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The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, January 25, 1865.

SENATE.—The Committee on Federal Relations reported negatively on the resolutions respective to the repeal of paper duty.

Mr. Graham, a bill repealing the act donating the proceeds of Government lands to the State Agricultural College, and that other institutions receive benefits.

Mr. Bigham, incorporating the Pittsburgh and Sonora Gold and Silver Mining Company; also authorizing the Pittsburgh and Allegheny City Railroad to dispose of petty offences without returning them to court.

Mr. Fleming, incorporating Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

The bill increasing the pay of certain county officers in Fayette was finally passed.

The supplement to the Western People's Telegraph, empowering it to operate everywhere in the State, was passed.

Mr Bigham called up the Pittsburgh and Sonora Gold and Silver Mining Company bill, empowering them to mine in the United States, Mexico, or elsewhere, which was passed.

The bill relative to unsubscribed stock of the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad was also passed.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The State Treasurer's report was read, showing that fifty-eight banks in the State had become national. The change leaves the bank capital at only about seven millions of dollars under the State law, and takes from the Commonwealth the tax which last year amounted to nearly half a million.

The Auditor General reported that the Allegheny Valley, and Cleveland and Pittsburgh, are the only railroads that have not complied with the Township tax law.

A resolution to adjourn March 24th was passed.

The House then adjourned.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN BUFFALO.

LOSS NOT LESS THAN $500,000.

Three Firemen Killed.

BUFFALO, Jan. 25.—The American hotel is in ruins and the fire is still raging. One building on Main street was blown up by order of Mayor Fargo, which partly arrested the fire, but it is feared it will extend to Pearl street. A furious gale is blowing now, with the thermometer eight degrees below zero, preventing the firemen from working to a great extent.

The Union Stove Works of George B. Bull & Co., was destroyed by fire last evening.

All the trains are delayed by the snow storm.

LATER.

BUFFALO, Jan. 25.—The fire was arrested this afternoon after blowing up the building on Main street known as the old Eagle Tavern. It was suspected that the roof of Pearl street by the efforts of the Fire Department. This evening it broke out again in Billy Morris' building. The Fire Department is working under every disadvantage; intense cold, violent wind, driving snow, freezing hose and clogging engines.

The following are among the sufferers by the conflagration:

The fire caught in Didie's Restaurant and extended to Von Velsor's bakery, Jenner's drug store, A. L. Schirrer's shoe store, and Paul Bonyon's confectionery, then to the American Hotel, destroying the entire hotel, the buildings on the rear of the hotel and the following named stores on the ground floor of the hotel: Keenan Bros., fancy goods; Hashtetter & Strauss, dry goods; Barthauer, barber shop; then to the buildings adjoining the hotel, occupied by Volsenger, German goods; Upson, photographer; Wright, liquors, and Billy Morris' store. The other buildings to the corner of Court street are damaged more or less. Those most damaged are Ransom, butter; Buffalo Savings Bank and Gage, grocer. It is feared that three latter must be destroyed to-night.

It is reported that some persons are injured by the falling of the wall, but amid the confusion it is impossible to ascertain the facts. James Shway, Harry Tefft and Hy Gillette, belonging to Taylor Hose Company, are killed. The loss is not less than $500,000. A large number of persons have lost largely in property and building.

REBEL FLEET FROM RICHMOND.

A BATTLE NEAR CITY POINT.

One Rebel Vessel Destroyed and Two Badly Damaged.

SPEEDY FLIGHT BACK TO RICHMOND.

Departure of Farragut for the Scene Of Action.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The *Star* says: Dispatches received here state that on yesterday morning, at two o'clock, a rebel fleet of five vessels, the Richmond squadron, so long being prepared, came down the river to destroy our depots, but were disappointed. The high water caused by the freshet enabled them to pass the obstructions which our commanders had placed above City Point for the better protection of that place. A battle quickly ensued between the rebel fleet and our nearest battery or fort, in which one of the rebel vessels was blown up and instantly and entirely destroyed, while two others were so badly damaged by shot and shell as to compel them to make speedy flight back in the direction of Richmond, accompanied by the other two which escaped damage.

Admiral Farragut left here on yesterday evening for the scene of this action, and it is understood that he will at once assume the naval command there.

MR. BLAIR'S VISITS TO RICHMOND.

THE CANADIAN DIFFICULTIES,

Judge Coursal to be Removed.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says: When Blair returned from Richmond, he exhibited a letter from Jeff. Davis saying whenever the President of United States would receive commissioners from the government of the Confederate States to negotiate for peace he would appoint them. He accompanied the assurance with a declaration of his own desire for a speedy termination of hostilities.

Mr. Lincoln permitted Mr. Blair to return, carrying with him a letter written to himself by a member of the cabinet, which repeats, in substance, the assurance contained in the President's letter, "To whom it may concern." This is all Mr. Blair takes to Richmond. The Government holds precisely the same position it has always held and believes it can conquer a peace within a reasonable time.

The *Times'* Washington special says: It is generally understood now that Blair did not go in any sense as a representative of the government of Richmond, and that he is not authorized to encourage the hope that any overtures for peace will be made or accepted, which look however remotely toward the division of the Union, nor is it believed the rebels are yet prepared to treat on any other terms.

Popular sentiment has overreached the desire of the rebel government for peace. When their armies are destroyed they will make peace.

Mr. Blair has not returned.

The Government has been assured that the Canadian authorities have determined to remove all causes of dissatisfaction on the part of this country, growing out of recent occurrences.

Judge Coursal will be removed. This will probably lead to a speedy abrogation of the passport system.

Thirty Negroes Reported Killed by Mundy's Gang.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 25.—The official authorities are advised that Mundy's gang this evening killed at Simpsonville, thirty negroes, who were in charge of 1,000 head of government cattle. No further particulars.

FROM NEW YORK.

INVESTIGATION OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Seward and the Mission to England.

VESSELS LOADING FOR SAVANNAH.

Items from Washington.

RUMORED RETURN OF MR. BLAIR.

South Carolina at Sherman's Mercy.

&c., &c., &c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—T. B. Hall, Sergeant-at-Arms of the New York Senate, served a notice on Mayor Gunther this forenoon to appear before the Investigating Committee of this State at Albany, to-morrow. The departments of the Tax Commissioners, Comptroller, Croton Aqueduct, Board of City Inspectors, Surrogate Supervisors and municipal affairs generally are to be investigated. The Committee is expected to arrive here this afternoon.

A special to the *Herald* from Washington says: The Bankrupt Bill reported to the Senate to-day by the Judiciary Committee contains several amendments, but the House bill is not essentially changed. It is understood that Mr. Jencks, who drafted the bill passed by the House, assents to the Senate's amendments.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War have completed their investigation of Gen. Butler's conduct in the attack on the Wilmington defenses.

In the Millspaugh case the jury returned a verdict for Millspaugh, assessing the damages on Seth Adams, the defendant, at $10,000, for seducing the former's wife.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The *Herald* editorially says: The probabilities are great that Mr. Seward will have the mission to England.

A *Tribune's* Washington special says that indications points strongly in that direction.

It is reported that seventy vessels, thirteen of the Wilmington blockade, will be sent to increase the blockade off Charleston, Galveston and other ports.

Advices from the Shenandoah Valley state that a small body of rebels have made their appearance below Woodstock.

Two ships are now loading for Savannah with supplies for the starving inhabitants. This is additional to a quantity already sent from Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Several steamers are loading assorted cargoes for Hilton Head, in the hope of obtaining permission to trade at Savannah. The Treasury Department has again issued a circular declaring that no permits are to be given to take goods to Savannah.

The *Commercial Advertiser's* Washington special says: The Senate has accepted the report of the Military Committee refusing to have the proceedings of the court-martial which dismissed Surgeon-General Hammond examined into by Congress.

Great exertions are being made in behalf of an appropriation for a ship-canal around Niagara Falls.

The *Post's* special says: The Committee on Ways and Means agreed this morning not to lay a tax on leaf tobacco.

The House has directed a Committee on Commerce to make a general investigation concerning trade with insurrectionary districts.

The *World's* Washington special mentions the rumored return of Mr. Blair from Richmond.

The *Herald's* Washington special says that the Treasury Department will shortly issue a new batch of fractional currency, printed upon new material, impervious to water, and with a tenacity not inferior to greenbacks.

The *Times'* special says that General Sherman writes privately to high officials most encouraging views of the situation in South Carolina, and that there is no point of importance in that State that does not lie at his mercy.

LATEST REBEL INTELLIGENCE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The Richmond *Dispatch*, of January 23d, contains the following: "There was a report yesterday that Gen. Price had captured Fort Smith, Arkansas, with a garrison of two thousand men.

"There is a report—not confirmed by official intelligence—that J. A. Seddon has resigned his Portfolio of War. We have not been able to learn whether a successor has been appointed. Several prominent gentlemen are spoken of as likely to be present Secretary of War—General Braxton Bragg, General Breckinridge, and Senator Hill, of Georgia. There is a report that his place had been offered to General Breckinridge, but he declined to accept it unless he was allowed to select his Commissary General. It is said that Mr. Seddon was induced to resign by an action taken by the Virginia Congressmen, who, it appears, sent to the President an official announcement that they had lost confidence in all the members of the Cabinet except Mr. Wynthoin, and asked for a change. Mr. Seddon being informed of this action, immediately resigned.

Two important measures recently passed by Congress were made public on Saturday. One is a bill providing for the appointment of a General-in-Chief of the Confederate armies, and provides that the General-in-Chief shall have charge of all the armies of the Confederacy. Whether this implies the power to select Generals who shall command those armies is a matter of doubt. It also repeals the law providing a staff for the General assigned to duty at Richmond. General Bragg now holds the position referred to. The other measure is a resolution recommending the assignment of General Joseph E. Johnston to the command of the Army of Tennessee.

Five hundred returned Confederate prisoners who arrived at Varina on Friday reached the city last night on our flag of truce boat from Boulware's landing.

By the same boat Mr. Francis P. Blair, sr., Peace Commissioner, returned to this city. Nothing has transpired as to the object of his mission, but of course it has reference to peace negotiations, and this has grown out of his former visit. He is the guest of Captain Hatch.

Hon. H. S. Foote, of Tennessee, left the city yesterday morning, by the Fredericksburg train en route for Prince George county, Va.

The *Whig* of the 23d has the following:

Charleston, Jan. 15.—The enemy, in heavy force, supposed to be 15,000 strong, under Gen. Foster, advanced on Pocotaligo yesterday. Our troops, after an obstinate resistance, fell back on this side of Salkehatchie. Our lines embrace Salkehatchie bridge. Everything was brought off safely. Gen. Hardee is in command of our forces.

Clinton, La., Jan. 14.—A large number of troops from Nashville, estimated at from 15,000 to 25,000, recently passed down the river to New Orleans. It is believed an expedition is organizing either to attack Mobile or go up the Red river.

The Richmond *Examiner* attempts to finish Parson Brownlow by pouring upon him its full vocabulary of choice words. Its article concludes with comments upon military governors of conquered states.

The Wilmington *Journal* learns that during the recent freshet seventy feet of the railroad bridge over the Roanoke river, at Weldon, was washed away.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The Richmond *Whig* thus states the result of the South in making war on the nation, attributing the horrors to the Yankees:

"Our outraged women, our homeless babes, our sons ultimately slain, our blackened homes, our leagues of desolated land, our battered cities, our slaves in arms against us, our prisoners murdered in cold blood or pining year after year in northern dungeons, all tell us what the Yankee is at heart."

Gold has reached in Richmond 3500 per cent. premium.

The Mobile *Register* of January 18th says that the people absolutely decline to bet, with the odds forty to one on the success of our cause and the honesty of our government and people.

The Charleston *Courier* discusses guerrilla warfare, with the purpose of showing the efficiency of that style of hostilities to which the rebel cause may soon be brought.

The Richmond papers represent Hood's army as suffering intensely until they reached more wealthy districts, when their fare fared better. It is thought he may be obliged to fall back beyond Corinth until the roads are repaired to that place.

The Richmond *Sentinel* calls for a new outburst of enthusiasm and devotion. It says it would be delightful and inspiring. A citizen writes to it that he had a moderate supply of bacon in the house, and he asked his wife, "shall the meat go?" She responded, "Yes let it go!" and it went. Perhaps it was the kind fed to our poor prisoners.

Operations of the Pirate Shenandoah.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 23.—The bark Clifton, Capt. Gavit, arrived here yesterday from Pernambuco. The captain reports that the rebel privateer Shenandoah had destroyed several American merchantmen along the coast of Brazil, in consequence of which vessels bound to the United States were obtaining British registers so as to enable them to sail under British colors.

Repeal of the Illinois Black Laws.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—A dispatch has been received by Theodore Tilton, from Springfield, Illinois, saying that the Illinois Senate have repealed the Black laws by four majority, and that the House is certain to concur.

THE CALL FOR 300,000 MEN.

Correct Quotas Forwarded to the Different Districts.

THE BANKRUPT BILL IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The Provost-Marshal-General has assigned and forwarded to the different districts their correct quotas under the call of December 19th for 300,000. Shortly after that call was made, the quotas were assigned upon the enrollment as it stood on the 20th of November, taking into account the reports of credits and estimates of the number of years of service that were then available, and those quotas were sent to the districts, in order that recruiting might commence without any delay. For computing the exact quotas, correct quotas were based upon the enrollment as corrected up to the 1st instant, and they embrace all credits for troops raised up to that date. A complete settlement with each district has been made, and all former deficiencies charged and the surplus credited to the district. Consequently all men put into the service since January 1st, whether by draft, acceptance of substitutes or by voluntary enlistment, will be applied as credits in the reduction of quotas now assigned. Corrected quotas, vary in certain localities from the quotas assigned on the 33d of December. The reason is, 1st, The enrollment in many localities has been much reduced since the 20th of Nov., while in others but little change has occurred. 2d. Full and accurate reports of men and years of service furnished not only during December, but from the different localities for the previous months, have been received and taken into account in determining the correct quotas. The most obvious instance is in cases of New York and Brooklyn, the quota of the former being largely increased, while that of the latter is diminished. This is owing to the distribution of years of service on account of naval enlistments.

The Bankrupt Bill reported to-day by Senator Foster, from the Committee on the Judiciary, as amendatory of that passed by the House of Representatives, is in the nature of a substitute. The principle alterations proposed by the Committee are the following: The eighth, ninth, and fourteenth sections are stricken out. In the section for the distribution of the bankrupt's estate, the Committee strike out the clause entitling debts due the physician to priority of payment of fees and cost of suits concerning the property of the bankrupt; debts and taxes due to the United States and State in which the bankruptcy is pending; wages to operatives, clerks and servants, not to exceed $50; debts due to persons qualified by the laws of the United States to preference, shall have the priority. In the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sections it is proposed that a discharge, duly granted, shall free the bankrupt from all liabilities, except those mentioned. Provisions are made for cases where the discharge is fraudulently obtained. The other amendments are of less importance.

LATEST ADVICES FROM HAVANA.

The War in Mexico.

STEAMER HARRIET LANE DESTROYED.

Movements of Rebel Vessels.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The steamer Eagle, with Havana dates of the 21st, has arrived.

News has been received from Mexico, that General Differnal has made a reconnoissance to Oceava, where he was joyfully received. He has gone back to Ella to organize an attack on the place, which was to be made on the 27th.

It is said that Perkins Filas has a force of 8,000 men and twenty pieces of artillery, but it was believed in Havana that his force was double this, and better provided than any of the Liberal armies.

The old mint of Mexico is working night and day coining the gold and silver brought there by the churches to aid the cause.

The new Consul General of the Mexican empire, Novarro, of Cuba, has demanded the archives of the consulate of the old country, who refused to deliver them up, insisting that his government is still in existence.

The steamer Harriet Lane, lately called the Lavinia, was destroyed by fire at Havana on the 18th. The fire is said to have been the work of one of the crew, who had been deprived of his pay.

A report was received at Havana, that the blockade runner Denbigh, one of the most successful of the fleet, had been captured and taken into Boston.

The Colonel Lamb, a very fast run steamer, left Havana on the 21st. It was generally reported that is to become a rebel pirate.

FROM FORT FISHER.

THE KILLED BY THE MAGAZINE EXPLOSION EXHUMED.

The Total Union Loss Between Seven and Eight Hundred.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The *Tribune's* Fort Fisher letter discusses the exhuming of the killed by the magazine explosion. Many members of one company of the 203d Pennsylvania were covered with sand while asleep. Many were horribly disfigured and scarcely recognizable. The rebel dead lay scattered about, some of them exhumed from sand; and others, who had died from wounds in the passage-ways and corners of the bomb-proofs, where they had crawled after being wounded.

The losses sustained by the catastrophe will not be so large as at first supposed. Many who were missing and supposed to have been burned have been accounted for. The total loss in the assault and explosion is between seven and eight hundred.

The splendid Armstrong gun, with mahogany carriage, will be sent to West Point.

The boats of the navy, while sweeping for torpedoes, came across an insulated wire cable connecting Battery Lamb with Fort Fisher. It was underrun and taken up as far as the shore, in a direct line toward the magazine, and by many is supposed to account for the murderous explosion.

New York Stock and Money Matters.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Railway stocks were strong. At the Stock Exchange there was a good demand for stocks generally, the Shorts buying largely to lower recent sales. The rise in Gold and its upward tendency caused considerable excitement in Toledo, the stock being reported the largest ever sold. Government stocks are firmer and in better demand. State Bonds are very dull. Coal shares are strong and higher on the Stock Exchange. Miscellaneous stocks are generally better. The Gold market has been comparatively quiet. The defeat of the rebel gunboats at City Point caused a fall of two per cent. Stocks less active at the Petroleum Board, but prices are generally firm. Sales were: Germania 103; Knickerbocker 65; Empire City 63; Beckman 325; Webster 205; Everett 100; Rynd Farm 500.

Auction Sales of Coal and Wool.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—At the auction sale of coal today there was an advance ranging from 25c for chestnut coal, to $1,00@$1,12½ for steamboat coal. Since the December sale the advance in stove coal was 25@37½c per ton.

The offering of 500,000 pounds domestic fleece wool by public auction to-day was very largely attended by manufacturers and dealers from the east and Philadelphia. The most of the offering was sold, at prices fully up to the anticipations of everyone. The sale was fair and satisfactory, and said to be the best managed affair we have had in this city.

Rebel News from New Orleans.

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 13.—Private Advices from New Orleans to the 4th instant have been received.

Preparations were making for an expedition of 15,000 men to Pascagoula.

A Fair for the benefit of Confederate prisoners was held in that city, the proceeds of which was $8,000.

Many old business men were emigrating to Matamoras.

The Yankee lines have been stringently closed until after the 4th of March. The reported reason is the fear of troubles in the North-west.

From Charleston Harbor.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Letters of the 17th from Charleston Harbor say that three rebel iron-clads are distinctly visible at the mouth of Cooper River, while a large number of men are busy about the fourth, which is much larger than the others.

Deserters report that the rebels also have torpedo boats ready for service, and will make a fight in case of an attempt on our part to get up to the city. They are putting new obstructions in the harbor. Our boats have lately been quite successful in removing them.

Guerrilla Sympathizers Banished.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 25.—Gen. Sanborn, commanding the district of Southwest Missouri, banished forty-eight families and one hundred other men and women to a distance of fifty miles outside his district, for feeding and harboring guerrillas and bushwhackers. The parties are to leave the district by the 20th of February, on penalty of arrest and punishment.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 25, 1865.

SENATE.

Mr. Trumbull presented a petition from a chaplain in the army, asking for the same pay allowed officers of the same rank. Referred to the Naval Committee.

Mr. Henderson presented a remonstrance from the citizens of Missouri and Maryland, against the proposed tax on leaf tobacco. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. Foster, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the House Bankrupt Bill with amendments. Mr. Foster explained that the Committee had not made any radical changes in the bill, but there were so many trivial alterations made in it that they had concluded to offer a new one by way of substitute. The bill was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Wilson, from the Military Committee, reported back the memorial of Ex-Surgeon General Hammond, asking for an investigation into the circumstances of his court martial. The Committee was discharged from further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Howard offered a resolution instructing the Finance Committee to inquire into the expediency of relevying the tonnage of the country from the income tax. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Wade called up the resolution of the Military Committee advising retaliation on the rebels.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution to the effect that Congress earnestly called the attention of the President to the condition and treatment of our prisoners in rebel prisons and to give satisfactory reasons why they cannot be exchanged. Congress declares that the President employ all the means in his power, including such retaliation as shall seem just and proper, to prevent the continuance and recurrence of such barbarities and the observance of the laws of civil warfare.

Mr. Henderson spoke on the subject of retaliation. He favored the appointment of Commissioners to confer with the rebel authorities to secure better treatment for our prisoners in the South. If the rebels refused to receive such Commissioners, the President should adopt such stringent measures, consistent with the rules of civilized warfare, and not derogatory to the national honor, that would stop such conduct on the part of the rebels. He intended, he said, to offer an amendment to this effect. He was in favor of retaliation, but not at all times, in kind.

Mr. Sumsbury proposed that Mr. Henderson's rebel amendment so as to give the rebel authorities the privilege of sending commissioners to look into the condition of Southern prisoners in Northern prisons.

Mr. Henderson was willing to accept his modification, knowing that the rebel prisoners were humanely treated in the North.

Mr. Wade moved an amendment, making the resolution amendatory instead of advisory, and compelling the President and officers of the army to retaliate in kind.

Mr. Foster was surprised that any Senator should say the rebels had not treated our prisoners with inhuman cruelty. After mentioning several instances of rebel barbarity, he advocated retaliation, but was opposed to retaliation in kind.

Mr. Brown resumed his remarks on retaliation, supporting the resolution of the Military Committee.

Mr. Davis opposed the resolution, and spoke at length against the consideration of the subject.

Mr. Clark, from the Committee of Conference on the Indian Appropriation bill, reported that the House still refuses to strike out the proposition for the increase of compensation, which, he said, was contrary to law. This would defeat the bill, he said, but the responsibility would be upon the House.

The yeas and nays were called for, and the Senate decided to adhere to its amendment by a vote of thirty-eight yeas to one nay, viz: Mr. Carlisle.

The presiding officer said that a motion prevails that the bill failed on account of a disagreement between the two Houses.

Mr. Powell stated the House refused to take up the resolution calling on the Secretary of War to know why he had not appointed Commissioners to compensate the loyal owners for slaves captured in the military service. The resolution was adopted.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, offered a resolution directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into all the facts and circumstances attending the trade with the rebellious States since the beginning of the war.

Messrs. Holbrook and Farnsworth severally objected to the resolution for the reason that the whole subject was now undergoing investigation by the Committee on Military Affairs.

The resolution of Mr. Washburne was adopted.

Petitions of Mr. Schenck the Committee on Military Affairs was discharged from the consideration of the subject.

The House proceeded to consider the report, providing admission to seats, of the heads of the Departments, in the House, to answer the questions which may be presented, and to a limited extent, participate in the debates.

Mr. Ganson advocated the measure.

The House then adjourned.

From New Orleans and Texas.

CAIRO, Jan. 25.—The steamer Arabar, from New Orleans, on the 18th, has arrived with three Maine brigades en route for home to be mustered out.

Late accounts from Texas represent that the people of that State are apprehensive of an attack upon their coast and promise a determined resistance.

Middling cotton held at 105; New Orleans low middling sold at 100; Sugar firm at full prices.

Gold Quotation—Suicide of a Silk Merchant.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Gold opened this morning at the advance rates of last night, and a strong bull clique has done its utmost to keep up the price, but the price steadily declined from 50; to 204½, and subsequently rallying to 305½. The Chinn took out to-day, $709,344 in specie.

Jacob Lorling, a silk merchant, while labouring under a fit of insanity, jumped from his third story window of his residence this morning, and was almost instantly killed.

Expedition Against Mobile.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—By the Atlanta from Mobile, it is reported that a formidable expedition had left Forts Morgan and Gaines up the East Pascagola river, to take a position in the rear of Mobile. The river was found navigable and its occupation cannot fail to render the city an easy capture. Deserters report that there is much dissatisfaction with the rebel Government in Mobile.

Illinois Black Laws Abolished.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—The bill abolishing the black laws, except the law prohibiting intermarriage between the blacks and whites, passed the Illinois Senate yesterday.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 25.—The House spent the whole day in trying to organize. The Democrats prevented any question from coming up that contemplated an organization.

THE BRITISH GUNBOATS ON THE LAKES.—The New York *World's* Washington correspondent telegraphs: The telegram from Canada announcing that a fleet of British gunboats were to leave for the northern lakes on the opening of navigation, is thus explained: On the 23rd of last November, Minister Adams, in pursuance of instructions from the President, informed the British authorities that this Government desired the termination of the treaty of 1817, which limited to each Power the naval armament to be kept on the lakes during time of peace, and therefore giving the six months' notice which was required. During the last session of Congress, the House passed a resolution of the same purport, but it was not taken up in the Senate until last week, when a substitute was passed, which legalizes or ratifies the act of the President in November last. This substitute, of course, went back to the House, and at the present moment is before the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Great Britain, however, acting upon the President's notice, seems to be preparing its fleet of gunboats to send over after the six months' notice has expired. Of course this Government will take similar measures to increase its naval armament on the lakes, and thus prevent all raids on its commerce from Canada, under the cover of rebel emissaries.

A GUERRILLA met his fate in Hawesville, Ky., a few nights ago, under the following circumstances: There is a woman in town who keeps a grog shop, and who had been notified by guerrillas to "move her chattels" by a certain time. On the evening in question, one of the gang made his appearance at the window of her domicil, where she and her son were sitting. He broke the window and stuck his head in, when she struck him with a billet of wood, and he fell heavily to the earth. She listened a few minutes and hearing him groan went outside and found him lying in an almost dying condition. She called for her son to bring her an axe. The son did so, and she took it from him, and deliberately chopped his body up into small pieces and left him for the hogs to devour. She went back into the house and went to bed. At last accounts she had not been arrested, nor was she likely to be.

THE Rebel Congress has passed the bill (by an almost unanimous vote in each House) creating the office of Commander-in-Chief, with the most unpalatable addition, for Davis, that Joe Johnston ought to be restored to active command. One of the Richmond papers of late has a doleful article recommending the impressment of all the cotton in the Rebel States, and the abandonment of Slavery; in short, anything and everything for the sake of securing foreign recognition.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Josiah Copley, Jr.

It may be gratifying to the numerous friends of this captive soldier to know that as late as the 12th or 14th of December he was still in good health and spirits. He was then confined at Florence, S. C. From March to December his friends had no intelligence whatever from him. They then received a letter written from Florence early in November. Exchanged prisoners brought news a few weeks later.

On Monday last his father received a letter dated Andersonville, July 13th, written in a calm, cheerful and Christian spirit, and yesterday he received the following note, postmarked "Old Point Comfort, Jan. 17." The other was postmarked at the same place Jan. 17. This shows that, in addition to all their other barbarities, the rebels neglect to forward the letters of their unfortunate captives:

"ANDERSONVILLE, GA., Aug. 31, 1864.

Dear Father—Having been short of writing materials, I have not written since early last month. Since then I have been well, although not as stout as formerly. My comrades are dying fast, and nothing can be done to help them. Our hundred to two hundred die daily. Our condition otherwise is unchanged.

There is some prospect of being exchanged soon; but if not, I think I can stand it through the winter here; although more than half of those now here must die in that time.

I receive no letters. Do not be anxious if mine are not hereafter received. God keep you all. Affectionately, your son,

JOSIAH COPLEY, Jr.

What a fearful struggle for life that has been on the part of the strong; the brave and the hopeful! All the feeble and desponding succumbed and died.

The writer of this letter has now been a prisoner for upwards of fifteen months, and thousands of his comrades have been in the same condition as long, or nearly so. We shall be glad if our Government shall be able to show to the country and to the world that this protracted agony and this fearful sacrifice of life were unavoidable.

Court of Quarter Sessions.

WEDNESDAY Jan. 25—Before Judge Sterrett.

Hugh Magin was found guilty of the larceny of a watch. Motion for a new trial.

Joseph Begg, who was indicted for cruelty to animals, was acquitted.

William Campbell was tried for stealing Dr. Riter's horse and buggy, but as the act was alleged by the defense to have been committed during a fit of insanity, the prosecution admitted the plea, and the prisoner was discharged upon that ground.

John Barry and Henry Williams plead guilty to the charge of having stolen a watch from John C. Moon, but sentence has been deferred.

S. Floerabler was in court charged with selling liquor without license, but the charge was not sustained, and the prosecutor, John H. Sarber, was ordered to pay the costs.

The court then adjourned until Saturday next at 10 o'clock. A number of sentences have been deferred, and they will probably be announced on that day.

United States District Court.

WEDNESDAY, January 25.—Before Judge McCandless.

The case of John Crittenden and Edward Howard was finally concluded, having lasted two days. A large number of witnesses were examined, and the jury, after having been out but a short time, returned a verdict of "guilty." The sentence will be pronounced by the Court at ten o'clock to-day. The trial was an interesting one throughout, and the arguments of the counsel on either side were very able.

William Volgst plead guilty of having sold liquor without the Government license, and was fined one dollar and costs.

The presiding officer said that a motion prevails that the bill failed on account of a disagreement between the two Houses.

Mr. Powell stated the House refused to take up the resolution calling on the Secretary of War to know why he had not appointed Commissioners to compensate the loyal owners for slaves captured in the military service. The resolution was adopted.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, offered a resolution directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into all the facts and circumstances attending the trade with the rebellious States since the beginning of the war.

Messrs. Holbrook and Farnsworth severally objected to the resolution for the reason that the whole subject was now undergoing investigation by the Committee on Military Affairs.

The resolution of Mr. Washburne was adopted.

Petitions of Mr. Schenck the Committee on Military Affairs was discharged from the consideration of the subject.

The House proceeded to consider the report, providing admission to seats, of the heads of the Departments, in the House, to answer the questions which may be presented, and to a limited extent, participate in the debates.

Mr. Ganson advocated the measure.

The House then adjourned.

From New Orleans and Texas.

CAIRO, Jan. 25.—The steamer Arabar, from New Orleans, on the 18th, has arrived with three Maine brigades en route for home to be mustered out.

Late accounts from Texas represent that the people of that State are apprehensive of an attack upon their coast and promise a determined resistance.

Middling cotton held at 105; New Orleans low middling sold at 100; Sugar firm at full prices.

Gold Quotation—Suicide of a Silk Merchant.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Gold opened this morning at the advance rates of last night, and a strong bull clique has done its utmost to keep up the price, but the price steadily declined from 50; to 204½, and subsequently rallying to 305½. The Chinn took out to-day, $709,344 in specie.

Jacob Lorling, a silk merchant, while laboring under a fit of insanity, jumped from his third story window of his residence this morning, and was almost instantly killed.

Expedition Against Mobile.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—By the Atlanta from Mobile, it is reported that a formidable expedition had left Forts Morgan and Gaines up the East Pascagola river, to take a position in the rear of Mobile. The river was found navigable and its occupation cannot fail to render the city an easy capture. Deserters report that there is much dissatisfaction with the rebel Government in Mobile.

Illinois Black Laws Abolished.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—The bill abolishing the black laws, except the law prohibiting intermarriage between the blacks and whites, passed the Illinois Senate yesterday.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 25.—The House spent the whole day in trying to organize. The Democrats prevented any question from coming up that contemplated an organization.

THE BRITISH GUNBOATS ON THE LAKES.—The New York *World's* Washington correspondent telegraphs: The telegram from Canada announcing that a fleet of British gunboats were to leave for the northern lakes on the opening of navigation, is thus explained: On the 23rd of last November, Minister Adams, in pursuance of instructions from the President, informed the British authorities that this Government desired the termination of the treaty of 1817, which limited to each Power the naval armament to be kept on the lakes during time of peace, and therefore giving the six months' notice which was required. During the last session of Congress, the House passed a resolution of the same purport, but it was not taken up in the Senate until last week, when a substitute was passed, which legalizes or ratifies the act of the President in November last. This substitute, of course, went back to the House, and at the present moment is before the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Great Britain, however, acting upon the President's notice, seems to be preparing its fleet of gunboats to send over after the six months' notice has expired. Of course this Government will take similar measures to increase its naval armament on the lakes, and thus prevent all raids on its commerce from Canada, under the cover of rebel emissaries.

A GUERRILLA met his fate in Hawesville, Ky., a few nights ago, under the following circumstances: There is a woman in town who keeps a grog shop, and who had been notified by guerrillas to "move her chattels" by a certain time. On the evening in question, one of the gang made his appearance at the window of her domicil, where she and her son were sitting. He broke the window and stuck his head in, when she struck him with a billet of wood, and he fell heavily to the earth. She listened a few minutes and hearing him groan went outside and found him lying in an almost dying condition. She called for her son to bring her an axe. The son did so, and she took it from him, and deliberately chopped his body up into small pieces and left him for the hogs to devour. She went back into the house and went to bed. At last accounts she had not been arrested, nor was she likely to be.

THE Rebel Congress has passed the bill (by an almost unanimous vote in each House) creating the office of Commander-in-Chief, with the most unpalatable addition, for Davis, that Joe Johnston ought to be restored to active command. One of the Richmond papers of late has a doleful article recommending the impressment of all the cotton in the Rebel States, and the abandonment of Slavery; in short, anything and everything for the sake of securing foreign recognition.

Speculations about Reunion.

From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 13.

So far as this war is concerned, the people of the Confederate States have no reason whatever to help Maximilian, nor to give to France or England any sympathy or support. Neither France nor Mexico, nor England, has extended to this confederacy any encouragement; and if our cause fail, after every manly effort that we can make in its behalf, then pride as well as interest would dictate that, if we are to be conquered, we should belong to a great and powerful nation. That we should endeavor to extend the power and influence of that nation from pole to pole, and, uniting every country of America by alliance, either constitutional or treaty, seek to make this continent a unit against the world. In the grandeur and power of such a nation, with armies such as the United States and the Confederate States have put into the field during this war, united under one flag, with a navy such as the united resolves of the two nations could put upon the ocean, with the wealth and population that peace and union would develop in a few years, we might find at least a hiding place for our shame, and perhaps some consolation that America would become the colossal power of the world. Maximilian would not relent in Mexico, nor England hold Canada six months after our conquest. Ireland would call to the rescue thousands of her sons now awaiting opportunity, and the navy of the United States would give the requisite assistance to every adventurous spirit that would rush to battle for the freedom of that island. The undiscriminated hatred of the people of the United States for England, would render a war with that Power the most popular party cry that could be raised. The cotton that would be saved from the destruction of the war would be held in the Confederate States, and the little that would be cultivated by the new and unorganized free negro labor would find consumption at home, and thus would be precipitated a commercial convulsion upon British finances by prolonging a cotton famine, and that, too, at the beginning of the war. France driven from Mexico, would find her people impoverished by imposed taxation, without any prospect for increase of trade and commerce, saddled with the cost of imperialism, her people would begin to discover that the Napoleon dynasty was not the means either of glory or happiness. If the Confederate States are conquered, it is highly probable that the Monroe doctrine—as the land-grabbing propensity of the Anglo-Saxon has been called in the United States—would become the most important and popular principle in American policy. On the other hand, if we are successful, there immediately arises on this continent a balance of power, or political equilibrium, similar to that of Europe, which would check the progress and power of the United States, restore commerce to its normal condition, oppose to the navy of that country the navy of these States and of Mexico, which, uniting with a Canadian navy, would at all times effectually keep the Yankee within the bounds of propriety, and from disturbing the peace of the world.

DECREASE IN THE IMPORTS OF FOREIGN GOODS.—The official returns of the New York Custom House, from July 1st, 1864, to January 14th, 1865, show a decrease in imports of Foreign Merchandise of $21,513,836 as compared with the same period in 1862-4, and an increase of exports of Domestic Produce and Miscellaneous Goods of $40,239,202. At the same time there has been a decrease in Exports of Specie of $10,170,666.

From July 1st, 1863, to January 14th, 1864, the Imports of Foreign Merchandise were over $30,000,000 in excess of the Exports of Domestic Produce and Merchandise, the balance thus to be met with gold. During the corresponding period for 1864-5, the Exports of Produce and Goods were more than forty-seven million dollars in excess of the Imports. These figures speak for themselves.

FELINE INSTINCT.—The following story is told illustrative of the remarkable instinct of the