 2,000 daily, and to which they will add, by the consolidation and despatch of regiments, fully 30,000 men between this and the first of January. We believe, therefore, that, with the beginning of the new year, General Buell will have an army of 150,000 men, or as large a force as General McCivilan confesses to have on the Potomac. It will be the army of the West, and upon it will depend, in no slight deto have on the Potomac. It will be the army of the West, and upon it will depend, in no slight degree, the issue of this war. General Buell has now been in commund about a month, and has thus far been occupied in "massing" the troops, after the Potomac pattern They have been organized into brigades and divisions, and so quietly that we are only able to gather, from scattered hints in newspaper correspondence, who are the division and brigade commanders, and to what portion of the grand army different regiments have been assigned. grand army different regiments have been assigned. We believe, however, there are seven grand divisions, each containing three brigades, and the brigades made up of from three to five regiments, with artillery and cavairy attached. The brigades will average 8.000 men throughout. The division 1. General Alexander McDowell McCook, at

2. General George H. Thomas, at Lebanon. 3. General Ormsby M. Mitchel, at Elizabethown.
4 General William Nelson, at New Haven.
5 General Thomas L. Critienden, at Calhoun.
6 General Richard W. Johnson, at Nolin river. 6. General Richard W. Johnson, at North 1962.
7. General Albin Schoepff, at Somerset.
The commanders of brigades include General
Negley, of Fennsylvania; Generals Dumont and
Manson, of Indiana; General Boyle, of Keatucky;
Colonels Turchin, Carrington (18th regulars), Sili,

New Haven, Lebanon; Nolin river, etc., which are all within a radius of twenty miles. General Schoepf's corps, at Somorset, forms the left wing of the army, and just beyond it, at London, is the Tennessee brigade of General Carter, who have been let loose from other restraint and permitted to follow their own instincts. The right wing of the army occupies the country along Green river, with headquarters at Calhoun, and fills the gap between the centre and Fadaral positions at Paducah and Cairo. Rogiments are also stationed at Lexington and along the Lexington and Covington Railroad, and at points on the Ohio river below Louisville. There are now but few troops remaining in Louisville.—Chicago Tribune. The Skirmish at Manfordsville. The Louisville Journal, of the 19th inst., says:

We have seen and conversed with several gentle-men who arrived last evening from Munfordsville, the scene of the skirmish on Tuesday, some particuthe scene of the skirmish on Tuesday, some particulars of which we have already given. Among those with whom we have conversed are the surgeon of Gen. Rousseau's brigade (who was at the scene of the fight, both of whom are gentlemen of unquestioned veracity. Their statements are both to the same effect, and present the skirmish of Tuesday as one of the most brilliant exploits of the campaign on the part of the Federal troops. Tuesday as one of the most brilliant exploits of the campaign on the part of the Federal troops.

The skirmish lasted about forty-five minutes from the commencement of the attack by the rebels to the close, at which time the robot cavarry fled precipitately, leaving their dead on the field.

It should be britto in mind that the four companies from the Thirty a cond Indiana Regiment, Colonel Willich, ander command of the licutenant colonel, crossed to the sound bank of Green river upon the bridge near Munifordsville, and were thrown out as pickets in gands of eight or ten upon an open meadow, at a distance of about one hundred yards from the river bank. At the Munfordsville depot there was a comeated battery of three guns, and there was acother battery of equal force about a mile distant in a southerly direction. There was a belt of timber skitting the position of the four companies from Indians. When the battaries opened the Texas Rangers made a charge for the timber, and about the same time an order was given for the Federal infantry to rally upon the

given for the Federal infantry to rally upon the same point. The Indianians executed the order under a galling fire from the batteries. They thus reached the wood, and under cover of the tree did fearful execution in the rank of the rebel ca-The loss sustained by the Federal troops was incurred under the effect of the first fire. The rebel cavalry dashed in among their ranks before our troops had found time to form. One formed, however, they gallantly advanced to the wood against fearful odds.

The fight for a few minutes is described by an The fight for a few minutes is described by an eyo-witness as a desperate encounter. The gallant Indianians resorted to their sabre bayonets, forcing a hand-to-hand combat upon their enemies so long as the rebels could be induced to stand up and face cold steel. When the Indianians finally gained the wood, they opened a fire upon the Rangers, who fied precipitately, leaving their dead upon the field, including the body of Colonia Transit with was killed by a musket hall, which entered his lower bowels. Col-Terry's body was sent back to the rebel camp yesterday morning under a flag of truce.

truce.

The rebel loss is even greater than at first supposed. There were found upon the field sixty-three dead bodies and the bodies of twelve or fourteen horses. In addition to the bill of mortality, a large number of the rebels are known to have been wounded. The Federal loss was thirteen killed and an equal number wounded.

killed and an equal number wounded.

Two regiments of Federal troops, the Thirty-sixth Indiana and the Sixteenth Ohio, came promptly up to the relief of the four companies from the Thirty-second Indiana, but the rebels had no teste for a renewal of the fight.

Some instances of desperate daring are related of various members of the Thirty-second Indiana Regiment. An informant assures us that he was a witness to the fact that a youth of seventeen, who joined the regiment at Cincinnati, but whose name he could not learn, threw off the restraint of the company drill for the time, and stationed himself behind a tree. From that point he fired fourteen times during the engagement, loading and firing with as much coolness as if he were out ducking, every shot bearing a message of death to some misevery shot bearing a message of death to some mi

every snot bearing a message of death to some mis-guided rebel.

The body of the gallant Lieut. Saxe, of the Thirty-second Indiana, was interred near Mun-fordsville yesterday morning. The remains of Theo. Schmidt were received in this city last eve-ning. Lieut. Saxe was formerly of Louisville, but his wife resides at present in Cinainnet. is wife resides at present in Cincinnati. Mr. Our troops are exultant over the result of the skirmish of Tuesday, and are eager to renew the

The Situation at Somerset. From a gentleman who left Somerset, Kentucky, yesterday, we have reliable advices as to the situation at that place. Zellicoffer, with six thousand men, had thrown up fortifications this side the Cumberland, about ten miles above the side the Cumberland, about the miles above the point at which he crossing place below, there were two thousand rebels, on the south side, guarding the boats It took Zolliooffer four days to get his six thousand men across. The ferries are, therefore, wat extensive; and in case of a fight and defeat he call by transport. feat, he could not recross, with the Federal troops

at his heels.

General Schoopff marched out of Somerset yes terday morning with three Ohio and two Tennesseo regiments, four companies of Hoskin's regiment, and a battery. The Thirty-eighth Ohio, with one battery, remained in Somerset. It was the object of General Schoepff to draw out Zollicoffer, and ht him. He would not attack the fortification. the enemy refused to come out, his camp would probably be shelled from the opposite side of the river. This would be practicable. Our informant says the two thousand men left below to guard the says the two thousand men lett below to guard the boat could not, owing to the impassable character of the intervening ground, interfere with the crossing or working of our artillery. If reinforcements should arrive from London, Zollicoffer would be bagged, and, in any event, he is regarded as in a critical position. A fight may have taken place on Wednesday. General Schoepff was confident of success. He had altogether six thousand men and two batteries. One of the latter was deficient, the

THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR

men not being well drilled .- Cincinnati Gazette.

Important from Washington-Mason and Slidell to be Delivered up if Demanded. The New York Herald of Saturday says: Ac-The New York Herald of Saturday says: According to our latest advices from Washington, all apprehensions of a rupture with England upon the late affair of the Trent may be dismissed. Our Cabinet, we are informed, looking to the absorbing and paramount issue—the suppression of this Southern rebellion—will yield to the present demands of England as the conditions of her neutrality, even if these demands invested the conditions of the reservations. these demands involve the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the protection of the British flag, and a disacound of and an apology for, their science by Capt. Wilkes

Capt. Wilkes
In adopting this alternative of submission to these peremptory demands, the Administration runs the hazard of disappointing the popular sentiment of our loyal States. But a little reflection will satisfy every intelligent mind of the wisdom of deferring a final settlement with England until we shall have made an end of this Southern rebellion. There have been some confectures that arbitration may be have been some conjectures that arbitration may be resorted to; but it is better gracefully to yield to the exigencies of the crisis, and promptly relieve England of her convenient pretext for a quarrel, without the intervention of any third party. Let our Government, then, meet the requisitions of Lord Lyons, in the restitution of Mason and Slidels to British protection, and in an acknowledgment that while Captain Wilkes would have been right in scizing the Trent steamer and bringing her before a prize court for adjudication, he was wreng in
limiting his proceeding to the seizure of his prisoners; and that we regret that his controlling considerations of international courtesy and leminary
should have resulted in the very offence which it
was his particular object to avoid.

should have resulted in the very offence which it was his particular object to avoid.

An explanation of this character, we prosume, will be considered amply satisfactory, as an atonoment to the insulted day of Rugland. It may be painful and humiliating to us. But who will represent the surprised traveller for yielding to the demand of "Your money or your life," with the highwayman's pistol at his head? Our Government will be surprised to be a superior by ment will be amply justified in this reparation by the public opinion of our loyal States, considering the rejoicings of our rebellious States at the prosthe rejoicings of our rebellious States at the pros-pect of accuring the aid of England's fleets and ar-mies in the enterprise of the occupation of Wash-ington. We are called upon now to exhibit the virtues of patience and moderation towards a domi-neering foreign Power, and to submit to its arrogant demands and pretensions, in order to grapple more effectively with an inschent domestic enemy beleaguering our national capital. But as Rome remembered Carthage from the invasion of Hanni-bal, and as France remembers St. Helena, so will remembered Carthage from the invasion of Hanni-bal, and as France remembers St. Helena, so will the people of the United States remember and trea-sure up for the future this little affair of the Trent. Nor do we suppose that the pacific solution of this difficulty, upon the basis of England's offensive ultimatum, will be without equivalent or compon-sation. We expect that it will secure a more de-cent regard hereafter for England's professions of neutrality than she has heretofore exhibited; that such scandalous neutral hospitalities as those lately avantaged to the firstical steamer Newberlle, at autobded to the piratical steamer Nashville, a Southempton, will not be repeated; and that such commercial ventures as that of the steamer Bermu

da to Savannah will cease to be made by British subjects from English ports, under the connivance of her Majesty's Government. Granted that these demands of England in this matter of Mason and Slidell were framed for war and not for peace, we have the right to call for a faithful adherence to this peace which has been conceded where war was expected and designed. But we are asked why expected and designed. But we are asked why
these humiliating concessions upon a quibble and a
pretext? If England's purpose is war will she
not find some other pretext upon which there can
be no concession? We answer, that by yielding to
the arrogant demands of England upon this pretext
of to-day we shall have reduced her to bonds of
peace from which she cannot escape except as a
reckiess fillourer, liable to be outlawed by every
other European Power.

Mesuline, with the re-establishment of our
peaceable relations with England, we shall be at

peaceable relations with England, we shall be at liberty to bring our whole military power to bear by land and sea upon this domestic rebellion. We by ind and sea upon the domestic repender. We bope, too, that, admonished by the restless impatience of England and France for cotton, President Lincoln and his Calinet will vigorously push forward the movements of our flects and armies, and put an end to all European notions of an inevitable Southern Confederacy by the speedy overevitable Southern Confederacy by the speedy over-throw of the spurious revolutionary league of Davis and his confederates. Then, with this robellion suppressed, with our revolted States restored, with an army of a million men in the field, with a powerful navy, including a good proportion of iron plated ships, and with our souccoast and frontier defences upon a war footing, we shall have the power to settle, not only our outstanding accounts against England, but the power to prescribe the extent and the limitations of European authority on this continent.

The British Ultimatum - The British North American Fleet Ordered to Bos-[Special Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—It is currently reported, among the English residents here, that the tenor of Lord Lyons' despatches, received by the Europe, is very simple. He is instructed to demand the absolute delivery of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and their secretaries. Other questions will be discussed afterwards.

The gunboat Landrail, which sailed yesterday from New York, bore despatches to Admiral Milne, directing him to repair at once with a large fleet to Boston harbor, to receive the Southern commissioners. The fleet will be composed of

on this continent.

about forty-five vessels.

Smith O'Brien on a War with England. THE PERFIDY OF GREAT DRITAIN TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, AND THE DUTY OF IRISHMEN. [From the Dublin Freeman, Dec. 5.]
In a letter addressed by Mr. William Smith
O'Brien to Mr. Seward, Secretary of State of the
United States, we find the following allusions to
recent events: By the recent seizure of the Confederate commissioners on board of a British mail
steamer, the Government of Mr. Lincoln has incurred a foarful responsibility. I take for granted
that this net will not be disavowed. I take for
granted that it was intended as a deliberate affront From the Dublin Freeman, Dec. 5.] that this act will not be disavowed. I take for granted that it was intended as a deliberate affront to the English nation. I take for granted that it was designed as a bold and defiant answer to the insolence which has been directed against the American nation by every organ of Dritish opinion ever since the civil war broke out in the United States. However this may be, it is assuredly an act which is fraught with consequences that may be reafter become most disastrous to both parties who are now contending with each other. Unless England

TWO CENTS. consent to foregrall claims to manhood or national honor, she must resent this seizure, and, if the South be disposed to accept her co-operation, the successors of Washington must be prepared to encounter hazards more dangerous than have ever menaced the Western Kepublic. United, the States of America might defy the world; but, while they are divided, the interposition of a powerful arbiter must rule their destinics. The navy of Ergland, issuing from the ports of Fellinx, St. Johns, Bermude, and of the West Indies, and co-operating with a land force which appears to be little short of half smillion of men, will not only raise the blockade of every Bouthern port, But will sweep the American coast from New Brasswick to the Potomac, burning every town and city which lies within reach of the from New Brinswick to the Potomac, burning every town and city which lies within reach of the formidable projecties of modern artiflery, and capitalize every commercial vessel that may verture to the formidable projecties of a Federal fortress. As for Canada, the modern statesmen A England care little whether it call itself British or American; but if an attempt bermade by the Federal States to force the Canadians into an incorporation with the Northern section of the Republic they will simply brings upon themselves an additional foe. They will be attacked on their northern as well as on their smathern frontier, and, thus ordermatched, they will be compelled to yield to the dictates of necessity and submit to an important our first is the course of events which British opision now anticipates. Scarcely a single Englishman or Irish West Briton is to be found the did not rejecte when the civil war broke out in America, because the English people have been made to feel that the United States was becoming a Power with whose accendency they would soon be unable to

Thited States was becoming a Power with whose accendency they would zoon be unably to cope, For the same reason I am convinced that they would now rejoice to obtain an opportunity of destroying the Northern section of the Republic, by forming an alliance with the Southern. They would thus acquire, without thus adment, the cotton and other raw man without impediment, the cotton and other raw ma-terials with which the Southern States have been the cours.

without impediment, the cotton and other raw materials with which the Southern States have been accusromed to supply them, whilst they would extinguish the political and commenced greatures of a formidable rival. In view of these contingencies do I ask you to lower the "Stars and Stripes," and to humble yourself to England? By no means; but I carneally entreaty out to renow relations of amity, if not of affection, with those who are your natural friends, who ought to be your brothers in affection as they are your brothers by the relation of kindred. Answer the British demands in the language of diplomacy. Quote authorities and precedents to show that you are justified by the law of nations, and specially by the example of England, in the seizure of these commissioners. Such discussions will give you time for deliberation, and for preparation; but loss not an hour inliberating the commissioners. Send them to the Confederate headquarters, and tell them to return to Washington as plenipotentiaries duly authorized to treat respecting the terms of an immediate suspansion of arms, and respecting an early adjustment of the questions at issue between the Northern and Southern States.

If this be the language of common sense, do not despise it because it comes from an islans which has for ages been the victim of misgovernment. I believe that the language which I now hold bespeaks the sentiments of a large majority of my fellow-countrymen; and there is not among the nations of the earth a people who entertain towards the United States of America so much affection as is folt

hashes and AUARU Giver from the frontier of Main

Irishmen, inhabiting an island which lies by her side, will sympathize with America rather than with

braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.

and compassionate Government of the United States

and the debt which they owe to the Government

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Capt. Ricketts war Prisoners in Rich-

Capt. and Mrs. Ricketts, whose arrival from

\$10; and ladies' shoes at from \$4 to \$5. Provisions of all kinds are secree and command exorbitant prices. Army stores of certain kinds are much needed, and a supply is confidently expected from Washington by way of the Potorase. Mrs Ricketts thinks there are active agents of Secession and correspondents of President Davis still in Washington. On Sunday evening, the 15th inst., a messenger arrived in Richmond with the intelligence from England regarding the Mason and Stidell affair. President Davis was roused out of bed at an upgeonsomable hour, and delighted with the news. On

President Davis was roused out of bed at an ug-ceasonable hour, and delighted with the news. Ga Monday morning it appeared in the papers of the city. The rebels do not talk of an attack upon Washington, but are eager for a movement into Maryland by the upper Potomaa. Lectures have been delivered advising such a step, and strenuous efforts are made to create Secession sympathy in that State.

that State.

A large force is gathered near Coosawatchie, between Charleston and Savannah, ready to repel invasion. Gen. Pemberton is in command, and Gen. Evans, lately at Leesburg, has gone thither, and a number of wounded officers, West Point graduates, are also there. The system of drafting began in Richmond is exceedingly unpopular. It calls into active service the entire militia. Boys of 15 years are often enrolled. Those who desire to remain at home have to provide substitutes, who can only be

home have to provide substitutes, who can only be

home have to provide substitutes, who can only be had with great difficulty.

Mr. Ely is in good health and spirits, and it is understood that he is to be released the moment Mr. Faulkner arrives in Richmond. The rebel soldiers are very abusive of the Yankees. The heads of two of our men, killed at the skirmish at Pohick Church, were severed from the bodies, carried on bayonets to the camp, and there exposed until some officers objected, for the reason that, if known it might seuse remark in Europe. Captain

Miscellaneous.

The recent great fire at Charleston, full details of which appear in the Courier of the 16th instant, is even more calamitous and destructive than it

is even more calamitous and destructive than it was at first supposed to be. The aggregate loss of property in buildings, goods, &c , is almost incredible. The Courier roughly estimates it at not less than ten millions of dollars, on which the insurance was comparatively limited. Some establishments, with their contents, estimated to be worth thirty to

fifty thousand dollars, are insured for only three to six thousand dollars. Many of the finest residences

countrymen; and there is not among the nations of the earth a people who entertain towards the United States of America so much affection as is folt by the Irish. They have not forgotten that they were received and fostered by the Americans at a time when they were driven from their homes by English misgovernment, and when their death, proscription, and exile were hailed by England with a shout of exultation, which was not confined to the prejudiced masses for whom were written the memorable words, "The Celts are gone. Thank God! the Celts are gene—gone with a vengeance." They are even still reminded that this exultation was shared, and is shared, by the leading stutasmen of England—by ministers and vicercys who ere still in the habit of finding in every decrease of the population of Ireland a subject of congratulation. If you make peace with the South there will be no war with England. Some convenient and plausible protest will be discovered for forbearing to resent the affront which has been offered to the British flag. England would not hecitate to assail you, as she assailed the Chineso, if you were unable to defend yourselves; but when she shall find that the shores of America are to be protected by a million of armed men who have profited by the experience of at Sketch of General John Pope.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

The Report of General Phelps, WASHINSTON, Dec. 21 .- Adjutant General Thomas has received a letter from Major General Butler, now here, accompanied by a copy of the report of Brigadier General Phelps. General Butler says he has not received an official

copy of General Phelps' proclamation, but has inlished copies are correct.

side, will sympathize with America rather than with England in such a struggle; when she forebodes, with gloomy forecast, that the glory of England will forever pass away, and become matter of history, if ever France and America shall unite in hostility to her; when she knows that the ruler of France is watching, like an eagle, for an opportunity to pounce upon his prey, and that France will be supported by the sympathy of Spain, and the gratitude of Italy, she will be slow to encounter these hazards, even in defence of the flag that "has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze." nees-like statement." Gen. Phelps, in his report, says that he "searched Ship Leland, in the harbor of Mississippi Sound, on the evening of the third of December, when the despatches with which he was entrusted for Flag Officer McKean were sent by Lieutenant Winstow, Solemn Advice to Irishmen in the North and South. of the steamer R. R. Cuyler, who proceeded to

> General Phelps' arrival at that time made known. "We found in the harbor on our arrival the United States war, ship Massachusetts and the steamer R. R. Cualer, besides several prizes, and not long afterward the steam gunboat New London and an armed schooner, being part of the Gulf blockeding squadron. "On the west and of the island is a partially

trunks of trees having been drifted on some of the

sistent with the more pressing domands." He concludes by saying that while preparing the report the De Soto and New London have been

From New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 21 .- Flag Officer Bell sailed squadron. The steamer Ocean Queen will leave morrow with stores for Beaufort.

three gunboats, thought to be the Mohican, Poorhontas, and Seneca. A portion of the stone fleet for Savannah had re. turned to Hilton Head.

Island. The gunbsais, Unadilla, Paionec, and another, the name of which is not given, had gone to reconnoitre the shores of Edisto Island, and the mouth of South Edisto river. The Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment had been transferred to a camp on St. Helena Sound. No

Gen McClellan's Expectations. The Hon. Schuyler Colfax, writing to the South Bend Regastar, says that Gen. McClolban has repeated to him, with amphasis, a former declaration that the war would be short, though it probably might be desperate, and that he saw the way clearly through to success in conquering the rebellion.

UNITED STATES STEAMER DELAWARE, Off Fortress Monroe, Dec. 20th, 1861.

until some officers objected, for the reason that, if known, it might cause remark in Europe. Captain R. and Mrs. Ricketts left Richmond on Wednesday morning, at 5 o'clock, and were taken by train to Norfolk, where they were kindly treated by Ganaral Huger, and at once sent by boat to meet our steamer near Sewell's Point. They will proceed, in a few days, to Elizabeth, New Jersey, and thence to New York, of which city the Captain is a native. The Rev. John F. Mines, chaplain of the Second Maine Regiment, left for Hartford, Connecticut, this afternoon, where he will join his family. The lads, who came from Richmond with him, were the sons of a captain in one of the regiments of General Sickles' Brigade, and were recently taken from a small boat on the Potomac. ing bayonets, would be for idle show-not the dread reality. As you are aware, our steamer left Philadelphia on the afternoon of the 11th, anchoring off Fort Mifflin the same evening to procure powder and shell, which we did the following morning; getting under weigh at 0.30 A. M., we arrived here at noon the next day, making the run inside of twentysmall boat on the Potomac.

They were sent to their father to-day. Mr. Mines states that the treatment shown the Union prisoners at first was very harsh—several men were shot as at first was very harsh—several men were shot as a first was very harsh—several men were shot as a first was very harsh—several men were shot as the craft, has a heavy armament on board. Her crew, has a heavy armament on board. seven hours, and using but half steam the whole at first was very harsh—several men were shot as previously reported for simply looking from the windows, and the cruel practice was not stopped until Colonel Corcoran sent for Gen. Winder and protested against it, saying that if the prisoners were to be shot they preferred to be taken into an open field and killed according to military usage. For many weeks the Rev. Mr. Mines was not permitted to preach even to his fellow-prisoners, but subsequently he was given such permission, and also allowed to preach in the prisons and the hospitals. through the exertions of Commander Quackenbush and his officers, are already in a fine state of officiency and discipline, and I have no doubt our gal-lant little craft will prove a formidable foe to the rebel batteries lined along the Potomac and else-

where. Our destination is, as yet, unknown. Transport steamers, gunboats, &c., of all classes, arrive and depart daily. The Constitution, Connecticut, Illinois, Monticello, and others have

folk came up yesterday and returned back, with but tew passengers either way. and schooger Antoinette Macken arrived in yos-

.....12.00

ing in consequence decrease stipulations in the policies.

The citizens of Norfolk, up to yesterday, had rais at \$1,800 in Confederate money, which was forw. Weed to the mayor of Charleston for the suf-Fire thousand dollars had also been reised ferers. Fire thousand dollars had also been raised in Rich mond, and \$500 in Petersburg for a similar purpose. Liberal donations were being made elsewhere, bu & mostly in Confederate and State paper money.

It is belie ved a considerable number of the Con-It is belie veet a considerable number of the Confederate troops heretefore in the vicinity of Norfolk have been vertered elsewhere.

The steamer Merrinanc is still lying at the Portamouth dock, and has not been removed from that position. She was cut drawn some five or six feet, and strongly covered with iron. Several tests and experiments have been made to accertain her resistance to cannon balls, shell, &c. It is now feared, with the immense loud of metal upon her, she will not be safe at 898, or might aim even in she will not be safe at sea, or might sink even in an ordinary storm. There are fears she has been rendered useless \$2.00,108 a mare harbor defence. The Legislature of Vuginia has passed a law to prevent extertion in said, which had been selling at very high prices. A cellar a pound had been demanded for it in some instances.

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THE WAR PRESS.

THE WAR PRESS will be sent to subscribers by

demanded for it in source instances.

There is a great scarcity of shoer and clothing material in this part of Virgidia.

The Federal prisonega of war in Michmond are beginning to feel the want of proper cothing. Congressman Ely has very gener maly offered; says the Dispatch, to expeted \$5,000 of his private means, which are quite analyte, in order to pure case them the necessary clothing, but his fellow-prisoners declined to permit him to do it.

Attologyambic despetch was refleived by Jost De-A tolegraphic desputch was revolved by Jeff Davis on Tuesday morning annual seling the English news brought by the Europe.

On Saturday last the Husting Court, so Richmond, entered an order that all fire shegroes is sold who do not pay their taxes by the finitury term of the courts.

Confederate State bonds, of the \$15,990,000 kene, are quoted at 98,081.

The reset House of Delegaton, 77 Biohmond, have passed an act authorizing the flovernor to seize all sait held at exerbitant rates, and place it in the hands of an agent, who shall a defit to the people at reasonable rates.

The Riemond Dispatch says that Wre-H Byrd, who has for some time past been cared in the county jail; will probably be released in a short

The Vicksburg Sun has an account of a Eght in the executive office at Jackson, Miss., between Governor Pettes and Mayor (ex-Congressman, Barks-Several attempts have been made to fire thotelte

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Captain Wood's Scouting Party. WASHINGTOIT, Dec. 21.—The following despatch was received yesterday from St. Louis; was received yesterday from St. Louis;

"St. Louis; Dec. 21.—To Major General George B. McClellan: Captain Wood's scouting party has returned to Relia. It pursued the enemy south of Houston, killed one captain, and brought in one major a prisoner of war.

"About a bundred of Price's men were captured and released on parole, not being able to bring them in.

"Major General Commanding,"

Sketch of General John Page.

Shellen of General John Pope.

General John Pope is a man about forty years of age, a native of Kentucky, and a graduate of West Point, which scademy he entered in the year 1838. He graduated in 1949, and was appointed to the army from the State of Illinois, entering that service as a brevet second heutemant of Topographical Engineers. He was engaged in Mexico, and was breveted a first-liquidual for gallant and meritorious conduct in several conflicts at Monterey, the brevet bearing date from September 23, 1846. On the 23d of February, 1847, he was breveted capbrevet bearing date from September 23, 1846. On the 23d of February, 1847, he was breveted captain for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Ruena Vista. On the 1st of July, 1856, he took the schual rank of captain in the curps of Topographical Engineers, and on the 17th of May, 1851, was made a brigadier general of volunteers. General Pope is bound to make his mark during this

of America are to be protected by a million of armed men, who have profited by the experience of at least one campaign; when she shall find that every to the extremity of Texas is about to send out privateers which will intercept, even in Australia, the gold-laden vessels of England; when she recollects goes to war with united America, she will be met by two hundred thousand Irish soldiers who pant for an opportunity of averaging the wrongs of their race; when she is conscious that five millions of

General Butler concludes his letter as follows: "I need hardly say that the issuing of any proclamation on such an occasion was neither suggested nor authorized by me, and most certainly not such the report, and ask attention to its clear and busi-

At a meeting of the National Brotherhood of St. Patrick, held at their rooms, No. 2 Marlborough street, on Tuesday evening, Neilson Underwood, Eq., barrister, in the chair, the following resolution was moved and carried by acclamation: That we have viewed with the deepest sorrow the fratricidal war in which the States of America have been engaged, and that, in the presence of the possibility of war between droat Britain and the United States, we implore our follow-countrymen on the American continent to remember the deep obligation under which they lie to the friendly and comparison to the American continent.

finished fort. The island bears evidence of having seen overflowed in some extraordinary storm; large

General Phelps also says : " Deeming it proper to make known to the people of this region the re-moter objects of this expedition, I have prepared a proclamation, which I shall endeavor to have diseminated as early and as widely as possible, con-

engaging the enemy's boats in the direction of New to-day in the steamer Champion for the Pacitio

Capt. and Mrs. Ricketts, whose arrival from Richmond was announced on Friday, are still at Major Palmer's, in Washington, and have readiled a large number of visitors. The Captain's health is improving rapidly, and there is a prospect of his entire recovery at an early day. His principal wound was in the leg; though he was shot in the arm and otherwise injured. He was not taken until fifty-oight of his company were dead, on the field, and his wounds had overpowered him. He was joined at Manassas by Mrs. Ricketts three days after the battle, and she has been with him ever since, administering to his comfort with a noble devotion. Held, as a prisoner, she has suffered great pri-Further from Port Royal—Departure of the Stone Ficet for Charleston. ministering to his comfort with a noble devotion. Held: as a prisoner, she has suffered great privations, and tells a sorry tals of rebel treatment. Ning thousand rebel patients are in the public hospitals of Richmond and under private care. Indeed, nearly every house has its sick or wounded soldier. There is a great look, of medicines, and, in many of the Secession regiments, a disease called the "camp fever" provails to an alarming extent. The soldiers are sadly desitute of shoes. Good boots sell in Richmond at \$25 a pair; ladies' do at \$10; and ladies' shoes at from \$4 to \$5. Provisions of all kinds are secree and command exorbitant. NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The transport Daniel Webster, from Port Royal on the evening of the 17th, reports that sixteen vessels of the stone fleet sailed on that day for Charleston, under escort of

Five of the vessels had beached near Tybes

advance had been made by General Stevens' brigade into the laterior.

Correspondence of The Press] The weather here, the past week, has been lovely, the thermometer ranging from 50 to 65 degrees and Old Sol, though far to the southward, yet send ing his rays upon us kindly and gonially, has made everything appear like spring; and choerful would be our hearts under its influence, were it not for the thought of the bitter warfare in which we are engaged. True, we are endeavoring to subdue a rebellion, which had its rise in wild ambition, disappointed hopes, and hatred without cause; and when, a day or two ago, I gazed upon the review in Hampton valley, the gay soldiory marching in the distance, their polished weapons flashing in the sun, I fervently wished the day close at hand when their lively music, brilliant uniforms, and gliston-

come and gone, yet plenty usurp their places; and in conjunction with the numerous merchantmen plying around, Hampton Roads oft presents an animated appearance. Occasionally a rebel steamer from Norfolk will appear in sight off Sewell's Point, take a reconnoissance, and turn back at the approach of one of our gunboats. From Sewell's Point to Norfolk, the butteries of the rebels are heavy, and daily increasing in strength, as they are constantly in fear of an attack from us; and a cannonade from this quarter, I surmise, will commones ere many days. The flag of truce boat from Nor-The steamers Quaker City and S. P. Sprulding

six thousand dollars. Many of the finest residences destroyed had insurance only upon the furniture. Most of the policies were in Charleston, Augusta, Savannah, and other Southern companies, many of which will be unable to pay one-fourth the amounts insured. There is also considerable insurance in Northern companies, which, under existing difficulties, is not expected to be paid. The Royal Insurance Company also lost heavily, and it is apprehended there may arise some demurrers to its pay-