

NEWS FROM ALL NATIONS.

Lieut. Davis, of the rebel army, was arrested at Newark, Ohio, a few days since. He was on his way from Canada to the South, via Washington. The importance of his capture consists in the fact, that he was for some time in charge of the prison at Andersonville where our brave soldiers suffered much torture.

Counterfeit ten dollar bills on the State Bank of New Jersey, and two dollar bills—altered from ones—on the Bellingham Bank of Herkimer Co., have just been put in circulation.

Some Canadian girls attending school in Detroit having been refused transportation over the river for want of passports, Mr. Seward has decided that they are not travellers, under the rule, and need no papers.

A steamer from Mobile arrived at New York Tuesday, bringing 1,000 bales of cotton on account of the Rebel Government, to be disposed of here and the proceeds to be invested in blankets and other creature comforts for Rebel prisoners now held in confinement in the North. That amount of cotton ought to bring two or three hundred thousand bales, which in case of an immediate and full exchange of prisoners, would make a handsome addition to the wardrobe of Lee's army.

Gen. Grant reports that our casualties in the taking of Fort Fisher prove smaller than at first reported. They foot up thus 12 officers and 107 men killed; 45 officers and 490 men wounded. There were 162 guns in all, captured by our forces.

Senator Wilson has introduced a new Conscription bill. In most respects it is like the House bill. Principals, however, are made responsible for the desertion of substitutes. Deserters forfeit the rights of citizenship.

On the 21st a detachment of our troops from Memphis crossed the river and attacked a band of guerrillas at Mound City, killed and wounded the Captain and five others, without the loss of a man on our side.

The Rebel Gen. Foster is reported to be concentrated his force at Houston, Miss., with the view of making a raid into Memphis.

The Black Laws of Illinois (prohibiting negroes from settling in the State,) have been repealed by the State Senate, and the House of Assembly will without doubt concur.

Gen. McClellan, with his wife and child, sailed for Europe Wednesday, in the steamship China. He was attended to the vessel by a number of personal friends and relatives.

The explosion of some powder on Market-st., in West Philadelphia, Wednesday morning caused the death of three persons, and another was seriously injured.

The American Hotel in Buffalo, with several adjoining buildings, was destroyed by fire Wednesday. The loss amounts to nearly \$1,000,000.

The residence recently purchased by a committee of gentlemen from Philadelphia, and which has been tendered to Gen. Grant and family as a permanent home, is on the north side of Chestnut-st., west of Twentieth. The building occupies a front of 22 feet, extending back to the distance of 168 feet, with a thirty-foot street in the rear. It is a four story double front, with three-story double back buildings. It cost over \$30,000.

On Wednesday morning, Jan. 18th Oswego was visited with a fire for the first time in two years and four months. The conflagration was of a barn belonging to Dr. E. B. Sprague. Oswego has a population of about 5,000, and its freedom from fires for the few past years is worthy of comment.

According to a report in the Richmond Dispatch of January 22, the rebel General Sterling Price is not dead, but has just captured Fort Smith, Arkansas, with his garrison of two thousand men. The rumor lacks confirmation.

The old revenue cutter Harriet Lane, captured by the rebels and renamed the Lavenia, was burned at sea on the 18th inst., while on her way from Galveston to Havana. It is supposed she was fired by a sailor who had failed to get his wages.

Official reports from Admiral Dahlgren, received at the Navy Department, show that by the sinking in Charleston harbor of the iron-clad Monitor Patapsco, on the night of the 16th inst., sixty-two officers and men were lost, while forty-three were saved. He has ordered a board of inquiry into the cause of the disaster, which is supposed to have been the explosion of a torpedo.

General Sanborn, commanding the district of Northwestern Missouri, has banished forty-eight families and one hundred other men and women, to a distance of fifty miles outside his lines, for feeding and harboring guerrillas and looting. They are to leave the district by the 20th of February, on penalty of arrest and imprisonment.

A despatch from Louisville, Ky., says: "The authorities have been officially informed that Mumby's gang this evening killed at Sansonville thirty negroes, who were in charge of one thousand head of government cattle. No further particulars have been received."

The Canadian Attorney-General on Wednesday placed before Parliament a bill for the prevention and suppression of outrages on the frontier, and the manufacture and shipment of arms for unlawful purposes; and providing for the seizure and examination of suspected vessels, and giving notice to persons proving unworthy of the hospitality of the country to remove from it.

Latest advices from Eastport confirm the report that the 18th Tennessee Cavalry, about six hundred strong, under Col. Johnson, encamped at Clifton, Tenn., had sent word into our lines that they wished to surrender, take the oath, and go home.

The crews of the blockade-runners Stag and Charlotte, captured off Wilmington a few days since, have been brought to Fort Monroe. Another steamer was captured off Fort Fisher on Sunday but her name was not known.

There seems to be an unusual amount of small pox now in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. Many persons we learn by our exchanges, through the country have recently visited those cities and returned home with the seeds of the disease in their systems, which have broken out and thus spread throughout many places.

An interesting ceremony took place at the White House on Tuesday morning. The occasion was the presentation to President Lincoln of a truly beautiful and superb vase of skeleton leaves, gathered from the battle fields of Gettysburg. The vase was on exhibition at the great Sanitary Fair held in June last in Philadelphia, and was there subscribed for as a gift to the President.

A motion has been made in the West Virginia Senate to remove the capital from Wheeling to Clarksburg.

The high price of board, it is said, has caused the Maine legislatures to talk of immediate adjournment.

Sherman's army has cut up the slave auction blocks at Savannah for firewood.

A New-Hampshire paper says it is rumored that the Hon. Edward W. Harrington, the Democratic candidate for Governor, will decline the nomination. He was beaten last March, and seems disinclined to a second trial.

The steamer Eclipse, which exploded her boiler in the Tennessee River, opposite Johnsonville, on the 29th, had on board the members of the 9th Indiana Battery and other troops. In all 140 lives were lost by the accident.

Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Thursday, February 2, 1865.

NATIONAL BANKS VS. STATE BANKS.

We took occasion in our last, to point out some of the more prominent advantages which the National have over the State banks, and since, some others have occurred to us, no less striking, nor less important. One of these is, the unequal values attached to the notes of the Banks of the different States, in different localities. For instance, the notes of the Pennsylvania banks have always been held at a high rate of discount, by the banks, and the business community of the State of New York. This depreciation of our bank paper is just what the prejudice, the ignorance, and caprice of the people of our sister state, chose to make it. Their bank paper is not a whit better than ours, yet they see proper to make a difference against us, and our people have lost largely by means of this. That too, which is true of these two contiguous states, is equally true of most others, and is one of the results growing out of the practice of allowing each state to create its own money. Since this system was inaugurated, one has not been able to travel to distant parts of the country, without loss. No bank has been sufficiently known, or trusted—save the old United States Bank, in her palmy days—to warrant the passage of her notes currently, in all parts of the country; and among a traveling people, such as ours are, this has been both a loss, and an inconvenience. With the National banks this will, in a great measure, be obviated. The manner of their organization, and the securities on which they are based, are known to all, which will tend greatly towards giving them a character, and credence, in every part of the land. The chief reason usually assigned for refusing paper, from remote localities, is, that nothing is known of it. This can not be said of the National banks. But the most serious objection to the plan of allowing the different states to create money, grows out of the fact, that it makes the currency independent of the general government, and places it beyond its control; and this gives rise to great difficulties in times like the present. When the colonies formed the confederation for the purpose of resisting the encroachments of England, they refused to yield the power to make money, Massachusetts and Maryland having already issued coin; but the trouble which ensued during the war, in consequence of the inability of the Continental Congress to borrow, and to coin money, exposed this as a great weakness; and in the formation of the Constitution, it was the intention of the leading men of that body, to remove this difficulty. The States Right men of the South, however, have always clung to it. The right to charter banks has been held as one of the reserved rights, and the extensive practice upon this theory, which has been going on in all the States, has strengthened this claim. Aside from the injurious effects produced by withholding from Congress the control of the finances, during the Revolutionary war, it has so happened, in every serious war we have had, that the State Banks suspended specie payments, thereby inflicting on the people, and on the government heavy losses. For, so soon as specie payments were stopped, the banks procured its legalization. Then the country was flooded with paper, and as it increased, it depreciated. The inevitable result of this was, that all commodities rose to two and three prices. The copper-headed orators, and writers, have contended throughout this war, that the present high rates of products, was caused by the issue of government money; but this is far from the truth. Why did we have, during the bank suspension of 1838 and '40, as high prices as at present, when the general government paid all its liabilities in specie? So that federal office-holders had gold, and the people about a worthless batch of rags as were ever used for money. On the contrary, if the government had issued no money, we would have had a much worse currency, and higher prices for commodities. If time and space permitted, we could demonstrate this by showing the circulation and discount statements of the banks, both of which tend to inflation. An effort was made some time ago, by a New York paper, to refute this, by showing that the circulation of the banks of that state had fallen off instead of increased; but this writer left out two considerations which materially change the aspect of the question. One is, that the notes of the New York banks, which have mainly constituted the currency of the Northwestern states, have all been driven out by force of public opinion, and the government money substituted. By this probably not less than ten millions of the circulation was sent home. The other is, that he did not take into the account the discount item, which exhibits a large increase, and this inflates just as much as circulation. Besides, the city banks do not use their own paper, but that of the country banks for discounting, for it is cheaper and safer, thus stimulating each other to feed upon the public confidence.

Late Richmond papers contain an official dispatch from Gen. Hardee stating that Gen. Sherman has yet made no movement up the Savannah River, while Rebel rumors aver that he is moving on Augusta, Georgia, by way of Blakesville. Gen. Hill has ordered the removal of the Rebel powder works from Augusta, in case of a design of Sherman to capture the town being disclosed.

Some of the Richmond newspapers have stated that the Rebel fleet on James River made another attempt to pass the Union batteries and obstructions after their failure of last Tuesday. But this is contradicted by The Richmond Whig of Thursday evening, which stated that the vessels of the fleet still remained at their first position up the river.

THE DRAFT—ASSIGNMENT OF QUOTAS.

The Provost Marshal General has assigned and forwarded to the different districts their correct quotas under the call of December 19 for three hundred thousand men. Shortly after the call was made, quotas were assigned upon the enrolment as it stood on the thirteenth day of November, and taking into account the reports of credits, and the estimates of the number of years of service that were then available, and these quotas sent to the districts, in order that recruiting might commence without any delay for computing the exact quotas.

The correct quotas are based upon the enrolment as corrected up to the 1st instant, and embrace all the credits for troops raised up to that date. A complete settlement with each district has been made, and all former deficiencies charged, and surplus credited to the district. Consequently all men put into the service since January 1st, whether by draft, the acceptance of substitutes, or by voluntary enlistments, will be applied as credits, in reduction of the quotas now assigned.

It will be observed that the corrected quotas vary in certain localities, from the quotas assigned on the 23d December. The reason of this is, first, that the enrolment in many localities has been much reduced since the 30th November, while in others but little change has occurred; second, full and accurate reports of men and years of service, furnished not only during the month of December, but from different localities, for the previous months, have been received and taken into account in determining the correct quotas.

We understand that the quota for this district is 2301, the quotas in the sub-districts will not be assigned until the lists are revised.

FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 27, 1865. Mr. Editor:—There is but little business before the Legislature, indeed they hardly know what to do. The Senate is pressing its business as before, with commendable industry, and wishes to adjourn finally on the 28th of February. The House does not appear to be in so much of a hurry. It has but one session a day, from eleven till one, and adjourns from Friday till Tuesday. The matter yet brought before either house have been almost exclusively of a local nature. A proposition is before the Senate to have a general State bounty law, that is, to have the State pay the bounty instead of the counties or townships. There are many strong arguments in favor of such a law, still it is rather doubtful, I suppose, whether or not it passes.

It is understood that Vice-President Johnson is to pass through this city on his way to Washington to commence his official duties. Wonder if the members of the Legislature will refuse to allow him to speak in the Hall, as they did, or a majority of them, two years ago. Things have changed since then, in Pennsylvania as well as in Tennessee. It will be gratifying to him to address the citizens of Harrisburg, as well as the members, under the peculiar circumstances in which he will be placed, but it will be annoying to those who voted him out of the house but two years ago, to see him come back Vice-President, and receive, from a majority of both houses, such a welcome as he will receive.

Maj. H. WHITE gave a very interesting, and in some respects affecting account of his imprisonment in Richmond, and his sufferings while attempting to escape. The Hall was crowded so that there was not even a standing place on the floor, still all listened with intense interest. I believe the Major has gone back to his regiment.

About three weeks since Senator M. B. LOWY, from Erie, while in Philadelphia, and riding in one of the street railroad cars of the city, saw a negro with but one leg, ejected from the cars, because he was a negro. This man had lost his limb in the defence of his country while keeping back from this very city of Philadelphia, perhaps, the rebel armies that would have destroyed it. This procedure on the part of the railroad official, of course aroused the indignation of Mr. Lowy, he felt, and justly, that it was a burning shame, that a man who had fought the battles of the country, and had lost his limb in this fighting, should not be allowed to ride through the streets of the city on the railroads chartered by the Legislature for the accommodation of the public, merely because God had given him a black skin instead of a white one. A resolution was consequently introduced in the Senate prohibiting the street railroad companies of Philadelphia from passing or making regulations that shall exclude Africans from their cars. On this resolution Mr. Lowy who introduced it made a speech in his peculiar style, a speech though of power. The democratic press throughout the State has for his action in the matter and his speech opened their batteries of billings-gate upon him.

The party organs of this city have poured out its vials of wrath upon his head and yet he lives, and battles for the inalienable right of the African to fight for the country, if he desires to do that and to ride in the cars with other men, provided he behaves himself as other men ought to. Lowy is a regular old-school abolitionist, and is the last man to be put down by the abuse of the democratic papers. His bill may not pass, but it will call public attention to the subject and the people will think and consequently be prepared to act in the matter at some future time.

Mr. BROOKS, Democrat of New York, rose to a question of privilege and sent to the clerk's desk a letter from Maj.-Gen. B. F. BUTLER, which he asked the clerk to read, in which a demand was made for an explanation of certain language used by Mr. Brooks in a speech made in the House on the 6th inst. The language was in substance, "that the Government sent to the city of New York during the autumn of Election, a gold robber in the person of a Major-General of the United States."

"Robber as he was of the public treasure, and as he had been exercising his office as a member of the House, the actions of those whom the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SCOTT), had called thieves and robbers."

Mr. Brooks claimed that the letter was intended as a challenge to meet the General in a duel, and was therefore a breach of his (Brooks') privilege as a member of the House. The Speaker decided that the language of the letter, did not admit of such construction, and therefore was not a breach of privilege.

Mr. Brooks, appealed from the decision, and upon the pending question made a further argument in support of his charges against General Butler.

Mr. STREYSS, of Penna., obtained the floor to reply, when on motion the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1865. The discussion of the case of Gen. BUTLER was continued, Mr. STREYSS being entitled to the floor yielded to Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., who is the immediate representative of General BUTLER, and who made a triumphant vindication of the General, against all the charges made by Mr. Brooks against him, and presented official correspondence between General BUTLER and the War and Treasury Departments touching the disposition of money in his hands, which he had taken from Smith & Co., Bankers, in N. O., and supposed agents of the Confederate loan, which seemed to exculpate the General from the appearance of any intention of dishonesty. The discussion placed General BUTLER in an honorable position before the country. Mr. STREYSS followed with an unanswerable reply to Mr. Brooks, and the debate closed.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE. The destruction of this magnificent building, by fire occurred this afternoon; the alarm was sounded at about 2 o'clock P. M., and before the devouring elements could be arrested, the towers, roof, and nearly all the upper portion of the building

State now free; which on motion of Mr. WASHINGTON of Illinois, was ordered to be printed in the Archives of the Government.

The advent at this time, of so important a State into the sisterhood of free Commonwealths, is calculated to have, and most evidently is, producing a favorable effect on the minds of members of the present Congress, who have heretofore stood opposed to the proposed AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, abolishing slavery; and in this connection, I venture again to predict that the requisite number of votes to carry it will be found before the close of the present session.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION for the termination of the Reciprocity treaty, of June 5th, 1854, between the United States and Great Britain, was passed finally.

By the terms of this treaty our naval force on the lakes was restricted to such a degree as to be entirely inadequate for the present condition of affairs, and hence the necessity for its abrogation.

TREATMENT OF REBEL PRISONERS. The resolution in reference to the treatment of rebel prisoners, was reported back by the Military committee with a recommendation, that the President should order rebel prisoners now in our hands, or subsequently captured, to be placed under the immediate control of officers and men who have been prisoners in the hands of the rebels.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE REBEL STATES. The House on yesterday and to-day, have had under consideration, the bill providing for a Republican form of Government for States, overthrown or subverted by the rebellion.

Hon. Wm. D. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania, made an elaborate speech, in which he took ground against the recognition of the State Governments of Arkansas and Louisiana as at present organized, and against the admission of the delegates from those states, now claiming seats as members of the present Congress. He said in substance, that he would insist upon having incorporated into any bill providing for reconstruction, this provision: "That all loyal male persons in the rebellious States, of suitable age, without regard to color, provided they could read, shall be permitted to vote." No vote has yet been reached upon the bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL. The House resumed the consideration, and passed the Legislative appropriation bill.

CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER. Joint Resolutions were passed, tending the thanks of Congress respectively to Gen. TERRY and Admiral PORTER, and to the officers and men under their respective commands for the courage and gallantry displayed in the capture of Fort Fisher.

The capture of Fort Fisher, which effectually closes up the port of Wilmington against rebel blockade running, is one of the severest blows yet dealt to the rebellion.

It so happened that at the moment the telegram announcing the fall of Fort Fisher was received, on Tuesday last, by the Joint Committee on the conduct of the war, General BUTLER was before them giving his testimony in regard to the failure of the late expedition under his command to cooperate with the naval forces in an attack on the Fort. Upon the announcement that the Fort had been taken, the General exclaimed: "Bless God for the victory," and while he remained with the Committee a national salute of one hundred guns ordered by the Secretary of the Navy in honor of the victory, boomed in his ears.

AN ASSAULT ON HIS CAR. It was made this (Friday) evening upon the person of Hon. Wm. D. KELLEY, a member of Congress, from Philadelphia, by A. P. FIELD, of Louisiana, claiming a seat as a member of the House from that State. He inflicted a wound upon the hand of Mr. KELLEY, some two inches in length. The bystanders interfered and prevented him from doing more serious damage. The ground of assault, was Judge KELLEY's opposition to his admission to a seat as a member of the House.

PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS. Monday, Jan. 23d, in the Senate. Mr. WILSON, of Mass., presented a bill providing for increased rates of commutation for subsistence of army officers, and also that they be relieved from the payment of income tax upon their salaries.

REDUCTION OF DUTY ON PRINTING PAPER. In the House. Mr. WASHINGTON, of Ill., presented a joint resolution, which was passed by 97 yeas to 40 nays, providing for a reduction of the duty on printing paper unsized, and used exclusively for the printing of books and newspapers, to three per centum ad valorem.

ASSAULT ON HON. WM. D. KELLEY. Mr. SCHENCK, of Ohio, offered a resolution which was adopted, providing for the appointment of a select committee of five members, to inquire into an alleged breach of privilege, committed by A. P. FIELD, of Louisiana, (claiming a seat as a representative from that State) in the use of intimidation and bullying language towards the Hon. Wm. D. KELLEY, a member of Congress from Penna., thereby attempting to interfere in his legitimate rights and duties as a member, and following up such intimidation by an assault with a knife on the person of said Wm. D. KELLEY.

Messrs. BEAMAN, Mich.; ROLLENS, N. H.; ROBINSON, Ill.; BALDWIN, Mass.; and TOWNSEND of N. Y. were appointed said Committee.

Let us hope that this assault of Mr. FIELD may be the last exhibition of pro-slavery violence and plantation manners ever to occur here. Although Mr. FIELD professes to be a true Union man, the force of early habit, and long association with Slavery, has stamped its irremediable impress upon his character. His imprudence has no doubt settled the question of admission of himself and colleagues to their seats as members from Louisiana, adversely to their claims from Louisiana, adversely to their claims from Louisiana, adversely to their claims from Louisiana.

Mr. BROOKS, Democrat of New York, rose to a question of privilege and sent to the clerk's desk a letter from Maj.-Gen. B. F. BUTLER, which he asked the clerk to read, in which a demand was made for an explanation of certain language used by Mr. Brooks in a speech made in the House on the 6th inst. The language was in substance, "that the Government sent to the city of New York during the autumn of Election, a gold robber in the person of a Major-General of the United States."

"Robber as he was of the public treasure, and as he had been exercising his office as a member of the House, the actions of those whom the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SCOTT), had called thieves and robbers."

Mr. Brooks claimed that the letter was intended as a challenge to meet the General in a duel, and was therefore a breach of his (Brooks') privilege as a member of the House. The Speaker decided that the language of the letter, did not admit of such construction, and therefore was not a breach of privilege.

Mr. Brooks, appealed from the decision, and upon the pending question made a further argument in support of his charges against General Butler.

Mr. STREYSS, of Penna., obtained the floor to reply, when on motion the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1865. The discussion of the case of Gen. BUTLER was continued, Mr. STREYSS being entitled to the floor yielded to Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., who is the immediate representative of General BUTLER, and who made a triumphant vindication of the General, against all the charges made by Mr. Brooks against him, and presented official correspondence between General BUTLER and the War and Treasury Departments touching the disposition of money in his hands, which he had taken from Smith & Co., Bankers, in N. O., and supposed agents of the Confederate loan, which seemed to exculpate the General from the appearance of any intention of dishonesty. The discussion placed General BUTLER in an honorable position before the country. Mr. STREYSS followed with an unanswerable reply to Mr. Brooks, and the debate closed.

with its contents, comprising valuable statistical information relating to natural history, paintings, relics, &c. was destroyed. This is truly a national calamity which must be greatly deplored by all, and most especially by the scientific world.

Yours Truly, COMR.

THE PEACE MISSION.

Return of Blair from the Rebel Capital. Different Views of his Mission, and Comments of the Rebel Press.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865. The following is a special dispatch to The Evening Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865. It is now definitely known that Mr. Blair's mission to Richmond has been crowned with complete success.

Mr. Davis pledged himself to send immediately three gentlemen to Washington to confer upon terms of peace.

Mr. Blair also covered with a majority of the Rebel Congressmen, who represented themselves as in favor of abandoning further hostilities.

There can be no doubt that in a day or two at furthest Commissioners will reach Washington to bring from the repentant Rebels renewed allegiance to the Union, the Constitution and the Laws.

Mr. Blair experienced the kindest treatment at the hands of the authorities, and reports that since the reduction of Fort Fisher an entire revulsion of public opinion has taken place.

The most extreme advocates of "fighting it out to the bitter end," now admit the hopelessness of their cause.

The probability of an early peace was freely discussed in leading social and political circles in Richmond, and a general feeling of joy and relief resulted from the rapid circulation of the information.

From the New York Herald. WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, 1865. The only topic of conversation here to-day has been the return of Mr. Blair, Sir, from Richmond, and the result of his mission. Contradictory stories were in circulation as to that result, and it was not until this evening that authentic information could be obtained in regard to it.

It is now definitely settled that his mission has been an entire failure, and that he is not to wear the honors of a great pacifier. Mr. Blair is returning to Richmond, as has been stated in the Herald's correspondence, a confident that he should be able to inaugurate negotiations whose ends would be the termination of hostilities and the restoration of the Union. He returns satisfied that at present there is no hope of a peaceful solution of existing difficulties.

He found division and wrangling among the rebel leaders; but they are so distrustful of each other that none dare to assume the responsibility of making advances, or agreeing to terms which would lead to peace. Mr. Blair was engaged with enemies who watch his every motion, and are ready at the first indication of a disposition to accede to any possible terms of settlement, to spring upon and overwhelm him. For this reason he could offer no terms, except a precedent recognition of commissioners as representing the Confederate government; or he was willing to negotiate without an actual recognition provided an armistice of from thirty to ninety days was granted. Neither of these propositions could, of course, receive a moment's consideration, and so he was informed.

Nothing was accomplished, and the matters unavailing. Mr. Blair has returned to this city, and his labors as a peacemaker are ended. Nothing now remains but a vigorous prosecution of the war until the army of Lee is destroyed, and then peace will come, not by negotiation, but by the disintegration of the rebel government.

The rebels are determined to make one last effort, by the conscription of negroes and a more vigorous enforcement of the conscription of white men, to change the current of disaster which has so steadily set against them. Their hopes of recognition have not altogether failed them, and they are encouraged, from the action of our Congress in relation to the French occupation of Mexico, to believe that France will soon recognize them as an offset to the hostility displayed towards the new government of that country by the United States. All these arguments are used to keep the rebel Congress and the people from despairing of ultimate success; and they have the effect desired for the present.

It is authoritatively stated to-night that Mr. Blair is preparing a letter, addressed to Horace Greely, detailing his experience as a peace negotiator and explaining the cause of his failure, and showing that there is no hope of an immediate peaceful settlement.

General Singleton has not returned yet to this city, although it is understood that he has come within our lines from Richmond. His political friends are quite disappointed at his utter failure to bring the rebels to a peaceful frame of mind.

Peace men are said to be plentiful in Richmond, but reconstructionists do not as yet dare to avow themselves.

A resolution will be introduced in the Senate on Monday calling upon the President for all the Blair-Davis correspondence.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

THE BLAIR MISSION. MR. BLAIR CONVEYS A LETTER FROM LINCOLN TO DAVIS.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 25.]

We learn that Mr. Blair, contrary to general expectation, did not go down on the flag of truce yesterday but yet tarries in Richmond. In consequence of which there were various rumors yesterday, as to his delay here was very naturally thought to imply that his propositions, whatever they may be, had neither been rebuffed nor answered with decision. All that is known is the fact that Blair brought a letter from addressed to Jefferson Davis. Its contents are not even surmised. But the only object of sending Blair here is to distract public attention from the public defence and keep up the nonsense of demagogues about peace while the Yankee armies are in motion.

MR. BLAIR AMBITIOUS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE. [From the Richmond Whig, Jan. 25.]

There is no prospect of an armistice at present, but Mr. Blair is still in Richmond, and while we are not yet permitted to know officially anything relative to his mission, we are satisfied from all that we can hear, that he is endeavoring to bring about a termination of the war. A great reputation will be the reward of his efforts, if he succeeds, and he is ambitious enough to strive to secure the renown which will attach to his name if he proves a successful commissioner of peace.

A flag of truce boat went down the river to-day. General Singleton, of Illinois, and niece, were among the passengers.

MR. BLAIR AUTHORIZED TO OFFER ANY TERMS THAT WOULD SUIT JEFF. DAVIS.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 25.]

Mr. Blair is still in the city. We saw him on the street late yesterday afternoon. It is believed that Mr. Blair has been authorized to offer any terms of settlement that could be accepted by the Confederate people.

What consultations have taken place between him and President Davis, it is presumed, are only known to themselves. The rumor circulated yesterday of an armistice for three months has its answer in the thunder of cannon below the city. These rumors of peace and of suspension of hostilities can have no other effect than to raise false hopes in the minds of the people.

The shortest way for peace is vigorously for war. The enemy will never make terms with us unless we are convinced we will fight till we achieve our independence.

MR. BLAIR AND JEFF. DAVIS KEEP THEIR OWN COUNSEL.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 25.]

F. P. Blair was still in the city last evening. He arrived here on Saturday evening, dined with the president on Sunday, and has had several interviews with him since. What transpired during these interviews is positively not known. The President not having even made any communication to his Cabinet on the subject, we must await the return of Mr. Blair to the North.

NO PEACE BUT IN SUBJUGATION OR INDEPENDENCE.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 25.]

The more we talk about peace the more arrogant the enemy becomes. The men who are continually boasting about peace but prolonging the war, as the well known there can be no peace but in two ways—subjugation or independence.

The famous Richmond squadron, consisting of four iron-clad vessels, came down the James river Tuesday morning and succeeded in running by Fort Mory the high water, caused by the freshet, and a dense fog enabling them to pass the obstructions, intending to destroy the Union works and depot at City Point. 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 and entirely destroyed, while two others were so badly damaged by shot and shell as to compel them to seek safety by speedy flight back in the direction of Richmond, accompanied by the other two, which escaped without serious damage.

There is literally nothing doing in the Army of the Potomac. Since the flurry of the Rebel ironclads, the silence has scarcely been broken. The only events worthy of mention in our latest dispatches are the execution of a deserter and the issue of orders promising certain rewards for good behavior. The colors of the Twentieth Massachusetts, lost in battle, have been restored, the regiment being found innocent of blame.

PROPOSED VISIT TO REBEL PRISONERS DENIED.—The United States Christian Commission last week proposed to the Rebel authorities to send Bishops McVaine, O. Jayne and Lee, and Horatio Jones of Philadelphia, to visit all the Rebel prisons and ascertain the condition of the Union prisoners. Gen. Grant forwarded the application to Gen. Lee, with his approval indorsed, and giving permission for an equal number of clergymen and other civilians from the South to visit the military prisons in the North on a like errand. These visits, Gen. Grant added, would do much to relieve anxiety in the public mind on both sides, caused by exaggerations or misrepresentations as to the treatment of prisoners. A reply was received from the Rebel Government, through commissioner Ould, declining to permit the visit of the Bishops as "inexpedient."

General Grant has taken the whole matter of the exchange of prisoners in his own hands, and there is now reason to believe that a full exchange will soon be effected. The Lieutenant General could do no act, at this time, which would cause more real joy throughout the country, than effect the release of our poor suffering fellow citizens in the prison dens of the South. The heart of the loyal North bleeds with anguish for her starved sons in rebel prisons, and if General Grant can secure their speedy release, God and man will bless his name.

The steamer Perit arrived at New York Friday from Savannah, but brought no later reports regarding military movements.—General Sherman had issued an order in reference to the negroes within the lines of his army. The young and able bodied men are to be encouraged to enlist in the military service, and the South Carolina sea islands and the abandoned rice and cotton fields on portions of the Florida and South Carolina coasts are to be set apart for the settlement of the old men, women and children. Gen. Rufus Saxton has been appointed to superintend their location on these lands. All the rebel obstructions have been removed from the main channel in Savannah harbor, and it is now open to navigation. A Charleston correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch says that if Sherman succeeds in getting possession of Branchville the fall of Charleston will soon follow.

MARRIED. DUNF