News of the Week.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—2d SESSION.

SENATE.

January 24.—The resolution offered by Mr. Wade, favoring retaliation in kind for Southern inhumanity towards Union prisoners, was called up. Mr. Sumner offered, as a substitute, a series of resolutions, denouncing the rebel barbarities, expressing the sympathy of the United States with the sufferers, pledging the undivided energies of the loyal part of the nation to bring these outrages to an end by putting an end to the rebellion, but adding:—

"*Resolved*, That any attempted imitation of rebel barbarism in the treatment of prisoners would be plainly impracticable, on account of its inconsistency with the prevailing sentiments of humanity among us; that it would be injurious at home, for it would barbarize the whole community; that it would be utterly useless, for it could not affect the cruel authorizers of the revolting conduct which we seek to overcome; that it would be immoral, inasmuch as it proceeded from vengeance alone, and that it could have no other result than to degrade the national character and the national name, and to bring down upon our country the reprobation of history: and that, being thus impracticable, useless, immoral, and degrading, it must be rejected as a measure of retaliation, precisely as the barbarism of roasting and eating persons is always rejected by civilized powers."

Mr. Wilson moved, in place of Mr. Sumner's resolutions, a simple resolution instructing the President to appoint commissioners to confer with the rebel authorities, with a view to devise some practical plan for the better treatment of prisoners in their hands. The subject was discussed, but no vote was reached. A bill, brought in by Mr. Wilson, was reported to the Military Committee. It contains more stringent provisions for securing the Government from imposition in the matter of substitutes and enlistments for bounties. It also charges against each district losses by desertion and discharges for physical disability existing previous to enlistment, and requires them to be made up by an additional draft.

January 25.—Some further discussion took place on the retaliatory proposition, in the course of which, some modifications were proposed. One, by Mr. Wade, the mover of the original resolution, making it mandatory upon the President, instead of advisory, thus compelling retaliation in kind upon rebel officers in our hands. The subject was not concluded.

January 26.—An important financial bill from the House was taken up and finally passed. Its character, as explained by Mr. Sherman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, is as follows: The act of the last session of Congress, authorized the Secretary of Treasury to borrow $400,000,000 on the credit of bonds to be issued by the United States on terms prescribed by the first section of the act. He was authorized to issue, in lieu of the bonds, Treasury notes not exceeding $200,000,000.

Under the first section of the bill, $70,000,000 had been issued, and under the second section, $126,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury desired to avoid issuing any more under the first section of the bill, which made the payment in gold obligatory, and wanted authority to issue under the second section.

A large portion of the day was spent on the retaliatory resolutions, but no vote was taken.

January 27.—The Committee on the Conduct of the War was instructed to inquire into inhumanities towards Georgia negroes who joined Gen. Sherman in his march through that State, alleged to have been committed by Gen. J. C. Davis. The revised Deficiency bill, (see House proceedings, January 26), came up, and the provision for increased compensation of House employees was again stricken out, and the bill, as thus amended, passed. The retaliatory resolutions again took up a considerable portion of the day. No vote.

January 28.—The motion of Mr. Davis, of Maryland, to create a Standing Committee on the corruptions of the Government, led to a sharp debate, in which Mr. Hale was particularly severe on what he alleged to be corruptions in the Navy Department. He contended that frauds in that department were exposed at the last session, but nothing was done in the case. The retaliatory resultions were further considered, but no vote was reached.

January 30.—Mr. Sherman, from the Finance Committee, proposed a tax of fifteen, in place of three per cent. on paper, as voted by the House. A bill for the better reorganization of the Pay Department of the U. S. Army was referred. Mr. Wilson proposed amendments to the bill for enrolling, &c., the national forces, making an enrolled man eligible as a substitute, striking out the proposal to make the principal liable for the substitute, who deserts, and depriving the deserter of the rights of citizenship. (But if he is shot, as he ought to be, what sort of punishment or additional security is this enactment?)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Jan. 24.—A resolution was passed, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of removing the tariff on all materials used in the manufacture of printing paper. The day was principally occupied on the question of privilege raised yesterday upon General Butler's letter to Mr. Brooks, member from New York, demanding explanation of words spoken by the latter in debate, characterizing the former as a gold robber. The subject was finally disposed of under the decision of the Speaker, that General Butler's letter was not an infringement of privilege.

Jan. 25.—A resolution of thanks to General Sheridan was adopted, 130 to 2. The nays were Mr. Harris, of Maryland, and Mr. C. A. White, of Ohio. The subject of making inquiry respecting exchanges of merchandise with the rebel states, (provisions for cotton,) was taken from the Military Committee and committed to the Committee on Commerce. The "Deficiency Bill" fell through, on account of a final disagreement between the two Houses on the proposition of the House of Representatives to insert a provision increasing the pay of its employees 20 per cent.

Jan. 26.—A new Deficiency Bill was reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, with the clause on which the two houses had disagreed modified with a view to secure concurrence. It was passed, and sent to the Senate. The business of the day was of a miscellaneous character.

Jan. 27.—The day, according to previous order, was entirely devoted to the consideration of private bills.

Jan. 28.—To-day was specially set apart for speech-making on the proposed anti-slavery Constitutional amendment. About thirty members only were present at the opening of the House. Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, said it was the intention to press a vote on Tuesday.

Jan. 30.—A resolution thanking the President for removing General Butler was laid on the table by a vote of 97 to 43.

THE WAR.

REBEL NAVAL DEMONSTRATION FROM RICHMOND.

Despatches received at Washington from City Point, state that on the morning of January 25, a rebel fleet of five vessels (the Richmond squadron) came down the river to destroy our depots and works at City Point. "The high water of the current freshet enabled them to pass the obstructions which our commanders had placed above City Point for the better protection of the place. A battle quickly ensued between the rebel fleet and our nearest battery or fort, in which one of the rebel vessels was blown up and instantly entirely destroyed, while two others were so damaged by shot and shell as to compel them to seek a speedy flight back in the direction of Richmond, accompanied by the other two, which escaped with no damage to speak of. Admiral Farragut left her yesterday evening for the scene of the action. It is understood that he will at once assume the naval command there." A later account of the affair says:—"The exit of the rebel gunboats from under the guns of their batteries on the James river came near to proving a very serious affair to us. Had the rebel ram Richmond not grounded, the whole of our fleet of transports, with all the works of General Grant at City Point, would have been destroyed, as the naval officer in charge of our forces turned tail and ran, for which disgraceful conduct, it is reported, that he has dismissed from the service."

Still later, and from rebel sources, we learn that the fleet did not get off without serious loss. The Richmond *Sentinel* of Jan. 27, says:

"The iron clads are again at their old anchorage. The vessels passed the first obstructions, but could not pass the second line. The Drewry grounded under the enemy's batteries, when the crew were removed. About ten minutes after they had left her she was blown up by a shell exploding her magazine. The Richmond and Virginia both got grounded. The Virginia was struck by a 300 pound shot, which loosed some of her iron bolts, but all the injury received was repaired in a few hours."

THE WILMINGTON EXPEDITION.

CAPTURES THUS FAR.—A report from Admiral Porter to the Navy Department, gives the following list of forts taken possession of below Wilmington, since the fall of Fort Fisher. Reeves Point, three 16 inch guns. Above Smithville, ten 10-inch guns. Fort Caswell, ten 10-inch guns, two 9-inch guns, one Armstrong, four 32s rifled, two 32s smooth, three 8-inch, one Parrott 20 pounder, three rifled field pieces, three guns buried. Forts Campbell and Shaw, six 10-inch guns, six 32s smooth, two 32s rifled, four field pieces, two mortars. Reported at the other end of Smith's Island, six guns. Total captured, 83 guns. This swells the total captures of cannon below Wilmington to one hundred and sixty-two. The amount of cannon captured by our armies within the last twelve months, would supply an arsenal with sufficient armament for an ordinary war upon a European scale.

A special despatch to Richmond, dated Wilmington, January 19th, says that the Tallahassee, (the rebel pirate cooped at Wilmington,) was captured on the previous night in attempting to escape by way of New Inlet. Up to January 28th, no information confirming the report, had been received by the Navy Department at Washington.

THE BLAIR MISSION.

Our authorities are still dark on this affair, and we are unable to determine whether there has been any thing official in those mysterious visits to Richmond. The last we have on the subject is the following from Washington papers of January 28th. Readers can make more or less of it, according to their belief that Blair was entrusted with a peace mission. "The result of Mr. Blair's visit to Richmond is this: That Jefferson Davis is willing to waive all formalities, and to send to Washington or receive from there, Commissioners to treat for peace upon the basis of separation. The President of the United States, on the other hand, is willing to give a hearing to any person of influence who may come from the States in rebellion, with or without authority from Davis, to treat for peace on the basis of submission to the Union. Of the above facts there is no doubt."

SOUTHERN NEGRO TROOPS.

The employment of negroes in the rebel army does not yet appear to be a fixed fact. Washington letters of January 25th, say that there is positively no truth in the statement that the South now has "200,000 negroes in camps of instruction," preparing for military operations during the ensuing summer. Instead of this, Congress has not even yet acted upon the recommendation of Davis to employ negroes in the quartermaster and commissary departments. Nor has the Legislature of Virginia acted upon the earnest suggestion of Governor Smith for the conscription and arming of the blacks. It is clear from these facts that the policy is yet to be avoided until the very force of desperation shall drive it upon them.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

The week has brought us nothing very exciting from this quarter. Rebel accounts of the 24th ult. report no movements of our army upon either bank of the Savannah. An Augusta despatch to the Richmond Whig, of January 25th, says that a large body of troops from Savannah are reported moving on the Augusta road. Other rumors say Sherman is moving on Augusta by way of Blakesville S. C.

Union advices from Beaufort, S. C. of January 25th, say that Shenman's advance is at Salkahatchie, midway between Charleston and Savannah, on the railroad. A considerable rebel force is at Asheppo, and rebel reinforcements have been sent to Branchville to hold that place against Sherman. Several cannon from the outworks of Charleston have also been sent to Branchville. It was currently believed from the persistent accounts of deserters that Charleston would be evacuated. The movements by the rebels indicate that they are removing heavy guns from James and Sullivan's Islands.

The Savannah correspondent of the *N. Y. Herald*, says that the donations of food sent out, were distributed from the market house, to those formerly rich but now poor, to whites and blacks indiscriminately, under the direction of authorized Committees. The kind and eloquent letter of Mayor Lincoln of Boston, to the Mayor of Savannah, was a theme of much approbative comment by the old citizens of Savannah.

REBEL NEWS.

We give the following as undoubtedly true in all their bad aspects toward the rebel cause, for the papers mentioned would of course not exaggerate in that direction. We have, however, no confidence in the speculations made respecting Blair's mission, if his trip to Richmond was really a mission at all:

Richmond papers contain important military and political news. On the 18th inst., General Terry appeared in front of Wilmington and demanded its surrender. He gave General Bragg till next day to remove all non-combatants from the city. At the last accounts, Bragg had withdrawn his troops from Wilmington, having previously removed as much of the Government stores as could be taken away. It is the opinion of all the Richmond papers, that General Terry would occupy the city, as they (rebels) could not defend it.

The Charleston *Mercury*, of a recent date, says that the greatest consternation prevails throughout the State of South Carolina, on account of Sherman's grand advance. The people are leaving the State, and moveables are being taken out of the State; and in Charleston, the greatest panic also prevails.

The rebel Secretary of State, Judah P. Benjamin, has resigned, because peace negotiations are being carried on between Jefferson Davis and President Lincoln, without his (Benjamin's) co-operation and assent. The rebel editors also say on the subject, that Mr. Blair's return to Richmond indicates that Mr. Lincoln has accepted Jeff. Davis' proposals to treat for peace.

Joe Johnston has refused the command of the Department of Tennessee, and General Lee has also declined to become Commander-in-Chief of the rebel armies. It is evident, from all these signs, that a revolution in the South is rapidly progressing, which will soon terminate in the complete disintregation of the Confederacy.

ITEMS.

The first decision of Chief-Justice Chase, in the Supreme Court of the United States, was that West Virginia is legally a State. The decision was given on the question, placing name of that State on the list when calling the docket.——The Legislature of Arkansas has elected Hon. William D. Stuart United States Senator for six years from the 4th of March.——The heirs of all colored soldiers killed in battle are to receive the Government bounty of one hundred dollars, irrespective of their condition as freemen or slaves on the 10th of April, 1861.——The Irish papers say that even now in mid-winter, the emigration from Ireland to the United States is on the increase, and that, on the opening of the spring, we may expect a rush greater than at any former period.——Petroleum is now said to be an almost instantaneous cure for the itch. It is also published as a good disinfecting agent for clothes which are supposed to contain infection of disease.——The Washington papers of January 24th say that Major-General Butler, in pursuance of orders, will leave to-day or to-morrow for his home in Lowell, with the kindest feelings for Mr. Lincoln and his administration, and that he will there await any call the Executive may make.——The house presented by citizens of Philadelphia to Mrs. General Grant, is located at 2009 Chestnut street. It has twenty-two feet front, and extends back one hundred and sixty-eight feet. It is to be presented thoroughly and elegantly furnished.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

MONEY.

Cash Acknowledgments for the week ending January 25, 1865.

Philadelphia Contributions as Follows.

"J. C.," Philadelphia,		$2 00
Ida M. Chance, Philadelphia,	1 50	
Henry M. Chance, Philadelphia,	1 50	
Thomas M. Chance, Philadelphia,	1 50	
Augusta M. Chance, Phila'd,	1 50—	6 00
Rev. Samuel Wylie,		1 58
Proceeds of a Parlour Fair held by three little girls in Philadelphia, per James Pollock,		9 00
Church of the Intercessor, Phila'd, per Mrs. R. O. Lowry, add'l,		6 00
Electoral College of Penn'a, per Hon. Morton McMichael, Pres. 677 50—		702 08
Other Contributions.		
Infant class First Presbyterian Sabbath-school, Newbury, N. Y., per Miss Julia A. Bogardus,		5 50
Reformed Dutch Church, Addesville, Bucks county, Pa., per Gelleam Cornell, Treas. add'l,		5 00
Ladies' Soldier's Aid Society, Athens, Pa., per Mary B. Perkins,		50 00
Ladies' Aid Society, Manlius, New York, per Miss Charlotte J. Jerome,		100 00
Proceeds of a Union Meeting, Beverly, N. J., per Joseph Parker,		36 17
Collection at Rome, Pa.,	6 00	
Collection at Warrenham, Pa.,	8 50	
Sunday-school of Christ Church, Towanda, Pa., per B. S. Russell, 21 40—		35 90
Proceeds of a Ladies' Fair, Waynesboro, Pa., per Miss Sallie J. Brotherton, Treasurer,		831 61
Army Committee, Western Pennsylvania, per William Frew, Treas.		925 00
M. E. Charge, Bridgeport, N. J., per Rev. Levi Laren,		28 00
Ewing Presbyterian Church, Ewingsville, N. J., per E. W. Lanning,		50 00
Pres. and M. E. churches, East Constable, N. Y., per Rev. A. Fleming,		10 00
Soldier's Aid Society, Flemington, N. J., per Miss N. Hill,		25 00
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Janeway, New Jersey Vols.		25 00
United Pres. congregation, Clayton, Adams county, Illinois, per Jason Wallace,		57 75
Christian Commission, Portland, Oregon, per W. S. Ladd, Treasurer,		1017 90
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Adamsville, O. per Rev. A. N. Bartholomew, add'l,		6 55
First Presbyterian Church, Champlain, N. Y. per Joel Savage, Treas.		53 15
M. E. Church, Conquest, N. Y. per Rev. O. C. Lathrop,		30 00
Zion Presbyterian Church, Cecil co. Md. per J. H. Johns,		10 00
First Baptist Church, Romulus, N. Y. per N. W. Folwell, Treas.		6 55
Geo. E. Downs, Francestown, N. H.		5 00
Second U. P. Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. per Rev. D. J. Patterson,		15 00
Collected on Election Day at Selin's Grove, Pa. per Jas. Pollock,		3 00
Miss Maria Crooker, Croton, Delaware co. N. Y. per Rev. J. N. Adams,		1 00
Congregational Church, Bristol, Ontario co. N. Y. per Rev. N. T. Clarke,		25 00
First M. E. Church, Long Branch, N. J. per Rev. Wm. Franklin,		3 25
"C." Tunnelton, West Va.		2 00
Citizens of Media, Delaware co. Pa. per Rev. J. W. Dale, 6 50		
Union Meeting in Presbyterian Church, Chester, Pa. 8 73		—15 23
per John Cochran, Treas.		
Cash, Granville, West Va.		10
Soldier's Aid Society, Galway, N. Y. per Miss N. S. Clizbie,		10 00
Ladies' Soldier's Aid Society, Frankinville, N. Y. per Rev. D. C. McKean,		11 50
A Friend, Milton, Pa.		1 00
Total,		$4,113 24
Amount previously acknowledged,		$1,063,616 54
Total Receipts,		$1,067,729 78

JOSEPH PATTERSON,
TREASURER CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,
Western Bank, Philadelphia.

STORES.

The United States Christian Commission begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional stores, up to January 26, 1865:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia—Carpenter Shop Mission Sunday School, 18 housewives.
Turbotsville—Aid Society, per Mrs. E. H. Horner, 1 box, 2 casks.
Waynesburg—Loyal Daughters, per Miss M. J. Russell, 1 box.

NEW JERSEY.

Shiloh—Soldier's Relief Association, per Mrs. M. A. Buzby, 1 box.
Lambertville—Soldier's Aid Society, per J. A. Anderson, 6 boxes.
Newark—Mrs. Beach, 1 box.
New Brunswick — Soldier's Aid Society, per Isabella Fannahill, 1 box.

NEW YORK.

New York—Branch U. S. C. C., per Rev. N. Bishop, 4150 religious papers; "Samaritan Hose Company," 17 pairs of hose.
Buffalo—Branch U. S. C. C. 600 religious papers; Ladies' Christian Commission, per Mrs. G. F. Gridley, Sec'y, 11 boxes, 3 barrels.
Utica—Branch U. S. C. C. per Dr. Bristol, 4 boxes.
Troy—Branch U. S. C. C. 1 box.
Rochester—Branch U. S. C. C. 1 box.
Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co.—Ladies' Christian Commission, per Mrs. C. W. Tooker, 1 box.
West Kortright—Ladies' Chris. Com. 1 box.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston—Army Com. Young Men's Christian Association, 29 boxes, 6 barrels, 1 keg, 25,000 religious papers.

MAINE.

Bangor—Branch U. S. C. C. per T. G. Stickley, 4 boxes.

RHODE ISLAND.

Providence—Branch U. S. C. C. per W. J. King, 2 boxes.

OHIO.

Cincinnati—Branch U. S. C. C. 5300 religious papers.

ILLINOIS.

Willow Springs—Presbyterian church, 1 box.

The Commission is now entering upon the winter's work, the preparations for which have nearly exhausted their treasury. Large and abundant supplies are needed, and the liberal support received in the past is ample pledge that this great Christian work will not want the means for wider and lasting good work in the year upon which we have entered.

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CAUTION TO PURCHASERS.

The high reputation of our CABINET ORGANS has frequently induced dealers to represent that other instruments are the same thing—that there is no essential difference between the Cabinet Organs and Organs with various names, made by other makers. This is not true. The excellences of our **Cabinet Organs**, which have given them their high reputation, are the result not merely of the superiority of their workmanship, but also in large measure of essential differences of construction, which, being patented, cannot be employed by other makers. These are essential to their better quality and volume of tone and unrivalled capacity of expression. When a dealer represents another instrument as the same thing as the Cabinet Organ, it is usually an attempt to sell an inferior instrument on which he can make a larger profit.

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