

We are gratified to learn that the President very judiciously disapproved the order of Gen. Dix, to pursue raiders into Canada. Such acts would have done us no service, but might have precipitated a foreign war, and given the South independence.

Hon. Thad Stevens, during debate in Congress on the 15th, said: It is the duty of the House to vindicate the dignity of the country, and to elevate it from the low depth to which it is sunk.

The Secretary of State had, in the face of all Europe, slapped the House of Representatives in the face, in his correspondence with the French Government, and he asked the House whether it would not today assert its own dignity?

The public journals comment a good deal upon the fact that, in reference to foreign affairs, the President's message while it avoids any allusion to the leading nations of the world, inhabited by white people, with whom our relations, especially in time of war, are to be held of vast importance, devotes considerable space to trifling details about numerous negro, mulatto, and other miscegenated powers; and much fault is found on that account.

Will Lincoln Retract Nothing? Mr. Lincoln, in his latest message to Congress, proclaims to the world that he will retract nothing that he has heretofore said on the subject of slavery.

The right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions, according to its own judgment, is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend.

Redemption of the Seven-Thirty Notes. Secretary Fessenden gives notice of the readiness of the Treasury Department to redeem on presentation, by payment in lawful money, or by conversion into bonds as authorized by law, the three-year treasury notes bearing interest at a rate of seven and three-tenths per centum, issued under the act of July 17, 1861.

Governor Pierpont, who is the Lincoln Executive of some portions of Virginia not very clearly defined, delivered his annual message in Alexandria on Tuesday last week. Butler, he says, has overthrown the republican civil government of Virginia, and in its stead erected a military despotism, and inaugurated a reign of terror and torture.

THE WAR.

General Sherman in Georgia. Dec. 16.—Sherman has passed south of Savannah, and on the 12th, his east flank, under Howard, came out to the Atlantic coast, near Warsaw sound, a large harbor, twenty miles southwest of the mouth of the Savannah river. It extends a distance of twenty miles.

Dec. 17.—A rebel paper says: Official intelligence was received yesterday that the enemy, on Wednesday, carried Fort McAllister by storm. The garrison of the fort consisted of 150 men.

Dec. 19.—Below the mouth of the Savannah river, on the Georgia coast, there are two sounds. Warsaw sound is about fifteen miles below the river, and Ossabaw sound about thirty miles distant. The Ogeechee river falls into Ossabaw sound, and Fort McAllister, the capture of which, by Gen. Sherman, was announced on Saturday morning, is on the Ogeechee, fifteen miles southwest of Savannah.

Dec. 16.—We have some important details of affairs about Nashville. The federal works form a semicircle about town, in no part over two miles from it, and extending about five miles from the river above to the river below the town. An interval of from one to two miles in width outside of the line is neutral ground, and beyond it are the rebel works.

Dec. 17.—For several days past Hood has been gradually drawing nearer to Nashville with his siege parallels. Close proximity at length compelled Gen. Thomas to make an attack, and on Thursday morning at daylight, it was begun.

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Dec. 21.—We have received definite intelligence of the expedition which Gen. Grant sent south from his camp on Tuesday last. Gen. Warren commands the force, which consists of two divisions of Warren's corps, one of Humphrey's, and Gregg's cavalry. The expedition marched south along the Jerusalem road, crossing Hatchers run, and on Tuesday night reached the Nutaway river, eighteen miles from Petersburg.

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Dec. 14.—The expedition which left Gen. Grant's camp on Tuesday of last week, to go to Weldon, has returned.—General Warren, its commander, found when he approached Hicksford, twenty-two miles north of Weldon, that the Confederates were strongly entrenched on the southern bank of Meherrin river. He tried to drive them off, but failed.

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cases of the St. Alban's rebel raiders; and the prisoners were all liberated from arrest, and are now again at large. The government is officially informed that fresh warrants have been issued for the apprehension of the St. Alban's raiders, who were recently discharged pursuant to a decision of a Canadian court, and that the police in that quarter are making every effort to prevent their escape.

Dec. 12.—In the Senate, Mr. Wilson presented a petition from 470 officers asking an increase of pay and rating allowances. Mr. Doxblate a resolution favoring means to increase the revenue, by a tax on the sales of property.

Dec. 13.—In the Senate, Mr. Sherman reported a bill appropriating one million dollars for building revenue cutters for service on the lakes. Passed.

Dec. 14.—Senator Chandler offered a resolution in favor of raising an army corps to watch raiders from Canada; and one proposing that a bill be presented to Great Britain for damages done to our shipping by vessels fitted out in British ports, and that payment of them be demanded.

Dec. 15.—Senator Lane, of Kansas, offered a resolution instructing the committee on the conduct of the war to inquire whether disloyal men were not employed in the navy yards, &c. of the country. He alleged that several thousand disloyal men were employed in the Philadelphia navy yard.

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The newspapers at Wilkes-Barre, Reading, Chambersburg, Johnstown and elsewhere, have placed their terms at \$24 and \$3 per year in advance. The four hundred and seventy-fifth day is the title of a paragraph in the Charleston papers of October 27th, announcing the results of our bombardment of the city on that day.

The Philadelphia Ledger raises its price, after losing one hundred thousand dollars in the attempt to realize that Mr. Lincoln's paper is equal to United States coin, as Thad. Stevens wants Congress to vote that it is.

A rich joke on General Butler is current in army circles. It seems that the regular officers have little faith in the Dutch Gap Canal, and at a recent court-martial in the Army of the James, a soldier was sentenced to two years hard labor on said canal! The report adds that Butler was disgusted, and dissolved the court immediately upon learning the finding and sentence of the court.

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The minimum standard of light for recruits for the volunteer service has been fixed by the Secretary of War at five feet instead of five feet three inches, as heretofore established. Since the arrests made in Harrisburg of the entire Provost Marshal Board and several substitute brokers, developments have been made implicating several persons in that connection.

A canon fired at an abolition election celebration in New York State, struck with its lead an infant in its mother's arms, killing it instantly, and bespattering the mother with its brains and blood. A correspondence is now going on between the Adjutant-General of several States, looking to the issue of a book, containing a list of every man enlisted from the states; and any records as to time of service, death, discharge, or desertion as may be within their knowledge.

Dr. J. W. Walker has received the appointment of acting surgeon in the army, and has assumed duty as surgeon in the Female Military Prison in Louisville. The New York Express says: "The upward turn in gold to-day shows the effect of the President's Message and the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury upon trade and business."

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SHERIFF'S SALES. Notice of sheriff's sales of land in various counties including Montgomery, Rockbridge, and others. Includes details of land parcels, acreage, and terms of sale.

Dec. 22, 1864. Subscription for the Democrat.