

News of the Day.

Pensacola Rebels Expressing... At Richmond, Va. Richmond, Dec. 16.

At Richmond, Va. Richmond, Dec. 16. The Norfolk Day Book has dates from Pensacola to December 3.

The Norfolk Day Book is considerably excited in relation to a rumor that Norfolk is to be attacked.

At Richmond, on Wednesday, the war excitement was at its height.

The Dispatch has among its telegrams the following seizure of a schooner, under the title of "Boldness of the Hessians."

The Norfolk Day Book speaks of the important arrest there of a number of slaves, who were making their escape to the North.

A Victory to Commence With. Dispatch from Louisville states that yesterday afternoon four companies of Willich's German Indiana regiment were attacked on the south side of Green river.

The divisions of Generals McCook, Johnson, Wood and Bouscave rested on the Northern bank of Green river on Sunday.

One Hundred Houses Burned. We have received, says the Boston Traveller, an interesting letter from our special correspondent with the army of the West.

Preparing for Us in South Carolina. A letter just received from Port Royal states that extensive preparations are making by the rebels in South Carolina to oppose any advance that may be made into the interior by the Federal forces.

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Arrival of Two English Steamers... Important from Europe—England Taking Advantage of Our Difficulties to Pick a Quarrel.

The English steamers arrived at Halifax after having been detained at Queenstown, England, till the 2d, bringing important dispatches, and a Queen's Message, with despatches to Lord Lyons.

The Observer of Dec. 1st states that the Government has demanded from President Lincoln and his Cabinet, the persons of the Southern envoys to the British Government.

Yesterday afternoon, after five o'clock, p. m., Her Majesty held a Privy Council at Windsor Castle.

Three of her Ministers, including the first Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretaries of State and War, traveled from London to Windsor by special train to be present.

Previous to leaving town the three Ministers had attended a Cabinet Council at Lord Palmerston's official residence.

The Observer also says that a special messenger of the Foreign Office has been ordered to carry to Washington the demands of the British Government for Lord Lyons, and will proceed to-day by packet from Queenstown.

The public will be satisfied to know that these demands are for an apology, and to insist on the restoration to the protection of the British flag, the persons of those who were violently and illegally torn from that sacred asylum.

The Observer adds: There is no reason why they should not be restored to the quarter deck of the British Admiral at New York or Washington itself, in the face of some ten or twelve men of war whose presence in the Potomac would render the blustering Cabinet at Washington as helpless as the Trent was before the guns and outcassies of the San Jacinto.

The arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours everything will be settled.

In the meantime, a large ship of the Melbourne line has been taken up, and is now being loaded with Armstrong guns, some 30,000 Enfield rifles, ammunition and other stores, at Woolwich.

It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two ships of war. The rifles are intended for the Canadian military, and a strong reinforcement of field artillery will be dispatched forthwith.

The Times Thinks War will Pay. The Times' article of the 30th says the position of the Federal States of America is almost in every commercial point with that which was occupied by us toward Russia before the Crimean war.

Russia had a hostile tariff, while we looked to her for a large portion of our general supply of breadstuffs. But there is this particularly in our present case, that the commencement would be the breaking up of the blockade of the Southern ports, at once setting free our industry from the anxiety of a cotton famine, and bring sure prosperity to Lancashire through the winter.

At the same time we shall open our trade to eight millions in the Confederate States who may desire nothing better than to be our customers.

At the Privy Council on Saturday, an order was issued prohibiting the export from the United Kingdom, or carrying coastwise, gunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of soda and brimstone. The Times has no hope that the Federal government will comply with the demand of England.

The Morning Star declares that the statement of instructions having been sent to Lord Lyons, to obtain restitution of the Confederate commissioners, or to take leave of Washington, was premature, and so exaggerated as to be virtually untrue.

can press a reaction set in, and fears were expressed that the Washington Government would justify the seizure of Mason and Slidell. The English journals are very bitter and hostile, continuing to treat the affair as an insupportable insult.

The London Post says that an acknowledgment of the error and a surrender of the prisoners will be received with great joy, but if the Federal Government fails to comply, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must do her duty.

The London Times continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward's policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparations in Canada.

A large number of naval vessels are ordered to be ready for immediate commission. The transport Melbourne was to leave Woolwich Arsenal on the 5th, for Halifax, with 30,000 stand of arms, large quantities of ammunition and Armstrong guns.

The Liverpool Post gives a rumor that Napoleon had been proposed as the arbiter of the question. The Americans in Paris paid a complimentary visit to Gen. Scott, Mr. Dayton acting as chairman.

The Victory at Cheat Mountain—A very Successful and Decisive Engagement. CINCINNATI, December 16.—A dispatch from Phillippi says that our force at the late battle at "Allegheny Camp," Cheat Mountain, numbered eighteen hundred. They came in sight of the enemy, drawn up in line of battle in front of their entrenchments.

They charged upon them and drove them back. A hot fire was kept up during the whole afternoon on both sides, and several brilliant charges were made by our men.

General Milroy withdrew at nightfall, fully intending to renew the attack the next morning. During the night, however, the rebels silently left their camp, burning everything they could not carry with them.

Our loss was twenty killed and thirty wounded. The rebel loss was one hundred and fifty killed, including one field officer.

By this action General Reynolds' front is completely cleared of the enemy, there being no organized rebel force within forty miles of our advanced posts.

A detachment which was sent from Phillippi on Saturday returned last night with ten rebel guerrillas, including the notorious Jake Kurn.

A Sharp Battle and Federal Victory in Western Virginia—The Enemy in Full Retreat. CINCINNATI, December 14.—A special dispatch from Cheat Mountain to the Cincinnati Commercial says: On yesterday one of the hardest and best-fought battles of the war was fought at Allegheny Camp, Pocahontas county, Va., General R. H. Milroy commanding the Union troops, and General Johnson, of Georgia, commanding the rebels.

The Union loss was about thirty; rebel loss over two hundred, including a major and many other officers, and thirty prisoners. General Johnson was shot in the mouth, but not fatally. The Twelfth Georgia regiment suffered most.

Milroy's force numbered seven hundred and fifty men, from the Ninth and Thirteenth Indiana, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-third Ohio, and Second Virginia. Johnson's force numbered over two thousand. The Ninth Indiana fought bravely to the last.

After driving the enemy into their barracks no less than five times, our forces retired in good order. The rebels set fire to their camp, and retreated to Staunton. Gen. Milroy has driven the last army out of Western Virginia.

Our Army in Virginia. INDIANAPOLIS, December 16.—Our army in Kentucky is within a short distance of Bowling Green. They have repaired the Green river bridge, and will move forward as soon as Gen. Buell can brigade and otherwise dispose of the large number of regiments now arriving. When this is done he will take command and push forward to Nashville.

The Forty-Sixth, Fiftyth, Thirty-fifth, Forty-first and Fifty-first, have left for Kentucky, making ten thousand men from Indiana in ten days.

Accidents Gen. Sumner—The Charleston Conflagration and Slave Insurrections. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 16.—Specials to-day's Herald says that the Europa's dispatches elicited a lively discussion here, but seem not to disturb the Government, which, while desiring no embarrassment with England, looks with composure and confidence on events as they occur.

The intelligence of the burning of Charleston, probably the incendiaryism of negroes, and the attendant rumors of a slave insurrection, have reminded parties here of the prophecy of a distinguished military officer, that the war would be virtually ended by a general insurrection of the slaves in the South before the middle of January.

During his command of the Southern post he was induced to examine the history of slave insurrections, and deduced from it the conclusion that there would be a terrible one in the Southern States either during or immediately subsequent to the Christmas holidays. The existing circumstances attach great probability to this prediction.

Late Kentucky Advances—Battle Anticipated—Secessionists Jubilant—Reported Attack on New Orleans, &c. CINCINNATI, Dec. 17.—The mails from Somerset which failed Monday came to hand to-day. Gen. Buell is expected to take the field in person in a few days. It is reported that our troops are crossing Green River, and that Gen. Backner is coming up the railroad to offer battle on this side of Bowling Green.

In the Kentucky Legislature several members made elaborate speeches in favor of the Union.

The Secessionists are jubilant over the prospects of a war with England, while the Union men come square to the mark, and demand war before one word of apology.

A grand review and inspection of seventeen thousand troops, from Cairo, Bird's Point and Fort Holt, took place yesterday.

Four regiments of infantry and three gunboats have been sent from Columbus, Kentucky, to New Orleans, where a battle was being fought, and the city threatened with demolition by our forces. The inhabitants were fleeing from the city.

The Documents from the State Department. The documents from the State Department, submitted to Congress on Thursday, disclose the important fact that our Government now occupies the position that it held in reference to foreign Governments at the beginning of the rebellion, and that though the United States early offered to accept the Paris declaration in reference to privateering, both England and France desired to make an exception in favor of the Jeff. Davis Confederacy, to which the Government has refused to yield, leaving the United States free from any obligation to accept the Paris declaration, while the few rebel privateers are now fugitives on the high seas, or are lying idle in Southern harbors.

England entertains, or at least expresses, no sympathy for us, but rather the reverse.

France has not been cordial, but has been less offensive than England. Austria has been friendly, and from the outset has declared that she would not recognize the rebel Confederacy.

Prussia and all the German States have been equally cordial. Russia has been friendly, but anxious for the war to end.

Sweden and Norway have been friendly from the beginning. Belgium is yet undecided, but remains passive.

Holland is disposed to follow the lead of England at a respectful distance. Italy is full of warm sympathy for our Government and for freedom.

Spain, though not aggressive, has an evident leaning toward the Jeff. Davis Republic.

Denmark is friendly. The Pope, though he announces that his Government is not of this world, but that he is concerned with spiritual things, yet if he were to express an opinion he, as a good Christian, will always be on the side of law and order.

MAJOR SLEMMER'S HEALTH.—A correspondent of a cotemporary writing from Grafton says: "I am sorry to inform you that Major Slemmer is not expected to live. He came down from the mountains to this place yesterday with his wife. They are staying at the Grafton House. He came here to inspect the troops some five weeks ago, and got as far as Beverly when he took sick."

Arrival of the Reformer Jura—The War Preparations in England. PORTLAND, December 18.—The steamer Jura arrived here this morning from Liverpool with dates to the 5th, and Londonderry to the 6th in stant.

Warlike preparations continue in England, and a considerable number of troops are under orders for Canada.

The London Daily News thinks that if the American Government will treat the difficulty in the same spirit as Gen. Scott, war may be avoided.

The seamen on leave, are ordered to join their ships. It is reported that Mr. Adams, the American Minister, regarded his recall as inevitable.

The American shipping interest was already disastrously affected. The Steamships Edinburgh and Nova Scotia arrived out on the 6th inst.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The excitement relative to the Trent affair continues unabated. The stock market on the fourth was more heavy and unsettled than ever.

The strength of the American Navy is being canvassed in England.—The London Times says that "although the whole Federal Navy scarcely presents a dozen worthy antagonists, yet it would be imprudent in the extreme to despise the power of the Americans at sea. We have done this once and paid the cost of our thoughtlessness. The Americans will do little, but that little will be done well. They will give our heavy squadrons a wide berth, and concentrate their efforts on single vessels."

Hostile demonstrations are being made in various parts of England towards the United States; one was made at Bristol on the occasion of the departure of an Armstrong battery for Canada.

The Continental news is of slight importance. The Paris Bourse is firm. The Patrie says that the arrest of the Maronite agent of France, in Lebanon, is an insult which the government must avenge.

ITALY.—Garibaldi has arrived at Turin. In the Chamber of Deputies, M. Ratazzi explained the failure of negotiations relative to Rome, saying that he was convinced that the French government wished to terminate its occupation, and was the sincere friend of Italy.

The U. S. Consul at Paris had communicated to the French papers a letter from Gen. Scott, in which he declares that there is no truth in the report that the Washington Cabinet had ordered the seizure of the Southern Commissioners, even under the protection of a neutral flag.

He is quite ignorant of what will be the decision of his Government, but says that it is necessary to preserve the good relations between England and America. He hopes that the Governments will agree on a solution of the question, whether the prisoners were contraband or not. If they were the agents of the rebels he says it will be difficult to convince even impartial minds that they were less contraband of war than rebel soldiers or cannon. In conclusion, Gen. Scott expresses his conviction that war between England and America cannot take place without a more serious provocation than is at present given. The London Times says that General Scott, like his countrymen, is rather inclined to disavow the conception of the outrage than to repudiate it, now that it has been done.

It is reported that rebel and federal privateers are cruising at the entrance of the English Channel. It is said that the Admiralty has ordered two ships to proceed immediately to the West Indies, to act as a convoy to the West India mail steamer.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News says that Mr. Slidell's dispatches were entrusted to his wife as he was leaving the steamer Trent.

FRANCE.—The Paris Patrie learns that in November the San Jacinto searched a French, a Danish and a Portuguese vessel. These facts, says the Patrie, are important as proving that it has the power to exercise the right of search to the full extent. Speculations from France represent the predominant tone as being favorable to the reconciliation of England and America. It is reported that the French Minister at Washington has reported to his Government a refusal on the part of the Washington Cabinet to deliver up dispatches addressed from Paris to the French Consuls at New Orleans and Charleston.

LATEST VIA LONDONDERRY.—The iron clad frigate Warrior is coaling for service on the North American coast. There was quite a rise on Thursday in saltpetre. No charters are now being taken for American vessels, and there is nothing doing in passengers or cargoes.

Several of the papers have leaders on Mr. Bright's speech. The London Times says: "Let America judge by the speech of her greatest admirer how little can be said of her outrage upon a friendly, though neutral country. Let her also know that even this comparatively moderate speech was but a voice with an echo."

The Charleston Conflagration. By this morning's telegrams it will be seen that the destructive conflagration which burst out in the doomed city of Charleston on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock, was still raging at five p. m. on Thursday, after having laid in ashes all the most beautiful and valuable portion of the city. The Captain of the Illinois says that even at ten o'clock Thursday night, when he passed within six miles of the harbor, the fire was still at its height, lighting up the ocean for miles. The fire commenced at the foot of Hazel street, on the Cooper river, and extended down to, and even beyond, Broad street.—It will scarcely cease until it sweeps off everything that will burn, down to the very junction of the Ashley and Cooper rivers. The part burned is the largest, the oldest, most beautiful, and most densely populated half of the city, containing almost all the public buildings, stores, warehouses and wharves. The loss will be almost incalculable, certainly amounting to from five to ten millions. It is a blow which Charleston, in her already crippled and embarrassed condition, can never recover from. Far be it from us to take pleasure in any such terrible and wide-spread ruin, but we must say, in all candor, that no city on this continent so richly deserved such a fate, and that no city will obtain less sympathy, either North or South.—She has cost the nation a billion of money and thousands of lives, and it is some small punishment that she should have incurred the fate which she has abundantly earned. We pity her deluded poor.

The Charleston Conflagration. WASHINGTON, December 16.—The following are the complete dispatches published by the Norfolk Day Book on Friday last:

BRANCHVILLE, S. C., six miles from Charleston, Dec. 12.—Passengers who have just arrived here report a destructive fire last night at Charleston. The fire commenced in Charleston last night, December 11th, at nine o'clock, in Ruzel & Co's sash factory, at the foot of Hazel street, and communicated to the opposite side of Hazel to Cameron & Co's machine shops. Under the impulse thus given and a stiff breeze, with a small supply of water, the conflagration assumed a formidable character, nearly equaling the most extensive conflagration on the American continent. The theatre, Floyd's coach factory (opposite the express office), the old executive building, and all the houses between that point and Queen street were burned. The whole of one side of Broad street is destroyed, from Col. Gadsden's residence to Massacrest. A considerable portion of the city from East Bay to King street is destroyed.

Among the prominent buildings burned are the Institute and St. Andrew's Halls, Theatre, Catholic Cathedral, and the Circular Church. At last accounts from Charleston, up to five o'clock this morning, Dec. 12th, the fire had crossed Broad street, and was sweeping furiously on. The telegraph lines to Charleston are down, consequently we are not able to state whether the fire has ceased or not.

BRANCHVILLE, December 12th, 5 p. m.—The fire is still raging. A thousand houseless persons are huddled in the streets. The express train left Augusta this afternoon with provisions to supply the wants of the sufferers, and men to assist in controlling the fire. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

Further Particulars of the Conflagration at Charleston. FORTRESS MONROE, December 16.—Captain Millward went down to Craney Island to-day with a flag of truce, and was met by Lieutenant Smith, off the Island. No passengers came down.

The Norfolk and Richmond papers give full particulars of the conflagration in Charleston, S. C. The fire broke out at about nine o'clock in the evening of the 11th, in Russell & Old's sash and blind factory, at the foot of Hazel street; crossing Hazel street it extended to the machine shop of Cameron & Co. Before midnight, the fire had assumed an appalling magnitude, and Meeting street, from Market to Queen, was one vast sheet of flame. As tenement after tenement was enveloped in flames, the panic was awful, and thousands of families evacuated their houses and filled the street.

The buildings in the lower part of the city where the fire broke out, were principally of wood, and extremely inflammable, which accounts for the remarkable rapid progress of the fire. At midnight the Circular Church and the Institute Hall were burning, and the proximity of the flames to the Charleston Hotel and the Mills House, caused them to be evacuated by their inmates. At one o'clock the fire tended more Southward, towards the corner of Archdale and Queen streets, to rear of the Charleston Hotel, and to the end of Hayne street range. Crossing Market street the fire spread down East Bay to Cumberland street, and across to the Mills House, including in its destruction Circular Church, Institute Hall and the Charleston Hall. All the buildings on King, from Clifford nearly to Broad street were destroyed before three o'clock. Gen. Ripley, who superintended the movements of the troops, who had arrived at the scene at about this time, ordered several buildings on the route of the conflagration to be blown up, and after some delay the order was executed, but not before the theatre, Lloyd's coach factory, opposite the express office, the old Executive building and all the houses from this point to Queen street had caught fire and been destroyed. At about four o'clock the wind changed the direction of the flames towards Broad

street. Soon after St. Andrew's Hall took fire, and subsequently the cathedral, the spire of which fell shortly after five o'clock. The fire made a clear sweep through the city, making its track from East Bay to King street.

The Charleston Courier of the 13th gives a list of between two and three hundred sufferers, and says that the loss is estimated at from five to seven millions of dollars. Mr. Russell, at whose factory the fire originated, thinks that it must have been occasioned by an incendiary or by the negligence of the negroes employed there.

A dispatch from Charleston dated 13th says: The Mills House, although threatened and several times on fire, eventually escaped and is only slightly damaged. Five churches were destroyed by the fire, the Cathedral, St. Peter's Episcopal, Cumberland street Methodist and Circular Church. The Charleston Mercury says that five hundred and seventy-six buildings were burnt.

A message was sent to the Confederate Congress on Friday by President Davis, in relation to the conflagration at Charleston, recommending an appropriation in aid of the sufferers. A resolution was accordingly unanimously adopted appropriating two hundred and fifty thousand dollars as in advance on account of claims of South Carolina upon the Confederate States.

The Lynchburg Virginian, of Friday, says that a Maryland regiment had deserted from Lincoln's army, with their arms and equipments.—It was sent out as a picket guard from Alexandria, and when it reached the front of our lines it hoisted the Confederate flag and marched into Centreville, accompanied by the Colonel and all the other officers.

The Charleston Courier, of Friday, has a report from Beaufort, stating that the Yankees had advanced their position to near Port Royal Ferry on Tuesday, and crossed the Folly under cover of the artillery to the main land, and destroyed several Confederate rifle pits.

The Richmond Examiner says that the Court Commissioners, to determine the claims for indemnity for losses by the war, is to be organized at once. The President has appointed, and Congress in secret session has confirmed, the following gentlemen as the Commissioners: George P. Scarborough, of Virginia; Thomas C. Reynolds, of Missouri; and Walter Brooke, of Mississippi.

The Richmond Enquirer, of the 15th, acknowledges the receipt of the balance of clothing from Massachusetts for the prisoners of war.—It is consigned to Gen. C. Winder, and will be distributed by Lieutenant Pierson, of the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment, who was taken prisoner at Leesburg.

The Norfolk Day Book was printed on a small half sheet. It is to be raised in price on Thursday, to five cents.

Gen. Brown's Official Report—His Opinions on the Fight—Reform in Colonel Knipe's Regiment—An Intended Rebel Advance. WASHINGTON, December 14.—The official report of General Brown about the Pickens fight has been received. It confirms it as an undoubted victory for the Union.

Fort Pickens remains entirely uninjured. Fort McRae was sadly shattered by our fire, and the town of Warrington and part of the Pensacola Navy Yard were burned. Only six men in Fort Pickens were hurt.

General Brown has suggested, in his report, several points gathered from his experience in this action.—One is that James' rifle projectiles are comparatively useless. That the Parrott gun is much preferable, and that if he had the latter piece at the fort, he would have utterly demolished the enemy.

He further says that gunboats drawing only six feet of water, and armed with rifled guns, can do more service in these waters than a forty gun ship or such vessels as the Niagara and the Richmond.

Sailing vessels he declares utterly worthless in enforcing a blockade.—The conduct of our soldiers and sailors during the two days' hard firing receives the warmest encomiums of Gen. Brown.

Yesterday the negro and white man, of Frederick, who had been selling liquor to the soldiers of the Forty-Sixth Pennsylvania, each received twenty lashes in the presence of the regiment. The results of this punishment were apparent at evening parade where nine hundred men appeared, instead of seven hundred, as on Wednesday.

Scouts have noticed recently a marked increase in the number of tents in the rebel Potomac army, which confirms the intelligence that it has been largely reinforced.

A prisoner says that the rebel Generals had determined to advance from Centreville, in three columns in all, seventy-five thousand men to attack our advance, which they expected to find off guard, and adds that four days rations had already been given out to the troops.

Latest from England. NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The Evening Post learns from commercial letters of the highest character from London that the British government proposes to seek explanation of the Trent affair, and perhaps on apology will be asked for, an irregular proceeding, but no mention is made of a demand for the surrender of the rebel prisoners. The English writers of these letters hope that the subject will be treated by us with patience and a kindly spirit.