



ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1862.

THE HORSE CONTRACTS.—That the most stupendous frauds have been perpetrated upon the Government by horse contractors and horse inspectors has now been made apparent.

There is yet another case. I refer to the contract to purchase one thousand horses to be delivered at Huntington, Pennsylvania.

About the time the Huntington contracts were being filled, mention was made that the stock was of an inferior quality and totally unfit for the service intended.

While we earnestly desire this, we confess that we have but little idea that Congressmen will set a trap to catch themselves.

The Shamokin Register of the 11th inst., comes to us with a pretty strong article recommending Hon. Thomas A. Scott for next Governor of Pennsylvania.

The Press in speaking of attacks made on Mr. Scott, in certain quarters in reference to a schedule issued by him while General Manager of Government Transportation, fully defends him from them all, and concludes the article as follows:—

Mr. Scott did not seek, and does not now seek, political advancement. The architect of his own fortunes, he has, while a young man, achieved a reputation for business tact and energy second to no man in the country; and since the commencement of our unfortunate national troubles he has labored as zealously and as effectively for the success of the Union cause as any individual in the loyal States.

A woman, who died in Cincinnati lately, was placed by her friends, in the absence of her husband, who is a soldier, in the vault of the Commonwealth's burying ground.

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THE BALL AT THE WHITE HOUSE.—The recent extravagant ball given by Mrs. Lincoln, at the Presidential Mansion, is receiving the just condemnation of almost the entire press of the country.

ANOTHER HIT.—The editors of the Patriot and Union, of Harrisburg, claim to be "Simon pure" Democrats, and rarely ever notice anything meritorious in a member of any other party, but the impartial and business-like manner in which our townsmen, Speaker Hall, does up things in his department, brings out the following commendatory notice from that paper:

HOW THEY TALLY.—The Harrisburg Telegraph sums up the victories and reverses of the army of the Union, since the outbreak of the rebellion, and presents the following balance sheet, from which it will be seen that the credit is largely in our favor:

- 1861 April 18—Fort Sumter captured. July 11—Fight at Big Bethel. July 21—Fight at Bull Run. September 20—Lexington surrendered. October 21—Repulse at Ball's Bluff. November 7—Battle of Belmont.

To these we may add the fall of Fort Donelson, the reported capture of Savannah, with the other features of the glorious victories, the news of which is now arousing the enthusiasm and the joy of the nation.

PAY OF SOLDIERS.—The pay of the United States army is vastly greater than any other in the world. The Russian soldier receives annually only thirty-five dollars a year as pay, and his ration consist solely of black bread.

PAYING DEARLY FOR THEIR WHISTLE.—The London Times says that the release of Mason and Sillid and their two secretaries cost the British Government £1,000,000 a piece, or in all about \$25,000,000.

COTTON DECLINING.—Among significant signs of the times in commercial circles is the rapid decline in the price of cotton goods.

GLORIOUS NEWS! FORT DONNELSON OURS! 15,000 PRISONERS TAKEN!

THE special correspondent of the Chicago Times furnishes the following account of the bombardment and surrender of Fort Donelson, under date of the 16th inst.

Fort Donelson surrendered at daylight this morning, unconditionally. We have Gen. Johnson, Buckner and Bushrod, and 15,000 prisoners, 3,000 horses, and 20,000 stand of arms.

Our troops were soon in the enemy's camp, when the rebel officers gave up their swords. The bulk of the rebels are chagrined, as they were of the surrender long before we men were apprised of it.

General Pillow and General Floyd had planned and effected their escape during the night, taking with them Floyd's Brigade and a few favorites, occupying what few small steamers they had.

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gone to Nashville, where, or at Clarksville, it is supposed they will attempt to make another stand. This evening a great light was seen for several hours in the direction of Clarksville, and it is supposed that the rebels have either burned the town or their steamboats in the river, to prevent them from falling into the hands of our troops.

Our Army Correspondence. HILTON HEAD, S. C., January 23d, 1862. MESSRS. EDITORS.—Since last writing to you nothing of any importance has occurred, farther than the sending out of one or two secret expeditions.

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SPECIAL NOTICES. MILITARY UNIFORMS.—There is, perhaps, no department of military business in which there has been a more marked improvement than in the clothing of soldiers.

A Card to the Suffering. The Rev. Wm. Congreve, while laboring as a missionary in Japan, was cured of Consumption, which all other means had failed, by a recipe obtained from a learned physician residing in the great city of Jedd.

Public Sale OF HORSES AND CATTLE. THE Subscriber will expose to Sale by Public Auction, at his residence, at Bell's Mills, on TUESDAY, MARCH 4th, 1862,

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