The Press.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1863.

☞ 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.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS.

The "War Press" for Saturday, January 3, 1863.

The first number for the New Year is out, and contains the usual variety of excellent reading matter. The stories, poetry, fun, and agricultural selections are fresh and attractive. A large number of ably-written editorials appear this week, embracing every topic of interest of the present period. During the coming year renewed efforts will be made to place the *War Press* ahead of all its competitors as a journal of the momentous times in which we live. Additional care and ability will be bestowed upon every department. We point to the following table of contents for the current number as a partial index of what the paper contains:

AN ORIGINAL STORY—A Soldier's Scrap-Book.
SELECTED STORIES—General Washington and the Negro; The Honeymoon.
CHOICE POETRY—The Four Hundred; Relensed; Shadows; A Mystery.
A WEEK'S SUMMARY OF NEWS.
PERSONAL ITEMS.
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.
ARMY OF VIRGINIA.
ARMY OF NORTH CAROLINA.
ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.
ARMY OF THE FRONTIER.
FROM FORTRESS MONROE.
DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.
RETALIATORY PROCLAMATION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.
FROM WASHINGTON.
THE PIRATE ALABAMA.
FRAUDS ON THE GOVERNMENT.
NAVAL DEPOT AT LEAGUE ISLAND.
NEW YORK CITY.
CITY INTELLIGENCE.
WIT AND HUMOR.
FUN AND WAR.
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS—The Revolving Batteries; Letters of Admiral Maury; Facts About Emancipation; Search of New Cotton Fields; Love Letter from Lord Byron, &c.
FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL—The Money Market—Philadelphia Markets, &c., &c.

Copies of the War Press, put up in wrappers for mailing, may be had for five cents.

THE NEWS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Tribune* says that "the French Government has decided to act alone in the matter of mediation, and to offer to the President of the United States the same proposition which has been made to England and Russia, trusting to his judgment to pronounce upon its merits and its practicability. That document will be accompanied by a letter from Drouyn de l'Huys, stating, in substance, that the Emperor believes the proposition of an armistice an act in no way injurious to the interests and honor of the United States, but, on the contrary, eminently useful; that it is not his intention to press it upon the Federal Government, which alone can determine the time when the friendly office of France may be accepted."

THE total loss of life on the great lakes in 1862 foots up 156, against one in 1861. There were few great catastrophes. The heaviest loss by any one disaster occurred November 2, by the wreck of the propeller Bay State on Lake Ontario, near Oswego. All on board—22 in number—were lost. The day following 17 lives were lost by six scows going ashore at Port Colborne. There was a loss of 12 lives by one accident on Lake Superior, and two schooners' crews of 7 each by going ashore on Lake Erie.

J. C. MCLEOD has been elected to Congress by the voters of the Norfolk District, Virginia. Mr. McLeod was born in Virginia, but is not an F.F.V., however. He started life as a school-teacher, and is said to be well educated and thoroughly competent for the position to which he has been elected. The vote, which was the first by ballot in Norfolk, was as large as usual, making the necessary allowance for the males absent in the rebel army or within the rebel lines.

THE Mississippi expedition is of a much more formidable character than is generally supposed. Its organization embraces three grand divisions, of which General A. J. Smith's is the right, General Morgan L. Smith's the centre, and General George W. Morgan's the left. The number of troops embraced in these corps we, of course, cannot state, but it may be relied upon that it will require a rebel force of not less than fifty or sixty thousand men to make anything like successful opposition.

VAN DORN and his men have burned 2,000 bales of cotton, or nearly $1,500,000 worth of this valuable property.

BOMBAY has already been enriched to the extent of nearly £4,000,000 by the advance in the price of cotton, one Parsee alone having cleared £800,000 by his speculations in that article, while other firms have nearly realized the same.

SIR ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, Governor of Newfoundland, it seems, will not help those who refuse to help themselves. Great scarcity of food prevails among the fishing population, and he has been petitioned to aid those in want; but in reply he shows that the shore fishery has given at least a fair return last summer; that those who have been industrious and economical have provided enough for their winter's support, and that he declines to give Government aid to the idle and extravagant, as any show of returning to a system of pauper aid, when the means of independence is within the grasp of common energy, is one the Government will not countenance.

THE fulmination of Jeff Davis against General Butler and the President's proclamation has the first effect to derange the programme upon which the exchanges of prisoners have heretofore taken place. The orders and threats of the great outlaw are directly in violation of the cartel, and the first impulse of the Government was to terminate all proceedings under it. It had been merely agreed to make a general exchange, including soldiers, political prisoners, and civilians; but Davis shall satisfactorily explain his intentions, all commissioned officers in our hands will be retained, and only privates and non-commissioned officers given up.

IT is announced that the second daughter of Prince Christian, of Denmark, the Princess Sophie Maria Frederica Dagmar, aged fifteen, and sister of the Princess Alexandra, will be affianced to the hereditary Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, the Cesarewitch, aged nineteen; and that their confirmation is postponed because, previous to this ceremony, they will enter the Greco-Catholic Church. Intimate relations between the royal families of England and Russia will thus be established.

THERE are now on hand at the United States Armory at Springfield from thirty thousand to forty thousand new rifles, all packed and ready for shipment. This is the first time since the war broke out that there has been a supply ahead of the demand. The armory now turns out about a thousand rifles a day.

A COMMUNICATION from Toulon, France, in the *Messager du Midi*, says: "The laying up of the frigate La Gloire in the Castigneau dock has disclosed three unexpected phenomena: First, that the contact of the copper lining and the submerged iron plates had established a galvanic current, which produced the effect of a voltaic pile, and was completely deteriorating the armor of the frigate in the parts below the water line; secondly, that a species of shell-fish, hitherto unknown, was afterwards discovered among the millions of molluscæ, by which the hull was covered, apparently produced under the influence of the same galvanic current; and lastly, in the hold of the vessel twenty-two thousand litres of wine were found to be transformed into vinegar; it is not known by what influence.

THE Vicksburg *Citizen* complains that neither the military nor civic powers have taken any measures to fill up the ditch which was dug by the Federals last spring for the purpose of turning the river away from that city. Allusion is made to some local jealousies, by which it appears there are parties on the other side of the river who are not unfriendly to the proposed change in the channel, thinking thereby to eventually secure the former immense trade of Vicksburg for another and rival locality. It is said that the first rise in the river will complete the new channel, and leave Vicksburg some three or four miles inland. At last accounts the upper rivers were rising, and it is not impossible that sufficient water may soon come down to wash out the artificial channel.

THE medical men of the army are beginning to see that it is better to permit a wounded or sick soldier to go home and recover, than to have him detained in a hospital and become incurable. One hundred and twenty furloughs were granted on the 27th, on medical certificates. Captain Drake De Kay, of General Heintzelman's staff, is charged with this duty.

THE President's emancipation proclamation will probably exempt New Orleans and part of Virginia from the operation of the new order.

GENERAL BUTLER will be assigned to an important command immediately upon his return from New Orleans.

The citizens of York, Pa., intend presenting to Major General William B. Franklin, U. S. A., a splendid sword for his bravery and gallantry in the battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

The French Navy.

The well-known ship-builder, Mr. DONALD MCKAY, of New York, has lately visited the French dockyards and arsenals, and presents a lengthy and able report upon the French navy, which was reorganized in 1855 by the Emperor NAPOLEON, who resolved at that time upon the construction of a certain additional number of vessels each year till 1870. Since the inception of that plan it has been decided to substitute iron-cased frigates for the screw line-of-battle ships then projected. By 1870, therefore, the principal vessels of the French fleet will consist of forty iron-cased frigates of the first class, varying in armament from thirty-six to fifty-two rifled and breech-loading guns, with a horse-power of from nine hundred to twelve hundred, and all possessing a speed exceeding twelve knots an hour. Any feasible improvements upon the original plan will, of course, be adopted as their value is tested. Mr. MCKAY thinks that so early as next year no other Power will possess a fleet able to cope on the open sea with that of France, and labor will be continued on it with far greater rapidity than was at first contemplated. An order has been lately issued to complete, by the middle of this year, all the iron-clad ships on the stocks, numbering ten. At present the steam vessels of all kinds consist of 325, added to 42 yet building. The sailing vessels number 119, with but three on the stocks.

The supply of timber on hand suffices for about seven years' consumption, with an abundance of iron and copper. The oak timber used is procured from the island of Sardinia, from the Romagna, from Burgundy, and the south of France.

The question of iron-clads has been very closely studied by the French, and the preference for sea service is given to wooden iron-cased ships rather than to those of iron. Of sixteen iron-cased frigates which France now possesses, but two are built of iron, and experience has proved that these, on account of their rapidly-fouling bottoms, will not be able to compete in speed with the wooden-built frigates. The English iron-ship Warrior has lost two knots an hour of her original speed from this cause, and it is generally conceded that iron-built vessels will need to be taken into dock once in three months, that their bottoms may be cleaned.

The Confederate steamer Alabama was built by Mr. LAIRD, of Birkenhead, who knew that on a long cruise her safety would depend only on superior speed. She is of timber, with a coppered bottom, and not a vessel in our navy can compete with her in rapidity.

The thickness of the iron casing upon the French ships is 4½ inches near the load line, and 4½ above that.

The iron-clad timber-ships Gloire, Invincible, and Normandie have reached the speed of 13½ knots under steam alone, with men and armaments on board. Those now on the stocks are intended to sail much faster than they, and it is hinted that the iron-cased cruisers of 7,300, which our Government intends to construct, should be of wood rather than iron, as intended. The small draught of water which these ships only can have, owing to the depth of our harbors, prevents giving them great speed, and their immense length will render them comparatively unmanageable. They will thus be at the mercy of a smaller opponent, whose superior steering powers will allow a choice of position.

The two new ram frigates, Magenta and Solferino, are both timber-built. Their engines are 1,000 horse-power; speed, fourteen knots; armament, fifty-two thirty-pound rifled guns on two decks.

The French Naval Department does not confine its operations to Government shipyards, but employs also private establishments.

The dock-yard organization in France is exceedingly perfect. At Toulon and Cherbourg provisions and stores for 60,000 men can be placed on board a fleet in less than half a day.

The plans for new vessels are designed by all the naval constructors in the service, of whom there are one hundred and twenty-two. Each submits his plan to a commission, and the best is adopted. The present high standard of French naval construction is much indebted to this competition.

Mr. MCKAY considers that we should commence at once the construction of at least twelve iron-cased frigates of from 36 to 52 guns, each of not more than twenty-five feet mean draught of water. Added to these, he suggests an equal number of fast-sailing corvettes of 16 guns, twenty frigates of 30 to 50 guns, and twenty screw steam sloops-of-war of 20 guns, all of the highest available speed. These latter would prove of great use in case of a foreign war, in harassing the commerce of an enemy. All should be substantially built of timber.

By way of summary, Mr. MCKAY opposes iron vessels on account of the fouling of their bottoms, and consequent loss of speed, against which no remedy has yet been found; also, the weakness of their bottoms, and liability of soon breaking up whenever they touch, and the impossibility of giving them a good ventilation, owing to the many water-tight bulkheads necessarily used in their construction.

We submit the above, without comment on the views of Mr. MCKAY.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1862.

It is now determined that the proclamation of the President shall go into force tomorrow. This is the last day of grace, and as there is no human probability of the insurrectionary States submitting to the will of the Federal power before to-morrow, but one duty remains to the President. In arriving at this conclusion he has been animated by the highest and noblest patriotism. Those who censure the judgment which to-morrow declares Emancipation will admit the patience, magnanimity, and reluctance with which the President approached the delicate issue. It was not passionate, momentary, or impulsive. There was no spirit of revenge, no attempt at humiliation. The President recognized the rights of States and citizens, in obedience to the Constitution, although civilization had made that recognition a stain upon America's honor. We have been the champions of liberty, and at the same time the apologists of slavery. We have arrayed ourselves against oppression and tyranny in all parts of the world, while we have been tyrannical and oppressive among our own people. We have allowed slavery to creep into our social system until agriculture, industry, and personal enlightenment became demoralized or destroyed. Like the enchanted city in the oriental tale, our men have become stones; our rivers have dried up; our homes have become sepulchres; and over all brood desolation and death, to gratify the passionate hate of this potent and fiendish Enchantress. I follow the story further, and adopt the moral of the romance as a lesson for to-day. By the sword the Enchantress and her partner in crime were slain. The spell passed away, and the city once more became busy, bustling, life-giving, and life-enjoying. The President of the United States has attained his solemn conclusion in answer to a necessary and vital demand. He fought this rebellion as we would fight with giddy, headstrong, and impetuous brothers. He believed that the passion of our foemen was a momentary impulse and outbreak, and he hoped mild circumstances that made hope a dream; amid war, antagonisms, piracy, and crime; amid deeds that find no parallel for malignancy and hatred; amid exhibitions of desperate energy that have driven us into disaster: he has hoped until hope became a folly and a crime; therefore, he proclaims emancipation, and forevermore we shall be a nation of freemen.

It is too late to discuss the question of emancipation now. The day of discussion is passing. My opinions on this question are known to you. I do not anticipate from the proclamation to-morrow results as immediate as many of our enthusiastic friends are hoping to see. The age of miracles is passed, and the walls of Jericho must yield to agencies more potent than the sound of a trumpet. God no longer works by signs and tokens. He has manifested his power and justice, and we, his servants and followers, have the duty in our hands. A people who have lived for centuries in slavery, whose fathers and fathers' fathers for generations have been hewers of wood and drawers of water; men without a hope, instinct, memory, or tradition, that does not remind them of their misfortune and degradation, cannot be expected to rise at once to the full contemplation of their deliverance. The night has been long and dreary, and the sunlight will dazzle before it shines. We cannot make a jubilee on every plantation, nor would any humane man desire such a thing. If emancipation meant insurrection, and the death of women and children in the South; if it meant a sudden, uncontrollable, fiendish, and bloody state of anarchy among the Southern States, I should oppose it as I would oppose the pestilence and the famine. I do not anticipate any such horrors, nor do I look for a Utopia among a forlorn and benighted people. Those who make such arguments are enthusiastic in a good cause, or sarcastic in a bad cause. Emancipation means that henceforward the American Republic will be the republic of freedom. We accept these four millions of slaves as they are; but instead of keeping them ignorant and helpless; instead of making them so many instruments of labor or so many elements of capital; instead of whipping them through cotton fields until they die, and whipping their children in their footsteps; instead of debasing and degrading them, that we may live in luxuriance and sloth, we say that under the protection of this Republic their destiny shall be that of all other men. They must live, and labor, and develop the mind that God has given them. They must make their own destiny, and create their own happiness. They are a distinct and separate people, and they must live according to their own choosing. The same laws that govern us will govern them. They must work or starve; they must labor or die; they must observe certain moral restrictions or be punished. They will find the white man a friend and a protector, and his power will no longer be the whip and the barracoon.

The men who are fighting our battles will welcome emancipation, and, as a war measure, we shall see its great value. It takes away that false sentiment that makes the negro a silent spectator of a war whose hardships and penalties have been kept from him. It is a blow at the great labor system which is the strength of the rebellion. It tells our soldiers that, while they give their lives to the cause of the Union, the lives of their enemies cannot be sheltered by four millions of another race. It makes their war a war for ideas. The children who come after them will bless God that their fathers ennobled America when they gave their blood for its salvation. I cannot, as I contemplate this great deed, restrain an enthusiasm which makes me see the future full of glory and prosperity. I shall feel prouder of my name of an American when I know that it does not involve an apology or a blush. The South and the North will feel the beneficent effects of this measure. For when the wars are over, and men are at peace, we shall truly realize the blessed deed that we now record; we shall see that amid the darkness, the gloom, the distracting doubts, the opposition, the calumny—amid a whirlwind of smoke, and blood, and destruction—amid scenes that no mortal could control or command, God himself, from his empyrean and infinite dwelling-place, moved the hand and the heart of Abraham Lincoln. He has written Liberty on the scroll of this wonderful and magnificent century. Men will bless and honor him for it. But the present has many trials before the future brings its triumphs. Let us not shout and clap our hands until the joy is *really* accomplished. We enter upon our new destiny with many sacrifices to make. We must strengthen the hands of the President in his great work—we must share the troubles and responsibilities it entails. Harmony of sentiment—devotion to the Union—uncompaining loyalty—hostility to treason—and an unswerving support of the Administration—these are our duties, and these we must perform. Then we can truly claim a share in the glory and triumph that is now approaching—then we can fully realize the joys of our Happy New Year. OCCASIONAL.

NEW YORK CITY.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, December 31, 1862.

THE OLD YEAR

Is fading into the eternities, with gloom and dreary storm to mark its exit. All through this last day of '62 the air has been an ever-falling veil of gravitating mist, shot with vagrant snow, through which one man is hardly distinguishable from another, and one house looks to be but the continuation of all the rest. Broadway this afternoon might be compared to a river of mud running between two forests of umbrellas, with here and there a delightful ankle to show that even such a scene is not without its many stirring angels! On a day like this, in Paris, the reflective Javert folds his arm, and drops himself quietly into the Seine; in London, the philigmatic beef-eater finds fault with his wife's extravagance at home, and is doggedly silent at the club; but in New York, the true American puts on his top-boots by way of defiance to the elements, and goes forth to join in the general splash. There is something characteristic of Yankee independence in a New Yorker's style of crossing the street on such a day as this; he takes all the perils of the mud with a matter-of-fact air, betokening a willing and complacent responsibility for all the consequences, and receives the progressive disfigurement of his irreproachable inexpressibles with a philosophical coolness, realizing the sublimest height of the imperturbable. That last sentence may remind you of Carlisle.

THE NEW YEAR

Bids fair to open drearily, if to-day is a formal criterion; but let us hope that the wind will veer around at midnight, and clear away the clouds before the dawn. Preparations for to-morrow go briskly forward, despite the weather; the jewellers, the toy-makers, the confectioners, and the booksellers are thronged with buyers of presents, and the New Year's tables are put into position. At midnight we shall have the usual chimes from the steeple of Old Trinity, and several of the churches will hold "Watch" meetings. At the African Shiloh Church, in Prince street, the congregation will watch the Old Year out, and welcome the New with jubilation. They anticipate to-morrow as the day which is to bring liberty to millions of their brothers and sisters now in bondage.

PEACE

Is a good topic to begin the new year with, even though its apostle be the newly-Honorable James Brooks, whose aspirations to sudden greatness may serve to show what a vast difference may exist between wishing and being. The Honorable James addressed the Democratic Union Association last evening, on the occasion of the opening of the association's new room, corner of Broadway and Twenty-second street, in a manner to command the heartiest applause of the Southern Confederacy. "A war power to subvert the Constitution in order to sustain the Constitution! The quicker we can be rid of such a Government the better! He who so tempted to subvert the Constitution by a proclamation had no claim to the respect of the American people! This proclamation is not law. No general in the field is bound to give it the least respect. No soldier in the field owes the least fidelity and allegiance to it. All men have a right to cry out against this arbitrary exercise of tyrannical power."

Having listened approvingly to a long string of such traitorous nonsense as this, the association unanimously passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the State of New Jersey, through her State Government, be respectfully requested to interpose in order to arrest the existing civil war:

1. By inviting the non-slaveholding States and the loyal slaveholding States—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri—to meet in Convention in Louisville, Ky., on the — day of February next.

2. By requesting the permission of the President of the United States to send Commissioners to Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Tennessee, to invite them also to meet in like National Convention. And,

Be it further resolved, That the President be requested by the State Government of New Jersey to declare an armistice with, or for, such State or States as may accept this call for a National Convention.

Resolved, That a committee be created on the part of the association to present these resolutions to the Governor and the Legislature of New Jersey, and to urge upon that State that, in consideration of her Revolutionary history and patriotic associations, she is entitled thus to lead in a National Convention for the restoration of the Union of these States.

Adding to the above the fact that, in a letter to Prince John Van Buren, a "reliable Southerner" agrees to a present restoration of the Union, on condition that States may be privileged to secede at will after the year 1873, you will perceive that there is every likelihood of peace being permanently secured—as soon as the war is over.

"LA DAME AUX CAMELIAS."

In its natural state, was performed by M. Juignet's French company, at Niblo's Saloon, last evening, before one of the most critical audiences I have seen for some time. A majority of those present were there to compare the genuine French play with the sentimentalized English version so popular as "Camille;" and I will venture to say that they unanimously gave the preference to the genuine thing. To appreciate the sort of woman Marguerite Gautier really was, you must see the part played by a Frenchwoman, like Madlle Bouhelier, and surrounded by French fixtures and manners. The scene of the *petit souper*, in the first act, last night, was a picture of Parisian grisettedom as true to nature as French mimicry could make it. That one scene revealed the real character of the Camelia Lady in such an unmistakable light, that her subsequent sufferings had the aspect of a just retribution, and commanded no more sympathy than it is wholesome to bestow on any woman, who is the author of her own misfortunes. Except in the case of Madlle Bouhelier, the piece was not acted with the ability usually given to the English version; yet its general effect was better than that of "Camille," because it presented evidence of being a true reflex of French sentiment and socialism, and offered no sophistry of situation to make the reaction of womanly impurity figure at the natural impulse of angelic purity.

Wishing *The Press* and its readers a happy new year, I remain, etc., STUYVESANT.

A LETTER from Beaufort, N. C., under date of the 20th, (speaking of the Foster Expedition,) says:

"I am compelled to say that there is but little Union feeling among the North Carolina people, so far as I can see, among the inhabitants left behind—the neutrals, so called. They nearly all refuse to take the oath of allegiance, and only those who have an object to gain by so doing, and even when it is done there is always a mental reservation about it; that they will only be loyal until the times change, and then they will change."

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, December 31, 1862.

The Emancipation Proclamation.

It is ascertained that the President's Emancipation proclamation will not be ready for publication till to-morrow.

All Quiet on the Front.

The despatches received from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac indicate that everything is quiet in that vicinity.

A Rumor from Washington.

A special despatch from Washington to the New York *Times* says:

"A rumor, originating in the War Department, has been in circulation here for a day or two, to the effect that Mr. STANTON intends to resign his Secretaryship about the 20th of January, in favor of Mr. WATSON, his present chief assistant."

Secretary Smith's Successor.

The name of the new Secretary of the Interior, vice SMITH appointed judge of the United States District Court of Indiana, will not be announced before Monday. The President persistently keeps the secret, and it is rumored that he has a surprise in store for the people.

Our Victories in Tennessee.

The reports of our victories in East Tennessee are believed to be true in official circles. It is well known that an expedition, under Gen. CARTER, of Tennessee, left Richmond, Ky., more than two weeks since, moving in the direction of Knoxville. This expedition was strong enough to have accomplished the work, and its captures will be a full set-off to the depredations of MORGAN.

Stuart's Raid into Maryland.

The *Chronicle* of to-day contains the following:

BALTIMORE, Dec. 30.—Passengers who arrived here to-night from Frederick, Md., report that a rumor was current there and believed that Stuart's Cavalry, numbering 1,200 men, were crossing the Potomac last night and this morning, ten or twelve miles this side of Point of Rocks.

At the time the train started it was not known how many had got over, or how far they had advanced into this State. It is believed that they intend destroying the bridge over the Monocacy, four miles this side of Frederick, and then dash into the latter city, destroy all the stores accumulated there, and then move to other points in the western part of the State, and, after repeating the same operation, recross into Virginia.

It is confidently hoped here that if they venture far enough into the interior the whole party will be captured.

It is raining here rapidly, and it is hoped that the Potomac will be so swollen as to make the capture a fixed fact.

The Reported Raid.

This afternoon's *Star* says: There is no truth in the current story that Stuart's cavalry have crossed the Potomac into Maryland, as telegraphed here last evening. The rumor grew out of the fact that, night before last, ten or twelve rebel guerillas crossed from Ball's Bluff over to Harrison's Island, probably designing a brief thieving expedition into Maryland, but seeing that their motions were observed from the north shore, they prudently returned back into Loudoun ere daylight. This is the whole truth concerning the body of five thousand rebel cavalry crossing the river into Maryland, over which "Secesh" here was rubbing its hands last night.

The Internal Revenue.

The following is the evidence to be made to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue when a claim for drawback is made:

First. The certificate of the Collector of Internal Revenue that the internal revenue tax upon the goods exported has been paid, which certificate shall, when possible, particularly describe the goods by their marks or otherwise; their quantity; the rate of tax; whether specific or ad valorem; the amount of duty imposed, and the name of the manufacturer or producer who paid the same.

Second. The certificate of the collector or other competent officer of the customs to the effect that the goods upon which the drawback is claimed have been exported, which certificates shall also particularly describe the goods by their marks or otherwise, and shall set forth their quality, date of shipment, name of vessel, port to which they were exported, and name of exporter.

Third. The affidavit of the party making the claim, or other competent person, setting forth that the goods upon which the claim for drawback is made are the identical goods upon which the internal revenue tax has been paid, and certified by the collector of internal revenue; that the same goods have been exported at the time and in the manner stated by the collector of the customs, and, also, the amount of the drawback claimed, and the party making the claim is justly entitled thereto. This affidavit must be executed before a notary public or magistrate, having a seal, or, if executed before a justice of the peace, there must be a certificate from a proper officer that such person is duly authorized to administer oaths.

The Porter Court Martial.

General Burnside was examined on Tuesday, and testified to having received unofficial telegrams from General Porter after that officer had joined the Army of Virginia relative to the operation of the forces under General Pope's command. He was satisfied, from what was said therein, that General Pope's character was strictly correct.

Being asked whether the indisposition evinced by many of McClellan's officers to serving under Gen. Pope, was not chiefly caused by the withdrawal of the army from the peninsula, he replied that, at most, any officer with whom he had conversed, had fully sanctioned the wisdom of this move. He had, however, no desire to make personal reflections on the capacity of Gen. Pope.

Being further questioned in regard to Gen. Porter, he stated that he knew Porter had immediately obeyed the order requiring him to join forces with General Pope; but whether he had used efforts beyond the dictates of duty to do so, he was not aware. He spoke also of an incident that occurred on the banks of the Chickahominy, in which Gen. Porter displayed foresight. While crossing that stream the wagon trains very much impeded the movements of the troops. General Porter had ordered the wagons to pass on beyond, and in doing so was compelled to change the position of his corps. General McClellan was at first displeased with this manœuvre, but after the army had crossed fully assented to its judiciousness.

General Butterfield, of General Porter's corps, was next sworn. He stated that he was present when the order from Pope arrived, directing General Porter to march at 1 o'clock, on the 29th of August. General Porter, he said, having sent out his aids to explore the road, was convinced by their reports of the impracticability of starting before daybreak, and reported accordingly. He gave an account of the march from Ellis' Ford to Bristow, during the latter part of August, and of the fatigue of the soldiers thereon. He believed General Porter had performed his whole duty.

General Buford, chief of cavalry to the second corps of Pope's army, was called on and briefly questioned with reference to the report he made to General McDowell, on the 29th of August, of the presence of a large force under Longstreet near Gainsville. He stated that he thought they had come through Thoroughfare Gap, and that they had approached from the direction of Gainsville about 9 or 10 A. M. The court then adjourned.

Gen. McDowell Court of Inquiry.

A communication was read on Tuesday from Gen. Sigel, stating that he was not prepared as yet to make any correction in his testimony. This, together with letters from Gen. McClellan, designed to throw light on the declarations which he had previously made before the court, was read by the recorder and ordered to be appended to the day's proceedings.

Major Willard, aid to General McDowell, was the only witness examined concerning an interview between Generals McDowell and Sigel, on the 27th of August, near Buckland Mills, at which he was present. He said that he thought he had heard General McDowell request Sigel to go to Manassas, and to march also to Thoroughfare Gap, offering him for that purpose the command of one of his divisions.

The court then adjourned till Monday in order to enable the recorder to bring up the record of the large correspondence remaining to be copied.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—The following have been reported since our last:

James Gilbert, Co. M, 112th Pennsylvania.
A. Sheeler, Co. A, 11th Pennsylvania.
A. H. Cane, Co. C, 28th New Jersey.
Asa Chapman, Co. I, 139th Pennsylvania.
J. F. Gentzel, 1st lieut., 4th U. S. Artillery.
W. Cathcart, Co. H, 145th Pennsylvania.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Gen. Rosecrans Moving on the Enemy—A Great Battle in Progress near Murfreesboro, &c.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 31.—The *Enquirer* of this morning publishes advices from Nashville, that Rosecrans' army had moved on the enemy, driving them before him.

There was considerable heavy skirmishing. The United States soldiers were in high spirits, and anxious to fight.

On Monday, Rosecrans' advance was in full view of Murfreesboro, and the enemy was in full view, drawn up in line of battle.

A battle was expected to take place on Thursday.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—Special to the *Commercial*.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., Dec. 30.—The Fourteenth Army Corps made a general advance yesterday, and pushed the rebels back seven or eight miles. Collins' Brigade, of McCook's Corps, had a sharp brush with the enemy just beyond Nolinsville. There was cannonading for an hour, the enemy wasting considerable ammunition. Our troops reserved their fire, advancing briskly by a dexterous flank movement. The 101st Ohio captured one gun and caisson. We lost one killed and three wounded. A general engagement was imminent, our army sweeping rapidly down all the roads to Murfreesboro. Heavy artillery firing is now heard on the Nolinsville road. General McCook is engaging Hardee. The weather is damp and the ground very heavy.

The Latest from Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31.—All is quiet south of here, as far as headquarters are advised.

THE LATEST.

CAIRO, Dec. 31.—Information received from Corinth to Saturday night states that the garrison there were on half rations. Foraging parties, however, were able to supply the deficiency.

Col. Lee, with a large cavalry force, is still in pursuit of Gen. Van Dorn.

The trains are all running from Corinth to Jackson, and from Jackson to Holly Springs. The road has also been repaired from Jackson to a point nine miles north of Trenton.

Every station house and all the bridges between Trenton and Moscow, within twelve miles of Columbia, have been burned, and all the bridge timber along the route destroyed. A considerable portion of the track has also been torn up.

A Federal force to the number of 3,000, which left Trenton in the direction of the Tennessee river on a reconnoissance, had not returned when our informant left.

CAIRO, Dec. 31.—A construction train left Columbus yesterday. It went as far as Union city without meeting with any obstacle. Two regiments and a battery left to-day to assist in putting the road in order. The rebels have evidently left the line of railroad, and it will be repaired in a week.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Telegraphic Wires Cut—The Rebel Cavalry—The Movements of Lee a Mystery—Removal of Heavy Guns by the Rebels—Indications of a Retreat—No Prospect of Our Troops Going into Winter Quarters—Our Pontoons in Motion.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 30.

Last night, about 8 o'clock, the wires ceased to work north of Falmouth Station. The cause was unknown. At 10 P. M. the last was heard of the rebel cavalry from Occoquan, which place they had passed on their way northward.

HEADQUARTERS RIGHT GRAND DIVISION, December 29, 1862.

The movements of General Lee are still a puzzle to us all. Col. Wm. S. Teall, of Gen. Sumner's staff, again made a balloon reconnoissance to the height of eight hundred feet, and reported on his return to terra firma that the rebels were removing their heavy guns from the first line of entrenchments, and that there were many indications of a retreat. The Signal Corps also make the same report. Long trains of our own wagons captured from us on the Peninsula, or of those made after the same fashion, were seen moving off with apparently heavy loads in the direction of Bowling Green and Guinney Station.

Whether all this activity is intended as a feint to cover a bold attack in some other quarter, or whether Gen. Lee designs to draw nearer to Richmond, and abandon this very strong line, time alone will determine.

But, if Gen. Lee's movements are a mystery, no less so are those of Gen. Burnside.

It seems to be generally understood that we are not to go into winter quarters, at least there are no more indications of it than there were a month before the battle of Fredericksburg. And yet, what are we to do? This question almost every one in the army asks himself daily, and then makes the same interrogatory to every one he meets.

Of one thing, however, we all seem to be certain; and that is, that the Rappahannock will not again be crossed in front of Fredericksburg so long as there is a rebel battery in position to dispute the passage. The pontoons, about which so much has been said of late all over the land, have been in motion for the past few days, and there is much that is very significant in their movements.—*Tribune.*

THE LATEST.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 31.—A reconnoissance in force went out yesterday morning, which will probably be heard from in a few days.

It is believed here that a considerable portion of General Lee's army has moved from its late position on our front and gone up the Rappahannock. Its destination, however, is not known. It has been ascertained by a flag of truce that Captain Swearinger, of the late Brigadier General Jackson, who was reported killed in the battle of the 13th, was only wounded and captured. He is now doing well at a farm-house about four miles in the rear of the enemy's front.

Lieutenant Eddy, ordnance officer of General Whipple's staff, is a prisoner in Richmond. He was hurt on the battle-field.

ARMY OF THE FRONTIER.

Despatch of General Blunt—Shelling the Enemy—The Arkansas River to be Crossed—Extensive Captures.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—Gen. Blunt telegraphs Gen. Curtis, under date of Van Buren, Ark., December 28th, as follows:

"My long-range guns are now shelling the rebel camps across the river, five miles below here.

"If the enemy does not retreat during the night, I shall endeavor to cross my troops over in the morning, and offer them battle.

"Among the property captured are four steamers, three of them heavily laden with supplies. Also, a ferry boat and a large amount of ammunition.

"Quite a number of the enemy were killed."

FAYETTEVILLE (Ark.), Dec. 31.—The following additional particulars of the raid to Van Buren have been received:

Our army was ten miles this side of Van Buren, yesterday morning, and would bivouac on the mountain-top last night, and expected to reach Prairie Grove again to-day.

General Schofield joined them a few miles beyond the foot of the mountain.

The steamers Violet, Key West, Rose Douglas, Frederick Notrebe, Erie No. 6, and Van Buren, with their cargo of grain and provisions for the rebel army, were burned; also, a large amount of army stores.

The rebels burned their arsenal and ferry-boat at Fort Smith to prevent their falling into our hands; also, a large quantity of forage and provisions on the opposite bank of the river. A general conflagration was in progress when our forces left. Many deserters came to our lines, who report that two regiments of Missourians stacked their arms a few days ago, crossed the river, and went home.

Another regiment of Missourians left a short time after, taking their arms with them. Two regiments of Texans also stacked their arms, and started for home. A regiment of cavalry was sent in pursuit, but instead of arresting, joined the runaways. Everything goes to show that the rebel army of trans-Mississippi is completely disorganized.

The Arkansas river is at a boatable stage, and the country bordering its banks, from a point twenty-five miles below Van Buren to Little Rock, is well provided with forage and food for an army. Our troops are in splendid spirits, having accomplished the most daring and successful raid, without losing a single life.

From San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The year just closed is admitted by all to have been the most prosperous in the history of California, as far as the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the State are concerned.

The agricultural and mining interests have never been in a better condition.

The city and interior are increasing rapidly in population and wealth.

The rate of Exchange on the Atlantic States is the same as reported on the last steamer day. Currency bills are quoted at 20@22½ per cent. discount. Coin at 5@6 per cent. premium. Sterling Exchange has advanced to 47½@48 for bankers. Legal-tender notes are quoted at 82@84.

The King and Queen of the Sandwich Islands were confirmed at the so-called Reformed Catholic Church on November 28th. Bishop Stanley and other *English missionaries* performed the ceremonies.

The Missouri Legislature.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., Dec. 30.—Both Houses of the Legislature completed their organization to-day, by the election of Emancipation candidates to fill all the offices.

There seems to be a very general feeling that Congress should lead off in the emancipation movement, and there is no doubt that a prompt and liberal tender of compensation would greatly facilitate the emancipation measure in the Legislature.

There is a strong prospect that the Senatorial question will be disposed of this week. Under the Constitution of this State, a simple majority only is required to pass any bill over the Governor's veto.

The Rebel Raid—The Reported Crossing into Maryland Untrue.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 31.—Direct and reliable information from Harper's Ferry and other points along the line of the Upper Potomac, shows that the reported rebel raid into Maryland is entirely untrue.

A small body of White's Cavalry have been seen on the south bank of the Potomac, upon which a variety of wild reports of invasion were based.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION.—The large Military Furnishing establishment of Messrs. Evans & Hassall, Arch street, above Fourth, was, last evening, the scene of a very interesting occasion. The employees of the house, embracing in all some three hundred clerks, salesmen, and girls, engaged in their manufacturing department, gave a splendid entertainment for the two-fold purpose of spending New Year's Eve in a pleasant, social way, and of making a number of handsome New Year's presents to the ladies of the firm (Mrs. George O. Evans and Mrs. Wm. S. Hassall); to Mr. Clair, the foreman of the house, and four ladies occupying important and responsible positions in the work-rooms. The large third story of their building on the north side of the street was used for this purpose. The entertainment consisted of ice creams, cakes, tea, coffee, and other refreshments, provided on a handsomely-set table, extending the whole length of the room. Seven o'clock, the hour fixed for the festival to commence, found some three or four hundred happy-faced, well-dressed