# The Press.

VOL. 5.—NO. 126. PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1861. TWO CENTS.



## THE PRESS.

PUBLISHED DAILY, (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED,)

BY JOHN W. FORNEY.

OFFICE NO. 417 CHESTNUT STREET.

THE DAILY PRESS,

TWELVE CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier.

Mailed to Subscribers out of the City at SIX DOLLARS PER ANNUM, FOUR DOLLARS FOR EIGHT MONTHS, THREE DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS—invariably in advance for the time ordered.

THE TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,

Mailed to Subscribers out of the City at THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in advance.

NOTICES.

TWO SPLENDIDLY ILLUSTRATED LECTURES,

By the Rev. ALFRED TAYLOR,

Before the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.

To be delivered at CONCERT HALL, TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 31, 1861, and TUESDAY EVENING, January 7, 1862

"IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM."

"UP AND DOWN PALESTINE."

Illustrated by magnificent

OXY-HYDRO-PHOTIC VIEWS

of the Towns, Cities, Plains, and Ruins of the HOLY LAND.

First Lecture—"IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM."

The City of Jerusalem, Plan, Views, &c.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Interior of do.

Wailing Place of the Jews.

The Wall.

Tower of Hippicus.

Pool of Hezekiah.

Tombs of the Kings.

Scenes in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Lower Pool of Siloon.

Haram es Sherif.

Garden of Gethsemane.

Bethany.

Solomon's Pools.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

Second Lecture—"UP AND DOWN PALESTINE."

Views of the principal places of interest on the Sea-coast, and of Towns, Cities, Lakes, Mountains, &c., in the Interior.

These Lectures will combine pleasant entertainment with useful instruction.

Admittance, 25 cents.

Doors open at 6½; Lecture to commence at half past seven.

Tickets for sale at the Bookstores and Publication offices; also at the Association's rooms, 1011 Chestnut street, and at the office, Concert Hall. de27-4t*

OFFICE OF THE LITTLE SCHUYLKILL NAVIGATION RAILROAD and COAL COMPANY, 407 LIBRARY Street,

PHILADELPHIA, 18th Dec., 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, and an Election for Officers to serve the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company, No. 407 LIBRARY Street, on MONDAY, the 13th of January next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

ARCHIBALD McINTYRE,

de24-tuthstja13 Treasurer and Secretary.

NOTICE.—APPLICATION WILL BE made to the Board of Directors, Mercantile Library Company, for renewal of CERTIFICATE of one share of stock No. 461, same having been lost or mislaid.

GEO. H. EARLE,

de17tu-3t* For The Estate of Ann Earle, deceased.

OFFICE HUNTINGDON AND BROAD TOP MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CO.

DECEMBER 26th, 1861.

NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company will be held at the Office, No. 238 South THIRD Street, on TUESDAY, the 14th day of January, 1862, at 11 A. M., when an Election will be held for a President and twelve Directors, to serve for the ensuing year.

J. P. ALEXANDER,

de27-dtja14 Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23, 1861.

NOTICE—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, for the Election of Thirteen Trustees, to serve the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company, in the Company's Buildings, WALNUT Street, southeast corner of FOURTH, on MONDAY, January 6, 1862, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 12 M.

JNO C. SIMS,

de24-12t Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE MINE HILL AND SCHUYLKILL HAVEN RAILROAD COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, 12th month 20, 1861.

A stated Annual Meeting of the Stockholders will be held at their office in the Hall of the Franklin Institute, South SEVENTH Street, on the 13th day of the month (January,) 1862, at 11 o'clock A. M., at which time a report of the proceedings of the Board of Managers will be presented, and an election will be held for a President and ten Managers to conduct the affairs of the Company for the year ensuing.

WILLIAM BIDDLE,

de23-tja13* Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY—OFFICE 229 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

PHILADELPHIA, December 21, 1861.

To avoid detention by the holders of coupons of this Company, due on the 1st proximo, are requested to leave them at this office on or before the 31st instant, when receipts will be given and checks will be ready for delivery on the 2d proximo, in exchange for said coupons.

de21-tja2 S. BRADFORD, Treasurer.

PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 20th, 1861.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the LOCUST MOUNTAIN COAL AND IRON COMPANY will be held at their Office, No. 230 South THIRD Street, on MONDAY, the 20th day of January, A. D. 1862, at 11 o'clock A. M., when an Election for Managers will be held for seven Directors, for the ensuing year. The transfer book of the Company will be closed for fifteen days previous to the day of election.

de21-1ja20 JOS. C. COPPUCK, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY, No. 230 South THIRD Street, corner of Willing's alley.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13, 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at their Office, No. 230 South THIRD Street, on THURSDAY, the second day of January, 1862, at 12 o'clock M., at which time an Election will be held for eleven Directors, and a Secretary and Treasurer, to serve for the ensuing year.

F. B. JACKSON, Secretary.

de13-tja2

OFFICE OF THE DIAMOND COAL COMPANY—NOTICE.—The Annual Election for Seven Directors, to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the office of the Company, No. 713 Market street, on WEDNESDAY, January 8th, 1862, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock P. M.

de16-6jan8* EDWARD PEACE, President.

OFFICE OF THE WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY, No. 230 South THIRD Street, corner of Willing's alley.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1861.

At a meeting of the Directors, held this day, a Dividend of EIGHT PER CENT. for the past year was declared on the Capital Stock, payable to Stockholders or their legal representatives, at the Office of the Company, on and after FRIDAY, the 3d of January, 1862.

The Transfer Books will be closed until January 6th next.

de19tja4 F. H. JACKSON, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE HARRISBURG, PORTSMOUTH, MOUNT JOY, AND LANCASTER RAILROAD COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, December 27, 1861.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of THREE AND A HALF PER CENT. on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable to the Stockholders or their legal representatives, on and after the 10th day of January next, at their Office, No. 3 WILLING'S Alley.

GEORGE TABER,

de28-stuth5t Treasurer.

COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA—Office, Commonwealth Building, No. 613 Chestnut street.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 9th, 1861.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY of the State of Pennsylvania, will be held at the Office of the Company, on MONDAY, January 6th, 1862, at 10 o'clock A. M.

An Election for Ten Directors, to serve the ensuing year, will be held, on the same day, and on the same day, between the hours of 12 and 2 P. M.

SAMUEL S. MOON,

de10-tuths 7jan6 Secretary.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUESTS of Committees of Examination, made by order of the Directors, a PUBLIC EXHIBITION of the Drawings and Designs of the Students of the School of Design for Women will be held at the School Rooms, 1334 CHESTNUT Street, from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., on MONDAY and TUESDAY, December 30 and 31.

de28-3t* T. M. BRADWOOD, Principal.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY.

DECEMBER 27, 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the PHILADELPHIA CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY will be held at No. 25 MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, on MONDAY, the 13th day of January, 1862, at twelve o'clock M., at which time an Election for President and Six Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held.

WM. W. COLKET,

de28-14t Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO.—Office, 227 South Fourth st.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26th, 1861.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Transfer Books of the Stock of this Company will be closed on the 31st inst., and will be reopened on the 14th of January next.

Holders of Certificates that have been discharged from his office, or either of the Transfer Agencies, are particularly requested to have them assigned on the Transfer Books, to which they have been transferred prior to the 31st inst.

S. BRADFORD,

de27-4t Treasurer.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER, U. S. PHILAD., Dec. 20th, 1861.

Holders of the two years Treasury Notes, with interest at six per cent., payable semi-annually, issued under the Act of 23d March, 1861, are informed that the interest on such notes to the 1st January, 1862, will be paid at his office on and after that day, provided that such notes, with a schedule signed by the holder of such notes, showing the number, date, and amount of each note, together with the interest due thereon to said 1st of January, are lodged here three days beforehand for verification.

J. H. WALTON,

de27-12t Assistant Treasurer U. S.

OFFICE OF THE ENTERPRISE INSURANCE COMPANY, 400 WALNUT ST.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26, 1861.

NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Enterprise Insurance Company will be held on MONDAY, the 13th day of January, 1862, at 10 o'clock A. M. at the Office of the Company.

An Election for Twelve Directors to serve the ensuing year will be held on the same day, at the same place, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 2 P. M.

CHARLES W. CUNE, Secretary.

de30-tja13

OFFICE OF THE FRANKFORD AND SOUTHWARK PHILADELPHIA CITY PASSENGER RAILROAD COMPANY, DEAKS (late Dunham) Street, below FOURTH

PHILADELPHIA, December 23, 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Frankford and Southwark Philadelphia City Passenger Railroad Company will be held at the Office of the Company, on MONDAY, January 13th, 1862, at 12 o'clock M., at which time and place an Election will be held for President and Twelve Directors to serve the ensuing year.

de30-tja13 CHAS. R. ABBOTT, Secretary.

TYRONE AND CLEARFIELD RAILROAD.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad Company will be held at the office of the Secretary, in this city, on MONDAY, January 13th, 1862, for the purpose of electing a President and Twelve Directors, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

H. H. SHILLINGFORD, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, December 28, 1861. d30-tu2t

FAME INSURANCE COMPANY, OFFICE No. 406 CHESTNUT STREET.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30, 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Fame Insurance Company will be held at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, the thirteenth day of January, 1862, at 10 o'clock A. M.

An Election for Twelve Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held at the same time and at the same place, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

de30-tja13 W. I. BLANCHARD, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND DARBY RAILROAD COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, December 28, 1861.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at the Depot, on DARBY Avenue, between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets, on MONDAY, 13th day of January, 1862, at 3½ P. M., at which time an election for President and Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held.

The Supplement to the Charter, approved the twenty-fifth day of February last, will be submitted for acceptance or rejection.

THOMAS SPARKS,

de30-tja13 Secretary.



## THE WAR PRESS.

THE WAR PRESS will be sent to subscribers by mail (per annum in advance) at.....$2.00

Three Copies " " ..... 5.00

Five " " " ..... 8.00

Ten " " " ..... 12.00

Larger Clubs will be charged at the same rate, thus: 20 copies will cost $24; 50 copies will cost $50; and 100 copies $120.

For a Club of Twenty-one or over, we will send an Extra Copy to the getter-up of the Club.

☞ Postmasters are requested to act as Agents for THE WAR PRESS.


TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1861.

### Letter from Camp Pierpont.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

CAMP PIERPONT, December 27, 1861.

The fight at Dranesville, an account of which your readers have already obtained by telegraph, still continues to be the topic of interest and conversation here. Our officers look upon it as a most grand and signal victory, and that it most unquestionably was, considering the great advantage the rebels had, in position and numbers, over our forces. The authorities at Washington consider it *the* battle of the campaign, and the most decided triumph yet achieved by the Federal arms. It is, however, to be regretted that so many of the reports of the battle, which appeared in the different papers of the day, should be so wide of the truth, for I must confess that I have so far read none of them which come any thing near to it, except that which appeared in *The Press*. I am satisfied that the loss of the rebels, in killed and wounded, could not have been less than four hundred. A few days ago, the citizens of Dranesville buried one hundred and sixty dead rebels upon the battle-field, and it is a fact well known by those who were present at the time, that a large number were carried off the ground, officers and others, immediately after they were shot down. Two of the wounded rebels died one on the road to, and the other in our division hospital, and there are two lying in the same institution, whose fate is still involved in uncertainty. To-day I took the trouble to count up the number of the wounded, given by a rebel paper, and found them to be one hundred and forty-nine. So that the estimate that there were four hundred of the rebels killed and wounded seems as near the truth as can well be attained.

There is also a prevailing error in reference to our artillery force. Some of the papers stated that Capt. Easton's battery consisted of ten twenty-four pounders, and two twelve-pound howitzers, and that they were assisted by a detachment of artillery from Col. Bayard's regiment. Now this is a very great mistake. Capt. Easton's battery consisted of four pieces, two twenty-four and two twelve-pounders, only three of which were brought into requisition, one having been placed in a different position to prevent the rebels from outflanking us. There was no detachment of artillery from Col. Bayard's regiment, or any other, in the engagement at all. Easton's battery was the only one in the action; therefore to him and the brave men under him, must be given the credit of this victory, so far as the artillery is concerned. Capt. Easton, it will be admitted, conducted himself throughout with the utmost coolness and bravery. He came so suddenly and unexpectedly upon the rebels that, before he had time to open upon them, they had three or four shots at him with shell and canister. He then opened upon them, and it was not long until he completely silenced their guns and scattered them in the utmost confusion. The firing from his battery was said by experienced officers on the ground to have been the most rapid and effective they ever saw. He remained all the time with his men, conducting their movements, and holding himself apparently as unconcerned in the face of the rebel fire as though he were seated in his tent, surrounded by his fellow-officers and companions.

Our force consisted of General Ord's brigade, Easton's battery of four pieces, the Bucktails, and a detachment from the First Pennsylvania Cavalry. No more than two thousand of our men were at any time engaged, and the rebels, it is well known, had a far superior force. General Ord, the commanding officer, is entitled to the greatest credit for the fearless and manly manner in which he conducted the engagement and the cool bravery he exhibited in the front of a superior rebel force. The latter had secreted themselves in a thick wood and entrenched themselves in houses, and, of course, thus disposed, had a fearful advantage over our men. But they soon fled before our undaunted soldiers, some of whom followed them nearly a mile, and would have followed them further had they not been recalled by the well-known sound of our bugle.

Everything is quiet again this side of the Potomac, but how long it will remain so, of course, we cannot tell. Our army is calm and collected, but by no means exultant over the Dranesville victory. It is not our province to triumph over a fallen foe. We have but one grand object in this war, and that is the restoration and reconstruction of the Union, and the protection and preservation of the Constitution of our fathers: That once accomplished, and our swords will be turned into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks," and we will gladly return again to our homes, our cause being vindicated and our purpose gained. G. W. McE.

### Affairs in Savannah, Ga.

The Frankfort, Ky., correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times* says:

Mr. Nelson R. A. Biddle, a highly intelligent merchant of Philadelphia, who married his wife in Savannah, Ga., and who left there on the 24 inst., has just arrived here, by way of Nashville, Bowling Green, and Louisville. I have had a long conversation with him, and, as he accurately observed the places through which he passed, his information is of a decidedly interesting character.

Mr. Biddle had great difficulty in getting out of Savannah, having labored faithfully, but in vain, to do so for several months, until he met Roger A. Pryor, formerly his college companion, who, after much exertion, succeeded in obtaining a pass for his Northern friend.

Mr. Biddle describes the alarm and panic at Savannah, after the Federal attack on Port Royal, as most extraordinary. Fear seized every one, and all the citizens fled from the place. The city has no protection or defences whatever, all the guns and ammunition and cannon having been sent to Virginia. There were no soldiers there but one regiment, which was encamped near the town, temporarily, on its way to Virginia.

During the residence of my informant in Savannah there were two or three drafts for soldiers, and he was compelled to furnish two substitutes for the rebel army, one of whom, an ex-lumber merchant of Maine, was the most violent Secessionist in the place.

### Exhausted Strength of the South.

The South, he believes, has all the force in the field that it can possibly raise; having made the most determined and persistent efforts to furnish men and money for the cause. The people have been most severely taxed, and those all the supposed Union sentiments or proclivities have been forced to contribute enormous sums. Many of the merchants and professional men have been actually impoverished by the exactions of the "Confederacy."

### A Strong Southern Unionist.

The strongest and boldest Union man is Hon. John E. Ward, formerly our minister to China, and he is dreadfully persecuted by the rebels, who have sent him at least twenty times while attempting to escape, robbed him of his entire property, and some $400,000, and threatened several times to hang him.

Mr. Ward says they can kill him, if they like; but that he will never surrender his allegiance to the Federal Government, or cease to detest and denounce the miserable aborticn of a Government the South has created. He is very anxious to go North, but is so closely watched that he cannot escape. Mr. Biddle thinks it not at all improbable that Mr. Ward will be assassinated in Savannah, unless he succeeds in getting out of the State.

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### The Union Feeling.

Many of these ultra and hostile opinions, however, Mr. B. believes, are expressed to disguise the real sentiments of those who utter them, and he says he has known men, publicly the most superlative fire-eaters, to state privately their strong attachment to the Union, and their secret hope that our arms would soon be successful. He thinks that even in Savannah the presence of the Federal army would be hailed with joy by a majority of the people.

### Secession Falsehoods.

Mr. Biddle says that the most astounding falsehoods are daily circulated and believed throughout the South, and that he himself had no doubt, at one time, that Lincoln had been hanged. Such stories as the taking of Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, are very common, and the Savannah newspapers publish accounts of false victories won by the rebels five or six times every week.

As this letter is already sufficiently lengthy, I will defer the transmission of some local intelligence until I write again. JUNIUS.

A. W. H.

HIRE OF NEGROES.—The Newbern *Progress* states that it has heard that slave laborers have been hired for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad for the ensuing year at $50 each. We have heard nothing of it. We find there is a general expectation that there will be some reduction in the hire of negroes for next year from the former high prices, but we were not prepared to expect so great a reduction as that. The utter prostration of the turpentine business, and the poor prospect before cotton planters, should the war last, must greatly reduce the value of negroes.—*Raleigh Register.*

SULPHUR.—Alabama is a perfect mountain of mineral wealth, and future wants and developments will turn out what is now considered too poor to invite capital, a perfect Eden full of fruits and flowers, and mineral springs, and healthy society. An immense bed of sulphuret of iron and clay, fourteen feet thick, exists at Boudon, Talladega county. The works turn out from three to four hundred weight of sulphur daily. This war has one good effect that the South may well feel proud of—the development of our capacity to be independent of the North, which many, who were too fond of their ease and indolent habits, could not or would not believe.—*Tuscumbia (Ala.) Constitution.*

## THE REBELLION.

### THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

GENERAL HUMPHREY MARSHALL FORTIFYING PRESTONSBURG.

A FEDERAL FORCE SENT TO DISLODGE HIM.

LATEST FROM SOMERSET.

INTERESTING SOUTHERN NEWS.

Condition of Things in Savannah.

### MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

RUMORS ABOUT MASON AND SLIDELL.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

A Federal Water-boat Captured by the Rebels.

240 UNION PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED BY THE REBELS.

A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE REBELLION.

&c., &c., &c.

### THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

**A Skirmish in Adair County—Humphrey Marshall Fortifying Prestonburg.**

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 30.—The *Journal* of this city publishes a letter from Columbia, giving an account of a slight skirmish in Adair county, in which the rebels lost five killed. The Federals suffered no loss.

Humphrey Marshall, at the head of 6,500 troops, is fortifying Prestonburg, and is expected soon to march towards Maysville.

General Buell has ordered a brigade, under command of Colonel Garfield, to move forward to oppose Marshall's progress, and a battle may be expected very shortly if Marshall attempts to carry out his plans.

Writs of attachment were filed in the Louisville Chancery Court on Saturday, under the law subjecting to such process the property of rebels who remain in the so-called Southern Confederacy thirty days after its passage, against Gen. Buckner, ex-Minister Preston, and Edward Crutchfield. Their property amounts to $20,000 each. Writs were also issued against several other parties for smaller amounts.

### From Somerset.

We have intelligence from Somerset as late as the morning of the 24th. Matters were all quiet in that vicinity. Gen. Schoepff has not left his encampments in that vicinity, and Zollicoffer is encamped at a distance of ten miles from the town. We hear nothing as to Gen. Thomas' position, and are unadvised whether he is still at Danville or not.

### The Right of the Invaders.

The Louisville *Journal* says:

We have before us an overlooked letter, which describes the effects of the invasion of Southern Kentucky by Zollicoffer, as soon as our troops succeeded upon him after the Wildcat affair. Zollicoffer then retreated, and did not stop until he had put full fifty long miles between himself and the "bushwhackers." But he went as a blighting curse, and left the country behind him a howling wilderness, fit only for the habitation of wild beasts and birds of prey. Wherever he went terror and desolation marked his footsteps. Ruined dwellings and deserted families were everywhere seen. He slaughtered the cattle, and shot the milch cows in their tracks, without even the poor excuse of military necessity, for he cut not a steak or a rib from scores that were seen lying by the roadside, food for carrion crows and buzzards. This was the payment awarded to Kentucky for her neutrality. Her wife and helpless citizens slaughtered—their little property destroyed, and their wives and children sent abroad to beg their bread, without a house to shelter, or a father to protect and educate their youthful minds. As the Federal forces advanced from Wildcat further into the mountain country, the affrighted inhabitants returned to their homes, skulking from behind the woods and looking as they looked, their utter ruin and desolation. Such a sight was never seen before, and may a merciful Providence avert a second infliction from our State.

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

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### Interesting News from Richmond.

From a gentleman who has just returned from Richmond we learn the following interesting facts: Jeff Davis wears an entire suit of Georgia homespun, of dark gray. In conversation he stated that the blockade had somewhat inconvenienced them, but England would soon raise it. Lincoln could not surrender Mason and Slidell, and their situation would lead to war. He expressed confidence that the rebels would defeat the Union troops in a fair field, and that it was impossible for them to be conquered. Many members of Congress declared that, rather than come again into the Union, the South would become a province of England. Great dissatisfaction was expressed in high quarters at the refusal of Secretary Seward to grant passes to Southerners at the North to return home to rejoin their families, and it was thought the flag of truce between Norfolk and Fortress Monroe would soon be used for that purpose. Such privilege was granted. Some members of Congress were urging Davis to consent to no more exchanges of prisoners, unless we should consider fugitive slaves as prisoners of war and exchange them. A list of prisoners to be returned in exchange for the two hundred and fifty lately sent by us was preparing, on which the three months men would have preference. Among those on the list were Capt. Bowers and Lieut. Knights of Rhode Island. Our prisoners are suffering, and many have died for lack of medicine and care. Not an ounce of quinine can be found in Richmond, and but little medicine of any kind.

Information has been received that General Evans has been relieved from command at Leesburg, and General Hill, of South Carolina, put in his place. An order has also been issued to enroll all males in Virginia from thirty to forty-five years old, to be held as a reserve, in case of emergency.

All the sick and wounded taken at the battle of Ball's Bluff, and who have been at Leesburg, have been removed to Richmond.

### From New Orleans.

A special despatch to the Chicago *Tribune*, dated Cairo, December 26, 1861, says: Two gentlemen arrived here to-day from New Orleans. One of them says he passed a great many troops at Grand Junction, on their way to New Orleans. He says that the militia at New Orleans are without arms, but they are smuggling a great many small arms from Havana. Some of Butler's troops are reported to have landed at Mississippi City, about sixty miles from New Orleans. It made a great scare among them. He says the only currency they have is omnibus tickets and Confederate scrip! There are thirty rifled cannon on the entrenchments two miles south of the city, and a floating battery of twenty guns in front of the city. The floating battery at Columbus had 20 guns, 18 of which are nine-inch, and the two end guns are ten-inch rifled columbiads. One of the party was driven out by a mob on last Saturday for saying he thought the stars and stripes would float over New Orleans in sixty days. He has been confined for three days at Columbus, and during that time 5,000 troops had left for Bowling Green, and he heard several times that the forty prisoners, taken at the skirmish at Green river, were shot, to avenge the death of Col. Terry. He says that Columbus is their great hope. One of the regiments at New Orleans, he says, carries the black flag, and they say they will neither give nor take quarter. He says if ever the stars and stripes float over New Orleans again they never will be lowered. It is a complete reign of terror. The name of my informant is Joseph B. Hubbard, formerly of Cincinnati.

### MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

**Mason and Slidell to be Sent in the steamer Niagara.**

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—By instructions from Lord Lyons, the steamer *Niagara* will sail direct for Liverpool to-morrow, taking out Messrs. Mason and Slidell.

The steamer *Persia*, now in the St. Lawrence, will come to Boston and take the place of the *Niagara* for her regular day of sailing.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—It is by no means certain that the steamer *Niagara* will leave to-morrow with Mason and Slidell. The agents of the Cunard Steamship Company deny having any orders to that effect.

The *Niagara* coaled to-day to make room at the dock for the steamer *Persia*, but it is not certain that she will leave before her regular sailing day.

### From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 29.—As the steamboat *Express*, which runs between Old Point and Newport News, was leaving the latter place this morning, a rebel tug-boat was seen off Sewell's Point. She displayed a Commodore's blue pennant, which was mistaken at first for a flag of truce; but on the *Express* arriving within range, she fired a shot across her bow, followed by several shells.

The greatest consternation prevailed for a short time on board the *Express*, which is unarmed, and the schooner *Sherwood*, employed to bring water from Newport News, which was at the time in tow, was cut adrift.

The *Sherwood* was immediately deserted by her crew, consisting of four men, who escaped by a small boat to Newport News, and, the *Sherwood* drifting down with the tide, was taken possession of by the rebel tug, and towed to Craney Island. Her captain stuck to her, and was taken prisoner.

The tug subsequently made her appearance for a second time, but the *Express* had crowded all her steam on, and had reported the circumstance to the flag ship. After a long delay, about half a dozen gunboats started, and, steaming towards the scene, threw a few shells into the batteries at Sewell's Point and Pig Point, without producing any effect, as far as is known.

Had it not been for the inexcusable delay in our gunboats getting to the spot the rebel tug might have been intercepted, and the schooner saved. The latter had been lined with zinc and fitted out with a valuable force-pump, for a water boat. The loss is estimated at $2,000. She belonged to Assistant Quartermaster Noyes.

The brig *Empire*, Crosby, which sailed yesterday for Port-Royal, to open a trade with a cargo of fresh provisions, &c., took out a balloon and chemicals, and an apparatus for inflating it, consigned to Gen. Sherman, under the direction of Professor Starkweather, of the Aeronautic Department, who will make ascensions in the vicinity of Beaufort.

The United States steam-frigate *Brooklyn* has arrived from the Philadelphia navy yard.

A flag of truce was sent down this afternoon, but we hear no news.

A note from General Huger to General Wool announces that he is ready to send two hundred and forty prisoners of war down the James river, from Richmond, by a flag of truce, whenever they will be received. Gen. Wool will send a flag of truce to meet them on Thursday or Friday next. No list of those to be released has as yet been received.

### From Gen. Banks' Column.

FREDERICK, Md., Dec. 28.—Everything is reported quiet along the river line and in camp this morning.

Notwithstanding the great uncertainty of continuing on this spot for an extended time, all the regiments are employed in erecting log huts and stables for the comfort of man and beast. Some of the structures are the result of great labor, and even of artistic architectural skill, and will probably remain for years as specimens of Yankee ingenuity and taste.

The provost marshal has instituted, for the benefit of incorrigible persons, the chain-gang system upon the streets. It is amusing to see their awkward attempts at street-sweeping. The real benefit of this kind of punishment is doubted by some, but it certainly is a great improvement on flogging and the pillory.

The general court-martial is still engaged upon desertion, and the trial of others will commence on Monday.

### General Scott's Return.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says: General Scott's sudden return was, as has been intimated, at the suggestion of the Emperor Napoleon, who, in an interview with the old soldier, which ought to be historical, apprised him that he had seen and approved Earl Russell's despatch; that France was with England in this matter, but that France, the friend of the United States, desired a peaceable adjustment of the question between the two countries; desired it so much that he, in the name of France, urged General Scott, if he loved his country, to hasten to the Cabinet at Washington, and urge the Government to comply with the demands of England. It is doubtful now whether General Scott will come to Washington at all. He writes that the difficulty with his spine is no better, but that his dropsy and lumbago are much relieved.

### Union Prisoners in the South.

The day before Mr. Ely left Richmond he saw Brig Gen. Winder, commander of the forces in Henrico county, including the city of Richmond who informed him that he already given the receipts for thirteen cases of the clothing sent by our Government to the prisoners, and that the remainder of the 2,000 suits would reach Richmond in a few days. Mr. Ely thinks that this clothing, which is sorely needed by the private soldiers, will be promptly sent to the various prisoners.

Letters received by Mr. Ely from prisoners sent to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, indicate that they are quite comfortable. None of the prisoners at Richmond, Charleston, or Tuscaloosa, suffered much from the heat during the summer.

### Exchange of Prisoners.

In consequence of the hesitation exhibited by the Federal Administration to sanction a formal exchange of prisoners, lest, by so doing, they should thereby embarrass their position and action in crushing the rebellion, a committee was recently appointed by the Massachusetts Historical Society to inquire into and report to what extent an exchange of prisoners was effected during the American Revolution, and especially to ascertain and report if, by such exchanges, the rights of sovereignty claimed by the Crown were supposed in England to have been in any way impaired or set aside. From the report of the committee it appeared that, from the battle of Lexington to the close of the Revolutionary War, exchanges of prisoners constantly took place, and often in considerable numbers, although the British Government steadily and cautiously avoided recognizing the independence of the Colonies, or making any political admissions whatever. They permitted exchanges, under rules of war, for purposes of military convenience, and in relief of the sufferings of their own officers and privates in captivity.

TEXAS ITEMS.—We have Galveston papers to the 9th inst. The *Civilian* of that date has the following:

We are left alone in our glory! Our contemporary of the *News* has sought the delightful shades of Houston, where his paper is to be published. Yielding to the apprehension of the people generally, and believing it a duty, under the circumstances, to place that portion of our material which we do not need beyond the reach of danger, we shall send a considerable quantity to the up-country, retaining only enough to keep our business in operation on a war basis.

Had it not been for the inexcusable delay in our gunboats getting to the spot the rebel tug might have been intercepted, and the schooner saved. The latter had been lined with zinc and fitted out with a valuable force-pump, for a water boat. The loss is estimated at $2,000. She belonged to Assistant Quartermaster Noyes.

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