The Sunbury American.

R. B. MASSER, Editor & Proprietor.

SUNBURY, PA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1864.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30th, 1863.

As the holidays are past, and a new year is just dawning, people are beginning to prepare for another years business. As a holiday, the first day of the year is of little account. Everything is centered in Christmas—and everybody seems to think it should be celebrated in some way. While many good people go to church, and behave themselves as christians and good citizens should do, quite a large number, have an idea that drinking egg-nog and other potations which contain more spirit, if not more head-ache, is more agreeable if not more creditable.—I never before saw so many drunken men in Philadelphia as I did on Christmas day. It was, in some respects, a drunken carnival or a Bathanalian revelry, and I can hardly think the quiet and more orderly, if not the more respectable portion of the citizens could participate or find any pleasure in festivities observed in this manner.

The nomination of Gen. McClellan by a few party leaders and some of these scarcely known out of the city, is looked upon here, as the smallest fizzle of a grand scheme, that ever came off in this city of selfish, if not wonderful patriots. There are a number of aspirants for the Presidency,—Among them, the most prominent are Mr. Lincoln, Secretary Chase, Gen. Banks, Gen. Butler, Gen. Grant and others. There is no doubt but that President Lincoln has the inside track. All concede to him honesty of purpose and a disposition to do what is right. These are important qualities in a man occupying such a position and give him great weight among the masses.—Secretary Chase has proved himself a man of rare ability in the management of our financial affairs. Gen. Banks possesses, perhaps, more administrative talent than any of our leading men, but the impression is, that he is "biding his time," and will not make any serious effort. Gen. Butler will, no doubt, act in a sensible manner.—What Gen. Grant will do, remains to be seen. If he puts himself into the hands of unscrupulous politicians, as Gen. McClellan did, he may share the same fate.

Chief Justice Taney, it is rumored, is dying. There are many anxious aspirants, to fill that high and responsible office.—There is one consolation, that it will be filled by a loyal Union man.

☞ MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—The new Pennsylvania Legislature will meet on Tuesday next. In the Senate the two parties will be a tie—16 to 16, owing to the absence of Major White, Senator from Indiana, who is now a prisoner in Richmond. He was captured when Milroy retreated from Winchester, and has been held, notwithstanding the special efforts made by the government to effect his exchange, solely because the rebels know that his return will give the Union men a majority in the Senate.

The Senate is always an organized body. It is necessary that it should be so in order to provide for the contingency of the death of the Governor, in which case the Speaker of the Senate takes the Executive chair. Hon. John P. Penny, of Allegheny, was chosen Speaker at the close of the last session, because Speaker Lawrence retired from the Senate, and it was necessary therefore to elect a successor who held over for the coming session. It is usual, on the meeting of the Senate, to proceed to the election of a Speaker. The custom has been accepted, just as is the custom of the Speaker to resign, at the close of the session, even if his time does not expire, and we doubt not that it will be observed at the coming meeting of that body. But if the Senate fails to elect, as we presume it will, is it to be regarded as a body wanting in organization? If the Senate should fail to elect a Speaker, is the chair vacant for all purposes? If Governor Curtin should die or resign, would not Senator Penny become Governor? We think that no sane man would deny his right and duty to assume the Executive functions in that case; and if he be Speaker for that purpose, for what purpose is he *not* Speaker?

If the Copperheads attempt to retard the organization of the Senate, by refusing to concede the election of Speaker Penny, then the Union men have no course left them but to stand upon their extreme rights. Fortunately Speaker Penny can be in no sense objectionable. He is a high-toned, honorable Senator, and commands the unbounded respect of all his associates, regardless of party lines. If they will not concede his election, then it must be manifest that they mean to embarrass the government to the utmost extent of their power. In that case the resignation of Senator White must be delivered and a new Union Senator be had in his place at the earliest possible moment.

One important duty of the legislature will be to pass the proposed amendments to the Constitution, allowing soldiers to vote; and also to make provision for submitting the amendments to a vote of the people, at a special election some time during the summer, so that the amendments may be adopted in season for the soldiers to vote at the October election. This will be resisted earnestly but as covertly as possible by the Copperheads; but they cannot defeat it if the Union men are true to their cause. This done, the people will adopt the amendments by an overwhelming vote, in spite of Copperhead politicians, and the opponents of the government in Pennsylvania will scarcely make a respectable show in the next election. Altogether the next session is the most important in the history of the State, and let every Union man be at his post all the time.

☞ PROPOSED DONATION OF COAL.—The Coal Operators of Schuylkill county propose donating a quantity of coal for the relief of the suffering families in Philadelphia, of absent and fallen soldiers. The coal will be distributed by Mr. George H. Stuart, chairman of the U. S. Christian Commission. The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company have consented to transport the coal free of charge.

☞ OUR SOLDIERS' PAY.—The movement in Congress which has for its object the increase of the pay of the soldiers can but meet with the approval of the public. The enemies of the Government, always eager to cast obstacles in the way when the comfort of our defenders is to be improved by an appropriation of money, either by the Congress of our Nation or the more humble Legislative bodies of States, and municipalities, are already endeavoring to prevent the passage of the bill; but fortunately the majority of our law-makers at Washington are too patriotic to have their opinions changed by copperhead suggestions. The present remuneration of the soldiers is by no means adequate to their expenses, to say nothing of their valuable services; and when wages, generally, throughout the country, are being increased, their claims should not certainly be disregarded.

Thousands of their number have large families depending, almost entirely, upon them for their daily sustenance, and after the sum reserved for the excess of clothing, over that allowed each year, is deducted from a soldier's pay, the amount which he is enabled to remit home is very small, thus necessarily entailing suffering and want upon his wife and children.

We trust no unnecessary delay will be experienced in the passage of a bill which has for its object the improved welfare of so many thousands of our heroes and their dependent relations.

☞ SOUTH AND NORTH.—A reluctant admission is made by the correspondent of the London *Times* at Richmond, that it is dangerous and difficult work to attempt to run the blockade of the rebel ports; and of course this admission implies greater distress and scarcity among the Southern people. Another correspondent, who was with the rebel army under Bragg, admits also that "a crisis is approaching to test the South." He also (we quote from the telegraphic report) "pays a high tribute to the magnificence of Northern faith and self-reliance, as contrasted with the lukewarmness of the Southern masses." So, an English observer among the Southern people admit that they are lukewarm. This is a different state of affairs from what is reported by the Richmond editors, but we doubt not that it is the true one. The rebellion is on its last legs, and another campaign will utterly quell it. Let the new call for troops be promptly complied with, so that the new campaign may be vigorous, short and decisive. The North has ample resources and unfailing zeal and faith. Let these be well used and the South must soon succumb.

THE GREAT PRIZE FIGHT.—The *Mail* brings an account of the great fight for £1,000 a side, between Heenan and King, which took place on the morning of the 10th, at Tonbridge, England. King won in twenty-five rounds, the fight having lasted thirty-one minutes.

The London *Times* devotes a leader to the affair, and also publishes a graphic special account. It editorially says:

Heenan was game throughout, from the beginning to the close of the fight, and he put the 'hug' on so as to crush his antagonist by dashing him to the ground. King's tactics were different and more creditable to a professor of pugilism. They consisted simply in striking a series of sledge-hammer blows on the most prominent and sensitive parts of Heenan's physiognomy, until the latter collapsed from exhaustion. The affair was over in twenty-four rounds and thirty-five minutes. There appears to have been little "science" on either side, but it was nevertheless, a fair stand up fight, without a check, and ended in a decisive victory for King.

The *Times* concludes its article by asserting that "prize fighting is more revolting than bull fighting and ought to be discouraged."

☞ FORTUNATE MAN.—A coal operator in Carbon county, has sold his lease on some lands there, with the machinery thereon, for seven hundred thousand dollars. A few years ago the same operator was bankrupt. He is now almost a millionaire.

☞ The official Rebel loss at Chickamauga is stated as follows:—

Killed, two thousand two hundred and ninety-nine; dangerously wounded, four thousand seven hundred and eighty; slightly, ten thousand five hundred; missing one thousand nine hundred.

AN ANGEL IN DISGUISE—A SINGULAR ATTEMPT AT ROBBERY.—The wife of an officer in the army, living in Williamson county, Illinois, recently received from her husband a package containing seven hundred dollars, a portion of which belonged to the families of soldiers living in that vicinity. A few days after the reception of the money there came a sick soldier to the house of the officer's wife and asked permission to remain over night. The woman refused, but the soldier insisting, she finally consented. During the night the family was aroused by the violent knocking of parties outside, who demanded that the door be opened, and if not opened they would break it down; that the officer's wife had a lot of money, and they were bound to have it. The woman was terrified, and giving the money to the soldier inside, secreted herself and her children, when the soldier exclaimed, in a voice loud enough to be heard by the villains outside, "I am unarmed, but if I had a pistol I would fix the villains." The door was then burst open, and ten men disguised as negroes, entered the house. Five shots were instantly fired at them, killing three of the party and wounding another, the remainder fled. The blacking having been washed from the faces of the dead, they were discovered to be the woman's nearest neighbors—one of them her brother-in-law.

From Charleston.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 27.

The United States steamer Massachusetts arrived this morning in fifty four hours from Charleston bar. She brings 240 discharged men, 41 sick, and 16 rebel prisoners captured on board the steamer Chatham by the steamer Huron, while attempting to escape from the Attawahke river.

The Massachusetts has on board portions of the rebel obstructions, forwarded to Washington by Admiral Dahlgren.

The dates from Charleston harbor are to December 24th. No event of importance had occurred since the sailing of the last steamer.

But little firing had occurred between the land batteries during the previous few days.

The Ironsides and monitors are all lying safe at their anchorage. There is no present prospect of active operations.

Application for Exemption from the Next Draft.

There is an impression that those persons, whose names are on the printed lists of citizens subject to draft, who are entitled to exemption from any cause whatever, must appear now before the Provost Marshal of their District, and claim that exemption now. This is a mistake, as there are only certain claims of exemption which will be heard now previous to the draft, viz: 1st, alienage; 2d, non-residence; 3d, unsuitableness of age; 4th, manifest permanent physical disability; persons now in the military service of the United States, or who have been discharged since March 3d, 1863. The following statement will show what cases are being now heard, and what are laid over until after the persons are drafted:

"Only Support, &c."—These cases are not heard now, and cannot be until the party is actually drafted. It will be well for those interested to remember that a mother (in the eyes of the law) is not a step-mother, mother-in-law, or a grand-mother.

"Election of Parents."—Where two or more sons are subject to draft, the father or widowed mother may elect which one shall be exempted. This claim must be put in *before* the draft, and will not avail after a draft is made. If one or more is enrolled in some other district, a certificate of the Board of Enrollment to that effect should accompany the paper. Those exempted from the last draft for this cause need not file new papers now; their names will not go into the wheel in January.

"Two Brothers in Service."—These cases will be heard after the draft is made, and the applications should state the name of each brother, and the company and regiment he is in, as they must be sent to Washington City for examination by the War Department. Unless the brothers are "of the same family and household," this will not exempt. Commissioned officers do not exempt in this case.

"Conviction of Felony" exempts, after the party is drafted. The application should be accompanied by a copy of the record, and the oath of two citizens indentifying the drafted man as the person so convicted. A subsequent pardon does not relieve the party of the disgrace of not being allowed to serve his country in the field.

"In Service March 3, 1863."—All these are exempted and placed in the third class on producing their discharges, and showing they are the persons enrolled. This should be done before the draft, or may be done afterward.

"Aliens."—These should apply now, but if drafted, their claim, if well founded, will exempt them. If already exempted for alienage they need not apply again. Those exempted for this cause for the July draft need not renew their applications.

"Over Forty five and under Twenty Years of Age."—These may apply now. In all cases, the age "on the first of July last" determines who they are or not liable. A man who was not twenty until July 2 is not liable to draft; a man who became over forty-five on the 2d of July is. Where a family record, certificate of birth or baptism, "wanderbuch," or other record can be produced, it saves time and trouble to bring it, as it is the best evidence of age. Those exempted on age last draft need not renew their applications.

"Over Thirty-five and Married."—The same rule applies as in previous paragraph. Those who are "over thirty-five and married" on the 1st of July are exempt—not those who have married since, or since become over thirty-five years of age. Those already exempted for this cause are now in the second class, and need not apply again, as they will not be effected by this draft.

"Non-Residents."—This refers to those who did not reside in the District at the time of the last enrollment, on the first of July last. They should apply now to be stricken off, and bring evidence in certificate of the proper board) that they are enrolled at their proper residences. Those already exempted for this cause need not renew their applications.

"Now in Service."—The friends or relatives of this class of persons may have their names stricken off by filing proper evidence of the facts.

"Physical Disability."—Those already exempted for physical disability need not apply. Other enrolled persons may be examined where the disability is manifest and permanent. Men suffering from epilepsy, liver or heart disease, or other affections of the kind, need not apply until drafted.

Persons who were heretofore drafted and put in substitutes, paid commutation, were exempted by reason of physical disability, need not give themselves any concern about the coming draft, their names being out of the wheel. It is hardly probable that any person having valid claims for exemption will be refused to be heard, either before or after the draft; and, it is a safer plan to apply before the 5th, if the claim is one that so requires.

A YOUNG GIRL KIDNAPPED.—Thirteen men visited the house of Mr. M. A. Linton, a Quaker, residing near Richview, in Washington county, Ill., on the night of the 5th inst., armed with revolvers, and demanded his daughter, a beautiful girl of sixteen, just home from school, on pain of the instant death of the entire family in case of refusal. Resistance was impossible; the girl was dragged to her room, forced to dress, carried to a buggy, and taken away; eight men remaining to guard the house until morning. No clue to the villains or her whereabout has been gained. A perfect reign of terror has existed in that region for some time. Those fiends are believed to be secessionists, and took this horrible method to vent their hostility to a peaceful Union man.

Christmas Dinner at Stanton Hospital.

On Christmas day dinner was prepared in real old English style, at Stanton Hospital, in charge of Surgeon John A. Lidell, United States Volunteers. Turkeys and chickens, and good old ale and segars were provided, which were highly relished by the gallant fellows in the hospital, some two hundred in number. Among the distinguished guests present, were Hon. Edwin M. Stanton and wife, Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, Representative A. W. Clark, of New York, and others, who expressed themselves highly pleased with the excellent arrangements made by Dr. Lidell.

Secretary Stanton addressed the assemblage in a brief and patriotic speech, which was enthusiastically received by those present.

Christmas Day at the Convalescent Camp.

On Christmas day, the soldiers at the Convalescent camp, near Alexandria, about four thousand in number, enjoyed a substantial and home-like dinner of turkeys and poultry, with the accessories of pastry, &c. Lieutenant-Colonel McKelvy, commandant of the camp, had previously purchased three thousand pounds of poultry in the Philadelphia markets, at cost prices, and determined to make the hearts of his boys glad with a good dinner, and he succeeded most admirably. The officers doffed their coats, and carved the fowls energetically, much to the amusement of the gallant fellows who thus saw the "regulations" reversed by the officers waiting upon and paying deference to the privates, which was rather different from the ordinary routine. Everything passed off pleasantly, and the day and its enjoyments will be long remembered.

AN IMPORTANT RAID.

Operations of Averill's Cavalry.

GEN. AVERILL'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The following dispatch has reached Washington:

EDSAY, POCOHONTAS COUNTY, VA., Dec 21, via BEVERLY, Dec. 22.

Maj-Gen. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

I have the honor to report that I cut the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at Salem, on the 16th instant, and have arrived safely at this point with my command, consisting of the 2d, 3d and 8th Virginia Mounted Infantry, 14th Pennsylvania, Dobsen's Battalion of Cavalry, and Ewing's Battery.

At Salem three depots were destroyed, containing 2,000 barrels of flour, 10,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels of shelled corn, 50,000 bushels of oats, 2,000 barrels of meat, several cords of leather, 1,000 sacks of salt, 31 boxes of clothing, 20 bales of cotton, and a large amount of harness, shoes, saddles, equipments, tools, oil, tar, and various other stores, and one hundred wagons. The telegraph wire was cut and coiled and burnt for half a mile. The water station, turn tables and three cars were burned and the track torn up and the rails heated and destroyed as much as possible in six hours.

Five bridges and several culverts were destroyed over an extent of fifteen miles—A large quantity of bridge timber and repairing materials were also destroyed.

My march was interrupted occasionally by the tempests in the mountains and the icy roads. I was obliged to swim my command and drag my artillery with ropes across Croy's Creek several times in twenty-four hours.

On my return I found six separate commands, under Generals Early, Jones, Fitz Lee, Imboden, Jackson, Echols and McCausin, arranged in a line extending from Staunton to Newport, upon all the available roads, to prevent my return. I captured a dispatch from General Jones to General Early, giving me their positions and that of Jackson.

Clifton Forge and Covington were selected to be carried.

I marched from the front of Jones to that of Jackson during the night. His outposts were pursued in at a gallop by the 8th Virginia mounted infantry, and the two bridges across Jackson's river were saved, although faggots had been hauled ready to ignite them.

My column, about four miles long, hastened across, regardless of the enemy, until all but my ambulances and a few wagons, and one regiment had passed, when a strong effort was made to retake the first bridge, which did not succeed.

The ambulances and some sick men were lost, and by the darkness and the difficulties the last regiment was detained upon the opposite until morning, when it was ascertained that the enemy seemed determined to maintain his position upon the cliffs which overlooked the bridge. I caused the bridges which were long and high, to be destroyed, and the enemy immediately changed his position to the flank and rear of the detachment, which was cut off.

I sent order to the remnants to destroy our wagons and to come to me across the river or over the mountains. They came the river with the loss of only four men drowned, and joined me. In the meantime the forces of the enemy were concentrating on me at Callaghan's over every available road but one, which was deemed impracticable, but by which I crossed over to the top of the Alleghanies with my command, with the exception of four cassisons, which were destroyed in order to increase the teams of the pieces.

My loss is six men drowned, one officer and four men wounded, and four officers and ninety men missing.

We captured about two hundred prisoners, but have retained but five officers and eighty men, on account of their inability to walk. We took also about one hundred and fifty horses.

My men and horses have subsisted entirely upon a very poor country, and the officers and men have suffered cold and hunger and fatigue with remarkable fortitude.

My command has marched, climbed, slid and swam 355 miles, since the 8th instant.

(Signed) W. W. AVERILL,
Brigadier General.

News from the South.

From late Richmond papers we make the following interesting extracts:

A bill requiring a tax of one tenth of the crop of sweet potatoes throughout the South has passed the rebel Congress.

A bill just passed enacts: That all musicians, privates and non-commissioned officers, now in the armies of the Confederate States, by virtue of volunteering, enlistment or conscription into military service of the Confederate States, be and the same is hereby retained in said service for and during the existing war with the United States and no longer.

The following resolutions have been adapted:

1. That the notes of all banks in the Confederate States held by alien enemies be confiscated.

2. That all such notes which shall not be deposited in the banks respectively which have issued the same, within ninety days after the passage of this act, shall be presumed to be held by alien enemies.

3. That any bank which may incur a debt to the Government by reason of such confiscation may discharge the same or any part of the same within a certain time by paying one-tenth thereof in specie and the residue in bonds of the Confederate States.

4. To apply similar principle to cotton and other paper negotiable by delivery.

The Rebellion in St. Domingo.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.

The steamer Roanoke, from Havana on the 23d inst., arrived at this port this morning.

The rebellion in St. Domingo was still progressing. There were about 10,000 Spanish troops on the Island, but they cannot penetrate into the interior on account of the bad roads and the fear of being picked off by the Dominician guerrillas.

The insurgents have captured five hundred Spaniards.

Several places have been captured by the Spaniards, but have been subsequently recaptured by the Dominicans.

Owing to the lack of tents and blankets, the Spanish troops are suffering heavily, thirty or forty dying daily. Fifteen hundred have been sent home and four hundred were in the hospital.

Santa Anna is encamped up the Ozama river. A Spanish vessel was lying off St. Domingo city.

Army of the Potomac.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 26.—Christmas was quietly spent in camp. No important event marked the day.

The town of Culpepper and vicinity is now occupied by a strong force of our infantry, with batteries attached.

The new arrangements concerning passengers for the army have been completed and go into operation to-day. Passenger trains for the front leave the Washington depot on Maryland avenue daily at 9.50 A. M. and 2.05 P. M., without stopping at Alexandria. All army passengers are vised and countersigned by Captain Beckwith, of General Patricks's staff.

Passes for Virginia other than for the army are examined at Alexandria.

This arrangement tends greatly to facilitate travel in this direction. All passes must be presented for signature before 3 o'clock P. M. of each day.

From North Carolina.

THE STATE RECRUITING LOYAL TROOPS—RECONSTRUCTION.

The North Carolina *Times*—the new loyal paper at Newbern—says in its issue of the 14th instant:

"North Carolina is beginning to furnish her quota to the Federal Government. One loyal white regiment has been raised in this district, and is under command of Colonel M'Chesney; and the second under the command of Captain Charles Henry Foster, is rapidly filling up, and about three hundred men have been enlisted within the last six or eight weeks by his personal exertion.

Another regiment of white soldiers from North Carolina has been raised by that most excellent man, General Burnside, in East Tennessee. To all this we must add the two regiments of colored volunteers that have been raised and are now in service. A cavalry regiment of blacks is also recruiting by Major Garrard, of the 3d New York cavalry. This last regiment is obtaining nearly one hundred recruits a day. If the Department of North Carolina has been an expensive one, it must be allowed that she has become partially able to repay the Government for the treasure expended, by furnishing her with men who are used to the country and know how to use a rifle.

RECONSTRUCTION.

North Carolina is speaking with no uncertain voice in reference to the great issues of the time. The Newbern *Times*, in an article on the President's recent proclamation, says:

"The reconstruction of the Union, the return of the seceding States to their former position, are now the immediate and great practical questions of the hour. Whatever speculative theories there may be on these subjects, we have no hesitancy in declaring that no State which has been guilty of the almost unpardonable crime of rebellion and secession, should be permitted to take her place safely and securely among the truly loyal States whose escutcheons are sustained with treason, without a definite and unequivocal acknowledgment of the truths and potency of the Proclamation.

"Let them understand that it is a great boon to get back again and be embraced by the filial bonds of our beloved Union, with the word slavery entirely stricken off from their banners. When this great matter is permanently settled, either by proper action on the part of Congress, or the requisite changes in the fundamental law of these States, they will undoubtedly have abundant reason to rejoice that they have at last been delivered from the blighting and deadly grasp of one of the greatest social, moral and political evils which has ever scourged the human race since the flood."

The War in Virginia.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—An expedition to co-operate with General Averill, consisting of two regiments of infantry, four hundred cavalry, and a battery of six guns—a force numbering 1,400 men in all—under the command of Colonel George D. Wells, of the 34th Massachusetts Infantry, has returned to Harper's Ferry without the loss of a man, after penetrating to Harrisonburg.

When General Averill had finished his work, and Col. Wells had accomplished his diversion, strictly according to orders, the latter found himself confronted by from 7,000 to 10,000 of Lee's forces, with Gen. Rosser's brigade and a part of Stuart's cavalry in his rear at Front Royal. By clever strategy and forced marches, Colonel Wells, escaped the former and avoided the latter forces, and reached his post with his men and munitions unharmed. He made a march of forty-three miles in thirty hours.

So desperate seemed the chances of the expedition that the rebels of Winchester offered heavy bets that not a man would return. One hundred rebel prisoners were brought safely off.

From North Carolina.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.

The following intelligence from North Carolina has been received by an arrival at this port:

NEWBERN, Dec. 23.

The new oath of allegiance has been administered to a number of rebel officers and soldiers who have recently come into our lines, by which they accept the pardon offered by the President. They bring intelligence that a large number who are still in the rebel army will do likewise at their earliest opportunity. They also state that the Wilmington papers announce the arrival at that port of blockade running steamers in great numbers. A refugee who has just reached here says that twenty-three vessels had arrived there on the night before he left.

The plan of leasing out the abandoned plantations in Eastern North Carolina, as adopted by Hon. David Heaton, Supervising agent of the Treasury Department at this place, is proving a great success to the Department as well as of great benefit to the laboring classes of both colors.

From New Orleans.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

The steamer George Washington, from New Orleans on the 18th, and Mississippi, from New Orleans on the 18th, arrived at this port this morning. The latter steamer brings a number of rebel prisoners, including Major General Frank Gardner.

At the late Convention held at New Orleans of Free State men, called for the purpose of choosing unconditional Union men to represent the State of Louisiana in the Convention of the Union men of the Slave States to meet at Louisville, a delegation of colored men was admitted to seats, and the proceedings of the Convention were opened with prayer by a colored minister.

An adjourned meeting will be held on the 21st. An effort will be made to have the general Convention held in New Orleans.

THE BAYOU COTEAU FIGHT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

Mr. Gatchell, the *Herald's* correspondent who was captured at the Bayou Coteau fight, states that there were six hundred privates and twenty-four officers captured with him. He states that the disaster was owing to the bad conduct of General Washburne, and the gallantry of General Burbridge alone saved the whole corps from capture.

From Arkansas.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Dec. 25.

The Choctaw Chieftain McCastin, with other rebel Indian leaders, came into our lines to-day and surrendered themselves to General McNeil. They have abandoned the Confederate alliance, and profess a desire to avail themselves of the amnesty per the President's amnesty proclamation. Their example will have a powerful influence over all the rebel tribes.

The apprehensions held for the safety of the immense supply train, which is on its way from Fort Smith, accounts for the presence of Stanwaite and Quantrel in that direction.

Another Canadian Raid.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.

The St. Croix *Herald*, published at Calais, Me., near the borders of New Brunswick, states that much excitement exists there in consequence of the apprehensions felt of a contemplated raid by the rebel agents and "roughs" from the vicinity of St. John. The citizens of Calais and Eastport have formed themselves into Home Guards, and obtained arms and ammunition, holding themselves in readiness to resist any hostile attack.

Rebel Reports from Charleston.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 28.

The Richmond *Examiner* of to-day, received by the flag-of-truce, contains the following despatches:

CHARLESTON, Dec. 25.

The enemy commenced shelling the city last night, keeping up a steady fire, which is still going on, at nine o'clock, this morning. A fire broke out at two o'clock, destroying ten or twelve buildings, and causing a few casualties.

A heavy firing is heard in the direction of Stono, which is believed to be between our batteries and the enemy's gun-boats.

LATER.—The shelling of the city was continued during the day. One white man was mortally and a white woman slightly wounded. Three firemen were badly wounded by the falling of the walls of the burned buildings, and eight or ten were slightly wounded.

All quiet at Sumter.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 26.—One hundred and thirty shells were fired at the city, from 12 o'clock on Thursday night to 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The enemy fired from five guns, three from Gregg, one at Cumming's Point and one at the Mortar Battery.

The engagement on Johnson's Island, between our light batteries and the enemy's gunboats, resulted in a drawn fight. There were but few casualties.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27.—The enemy fired four shells at the city last night. There is no firing from Morris Island to-day. Our batteries kept up a vigorous fire on the enemy's working parties, engaged in erecting another battery on the extreme end of Cumming's Point. Our loss at Stono was one killed and five wounded.

From Virginia.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 28.

The flag of truce boat has arrived from City Point, bringing five hundred Union prisoners, in exchange for those sent up by General Butler. The Rebel Government refuse any further exchanges, unless all the questions are given up about which our Government has been contending, and their laws in regard to officers and soldiers of negro regiments be recognized. They also refuse to receive a flag of truce from General Butler, or to negotiate with him on the subject of exchanges, because of Jeff. Davis' proclamation of outlawry against General Butler, made last year.

It will be remembered that they were quite willing to receive medicines from and correspond with him, notwithstanding the Proclamation, which they now make a pretext for discontinuing the negotiation. This is shown by the fact that they have already exchanged over five hundred prisoners with General Butler.

From Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.

The steamer Olympus, from Liverpool on the 16th instant, has arrived.

The ships Winged Racer, from Manilla for New York, and Amanda to Falmouth were captured and burned by the pirate Alabama, Nov. 16, off Java Head.

A private investigation was prosecuted at Queenstown into the recent outrages there by the Federal steamer Kearsarge.

The Richmond correspondent of the London Times admits that the blockade has now, for the first time, made access to rebel ports really dangerous and difficult.

The correspondent of the same journal, with the rebel army of Tennessee, admits that the crisis is approaching to test the South, and pays a high tribute to the magnificence of Northern faith and self-reliance as contrasted with the lukewarmness of the Southern masses.

There are rumors in England of a probable material reduction in the British naval estimates. The mammoth iron clad steamer Monitor, of nearly seven hundred tons, was safely launched in the Thames.

The replies of the Germanic Confederation, Denmark and Greece, in regard to the proposed Congress are published. All accept the proposal.

It is reported that Austria has sent a note definitively declining the invitation of the Emperor Napoleon to attend the proposed Congress.

It is stated that Drouyn de Lhuys sent a circular recently to the French Diplomatic Agents relative to the French proposition for an European Congress, stating that the refusal of England has frustrated the combination by France, is ready to come to an understanding with the Governments willing to debate pacifically among themselves those questions liable to lead to complications.

The supplementary election of Paris has resulted in the success of the opposition candidate by a large majority.

The French Senate has been debating on the address to the Emperor. One speaker denounced England for thwarting the Congress project.

Rumors continue of ministerial changes in Austria.

The Holstein question is unchanged. The German troops are about to enter, without the Federal determination, and it is asserted that the Danish troops have been ordered to retire to avoid a conflict.

The Frankfort Diet has voted an appropriation of 17,000,000 thalers for expenses.

The revolutionary party of Venitia is moving.

THE LATEST.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 16.—The Holstein question continues threatening.

The rebel representative, Mr. Supperville, has reached France via Mexico.

INTERESTING TO OFFICE SEEKERS.—While President Lincoln was confined to his house with the varioloid some friends called to sympathize with him, especially on the character of his disease. "Yes," he said, "it is a bad disease, but it has its advantages. For the first time since I have been in office, I have something now to *give* to everybody that calls."

A large portion of the American people are wholly unaware of the deleterious effects incident to the use of common Saleratus, thereby producing disease and destroying health. The highest perfection of art has been attained in the manufacture of Horrick Allen's Gold Medal Saleratus. Try one paper and you will never have and other. It is a great waste of soda to use with cream tarter. Try it. For sale by most of the Grocers and Druggists, and at wholesale by the Trade generally.

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, AND THROAT DISORDERS, use "Brown's Bronchial Troches," having proved their efficacy by a test of many years. The Troches are highly recommended and prescribed by Physicians and Surgeons in the Army.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Pulminary Consumption a Curable Disease!!!

A CARD.

To CONSUMPTIVES.

The undersigned having been restored to health in a few weeks, by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease, Consumption—is anxious to make known to his fellow-sufferers the means of cure.

To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), with the directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the Prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and spread information which he conceives to be invaluable; and he hopes every sufferer will try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing.

Parties wishing the prescription will address

Rev. EDWARD A. WILSON, Williamsburg, Kings County, New York.

Dec. 12, 1863—4m.

MADAME FORTER'S CURATIVE BALSAM has long tested the truth that there are first principles in Medicine as there is in Science, and this Medicine is compounded on principles suited to the manifold nature of Man! The current Colds is in keeping open the pores, and creating a gentle internal warmth, and this caused by the use of this Medicine. Its remedial qualities are based on its power to assist the healthy and vigorous circulation of blood through the lungs, it enlivens the muscles and assists the skin to perform its duties of regulating the heat of the system, and in gently throwing off the waste substances from the surface of the body. It is not violent remedy, but the smallest, warming, soothing and effective. Sold by all druggists at 12½ and 25 cents per bottle. Aug. 1.1y

EXTREMES IN DRESS.—From fig leaves to hoops, from homespun to velvet, and from embroidery to slashed doublets, there have been at times extreme and variables in dress and the material therefor. Adam and Eve were doubtless a little proud of their fig-leaf suits. Cain and Able ignorant to coats of skins, the ancient Romans decorated the toga, the original Scotchman deemed the kilt only proper wear the North American Indian was vain of his paint and feathers, knight of the middle ages strolled around with an iron pot upon his head, the Georgian sported his shirt collar and a pair of scars, the Chinaman would sheathe then part with his queue, and the discreet Philadelphian of the present day and generation is not content unless he can cover his limbs in elegant, comfortable, and becoming garments from the Brown Stone Clothing Hall of Rockhill & Wilson, Nos. 603 and 605 Chestnut street, above Sixth.

TO THE YOUNG OR OLD,
Male or Female,

If you have been suffering from a habit indulged in by the

YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES

Which Exists to Many Alarming symptoms, Rendering them Unfit for Marriage, And is the greatest evil which can befall MANOR WOMAN.

See symptoms enumerated in Advertisement, and if you are a sufferer,

Cut out the Advertisement,
And send for it at once
Delay are dangerous.
Ask for Helmbold's
Take no other.

Cures guaranteed.

Beware of Counterfeits and Imitations.

December 26.—2m

DEATHS.

In Lower Augusta township, on the 23d ult., Mr. HENRY FOUK, aged 51 years 7 months.

In the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 10th ult., after an illness of but a few days, of congestive chills and pleurisy, REBECCA R., wife of John C. Gonzales, aged 45 years, 11 months and 10 days.

SUNBURY MARKET.

Flour,	$8 00	Eggs,	18
Wheat,	$1 40 a 1 50	Butter,	25
Rye,	100	Tallow,	12
Corn,	80	Lard,	12
Oats,	35	Pork,	10
Buckwheat,	75	Bacon,	14
Flaxseed,	$2 25	Ham,	14
Cloverseed,	$7 00	Shoulder,	10

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TAX-PAYERS
TAKE NOTICE!

The annual list of United States taxes to be made up in Lewisburg, Income on Carriages, Silver Plate, and all unpaid monthly taxes are now due and payable, as follows:

Collector Curry will be attended to by John A. Houghton, Esquire, at Milton, on Monday the 11th day of January, 1864; at Mahoney's, on the 12th and 13th; at Washingtonville, the 14th; at McKee's, on the 15th; at McCauley's, on the 16th; at East Water Street, on the 20th and 21st; at Perrysville, on the 22d.

Assessor Carver.—Henry Smith will attend at the Washington House, Milton, on the 11th of January; Geisinger's, on the Point, Hower, on the 12th; Fisburg, at I. Moyer's, Buffaloe, the 13th; at Hower's, on the 14th; at Cox's, the 15th.

Assessor Grove.—Isaac Harper, Beaver will attend at Hartleton, on the 11th of January; at Mifflinburg, on the 12th; at New Berlin, on the 13th; at Beaver Springs, on the 14th; at New Columbia, on the 15th; at Hassleton, on the 16th.

Assessor Jackson.—Daniel B. Geiger, Dewart will attend as follows, viz: At Danville, on the 11th and 12th of January; at Mr. Hoffa's, in the Borough of Milton, on the 13th and 14th.

Assessor Lewis.—Attendance will be given at Chester by Deputy, on the Assessor's office, Mifflinburg, on the 11th of January; at Hummelstown, at Hacker's Hotel, on the 12th; at Lingleston, on the 13th; at Ferrysburg, on the 14th; at Gatesburg, on the 15th; at Hoover's Mill, on the 16th; at Mr. Hoover's, in the Point, at Hartleton, on the 18th; at Mr. Hoover's, on the 19th; at Mr. Auchenbach's, on the 20th; at Mr. Hoffa's, in the Borough of Milton, on the 21st and 22d