THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

VOLUME LXXVII--NO. 301. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1864. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

EVENING GAZETTE TELEGRAMS.

SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS IN GEORGIA.

The Town of Madison Burned.

ATTEMPT OF UNION PRISONERS TO ESCAPE.

The Camp Stormed by Artillery.

FORTY MEN KILLED AND MANY WOUNDED.

The Plot Unsuccessful.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 28th says: "The Yankee papers publish a great deal about Sherman's movements, and nearly as much about our own, all of which it would very imprudent to copy. It was pretty well ascertained that the left wing of Sherman's army, when it reached Madison, numbered 10,000 men. They burned the town when they left.

The Augusta papers say the excitement in that city a week ago Monday, was very great, and in the urgent appeals which it was proposed to impress the negroes. One of the papers of that place was very fearful of treachery on the part of its citizens on Sherman's arrival.

The importance to the Confederacy of Macon and Augusta was dwelt upon at length by the rebel press, and that their fall would be a great disaster to it is admitted.

The Richmond *Whig* receives some comfort from an assertion, which it refuses to believe true, that Sherman is only marching at an average of seven miles a day.

[From the Richmond Enquirer of the 28th.]

"On Thursday last a sudden attempt was made by the Federal prisoners confined at Salisbury, North Carolina, to make their escape, which was rapidly and effectually quelled at the expense of considerably Yankee blood.

"It appears that a plot had been formed among the prisoners, of whom there are at Salisbury some 10,000, to overpower the guard at the encampment and, then break through the line of the parapet guard, and after crossing all the army, they could march through Virginia, North Carolina, into Tennessee and take good their escape.

"In the first part of their programme they succeeded; the interior guard was overpowered, and two of the unfortunate men were killed outright. They then attacked the parapet guard, who fought bravely against the terrible odds till the alarm had been fully communicated to the garrison and two pieces of artillery were brown into position, bearing upon the encampment.

"Two of the parapet guard were killed in this second attack. In a few minutes the artillery opened, and after a few rattling discharges of grape and canister the insurrectionists cried out for mercy, and declared that they would make no further efforts to get away. By this time they were completely surrounded by artillery and infantry, and it was well for them that they ceased their demonstration, and cried for mercy.

"In ten minutes more the whole camp would have been one scene of slaughter, as it was about forty were killed and a large number wounded. Thus a very foolish attempt to escape from Confederate durance has ended."

New York, December 1.—Major General G. H. Gilmore leaves to-day for New Orleans. There he will report to General Canby, for the purpose of inspecting the defences of the various fortified forts of the Western Military Division.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Battle Probable Within Forty-eight Hours.

GENERALS HOPEFUL AND CONFIDENT.

Large Numbers of Troops Arriving.

REBEL CAVALRY OPERATING NEAR NASHVILLE.

Arrival of Smith's Corps.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 30.—The army movements of a few days past have been simply for position. The Federal forces have not retreated except to improve their location, and occupy Franklin to-day, but will probably select for battle much nearer Nashville. Skirmishing has occurred with little or no advantage to either. The probabilities are that a battle will be fought within the next forty-eight hours. Our forces are in better expectation and the Generals hopeful and confident.

Large accessions of troops have reached here and have been sent to advantageous positions. Small detachments of rebel cavalry are operating not far from Nashville, doing, however, no great damage.

The railroad communication with Chattanooga is intact, and trains are running regularly. There is much excitement among citizens on account of the near approach of Hood's army.

Major General A. J. Smith's Corps reached here to-night.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Brilliant Affair in Louisiana.

BRISK ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENEMY.

Prisoners, 1 Piece of Artillery and 800 Horses and Mules Captured.

MOVEMENT OF MAGRUDER'S FORCES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Herald's* New Orleans correspondent gives a brief account of a brilliant affair in Louisiana: Gen. A. D. Lee, commanding the Union force at Baton Rouge, turned to that point on the 22d ult., from an expedition to Liberty and Brookville, bringing with him three pieces of rebel artillery, and between 700 and 800 horses and mules and 200 prisoners, including the entire staff of General Gage, all of which were captured after a brief but spirited engagement with the enemy.

It is reported that a large portion of Magruder's army is endeavoring to effect a crossing of the Mississippi, in order to reinforce Hood in Tennessee, but the Union troops and gunboats are on the watch, and will prevent it if possible.

Grant's Forces Reported Moving on Richmond.

A FLEET PASSED UP DUTCH GAP CANAL.

Important Movement in the Shenandoah Valley.

REPORTS NOT YET CONFIRMED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The city was filled with rumors last night that Grant's forces, in conjunction with the navy, were moving on Richmond; that the fleet has passed up the Dutch Gap Canal, and that an important movement was going in the Shenandoah Valley.

Nothing has been received confirmatory of these reports this morning.

The Richmond papers of the 28th say: Gen. Grant is missing troops on his left, and if the latter continues favorable, he may make another effort in that direction.

From the City of Mexico.

COMFORTABLE CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

Many People Dying of Starvation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Herald's* correspondent in the City of Mexico, writing on Oct. 31st, presents the condition of the country, under the Imperial regime, as very deplorable. Commerce is stagnant, and agricultural operations have been so much interfered by continued warfare, brigandage, murder and robbery, throughout almost the entire Mexican territory, the past two years, that the most necessary articles are in the greatest scarcity, and many people are said to be dying of starvation in the cities of Mexico and San Luis.

Latest from Tennessee.

HEAVY BATTLE AT FRANKLIN.

Our Forces Attacked by Two Rebel Corps.

REBELS REPULSED AT ALL POINTS.

Loss of the Enemy Six Hundred Killed and Wounded and One Thousand Prisoners.

ONE REBEL BRIGADIER CAPTURED.

Union Loss About Five Hundred

NEW YORK, December 1.—The *Times* has the following special from Nashville, dated November 30th—midnight:

The enemy at four, P. M., made a heavy attack at Franklin, with two corps; but after persistent fighting, were repulsed at all points, with a loss of 600 killed and wounded, 1,000 prisoners and a rebel Brigadier captured. Our loss was about 500.

SEMMES GOING TO RICHMOND.

Plot to Burn Government Property in Memphis.

THE INCENDIARIES CAPTURED IN THE ACT.

The Alleged Concoctor of the Plot Arrested.

CAIRO, Nov. 30.—Information, of a seemingly reliable character, is to the effect that Captain Semmes, of the pirate Alabama, arrived at Bagdad, Mexico, Oct. 11th, en route for Richmond via Matamoras.

Up to November 20th, there was not a quorum in the Arkansas legislature.

Memphis papers of yesterday give a detailed account of a plot by rebel agents to burn the Memphis and Charleston railroad depot and government stores, worth two millions. The plot was discovered by the United States detectives to whom matters were entrusted by General Washburn, and the incendiaries were captured in the act of firing buildings. It is alleged that these emissaries went to receive from the rebel government ten per cent. on the valuation of the property thus destroyed.

Dr. McMillan, proprietor of the Charleston House, Memphis, is among those arrested. He is charged with being an agent for the rebel government, and concoctor of the plot. The prisoners were confined in the Irving Block. They will be tried before the Military Commission, and will probably be hanged.

THE AFFAIR AT NEW CREEK.

Six or Seven Guns and Three Hundred Men Captured by the Rebels.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Herald's* Martinsburg correspondent says of the affair at New Creek: Colonel Latham was in command, and being warned by the engagement at Moorfield, had his men prepared for an attack waiting all night, but the enemy not coming, vigilance was relaxed the next day, when Rosser pounced on his pickets and got inside of his lines before his men could be gathered.

We lost six or seven guns, and some three hundred men. Colonel Latham, who was missing until the 30th, turned up at a distance from the scene of strife.

LATEST REBEL REPORTS FROM SHERMAN.

Efforts to Cross the Ocoonee Defeated.

MACON AND AUGUSTA STILL HELD BY THE REBELS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Persons who have seen Richmond papers of the 27th ult. say they contain dispatches from Augusta dated the 20th, which state that Sherman had not approached that city, and repeat the statement in the Savannah papers of the 24th, that he had been defeated in his efforts to cross the Ocoonee river, and that his attempt to march eastward had been baffled.

The rebels claim that they still occupy Macon, and the Richmond *Enquire* argues that Sherman cannot reach that city.

THE SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

She Was in a Bad Condition When Captured.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—According to the *World's* Fortress Monroe correspondent, the Florida had been ordered to Norfolk to coal, and just before starting she was run into by the transport steamer Alliance and very severely damaged. She was in a very bad condition when captured, and the steam pump was kept going constantly. After this last collision she filled at the rate of eight inches an hour. An additional pump was set at work, and every effort made to keep her afloat, but all to no purpose, and before she could be towed to shoal water she went down.

Resignation of Army Officers.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—No resignations of the following named officers have been accepted by the President, to take effect to-day: Major General John A. McClernand, Brigadier General E. A. Payne, and Brigadier General Neal Dow.

War Materials Captured in Canada.

COLLINGWOOD, C. W., Dec. 1.—The custom authorities, yesterday, seized boxes containing gun carriages, canister, grape-shot, &c., for an eighteen pounder.

The steamer Georgian is daily expected.

Attorney General Bates' Successor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says: Judge Hall has been selected to supersede Attorney General Bates.

British Precedents.

The spasm of the indignation which seized the press when it heard of the capture of the Florida, might be allayed by citing some British precedents. This will doubtless be the office of the able writer on international law who has been informing the London *Times* over the signature of "Historicus." The following British precedents are given:

"On the 15th of September, 1809, the British seventy-four gun ships Belle Isle and Bellona, with the frigate Melampus, detached from their squadron for the search of the Cæsar, discovered near Cape Henry, in the United States, the seventy-four gun ship Impetueux, which was, next to the Foudroyant, the most disabled ship of M. Villaumez's squadron. The commander of the French ship having no alternative but to bear up towards the land, hoisted the French colors and ran himself on shore. Soon afterwards the Melampus fired her broadside at the French ship, which thereupon hauled down her ensign and pennant, when the boats of the British ship took possession of the Impetueux, and after removing the French prisoners set fire to her.

The capture and destruction of the Impetueux was certainly a breach of neutrality, but the United States took very little notice of it.

The Essex frigate, commanded by David Porter, the father of the present gallant Admiral Porter, was attacked and captured in the Bay of Valparaiso, by two British ships-of-war, in the war of 1813.

The General Armstrong, privateer, was attacked in the Bay of Fayal by the boats of the British fleet there. Captain Reid, who commanded the Armstrong, after a gallant defense and repulsing the enemy scuttled his vessel. This was in September, 1814.

To these may be added the destruction of the steamer Carolina in the waters of the United States, by an armed force fitted out in the Province of Upper Canada—an affair which is an apt parallel for the seizure of the Florida.

It is significant that the only prominent hotel in the Metropolis that was not fired on Friday night, was the New York Hotel, the general headquarters of the secessionists.

The oldest officer in the French army is Colonel Fromcy, aged 106. He is blind but otherwise bright.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE.

Further Particulars of the Battle at Franklin.

FOUR DESPERATE REBEL CHARGES MADE.

The Enemy Repulsed Each Time With Fearful Loss.

GEN. FORREST REPORTED KILLED.

Arrival of Heavy Union Reinforcements.

PROBABLE LOSS OF REBELS FROM 5,000 TO 6,000.

Our Forces Retired from Franklin.

LIST OF BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR NASHVILLE.

Heavy Cannonading Heard.

GREAT BATTLE MOMENTARILY EXPECTED.

Confidence in Our Ultimate Success Felt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The following official dispatch, confirming the report of the victory in Tennessee, has been received at headquarters:

Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 30.—Major General Thomas: The enemy made a heavy and persistent attack with about two corps, commencing at about 4 in the afternoon and lasting until after dark, and was repulsed at all points with very heavy loss—probably 5000 or 6000 men. Our loss is probably not more than one tenth of that number. We captured about 1000 men, including one Brigadier General.

(Signed) SCHOFIELD.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 1.—The Federal forces under General Thomas retired from Franklin last night, and have taken position and formed in line of battle south of Nashville about three miles. Skirmishing has been going on all day about five miles south of here. Heavy cannonading can be distinctly heard in the city. No want of confidence is felt by the citizens in the ultimate success of the Federals.

The employees of the Quartermaster's Department are under arms and in the trenches.

One hundred and seven Confederate officers, including one Brigadier General, and 700 privates, arrived in this city this morning. They were captured in the fight last night near Franklin, Tenn.

A great battle may momentarily be expected.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 1.—The special correspondent of the *American* telegraphs from Annapolis as follows:

The steamer Constitution has arrived with 700 paroled men. She left Savannah on Sunday evening. No papers had been received later than November 22d. Nothing definite had been heard from Sherman, but it was the general belief in Savannah that he had developed his march on this city in two columns. There was great consternation among the rebel authorities.

The Richmond *Examiner* says of Sherman's movements, if it could be Sherman's intention by the way, he could accomplish great things; but the destruction of those towns was not his main object. His design was to destroy the railroad as far as he could, which runs from Southern and Western Georgia to Virginia.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Commercial Advertiser's* Washington special says: Richmond papers of Tuesday contain no intelligence concerning Sherman. They state that neither Macon nor Augusta were taken on the 20th, and that the trains were running regularly between the two cities. It is believed this statement will prove to be incorrect.

Parties who have returned from the front were witnesses to the battle of yesterday, and describe the attack of the rebel forces as desperate. Four charges were made upon the Federal line of masked batteries in a body four lines deep, and each time the rebels were repulsed with fearful loss.

The fort is on the north bank of the river, opposite town. Extending up the river, and encircling the town, was the line of masked batteries.

Eye witnesses say that this engagement in desperation and furious fighting was hardly equaled at Stone River. Forty-six colors were captured falling his men. A rumor is in circulation that he was killed, but it lacks confirmation.

About 7 o'clock last night, heavy re-inforcements reached Schofield, which caused a complete route of the rebel forces.

The city to-day is full of fleeing residents of Williamson and other counties south of here. They state that Hood is gathering up all the horses, mules, and wagons he can find and sending them south. There is a great panic among the negroes in the counties south of Nashville, and large numbers are flocking to the city for protection.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 1.—Hood's infantry force crossed Harpeth river this morning, and he has not advanced that portion of the force since his cavalry crossed the Harpeth on fords above Franklin this morning at daybreak, closely following General Wilson, who retired in this direction. Skirmishing with the advance has occurred all day.

General Wilson occupies a strong position a few miles South of Nashville and is able to resist any force the rebels may bring against him. The Confederate General captured yesterday, was Colonel Gordon, of the 11th Tennessee. Both the Brigadier Generals are officers who witnessed the fight at Franklin yesterday, and describe the battle as being one of the most sanguinary of the war. The determined bravery of the Confederates exceeded anything before seen. Although slaughtered by hundreds they still advanced against our batteries, and within five hours eleven distinct assaults were made against our works, each a failure. Our forces, the battle being ended, quietly withdrew from town.

Among the casualties is Major General Stanley, wounded by a shot in the neck. The rebel General Cheatham is reported wounded.

Among the killed are Captain Bessill, 128th Indiana; Captain Stately, 124th Indiana; the Major of the 124th Indiana; Captain Hinton, 124th Indiana, was mortally wounded. Colonel Lowrey, 107th Illinois, killed; Captain Coroghton, of General Cox's staff, killed; Captain Dowling, 11th Ohio, wounded. Colonel Waters, 3d brigade 1st division, wounded in the shoulder. Colonel Conrad, who commanded the 1st brigade of the 1st division, was wounded.

The rebel casualties are Brig. Gen. Adams, killed; Brig. Gen. Scott, wounded.

The total loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners is estimated at 4000, three thousand being either killed or wounded. The Federal loss in killed and wounded was 700. Loss in prisoners trifling. Our loss in regimental and field officers has not been ascertained. General Stanley was slightly wounded in the neck, but did not leave the field.

General Cox stated that one could walk fifty yards on dead rebels in his front.

Our troops have taken position in the line of works between Nashville and Franklin.

Reconnoissance on Roanoke River.

REBEL POSITIONS ABANDONED.

The Enemy Entrenched at Rainbow Bluffs.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Enquirer* says: Commander Malcomb reconnoitered up the Roanoke river last week and found it abandoned. The rebels were found strongly intrenched at Rainbow Bluffs, 200 miles above Plymouth.

The rebels have a new ram finished on the Neuse river. She is larger and heavier than the Albemarle, and may be expected to pay our gunboats a visit at any day.

Return of General Banks to New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—The daily *Chronicle* of this morning, in speaking of Major Gen. Banks' preparations for shortly leaving here for New Orleans, to resume position of the head of the Department of the Gulf, including Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri, says: All his civil policy has met the approval of the President of the United States, and he returns to his post at the request of the Executive, and it is not less pleasant to announce that the kindliest relation exist between General Banks and Canby, who is in charge of the Military operations in the Division of Western Mississippi.

Gold—Our Victory in Tennessee.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Gold opened weak at 227, and steadily declined to 225½. The news of the victory over Hood by Thomas, was prevented from further depressing the price, by considerable purchases for export. At two p. m. it was quiet at 226.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BATES' RESIGNATION

Hon. Jos. Holt Declines the Position.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

No Advance Copies of the Message to be Sent Out.

THE RECENT ATTEMPT TO BURN NEW YORK.

Southern Press on the Movements of Gen. Sheridan.

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Yesterday when the resignation of Attorney General Bates took effect, the position was tendered to Hon. Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, but that gentleman, while thanking the President for the expression of his kindness and confidence, declined the appointment.

The report of the Postmaster General is the only one yet completely in type. It is expected that the reports of the other heads of Departments will be printed by Sunday.

From present appearances no advance copies of the President's Message will be sent to the newspaper press, and therefore that document will be communicated to the country the same as last year, by telegraph, probably on Monday.

The Secretary of State directs that the following dispatch be made known by telegraph:

Baltimore, Dec. 1.—A letter just received from Annapolis, at the office of the Baltimore *American*, from paroled prisoners from Georgia, contains a statement which appears to be important in connection with the recent attempt to burn the city of New York. I will send you the substance of the letter. It is signed by John H. Hipple, 20th Illinois volunteers. He says when he passed through Savannah on the 10th, he was informed by professed Union citizens, that he would hear of the greatest city burning on record if the rebels succeeded in the North, and that it was to come in a very few days. The party state that one Captain Montgomery of formerly of Baltimore, was the person charged with the duty of firing the Northern cities. Montgomery, he said, intended to burn New York, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. He further said that the rebels in Savannah were in high expectation of soon hearing of Montgomery's success, and that he was to receive a large sum of money if successful. The writer says he thought little of the statement until after his arrival, when he saw the accounts in the papers, whereupon he deemed it his duty to make this statement for publication, deeming it proper that this information should be communicated to the government.

The Military Commission recently tried a citizen who was enrolled in Washington nearly three years ago, thereby becoming liable to draft, and who afterwards went to Richmond and served in Mosby's corps, and was subsequently captured. He was found guilty and sentenced to be shot, but his sentence has been commuted to imprisonment and hard labor, ten years in the Clinton prison.

NEW YORK, December 1.—There is no news of interest up to this hour from the Army of the Potomac.

The *Herald's* special from the Army of the James River, says: The enemy recently opened a severe fire, which is being sustained with great vigor, but doing no damage.

The *World* editorially says: It is probable that active movements, are about to take place on the Potomac. The coming two weeks promise to be the most eventful of the war, they will probably witness a great battle near Richmond and another in the Shamandoah on the third, as important as the other in Tennessee.

Several minor conflicts have transpired with preganble results in Georgia, and others at least as important. Naval actions have also occurred along the coast.

General Butler has issued orders pismissing several officers from the service, for various causes.

The *World's* Washington special says that parties who are able to speak for the army of the Cumberland tone of the President's message say it will be exceedingly conservative in character, and aim at the conciliation of all parties and classes in the North.

Six hundred deserters from the Federal army are in the immediate vicinity of Niagara Falls, on the Canada side, most of whom have obtained bounties, they are in a wretched condition. Many have asked permission to return.

The Secretary of War has ordered that the paroled prisoners of war now arriving at Annapolis, be paid in full and furloughed for thirty days, as soon as the necessary papers can be prepared.

The *Post's* Washington letter says that members of Congress are arriving rapidly. A full quorum will doubtless be present on Monday. Mr. Stevens, of Penna. Chairman of the House Committee of Ways and Means, is here. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, is expected in advance of the Senate Finance Committee, is also here.

The interior of the Capitol has undergone considerable change since the adjournment of Congress.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: It is believed in official circles that the tone of late Richmond papers, in relation to affairs before Petersburg, has been called for by a conviction that the rebel capital must be moved, and that the Southern journals are preparing the public mind for the evacuation of Virginia.

Prominent military men express the opinion that Lee has been sending off troops by rail for several days, and is about to accept the alternative of stealing off from Grant with most of his army, if possible, and hurling overwhelming numbers upon Sherman. No fears for the latter are entertained.

Prisoners say the people intimated that there were forces under Beauregard and Johnson marching to Augusta to oppose Sherman, but they did not believe Sherman would encounter much resistance at Savannah, as there were but few troops there, who would make but a feeble resistance.

The Richmond *Dispatch* publishes Sherman's official order of his campaign, and quotes literally from the Northern and Western journals that have pretended to give the numbers of each branch of his army. It also publishes a fair specimen of what it calls Yankee news—a Philadelphia canard, about the three Governors of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, offering terms of peace to Sherman.

The *Whig*, of the 28th, says General Breckinridge arrived in Richmond on the night of the 27th.

The *Enquirer*, of the 28th, says: The whole South is full of Yankee spies; they are known to have regular lines of communication, which leave Richmond twice a week; and several papers reach Grant's headquarters before three o'clock next morning.

The Bristol *Rapster*, of the 28th, says: All is quiet in East Tennessee. Our forces at Strawberry Plains are confronting the Yankees on the opposite side of the river.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 29th says: No doubt can now be entertained of Sherman's designs or destination. When Davis sent Hood out he took the only army apparent in the country off his shoulders and carried it through mountains to stalk in the mud between Tuscumbia and Florence. Sherman is determined to make an attempt on our lines of communication between Virginia and the Carolinas, and the rest of the Confederate States. His work in Northern Georgia was done, and for ulterior operations any point on the sea coast would be a better base than Chattanooga. He risked much in appearance, but perhaps little in reality by destroying his communication. He can transport his ammunition for at least three pitched battles, and for supplies this season of the year he might partly rely on the country through which he proposes to pass.

The Richmond *Whig* says: We do not intend to inform Yankee newspapers where Sherman now is, but we feel a hesitation in assuring them that he is not in Charleston or Savannah or Macon or Augusta, and that not one of these cities has ever been threatened by his forces.

The following is from the Augusta *Chronicle*, of the 26th: A large number of veteran troops have already arrived, and many more are on the wayhither. It is with great pleasure that we announce the news, and the foe will have to step in his triumphant march, instead of overwhelming the State at his ease, as he has proudly boasted. He will be fortunate if he succeeds in making his escape.

It is stated that a large cavalry force has left Greenville, S. C., and is moving across the country in the direction of Atlanta, probably with a view of cutting off the Yankee column which is moving down the Georgia Railroad in this direction.

Officers Resigning—Letter from Captain Winslow—Protest from the Bahia Merchants.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—An army letter to the *Times* says: Many officers are resigning on account of the high cost of living. The officers and privates in some regiments have been complaining because they have not been paid punctually. In one regiment no money has been paid for eleven months.

At the Chamber of Commerce to-day a letter was read from Capt. Winslow, which closed by saying the destruction of the Alabama is an event that was of great importance in influencing our foreign relations at the present time, aside from the benefit derived of ridding the ocean of a most destructive pest upon our commerce.

A protest from the Bahia merchants concerning the Florida was read, and a committee appointed to consult the propriety of sending it back.

THE PLOT TO BURN NEW YORK.

Investigation by General Dix.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The investigation of the plot to burn the city is proceeding with the greatest vigor and secrecy. Gen. Dix is closeted daily with detectives and others, who are engaged in this business. The examination of prisoners has been going on before the Military Commission for the past twenty-one days, and those most conversant with the cases, express great confidence that some of the malefactors will be detected and punished under Gen. Dix's order. The city at this moment is under the strictest surveillance. Lists of arrivals from the South are sent daily from the hotels to headquarters, and all the suspected persons who fail to report themselves, will be summarily punished. The leading hotel keepers are doing all in their power to aid the authorities, and are in constant communication with them. It is indicative of the thoroughness and skill with which measures have been taken, that while the closest watch is kept throughout the city, the agents of the Government and their mode of operations are wholly unknown to the public at large. The condition of things naturally excites much alarm and uneasiness among southerners in this city. A large number of them register themselves daily, and many have come forward to give what aid they can in detecting the plot. The number of these refugees is much exaggerated, those whom opportunities give them best means of judging, estimate them at from 10,000 to 15,000 only, of these, a large proportion are women and loyal southerners, who have abandoned their property, and fled with the contempt of Jeff. Davis. All who remain are obliged to take the oath of allegiance. The only exceptions to this rule are those, who, for reasons of public policy are excused.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The military authorities and the police are acting together for the detection of the persons concerned in the plot to burn the city. The Military Commission is now in session taking testimony in the matter. There is no doubt that the persons concerned in the plot are of the same class as the Detroit and St. Albans raiders.

NEW YORK Dec. 1.—The *World* has the following extracts from Richmond papers of the 29th, telegraphed from Washington:

The *Sentinel* says: We again repeat, as the enemy have no means of communication with Sherman, it is deemed best for public interests, not to publish intelligence of military movements in Georgia.

The *Dispatch* says: Georgia exchanges furnish us with very little intelligence.

Governor Brown has issued a proclamation for calling in *negro* the whole free white male population in the State between fifteen and sixty, for forty days.

The fright in Milledgeville when the enemy approached, was very great. Some members of the Legislature paid as high as a thousand dollars to be carried eighty miles.

A letter was read in Columbus on Saturday, from Palmetto Point, on the West Point and Lagrange railroad, stating that Kilpatrick with 5,000 Yankees were advancing down the country on the Alabama side of the Chattaoochee, burning and destroying everything.

The movement of Hood has had the effect that it was designed to have.

If Sherman reaches the ocean, he will leave the whole country behind him, from the ocean to the western boundary of Alabama, clear of the enemy.

The *Enquirer* says: The march of Sherman has not been productive of any results whatever. Macon has not been captured, nor Augusta threatened. The last week in his rear has not been allowed to advance ten miles. It is reported that he has been repulsed and driven back wherever he has attempted to advance. His army is now harassed on its flanks and rear and manifully resisted in front. The sea, is still more than a hundred miles from his army. Every hour consumes his provisions and concentrates our armies. Until his movements developed his intentions, it was impossible to concentrate our forces, without exposing important places, but now that his destination is known, reasons that held our forces apart no longer exist. We expect to hear of important results being accomplished before long, but it is of great importance that the enemy should not know at what point Sherman may be forced to reach the coast. Sherman may get through to the Gulf coast and embark for Grant's army, but as for doing the confederate any serious injury there is no danger whatever.

Neither Macon, Augusta, West Point or Columbus, all of which were as near vital points as any in Georgia, have been attacked by Sherman. He is seeking to get through Georgia, not to capture any more of her cities.

The rumor that the Central Railroad had been cut was correct, but was not injured to a serious extent.

We may not sustain any physical injury, but our cause cannot escape the moral effect of Sherman's triumphant raid through the heart of the Confederacy.

The *Dispatch* says it was reported that Grant had sent off a considerable body of troops to cooperate with Sherman in Georgia, and add that General in reading and studying his case on the Atlantic coast. We do not vouch for the rumor, but must say that there is nothing improbable in it. Still we think it morelikely that Grant is musterinn his forces for an early demonstration on Lee, than scattering them to aid Sherman. It is just as possible that Sherman's coming grief might not be disgreeable to him. That General has already acquired so much glory as to become a dangerous rival as a candidate for the next Presidency. We may therefore, if the weather permits, expect an early demonstration on both our wings.

The enemy have considerable of a fleet between Dutch Gap and Bermuda Hundred, but the vessels lately assembled in Hampton Roads and have not come up this far. Intelligence has been received through a source entitled to confidence, which lead us to infer that his fleet is intended and has sailed for Savannah, or some harbor in that vicinity, to co-operate with Sherman, should that officer succeed in marching his men through Georgia.

The *Enquirer* says: Great results are anticipated from the present movements of Breckinridge. He is planning a grand campaign to redeem Kentucky.

New York Money and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The market was taken by surprise by a fogislation of a loan of 30,000,000 of five-twenty bonds. Between Sub-Treasury and Bankers' offer, which was made this morning at one o'clock, nearly the whole amount had been taken at 105. One-half of the payments are to be made to-morrow, and the remainder in a few days. Government Stocks steady. Bank Shares dull. Coal Stocks strong. Railroad Bonds quiet. Railroad Shares somewhat depressed by the prevailing suspense. Gold opened at an advanced offering this morning over the closing rate last evening. The favorable military news caused a decline of 3 per cent; afterwards there was a rally, and the decline partially recovered. The market has been quiet and animated. The news from Thomas was prevented from depressing Gold extensively by a report of a reverse to Sherman. The parties claimed that the information came from a rebel source. The Money and Foreign Exchange market presents no new features. Petroleum Stocks are in considerable demand; the business to-night at Gallagher's Evening Stock Exchange was very dull. Gold, 229; closing steady. Erie, 93¾; Hudson, 118; Reading, 134½; Michigan Central, 129¾; Michigan South, 99¼; Illinois Central, 142; Pittsburgh, 110½; Cleveland & Toledo, 108¾; Rock Island, 104¼; North Western, 70; Fort Wayne, 104; Ohio & Mississippi Certificates, 36¼; Cumberland, 46¾; Quicksilver, 56¼; Mariposa, 26¾.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Herald* has the following special:

Western Tennessee, Dec. 1st, 9 30, P. M.—About noon on Wednesday our main army reached Franklin, when General Schofield prepared to give the enemy battle. There was very little skirmishing as Hood's object was to attack us before we had time to throw up defensive works. About four o'clock the enemy's command advanced on our lines, when the ball was opened by our batteries, shelling their advance. Soon after the regular cannonading opened along our whole line. The rebels who had been protected by banks, now emerged from their cover and opened with fierce musketry also on their lines, and then charged. For a moment part of our line wavered and fell back before the desperate charge of the enemy.

Generals Taper and Cox, however, rallied the men and charged the enemy, who crossed over and abandoned the line of our works. The rebels, now fighting to desperation and charging our line furiously, some leaping over our works and fighting hard. Now was the critical moment. Our generals rallied their troops and sent them howling to the center, when our artillery and musketry mowed them down by hundreds. The side was now turned, when our men, inspired with success, gave a wild hurza, and swept them back like an avalanche, in the wildest disorder and confusion.

Night now set in, yet we followed up our advantage what ones threatened to be a disastrous defeat was turned into a glorious victory. The courage of our officers, and the desperate bravery of our men was unexampled. Our loss was 100 in killed and wounded. We captured over 1000 prisoners and eight battle flags. Two rebel Brigadier Generals are in our hands.

Swedish War Vessel Voradis—Jim Mace to Visit the United States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The British war steamer, Voradis, now in the harbor, expects to visit all the prominent forts of the Atlantic and the Gulf coast.

Walter Sperry publishes a letter from Jim Mace, who expects to visit the United States soon.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Meeting of the National Association for the Amendment of the Constitution.

The National Association for the amendment of the Constitution met in convention on Tuesday evening, Nov. 29th, in the West Arch street Presbyterian Church, (Rev. Dr. Edwards') Philadelphia, at 7½ o'clock. Hon. James Pollock, Vice President, occupied the chair. Governor Pollock introduced the proceedings by reading the 2d Psalm. The Rev. Dr. Edwards then led in prayer, after which, the Secretary, Dr. J. G. Butler, read the call for the meeting. Governor Pollock then read a letter from Rev. D. C. Eddy, D. D., the President of the Association, apologizing for his absence, and expressing his cordial approbation of the object of the meeting.

The Chairman stated that this meeting was merely preliminary. The object of the Association is an important one, and he congratulated it on the large attendance. The object was not to overthrow and destroy, but to "inscribe," as stated in Mr. Eddy's letter, "on the forefront of our organic law, the name of Him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Dr. Edwards then read a series of resolutions prepared by the Executive Committee for the consideration of the Association. They are as follows:

Resolved, That a national recognition of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Scriptures, as proposed in the memorial of this Association to Congress, is clearly a Scriptural duty, which it is national peril to disregard.

Resolved, That in consideration of the general diffusion of religious intelligence, principles and institutions throughout our country, in view of the many express recognitions of Christianity by the Constitutions, and the Legislative enactments of the several States, and in view also, of the religious history of the founding of the government, it is a solemn fact that our present National Constitution is the only one of great nations that does not recognize God in its fundamental character.

Resolved, That the Constitution of the United States is a treaty with God, and that it ought to declare States is a nation religiously, as well as civilly and morally.

Resolved, That the hour of repentance, and humiliation is a day of nation, as has befallen us, every nation from which God has withdrawn his protection, is a valuable and instructive lesson, that in acknowledging God, in exalting his Son and in fusing the principles of his word throughout our Government and Administration, we are only carrying out the intention of our fathers in the first dignity and importance is secured.

Hon. Wm. Strong, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, addressed the Assembly. He said: It might be incredible if not publicly announced that there is no express recognition of God in the Constitution. In the history of the country we find abundant reason why there should be such a recognition. Christianity has always been the common law of every Christian land. It has been the common law of this land since its first colonization. It was the common law of England and long before our fathers came here. They avowed that they brought it with them from their father land. Most of the charters under which the colonies were formed acknowledged the government of God.

The first colony was established in Virginia in 1606. "Its first act was to acknowledge God. It was only in 1690 that toleration was granted to dissenters in Virginia.

The second colony was the colony of Plymouth in 1620. They declared their object was to advance the glory of God. They passed a law that none should vote at elections unless they were members of the Church.

The third colony was that of Massachusetts in 1628. They recognized Christianity as the common law, provided for the support of the Christian religion and the ministers of the gospel. He could not follow all the New England colonies. But all recognized the same law.

In the thirteen original States there was a recognition of God.

The charter of Maryland was granted in 1632. It declared that the common law of England was to be the law of the province. Seven years afterwards, a series of laws was passed, that the Church should enjoy protection.

The Carolina colonies were formed in 1662. They made the same recognition. In 1670 it was declared that no man should have a right to an estate who did not acknowledge the being of God and that he should be worshipped.

In 1682, William Penn had the first law enacted for the government of the province of Pennsylvania. It commences thus: "Whereas, the glory of God and the good of mankind are the ends of all governments, &c."

Rev. Dr. Goddard then addressed the Convention. Adjourned with prayer and benediction by Rev. Dr. Junkin, until the next morning at 10 o'clock.

The Convention re-assembled on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Rev. Dr. Edwards was called to the chair. The Rev. Mr. Schwartz, of Baltimore, led in prayer. On the suggestion of Dr. Junkin, the President read the 72d Psalm. Minutes of last Convention were read and adopted. Correspondence was then called for, and a number of communications from distinguished persons in different parts of the country were read.

A number of gentlemen reported that auxiliaries have been formed or were in progress of formation in their respective localities. The Revs. A. M. Milligan, McDonald, Smith (Episcopal), Dr. Douglas and others, having been called upon, made some remarks on the general subject and its progress.

On motion the resolutions were then taken up, and Dr. Junkin delivered a lengthy address on the fallacy that "Religion has nothing to do with politics."

Dr. Cooper agreed in the main with Dr. Junkin.

Adjourned with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Atwood, to meet in the afternoon at three o'clock.

The Robbery of Adams' Express Company at Grafton.

On the night of the first of September last, the office and safe of the Adams' Express Company, at Grafton, were entered by means of false keys, and the safe robbed of most of its contents. As soon as this was know in Baltimore by telegraph, with the promptness and energy which is characteristic of the Company, their Attorney was dispatched to this city, and on his arrival found that the money taken consisted of about $350 and a package said to contain $10,000, sent by the company for one Arthur Resley from Wheeling to Grafton, and addressed to himself at the latter place. The agent of the company soon came to the conclusion that the large package was bogus, and that the robbery was part of a plan to defraud the company. Resley, though in Wheeling, made no personal demand for his package, but put his false claim in the hands of one of the most respectable attorneys in our city,