The Press.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1863.

THE NEWS.

WITH the falling back of General Bragg's forces beyond Dalton, we hear that General Gordon Granger's corps has been despatched to the relief of Burnside. It appears that Longstreet still keeps his place before Knoxville, and has been defeated in an effort to make a diversion on the Knoxville side of the Holston river, besides having lost a rifle-pit by a gallant charge from a Michigan regiment. These facts do not render the situation of the rebel General any more favorable than ever, and the time for the threatened capture of Knoxville has doubtless past, while the rumored reinforcements through Southwestern Virginia can hardly be spared in the present crisis of General Lee's fortunes. A victory of Bragg over Grant is not now to be thought of; Longstreet has thoroughly failed in the purpose for which he set out; Meade has concentrated all the attention of Lee; and the last hope for victory in the general campaign of the rebels is bent upon the expected battle in Virginia. In the battle of Chattanooga the rebels acknowledge a loss of five thousand prisoners, in addition to their killed and wounded. The neighborhood of Dalton, to which Bragg has retreated, is about thirty-eight miles from Chattanooga, and beyond the tremendous ranges of mountains which almost entirely fill the space between this place and the State line. Its location is in a beautiful valley, surrounded by mountains. It is one of the most flourishing towns in the State, although not more than twenty-four years old. It has three thousand inhabitants. The distance from Dalton to Atlanta is about a hundred miles, through a rather poor section of Georgia.

A LATE telegram from Cumberland Gap states that all the available United States forces have been sent from that point to intercept Longstreet's retreat into Virginia. A courier from Knoxville is said to have brought the intelligence that the enemy forced a general engagement, on Sunday, in which Wheeler's five thousand cavalry were captured, and the rebels driven back in their attempt to cross the river.

A DESPATCH, dated the 30th, and direct from headquarters, states that Mine Run valley, crossing the Fredericksburg and Orange road, is the dividing line between the forces of Meade and Lee. Twelve miles from the latter place the enemy are entrenched, their line of works on a commanding position near Verdiersville. The enemy are apparently determined to make a desperate resistance, and are momentarily awaiting attack. Very heavy firing was heard on the noon of the 30th. Rebel telegrams of the 30th report a general fight at hand, and state that the Yankees have eight days' rations. The weather about the battle-field has been very cold, and must prove especially severe to the wounded. Very late telegrams explain the cannonading heard on Monday. General Warren's corps was ordered to attack the enemy, but finding the rebel position unexpectedly strong, further orders were called for, and the battle was checked. In these despatches we have more accurate details of the movements and positions of the armies.

REBEL telegrams of the 27th and 28th state that half a dozen shells were thrown into Charleston, and a steady shelling of forts Sumpter, Moultrie, and Johnston took place.

GENERAL CHARLES P. STONE, chief of staff to Major General Banks, and at present in command of Louisiana, was lately cited before the United States Court for contempt of court. General Stone, being in need of vessels to send supplies to the fronts was yielded possession of a condemned prize by the naval authorities pending appraisement. His workmen were ordered off by the U. S. Marshal's deputies, whereupon General Stone arrested the deputies. The vessel was loaded with supplies, and sent off to the army. General Stone was acquitted upon assurance that he intended no disrespect to the court.

MR. C. GODFREY GUNTHER has been elected Mayor of New York over Messrs. Boole and Blunt. THE rebel Morgan telegraphed his arrival in Toronto to Columbus, Ohio. The rest of his fellow-fugitives have joined him.

A SPEECH delivered by Robert Toombs before the Georgia Legislature attacks the rebel Administration in its ruinous currency system, and its tyrannous impressments.

GEN. GANTT, of Arkansas, has made another address, in which he eulogizes the devoted Unionists of Arkansas, and invites the people to unite in abolishing slavery.

IN addition to the annual meetings of Congress, of the Supreme Court, of the Colonization Society, and of the National Agricultural Society, which are required by law to be held in Washington, there is to be this winter the annual session of the "National Academy of Sciences."

A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL in Italy having voted a subsidy to the Poles, and a monument to Garibaldi, that hero declines the monument, but applauds the subsidy: "As long as the soldiers of two foreign tyrants riot on our soil; as long as a stream of civil blood flows from the Tronto to the Strait; as long as the glorious remains of our national battles die of hunger or by their own hand in the midst of the insane rejoicings of our cities; as long as the boy wants a school and the orphan an asylum; as long as there are in Italy misery, chains, and darkness, speak not of monuments, least of all a monument to me."

CORRESPONDENCE in the British papers states that whole populations of villages in Lithuania have been forcibly transported to the steppes of the Ural. In Wilna the convoys for Siberia leave every other Friday. In order to destroy every mark of Polonism in the city, Mouravieff has ordered all the Polish inscriptions on the shops and at the corners of the streets to be erased, no more Polish bills of fare to be used in the restaurants, the Polish language to be no longer employed by tradesmen in making up their accounts, and the official language to be in all cases Russian, even on seals and stamps.

THE British Parliament is prorogued to January 13, and it is announced that on reassembling Mr. Buxton will offer the following resolutions in the House of Commons:

"1. That this House views the burning of the town of Kagosima by Admiral Kuper with deep regret.

"2. That the burning of the town was not justified by the instructions issued to Colonel Neale."

The Army of the Potomac.

Virginia, where for so long the two great armies have vainly fought and manœuvred for decisive victory, is again the theatre of active war. There is an interest attached to the Army of the Potomac which is very strong in all the Eastern States, for it was recruited principally in the East, and there are few of our citizens who have not some friend or relative in its ranks. It was also the first of our great armies to take the field, and has been entrusted with some of the most important campaigns of the war. That it has thus far failed in its great purpose has not shaken the confidence in its valor, its earnestness, and ultimate success. General HOOKER was not wrong when he called it "the finest army on the planet." Its record is illustrious; it has never left Virginia except to pursue the foe into other States, and protect our own soil from invasion, and, after expelling him twice from Maryland and Pennsylvania, it has again stood firmly, protecting Washington on the one hand and threatening Richmond on the other. It has suffered much from incapable commanders, yet has never lost confidence in itself. It has, indeed, saved the reputation of some of its generals by splendid fighting in battles badly planned. Its victories are among the noblest of the war, and it is important, in measuring merit in this of its service, to remember that it has been opposed by the best army the rebellion could create, commanded by its ablest general.

Once more the Army of the Potomac dares its great adversary, and its advance is an attempt to compel a battle. General MEADE has hard fighting for his first object, and we doubt not that if a battle, by long marches, strategy, or chance, can be secured, all the rest we desire will follow. The superb daring of the movements by which the communication with Washington was abandoned, and the army sent forward altogether dependent upon its own stores, is an indication of our strength and resolution. With provisions sufficient till the 10th of December, the army has no need of the railroad it has abandoned to the guerillas, and is so well equipped that all fears for its safety may be at once dismissed. Our only fear need be that General MEADE may fail to obtain a pitched battle, and that LEE may succeed in his attempted retreat. This fear is not without reason, and it may be that the enemy will reach the fortifications of Richmond before he is forced to stand. Gen. MEADE may repeat the siege of Richmond, but, we trust, not the mistake of the Chickahominy.

It is improbable that Gen. MEADE can achieve a victory equal to that of GRANT at Chattanooga, for we know the character of Gen. LEE, and of his veteran troops. We know how they retired from Gettysburg, and with what effrontery the rebel commander coolly removed his defeated army from Antietam. The rout of the Army of Northern Virginia is not to be expected. But the time is come when the attempt should be made to defeat it as it has never been defeated. It is the last hope of the enemy—it is the hardy Atlas which upholds the Confederacy, and if it falls, Richmond, Charleston, Alabama, Georgia, JEFFERSON DAVIS, treason, and rebellion, all fall with it. The war ends with a crushing defeat of General LEE. So far as can be judged, this is the hour to seek victory and find it, for in a little while the resources of the rebellion will be exhausted to make LEE stronger than his adversary. Therefore, we have the advance admirably timed. The Government has done its best in pushing on the war in the East the very moment that victory was assured in the West. The responsibility now rests with Gen. MEADE and the Army of the Potomac. In a few days we shall know if the battle we so ardently desire shall be fought on this side of the York river or beyond the unlucky Pamunky.

The Growth of the Opera.

A backward glance of ten years through the operatic vista lights on a sight worth seeing. It is good to look back on what we have been, because it reminds us of what we may become. We may compliment ourselves on our advance in civilization. The most conservative amongst us has a finger in the pie of progress. In 1853 we were in our operatic swaddling clothes; in 1863 we are put in pantaloons and jackets. In 1873 we shall be in long-tails, if anywhere, which some devotees affect to question. JENNY LIND, LOUISA PYNE, GAZZANIGA, are three mile-stones in the past, indicating that we were getting along finely, and that we shall find before us a prosperous musical future.

When GAZZANIGA was here her dramatic qualities were applauded, and her singing censured. That her voice is worn out is a misfortune which years only aggravate. GAZZANIGA displayed a dramatic ability which is rarely united to operatic. BRIGNOLI, who was intended to be her principal support, had enough to do to support himself. He is an awkward actor, and, if he had a less delicious voice, could very well be dispensed with. GAZZANIGA, however, was Philadelphia's first love. It ignored her lack of youth and beauty, overlooked her short-comings as a singer, and very tumultuously applauded her as an actress.

Since then we have had several acceptable songstresses, and one or two who were excellent. We do not remember one who united, in a remarkable degree, the capabilities of cantatrice and actress. The prevailing idea, that the voice must be cultivated at the expense of everything else; that emotions should be turned into mere machinery; that looks and gestures are only accessories which can be done without, is speedily exploding.

The season of Italian opera commences this evening. The company has been highly extolled, and is, without doubt, excellent. There is an education not only in music, but in a taste for music, as in everything else. But in opera, dramatic as well as musical action is required, and unless the two are harmoniously blended, the public's critical palate will not be pleased.

Let the operas, new and old, be placed upon the stage as they should be, (our Academy has resources sufficient,) let the singers remember that they have hands and feet as well as voices, and there is not the slightest doubt but that the season will terminate, as it will commence, in complete success. Ordinarily, the principal difference between the opera and a concert is that in the former we have foot-lights, scenery, and costumes. We have grown out of that, and look for something more striking. The opera is not a fashionable humbug—a school for scandal during overtures and interludes. It is the union of poetry and music, requiring the singer not only to feel what he sings, but to act it. Whether such requisites are combined in the present company the approaching season will afford all the opportunity of judging. Opera amongst us has grown too old to dispense with them.

TO-MORROW evening is devoted to Mr. BEECHER. This Philadelphia testimonial cannot fail to be gratifying to both the lecturer and lectured. The service he has performed for the American cause abroad, he has so well performed that not an ear will listen but a hand will correspondingly applaud. His orations in London have unquestionably elicited the character of the man, the character of our country, and the character of at least a part of England. His evening here at home will be one which his multitudinous friends will delight to recognize.

This evening WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON delivers his great lecture upon "The State of the Country," at Concert Hall. The speaker is eloquent and cultivated. He perfectly understands the subject of his lecture. No standing-room will be left in the hall, and the cause which the man espouses, as well as the talents with which he supports it, will bear him triumphantly through.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, December 1, 1863.

Those who have read this correspondence will remember that when the rebellion culminated in war, I prophesied that, while the blood and burdens, the devastation and decay, common to all wars, would mainly and most heavily fall on the seceded or seceding sections, the capital of the Union would not only be held with the strongest hold to the Government, but would be cleansed of slavery, purified of a haughty slave aristocracy, and become the centre of art, science, enterprise and wealth, and the abiding place of a new, vigorous and progressive race of men. I have repeatedly discussed this idea in intermediate letters. It cannot, therefore, be unprofitable to recur to it now. On one of the bright early afternoons of the late "second Indian summer," I drove through the city, to note how much harm and good this "cruel war" had visited upon the Federal capital. Much as I expected to see, I must confess my surprise at the spectacle. Not to speak of the eloquent lesson to be read in the increasing dimensions of the marble halls of Congress, with their expanding wings, and wide-spreading entrances, and massive yet graceful pillars and columns, and balustrades—their freshly decorated walls—their newly imported statuary—the fine painting of Leutze on the panel of the noble stair leading to the gallery of the House, and the spirited sketch of Stanley on the panel of the noble stair conducting to the gallery of the Senate—not to speak of the Congressional Library, vast, complete, and still not yast nor complete enough for a Government like ours, and, therefore, extending itself into the old chamber of the House—nor yet of the dome that crowns the whole pile, with the massive metal figure of Freedom (by Crawford, whose last great work it was before he gave his spirit to the God of Freedom), which stands above the dome, and seems to be on the eve of pronouncing the death of slavery:—passing these splendid testimonials, as matters with which all Americans are familiar, let us go down "the Hill," and drive through the avenues and streets of the city itself. We find two of the most extensive theatres in the United States, each capable of holding audiences as large as any similar establishment in Philadelphia (the Academy excepted), and both coining money, notwithstanding at least four other places of popular resort are nightly crowded. A few years ago the theatre here was a sad travestie upon the art which so often travesties life itself. It ruined both owners and managers, and if the poor actors were themselves not ruined, it was because, like Jaffier, they had long been "pleased with ruin." Those who recollect the Washington hotels of the bygone days (not to mention the boarding-houses, redolent of sloth, stench, slavery, and scandal) have only to look around upon the palaces at which the hungry sojourner is fed, and (too sad to say) sometimes fleeced. I can enumerate four first-class public houses; at least eight of the second class, and of other grades almost any variety. Two additional spacious hotels are now in course of construction, one of which will shortly be opened. See the theatres—they are all prosperous. It is said to be a reasonable estimate that one of the most successful of the largest has cleared as much as $150,000 a year. The erection of new dwellings and stores has become a sort of mania; and all of brick. Brick theatres, brick hotels, brick warehouses, and workshops, brick mansions—nearly every street abounds with evidences of the prevailing feeling. Meanwhile, the city railroad which feeds this feeling, is repaying its projectors and stockholders at enormous rates. But nothing better illustrates the growth of Washington, and its sure and substantial future wealth, than the rents asked and received for rooms and tenements. It is common to hear of a person paying one hundred dollars a month for two rooms in a house, the whole of which, two years ago, would not have rented for six hundred dollars a year. Let me give you a case in point. Some weeks ago, the residence of the famous Dr. Garnett, son-in-law of Wise, the man who called upon thousands of Virginians to help in the hanging of John Brown, was sold under the confiscation act for $3,500, and it is now renting for $2,800 per annum. Of course, this state of things cannot last, although it must not be forgotten that what I have been describing is a glance at the indications of a summer and autumn when no Congress was in session, and when the army was on the borders of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and also in these States, chastising and repelling Lee. Many wealthy men, and men of foresight, who came here, to live [a season, on business or pleasure, or in the discharge of official or Congressional duties, now prefer erecting good dwelling houses. The interest of the money so invested is a trifle compared with the rents which otherwise they would be forced to pay; the investment is certain to be profitably permanent. Among the other signs of the times, (shall I say the good signs?) is the absence of the old masters of society here, the Dukes, the Earls, the Baronets, the Rothschilds, and the dependents of slavery. Considered in connection with the question, what has been done with their possessions? no more fruitful theme for thought and comment could be conceived. Some are enjoying the delights of Paris and London, and the miseries of Richmond and Charleston; but none of these delights can blind them to the sense of what they have lost forever, and none of these miseries are half so fierce as the lashing of their own remorse. I will not name them, for when I knew them, there were some, at least, who seemed to be patriotic and honest. If such as these have become ingrates and traitors, they were misled by those who were always so at heart, and they are now suffering a sufficient retribution. Their property is being rapidly sold under the confiscation act. Already a number of important sales have been consummated, and under the bold and fearless direction of the Supreme Court of this district, the good work will go on to the close. Arlington House is to be set up in a few days, and will doubtless attract a crowd of visitors. Arlington House! What fragrant memories cluster around the name! Once the home of patriotic refinement—the centre of Southern fashion—the depository and sanctuary of the most precious of the household gods of Washington himself. Arlington! where Lafayette visited and staid on his last tour through our country. Arlington! with its splendid walks, noble woods, fertile fields, and unsurpassed lookout upon the city which smiles like an Italian picture at its feet—is to be sold at auction, because a degenerate son of the South and a false-hearted traitor to his country, the wretched Robert E. Lee, its last owner, has forfeited it, as he has forever forfeited his good name. On some of the gorgeous plantations of this expatriated slave nobility our soldiers are quartered. One of these, by far the most luxurious in the vicinity, is occupied by brave men, who have fought to save the nation which its wealthy owner, enriched under the bounty of that nation, now desires to destroy! The Government uses the best of the houses owned by this class of patriots, for its own purposes. Such is Washington city to-day. If we miss the old aristocracy, it is only to realize a beneficial loss. Their places are filled by others, their equals in birth and in education; their superiors in patriotism and thrift; their inferiors only in wealth and in pride. But I am beyond my space, and must end here, that I may leave something for another chapter.

OCCASIONAL.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

The Operations of Saturday.

THE FIGHT WITH THE THIRD CORPS ON FRIDAY.

Total Repulse of the Enemy.

THE SITUATION ON MONDAY.

Positions of the Two Armies.

THE MINE RUN VALLEY.

The Attack Commenced, but Checked.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF THE SITUATION.

DESPATCH FROM GENERAL LEE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Reports from Bealeton confirm the statements of heavy firing being heard yesterday.

The engagement of the 3d Corps on Friday is said to have been exaggerated in the first descriptions, especially as to the number of rebel prisoners taken, which was far less than heretofore stated.

Our loss in killed and wounded is believed to be three hundred.

The report that Lee has retreated are not credited. On the contrary, it is said that he is strongly posted on Mine river.

THE SKIRMISHING ON SATURDAY.

NEW YORK, December 1.—The *Tribune* has published an extra, with advices from Gen. Meade's army, dated on Saturday night. It says: This morning opened with a rain storm, but the whole army was on the advance at an early hour. The 3d Corps, which crossed the Rapidan at Jacobs' Mill, and was engaged yesterday, six miles from Locust Grove, on the road leading to Culpeper, deployed to the left of our line. The 6th Corps remained on the right, and the 1st on the left of the 6th. The 2d retained its position, while the 5th deployed from its first position on the left to Locust Grove, as a reserve.

Brisk skirmishing commenced as our line reached a point a mile and a half to the west of Locust Point Grove. Our forces pushed steadily onward, however, driving the enemy's skirmishers, and hastening their retreat by an occasional shell from our batteries, to which the guns of the enemy did not reply.

General Meade had come up at an early hour to Robertson's tavern. The headquarters' train was ordered back out of range, long trains of artillery, ammunition wagons, and ambulances were moving to the front, and everything indicated a general engagement should Lee fall into position and the weather prove favorable.

The rain continued to fall, but still our troops pressed forward, skirmishing continually. The rebel line gradually fell back until it reached the western bank of Mine run, two and a half miles from the tavern, and a short distance from Old Verdieville.

At this point, there were evidences of an intention on the part of the enemy to dispute our passage, earthworks and abattis being visible on the clearing beyond. Gen. Meade accordingly disposed his forces along the densely wooded crest of hills east of the run. Owing to the difficulty of moving artillery, and even infantry, through the woods on either side of the road, some time elapsed before the formation of our line. Night soon came on, and beyond the firing of pickets, and an occasional shell thrown from our lines, nothing of importance transpired.

The army of Gen. Meade occupies a section of what is termed "The Wilderness."

Many officers discredit the story that Lee will give battle on this side of Orange Court House or Gordonsville, and express the opinion that he will gradually fall back into a position where his chances of holding our forces in check will be greater.

THE FIGHTING ON FRIDAY.

The *Tribune* has also an account of the fight with the 3d Army Corps on Friday, which says:

On Friday morning the 3d and 6th Army corps continued their march to make a junction with Gen. Warren's corps.

Gen. Bruce's Division of the 3d was in advance, and as the head of the column reached a small clearing, it was greeted with a volley from the rebel skirmishers, supported by the 1st and 3d Divisions of the corps.

The 1st Massachusetts advanced through a dense thicket, fighting and pushing the rebels back a mile and a half to the vicinity of Mile run, when the enemy, strengthening his line, gradually forced back our line. Skirmishing continued until 3.30 P. M., when the enemy, with shouts and yells, charged our first line, consisting of Prince's division, the right of which first fell back in some confusion, but soon rallied, and, with the aid of one section of Randolph's 1st Rhode Island battery, and Battery K of the 4th United States, which poured volleys of grape and canister into the advancing columns of the enemy, consisting of Johnson's and part of Rhodes' divisions of Ewell's corps, twice in succession, gallantly repulsed the enemy, and were in each instance driven back in perfect rout. The fight ceased at dark.

The 3d Corps bivouacked on the field at the junction of two roads, six miles from Locust Grove. Our loss in killed and wounded probably amounts to not less than 350. With such haste did the rebels retreat, that they left behind all their dead, the ground being literally covered with them. Our proportion killed in the fight is very small. But one brigade of the 6th Corps was engaged, that of General Russell.

REBEL ACCOUNTS—DESPATCH FROM GENERAL LEE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 1.—The Richmond *Whig* of the 28th and 30th contains the following:

ORANGE C. H., Sunday 9 o'clock A. M.—A rain storm prevailed all day yesterday, and there were no movements of importance in either army.

This morning the enemy are deploying in our front.

GENERAL LEE.

There has been no fighting since Friday with the exception of some skirmishing on Saturday.

The Yankees have eight days' rations.

General Fitzhugh Lee drove the enemy's cavalry across Raccoon and Morton's Fords yesterday.

Friday's fight was mostly conducted with musketry.

Moseby fell in the rear of the Yankee wagon-train, near Brandy Station, on Friday morning, and burned thirty wagons, and captured 112 mules and 20 horses.

The Richmond committee for the care of the wounded arrived at Gordonsville to-day.

The two armies are fronting each other in line of battle, and a general fight cannot long be postponed.

Gen. Ewell returned to the army to-day.

Gen. Jones, who was wounded on Friday, will return to his command to-morrow.

DIRECT FROM HEADQUARTERS.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Nov. 30.—The armies of Generals Meade and Lee are divided by Mine Run Valley, crossing the Fredericksburg and Orange plank road and turnpike road.

About twelve miles from the latter place the enemy are strongly entrenched, and exhibit a determination to make a desperate resistance.

Some cannonading has taken place this morning, which was feebly replied to by Lee's batteries. Their line of works are near Verdiesville, on a commanding position, but they will probably be attacked to-day or to-morrow.

Nothing of a decisive character has transpired up to the present time.

OPERATIONS ON MONDAY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—10 o'clock P. M.—Information has been received from the Army of the Potomac up to Monday at noon.

The train captured on the plank road on Friday is said to have contained a small quantity of ammunition, which the rebels exploded. They also captured the mules, eighty of which they carried away, and killed the remainder. The wagon-master was killed, and the drivers, with two exceptions, were conveyed away as prisoners.

In relation to affairs on the front on Saturday, it is stated that at daylight our army lay across the Fredericksburg and Orange turnpike at Robertson's Tavern, twelve miles from the Orange Court House. The rebel line was light, and was being gradually pushed back by our skirmishers for one mile and a half over the Mine run, near Verderville.

On both sides of the road, sloping for half a mile on each side of the river, there is an open space and on the edge of the woods, west of the run, the enemy were in line of battle on both sides of the road with their batteries entrenched. The slope thence to the ridge is dotted with rifle-pits, from which the sharpshooters fired scattering shots.

About 1 o'clock in the afternoon the clouds broke, and the rain closed, but the roads were in almost an impassable condition. One of our batteries fired a few shots, to which the rebels replied with great spirit for half an hour.

The following positions for battle having been assigned to the several corps, they were taken by them during the day, and each was ready to perform its duty by 4 o'clock: The 6th Corps, commanded by Major General Sedgwick, on the right, next to the 2d Corps, Major General Warren, which held the turnpike, and, together with the 1st Corps, Major General Newton, formed the centre.

The left wing was formed by the 3d Corps, under Major Gen. French, and the reserve was composed of the 5th Corps, under Major Gen. Sykes.

About sunset several guns were fired from our line, but failed to draw the enemy's fire.

The following additional particulars of the engagement on Friday have been furnished:

The number of prisoners taken by the 3d Corps has been greatly exaggerated. Only sixty have as yet been reported to the provost marshal.

Among the wounded are Col. McClellan and Col. Higgins, of the 86th Pennsylvania; also, two cap. tains, whose names are unknown.

The medical director of the corps estimates our loss at 300 wounded, and about 100 killed.

The enemy retreated from the front of the 3d Corps during the night, leaving their dead and wounded on the field.

Owing to the enemy's change of position, it became necessary for us to leave them there. Their number greatly exceeded ours.

A note dated on Sunday says: "Yesterday closed clear, with the two armies lying in line on the opposite sides of the Mine Run valley. On examination, it was found that the ground on both sides of the rives, excepting where crossed by the turnpike, was impassable by our troops, owing to its boggy and swampy condition."

All was quiet in the front on Sunday.

On Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, all our batteries which could be placed in position to bear upon the Rappahannock, were ordered to open upon the enemy.

The siege train was placed in position in front of Sedgwick's command. After half an hour's slow cannonading, to which the enemy feebly responded, an attack was ordered.

The left wing, under Gen. Warren, came upon the enemy, who was found to be in stronger numbers and position than was anticipated, and further instructions were consequently asked for. Thereupon the forward movement was checked, and all further firing ceased.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1.

The Treasury.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the condition of the finances, is now in the hands of the public printer. It will be much larger than heretofore, and contain various interesting tables on subjects not before embodied in such documents. The general arrangement will be much improved. To this report will be added the reports, severally, of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the Comptroller of the Currency. The various rumors (put in circulation by parties opposed to the Secretary's policy) of the withdrawal of the new fractional currency, are without foundation in fact. The currency is duly issued, and preparations are nearly completed to issue it in such quantities as the wants of the public may require. The objection to the paper's splitting, which was raised against the treasury paper specially, but which is said to be equally true as to *all* paper, has produced a good result, for it has stimulated the Treasury to make a paper which cannot be split, a desideratum never before attained. Such a paper is now making in the Treasury, and all the issues will be printed upon it as soon as a sufficient quantity can be manufactured.

Chaplains to Congress.

Mr. HORACE GREELEY, and other friends of Rev. JOHN PIERPONT, are urging the election of that gentleman as chaplain either to the Senate or the House. Mr. PIERPONT came here, it will be remembered, as chaplain to the regiment raised by Hon. HENRY WILSON, but finding himself unable to stand the fatigue of camp life, he accepted a clerkship in the Treasury Department.

Relief to the Prisoners at Richmond—Gov. Seymour's Commission.

GOV. SEYMOUR recently appointed a commission, consisting of Mr. JAMES A. BELL, of the New York Senate; Hon. ORLANDO KELLOGG, of the Essex Congressional district; ex-Adjutant Gen. HILL, of the House, and Mr. WM. H. BOGART, to confer with the War Department in relation to the bounties paid to old and partially-filled regiments, their quotas, and the general quota of the State. The Governor also requested them to act in behalf of the suffering Union men at Richmond. In furtherance of their mission they sent a letter to the Secretary of War, of which the following is a copy:

WASHINGTON, December 1.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

The undersigned, a commission designated by the Governor of the State of New York, to confer with your department in relation to the affairs of the immediate raising of troops for the service, have the honor to present herewith their letters of accredit and introduction, but before entering on the specific duty to which they have been assigned, they ask to say that they are directed by his Excellency the Governor to place in behalf of the State, any aid in money or material that can be used in alleviation of the sufferings of the Union men in prison at Richmond; submitting, of course, the manner and direction in which such aid shall be applied to the judgment and authority of your department. The undersigned at once submit this proposition, as in its nature taking precedence of all other affairs.

JAMES A. BELL,
ORLANDO KELLOGG,
WM. H. BOGART.

The answer of the Secretary was highly favorable, and immediate measures were taken by him to ascertain, through the Commissioners of Exchange, in what manner the relief can be most promptly offered.

The assistant adjutant general of New York, Maj. Stonehouse, accompanies, and acts in conjunction with the commission.

The U. S. Christian Commission.

POTTSVILLE, Dec. 1.—On Sunday evening last an immense audience assembled in the court house, to hear Rev. Messrs. Patterson and Lyford, agents of the Christian Commission, present the claims of the Federal prisoners in Richmond. Nearly two thousand dollars were contributed, and great enthusiasm was awakened.

BUFFALO, Dec. 1.—A great meeting was held here on Sunday evening by the U. S. Christian Commission, on behalf of the Union soldiers. The collection amounted to nearly five hundred dollars. Another meeting was held last evening at Niagara Falls, for the same purpose. Good returns are coming in from all parts, in response to the Commission's appeal for thanksgiving collections.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—During the past four days telegraphic communication with the East has been interrupted. In the meantime, nothing of importance has occurred.

No vessels have arrived from or sailed for Atlantic ports. Tonnage is very scarce and wanted to the extent of several desirable charters.

Very little business is doing, the dull season having fully commenced. The weather is cool and pleasant.

The losses of cattle by starvation, in the southern counties of the State, on account of the unusually dry season, are estimated at over fifteen thousand, and many more were killed to save their hides and tallow. The recent rains, however, have started vegetation to such an extent that the stock may commence to resuperate.

It is stated that the McElurstad company contemplate digging a canal to convey the waters from the head of the San Joaquin or Merd river to the Mariposa mine.

Arrival of Fellow-prisoners of Morgan at Toronto.

TORONTO, Dec. 1.—Four or five of Morgan's fellow-prisoners are reported to have arrived to-night on the western train.

Death of a U. S. Marshal.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 1.—Mr. David H. Carr, the U. S. Marshal for the district of Connecticut, died suddenly at his residence in this city this evening.

Arrest of Major Wasser.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—Major Wasser, whose alleged fraudulent revenue transactions at Cairo have been telegraphed all over the country, was arrested at McVicker's Theatre, in this city, last night.

DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

General Granger Sent to Reinforce Burnside.

BRAGG'S ARMY BEYOND DALTON.

CANNONADING AT KNOXVILLE.

A Force of the Enemy Driven Back.

A REBEL RIFLE-PIT TAKEN.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF WHEELER'S CAVALRY DIVISION.

Movements for Intercepting Longstreet's Retreat into Virginia.

REBEL REPORTS OF BRAGG'S DEFEAT.

A Loss of 5,000 Prisoners Acknowledged.

CHATTANOOGA.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 1.—A despatch from Chattanooga says that sufficient reinforcements, under Gen. Gordon Granger, have been sent to Gen. Burnside to insure his success.

Gen. Bragg's main force is reported beyond Dalton. Stragglers continue to come into our lines.

Maj. Gen. Foster arrived at Cumberland Gap yesterday, bound for Knoxville.

Fifteen hundred prisoners from Chattanooga arrived at Louisville yesterday.

The guerillas are very troublesome on the Cumberland river. Boats are fired into, houses and citizens robbed, and their property carried off.

Henry Andrews, of the 124th Ohio, has been sentenced to be shot for desertion, on the 8th of January.

EAST TENNESSEE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Nov. 30.—General Willcox telegraphs from Cumberland Gap that scouts who came in yesterday report that heavy cannonading was heard yesterday morning in the direction of Knoxville. The firing was very rapid, about forty discharges per minute, and lasted several hours.

THE HOSPITALS AT CHATTANOOGA.

Surgeon General Hammond leaves Washington to-morrow with instructions to proceed to Chattanooga, and inspect the hospitals and camps of Gen. Grant's army, after which he is to go to Nashville and there await further orders.

THE SIEGE OF KNOXVILLE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The *Tribune* has received the following special despatch:

KNOXVILLE, Saturday, Nov. 28, via Cumberland Gap, Nov. 29.—We are now in the twelfth day of the siege, and the enemy has gained no advantage. We are better prepared for attack than the most sanguine expected.

General Longstreet is delaying hostile operations while awaiting reinforcements from Virginia.

The enemy made a diversion on Wednesday upon our position over the river; but after an hour's fight were driven back.

On Wednesday a detachment of the 2d Michigan made a gallant charge, and captured a rebel rifle-pit within five hundred yards of our works. We subsequently were compelled to give way to a superior force with great loss.

Major Bessangton was taken prisoner, Adjutant Noble and Lieutenant Salpin were killed, and Lieutenant Colonel Cormick, of the 17th Michigan, died on Friday from wounds received.

Affairs have been comparatively quiet for the last two days. It is raining slightly this morning.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT REPORTS—CAPTURE OF GEN. WHEELER'S DIVISION—LONGSTREET'S RETREAT TO BE CUT OFF.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 1.—The correspondent of the *Commercial* telegraphs from Cumberland Gap tonight that all the available forces of the United States army had been sent from there to intercept General Longstreet's retreat into Virginia. He also says that a courier from Knoxville brings the intelligence that the enemy attempted to cross the river on Sunday, thereby bringing on a general engagement, which resulted in the defeat of the enemy, and the capture of General Wheeler's division of 5,000 men.

REBEL REPORTS OF GENERAL BRAGG'S DEFEAT.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 1.—The Richmond *Whig* of the 28th and 30th ult. has the following:

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 27.—The city is full of conflicting rumors. Our line of battle is at Chickamauga. We have lost many prisoners; their number is estimated at 5,000 and upwards.

All our dead and seriously wounded are in the hands of the enemy.

In the attack on Lookout Mountain the enemy's loss was comparatively greater than ours. They drove us back by force of numbers. Skirmishing commenced on Saturday, and there was intense firing on Sunday and Monday. The enemy charged on Lookout Mountain 40,000 strong, at the same time occupying the attention of our right on Fort Mission Ridge. Breckinridge's command stood unflinchingly. In the afternoon the enemy's force was increased, and by repeated attacks made an impression on our lines.

At 4 o'clock, in the afternoon, our left and centre gave way, the enemy pouring through the valley like a flood. Our troops were cut off, got confused, and retreated in disorder, and, after repeated charges, we evacuated Mission Ridge on Wednesday.

Our army is now at Chickamauga. We have six hundred prisoners. Washington and Cobb's artillery lost all their guns. General Waltham was wounded. Our wounded are arriving.

General Bragg's headquarters are now at Ringgold.

BRAGG'S OPINION OF THOMAS.

"Persons," in his letter to the Charleston *Courier*, from Lookout Mountain, says:

"The appointment of Gen. Thomas as the successor of Gen. Rosecrans appears to afford satisfaction throughout the army, and to none more than to Gen. Bragg. Thomas was his first lieutenant in Mexico; before the war he was a rabid Secessionist; since the war, he has become a Radical Abolitionist, and may be summed up, mentally and physically, in the language of Gen. Bragg, as a 'brave, slow, obstinate, and perverse man.'"

CHARLESTON.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF THE SIEGE.

LIVELY AND CONTINUOUS FIRING.

More Shells Thrown Into the City.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 1.—The Richmond *Whig* of November 28th and 30th has been received. They contain the following interesting despatches:

CHARLESTON, Nov. 27.—The Yankees kept up a heavy mortar shelling on Fort Sumpter last night, continuing it this morning.

Six shells were thrown into the city to-day, and two buildings were struck.

The shelling of Forts Sumpter, Moultrie, Johnson, and Simpkins by the enemy, from Forts Gregg and Wagner, has been lively and continuous.

Four hundred and sixty-one shots were fired on Fort Sumpter on Thursday and Friday.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 28.—The shelling was kept up steadily on Forts Sumpter, Moultrie, Johnson, and Simpkins to-day. Seventy-two ten-inch columbiad shots were fired upon Fort Sumpter from Fort Gregg to-day.

The enemy has commenced firing thirteen-inch mortars from Cummings' Point, and twenty-eight shells have been fired.

During the night the enemy continued the usual practice on Sumpter with the Parrott guns. Two hundred and fifty-seven shots were fired on Friday night.

Captain Jacob Valentine and two or three privates were severely wounded in Fort Moultrie by the explosion of a Parrott shell. There have been no casualties on James Island.

NEW YORK CITY.

THE ELECTION OF GUNTHER FOR MAYOR.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Returns from the city, with the exception of one district, give the following vote for Mayor:

For C. Godfrey Gunther, Dem., 28,831.
For Francis J. A. Boole, Dem., 22,473.
For Orison Blunt, Union, 19,403.
Gunther's plurality will be over 6,400.

AN ARRAY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—John H. Trapp, one of the candidates for civil justice of the Fifth judicial district of this city, was arrested and locked up, this afternoon, for attempting to shoot Mr. Charles Beerfeld, whom he wounded in the hand.

FROM CHARLESTON.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The transport Arago, from Port Royal on the 28th, and Charleston bar at 6 o'clock P. M. on the same day, arrived at this port at a late hour to-night.

Brigadier Generals Amos Sprague and Schimelpfennig are among her passengers.

OHIO.

Convictions for Treason—The Escape of Morgan—Recruiting.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 1.—The Noble county conspirators, who have been on trial in the United States District Court in this city for treason and conspiracy against the United States, have been found guilty.

John Morgan telegraphed to Columbus, from Toronto, yesterday, announcing his arrival there.

The number of men mustered into service in this State now averages 400 per week.

Bermuda.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The brig Excel