The Press.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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.

THE NEWS.

A RECONNOISSANCE in force from the Army of the Cumberland has been accomplished with brilliant success—a movement preparatory to the general compulsion of the enemy. Two divisions, under Wood and Sheridan, operating under Major General Gordon Granger, moved out to occupy two valuable positions on our left, between there and Missionary Ridge. The principal attack was made by the brigades of Hazen and Willich. The rebel rifle-pits, on a position called Orchard Ridge, were taken, along with two hundred prisoners. Much damage was inflicted by our gunners, the rebels firing only their small cannon. During this affair the whole army were under arms, and it was believed that a great battle was at hand. A despatch from General Bragg notes the capture of 300 men by Wheeler's Cavalry.

MAJOR GENERAL SCHENCK has tendered his resignation from the service, which will take effect on the 20th December. General Schenck will transfer the command of the Middle Department, 8th Army Corps, to Brig. General Lockwood, who has been ordered by the Secretary of War to the temporary command. General Lockwood is a Brigadier General of Volunteers. General Lockwood was appointed from Delaware, and has held many important positions. General Schenck will take his seat as a Representative from Ohio in the House of Representatives in the Congress which assembles on the first Monday in next month. Gen. McDowell, it is reported, has been offered the place of General Schenck.

A RELEASED Richmond prisoner, writing to us, says: We have heard much about the approaches to Richmond, but by all means beware of the route by the Mechanicsville turnpike. The Virginia Central is a good way of approach, and the Lynchburg pike is also a good way, there being no battery at all on the south side of James river. The number of troops in Richmond is as follows: The City Battalion, 800 strong; State Guards, 275; Tar-heels, or North Carolina Guards, 250; Militia, 1,600. One-half, or more, of the population of Richmond would be glad to see the Union troops enter the city. I heard Captain Maul, of Company E, City Battalion, say he did not believe he could get one of his company to fire on the Union troops if they were in Richmond. The North Carolina troops, to a man, say that they will not fire on the Union troops. Seven-eighths of the militia say the same thing.

THE position of the Army of the Potomac is still unchanged. It is believed that Lee's main fortifications are on the Rapidan, rather than at Gordonsville, though the latter point has recently been considerably strengthened with works constructed along the approaches to it, and in the rear of the line of works on the river. Little serious resistance is looked for to the progress of the Army of the Potomac if it makes an effort to reach Richmond via Gordonsville.

LATELY, General Gilmore's heavy guns have been again turned on the city of Charleston. Nineteen shells were lodged within the town—four more than the number which excited the indignation of Beuregard, and drew from the foreign consuls a formal protest in August last. What effect our projectiles have produced remains to be seen. The bursting of the shells within the town was easily seen, and their reports plainly heard.

MRS. WINDER, nearly eighty years of age, mother of General Winder, of the rebel army, and at present provost marshal of Richmond, was arrested on Saturday last, charged with corresponding with various parties in the South. She was courteously restored to her lodgings, which, however, were placed under military guard.

IN California, at Los Angeles, an *impromptu* vigilance committee took out from prison five men, charged with robbery and murder, and hung them, without excitement, according to Lynch law.

AN order from the War Department declares that veteran volunteers re-enlisting will be allowed a furlough of thirty days, and transportation to and from their homes.

NAPOLEON'S project, inviting fifteen Governments to take part in an European congress, has startled the European capitals. On the whole, however, for one reason or another, it has not been met by a decided objection. Prussia is rumored to have given her adhesion to the plan. The Austrian Government announced to Napoleon that Austria is ready to take part in a congress, upon a basis yet to be determined, for the strengthening of public European right, and with special regard to accomplished facts. An English Cabinet council was to meet and draft the reply of Queen Victoria.

THE ex-Dictator of Poland, Langiewicz, has addressed an appeal to the Austrian Government from his prison, in Josephstadt, in which, after renewing his request to be allowed to remove to Switzerland, he concludes by beseeching that, if this be not done, he may be handed over to the Russian authorities.

GOVERNOR MORTON has published an appeal to the men of Indiana, who, from age and other causes, are unable to volunteer, urging each to procure at least one volunteer.

At the late Union meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, it was resolved, that as kindness and conciliation, firmness and ability, are necessary ingredients in the character of such military rulers as would win our people back to the folds of the Union, we congratulate the country and the people of Arkansas on their good fortune in having such officers as commanders in their midst.

IT is announced in the Washington papers that from this time until the meeting of Congress, the President will be unable to receive visitors, his time being fully occupied with public business. Secretary Chase is also hard at work on his annual report. His report has to await the estimates from all the other Departments, and is thus always delayed.

A REBEL rumor mentions the defeat of two Yankee columns under Franklin, with the astounding loss of six thousand prisoners. This is doubtless the battle of Bayou Couteau, where the rebels were routed with the loss of thirteen hundred prisoners.

TELEGRAMS in the Richmond papers give interesting news from North Carolina. Of ten Congressional representatives elected eight were declared peace men. The majorities were largest in the Conservative districts, and even the soldiers' vote was given for the "Conservatives."

THE Republics of South America are uneasy concerning certain movements on the part of public functionaries hinting at a disposition for foreign protectorates after the manner of poor Mexico. In Ecuador, it is said, these symptoms are most strongly marked.

THE first public free school for the education of colored children was established on Monday, in Washington. The free colored population of Washington is very large. When the draft was made, one-third of those who drew prizes were colored men.

"The Alexandra" in Court.

An erroneous impression is abroad respecting the decision of the English Court of Exchequer, (sitting *in banco* on the first days of term), in the case of the steamship Alexandra, seized at Liverpool by the British Government for alleged breach of the law—that is, for having been built for "the so-called Southern Confederation." It has been stated by some of our contemporaries that a new trial had been granted. No such thing has occurred. A rule *nisi*, or a rule to show cause for a new trial, has been granted, almost as a matter of course in such a case, especially as the Crown, which was the prosecuting party, applied for it, on strong *primâ facie* grounds. We shall here briefly mention what was done respecting the Alexandra.

This vessel was seized; certain parties were indicted by the Crown, chiefly for violating the 7th section of the foreign enlistment act, which is directed against "the equipping, furnishing, fitting out, or arming of a ship or vessel, or attempting to do so, with the intent of employing such ship or vessel in the belligerent service of a foreign country or State, against persons with whom her Majesty was not at war;" the jury, greatly influenced by the charge of the judge (Chief Baron POLLOCK), acquitted the defendants; the law-officers of the Crown immediately tendered a bill of exceptions to the judge's charge, on the ground of misdirection, and the matter rested until the end of the legal long vacation, or rather the commencement of the Michaelmas term, on November 2d.

On the second day of term, the Attorney General appeared in Court, to move for a rule to show cause why a new trial should be granted. Here occurred a curious hitch. At the close of the first trial, Chief Baron POLLOCK, who tried the case, told the Attorney General that he would sign any bill of exceptions which might be laid before him. The exceptions to the Judge's charge were drawn up from the short-hand writer's notes, sworn to as correct, but when these exceptions were tendered to Chief Baron POLLOCK for his signature, he declined, on the ground that they ascribed to him an exposition of the law to the jury which (he said) he did not hold and did not lay down. It is far more likely that the Judge, a man of eighty, should have said more in his charge to the jury than he intended, than that the sworn short-hand writer, corroborated by the Attorney General who heard the words, could have been inaccurate.

On November 3d, the Attorney General appeared before the Court of Exchequer, the Chief Baron, whose charge was excepted to, presiding *in banco*. Nothing was done, but on the next day, on the demand of the Attorney General, the Judges framed certain rules as to practice on the revenue side of the Court as would enable him to proceed.

On Thursday, November 5, the Attorney General formally moved, at the sitting of the Court, for a rule for a new trial, on the ground of misdirection by the learned Judge before whom the case was tried, and also upon the ground that the verdict was against evidence. This was taking general grounds, and abandoning the special bill of exceptions which Chief Baron POLLOCK had refused to sign. Baron BRAMWELL, with a natural leaning towards his Chief, whose tongue had outstripped law and discretion at the trial, then said, "Let it be also understood that we must take my lord's report of his direction to the jury and act upon it; and further, that supposing that upon the ground of the verdict being in any sense unsatisfactory, for any reason, we, in our discretion, grant or refuse a rule, let it be understood that no appeal will lie from it under the rules discussed yesterday." In point of fact, this was placing the Chief Baron's *impression* of what he told the jury above what the short-hand writer swore *he actually had said*. To bind the Attorney General more tightly, Baron BRAMWELL reiterated, "If we should be of opinion that the verdict was wrong, that there was no misdirection, but that the jury may have acted upon some wrong opinion, and we grant a new trial on that ground, it would not be competent to the defendants to appeal. On the other hand, if we should be of a different opinion, and refuse a rule, and you desire to take the opinion of the Exchequer Chamber on the question, it would not be open for you to do so. I wish, for my part, and I believe I express the opinions of the rest of my learned brothers, that these matters should be clearly understood—viz: first, that the bill of exceptions is abandoned; secondly, that the Court would take my lord's report of his direction to the jury; and thirdly, that there should be no appeal from our decision by either side except on a matter of law."

The decision of the Court was intimated by the Chief Baron, in the following words: "If the Attorney General was satisfied to take a rule to show cause why the verdict should not be set aside as contrary to evidence, or as not being warranted by the evidence, and on the ground of misdirection by the judge on the trial, or on the ground that although there might have been no positive misdirection, that there was a want of information furnished to the jury to enable them to discharge their duty fairly; if he were content to take a rule on those two grounds, dividing the second ground into positive misdirection or imperfect direction, he might take a rule to show cause at once."

This, it will be seen, does not grant a new trial, but merely gives leave to have a new trial moved for on the part of the Crown. A day would be appointed by the Court to hear arguments to have the rule *nisi* made a rule *absolute* for a new trial. Counsel for the defendants (the Alexandra builders, fitters, and armers) would then be heard in argument, contending that the rule *nisi* for a new trial should be discharged, and if *their* legal argument prevail, the Crown will be defeated, and the verdict against it will stand good.

It will thus be seen that a new trial has not been ordered. It is not unlikely that the arguments for a new trial may be deemed insufficient by the Court, whose Chief will be directly impugned by them, and, should there be a new trial, not earlier than January, the verdict may again declare that the building and equipping and arming of the Alexandra did not break the law.

The Destruction of Kagosima.

The "barbarity" of General GILMORE in shelling the city of Charleston after having given ample notification to the inhabitants that such was his intention, has been a fertile theme for the virtuous indignation of some tender-hearted English journalists. That action, perfectly justifiable according to the rules of war and the dictates of humanity, will now we trust at least find a parallel, in English estimation, in the destruction of Kagosima by a British naval commander. A more wanton and terrible act of barbarism has never put a blush upon modern civilization. An Englishman named RICHARDSON is murdered; the British Government demands redress of Prince SATSUMA, in whose country the deed is alleged to have been committed, instructing its representative, in the event of failure, to seize the Prince's steam vessels, shell his residence, or blockade his port. Failing to obtain satisfaction otherwise, and probably not seeking it very industriously, the British admiral, whose organ of "destructiveness" is evidently well developed, proceeded to carry out his instructions *con amore*. Not content with burning the steamers, and thus inflicting condign punishment upon the Prince, who alone could have deserved it, he opened upon the defenceless and unoffending town with *incendiary* shell—a thing he could never have been instructed or authorized to do. In the language of this "fine old English Admiral," "the conflagration thus created continued with unabated ardor up to the time of the departure of the squadron, forty-eight hours subsequently to the first attack," which, he proceeds to say, "affords reasonable ground for believing that the entire town of Kagosima is now a mass of ruins;" and he expresses his "trust that her Majesty's Government will be pleased to approve" his deeds. "There has been *much criticism in this country on the manner in which the civil war has been conducted by the Americans*," observes Mr. COBDEN, commenting upon this shameful outrage, and the observation is apt and significant. Henceforth, upon the theme of barbarity, civilized England, with her Peace Societies, and her Humane Societies, can have nothing to say in reproach to the loyal States of our Union. The unprovoked destruction of a flourishing city, of more than a hundred thousand inhabitants, without a moment of warning, is a heinous piece of inhumanity, for which the British Government is in honor bound to make some concession, by way of reparation. Do what it may, however, the foul stain of Kagosima can never be wiped out. The horrors of the Indian mutiny have found another terrible parallel.

Words for History.

Gettysburg is, perhaps, the highest point in our history, and upon Cemetery Hill, which crowns the battle-field, our history was crowned in a two-fold sense. Here, virtually, our cause was won, and here its coronation took place. Great deeds were acted on the second and third days of July, and in the apotheosis of the fallen heroes, the dedication of the 19th of November, the shadows and spirits of great things came forth. It might, be as the law was given from God, and came down from Sinai, so an immortal spirit came from the hill of the dead, a monument and a burial ground alike to our heroes, and passed out among the people, into the war, and into history. Certainly the occasion was sublime; certainly the ruler of the nation never stood higher, and grander, and more prophetic. On that historic height it was proper he should utter words such as these:

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the refinished work that they have thus so far nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they have gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that governments of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

At the same altar Mr. EVERETT unbound the sublime thought of the Greek orator, and gave it noble completion: "The whole earth is the sepulchre of the brave;" and he added, "all time is the millenium of their glory." General MEADE, who won the victory, wrote for his soldiers, what ordinarily would not be so significant: "This army has duties to perform which will not admit of its being represented on the occasion." With great tenderness Secretary CHASE wrote of our heroes: "It consoles me to think what tears of mingled grief and triumph will fall upon their graves, and what benedictions of the country, saved by their heroism, will make their memories sacred among men." And in a speech before the dedication, the Secretary of State said, thanking God for his belief that this was our last fraternal strife, and that it would end in the removal of slavery—"Then we shall know that we are not enemies, but that we are friends and brothers. Then we shall know that this Union is a reality, and we shall mourn, I am sure, with sincerity, equally over the grave of the misguided, whom we have consigned to his last resting-place, with pity for his error, and with the same heart-felt grief with which we mourn over his brothers, by whose hand, raised in defence of his Government, that misguided brother perished."

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—This truly benevolent organization is at every moment keeping in activity the patriotic and charitable impulses of the people, and its great agency for good throughout all our armies deserves the widest gratitude and support. At present it is making earnest appeals to Christian congregations for our starving soldiers in Richmond, and such appeals cannot remain unanswered by a generous and dutiful community. The gentlemen composing the Commission have supplied much from their own resources, and by their disinterested and untiring efforts. Those who wish to serve their country, and its brave and suffering heroes, cannot do it more practically and speedily than through the agency of the Christian Commission.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.

The National Finances—Debt Payment.

No decided measures have yet been taken regarding the issue of any of the one-year treasury notes at present. Of the two-year notes only the fifty million dollars' worth which have been negotiated with the banks will be prepared.

No new financial measure of any character is now contemplated by the Government. In the various financial acts passed during this Administration there is not discoverable any positive provision requiring the payment in gold of the principal of the bonds issued by the Government, with the exception of those provided in the law of March, 1863, and under this law no bonds have yet been issued.

The Secretary of the Treasury, however, has never yet directed the payment of any portion of the funded debt otherwise than in coin, and this, it is confidently asserted by those who have the best opportunities of knowing his opinions upon the subject, will continue to be his policy, unless prevented by circumstances beyond his ability to control.

Some conscience-stricken man in New York has sent to the Treasury Department sixty-five dollars, which he says belongs to the Government, and desires the acknowledgment of the receipt to be made in one of the newspapers of that city. The note is written in Roman capital letters, in order to prevent all traces of its authorship. The money has been placed in the treasury, and no publicity is given to this fact in the hope that the good example may be followed.

Re-Enlistment of Veteran Volunteers.

The order recently issued that volunteers now in service, on re-enlisting as veteran volunteers, shall have a furlough of at least thirty days previous to the expiration of their original enlistment, secures this privilege to the volunteers: Either by ordering all so enlisting, with their officers, to report to their respective States, through the Governors thereof, to the Superintendent of the Recruiting Service, for furlough and reorganization, or by granting furloughs to the men individually. Commanding generals of departments and armies are authorized to grant these furloughs within the limit of time fixed; in compliance with this order, the commands of the service will best permit, reporting their action to the Adjutant General of the army.

In going to and from their respective homes, the veteran volunteers furloughed will be furnished with transportation by the Quartermaster's Department. When the three-fourths of a regiment or company re-enlist, the volunteers not enlisted may be furloughed in a body, for at least thirty days, to go home with their officers to their respective States and districts to reorganize and recruit, and the individuals of the companies or regiments who do not re-enlist shall be consigned to duty in other companies and regiments until the expiration of their term of service.

The Iron-Clad Sangamon.

Statements having been made that the iron-clad Sangamon, on the eve of her departure upon an important mission, was found to be in a sinking condition, and a suspicion of treason having been mentioned in this connection, a correspondent, of whom the *National Intelligencer* speaks as "an esteemed friend in the Washington Navy Yard," sends to that paper a communication, saying:

"There was no disaster on Saturday night, and there is no mystery connected with the very ordinary operation of sending the yard engine to do what the ordinary hand engine of the vessel could have done had it been in order. There is no defect in the engine to be repaired. The boilers were filled twice and a half, for the purpose of discovering the leaks, and the water from these boilers was indiscreetly let into the vessel. This brought her down so much that more water came in at the junction of the opening and the body of the vessel. The ordinary hand-pumps being out of order, the fine engine of the yard was sent down to the vessel and used until steam could be got on her engines."

Increase of Wages by the War Department.

It being represented that the increased prices of provisions and other necessaries of life render it proper and just that there should be an increased rate of wages for mechanics, laborers, and other employés of the Government, whose compensation is not fixed by law, it has been ordered that the heads of the respective bureaus make the inquiry and report to the War Department a just and reasonable rate of advanced wages which should be paid by the Government at the present time.

The Northern Pacific Railroad.

It is understood that the President has, in compliance with the terms of the law of last Congress, decided that the Northern Pacific Railroad shall start from a point on the Missouri river, nearly opposite Council Bluffs, in connection with the Mississippi and Missouri, and the Rock Island Railroad.

Expenses of the Departments.

The War Department to-day sent its estimates for the next fiscal year to the Treasury Department. This completes the estimates of all the Departments, on which the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be based. The utmost caution is observed, to prevent, if possible, a premature publication of the figures.

Business of a Provost Marshal in Virginia.

Some idea may be formed of the immense amount of business transacted at the office of Lieut. Col. H. H. WELLS, provost marshal for the defences south of the Potomac and Alexandria, Virginia, by reference to the following table:

Number of prisoners arrested or forwarded from June 1, 1863, to November 16, 1863, 2,262.

Number of passes issued to citizens from June 1, 1863, to November 15, 1863, 59,194.

Number of permits to take out supplies issued from June 1, 1863, to November 15, 1863, 5,115. [This item may vary somewhat.]

Number of horses and mules captured and turned over from June 1, 1863, to November 15, 1663, 362.

NOTE.—A very large amount of miscellaneous goods have been captured and turned over, the value of which we have no means of estimating, and a schedule of which would be very voluminous.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Our Forces Still Unadvanced.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—Passengers who arrived to-night from the Army of the Potomac represent our forces as occupying the same positions they have held for a week past. It rained there last night and this morning.

Nothing of special interest has been received through special messenger.

Yesterday Col. Lowell, in his pursuit of guerillas in Loudoun county, Virginia, came up with much larger force than usual, and, after giving them battle, succeeded in damaging them most essentially, capturing a large number of prisoners, horses, accoutrements, etc.

FORTRESS MONROE.

The Prisoners in Richmond.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 24.—The steamer New York left for City Point this morning, with 125 rebel surgeons, in charge of flag-of-truce officer Major Mulford.

The new steamer Greyhound, Captain Martin, arrived in Hampton Roads last evening, from New York. She takes the place of the City of Hudson on the Norfolk route.

The telegraph cable between Old Point and Cherrystone gave out yesterday morning, and owing to the roughness of the weather it has not been repaired.

Steamer Convoy, Captain Bochner, has just returned from City Point, in charge of Colonel Irving. He reports having transferred the Government rations for our prisoners at and about Richmond, satisfactorily to Commissioner Ould.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Eight Members out of Ten Elected by the Peace Party to Congress—The Soldiers Vote for Peace.

(Telegrams from the Richmond papers.)

NEWBERN, N. C., Nov. 20.—Major General Butler arrived here this morning from Fortress Monroe via Morehead City, accompanied by his wife, staff, and daughter; also, Rear Admiral Lee.

The Raleigh (N. C.) *Standard* claims that the Conservatives have elected eight members out of ten to the Confederate Congress. Those of them who announced themselves in favor of peace on any terms, and who were the most severe and outspoken in their condemnation of the rebel Administration, received the largest majorities. The Conservatives' candidates received the majority of soldiers' votes.

The cargoes of seven large steamers, which ran the blockade in one night, into Wilmington, are advertised in the rebel papers for sale.

U. S. Christian Commission.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Nov. 24.—A very large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the City Hall, last evening, on behalf of the U. S. Christian Commission. The Hon. M. Chapman, Judge of the Supreme Court, presided, and the large platform was crowded with the most prominent citizens of Springfield. The meeting was addressed by Rev. George J. Mingins, of Philadelphia, and others. Over three thousand persons were present, and many went away, being unable to get into the Hall.

Sentence of a Horse Contractor.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24.—C. W. Hall, a horse contractor for the Government, was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and fined $10,000, for defrauding the Government in the purchasing of horses.

The Arabia off Cape Race.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—The steamship Arabia passed last evening. The storm prevented boarding her.

Marine.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—Arrived, French bark Guipuzcoano, from Bordeaux.

DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

A Great Battle at Hand.

THE REBELS FALLING BACK TOWARD CHICKAMUGA.

A Reconnoissance in Force by Granger's Command.

The Enemy's Rifle-Pits Carried and Two Hundred Prisoners Taken.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24.—No additional information has been received regarding General Burnside's movements. Cannonading is still heard in the direction of Knoxville.

A battle is anticipated to take place between the armies of Generals Grant and Bragg, to day.

A special despatch to the *Commercial*, dated Chattanooga, Nov. 23, says:

"Deserters who arrived here last night from the enemy's lines, report that the rebels are falling back to Chickamauga station. Their artillery has been withdrawn from our front, and the whole army is apparently in retreat.

"A reconnoissance, which was made to-day, discovered that the enemy was apparently in force between our position and Missionary Ridge. General Wood, who was in command, charged up to Orchard Ridge, and carried the rifle pits of the enemy, under a severe musketry and artillery fire, taking two hundred prisoners.

"We now hold all the high ground on this side of Missionary Ridge. Our troops are in line of battle, and will lie on their arms to-night.

"A hard fight will inevitably take place to-morrow, unless the rebels retire during the night."

THE BRILLIANT SKIRMISH AT CHATTANOOGA.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The *Star* contains the following account of the preliminary movement of General Thomas at Chattanooga:

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Nov. 23.—The reconnoissance made by General Thomas has been completed in the most brilliant and successful manner. The troops employed were the divisions of Wood and Sheridan, of the 4th Corps, under the immediate direction of General Granger.

The object of the movement was not only to ascertain the strength of the enemy, but to occupy the two bold knolls situated in front of our left, half way between our lines and Missionary Ridge.

The principal attack was made by Hazen's brigade, commanded by that general, supported on the left by Willich, and on the right by the whole division of Wood.

The entire field was distinctly visible from Fort Wood, in front of which Hazen's line of battle was formed, and, as the whole army was under arms, with Howard's Corps formed in solid column, as a reserve to the attacking force, the spectacle was one of singular magnificence. The field being commanded by the heavy guns of the fort, only one field battery was taken into action.

This was planted on an elevated knoll, in front of the centre on which Sheridan's line of battle was formed before the order to advance was given.

The troops moved out of their position just before 10 o'clock A. M., and remained in line for three-quarters of an hour in full view of the enemy.

At last, everything being ready, General Granger gave the order to advance, and Generals Hazen and Willich pushed out simultaneously.

The first shot was fired at 2 o'clock P. M., and in five minutes Hazen's lines were hotly engaged, while the artillery of Fort Wood and General Thomas were opened upon the rebel rifle-pits, and the camps behind the line of fighting.

The practice of our gunners was splendid, the camp and batteries of the enemy being about a mile and three-quarters distant, but elicited no reply, and it was evident that the rebels had no heavy artillery, in that part of their entrenchments at least. Our troops rapidly advancing, as if on parade, occupied the knoll upon which they were directed, at twenty minutes past 2 o'clock. Ten minutes later, Hazen, driving across an open field, carried the rifle-pits in his front, whose occupants fled as they fired their last volley, and Sheridan moving through the forest that stretched before him, drove in the enemy's pickets, and halted his advance in obedience to orders, on reaching the rifle-pits where the rebel force was waiting for his attack. No such attack was made, however, the design being to recover the heights on our left, but not to assault the rebel works.

We have taken about two hundred prisoners, mostly Alabama troops, and have gained a position of great importance, should the rebels still attempt to hold the Chattanooga Valley, as with these heights in our possession, a column moving to turn Missionary Ridge is secure from a flank artillery fire. The rebels fired their small cannon only during the affair.

CAPTURE OF 300 PRISONERS BY WHEELER—DESPATCH FROM BRAGG.

The Richmond *Whig* of November 21st, 1863, contains the following telegraphic news:

MISSION RIDGE, November 19.

To General Cooper:

Gen. Wheeler reports his attack upon and dispersion of the enemy's cavalry, pursuing them into the woods at Knoxville, and capturing 300 prisoners. The infantry force is close upon us.

B. BRAGG, General.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Rebel Story of General Franklin's Defeat—Reported Capture of Six Thousand Prisoners by General Dick Taylor.

(From the Richmond Enquirer, Nov. 20.)

MOBILE, Nov. 19.—A letter received from a member of General Green's staff announces the defeat of two Yankee columns in Louisiana. General Franklin's division encountered a portion of General Dick Taylor's army, under General Green, near Alexandria, on the 5th inst. After a stubborn fight, the Yankees were routed with the loss of their stores and six thousand prisoners. General Weitzel's division is reported routed by General Taylor, near Opelousas. The expedition is said to be abandoned. A portion of the troops have returned to Port Hudson and Baton Rouge.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Loss of the Rebels in the Bombardment of Sumpter—Telegrams from the Rebel Papers.

BOSTON, Nov. 24.—The correspondent of the *Traveller*, writing from Folly Island, says the loss of the rebels is said to vary from five to fifteen daily. Our casualties a few weeks ago were equal to the rebels, but now are very small. New forts are being thrown up on this and the adjacent islands, which will shortly command all the navigable channels and give relief to our blockading squadron.

On the 15th inst. a detachment of our forces captured and occupied Seabrook Island, lying on the sea-side of John's Island. On the 16th four monitors engaged the rebels on Sullivan's Island, and during the fight the Montauk dismounted one of the heavy guns on Moultrie, throwing it entirely from its carriage to a distance of several feet. Their shots were directed on Forts Sumpter and Moultrie.

The steamers Pawnee and Marblehead went up the Stono river on Tuesday morning last, and, just before the Forrest City left the bar the steamer Marblehead was engaged in shelling the woods, it being stated that the rebels had a battery concealed at that point.

The Richmond *Dispatch*, Nov. 20th, received at Fortress Monroe, has the following:

CHARLESTON, Nov. 19.—The enemy renewed his fire on the city this morning, at 11 o'clock. At 4 o'clock this afternoon the number of shells thrown was twelve. The shelling of Fort Sumpter to-day has been more heavy than usual, with mortars. But few rifle-shots were fired. No casualties either in the city or at the fort.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 19.—The enemy have been firing slowly from Battery Gregg upon Fort Sumpter to-day. Nothing else new this morning.

Nov. 19.—The enemy fired eleven shots from Gregg at the city to-day, between 11 A. M. and 1 P. M. Damage trifling. Some three or four buildings were struck, and one person injured.

The Paowee and another gunboat came up the Stono and shelled Battery Pringle, but effected nothing. Firing on Sumpter slow and steady all day. Some few shots have been fired at Sullivan's Island batteries. No casualties at Fort Sumpter or Sullivan's Island.

LATER.

THE STEAMER FORREST AT BOSTON.

BOSTON, Nov. 24.—The transport steamer Forrest City, which arrived here to-day, left Charleston at 12½ o'clock P. M. on Thursday last.

When she sailed a very brisk cannonading was going on from the forts on Morris Island, Wagner, and Gregg, which had continued without intermission night and day for several days, but it seemed rather more brisk on this day.

THE REBEL THANKSGIVING.

Thursday last was observed as a day of thanks, giving and praise in the Southern Confederacy. It was rumored that at 2 o'clock on that day General Gilmore was to open a bombardment on the city of Charleston.

On her previous trip from Boston, the steamer Forrest City took out 750 recruits, who were safely landed at Folly Island.

CALIFORNIA.

Five Men Hung by Lynch Law at Los Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 23.—The merchandise taken out by the steamer Constitution, to-day, is valued at nearly $200,000, embracing teas, wool, drills, whalebone, furs, and quicksilver.

An impromptu vigilance committee forced open the Los Angeles jail, on Saturday, taking therefrom five prisoners, charged with murder, highway robbery, and horse-stealing. The committee hung the prisoners under the corridor in front of the jail, and all suspicious characters were warned to leave the county within so many hours, or take the consequences. Business was suspended in Los Angeles on the occasion, but the despatch says that "the whole affair passed off with little or no excitement."

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 24.—The ship Lizzie Moses sailed to-day for New York, carrying 420 bales of wool, 81,000 hides, 1,800 sacks of mustard seed, 7,000 sacks of copper ore, 95 pipes of California wine, 340 casks of oil, and a quantity of barley, beans, skins, &c., the cargo being valued at $250,000.

The extensive sawmills at Mendocino, owned by Gidly, Seller, & Co., of this city, were burned last week, causing a loss of $100,000.

W. H. Leighton, the actor, died last Saturday.

BOSTON.

Increase of Printers' Wages—Massachusetts Politics.

BOSTON, Nov. 24.—The book and job printers of this city, who are on a strike, complain that their situations are being filled by printers from New York.

The proprietors of all the daily newspapers in the city at once agreed to pay their printers the increased pay asked for, and some of the book publishers have also acceded to their terms, while others refuse to grant them.

The Republican ward and city committees have renominated, by acclamation, Hon. Frederick W. Lincoln for Mayor.

Large and enthusiastic war meetings were held at Charlestown and Cambridge last evening.

A Lake Propeller Ashore.

TOLEDO, Nov. 24.—The propeller Ontario, of the Northern transportation line, went ashore on West Sister Island, but was uninjured when last heard from.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 24.—Flour is active; Ohio superfine $7@7.12½. Wheat firm; red $1.52@1.68. Corn dull at $1.05@1.08 for white. Whisky quiet at 73c. Coffee quiet and scarce, and the quotations are nominal.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24.—The Flour market is firm; sales at $6.75 ⅌ bbl. Wheat is also firm but unsettled. Corn is quiet. Whisky firm. The Hog market is quiet but held firmly; sales of 1,500 hogs to-day at $6.25@7.25. Receipts to-day 11,000 hogs; receipts of the week 60,000. New Mess Pork sells at $18 ⅌ bbl. Bulk Lard 12c. Bacon—Bulk Shoulders are quoted at 6½c.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 24.—Cotton—Sales to-day at 74 @75c. Receipts of three days about 1,700 bales. Flour active; sales at $6.25 for single extra; $6.70 @6.75 for double extra. Wheat active for the lower grades, at higher prices; sales at $1.30@1.35, and $1.36@1.40 for choice. Oats advanced to 92@93c. Corn advancing; sales at $1.11@1.12½. Bacon very firm; Hams 10@12c; Shoulders 6½@7c; Sides 6½@ 6¾c. Hogs active and firm, at $6.25@6.26.

General Schurz to Leslie Combs.

The following letter from General Carl Schurz to Leslie Combs, of Kentucky, appears in the Louisville *Journal*. It is a fair challenge:

CAMP NEAR CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 6, 1863.

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal:

In your paper of Nov. 3d, I see a letter signed by Mr. Leslie Combs, in which the following allusion is made to me: "Our children have fought in every battle-field, and never once fled, like Carl Schurz and his gang of freedom-shrikers did at Chancellorsville." I am not in the habit of replying to calumny and abuse springing from the impure inspirations of party spirit; but, Gen. Leslie Combs being a man of note, I deem it proper to avail myself of this opportunity to stop a slander which political enemies seem bent upon sustaining by frequent repetition.

I wish, therefore, to say, that in asserting that "Carl Schurz fled at Chancellorsville," Mr. Leslie Combs *lies*. I choose the word "*lies*"—although with extreme reluctance and regret—upon due consideration of its meaning; for, if Mr. Leslie Combs has inquired into the facts, he must know that he is saying what is false; and, if he has made no such inquiry, then he gives with unpardonable levity the sanction of his name to a statement which is most injurious to another man's reputation, and which he does not know to be true. I wish to add that, in saying "Mr. Leslie Combs lies," I hold myself responsible for what I say.

This may seem equivalent to a challenge—and so it is. But I do not, however, mean to fight a duel with Mr. Leslie Combs. Being a good pistol shot, I might perhaps easily kill him, which I should not like to do; or, if he is equally skillful, he might kill me—and I should be sorry to die on so trifling an occasion; or we might not hurt each other, and then it would be a farce. Besides, I am opposed to duelling on principle.

But I challenge Mr. Leslie Combs to a different kind of a contest, which will be perfectly fair and free from the element of personal courage. I invite him to the hospitality of my headquarters in the camp of the Army of the Cumberland. I will share with him my tent, my blankets, my meals; and I invite him also to accompany me personally in the next battle, and not to leave me a single moment. There Mr. Leslie Combs may determine whether he will have the heart to repeat that calumny, or whether it would not be better for him, and more honorable for him, to retract it.

I trust, sirs, you will give this letter the same publicity which you accorded to that of Mr. Leslie Combs.

Yours, respectfully,

CARL SCHURZ.

Educational Literature.

Imperial octavo in size and superbly printed on finest paper, Bryant & Stratton's Counting-House Book-keeping has just appeared. Two introductory volumes, mainly teaching the theory of accounts, were published in 1860 and 1861, and are known as the High School and the Common School editions The new volume includes the first of these, which the experience of three years' very extensive teaching has fully tested, and adds two hundred pages more, on the subjects of Agencies, Administrators' Books, Commissions, Forwarding, Banking, Brokerage and Exchange, and Commercial Calculations. Also, Hints as to Dividends, Vocabulary of Mercantile Terms, Abbreviations and Terms, and a Time Table. We have no hesitation in pronouncing that Bryant & Stratton's Counting-house Book-keeping is the fullest, clearest, and most comprehensive work on that subject ever published; so clear and so full, that, without any occasion to go to a master for instruction, any sensible and studious lad, well acquainted with arithmetic, can make himself perfectly [able, by its aid, to keep the books of any business concern, no matter how extensive or complicated its dealings.

THE CITY.

[FOR ADDITIONAL CITY NEWS, SEE FOURTH PAGE.]

HOW A GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.—LECTURE BY PROFESSOR COPPEE.—Last evening Professor Coppée delivered a lecture in the hall of the University of Pennsylvania; subject "How a Great Battle was Fought." There was a fair attendance of ladies and gentlemen, who listened quite attentively and showed by discriminating applause their appreciation of the general subject, and an understanding of its most abstruse particulars. The lecture occupied a little more than an hour and a half, and was elucidated with clearness and precision. Frequent reference was made to diagrams on either side of the speaker's stand, illustrative of the minutiæ of the battle, the roads over which the *corps d'armée* passed previous to and subsequent to the conflict, with the probable reasons therefor. This constant reference renders it almost impossible for us to convey his theories respecting the great battle of Gettysburg. The lecture opened with an appropriate reference to the renewed interest given to Gettysburg in consequence of recent events, and apologized for choosing this subject for the information of an audience already fully made acquainted with the battle-field from the beautiful and exhaustive description of the statesman and orator, Edward Everett. With the aid of drawings, however, he would endeavor to give a clearer idea of the great battle than many who were by ways, a tedious bungle, to be sure, and for that reason the musician suffered; but the following *morceau* of criticism is amusing:

"If Mozart's opera of "The Magic Flute" were published for the benefit of the earth, and made as extinct as the Dodo, nobody would grieve except a few musical antiquaries and the larger and more ignorant class that think it is heresy to dislike anything written by Mozart. The absurd old opera was played last evening by the German company at the Academy, and failed to please."

ITALIAN OPERA.—This opera troupe, under Mr. Max Maretzek, will appear, at the Academy of Music, on next Monday evening. They have been performing with great success in New York for a considerable time, and it is said to contain, among its members some of the best singers in the world, who will, no doubt, be duly appreciated by the music-lo