

News of the Week.

THE WAR.

SHERMAN.

We shall not fill our columns with the rebel reports of Sherman's movements. When he sent his last train back from Atlanta, it was well understood that we could expect nothing authentic on the subject of his march, until he himself should work out some demerol.

The despatch is dated December 1. There comes along with it a report "by flag of truce" that Sherman was within forty miles of Savannah.

TENNESSEE.

The aggressive movements of the rebel armies are just now aimed at Tennessee and Kentucky. Hood undoubtedly committed the greatest military mistake of the war, when he suffered himself to be decoyed away from the defence of Georgia by the captivated hope that he was placing himself between Sherman and his friends.

But thus far he has advanced only to suffer defeat and disperse any army which for a moment might have existed. The first important battle took place at Franklin, a few miles South of Nashville on the 30th ult. During the early part of the engagement, there was a wavering and falling back in some parts of our lines which threatened disaster, but in the critical moment our generals having succeeded in rallying their troops, swung on the rebel flank, doubling them in the centre, where our artillery and sniping mowed them down by hundreds.

THE REBEL INCENDIARY PLOT. John H. Rippe, a paroled Union prisoner, now at Annapolis, writes to Secretary Seward substantially as follows:—He says that when he passed through Savannah, on the 19th of October, he was informed by a professed Union citizen that he would hear of the greatest city burning on record, if the rebels succeeded in the North, and that he would come off in a very few days. He further says that one Captain Montgomery, formerly of Baltimore city, who before the war was in the lively business in Baltimore, was the agent charged with the duty of firing the Northern cities, particularly New York, Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Among the breezes which have ruffled the stillness before Richmond, we notice a pretty sharp little affair, which, as the account says, for the entertainment of some English visitors. They were anxious to see a little of our artillery practice, and to gratify them a fire was opened from our batteries at Fort Hell. The enemy at first did not reply, but after a short time they opened from several points, and for a short time a perfect shower of shot and shell fell in and around Fort Hell.

Unfortunately, just at this time some of the troops on duty in the vicinity were being relieved, and several casualties occurred, among which was the wounding of Lieutenant Colonel Stafford, of the 80th New York Volunteers, who, it is said, cannot recover. If any more "English visitors" should find their way to those quarters, we trust they may receive whatever attentions the case fairly demands, but we submit that they overtax our hospitalities when they ask for so expensive an "entertainment" as this.

South, on the 1st inst. on a reconnaissance, more particularly to discover if the enemy were sending troops South. Gen. Meade despatched to Gen. Grant the result of the enterprise as follows: "I have just heard from Gen. Gregg. His despatch is dated 3.45 P. M. He reports having captured Stony Creek Station, which was defended by infantry and cavalry in works with artillery. He captured two pieces of artillery, but had no means of bringing them off, so he spiked them, and destroyed the carriages. He has 190 prisoners, 8 wagons and 30 mules. He burned the depot with 3,000 sacks of corn, 500 bales of hay, a train of cars and a large amount of bacon, clothing, ammunition, and other Government stores. He destroyed all the shops and public buildings. The 2d brigade, Colonel Gregg commanding, had the advance and it is reported as most gallantly carrying the enemy's position. Gen. Gregg is now returning to camp. No information could be obtained of the passing of any troops southward, either cavalry or infantry. The bed of the branch road from Stony creek has been graded, but no rails were laid. At Duval station, south of Honey creek, much property was destroyed, and a large amount of railroad iron found, which was attempted to be destroyed by fire. When the staff officer who brought the despatch left, the enemy were showing signs of having concentrated, and were following, but he thinks Gregg will be in camp by midnight."

WAR ITEMS.

Gen. A. L. Lee, (Union,) despatches from near Port Hudson, La. Nov. 21, that he had a fight at Liberty, Miss., whipped the enemy badly, and on his way home with two hundred prisoners, including twenty-five commissioned officers, and from 600 to 800 horses and mules with negro riders. He also destroyed immense stores on the railroad. Report comes by way of Cairo, that the pirate Semmes arrived at Bagdad, Mexico, Oct. 15, en route for Richmond. On the 23d ult. an attempt was made, by rebel agents, to burn the railroad bridge at Memphis, along with \$2,000,000 worth of government stores therein contained. The plot was discovered before execution, and the incendiaries arrested in the act of firing the building. They are to be tried at once by a military commission, and will probably be hung. Two of Moseby's spies were arrested on the night of the 30th inst. in Georgetown, D. C.

The late reports from the fleet off Charleston say that the blockade runner Beatrice ran ashore and was destroyed on the night of the 27th ult. Thirty of the crew were captured. The Hilton Head correspondence of the N. Y. Herald says that Gen. Foster had proceeded up Broad river with an expedition, and landed five miles below Pooctalgoo bridge. They marched on and captured the bridge after a sharp fight, the rebels evacuating their position. A large quantity of cotton was found and destroyed.

A PIRATICAL SCHEME SPOILED.

On the 25th of October the American Consul in Panama received a dispatch from Consul Shufeldt, at Havana, stating that the same steamer bringing the dispatch would also take to Aspinwall a party of rebel pirates intending to seize the steamer Guatemala. The agent of the Company was notified of the plot and sent the steamer to sea before the arrival of the pirates across the Isthmus. Consequently they were obliged to remain in Panama till the 10th of November, the day of sailing of the next steamer—the Salvador. In the meantime further information was obtained and a plan for the capture of the whole gang matured. Whilst waiting for the steamer, the rebels purchased 307 pounds of powder, put it in tin cans and shipped it on the steamer on which they intended to take passage.

On the 10th the passengers embarked on the Salvador as usual, with their baggage. Immediately on going aboard they were taken into the main saloon, ostensibly to have their tickets examined. Previous to the opening of the port holes, state rooms and doors had been closed in order that no opportunity could be presented for skedaddling or for hiding papers, etc. As soon as they were collected a preconcerted signal was made, when Commander Davenport, of the U. S. frigate Lancaster, sprang on board with several full armed boats' crews, and announced to the astonished passengers that he had taken possession of the steamer. Sufficient evidence was at once discovered proving the reality of the plot. The Salvador was then taken to sea, over three marine miles, accompanied by the Lancaster. Papers revealing the whole affair, instructions from the rebel Secretary of the Navy, small arms of all kinds, handkerchiefs, etc., were found in the possession of the pirates, who were then transferred to the Lancaster and the Salvador proceeded on their voyage. The leader of this gang of rebel worthies turns out to be a Baltimorean by the name of Hogg. He has since made a full confession.

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LATEST—TUESDAY.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS; SECOND SESSION. —Both houses of Congress met Dec. 5th, and several committees to inform the President of their readiness to receive any communications. His message was presented until the next day, too late for publication in our paper of this week. Sherman was believed to be advancing on Savannah. Reports up to Dec. last from that place, say he had occupied Millen, Ga. Boys of thirteen, even women, were at work on the trenches of the city. Gen. Bragg at Augusta, Dec. 2, says he defeated a force of ours under Gen. Foster, sent out from Beaufort, doubtless to divert the attention of the rebels from Sherman. The scene of conflict was Grahamsville, 34 miles north-east of Savannah, and 10 miles from Charleston. The defeat is not described as overwhelming, and Bragg speaks of other points being threatened by our forces. Previous reports represent Gen. Foster as having captured Pooctalgoo Bridge. It is stated that the rebels lost four generals at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. Gold, Monday evening, 22d.

FOREIGN.

The latest news is very brief, and generally of no public interest. Indeed the only item of importance that we notice is that the British Admiralty have issued a stringent order forbidding naval officers from engaging in blockade running. This order is in force since the 1st of Dec. 1864, and the Secretary of the Admiralty has expressed his surprise that a recently captured blockade runner was found to be commanded by a distinguished British naval officer. The execution of Muller for the murder of Mr. Briggs, took place Nov. 14th according to sentence, all the efforts of the German Society and individuals outside to procure a reprieve on the ground of new light indicating his innocence, having failed. After the convict had been placed upon the drop, and the rope adjusted round his neck, Dr. Chappel his spiritual adviser, addressed him with great animation and solemnity. In a few minutes you will stand before God; I ask you again, and for the last time: Are you guilty or innocent? Muller. I am innocent. Dr. Chappel. You are innocent? Muller. God knows what I have done. Dr. Chappel. God knows what you have done? Does he know, also, that you have committed this crime? Muller. Yes, I did it. These were his last words. The drop fell, and he soon ceased to live. So greatly relieved was the reverend gentleman by the confession that he rushed from the scaffold, exclaiming, "Thank God! thank God!" and sank down in a chair completely exhausted by his own emotion.

The British people were awaiting with great interest, the arrival of the news of our Presidential election. We suppose, that by this time their suspense has been relieved. In Northern Lombardy an engagement has taken place between the Italian troops and the Garibaldians. The fight was bloody, and resulted in the capture of a part of the insurgents and the dispersion of the remainder. The Liverpool markets are steady, and mostly dull.

FINANCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia is certainly in good credit—a state of things which is pretty sure to make out a case for a smart taxation. From a statement of the city debts and assets, on the first of November, we make the following summary: City Loans, (including \$1,500,000 authorized but not issued,) \$30,259,832.66; offsets of all descriptions, \$24,447,002.71; balance against the city, \$5,812,829.95. This balance is more than covered by public property, such as public buildings, school and station houses. The known liabilities of the year to come are: \$4,058,922.83; the estimated expenses of the year are: 6,994,935; total, \$11,052,957.83. The receipts for 1865 are estimated at \$5,138,450.04, which will leave \$5,914,507.79 to be raised by taxation. The valuation of property, as furnished by the City Commissioner, is \$159,147,568. On this valuation a tax of \$3.75 on the \$100 will yield \$5,968,033.80; but a little more than the estimated expenses of 1865. Notwithstanding this increase of debt, Philadelphia loans are in good demand and command a premium. There is no lack of confidence in the city—that is, in the tax payers. What the latter may have to say, remains to be seen.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Federal deserters in Canada.—Their deplorable condition.—Accounts received at Washington say that there are at this time, according to reliable information in possession of the authorities here, some five thousand deserters from our army in Canada, whether they have fled to escape the law, or are local provost marshals, whose arrests of them are daily increasing in number. Recently there was a large meeting of them near the Canada end of the Suspension bridge, resulting in the forwarding a petition asking that they be received back into their respective regiments without being subject to the military punishment usually accorded in cases like theirs. Their condition is as pitiable as deplorable. Half of them are barefooted and not half clothed at this inclement season, and their only means of prospect of keeping body and soul together is in working upon the Great Western Railroad, and other Canadian Public works, at pay which scantily feeds them without sufficiently clothing them. They are intensely unpopular with the people of Canada, who take every means in their power to crowd them back into the United States. On the whole their condition there is tenfold worse than that of free negroes.

General Items.—Bio Janeiro, Brazil, was the scene of a violent tornado, on the 13th of October. Its track through the city was about a quarter of a mile in width. Many houses were blown down, involving of course much other disaster. Several lives were also lost by the capsizing of vessels in the harbor. The trial of Burling, a Lake Erie raider, commenced in Toronto, Canada West, on the 1st inst. After the taking of some testimony, the case was adjourned to the following week.—California, after two years of drought, was last month deluged with rain. The streams are now well filled for mining operations.—Of all the rumored changes in the cabinet, none seem to be transpiring, except the resignation of Attorney General Bates. The President proposed to Judge Holt to accept the vacant position, but the latter declines.—Andrew J. Smith, late P. O. route agent, on the Lehigh Valley road, was convicted, on the 2d inst, in the U. S. District Court in this city, of mail robbery, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment.—A tremendous gale swept over the great Northern Lakes. The Detroit papers estimate at least fifty lives lost, and one million dollars worth of property destroyed by wrecks.—Recently in Brooklyn, N. Y., the Court decided against the claim of a lively stable owner against a "fast" customer, of \$12 for horse hire, and \$60 for damage to horse during the ride, on the ground that it was a Sunday transaction, and therefore not under the protection of the law.—Some estimate of the heat of the fever may be surmised from the fact that the "American Oil and Mining Company" in New York recently paid \$1,365,000, for three-eighths undivided interest in 257 acres of land on Horse Neck Run, Pleasant co., West Virginia. The deed of transfer has in it twenty \$50 government stamps, in all \$1000. A year ago this tract could have been bought almost for a "song."—The prospects for food the coming winter in New Mexico are very gloomy. The last season crop, through storms and drought was almost a total failure. The New Mexicans have, besides themselves, 10,000 New Jersey Indians recently surrendered, to feed.

Advertisements.

Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society.—The Seventy-second Meeting in behalf of this Society was held at the Free Will Church, corner of Third and Clinton streets, (Rev. D. March) on Sabbath Afternoon, 11th inst. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Kneffler and Rev. John Moore will take part in the exercises. JOSEPH H. SCHREINER, Agent, 922 Chestnut street.

Advertisements.

Dr. Hays' Pain Killer. DECATUR, Ohio, June 12, 1863. Gentlemen:—I have used Perry Davis' Pain Killer in my family for several years and have always found it a reliable cure for Diarrhea and Dysentery, and I cheerfully recommend it to the public. Travelers cannot have by them a better friend in time of a sudden attack of bowel complaint. Yours truly, J. H. PARKE. Note.—It should be understood that the Pain Killer is administered internally as well as externally. Price 50cts, 75c, and \$1.50 per bottle. 907-24

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worth in three days.—Ex-Governor Fairbanks, of Vermont, a man of high excellence of character, died at his home in St. Johnsbury, on the 20th ult.—The U. S. Steamer, Adels, captured the rebel Schooner, Badger, from St. Marks, bound to Havana, on the 6th ult. Twenty-five packages of cotton were secured.—U. S. Marshall Keyes has, since June 1, 1863, paid over to the Treasury over \$5,000,000 as the proceeds of captured blockade runners adjudicated in the port of Boston alone.—Diamonds, said to be of pure water, one weighing nearly three carats, are now being found in Australia.—Oystering has just been resumed in the Rappahannock river for the first time since the commencement of the war.—On the night of the 20th ult., a gang of mounted rebel raiders from Canada, attempted an entrance into New York State by way of Rouse's Point at the North end of Lake Champlain. Firing passed between them and the picket guard, doing no damage on either side. One of the gang was seen to fall from his saddle, and the rest fled, hearing away their wounded comrade.—An extensive conflagration occurred in Newbern, N. C. on the 20th ult. The Yellow Fever has entirely disappeared from there, and business which had been largely suspended in consequence of its presence, has been resumed.—Rev. Dr. Buckingham, Congregational, was announced to preach last Sabbath evening in Christ's Church, Episcopal, in Brooklyn, on "The Prayer of Christ for Unity." This arrangement puts the preaching and the practice together.

Special Notices.

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