The Press.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1862.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

THE WAR.

MAJOR GENERAL BANKS landed with a large portion of his army at New Orleans about ten days ago. He at once assumed command of the Department of the Gulf. He immediately prepared an expedition, under General Grover, for the occupation of Baton Rouge. This movement was very successful, and our troops in the vicinity of the capital of Louisiana are moving out in every direction to gather in the cotton crop, which the planters are anxious to dispose of at good prices. Already a second expedition has been heard from, successfully operating upon the east bank of the Mississippi. It is that under command of Major General Christopher Columbus Augur, who is now in command at Port Hudson, over one hundred miles above New Orleans. General Michael Corcoran, with his Irish Legion, has gone off in another direction, and General Weitzell will not be left idle long at Bayou Lafourche. Admiral Farragut is reported to be ascending the Mississippi, and is now opposite Vicksburg, probably intending to co-operate with Commodore Porter in the reduction of that important rebel stronghold. General Banks has commenced his work with a display of wonderful energy and great executive ability, and we opine that his rapid strides will soon secure to us the States of Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, with all their cattle, crops, and slaves, knocking away three great supporting columns of the rebellion.

A body of Stuart's cavalry, under Brigadier General Fitz Hugh Lee, bivouacked at Burk's Station, about twenty miles south of Washington, on Sunday night, after having seized the United States telegraph at that point, and received and answered several despatches from Washington and the headquarters of General Burnside's Army. They captured a small train of Federal wagons and some prisoners. During yesterday they were at Vienna and Dranesville, almost in sight of Washington, and last night, no doubt, reached Leesburg. Whether they will now move over into Maryland, or return to Fredericksburg, remains to be seen. It is probable that the body of horse is small, and will evade capture, getting back safely to General Lee's headquarters with important information, if nothing else.

Napoleon in America.

NAPOLEON's designs upon or against Mexico are gradually becoming more and more apparent. Contracts have been made with responsible persons in Europe to supply the French army in Mexico with provisions and other necessaries during the next *two* years—which shows that the expedition is intended to occupy the country for that time at least. It has transpired, also, that ALMONTE, the Mexican general and statesman (Minister of War under President BUSTAMENTE, and subsequently ambassador at Washington and London), succeeded in hoodwinking NAPOLEON, which is about the ablest thing he has ever done. ALMONTE was exiled from Mexico, for his ambition and intrigues, and turned up at Paris, where he succeeded in persuading NAPOLEON that Mexico was ripe for revolution, tired of republicanism, anxious for a monarchical ruler, and willing to receive, as Emperor or King, any prince presented by France. He suggested the Grand-Duke MAXIMILIAN, brother of the Emperor of Austria. This idea, taken hold of by NAPOLEON, was presented to MAXIMILIAN, who, with his Imperial brother's consent, expressed his willingness to accept the crown of Mexico if tendered to him by the nation. There can be little doubt that the premature discovery of this scheme was the proximate, though not the ostensible cause of the breaking-up of the tripartite treaty (between France, Spain, and England) against Mexico. The British fleet and the Spanish troops retired, very suddenly, leaving NAPOLEON "alone in his glory," and saddled with a heavier war than he had expected, as the Mexicans, long distracted by party feuds, patriotically laid them aside when they saw the independence of their native land threatened by the French invasion. NAPOLEON is not the man to be baffled in this manner. Hence, the despatch of large naval and military reinforcements, by whose aid he expects soon to occupy the capital of Mexico. His generals, so far, have been bravely opposed by the Mexican forces, and his achievement is not quite so facile as he anticipated. His soldiers, suffering much from the want of fresh meat and vegetables, are reduced to subsist on such provisions as are generally used on board ship. To expect that he will retire, without accomplishing some great success, is an idea entertained by few. NAPOLEON cannot afford to fail in anything, just now, after having been foiled, mainly by the straightforward policy of the Czar, in his recent attempt to draw Russia and England into an *imbroglio* with the United States.

Why should NAPOLEON have entered into this raid upon Mexico? The indebtedness of that country to France was comparatively small; it was much larger to Spain; very large to England. NAPOLEON's policy is to win for France that "bubble Reputation," which constituted her inspiration under his renowned uncle, and which seems as the breath of life to Frenchmen. In this, without caring for the integrity of the Turkish Empire, he successfully manœuvred to obtain the co-operation of England, Prussia, and Austria, against the late Emperor of Russia. England was deceived into this alliance, which culminated in the Crimean war. Prussia remained neutral, for family reasons, seeing that the Czarina of that day was a Princess of the House of Brandenberg. Austria limited herself to the military occupation of Wallachia and Moldavia, Turkish provinces which the Czar had suddenly seized and as suddenly abandoned. The Czar was opposed, in the war, by the united military and naval forces of England and France, with a small contingent from VICTOR EMMANUEL. In the contest, which was of unexampled severity, France claimed to have won the greater amount of glory, and retired, at NAPOLEON's will, when *this* consummation had been achieved, giving such favorable terms of peace to Russia as to place the present Czar under personal as well as political obligation to one whom he had every reason to consider, by that forbearance, a chivalric and generous foe. Turkey remained pretty much as before the war. England won small honor at vast cost. VICTOR EMMANUEL may be said to have then obtained brevet rank among European Sovereigns, and, in a few years, obtained substantial elevation as King of Italy. The *amour propre* of France was gratified by the honors won by her brave soldiers, and the world saw, beyond all question, that NAPOLEON—who had been variously sneered at as a *parvenu*, a charlatan, a dreamer of dreams, a book-worm, a *roue*, and an amateur soldier-statesman—really had the mind to conceive and the will to execute great designs. The Crimean war gave him remarkable *prestige*, and the superior organization of his army suggested to England the necessity of reformation in her own military system. Still, NAPOLEON had hitherto fought only by his generals. He had to establish a military reputation, personally. He did so, with a show of infinite generosity, in the Italian war which he was the means of creating. In the great battles which took place, he commanded in person, with the gallantry of a Paladin and the scientific skill of a great master of the art of war. His coolness and courage were apparent in every instance, when opposing the enemy. After winning the battle of Solferino, he again resisted the temptation of crushing the foe, and gave the Emperor of Austria better terms of peace than he had any right to expect. Again, NAPOLEON gave France the glory which she loves so well—for which she has paid so dearly in the present century. More recently, NAPOLEON divided the laurels with England, in the war with China, and secured a footing, by conquest, in Cochin-China. The raid upon Mexico is his latest essay in arms. In this attainment of glory is scarcely an object. A more solid result is unquestionably aimed at. NAPOLEON, ever since he obtained direction of public affairs in France, as President as well as Emperor, has steadily aimed at obtaining a territorial occupation and ownership on the Pacific. It has been declared, over and over again, that, despite of the Monroe doctrine, he desires to possess the province of Sonora, rich in mineral wealth, and in dangerous contiguity to our own New Mexico and golden California. This is what *we* cannot permit; but he probably has calculated that, clogged as we must be with a civil war, it is what we cannot prevent. It is probable that, should he subdue Mexico, he will insist on being fully repaid the expenses of the war, and insist on receiving Sonora as an equivalent, instead of valueless drafts upon the exhausted treasury of the Mexican Republic. These contingencies make us deeply interested in the condition of Mexico, as invaded by NAPOLEON. He who insisted on Savoy being annexed to France, in return for military service rendered to VICTOR EMMANUEL in the war of 1859, can scarcely be expected to have the shadow of a scruple in taking possession of Sonora upon any, or even upon no just, pretence. Talented and bold, astute and unscrupulous, NAPOLEON has reduced his ambition to a system, which he works by fixed rules, unswayed by impulse and unchecked by conscience.

English Politics.

Lord PALMERSTON, who has been nearly half a century in high office, has a great deal of common sense, and evidently feels that, as prime Minister, he stands upon dangerous ground just now. He is setting his house in order, and has been holding cabinet councils with his colleagues, to determine and arrange what shall be done to remain in power. When he resumed office, in 1859, it was on a solemn and public pledge that the Reform Bill of 1832 should be amended and extended, so as to give the right of voting at Parliamentary elections to millions of taxpayers who are now unrepresented. Creature and champion of the Aristocracy, his whole public course has been to give as little power as possible to the People. Over three years have passed without his making even a pretence of doing anything for *them*, and he has hitherto affected to daspise the complaints of RICHARD CORDEN and JOHN BRIGHT about his breach of faith. A new idea, however, has gradually pervaded the British public—the idea that the National expenditure is too great, and the National taxation too heavy; and, in the coming Parliamentary campaign, the reduction of both will be demanded and striven for with a force and an unity too powerful to be long resisted.

It is intended, the London press says, that, making a virtue of necessity, the Ministry shall reduce the annual expenditure by two millions sterling, equivalent to $10,000,000. This, however, will not satisfy the public. A new auxiliary, whose powerful aid will gladly be accepted by CORDEN and BRIGHT, the popular leaders, is Mr. DISRAELI, who, to do him justice, complained, even when Financial Minister, that the national establishments were all too costly. Last session he declared that five millions sterling might be saved. The *Morning Star*, which is the Corden-Bright mouthpiece, says "Mr. DISRAELI has distinctly shown that five millions may be saved to the country by retrenchments which will in no degree affect the safety, the honor, or the power of Great Britain. He has put his finger upon the excesses in the army, ordnance, and navy departments, by which our peace estimates have been swollen to a magnitude hitherto reached only in time of European war. He has virtually pledged his reputation as a statesman, and his influence as a party chieftain, to the instant abatement of those excesses without in the least impairing the efficiency of the services. He is thus committed to a proposal which the country is not likely to forget, and which political rivals cannot afford to disregard." If DISRAELI will heartily co-operate with the popular Retrenchment party, he may, ere long, sit as a Cabinet Minister with CORDEN, BRIGHT, and other reformers. It is evident that, in the last session, the confidence of the Tory party in him was so far weakened as at times to reach the point of insubordination—he still being nominal leader of the Tories in the House of Commons.

Davis Defended.

The New York *World* is engaged in the congenial duty of defending the blood-thirsty proclamation of Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS, and thinks that, all things considered, General BUTLER has done many things to injure the feelings of that high-minded traitor. "Mr. DAVIS," says the *World*, "has good ground for complaining of Gen. BUTLER's high-handed proceedings in New Orleans, and of the confiscation and emancipation measures of the Administration. He would be wanting in ordinary political sagacity if he did not make the most of these advantages to deepen the hostility to the Union which exists in Europe." From the animosity manifested by the *World* to Gen. BUTLER, we suppose the next step will be to recommend his surrender, by Gen. HALLECK, as an expiation for the lamented Mr. MUMFORD.

General Butler.

The New York *Herald* justly compliments General BUTLER's administration of affairs in New Orleans, when it says that "all things considered, we doubt not that the future historian of this gigantic rebellion will set down General BUTLER's civil and military government over New Orleans as wonderfully efficient, comprehensive, and successful, though somewhat marked by occasional harsh extremities of an absolute military power."

William Cornell Jewett.

This eccentric ambassador and independent minister plenipotentiary to all the courts of Europe, who has written letters to JOHN BRIGHT and LOUIS NAPOLEON, and who has prevailed upon Mr. GREELEY to elaborate his scheme to the extent of a column in the *Tribune*, passed through this city last evening to Washington to confer with Congress and the Cabinet. Mr. JEWETT is sanguine of his ability to settle the affairs of the country in a brief and satisfactory manner. Before leaving the city Mr. JEWETT sent Mr. LINCOLN the following thrilling despatch:

CONTINNNTAL HOTEL, Dec. 29, 1862.

To President Lincoln and the Cabinet of the United States, Washington:

The God of justice—all humanity of nations—the flowing blood and army of the Republic—national prosperity—Southern constitutional right—conservative sentiment of the people in late Democratic victories—the desire of France for a cessation of hostilities—with calm deliberation—demand a war power—suspended "slave proclamation"—action—with favor to an international just tribunal—editorially advocated by "Greeley." Commissioners from Government and States, North and South—dispatched to Europe—in a U. S. vessel—to arrange the "Garibaldi" ,Congress of Nations—slavery—with other—minor—settled—subject—to the ratification of a convention—as also the "Papacy" question—the one as indispensable to the peace of America—as the other—is to the peace of France—thus French mediation—policy—perpetuate American institutions—securing him the throne of Napoleon—God give you wisdom to heed this the voice of the American people and Europe. WM. CORNELL JEWETT.

STUART'S PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON.—Mr. T. B. Pugh, S. W. corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets, has now on view a specimen proof of the new engraving of Gilbert Stuart's well-known portrait of Washington, painted in 1796, retained by the artist while he lived, and now in the Boston Athenæum. The new engraving, in the line manner, is by Mr. William E. Marshall, a young American of whom the world is bound to hear a great deal ere long. It is said to be the largest head ever cut in line, in this country, and is admitted by all who have seen the engraving and the original portrait to be a perfect transfusion on paper, by the burin, of what the painter successfully represented by the pencil. Mr. Marshall has been over two years engaged on this engraving. It will be published by Ticknor & Fields, of Boston, and Mr. T. B. Pugh is their appointed agent to receive subscriptions. No *prints* will be taken from the plate, and the price, which is half of the European price for engravings of inferior merit and interest, will be $10 for *proofs*, and $20 for *artist's proofs*. Mr. Pugh will receive subscribers' names, show the specimen, and supply the engravings:—on this head, his advertisement in to-day's *Press* gives full information. Our own opinion of the engraving is that a more perfect work of art has not been produced, we will not say here, but any where, within living memory. It is a gem, in its way.

GIRARD HOUSE.—This establishment was reopened yesterday, and already has numerous inmates. The whole house has been renovated, refurnished, and, in some instances, the floors have been relaid. In the gentlemen's parlor we noticed two fine paintings by Mr. Fowler, the artist, now one of the proprietors and managers of the hotel. Mr. Charles Duffy presides over "the office." The price of board is as formerly—$2 a day, we believe.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1862.

If the loyal Democrats of the United States could have anticipated the treachery of the Southern Democratic leaders, and the dire horrors of the Rebellion itself, they would never have tamely consented to the efforts of the slaveholders for the disruption of the Union. Never doubting that it was the object of the Southern Democratic leaders to rush the country into civil war, I took an early occasion to say so; and, from the year 1858 to 1861, continued to write upon it in this correspondence. It is some satisfaction that many were impressed by this reasoning, and convinced by its subsequent confirmation. Others, however, would not listen to what they regarded as merely partisan prophecy. They adhered to the shameful policy of Buchanan, and supported the proscription of honest Democrats by the slaveholders with uninquiring zeal and obstinacy. Even as new events proved the justice of the calculation that the efforts of the Southern Democratic leaders were intended to divide and destroy the Republic by means of an unparalleled civil war—even after the Baltimore Railroad leading to the capital was cut, the life of the President threatened, and the patriotic blood of the heroes of Massachusetts had been shed in the streets of Baltimore—certain of the Democratic chiefs not only refused to regard the Rebellion as worthy of condemnation and unceasing opposition, but busied themselves in intrigues to show that they were really in sympathy with it. I repeat, that if the masses of the Democratic party could have foreseen these calamities, very few would have followed the men who have inflicted them upon our country. But dark and bloody as this record is, a darker and bloodier one will be written in the pages of our future history, unless patriotic Americans move in concert to anticipate and check them. Is it not clear to every intelligent mind that the influences that encouraged Secession by aiming to destroy the Democratic party, and by persistent acts of sympathy with the Rebellion, are now at work to plunge the great cities of the free States into anarchy and revolution? Their plots in Philadelphia and New York are sad and conclusive proofs of this purpose. Defiance of law, contempt for the decision of the ballot-box, open repudiation of allegiance to the Government, opposition to the draft and to taxation, threats against the lives and property of the constitutional advisers of the President, and an open declaration that the Chief Magistrate must be deposed, are but footsteps that mark the onward march of a movement that may, before we are many months older, overwhelm the liberties and the interests of our countrymen. Let them not believe that these things are impossible. In the dreadful past we may read the thick and fast-coming future. A brave and united people can, however, defeat this baleful plot. No time is to be lost—not an hour or a day. Thousands of Democrats will sever their connection with the authors of this plot the moment they see that it is probable; and men of other opinions will seek safety and refuge from the untold horrors of a state of anarchy by exposing and trampling under foot this last and most menacing scheme of the enemies of the Republic. OCCASIONAL.

NEW YORK CITY.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1862.

THE CAPTURE OF THE "ARIEL,"

by the British-Confederate pirate "Alabama," was the great sensation of yesterday, and creates no small stir in mercantile and other circles to-day. The perfect ease with which the pirate made her capture shows just how much reliance is to be placed in the idea of "fully arming" merchant and mail vessels. The armament of the "Ariel" only served the purpose of so much more booty for the rebel thieves, whilst the failure of the steamer's captain and crew to make the least use of it, (miserably inadequate as it was), for their own defence, gives the whole affair an aspect of mingled burlesque and pusillanimity. Truth to tell, this last exploit of the audacious Semmes is not far from being entirely farcical, for everybody except the unfortunate express company, who lost their eight thousand dollars The pirate's English lieutenant was dined and wined by the cabin passengers whom he was blandly robbing; said passengers "beg leave" to acknowledge the "courtesy" with which they were treated by the freebooters, and the bond of ransom given for the captured steamer is to be cashed so many days "after the acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy." Notwithstanding Jeff Davis' blood and thunder, this is certainly, as old *Punch* says, a "very 'civil' war." Commodore Vanderbilt, who owns the Ariel, does not appear to be greatly surprised at what has happened, and believes that the Alabama will make other captures of the same kind, if Government does not furnish a swift-sailing war vessel to convoy the California steamers part of the way on their trips. This afternoon the Ariel lies in the stream opposite her wharf, and is an object of curious scrutiny to passengers on the ferry boats and innumerable aquatic amateurs in sail and row boats. She shows no traces of the shot said to have been fired at her by Semmes.

THE "RETALIATORY" PROCLAMATION

of Jeff Davis is duly considered by our newspaper editors to-day. The Democratic prints handle it with an affectation of virtuous horror, whilst insidiously insinuating that it proves the war to have reached a depth of barbarism rendering it highly improper that it should be prosecuted any further, and making it incumbent upon the President to withhold his emancipation proclamation. The loyal journals see in it nothing more than a crazy outburst against a Union commander, at the very time when the latter was removed beyond the reach of any possible effects from it. It is equally terrific with "Little Mac's" memorable concentration of artillery and infantry to capture the rebel force, which had quietly marched away from Munson's Hill just before.

BEECHER'S SERMON,

at Plymouth Church yesterday morning, was what might have been expected from the famous apostle of Emancipation on the Sunday before the appointed First Galatian v. 13, furnished the text, from which the Reverend gentleman assumed liberty to be a God-given right which no man could take from another without committing an unpardonable crime, sure to bring terrible punishment. After a stirring preamble of this tenor, Mr. Beecher plunged at once into his sermon by a somewhat lively allusion to the newspapers charging him with preaching more politics than gospel. "He of the *Herald*, and they of the *Journal of Commerce*, must lie awake nights groaning in agony of spirit and praying that I may be led to preach the Gospel. So, now and here, I am going to begin, if I never did before; and I begin by proclaiming to you Chinese, to you Frenchmen, to you Japanese, to you Austrians, to you Spaniards, to you Russian serfs, to you inhabitants of the isles and frozen regions of the North, to you Englishmen, to you across the great sea, to you across the length and breadth of the American continent, Indians, Creoles, whites and blacks, freemen or slaves—you are called unto Liberty!" An irrepressible outburst of applause, in which the whole congregation joined, followed this characteristic climax. In extenuation of a practice which may be deemed flagrantly out of keeping with the solemn sanctity of a house of God, it may be said that this celebrated preacher's style of oratory has such a peculiarly exciting effect upon an assemblage, that it is not in human nature to refrain from some sort of response to it. It is Beecher's way, to work up a climax with a rapidity and fire of expression fairly outrunning all deliberate thought, and then to cap it suddenly and unexpectedly with some electrical sentiment that makes you forget all conventionalisms of time and place in the immediate impulse to respond by some demonstration of wrought-up feeling. The preacher himself loses all thought of where he is, in his impetuous fervor, and the most stolid auditor must be more or less excited from mere physical contagion.

WALL STREET, TO-DAY,

is considerably excited about the Ariel capture, and the marine insurance companies have advanced the war risk on California vessels to five per cent., an increase of two per cent. Those having an interest in the treasure which the captain of the Ariel very sensibly refused to bring from Aspinwall on his return trip, are comforted by the assurance just received from Washington, that the gunboat Connecticut will be despatched from Hampton Roads, on Thursday, to bring it. STUYVESANT.

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF BOOTS AND SHOES, GUM SHOES, CARPET BAGS, HATS AND WHIPS.—The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large assortment of boots, shoes, gum shoes, travelling bags, &c., &c., embracing about 700 packages of first-class seasonable goods, of city and Eastern manufacture, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, on four months' credit, commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

ENGLISH PICTORIALS.—From S. C. Upham, 403 Chestnut street, we have the *Illustrated London News* of December 13, and the *Illustrated News of the World* of the same date. Both contain numerous engravings, illustrating the history of the time.

THOMAS & SONS' SALES, THIS DAY.—Box lumber, laths, &c., at Haslam's wharf, Kensington.

STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE, at the Exchange. See advertisements, both sales.

—Brigadier General Manson has relieved General Granger of his command at Bowling Green. General Granger is ordered to report to Rosecrans, at Nashville.

—The Albany *Statesman* says that not only has Mr. Weed sold out the *Journal* to Mr. Van Dyck, but that Messrs. Dawson's and Seward's shares, also, being a majority of the whole, have been bargained to Charles A. Dana, Esq., formerly of the New York *Tribune*.

—Michelet's book on "Sorcery" has incurred the displeasure of the French Government, a second edition having been forbidden. Whereupon the author proposes to bring out an enlarged edition beyond the limits of French authority.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1862.

Presentation to Secretary and Mrs. Smith.

Hon. C. B. SMITH, Secretary of the Interior, was, on Saturday night, presented with a handsome service of silver, consisting of one urn, two goblets, teapot, bowl, and a large salver. The articles were most exquisitely chased and highly ornamented. On the salver we noticed the following inscription:

Testimonial of respect:
Presented to
HON. CALEB B. SMITH,
Secretary of the Interior,
December 27, 1862.

Mr. H. E. MINER, of the Pension Office, made the presentation speech on behalf of the donors, who were the employees of the Interior Department. Mr. SMITH received the gift in a few touching and appropriate remarks.

Subsequent to the presentation to Mr. SMITH, Mr. Commissioner FRENCH presented, on the part of the employees of the Capitol extension, a costly gold watch (inlaid with diamonds,) with gold chain attached, and a handsome diamond ring, to Mrs. SMITH, as a token of their esteem for that excellent lady, on account of her charitable and zealous labors in behalf of sick and wounded soldiers in hospital. The compliment to Mrs. SMITH was appropriately acknowledged by her husband in the course of his remarks.

The California Treasure to be Shipped in V. S. Vessels of War.

On the application of Senator LATHAM, of California, the Navy Department has ordered the armed steamer Connecticut to leave Hampton Roads on the 1st of January for Aspinwall, to bring to New York all the treasure at that place from the Pacific coast. Senator LATHAM hopes to get a regular armed convoy for the California steamers for Aspinwall. The subject is now under consideration.

The consignees of the treasure should immediately send authority to the Navy Department, so that the commander of the Connecticut may obtain the treasure at Aspinwall.

Suspension of the Mails to Nashville.

Postmaster General BLAIR has issued the following:

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Dec. 27.—The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company having refused to convey the mails between these cities, from and after the 1st proximo, for the compensation authorized by law, the service will be suspended on that and its branch routes from that date. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General."

To Persons Going South.

WAR DEPARTMENT, JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE, Dec. 29.—The following notice was issued from the War Department to-day:

Notice is hereby given, that the applications made by ladies and children to go to their families and friends in the South have, with very few exceptions, been granted; provided the requirements stated in the notice of the 24th ult., as to wearing apparel, &c., are complied with. As all applicants, excepting those advised to the contrary, are permitted to leave, the publication of a list of the names is unnecessary. Steamboat transportation and subsistence will be provided from the city of Washington to City Point, Va., on the James river. The day of departure is Wednesday, January 7th next, and it is desirable that all applicants reach this city at least one day previous to the day of leaving. The steamer will stop at Fortress Monroe, and applicants from Norfolk and vicinity will be received on board at that place, by complying with the requirements. The number of applicants are 331 women, 226 children, 10 servants, and 6 school-boys.

L. C. TURNER, Judge Advocate.

Admitted to Practice in the Supreme Court of the United States.

The following gentlemen were admitted as attorneys and counsellors in the Supreme Court, by that court, to-day: HORATIO E. NEWCOMB, of Indiana; EDWIN P. GREENE, of Ohio; Hon. W. H. WALLACE and JOHN P. COOK, of Washington Territory.

Arrest of Army Surgeons.

A Dr. PRUNK, assistant surgeon, 3d army corps, and Dr. H. S. HALL, *alias* HUNT, were committed to the Old Capitol Prison to-day, charged with prostituting their official position to obtain the discharge of soldiers.

Prisoners of War in the Old Capitol.

The following-named rebel soldiers were committed to the Old Capitol Prison to-day: Godfrey Gray, Co. E, 17th Virginia; Samuel Walker, Co. D, 15th South Carolina; Henry Wilson, 16th Virginia; John Weaver, 60th Georgia; and Philip Loneless. Loneless formerly belonged to the 2d Maryland (Federal) regiment, but deserted while on provost duty in Staunton, Virginia, and joined the rebels.

The Expected Executive Proclamation.

It is now clear to us, says the *Star*, that it is the President's purpose to issue the emancipation proclamation on Thursday next, the 1st proximo, or which so much has been said in advance by the newspapers.

Departure of Secretary Smith.

It is said that Hon. CALEB B. SMITH, late Secretary of the Interior, will leave the city in a day or two for his home in Indiana.

Cabinet Rumors.

The numerous news-mongers hereabouts who have nothing better to do are industriously circulating a report that General BUTLER, on his return from New Orleans, will be tendered the portfolio of the War Department. The report cannot be traced to any reliable source. The impression prevails that General BUTLER will have an important command in the field.

Secretary SMITH's successor has not yet been indicated by the President. The politicians appear to be more than usually indifferent as to who shall be the lucky man.

The Agent of the Associated Press Called to Account.

It is understood that the Secretary of War has demanded from the agent of the Associated Press in this city the name of the party who gave him an army order which was recently published.

The Porter Court Martial.

The examination of Col. Ruggles was continued. He was questioned in regard to his own personal feelings towards Gen. Porter, and also about the opinions expressed by Gen. Pope and his staff, before the 27th of August, upon the military and moral support they expected to have from Porter's services. As for himself, he said he was neither friendly nor unfriendly to Porter. Gen. Pope had told him that the army coming to their aid from the James river would be of little avail.

Brigadier General Griffin, of Morrell's division, attached to the Fifth corps of the Army of Virginia, under General Porter, was sworn. He gave the particulars of his arrival at Warrenton Junction, with his brigade, on the 27th of August, after a march of from eighteen to nineteen miles. He also spoke of the unfavorable condition of the night, the exhaustion of the troops, &c., which retarded his movements by the route he had pursued.

He was also examined minutely as to the part he had taken in the battles of the 28th and 30th of August. While testifying on this point, he referred to a conversation on the battle-field between Generals Porter and McDowell, which he had not overheard, but supposed it bore somewhat upon an order he received almost immediately afterward, to change his position in the line. In reply to the charge that Porter had criticised the management of Pope, and had otherwise displayed insubordination and lack of energy, he said he knew of no instance wherein General Porter had failed in his duty to his commander or his country.

The McDowell Court of Inquiry.

Nothing new was elicited from the cross-examination of General SIGEL to-day. His replies were mere repetitions of his previous testimony, or dry details, the significance of which may not fully appear until all the evidence shall have been obtained.

Our Relations with Europe.

The official information received by the steamer of this week from Europe refutes the idea of the probability of any disturbance of our relations with any of the European Powers.

Naval Orders.

Lieutenant Commander A. HOPKINS and Acting Paymaster F. E. INLAY have been ordered to the iron-clad Lehigh.

Medical Examiners Appointed.

The Commissioner of Pensions to-day made the following appointments of surgical and medical inspectors for the service of his bureau, viz:

Dr. Edward Dorsch, at Monroe, Mich.; Dr. J. P. Finley, at Lion, Iowa; Dr. Edward H. Grant, at Troy, Kansas; Dr. J. F. Newland, at Emporia, Kansas; Dr. John F. Daggett, at Lockport, Ill.

Horse Contracts Awarded.

On Saturday last Colonel RUCKER, chief quartermaster here, made the following contracts for horses under his last advertisement to that end:

Samuel H. Carpenter, Tyrone, N. Y.—200 cavalry horses at $113.30 each, and 200 artillery horses at $113.90 each.

J. L. Harsh & Co., Washington, D. C.—300 cavalry horses at $113.90 each.

Norris Holcomb, Hartford, Conn.—200 cavalry horses at $113.90 each, and 200 artillery horses at $114.48 each.

E. M. Bement, Washington, D. C.—200 cavalry horses at $113.95 each.

Samuel Evendine, Philadelphia, Pa.—200 cavalry horses at $114.45, and 100 artillery horses at $115.45 each.

Amos S. Chamberlin, New York city.—200 cavalry horses at $114.45 each, and 200 artillery horses at $115.55 each.

Joel Holcomb, New York city.—200 artillery horses at $115.48 each.

John Carpenter, New York city.—100 artillery horses at $115.78 each.

Total—1,500 cavalry horses; 1,000 artillery horses.

Deaths of Soldiers.

The following have been reported since our last:

John Eidling, Co. C, 27th Pennsylvania.
John D. Stamp, Co. C, 22d New Jersey.
Jas. Hughes, *Quartermaster's Department.*
Chas. Frey, Co. E, 24th New Jersey.
Martin Kelsel, Co. D, 142d Pennsylvania.
Jeremiah Rohler, Co. B, 37th Pennsylvania.
John F. Goodes, Co. G, 62d Pennsylvania.
John Suhre, Co. D, 133d Pennsylvania.
Geo. Ogle, Co. H, 153d Pennsylvania.
Wm. W. Horrell, Co. G, 11th Pennsylvania R. C.
Elias Leitzell, Co. D, 127th Pennsylvania.
Thos. Hand, Co. A, 71st Pennsylvania.
Uriah J. Black, Co. C, 11th Pennsylvania R. C.
Napoleon Adams, Co. E, 1st Delaware.

Hon. Thomas H. Hicks Appointed U. S. Senator from Maryland.

BALTIMORE, December 29.—The Governor of Maryland to-day commissioned Hon. Thomas H. Hicks as Senator to represent the State of Maryland in the United States Senate until the next meeting of the Legislature, in place of Hon. James A. Pearce, deceased.

A Suspicious Steamer.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Dec. 29.—The screw steamer Princess Royal arrived here on the 26th inst., thirteen days from London. She is of about 400 tons, and has a cargo of 800 tons. She took in at this port two hundred tons of coal and a few tons of codfish. She sails to-morrow, it is alleged, for Halifax. She is a splendid vessel, and well adapted for running the blockade.

A Ship on Fire at Sea.

HALIFAX, Dec. 29.—The bark Trent, from London, reports on the 5th instant, in about lat. 41, long. 43, saw a ship on fire, and another ship bound east, which probably had the crew on board.

The British Brig Marina Abandoned.

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—The steamer Bohemian has arrived at this port, having on board the crew of the British brig Marina, which was abandoned at sea.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Another Raid of Stuart's Cavalry—They Come Within Twelve Miles of Alexandria—Our Pickets Driven In—Alarming Demonstration on the Occoquan and Accotink.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—There was a great excitement in Alexandria late yesterday evening, growing out of the hurried arrival there of several cavalrymen and teamsters, the latter being mounted on horses cut from their own wagons. They represented that Stuart's cavalry, with light artillery, appeared at Pohick Church, several miles from Mount Vernon, on Saturday night, and on Sunday proceeded to Accotink, twelve miles from Alexandria, and there attacked two or three companies of our troops, and that they captured a wagon train at Occoquan on Saturday.

There is difficulty in arriving at the precise truth, owing to the many conflicting rumors. But that a reconnoissance appeared in that neighborhood is beyond question, and that they created much alarm is equally certain.

Military men who have seen brief official despatches from Dumfries say it was the same rebel force which, several miles from that place, made a reconnoissance, driving in our cavalry pickets and killing four of five of them, and fearing a capture by our troops, which at one time was probable, they left for Occoquan and Accotink, where they made their alarming demonstration. Due allowance, it is claimed, must be made for the statements of frightened teamsters and others, as all of such accounts are unavoidably exaggerated.

Further Particulars of the Rebel Raid.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The following is the *Star's* version of the last rebel raid:

A rebel force of cavalry, with a battery of artillery, suddenly appeared at 8 A. M. on Saturday in front of Dumfries, then held by the 5th, 7th, and 66th Ohio Volunteers, with a section of two pieces of McGilvey's battery. The rebels were at first estimated as 4,000 strong. They cut the wires leading to Falmouth, and then attacked our troops. We lost three men killed. The enemy were driven off.

In the meanwhile information reached headquarters per telegraph, before they succeeded in cutting the wires leading in this direction, and troops were instantly put in motion to cut off their retreat, if possible. To that end General Geary marched from Wolf Run immediately to the relief of the troops engaged at Dumfries.

After being worsted, before General Geary's arrival, they pushed direct for Occoquan, where they had a slight engagement with 1,500 United States troops stationed there, under Colonel Candy, resulting in considerable loss on both sides. Our forces maintained their position.

They next decamped up Bull Run, crossing it at Wolf run. Thence they went to Annandale, via Burke's Station, where they encamped on Saturday night; thus avoiding the points where we had troops stationed.

At daybreak yesterday morning they were again in the saddle, making for the vicinity of Vienna. In the meanwhile, our troops at Fairfax Court House did their best to head them off in that direction, but being infantry they could not get up in time to do so.

The enemy were last seen in the vicinity of Lewinsburg, where their number was estimated at but 1,000 cavalry and four pieces of artillery.

At nightfall yesterday they were under whip and spur, evidently bent on escaping in the direction of Leesburg.

They certainly got nothing for their pains but fifteen empty wagons belonging to Colonel Kellogg's cavalry command.

Throughout the line of their raid they had occasional skirmishes with Col. Kellogg's cavalry, who, though forced to fall back, exchanged many shots with them, with no damage to our side as far as we have heard. The heaviest skirmish was near the Accotink.

At one time they got possession of one of our guns at Dumfries, but were forced to abandon it in their retreat.

LATEST.

We have just received reliable information that the rebels were badly repulsed on Saturday at Dumfries. On their retreat they fell in with our troops under Gen. Geary, between Dumfries and Wolf Run and were driven by them south of the road. They aimed to take the direct road to the Shoals. They took the telegraph operator at Burke's Station and his instrument, and burned the Accotink (Occaqe and Alexandria Railroad) bridge—an inconsiderable structure.

Besides the fifteen empty wagons of Col. Kellogg's command, which fell into their hands, they took eight or ten sutlers' wagons, which they came across, the drivers, in nearly all cases, having succeeded in escaping by cutting their traces, mounting their teams, and flying before the enemy. The rebels seized all the citizens along their path, whom they thought might give prompt information of their proceedings. They passed through Vienna at about 12 o'clock last night. Their rear guard passed there at about 3 o'clock this morning. They had about five guns, and about twenty-five wagons and ambulances, nearly all of which they had doubtless picked up. They went from there to Hunt's Mills, and then struck over towards the Ox Road, at Frying Pan. Including the citizens they caught, they were carrying off about forty prisoners in all.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA.

Alarm at Yorktown—Rebels Concentrating at Gloucester Court House.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

FORTRESS MONROE, December 29.

The mailboats from Yorktown and Gloucester Point brings down a report that our garrisons, at both points, were under arms yesterday, anticipating an attack from the rebels at Gloucester Court House.

It is said that a rebel force of about seven thousand men has been detached from LEE's army to operate in conjunction with General WISE, on the York river, under General TRIMBLE. General NAGLEE is fully prepared for an attack, and will move out to meet the enemy if he is to be found in the neighborhood to-morrow. The gunboats Tecumseh and Valley City are lying in the York river, opposite Gloucester Point, and it is believed that this point can be held against ten thousand men. HOLLYBUSH.

[To Associated Press.]

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 28.—This morning a fire occurred in Portsmouth, destroying five dwellings situated on Crawford street. The particulars have not been ascertained.

Last evening four contrabands were brought to Fortress Monroe, being implicated with the killing of a white man at Newport News. The name of the victim is not known.

Two rebel prisoners were also brought here, having been arrested for carrying firearms after they had been paroled.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

Federal Advance up the Mississippi—General Augur Occupies Port Hudson—Admiral Farragut's Squadron near Vicksburg—Evacuation of New Madrid—General Grant Falling Back, &c.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—A special despatch from Cairo says the report that General Grant has fallen back to north of the Tallahatchie is confirmed. The main body of the army arrived at Holly Springs several days ago