

R. W. JONES, Editors. JAS. S. JENNINGS.

"One Country, One Constitution, One Destiny."



WAYNESBURG, VA.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 1865.

MONEY! MONEY!!

The current expenses of a newspaper office in these war times are enormous, and can only be met by prompt payments on the part of patrons. We are now paying over THREE TIMES as much for paper as we did three years ago, and corresponding advances have been made in the price of other printing materials. In addition to all this, the wages of labor are higher than ever before since the establishment of the paper, while the necessities of life command equally exorbitant rates. Under these circumstances, we must insist on our subscribers remembering us in a substantial way, by making prompt payments. Will every patron who knows himself to be in arrears on our books immediately call and settle his account? It will relieve us from embarrassment and give us some heart for our work, which we best pay but a trifle and nothing like as well as any other business pursuit.

Friends, lose no time in SETTLING UP.

The Military Situation

As much improved since our last publication, in all our armies, except that in front of Richmond, which remains pretty much in statu quo.

GEN. SHERMAN

Has reached the rebel coast, unharmed, and almost without a skirmish, much less a regular battle, notwithstanding the reports from rebel sources to the contrary. A cavalry division or two constituted the entire opposition to his most masterly and unparalleled campaign across the confederacy. He took Savannah, with much rich spoil, on the 21st of December, without the firing of a gun—having previously captured Fort McAllister, just below the city, with very little trouble. With the city was captured about a thousand prisoners, immense military stores, railroad cars, steam boats and about 25,000 bales of cotton worth itself in the market not less than fifteen million of dollars! General Hardee contrived to slip out of the city, by night, with the garrison, numbering some 6,000. The forts below the city, as we understand, are vacated, being both worthless to the enemy, and untenable by them with the city in our possession. The Naval forces under Com. Dalgreen, are in complete co-operation with the army, and have things entirely under their control. There is nothing in the way of taking Augusta, on the Savannah river, and making it the base of future operations, it desired. What important movement General Sherman will next undertake, of course, is a matter of conjecture. An expedition started West, it was supposed, to Andersonville, to restore to freedom, some twenty thousand of our prisoners confined there. This done, Charleston or Wilmington would seem to be the next in order.

This successful and brilliant campaign marks General Sherman as the foremost of our Generals now in service.

GEN. THOMAS

Has been equally successful in the South-West, having badly whipped Hood in every contest from Franklin to Nashville, and from Nashville to Alabama. All accounts, rebel and Union, concur in the conclusion that Hood is irretrievably whipped and driven at the will of Thomas, and hopes are entertained that he may yet, with his army, be captured before he crosses the Tennessee river, which is quite high and difficult to be crossed, with the loss of his pontoon bridges, which is said to be the case with Hood.

The Wilmington expedition under Porter and Borchers, has, after the usual difficulties in passing Cape Hatteras in the winter, reached its destination and been heard from. Fort Fisher was attacked on Saturday and Sunday, the 24th and 25th ult. Some damage was done but it was not captured at the latest dates, though another fort in the neighborhood was, with its guns and demoralized garrison regarded as one of the most important in the Confederacy, and the capture of Wilmington the most difficult of any from the ocean, with large vessels. We shall doubtless hear more of this expedition in a few days. Com. Porter is of a fighting stock and has already a reputation in this war, of indomitable energy and cour-

age, and Gen. Butler is known to be great on "captures" too, after a fashion. It is our THE REBEL SALT AND LEAD WORKS. In South-Western Virginia, notwithstanding rebel boasts of victory, by Breckenridge, in their defence, have been captured by our forces. This was a vital point to the rebels, as their supplies of Salt and Lead were chiefly drawn from these places. Demonstrations are also being made by our forces upon Mobile, in the South-West, and upon Gordonville, in eastern Virginia and various other points, showing unusual activity and energy in our armies. Upon the whole, the Union cause looks cheering everywhere, and a corresponding depression is felt throughout rebellion just at this time. Fort's remarkable speech in the rebel Congress is evidence of this. The large vote of 24 to 40 in favor of peace propositions, in the rebel Senate, and the vote in the North Carolina Legislature by which similar propositions were barely voted down, is additional and conclusive evidence of a belief that the Confederacy is decidedly on the decline.

Another Draft!

When the Democratic speakers and newspapers asserted, during the late Presidential canvass, that the re-election of Mr. Lincoln would be speedily followed by another draft, Assistant Secretary Whiting vehemently denied it almost officially, in a speech which he delivered in New York, denouncing it as an injurious calumny intended to defeat Mr. Lincoln's election. We all recollect the official statement of Secretary Stanton that General Grant only needed a hundred thousand more men to take Richmond and finish up the Rebellion! But then things took place before the election, when it was necessary in the estimation of those in the possession of the immense power and patronage of the government, that the people should be humbugged and deceived. What cared they for truth or consistency, if they could be continued in fat offices!

But is another Draft really necessary? The people, who have already made so many sacrifices in this war, have a right to a candid answer to this question. It is well known that our army is already nearly double that of the enemy. It is true that much of it is, or was lately, scattered over the country, doing Provost duty, but now that the Elections are over, we think, would be a favorable time to recall them to the more appropriate duties in the field. We are told, also, that the well deserved fame of General Hancock is rapidly filling up the "Veteran corps" for which he is known to be recruiting, and with the aid of the liberal bounties offered by the government, (which might be judiciously stimulated by local bounties,) we should think there would be but little difficulty in raising the twenty thousand veterans called for, who would be worth three times their number of raw and unwilling recruits. Then, again, if we take the newspaper accounts, which we think for once are sustained, the rebellion is rapidly declining in force and volume, and ought to be successfully assailed by the armies we already have in the field.

We think, also, that now would be a favorable time for the administration to offer such inducements to the rebels to return to their allegiance as citizens of the Union, as would separate the masses of the people of the South from their leaders, and thus make it impossible for those leaders to succeed in their project of a permanent separation of the States. Measures looking to peace and a return of the rebels to their legal and constitutional duties in the Union, is the true policy of the administration, we think, just now, and is exactly the desire of the people both North and South, and efforts looking in this direction would be hailed with joy everywhere.

The attack upon Fort Fisher, near Wilmington, has proved a failure. Gen Butler has returned to the army of Virginia with his portion of the forces, not without a decided protest from Com. Porter that his opinion was that the army might have made greater efforts, after going so far to try. He says in his report to the Secretary of the Navy: "I don't pretend to put my opinion in opposition to General Weitzel, who is a thorough soldier and an able engineer, and whose business it is to know more of assaulting than I do. But I can't help thinking that it was worth while to make the attempt after coming so far."

Hon. John L. Dawson.

This distinguished Democratic Statesman was elected to Congress in 1862, from the Fayette, Westmoreland and Indiana districts, receiving a majority on the home vote of 225. In the recent contest he was re-elected, receiving a majority on the home vote of 685, which was reduced by the army vote to 125—and this is the official majority, about which there can be no dispute. It is not true that there have been votes received since the election and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, which alters this result. On the contrary, the records show that he has a majority over all the votes, regular and irregular. The misconception arose from the fact that some of the duplicates of soldiers' votes which had been counted in with the county returns, were received at the Secretary's office afterwards, and before being closely examined were supposed to have turned the scale against Mr. Dawson. On thorough examination, the result is so plainly in favor of Dawson, that there is not the slightest danger of the seats being given to his competitor even by a Republican House.—Post.

HEADQUARTERS, DEP. PRO. MAR., OFFICE, Waynesburg, Pa., Dec. 1, 1864. The enrollment lists of the several townships are now in the hands of the respective enrolling officers for correction. All persons are requested to assist the officers in making the proper changes.

C. W. TAYLOR, Dep. Pro. Mar.

It is right to be contented with what we have, but never wish what we are.

Communications.

For the Messenger.

Compliment to Hon. J. Lazear.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 1st, 1864. Editors of Waynesburg Messenger: Hoping you will not consider it an intrusion for Soldiers to ask a small space in your columns, we desire through them to thank Hon. Jesse Lazear, of your place, for the disinterested kindness shown us by him in this city. We were, neither of us, acquainted with him before, but being in need of a friend's assistance, applied to him as our representative. We found in him not only a man to represent his constituents officially, but a warm, personal friend of any soldier requiring his aid. We were both in limited circumstances, and neither his purse or door were shut to us. Mr. Lazear was in the habit of visiting the hospitals frequently, and contributing to the wants of the sick soldiers of his district, and the State generally. We know of several who tender him their warmest thanks. We did not have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Lazear for some time before he left to thank him personally, and now wish to do so publicly.

Trusting to your generosity to publish this card, we are, very respectfully, your obedient servants. FRANK ROSE, Company A, 100th Penn'a., Vols. T. BURTON, Late color bearer 100th Penn'a., Vols.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10, '64.

Mr. Editor:—I sent you the foregoing at its date and as I never heard of it, I supposed you had received it, and not wishing to publish it had laid it aside; but a friend of mine, of your acquaintance that I saw here today, informed me you never received it. I do not see how it could have been lost, directed as it was, as follows: "Editor Waynesburg Messenger, Greene co., Penn'a."

If you will now publish it with this note I will feel much obliged. I desire anxiously that Mr. Lazear's constituents should know even now, that he was ever the soldiers' friend. Respectfully, your obt. serv't, THOMPSON BURTON, Com'r., Washington & Gettysburg Railroad

For the Messenger.

"Fanny Fern No. 2," Reviewed.

BY TIMOTHY FITZGERALD, JR.

The man of independent mind. He looks and laughs at a "hat."—BURNS. It would seem by the last "Republican" of some young dandy, no doubt an advocate of "woman's rights," has taken it into her head to give certain young men of our town a "cartoon lecture" on dress, and especially on "high hats." This may all be right, or it may not, but certain we are that we shall express our opinion about it.

Now, if we were one of those young men referred to by the dandy dandy, we should talk somewhat like this: And that our very acute (!) critic may not deny the validity of our argument, we will cast it in the mould of good Aristotelian logic. Our first proposition is, Men may wear just what kind of hats they please in a free country. Second proposition, America is, for "used to was" a free country. Hence, conclusion, Waynesburg men may wear just what kind of hats they please.—Kosuh, rough-and-ready, "slickum-glazer," of "high hats." For, "whatever is true of the whole, is true of a part," (Geom. axiom), and Waynesburg being "a part" of America, "small fry" though it be, has the right to adopt any fashion Philadelphia has. We will submit this argument to President Miller, Prof. Scott, "or any other man," as to the truth of its facts, and the soundness of its reasoning. Having then indubitably proved our "indalienable right" to wear "high hats," we next proceed to show its expediency.

When one is going to purchase furniture, equipage, or dress,—which latter will include hats, even "high hats,"—there will occur to him, perhaps, three questions: 1. Is it comfortable and convenient? 2. Does it suit my taste? 3. Can I afford it? These three interrogatories being answered satisfactorily, there remains nothing else to do, if you want the article, but, in the language of the immortal Davy Crockett, to "go ahead." If I could answer these questions in the affirmative, I would like to see the man, even in these off-putting times, or woman either, who would prevent me from wearing just what I pleased. Let us then apply these touchstones to the high silk hat, and "we shall see what we shall see. 1. Is it comfortable and convenient?—The universal voice and practice of mankind is quite sufficient on this point. It is well known that this style of hat is worn all over the civilized world except in our town. It is hardly to be expected that all the rest of the world are wrong on this subject, or rather, not to be expected at all. No one pretends to deny the inconvenience of the silk hat in a storm, a stage, or a car; neither would our fair critic wear her "love of a bonnet" in such places; but the case is "slightly" different on a promenade, or going to church, of a fine day. 2. Does it suit your taste? We are speaking for ourselves alone, we would say yet; but as we are trying to defend these young men from the attacks of this Amazon, and have not talked to them intimately on the subject, we can not speak so positively for them. But the presumption always is, that a man's dress is an exponent of his taste. And, let me say to those young men, although now my age causes me to pay less attention to fine clothes than formerly, that I still love to wear a fine silk hat when occasion suits, or when I choose to dress myself with taste; and I think them to introduce this hat, for it is very unpleasant to a sensitive man not to be able to carry out a rational taste without being "the observed of all observers," as he passes quietly along the street. 3. Can I afford it? This question scarcely needs a comment. If a man cannot afford to dress in the style that he does, it is no affair of his neighbor's; and in no cases out of ten, in our villages, every man dresses within his means. I wish I could say as much of that "Fanny Fern No. 2" belongs. There is much more that I had laid out to say in this article, but hoping to hear from this fair dandy again, perhaps it is as well to keep a few shots ready in the locker.

Now, Miss Lingerie, (such is the name by which you shall designate our fair critic), a word in a quiet way to you. Did it ever occur to you that there is a great deal of truth in the

News.

TENNESSEE.

ADVANCE OF HOOD'S ARMY AT FLORENCE.

Our Cavalry Across Duck River, The State of Tennessee now Free from Rebels.

Latest from General Thomas.

New York, December 26.—A special to the Times, dated near Columbia, December 23, says: The infantry, artillery and cavalry fairly divide the honors of a great victory. The cavalry never have acted so gloriously during any engagement in this section. Gen. Hatch's division covered itself with glory, capturing fifteen guns, forty-two wagons, ten ambulances, 738 prisoners, and three division battle flags. His loss was 100 men.

Hancock's Corps.

Thirty-eight appointments of officers have this far been made in General Hancock's Veteran Reserve Corps, viz one Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, four Majors, sixteen Captains, four First Lieutenants, and eight Second Lieutenants. The officers appointed, as a preliminary to receiving their commissions, will be required to furnish a certain number of veterans for their regiments; Captain, at least forty privates; First Lieutenant, twenty-five, and Second Lieutenant, twenty.

The Confederate Congress.

Discussion of Peace Propositions—Important and Excited Debate in the House of Representatives.

The proceedings of the Confederate Congress on Saturday are highly important. In the House of Representatives, on the resolution of Mr. Turner, of North Carolina, and the substitute of Mr. M. M. of Virginia, having the floor, offered the following substitute for both propositions:

WHEREAS, According to the Declaration of Independence of the United States, and the constitution of the Confederate States, the people of each of said States, in their highest sovereign capacity, have a right to alter, amend or abolish the government under which they live, and establish such other as they may deem most expedient; and whereas, the people of the several Confederate States have thought proper to sever their political connection with the people and government in the United States, for reasons which it is not needful here to state; and whereas the people of the Confederate States have organized and established a distinct government for themselves; and whereas, because the people of the Confederate States have exercised their undoubted rights in this respect, the people of the government of the United States have thought proper to make war upon them; and whereas, there seems to be a difference of opinion on the part of the respective governments and people as to which of the contending parties is responsible for the commencement of the present war, therefore,

MOVEMENT ON MOBILE.

Rebels Routed near Franklin Creek. STRONG UNION SENTIMENT IN MOBILE. Everything Progressing Favorably.

A Mobile dispatch of the 19th, says an infantry force of another raiding party was near Good Mills and Pensacola on Sunday, but its advance was driven back several miles. Capt. Semmes arrived at Mobile on the 19th, from Europe via Matamoros.

A dispatch from New Orleans, December 22d, says: An expedition, under Major General Granger, of considerable force, landed at Pascagoula on the 15th, and pushed rapidly on towards Mobile. A brief skirmish occurred on the 15th, near Franklin Creek, and the rebels were quickly routed. Many people rejoiced at the sight of the Union forces. The navy rendered valuable aid to the troops in landing. Two iron-clad gunboats have gone by Pascagoula river thirty miles, and everything was progressing favorably. A refugee reports but five thousand militia in Mobile, and that a strong Union sentiment prevails there. A large reflection of a fire was observed near Mobile on the 19th, supposed to be caused by the burning of cotton.

The Cause Must be Upheld.

From the Richmond Whig, Dec. 24. Whatever may be the opinions entertained in regard to the conduct of the war, there is one point on which two opinions are impossible. Come what may, the cause must be upheld. Everything that is dear to man, every hope of the future, is staked on this cause. It may be that our rulers have erred in their judgment of men; it may be that they have been too much guided by their prejudices, still that does not absolve us from our allegiance to the cause. We perish as a people the moment the struggle is abandoned. For the deliberate, declared purpose of the enemy is to exterminate the best race of rebels, and to replace them with negroes first, and Yankees afterward.

Savannah Republican on the Surrender.

New York, Dec. 28.—The Savannah Republican of the 21st says: By the fortunes of war, we to-day pass under the authority of the Federal military forces. We desire to counsel obedience and all proper respect on the part of our citizens, and to express the belief that their property and persons will be respected by the military rulers. The fear that Gen. Sherman will repeat the Atlanta expulsion order, we think is of doubtful foundation. Then, he could not supply food for the citizens and army. In our case food can abundantly be supplied for the army and citizens.

It behooves all to keep within their houses until Sherman can organize the Provost Marshal system. Let our conduct be such as to win the admiration of a magnanimous foe, and give no ground for complaint or harsh treatment on the part of him who may, for an indefinite period, hold possession of our city.

The Herald's correspondent says:—The rebel Commodore Hunter has gone up the Savannah river with a couple of light-draught gunboats. Wheeler's cavalry, Hardee's infantry and Hunter's fleet combined, are the obstacles to Sherman's march on Augusta by water transportation.

The Bombardment of Wilmington on Saturday and Sunday—A Portion of Our Troops Enter an Outwork of the Fort—Pond Hill Battery Captured.

Baltimore, December 28. The Associated Press correspondent telegraphs the following from Fortress Monroe: FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 27, via WASHINGTON Dec. 28. I have just arrived here, on the Santiago de Cuba, from off Wilmington. The attack on Fort Fisher commenced at noon of Saturday, 24th, continued all day, was resumed on Sunday, and kept up with great vigor all day. The fort is much damaged. All the barracks and store-houses were burned, and the garrison driven to the bomb-rooms, and scarcely venturing to reply. A small portion of our troops landed, Sunday afternoon, skirmished with great gallantry, pushed up to the fort, and actually entered the work, and killed a rebel bearer of dispatches who was entering.

Lieutenant Wallon, of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York regiment, captured the rebel flag from the outer-bastion. Our troops also captured a whole battalion of the enemy; who were outside of their works, but our forces were withdrawn from the shore. When the Santiago de Cuba left the bombardment was continuing. On Sunday the sailors from the Santiago captured Pond Hill battery, with sixty five men, and brought the whole party off to the ships.

The torpedo-boat was successfully exploded on Saturday morning at 2 o'clock, but with what success is not known. The weather has been most severe at Newbern and Roanoke Island. The oldest inhabitant never experienced such severe storms.

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORT OF HOOD'S DEFEAT—HE HAS LOST NEARLY HALF HIS MEN.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Times has received a special dispatch from Franklin, Tenn., dated yesterday, which says: The rebel retreat from Franklin to Duck river beggars all description. Hood took his corps commanders to get off the best way they could with their commands. The rebel army is now beyond Columbia. The railroad is but little impaired, and trains run to Spring Hill. The telegraphic communication is all right in all directions. Johnsonville was not destroyed. The rebel loss during the campaign was 17,000 men, 51 cannon and 18 general officers. Killed at Franklin, 1,406; wounded, 3,800; and 1,000 prisoners. Before Nashville and on the retreat to Columbia, 3,000 killed and wounded and 1,000 prisoners. The Union loss at Franklin was 2,000, and before Nashville less than 4,000. The total Union loss will not exceed 7,000, with two generals slightly wounded. Hood has a pontoon bridge above the shoals, on the Tennessee river, where our gunboats cannot reach them. Hood marched on Franklin with 40,000 men and 65 pieces of artillery. He will have lost nearly half his men.

Washington city, as proposed by his resolution. The resolutions of the great men from Mississippi contemplate action, and I desire action upon them. I admit, too, that we have said to the government of the United States, time and again, that we are ready to negotiate with them for peace, by President Davis, in his different messages, and by the late congressional manifesto. But here is a proposition emanating directly from the people through their representatives, fresh from the people. Here Mr. Adkins, of Tennessee, asked him if he believed Mr. Lincoln would entertain terms of negotiation unless upon the terms indicated by himself. Mr. Speaker, I thank my honorable friend from Tennessee for having asked me the question. I will say to that gentleman, that I understood from my friend on the right, Mr. Foote, that Gen. Grant has expressed a willingness to let Bishop Day, that he would receive any gentleman or set of commissioners, and would invite alike number from his government to meet ours at some point to be agreed upon, to endeavor to settle our difficulties. But, sir, let Mr. Lincoln reject the proposition if he pleases, we shall lose nothing by the effort. But, sir, it may be said that I am departing from the constitutional mode of settling such questions. Here Mr. Barksdale interrupted, and asked the question—if this is not the only constitutional mode? Mr. Speaker, I think so much of the gentleman from Mississippi, that I will always allow him to ask me a question. I tell that gentleman that whilst his plan is constitutional, there are other plans which are not unconstitutional. I claim that the gentleman and myself have the right, as individuals, to go; and if received by General Grant, we could take the initiative steps, or that any number of gentlemen might do so; and that each of the State Legislatures can do so. Yes, sir, the Virginia Legislature, now in session, in fact, if they see fit, commence to negotiate, and so of any and all the States. But, sir, I hold that the Congress of each government possesses the war-making power, but that the treaty-making power rests with the Senate and President of each government, and I claim that this House has the power to appoint commissions to take the proper steps looking to a settlement of our difficulties. Mr. Speaker, I desire to strengthen and build up the peace party of the North. Yes, sir, I want the people of the North and of the Christian world to know that this unnatural and unchristian war has been forced upon us, and that we have only exercised those high natural and constitutional rights, which were guaranteed to us by our revolutionary fathers. Yes, sir, the people of the North have been committing aggressions upon us since 1819, up to the time we dissolved our connection with them, and even up to this day. Mr. Speaker, before I take my seat I will move to refer this whole subject to the Committee on Foreign Relations, so as to have a report from that learned committee. But, again, I wish to unite and conciliate all the people of the South, and, more particularly, to stop the mouths of Governor Brown and Vice President Stephens, and all others who have or may clamor for reconstruction by negotiations or otherwise.

Before the question was taken, another order came up, viz., the currency bill. Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, addressed the House. The following are important extracts from his speech: Mr. Foote said he saw much ground for despondency and apprehensions in every quarter. If this financial bill, said he, is defeated in two houses of Congress, so admirably digested as it is, I shall utterly despair of our cause; if this measure shall be defeated, I shall regard the war as virtually at an end, and all the generous hopes of our patriotic and much suffering countrymen as cruelly and criminally blasted. (The honorable gentlemen here suppose that it is safe, at this perilous moment of our history, to indulge in vain and visionary experiments upon the currency. If they regard the present as a suitable time for the utterance of such language as we have heard in this hall in the last forty-eight hours, looking manifestly to the wholesale repudiation of all our present currency, then do I differ from them essentially. Sir, I beseech the honorable gentlemen, on this last occasion perhaps that I shall have the honor of addressing this House, to look with me upon the present condition of the country before they receive or withhold their support from this measure. What is our situation? Let us look danger in the face, and provide for a shelter, if it is possible to do so. Sir, we are upon the very edge of ruin. Our financial affairs are most seriously disordered. Abroad, owing to the most criminal mismanagement of every kind, no respectful consideration has been yet accorded to us, or seems likely to be accorded hereafter. A series of legislative acts have found sanction here which must be inevitably fatal to State rights and State sovereignty and to popular freedom, if not speedily modified. Congress is rapidly abnegating all important powers, and building up an irresponsible military despotism, the like of which has never been seen before upon this earth. Other acts are in progress here, which, should they pass, must produce popular convulsions which will put our whole governmental system in the most serious jeopardy; enormous abuses of power, heretofore committed to the Executive Department, have occurred, which have everywhere filled the minds of our countrymen with distrust and alarm. Ten days hence freedom of deliberation will have been effectually extinguished in this body, by means of which I may not specify. The freedom of the press will in all probability come to an end about the same time, by the operation of causes which I have heretofore discussed in this hall. In the midst of these alarming occurrences, and while corruption is known to be diffusing itself along all the channels of official intercourse, what is the condition of our armies? Lee is nobly and successfully

defending Richmond and Petersburg. The unjust, unwise, and deeply criminal displacement of the gallant Johnson from the command of the army in Tennessee, and the transfer of that army to the neighborhood of Nashville, has opened all Southern Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama to the army of Sherman. Fort McAllister has fallen; Savannah is about to fall. The fate of Charleston seems only to be deferred a few days later. Hood's army has already met with a great disaster at Franklin, and is, in my judgment, fatally compromised. Presidential interference is the cause of all these dire mischiefs, as it was of the result of the unfortunate battle of Murfreesboro', and the still more disastrous one at Missionary Ridge. Should Hood's army be destroyed—an event which I fear it but too probable—and Sherman come round to this vicinity in ships, as I do not doubt he now intends, what will be the fate of Richmond? Sir, it is under such circumstances that it is deemed wise to throw unseemly obstructions in the way of passing an efficient financial bill: Is this the proper time to talk about repudiation? Is this the time to attempt to entertain a proposition looking to an honorable peace? So think many in this House, who constitute a majority; but so do not I think, Sir. I have spoken out my views frankly and explicitly, and now I wish to say to the House, that the course of events here and elsewhere has been recently such that I shall deem it a duty which I owe alike to my own character and to the principles which I have heretofore steadily maintained, to withdraw from this body altogether. I am a freeman, and the representative of freemen, and I know not how to legislate in chains. I will no longer be responsible for measures adopted in secret sessions of this body, which my whole soul abhors and my whole understanding condemns. This, as I have already said, is perhaps the last time that I will address this body or discuss the questions here under consideration. I shall withdraw to some sequestered spot, where I can enjoy a little repose and freedom from taxation. If disturbed in my retreat by the hand of oppression, I will seek in foreign climes that freedom and happiness which I considered is denied to me here. The committee then arose, and on motion, the House adjourned.

Union Army Moving on Gordonsville.

New York, December 20.—The Richmond Dispatch has news that the Yankee column moving on Gordonsville has made little progress, an advance of fifteen hundred cavalry reaching Madison Court House on Wednesday, the main body reported following. On Friday, the cavalry advanced three miles towards Gordonsville, and, at last accounts skirmishing with the rebels was reported at Gordonsville, and that the objective point was Charlottesville. It is rumored that Rosser is driving them back.

A dispatch from Wilmington, after announcing that the fleet disappeared in a storm and returned again, says that Gen. Leventhorp attacked the enemy's gunboats and barges below Poplar Point on Roanoke river, Tuesday evening. The fight continued three hours. The enemy was repulsed with loss. They resumed the attack on Thursday and landed some sharpshooters. The main fleet of gunboats and transports remain below in force.

The Montgomery Appeal, of the 13th has a dispatch that Davidson's raiding column had not reached the Mobile and Ohio railroad on the 10th. General Gardner is accumulating troops to meet them, and Maury is doing something at Mobile. They are marching on Mobile five thousand five hundred strong.

Governor Watts, of Alabama, issued a proclamation on the 11th, saying that Mobile was threatened by a large force, and he believed that the movement was in conjunction with the gunboats in the bay. He calls out all citizens, and orders them to meet at once to Mobile. He says he will be there to command them. He closes by saying, one more effort and our cause will be safe; Tennessee is redeemed; Georgia soon will be; Mississippi is aroused, and shall Alabama be a laggard in the race for honor and glory. Another proclamation was issued by Gen. Green, of the Alabama militia, in which he says that the enemy is within twenty miles of Mobile.

TENNESSEE.

The New York Times Report of Hood's Defeat—He has Lost Nearly Half His Men.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Times has received a special dispatch from Franklin, Tenn., dated yesterday, which says: The rebel retreat from Franklin to Duck river beggars all description. Hood took his corps commanders to get off the best way they could with their commands. The rebel army is now beyond Columbia. The railroad is but little impaired, and trains run to Spring Hill. The telegraphic communication is all right in all directions. Johnsonville was not destroyed. The rebel loss during the campaign was 17,000 men, 51 cannon and 18 general officers. Killed at Franklin, 1,406; wounded, 3,800; and 1,000 prisoners. Before Nashville and on the retreat to Columbia, 3,000 killed and wounded and 1,000 prisoners. The Union loss at Franklin was 2,000, and before Nashville less than 4,000. The total Union loss will not exceed 7,000, with two generals slightly wounded. Hood has a pontoon bridge above the shoals, on the Tennessee river, where our gunboats cannot reach them. Hood marched on Franklin with 40,000 men and 65 pieces of artillery. He will have lost nearly half his men.

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