

News of the Week.

XXXVIII CONGRESS—2d SESSION.

January 9.—A joint resolution, offered by Mr. Doollittle, directing inquiry to be made into the treatment of the Indian tribes by the civil and military authorities, was reported to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

January 10.—The day was spent on sundry points of immange legislation, chiefly appropriations, and also the Deficiency bill which was passed, after an ineffectual attempt to insert in it \$6,000 to defray the expenses of ex-Governor Wright as delegate from this country to the International Fair at Brussels.

January 11.—A postal bill was introduced by Mr. Collamer, and referred to the Post Office Committee. Among its provisions is one requiring, after the first of January next, prepayment of publications sent by publishers to subscribers.

January 12.—The resolution of notice to Great Britain of the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty was resumed, and after an ineffectual attempt to refer it to the Finance Committee, was finally adopted—31 to 8.

January 13.—The day was spent in discussing the joint resolution from the Senate proposing the abolition of slavery throughout the United States by an amendment of the Constitution.

January 14.—A substitute for the bill for the reorganization of the Rebel States was introduced by Mr. Eliot, of Massachusetts.

January 15.—A resolution was adopted, directing the Military Committee to inquire whether legislation is needed to secure for persons under military arrest a speedy hearing and a prompt release, if no sufficient cause is found for detention.

January 16.—A resolution was adopted, directing the Committee on Ways and Means to consider the propriety of extending relief to the Chambersburg sufferers.

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PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

In our State Legislature, a resolution proposed in the Senate, on the 12th, by Mr. Lowry, instructing the Judiciary Committee to present a bill prohibiting any street railway company from making any rule to exclude any race of people from the cars, was adopted—16 to 13.

On the same day, a committee of investigation was ordered on the subject of the failure of duty by the Dauphin county Court of Quarter Sessions in the case of alleged frauds of bounty and substitute brokers.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF HON. H. S. FOOTE.

Ex-Governor Foote, of Mississippi, has made an unsuccessful attempt to forsake the rebel territory. He was arrested by the rebel Congress, but resigned his seat on the ground that he was submissive to the dictation of Jefferson Davis.

TWO MORE FREE STATES.

The Missouri State Convention, called for amending the State Constitution, passed the following order of emancipation on the 11th instant, by the decisive vote of 80 to 4.

THE WAR.

SAVANNAH.

Rebel accounts from Charleston, speak confidently of Sherman's advance upon the city. Not so however the Inquirer's Savannah correspondent, who, under date of January 6, says:

"The army is still at rest, and recuperating for the final raid. The country in this vicinity having been pretty well foraged out by Wheeler's Cavalry before Sherman's Army arrived, our dependence is chiefly on transportation from the North; and for some reason, I know not what, but little provision has yet arrived."

The following closing paragraph of the same letter contains probably all which is worth to be told about the next move. As yet, speculations about the probable movements of the army are of little account.

THE SOUTHWEST.

A Union raiding force, about three thousand strong, under command of General Grierson, started out from Memphis on the 25th ult., under orders from General Dana, with the view of reaching Cahabava, and releasing our prisoners there confined.

The amount of opposition encountered prevented the accomplishment of the principal object of the expedition, but it was nevertheless fruitful of important results. Seven hundred prisoners were brought in, including two colored, and a large number of other officers, 10,000 able-bodied negroes, and 1000 horses.

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REMOVAL OF GENERAL BUTLER.

In the absence of more exciting news, this event has been the sensational one of the week. It is pretty generally accepted by the public as a judicious measure, but the admission of its necessity is accompanied by a just appreciation of his eminent services in certain positions where his administrative talents had full play.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. S., CITY POINT, VA., Jan. 7, 1865.

To avoid publicity of the time of sailing and destination of the expedition against Fort Fisher, my orders to General Butler to prepare to be given verbally, and the instructions to the commanding officer of the expedition were given by him and submitted to me. I append to the report a copy of General Butler's instructions to General Weitzel, together with copies of my written despatches and instructions to General Butler relative to the expedition.

It will be perceived that it was never contemplated that General Butler should accompany the expedition, but that Major-General G. Weitzel was specially named as the commander of it.

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returned after having effected a landing, in obedience to my instructions. On the contrary, these instructions contemplated no withdrawal or failure after a landing was made.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

ITEMS.

During a severe gale, on the 6th, the large Steamer Knickerbocker, on the Chesapeake bay, went down between Smith's Light House and Smith's Point. All on board are supposed to have been lost.

New York Hotel burners has been arrested in Detroit. Evidence has been found upon his person, sufficient, it is thought, to convict him. He is a Southerner, and is supposed, will claim to be a prisoner of war.

The Emperor of Russia has issued a ukase extending the abolition of serfdom to Transcaucasia, the only province where that institution still existed. The wife of Col. J. C. Holley was recently killed near Middletown, N. Y., by the falling of the roof over a turnpike gate through which she was passing.

Her husband who was also in the carriage, was badly, but not fatally injured. The roof fell under the weight of a heavy snow.

GREAT NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

The capture of Fort Fisher, on the 10th instant, elected Wm. Pitt Fessenden, the present Secretary of the Treasury, to the U. S. Senate for the term commencing on March 4.

CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 10.40 A. M.—Maj. Gen. Dix, New York.—The following official despatches have just been received at this Department: HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES ON FEDERAL POINT, N. C., Jan. 15, 1865, via Fortress Monroe, Jan. 17.—Brigadier General J. A. Rawlins:—General—I have the honor to report that Fort Fisher was carried by assault this afternoon and evening, by General Ames' Division and the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, aided by a battalion of marines and seamen from the navy.

The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment from the Federal fleet, and was made at 3.30 P. M., when the first brigade (General Curtis) of Ames' division effected a lodgment upon the parapet, but full possession of the works was not obtained until 10 P. M.

PORT FISHER, January 16—2 A. M.—Hon. C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War.

After a careful reconnaissance on the 14th, it was decided to risk an assault on Fort Fisher. Paine's Division, with Colonel Abbott's Brigade, were to hold our line, and facing strong across the Peninsula, and along Wilmington against Hoke, while Ames' Division should assault on the west end of the land front, and 400 marines and 1,600 sailors on the east end.

After three hours of a heavy navy fire, the assault was made at 3 P. M. on the 15th. General Curtis' brigade led, and as soon as it got on the west-end of the land front, was followed by Pennybacker's, and later by Ball's.

After desperate fighting, gaining foot by foot and severe loss, at 5 P. M. we had possession of about half the land front. Abbott's brigade was then taken from our line facing Wilmington and put into Fort Fisher, and on pushing it forward at 10 o'clock P. M., it took the rest of the work with little resistance, the garrison falling back to the extreme point of the Peninsula, where they were followed and captured—among others General Whiting and Colonel Lamb, both wounded.

THE BEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE FAMILY.

"The piano-forte," says the American Baptist, "extensively as it is used, is not so well adapted to all the purposes of sacred and secular music as another instrument which is now justly claiming a large share of public attention, and which has already been extensively introduced into schools, churches, and families, and received the endorsement of the chief organists, musicians, and artists of America—we mean Mason and Hamlin's Cabinet Organ."

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Cash Acknowledgments up to January 11, 1865.

Table listing contributions to the United States Christian Commission from 1864 to 1865, including names of donors and amounts.

STORES.

The United States Christian Commission begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional stores, up to January 12, 1865:

Table listing various stores and publications received by the Commission, such as Bibles, tracts, and books.

New Publications.

Advertisement for new publications from the Presbyterian Publication Committee, including titles like 'The More Blessed', 'Sunset Thoughts', 'Zulu Land', and 'Gillett's History'.

Advertisement for Grover & Baker's Sewing Machines, highlighting their quality and awards.

Advertisement for Standard Works published by Gould & Lincoln, including historical and religious texts.