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The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Important from Wilmington.

THE ATTACK ON FORT FISHER RENEWED

General Terry in Command of the Troops.

SECRETARY SEWARD ON THE ARRIVAL OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JACOBS.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 16.—The special correspondent of the *American*, under date of the 9th inst., communicates the following important information relative to the renewal, or rather the continuation, of the great movement against the defenses of Wilmington, situated at Federal Point, at the mouth of New Inlet. This correspondence has been withheld from the public here until it should become known that the attack had actually been commenced.

STEAMSHIP SAVANNAH OFF CUBA, OFF BEAUFORT, January 9, 1865.

Having ridden out a severe gale which has prevailed during the past two days off Beaufort harbor we are now at anchorage, and are enjoying a scene resembling in this latitude which can rarely be expected to last more than twenty-four hours. Yesterday morning the wind changed to the northeast and the sun shining brightly, we were blessed once more with a quiet sea, and our eyes were delighted also with the approach of a fleet of transports with troops furnished by General Grant to cooperate with Admiral Porter's fleet in the capture of Fort Fisher.

The first vessel that arrived was the flagship of the commander of the expedition, which crossed the bar at once, and proceeded up Beaufort Harbor to communicate with the flagship of Admiral Porter, in Cape Fear.

The Ironsides, with her tremendous thick broadsides, and the Minnesota, Wabash, Brooklyn, Susquehanna, Tuscarora, Seneca, Ticonderoga, Cohasset, Colorado, Shenandoah, Pawtuck, Mackinaw, Maumee, Powhatan, Juniata, Tuttle and Kinsea from the second line. The Nyack, Huron and Pequot, which act as tenders to the monitors, are also in the inner line.

Next came the steamer Baltic and Atlantic, each with 1000 troops on board. The other transports also arrived soon after. Their names, however, could not be ascertained. The transport fleet, as I write, is now anchored outside the naval vessels.

The commander of each vessel has been supplied with a new chart indicating, not only his exact position, but the precise point of the enemy's works to which his fire is to be directed.

The Santiago, being commanded by the senior captain of the gunboat fleet, Capt. O. S. Glisson, is stationed at the head of the line of vessels of her class, (every gunboat in number, and whilst the others of the line are to concentrate their fire on the outworks of Fort Fisher, her guns are to throw a flank fire into the fort.

The positions of the vessels are nearly the same as in the former fight, excepting that the iron-clads will take a position about a quarter of a mile nearer to Fort Fisher than at the first attack, and the Lenapee will also join them with her twelve guns, making the monitor fleet twelve guns stronger, including the four guns of the Monadnock.

The gunboat fleet is to form a line in front of the gun batteries, extending to the right of Fort Fisher. The reserves of the various divisions, consisting of the smaller class of gunboats, are assigned to a position outside of the line of battle.

LATER—A steamer has just arrived from the inner harbor, and reports that, at noon to-day, a signal was hoisted on the flagship of Admiral Porter for the fleet to prepare for sea. The probability is that we will sail to-morrow morning, if the weather continues favorable.

We also have the gratifying intelligence that General Terry has arrived, and is in command of the troops. His presence is hailed by the fleet as an assurance that an energetic and determined effort will be made to prove that Fort Fisher can be taken.

The fleet outside the bar are all ready to sail at a moment's notice. The larger transports are also outside, about fifteen miles from the shore, awaiting the movement of the fleet.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 16.—A special dispatch to the Baltimore *American*, gives the following intelligence:

Annapolis, Jan. 16.—The flag-of-truce boat, New York, from Aikens' Landing, James river, with paroled soldiers and citizens, arrived here this morning. Lieutenant Governor Jacobs, of Kentucky, is among the passengers.

The attack on Fort Fisher has been renewed.

The Richmond *Examiner* of Thursday says: "Yankee gunboats, upwards of fifty in number, are again visible off Wilmington, and were yesterday said to be engaged in shelling the woods near Fort Fisher. There is also a rumor that the Yankees have commenced an attack on the fort itself, but the War Department has received no intelligence of it. The Yankees will not take Fort Fisher."

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Visit and Speech of Maj. Gen. Hancock.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, January 16, 1865.

SENATE.—On motion of Mr. Hall, a committee was appointed to invite General Hancock to address the Senate relative to the 1st Corps.

Messrs. Dill and McCherry were appointed.

Mr. Lowry presented a bill authorizing the Anthracite Coal and Iron Company to borrow $500,000, and to increase the capital stock ten thousand shares. Passed.

Mr. Hoge offered an act relative to paving streets in Oil City.

Mr. Hopkins one, relating to Constables and Justices' fees in Washington county.

General Hall entered with General Hancock, and introduced him to the Senate. The Speaker made a welcome speech. General Hancock then spoke, giving at length the particulars of the organization of his corps, referring to its progress and explaining the object. After the conclusion of his speech, there was an adjournment for fifteen minutes, and the Senators welcomed the gallant hero.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 16.—General Hancock visited the State Senate to-day and made a speech, which was loudly applauded.

FROM THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

REPORTED ADVANCE OF A LARGE REBEL FORCE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The *Herald's* Cumberland dispatch says there was a report from Sheridan's army on Saturday night that a large body of rebels was advancing on Weston, Lewis county, Va., situated on the west branch of the Monongahela River, but accounts from that region do not confirm this rumor.

A cavalry expedition left the camp at Winchester on the 10th and proceeded as far as Berryville, twelve miles Southward without meeting any enemy except a few guerrillas who took off.. The command then proceeded to Millwood and found that no rebels had been there for several weeks. Thence they proceeded to the Shenandoah which they found unfordable. They learned that Rosser's cavalry had gone into winter quarters at St. Tunston and Mudwall Jackson's command at Creichtons.

New Rebel Ram on the Roanoke River--Efforts to Raise the Albemarle--Fort Fisher Garrisoned by Conscripts.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Letters from North Carolina report that the new rebel ram on the Roanoke river is nearly finished. She is an improvement on the Albemarle.

A company with submarine implements are on the way to Plymouth to see if the Albemarle can be raised in time to meet an expected attack from the new ram which is to move with the rebel ram at Kingston, above Newbern, which is now in good condition, and only waiting for the flood tides which the spring showers will bring. The expected arrival of one of the lightdraught monitors in the waters of North Carolina has given the assurance that arrangements have been made to meet these rams, which are very formidable.

Deserters from Wilmington state that Fort Fisher was garrisoned by unwilling conscripts at the time the recent attack was made, who were anxious to surrender the fort had an opportunity been offered.

Gold.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Gold quiet. The peace excitement is exhausted, and operators are waiting for military news before undertaking another campaign. The expectation of favorable news from the coast keeps the price heavy; opening at 220 and reached 221½; but subsequently declined to 219.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Gold to-night was 217¾.

FROM WASHINGTON.

IMPORTANT WAYS AND MEANS BILL.

Question of Exchange of Naval Prisoners.

THE FIRST ATTACK ON WILMINGTON,

Return of Blair from Richmond.

HONOR TO THE MEMORY OF EDWARD EVERETT.

COMMUNICATION FROM ADMIRAL PORTER.

&c. &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The following is the bill reported by Mr. Stevens to-day, amendatory of the act to provide ways and means for the support of Government: *First*—That in lieu of any bonds authorized to be issued by the first section of the act to provide ways and means for the support of Government, approved June 30th, 1864, that may remain at the date of this act, the Secretary of Treasury may issue, under authority of said act, Treasury notes of the description and character authorized by the second section of said act, provided that the whole amount of bonds authorized as aforesaid, and treasury notes issued and to be issued, in lieu thereof shall not exceed $400,000,000, and such treasury notes may be disposed of for lawful money, or certificates of indebtedness or certificates of deposit issued under any previous act of Congress, and such notes be exempt from taxation by or under State or municipal authority.

Second—That any funds known as 5-20's issued under the act of February 25, 1862, remaining unsold to an amount not exceeding $4,000,000, may be disposed of by the Secretary of the Treasury in the United States, or if he shall find it expedient, in Europe, at any time or on such terms as he may deem most advisable, and the Secretary of the Treasury is further authorized to issue bonds of the description issued under the authority of the act of June 22, 1860, in pursuance of notice for proposals for a loan dated September 5, 1860, to subscribers to that loan for 1 per cent. deposited under said notice, and not repaid. Provided, that bonds so issued shall bear not more than 5 per cent. interest. And provided further, that the fractional amounts may be repaid in lawful money of the United States.

In a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, responding to a resolution of the House, he says: The exchange of prisoners belongs both to the army and navy, and it is a matter which has been and is now under the control of the military authorities. An attempt was made by the Navy Department, during the summer of 1864, to effect an exchange of naval prisoners, but exception was taken to distinct naval action. With this exception the action of the Navy Department has not extended further than to make propositions and suggestions for the exchange of naval prisoners, and to submit to the War Department or the commissioner of exchange lists of such prisoners in the hands of the rebels. These by whom the matter of exchange has been controlled are cognizant of measures that have been taken to exchange such officers and men belonging to the navy now held as prisoners by the rebels, and if there are any obstacles to the exchange of such prisoners they are aware of it.

The Senate, in executive session to-day, confirmed the following nominations: W. J. Stillman, of Massachusetts, now Consul at Rome, to be Consul at Cardiz; Frank Swan, of Ohio, as Consul at Augsburg; E. Knight Sperry, of Connecticut, as Consul at Barbadoes, vice Winslow J. Trowbridge, deceased; John L. Near, of Michigan, as Consul at Port Larmia, Canada; James E. Wharton, Receiver of Customs at Parkersburg, West Virginia.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Navy Department has received the following:

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON,
U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN,
BEAUFORT, Jan. 7.

I have the honor to enclose you a letter received from Lieut. Commander Temple, containing interesting matter relating to Fort Fisher. It is important as a matter of history, and tells the whole story.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) DAVID D. PORTER,
Rear Admiral.

To the Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. STEAMSHIP POWHATAN,
OFF NEW INLET, January 2, 1865.

Rear-Admiral David D. Porter: Sir,—It may be of assistance to you to receive, together with the rebel deserters mentioned in my letter of this date, the following memorandum of information elicited from one of their number, Corporal Thomas Lewley, of the marines. He says he was stationed, during and since the bombardment, in the naval battery Buchanan, commanded by Lieutenant Chapin, and situated near the Wood; that there were between the hundred and six hundred men in the fort on the two days of the attack, and no troops in Wilmington or its vicinity to reinforce them; that the rebels did not expect the attack, but drive the rebels from their guns into the parapets; that we killed thirteen of their men and wounded thirty; that Gen. Whiting supposed the boats which were sent into the bar on the 25th, to be a storming party of seamen to which he would have been obliged to surrender; that the rapid bombardment, at sunset, was terrific, that when our troops appeared in front of the fort, immediately afterwards, the garrison only waited their assault to surrender without resistance, that they could not imagine why the attack had been abandoned; that matters remained in the same condition on the morning of the 26th, and throughout that day; and that we could easily have possessed ourselves of the Fort till a late hour in the afternoon, when Gen. Bragg arrived in Wilmington with 6,000 men from Lee's army at Richmond, and that finding our troops Rhett-larking Bragg decided not to molest us.

Respectfully,
WM. G. TEMPLE, Lieut. Com'dg.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Francis P. Blair, senior, arrived at the Navy Yard this afternoon on the steamer Dow, flag-ship of the Potomac flotilla. Much speculation is indulged in as to the object of his return visit to Richmond, but nothing definite can be ascertained concerning it.

The Postoffice Department has made a contract for weekly mail service, to commence on the 1st of March, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Prescott, the capital of Arizona, and to La Plaz and San Barbodius. The distance is 850 miles. The Territory of Arizona has heretofore had no mail facilities, but the arrangement connects it with the Atlantic and Pacific.

The War Department has issued an order prohibiting, under pain of dismissal from service, any officer from giving information concerning the sentence of civilians by military commissions before sentence shall have been executed.

An order from the War Department requires that all military posts, forts and arsenals display the ir flags at half-mast during the day following this order; and as a further honor rendered to the memory of the late Edward Everett, all Department buildings are draped with the usual insignals of mourning, to continue for thirty days.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The *Republican*, in an extra, says that a private dispatch from City Point announces that the Hon. Frank P. Blair, senior, returned to that place from Richmond yesterday, and immediately left in a steamer for Washington. Mr. Blair is expected to arrive here some time this afternoon.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The bill reported in the House to-day from the Committee on Ways and Means, in effect authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to continue the 7-30 loan for the balance, about 200,000,000 of the 400,000,000 loan authorized by the act of June, 1864.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The *Herald's* Washington special says: Admiral Porter has sent a communication to the Navy Department in which he responds to some of General Butler's statements in regard to the naval part of the expedition delaying the attack on Fort Fisher, and thus causing its failure. He says that the only work assigned to the navy was to silence the rebel works, and that it did that effectually on the 24th and 25th of December; but that as General Butler then decided an assault by his military force unfeasible, it would not have been less so on an earlier day.

He is of opinion that the fort could easily have been taken, by the troops if an effort had been made. General Butler started on the expedition, the Admiral says, before the naval fleet was ready to cooperate with him, and thus, by exposing his transports to the enemy, warned them of their danger; he also charges that the army portion of the enterprise was gotten up in a very unmilitary manner.

New York Stock and Money Matters.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The Stock market opened with more spirit, transactions were larger and prices generally better. During the day there was a falling off on Western railroads, while Eastern remained steady. There was active business in Railroad Bonds at late prices. State stocks dull. Government stocks not as active as last week; some rales at lower prices. The Gold market was quite steady during the day, but fell off on the rumor that the expedition had landed at Wilmington. The Money market and Foreign Exchange was without variation. Stocks steady at the Petroleum Board, sales: Germania 1.08; North American 8.24; Bualo: Germania 1.90; Ringgold Farm 6.55; United States claimbas 1.90; Ringgold Farm 6.55; United States claimbas 1.90; Noble Well 3.00. Crude Petroleum quiet at 62c; 73@74 for refined in bond, and 94c. for free.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Particulars of the Escape of Officers and Newspaper Correspondents

GENERAL HOOD'S ARMY STILL FLEEING SOUTHWARD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The *Tribune* has the following special from Nashville: Albert D. Richardson, of the New York *Tribune*, with William E. Davis, correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, and Clerk of the Ohio Senate, arrived here to-day. They escaped from the rebel penitentiary at Salisbury, N. C., on the night of December 18th, with Jas. H. Brown, also of the *Tribune*. They came three hundred and forty miles by a route through the mountains. Before reaching our lines, fifteen miles from Knoxville, they were assisted by negroes, and afterwards by Union men, who secreted them in woods and in barns, and sometimes in their own houses by day, and piloted them through secluded pathways by night, along the whole route, at the peril of their own lives. They found snow a foot deep on the mountains, and suffered much from hunger and cold in regions where they dared not build fires. One hundred miles from Knoxville, they joined seventy Union refugees, en route for the Federal lines, under three mountain men; but the next night they were surrounded by the rebels, and compelled, at a moment's notice, to separate into two parties. The horsemen were piloted through the darkness from the rebel camp by a young lady, and then rode on forced marches of such severity, as to kill many of their horses.

Mr. Browne, with the other footmen, under an excellent pilot, took to the mountain paths, and reached our lines on Saturday.

Messrs. Richardson and Browne were captured floating on hay bales in the Mississippi river, opposite Vicksburg, on the night of May the 3d, 1863, after their boat had been exploded and burned up by the rebel battery, and half the persons on the expedition killed or wounded, and have since been confined in seven different rebel prisons.

Mr. Davis was taken in the West with Sherman's army, near Resaca, Georgia, May 15th, 1864.

The Richmond authorities refused all proposals for their exchange, declaring that they should be held during the war as hostages and for retaliation.

They left 7,000 prisoners in Salisbury suffering the greatest barbarities from the rebels.

They represent that there is the most earnest desire to return and still participate in the rebel lines through western North Carolina, and East Tennessee, and that the people, many of whom had their sons and brothers murdered by the rebels, are praying for the liberation of our armies. Hundreds of them are lying in the woods in almost every county, waiting to enlist in the United States service.

KNOXVILLE, Jan. 16.—The following escaped officers and correspondents have reported since the 6th instant: Col. Butler, 6th Indiana Cavalry; Capt. Anderson, 3d Maine; Capt. Conrad, 26th Iowa; Capt. Meade, 11th New York; 1st Lt. Childs, 16th Maine; 1st Lt. Morrisey, 12th Iowa; 1st Lt. Duchess, 5th U. S. C.; 1st Lt. Kirby, 2d New York Artillery; 2d Lt. Johnson, 3d Maine; 2d Lt. Brown, 5th U. S. C.; 2d Lt. Taylor, 1st Maryland Infantry; 2d Lt. Oliphant, 35th New Jersey; correspondents Richardson, of the Boston of the New York *Tribune*, and Davis of the Cincinnati *Commercial*.

St. LOUIS, Jan. 16.—An officer from Clifton, Wayne county, Tenn., where he left General Thomas, on the Saturday, says the active operations may be expected for several days. The troublesome of the report that Hood is preparing to make a stand at Corinth, is not generally believed. It is believed that his disorganized forces are still fleeing Southward, leaving portions of West's cavalry in the rear to cover his retreat.

Citizens report plenty of supplies, and more are constantly passing up the Tennessee, but the heavy rains in Tennessee rendered the roads impassable for military movements.

The draft ordered at the beginning of hostilities, and the late call made by the President, and persons so drafted will not be credited to any State included in the President's Proclamation. Twenty-five per cent. of the men so listed, they will be assigned to regiments serving on the Indian frontier.

The Little Rock *Democrat* says the election of W. D. Wood, to fill the vacancy in the Senate was a farce, only sixty votes being cast, while it required seventy-six to form a quorum.

Extracts from Rebel Papers.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Richmond *Whig* of Saturday, referring to the arrest of Mr. Faulkner, says: "A few days after he announced his purpose of withdrawing from the deliberations of the House of Representatives, he went towards the Potomac for the purpose of sending his family across, that they might reach their homes in Nashville. He has not since been in sight. We forbear comments on the arrest until the facts are better known."

The Danville *Register* learns that the heavy rain of yesterday washed down the trestle work on the Piedmont railroad, between Rye Valley and Bengja, and between Greensboro and Salem so that trains cannot pass over that portion of the road. It will require several days to repair the damage.

The Lynchburg *Republican* says that a few days since Captain Richards, of Mosby's command, with sixty-nine men, attempted to cross Berry's ferry, by a force of 120 Yankees, and in a close fight, without the loss of a man on his part, captured seventy of the enemy, and killed and wounded between four and fifty of the rest.

The escape of Captain Richards' men without loss was remarkable, and the execution they inflicted upon the enemy, shows the advantage of small bodies of mounted men.

Charleston, Jan. 12.—A flag of truce boat arrived in the harbor to-day with 150 Savannah refugees who were received by our authorities.

The Richmond *Examiner* says: The action of the rebel Government for allowing Mr. Blair to enter Richmond. It says: "To admit Grant's Chief of Staff and Chief Engineer to make pictures and drawings of our fortifications, to take an inventory of our resources and ammunition in our armories, would not be altogether so perverse a piece of folly as the admittance of these political engineers among our people and public men; but it ought to be a sufficient reason against such proceedings that it is accepting an inferior position to that assumed and maintained by the enemy's Government. They give no permission to Confederate citizens, whether authorized by our Government or not, to go to Washington and enter into communication with the people and statesmen in that country. The main object of the enemy is sending such old boys as Blair here, next to gaining some authoritative information, is to produce vacillation of purpose among our people.

The Middlesboro *Union* publishes an elaborate defense of Gov. Brown, in regard to the charge that Gov. Brown attended to the saving of his own property. It says that his salary is not sufficient to pay for a single farm or one negro by his family; it was therefore his duty to care for himself as much as possible. It says very little of the State property lost.

The Savannah *Republican* of the 11th inst. publishes a letter from General Sherman to a prominent citizen, stating that he is merely a military commander and can act only in that capacity. He cannot give assurances or pledges affecting civil matters. In future, Congress will adjust these when Georgia is again represented there as of old.

He says that Georgia is out of the Union, and therefore a total reconstruction appears inappropriate, as long as any of the people remained armed and organized. The United States would pursue them with armies and deal with them according to military law, and afterwards they will be dealt with by the civil courts.

He thinks that the same course should be adopted as indicated by Gen. Washington in the Whiskey Insurrection, and in accordance with the principles laid down in the case of the Burr conspiracy. He quotes from Washington and Jackson on the preservation of the Union, and says the armies are simply fulfilling their commands. The Union must and shall be preserved—cost what it may. There is no other alternative for the people of Georgia than to conform to this view, and elect members of Congress, and when these take their seats, the State of Georgia will have resumed her functions in the Union.

The refugees concur in the statement that Sherman will move on Branchville.

Interview with Mrs. Senator Foote--Doings in the Rebel Congress.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The *Times'* Washington special says: From an interview with Mrs. Senator Foote, it appears that her husband had resigned his seat at the time it was so reported; that the rebel Congress is slavishly subservient to Davis; that when bills meet with opposition, the majority go into secret session and rush them through; that the character of the war has been changed by Davis, and is now carried on for his own purposes; that unless it can be terminated to suit him and his school of politicians, he will carry it on more bloody and barbarous than ever; that there is no prospect of Mr. Blair meeting with any success; that the contractors do not desire a termination of the war, and are doing everything to continue it; that the great mass of the people want to come back into the Union under the Constitution, but are restrained by military power, and as freedom of the press in this particular is entirely denied, there is no way for them to express their views. It was for the purpose of serving these people that Mr. Foote endeavored to reach Washington.

Mrs. Foote says those who have anything to do with the Richmond Junta live as well as ever, being supplied with all luxuries at a comparatively small cost, as the government pays the expenses.

SIXTIETH CONGRESS--SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1865.

SENATE.

Mr. Lane of Indiana, presented the petition of the citizens of Fort Wayne, Indiana, asking that the rebel prisoners now in northern prisons be placed under the care and control of discharged Union prisoners, and be furnished with the same rations and clothing furnished Union prisoners in the South. Mr. Lane addressed the Senate on the subject of the above memorial, advocating action in accordance with its suggestion.

Mr. Wade interrupted Mr. Lane to offer a joint resolution, that all prisoners, both officers and soldiers of the so-called Confederacy, who are now or shall be hereafter in the control or keeping of the Federal Government, shall receive the same rations and the same amount of clothing, and be subject to the same treatment in every respect as Federal prisoners, officers and soldiers, who now or have been in the keeping and power of the so-called Confederate Government; and that this treatment shall be changed for better or worse whenever the President of the United States shall have reliable information that the treatment of our soldiers in Southern prisons is changed for better or worse; and that any officer in charge of rebel prisoners who shall fail to carry out this policy shall be dismissed the service.

Mr. Lane said this did not go far enough. It did not provide that the rebels should be kept under the care of released prisoners of the Federal army. This was a very important part of the matter. It had been said that retaliation would make the war more bloody. He did not care; he hoped it would make every southern river run with the blood of traitors. There were 44,000 Union prisoners in the South, and double that number of rebel prisoners in the North. We owed it to the brave men who had gone forth to fight to inaugurate a system of retaliation.

Mr. Wade said that in a year the Committee on the Conduct of the War had taken more than one hundred depositions concerning the barbarities practiced upon our soldiers in the South. Many men were dying when their testimony was taken. It was the general impression then that if the rebel barbarities were substantiated by this investigation, the executive authorities would inaugurate a system of retaliation. The report was printed, and left no doubt that all the charges in the resolution were true; but no action has been taken by the executive authorities. He was sorry to see so much sympathy among the people of the North to the people who inaugurated the rebellion, while they tamely tolerated those cruelties to our soldiers in the South. He was sorry to see the people sending provisions to the rebels at Savannah, while our soldiers were starving in Southern prisons. He had heard that a distinguished rebel was recently arrested while coming north, and that the President had interposed the arm of the law in his behalf. He was in fear if retaliation was justifiable that of a rebel, how much more so was it in the case of our brave soldiers? It might be right enough to retaliate for Mr. Foote, but to (Wade) would not hurt a dog in retaliation for anything done to such a man.

On motion of Mr. Howard, the matter was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Wilkinson introduced a bill to amend the judicial system of the United States Courts, the particulars of which was referred to Committee on Judiciary. It abolishes the precincts and districts of United States, and provides for in their stead a court called the Circuit Court, it also establishes in each of the Appeals traverse jurors to hear and determine all cases heretofore tried without a jury in the Circuit Court by appeal in cases of equity and civil law cases, and by writ of error in cases at law, and exercises over the Circuit Court and every other Court of the United States, the jurisdiction and control by the same processes and writs as now by law vested in and exercised by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Supreme Court of Appeals is constituted of the Chief Justices or Associate Judges of the Supreme Court, who may be assigned to the Circuit Court, and the judges of the Circuit Courts in the circuit. A majority of Judges to constitute a quorum, and to be competent to do the business of the Court. The Court of Appeals for the first circuit court to be held at the city of New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia; 2d, Pennsylvania, 5th, Savannah; 6th, Louisville; 7th, Cincinnati; 8th, Chicago; 9th, St. Louis; 10th, San Francisco. Two terms per year are to be held in each circuit, commencing on the last Monday of March, of each year.

The Circuit Court shall in all respects be the successor of the present Circuit and District Courts, and the Judges shall exercise all the same jurisdiction and authority now exercised by the Judges of the Circuit Court, by the Supreme Court, or such powers as may hereafter be conferred on it by law, and the powers and authority now vested in the Judges of the District Courts. All actions, suits, prosecutions, &c., pending in the District Courts, are transferred to the Circuit Court. Appeals lie from the Circuit Court to the Court of Appeals in all cases where the matter in dispute exceeds $500, but the limitation does not apply to Courts of Appeals.

In the hearing of said appeals and writs of error the Court of Appeals shall be governed by the same laws and rules now applicable to such cases in the Supreme Court. Cases may be transferred from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court, by appeal or writ of error, when the amount involved exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, or when it shall appear that a construction of the Constitution of the United States, the validity of any act of Congress or treaty of the United States, or of conflict between the statutes of a state and an act of Congress.

HOUSE.

Mr. Grinnell introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, proposing to increase the duty on spirits distilled after the 1st of July next.

Mr. Cox offered a resolution declaring that it is the manifest duty of the President, on the basis of the present rightfully-constituted government, either to send or receive commissioners with a view to a national peace and tranquility, or by some other rational means, to secure a cessation of hostilities and the union of the States.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, moved to lay the resolution on the table. Which was agreed to, by 84 to 50.

The House concurred in the Senate's amendment to the joint resolution requiring the President to give notice for the termination of the reciprocity treaty.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the Senate's amendment to the Deficiency Appropriation bill.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, introduced a bill for the appointment of two Assistant Steamboat Inspectors at New York, and two local Inspectors at Galena, Illinois, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Ross introduced a bill enabling Arkansas and other States to reclaim Swamp lands. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

On motion of Mr. Schenck a resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of so amending the Internal Revenue Law as will provide a tax not exceeding one cent a mile on passengers travelling by railroad, steamboat and other public conveyances, to be additional to what is now required to be paid by law.

The Speaker laid before the House, by request, the proclamation of the Governor of Missouri, declaring that State now free from slavery, which, on motion of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, introduced a bill providing, in lieu of the duty now required by law, a duty of three per centum ad valorem, on unsized paper used for printing books and newspapers.

Mr. Kasson objected for the reason that the Committee have that subject before them.

Mr. Washburne inquired when they will consider the subject.

Mr. Kasson replied that he hoped this week.

Mr. Washburne withdrew the bill.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Senate amendment appropriating $3,000 for a medal to Commodore Vanderbilt. In the discussion, Mr. Higbee denounced the Commodore as a swindler, and said he might almost be a murderer for employing such worthless vessels for the transportation of passengers.

Messrs. Stevens, Brooks and Townsend replied in a eulogy of the Commodore. The amendment was concurred in, and a committee of conference was ordered on the disagreeing on the amendment.

From the Potomac Army--Staff Officer Killed--Dutch Gap Canal.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—A letter from the Army of the Potomac gives an account of the killing of a staff officer by bushwhackers, but contains no news of importance.

The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* says that since the first explosion in Dutch Gap Canal two more explosions have occurred with good results. At the last explosion much dirt was blown to the opposite side of the river. The freshet in the James is rushing through the canal with great rapidity and promises to accomplish the desired result as all of the bulkhead left by the explosion has been carried away.

Arrival of Hon. Geo. Brown--The St. Albans Raiders.

TORONTO, C. W., Jan. 16.—The Hon. George Brown arrived from England on Saturday night. The *Globe* to-day says it is credibly informed that the best legal opinion in England favors the extradition of the raiders now before the Canadian courts.

The Russian-American Telegraph.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16.—Col. Bulkley, the Engineer in-Chief of the Russian-American Telegraph, arrived on the Moses Taylor. He is now organizing for the enterprise. He goes to British Columbia in a few days to start the preliminary exploring parties.

From New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The leading papers today have full biographical notices of Hon. Edward Everett.

Peace rumors continue to excite attention. The *Tribune* says: Gen. Singleton went to Richmond direct from Clay and Thompson in Canada, and his mission has for its purpose simply to ascertain upon what terms Jeff. Davis would make peace. He expects to bring back the independence of the Confederate States as the principal point in the conditions of peace.

The *Commercial Advertiser* says: Capt. Bell, who was chiefly instrumental with Burley in seizing the Philo Parsons on Lake Erie, has been arrested in this city.

The *Times* has two editorials on the peace rumors, in which it thinks there can be no peace, except just gained by a complete defeat of the rebels.

Brig. Gen. Fuller, of the 17th army corps, arrived here to-day from Louisville. He leaves on the Arago to-morrow for Savannah.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: The peace men in Congress are fully impressed with the idea that Mr. Lincoln intends to exhaust all the resources of statesmanship to secure an honorable peace.

The same special says that a delegation has arrived from Chicago and Milwaukee, to secure the establishment of a navy yard on Lake Michigan.

The *Times'* Washington special says that the House Committee on Elections, after a protracted session over the Louisiana case, have decided not to admit any of the members except those from New Orleans.

It is expected that General Warren will soon be assigned to the command of the army of the James.

The *Tribune's* Washington letter says that the rebels have commenced arming the negroes, and that it is certainly known in Washington that there are now two regiments of blacks in Richmond.

Alleged Murderer Discharged---Bank Robbery---The Treasurer of the Ohio Female College Absconded.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 16.—Keever, charged with the murder of the Rosser family, has been discharged, he having proved an alibi.

The bank of Marysville, Ohio, was robbed of ten thousand dollars on Thursday last.

The *Gazette* says Baldwin, Treasurer of the Ohio Female College, absconded with about five thousand dollars.

The *Commercial's* Nashville correspondent says the Convention passed, by nearly a unanimous vote, a resolution that no person will be qualified to vote until he takes a stringent oath, declaring himself unreservedly in favor of the Union and all the laws and proclamations issued since the war began, by the President and Congress.

From New Orleans---Expeditions from Baton Rouge.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The steamer Morning Star, from New Orleans, with dates to January 5th, arrived last night.

A number of expeditions have been sent out from Baton Rouge and other places, to chastise the guerrillas along the Mississippi.

Gens. Dana, Sulith, Gilmore and Steele were in New Orleans on the 5th.

The U. S. sloop-of-war San Jacinto was wrecked on the 1st, off Key West, on the Bahama banks. Nine lives were lost, and most of the stores of the vessel was saved.

The Seven-Thirty Loan Continued.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Ways and Means Committee have reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to continue the 7-30 loan for two hundred millions more.

General Butler.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16.—Major General Butler passed through this city to-day, arriving in the Fortress Monroe boat, and proceeding to Washington.

Extraordinary Somnambulist Feat.

Among the visitors attracted to Clifton during the week of the inauguration of the suspension bridge, was a lady named Luckman. She was visiting her friends in Cincinnati, near the Spring House, situated in the neighborhood of the suspension bridge, and which has a verandah running along the whole of its frontage before the Creek. Between one and two o'clock on the morning of the bridge, police-sergeant Jones was on duty at the top of Granby hill, shortly after midnight, when he heard a piercing shriek and ran down the hill towards the Spring House. He quickly hastened to the spot, and found Mrs. Luckman lying in the garden in her night-dress, and evidently considerably injured. It appeared that the lady had walked from her bedroom in her sleep, entered the drawing-room, gained access to the verandah, and fell over into the garden, a distance of sixteen or seventeen feet. Fortunately, in her descent, she cleared the lower railings, and fell on a flower bed in the garden, but she had a narrow escape of being impaled on the heavy railings of the railings, when the accident occurred, which are sharp and pointed. One of her legs was broken. How she got over the rails of the verandah, which is about three feet high, is not known, but, strange to say, a chair was found there. This had been taken from the drawing room, through the window by which the somnambulist let herself out; and whether she had been accustomed to sit there, and fancied it to be one of her private verandahs, or whether she used the chair as a means of getting up and standing upon the handrail from which she fell, cannot be ascertained. When picked up the gardener who had let her out was standing there, and the matter created considerable excitement and alarm, but it was soon ascertained that the lady was a somnambulist.—*Bristol (Eng.) Mirror.*

A Judicial Straw.

The United States Supreme Court has at least recognized the fact that Virginia is now at least the Dorcas as one of the States. The Cincinnati *Gazette* Washington correspondent says:

It will be remembered that, some time ago, Associate Justice Catron, of the Supreme Court, interrupted the hearing of a cause in a District Court in Tennessee, when the counsel happened to use the word "West Virginia," by exclaiming: "Virginia, sir, if you please. There is no such State as West Virginia." Subsequently, I believe, some questions having been asked, Justice Catron re-affirmed, more elaborately, the opinion that the effort to divide the State of Virginia was unconstitutional and that no such State as West Virginia had any constitutional existence, or could be recognized by the Court. Meanwhile the question had not been raised before the full bench.

Mr. Chase's first official act as Chief Justice was to hold a consultation with his Associates about the call of States on the docket. The Clerk was arranging the list, and Mr. Chase directed him to insert West Virginia in its proper place. With the exception of Mr. Catron all the Justices were present, and all concurred in the action. One question, therefore, remains: Mr. Thad. Stevens and others have been accustomed to hold high debate in Congress, without ever having been formally raised, may still be considered as henceforth practically *res adjudicata*.

The Fort Fisher Affair.

The official dispatches with reference to the expedition against Wilmington, reveal the fact that it was never intended by Lieut. Gen. Grant that Gen. Butler should command the land forces. He was simply to send Gen. Weitzel to command, and all the instructions were addressed to the latter officer by General Butler's chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Turner. The failure of the undertaking is not ascribed to this. On the contrary, Lieut. Gen. Grant attributes it to the delay of the naval force caused by the preparation of the powder boat. This gave the enemy time to bring back to Wilmington and Fort Fisher the troops that had been detached to resist Sherman. It was intended by Grant that the attack be made before Sherman got to the coast, and if this had been done it might have been successful.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

A SHADOWY HOAX.—A correspondent of the Staunton *Spectator* (rebel newspaper), writing from Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, Va., gives a description of a remarkable atmospheric phenomenon witnessed in that town. It was an apparent procession of shadowy forms like those of human beings—thousands upon thousands in number—moving through a deep valley, in clear view of the spectators, and finally ascending a steep mountain and disappearing. They were moving Northward as fast as their small legs could carry them, and were probably the North Carolina Quakers, who are said to be quitting that commonwealth for more peaceful abodes in the free States.

THE FIRST ARMY CORPS.—The Washington *Star* says:

General Hancock's new First Army Corps is filling up as rapidly as could be expected under the circumstances, and the only drawback experienced thus far, is the obtaining of officers to send into the States to recruit. The corps bureau is thoroughly organized now, and, this difficulty will be speedily overcome. There is every prospect that the corps will have obtained its full complement in a month's time from the present date.

NO MORE MAILS BY CANADA.—An order was received from Washington on Saturday, by the Lake Shore Railroad Company, to take the Western mails, which have heretofore gone to and from Detroit by the Great Western Railway. It was probable that the order was given because the Great Western Company had withdrawn the express trains which carried the mails, rather than from any purpose to take patronage from the Canada