

Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, January 18, 1865.

THE WAR.

Within the past week very little that is new has occurred. On the morning of January 7th, the Indians to the number of 1500 attacked the station of the Overland mail company at Julesburg, Colorado Territory, and succeeded in destroying the building and furniture, together with a large amount of telegraphic material, but were finally repulsed by our troops, numbering some 80 men, with the assistance of the citizens. Our loss was nineteen soldiers and citizens killed, while of the Indians thirty-five, including a principal chief, were killed. The bravery of our little force alone, prevented a general massacre of all the whites in that region.

In the South-west there has been some little activity among our troops. General Grierson has again been breaking the confederate shell. He left Memphis on the 21st of December last, with a force of 3000 cavalry, and striking into Mississippi met a force of rebels at Egypt, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. A sharp fight ensued which resulted in the defeat of the rebels with the loss of their General, Holcombe, killed, and 500 prisoners. He then proceeded westward and struck the Mississippi Central Railroad, destroying 30 miles of it, together with several locomotives and 50 cars. At Grenada he destroyed extensive cloth and shoe factories, and then turning his face homeward arrived safely at Memphis, the point of departure, bringing with him a considerable number of captured horses and mules, and the usual contrabands.

In Arkansas it is reported that the rebel General Thayer was about surrendering his battalion to the Union forces. Price's army is also reported to be quartered in Arkansas, in a very demoralized condition, the whole country being filled with his stragglers and deserters.

Hood, with the remains of his army, is said to be fortifying himself at Corinth, Mississippi, and to be engaged in repairing the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, a work which, if all accounts be true, will occupy a month or two of his valuable time, always providing Gen. Thomas allows him to work unmolested, which is not probable, unless Thomas can accomplish something more profitable in another direction, which is intimated to be the case.

We have no news from Sherman except through rebel papers, and by them he is reported moving upon Charleston, S. C., by way of Grahamsville, in the same State. In good time we shall hear that Charleston is in his possession, the only question in our mind at present being whether he will show the birth-place of treason the same lenity he did Savannah. We doubt it, and the loyal North would not judge him harshly if he did not.

The attack on Wilmington proved a failure, and in consequence Gen. Butler has been relieved of his command, which would seem to imply that he was responsible. But as an investigation is about to be made by the Committee on the Conduct of the War, we suspend judgment on the affair. The rebels, however, will hardly have much room to rejoice, as it cannot be long before Gen. Sherman will be in that neighborhood, and then Wilmington is closed as a port of entry for blockade runners forever.

In the Army of the Potomac, beyond a few picket skirmishes, every thing is quiet, waiting the appointed time for the last grand rally of the armies of freedom against the black army of barbarism and treason in their last and strongest hold.

But although the season prevents any active army operations, still the cause of right and justice moves on. Within the past week Missouri has unconditionally abolished Slavery, and her Governor has sent a special message of glad tidings to the Governor of every loyal State, that Missouri, regenerated and disenthralled, has entered with them anew upon the race for civilization and empire. A movement is being made in Kentucky and Tennessee to the same end, and no long period will elapse before they too will be ranged under the banner of freedom. Men of all parties appear to be opening their eyes to the conviction that truth must prevail, that the sentiment of the people cannot be resisted, and that that sentiment is nearly unanimous against Slavery and will shortly be completely so. In Congress the constitutional amendment for the abolition of Slavery requires but six votes to pass it of the necessary two-thirds. Many Democrats who last session voted against it now support it, as also do many Democratic papers, formerly opposed. The amendment will certainly, however, be passed at the next session, as there will be a large majority in its favor, without asking support from Democrats.

And this strong sentiment of our people for the abolition of Slavery, with the avowed conviction that such abolition will settle the war, and all vexed questions between the States hereafter has not been without its effect in rebellion itself. It was revealed clearly to the southern people for the first time by the result of the fall elections, and since then its effect has been apparent in the despondent tone of the press and speeches of prominent men. "Straws show which way the wind blows," and for the first time in the history of the rebellion a possibility of its failure is admitted. Governors of several of the most important States have flatly refused to obey certain edicts of Jeff Davis, and latterly he has been frequently and violently denounced by influential newspapers in his own capital, and by prominent men on the floor of the rebel Congress. Peace resolutions have been introduced into Congress, and the legislatures of different States, and rumors of peace movements are prevalent. Desertions from the rebel armies are largely on the increase, and the people in the sections occupied by our troops seem not only content but anxious to live under the protection of the old flag, their hankering after the flesh pots of Egypt being greater than their animosity to die in the last ditch. Altogether, the present aspect of things is decidedly encouraging for us, and it can only be our own fault if another campaign does not restore peace and the supremacy of the government.

REVISION OF THE CABINET.

The re-election of Mr. Fessenden to the Senate points conclusively to a change in the Secretaryship of the Treasury on the 4th of March, and among the many rumors, one that bears some evidence of probability, is that Mr. Seward will surrender the Premiership to return to the Senate, and that Senator Morgan will take the portfolio of the Treasury. Since some change is inevitable, there will be an earnest effort to effect a general recast of the Cabinet with the view to increase its harmony and efficiency.

In the formation of Mr. Lincoln's cabinet in 1861 he committed a grave error in calling men about him as constitutional advisers solely because they had attained prominence as competitors for the Presidency. That it was done so, in his judgment at the time, the best way to reconcile the various conflicting claims of rival pressures, we do not doubt; but it resulted in satisfying but few and in a discordant and consequently most inefficient ministry. Men have been cured of almost all diseases but the Presidential malady. If any one has ever been "discharged cured" of that infirmity, this side the "City of the Silent," we should be glad to have the particulars of the case; and Mr. Lincoln's cabinet of 1861 turned out to be, in the main, so many competitors for the succession, and as but one of them, in the most fortunate result possible, could succeed to Mr. Lincoln's chair, it needs no profundity of logic or mathematics to prove that on at least one point there was a conflict of opinions, interests and efforts in the cabinet. The result was that one by one they were dropped out as they were with more or less delicacy informed that "that time has now come," and but two of the original cabinet now remain—Messrs. Seward and Welles, and they are both classed as doubtful for the new Ministry. Cameron went out for Stanton in 1862; Smith gave way to Usher in 1863; and Blair, Bates and Chase were succeeded by Dennison, Speed and Fessenden in 1864.

Mr. Lincoln will enter his second term under essentially different circumstances than surrounded him in 1861. Then he had a party that had just attained its first success, and a country distracted with threatened dissolution and no landmarks by which to save it. He had to move with the utmost caution, ever deferring to expediency alike in politics and in his efforts to save our Nation. Hence his discordant cabinet, and hence, also, the care and doubt that marked the adoption of every new measure deemed essential to the safety of the government. Now, however, Mr. Lincoln has been re-elected without being especially indebted to any man or set of men, and he can afford to cease dispensing shadows to inordinate ambition. He has no competitor to fear; no combinations in or out of his own party to defer to, if he but keeps his eyes steadily fixed on the salvation of the Republic. He has been instructed by the Nation that he has done well heretofore, and to continue to do so hereafter with as much improvement as possible, and he can laugh at the petty freaks, ebullitions and threats of wounded vanity, and trust himself and his great cause with confidence to the people.

In 1861 politicians claimed to make cabinets for their own selfish ends; they had labored to gain the victory, and clamorously demanded their reward. We once heard the weary and disgusted President declare, when office-hunters were crowding about his door, and treason was running riot in Charleston and even threatening the very capital, that he seemed like a man who was renting out rooms in one end of a mansion while the flames were devouring it at the other. Now, however, the offices are filled—few if any changes can be required, and the unanimity of the Nation in charging Mr. Lincoln with the Executive functions for another term, place him above the demands of small place-hunters. He was elected to save a Republic—to complete a holy work to which he had been faithful, and not to dispense tubs to political whies either great or small.

We faithfully reflect the united sentiment of the sincere and earnest men who sustained Mr. Lincoln's re-election; when we say that the country wants a cabinet appointed solely with reference to its ability, fidelity and efficiency in the great work to be performed by his administration. A cabinet is wanted that will, first of all, be a unit on the leading measures essential to the successful prosecution and early and honorable close of the war, and in the second place be a unit with itself. The time was when the cabinet of Mr. Lincoln was disgracefully discordant, and so forgetful of the proprieties of honorable station as to fling their dirty linen in the face of the Nation. Cabinet officers did not speak to each other, but only too often of each other for their own credit, and such a thing as a general cabinet council was unknown for months. This running sore of the administration was in time healed, and perhaps as soon as it could be done without confronting new dangers. Then the great cause of the people was clouded with doubt; the succession was a bone of contention at which every unbalanced official was grasping, and the ruin of the present administration was deemed the first stepping-stone to rival success. In due time the people were aroused to the grave issues involved in the election, and with a unanimity unprecedented in our modern struggles, Mr. Lincoln was re-nominated and re-elected.

Dedicate and solemn as were his duties in the beginning of his first administration, they will be no less so in the new one. He had then to meet a most wanton, wicked and gigantic rebellion. He had to turn a great people from war to peace with the unity, the honor and the might of the Nation unimpaired in the estimation of the people and the world; and he must have a cabinet for this mighty work that is fully equal to the task. Let him discard

locality, if need be; trusted friends of an imperiled Country can thereby be benefited; and let him call about him those, and those only, who will command the confidence of the Nation, and who will join him, with a singleness of purpose, to exercise the highest order of intellect to give to ourselves and to posterity the government of our fathers, nobly rescued from treason by our brave warriors, and founded in renewed power by most enlightened and patriotic statesmanship.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

A resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, by which to abolish slavery throughout the country, is now before Congress. That such a resolution will sooner or later be adopted, thereby referring this most vexed and vexatious of all public questions to the States themselves, there can be no doubt. The triumph of the Union party in the elections of October and November last, secured this beyond a peradventure, and the opposition by withholding their support from the resolution at this time, can only effect a short postponement of the issue. It has already passed the Senate and is being discussed in the House last week, when, for some reason, the further consideration of it was postponed for two weeks. A three-fourths vote being required for its adoption, its fate in the present Congress rests entirely in the hands of the opposition, for without their assistance the friends of the administration are powerless to effect its passage. While we cannot expect the whole body of the opposition to give its support to this measure, we still hope and trust that a sufficient number will be found who, regarding only the best interests of the country, will refuse to withhold theirs. The constitutionality of the resolution cannot be doubted, if adopted, it simply refers to the people themselves the question whether slavery shall survive or perish, and with them, and not Congress, will rest the responsibility. If such action on the part of Congress should result ultimately in the adoption of an unwelcome policy by the people, or in any way work injury to the nation, the people will have been the authors of their own grievances and can blame only themselves. Congress will have acted only within constitutional restrictions, and have performed a duty required of it by the people themselves. But, as we have said, the wisdom of the measure admits of no question.

That our Government cannot exist part free and part slave, has long been the conviction of many, and the last four years of destructive and exhausting war ought to have been sufficient to establish its truthfulness in all minds. It is with Slavery as any other evil plant in any Christian community and a struggle is inevitable. It is a party in the great conflict of ages between right and wrong, and while this conflict can be modified and in a manner directed by the government under which it exists, it cannot be entirely suppressed. In order to effect this the moral convictions of the people would first have to be obliterated; and the moment our Government undertakes to interfere with the convictions of its people, that instant its character is changed and on the ruins of a Republic is founded a Despotism. It follows from this that the only condition of perfect peace and harmony in this free Government of ours, is the abolition of slavery. It has been the parent of all our woes and unless extirpated now will yet be fruitful of strife. It is a relic of a barbarous age, and is as much out of place in our civilization as heathen mythology would be. The Christian world has passed its condemnation upon it and the history of our national progress shows that while it has been a hindrance to our national prosperity, it has also degraded us in the eyes of the world. Let us get rid of the mighty incubus now and the greatest work of the future historian will be, to account for the fact that we suffered it to exist so long. Its grave has been dug by its own friends and if we but decently inter it, the people of the South are long will be slowest to wish its resurrection. Let the great criminal die.

It is not strange that the public should await impatiently the result of any movement which has peace for its object. War, at best, is a calamity. It imposes grievous burdens and makes fearful exactions. Knowing this, our Government was slow to engage in it. Her right to exist was in question and she only submitted it to the arbitration of the sword after all peaceable means of adjustment had been exhausted. The fourth year of the war is fast drawing to a close, and the end is not yet attained. Although, as at the beginning, the first and chief desire of the people is peace, yet they have never faltered in their determination to maintain the existence of this Government, and to vindicate its honor, even though it should be through a continuance of war. If by peaceable means the same result could be attained, thus saving to the nation its precious blood and treasure, it would be most grateful. A termination of this bloody struggle by peaceful means, thereby securing the blessings of freedom and a restored Union, would gladden every heart in the land. But we are not hopeful of it just yet. The same spirit that necessitated war in the beginning has actuated the minds of the chief conspirators in its continuance, and unless the warring fortunes of the Confederacy have at last driven them to despair and flight, our chief dependence must be in our faithful and heroic armies. Unless this has become evident to Davis and his co-workers in treason that their best efforts now can result only in failure, and that escape for them is impossible, no adjustment can be effected with them save in the manner proposed by Gen. Grant. They are desperate men, engaged in a desperate undertaking, and will abandon it only when compelled. What then can be reasonably expected from Mr. Blair's visit to Richmond, supposing him to have gone there as is generally believed, to secure for the nation the peace that is so earnestly desired? If such be his mission he goes

doubtless as a self constituted mediator, carrying no terms from our government which have not been repeatedly published to the world. We are unwilling to believe anything else. These terms have been open to the rebels for months and they could at any time have availed themselves of them had they chosen to do so. Davis and the wily conspirators who surround him, understand these terms as well as Mr. Blair, and we cannot expect the latter to argue them into an acceptance of what they have heretofore rejected. Failing in this, he must hope for some concessions from them which, we repeat, can only be expected when every way of escape from a doomed city is closed, and they are in the hands of the man who accepts nothing but an unconditional surrender.

But Mr. Blair's mission can do no harm, possibly it may do some good. Like the Kirke-Jacques mission before it, if beneficial to no one else, it may be to some magazine publisher. Kirke's visit gave to the public an interesting article; we hope at least this much from Mr. Blair's. We will be disappointed if any greater results be achieved.

Mr. MEYERS, of Bedford, was one of the Democratic candidates for Assembly last fall, and coming out rather short of votes, he was considered defeated by the people in general and Messrs. Ross and Armstrong in particular. But Mr. Meyers, thinking that some things might be done as well as others, procured a confessedly false return from two of the return judges, and after having thus insolently violated the law, demanded a seat in the legislature in the name of the law, but the legislature promptly admonished him to stay out of the House until he should be elected, or at least come within range of an election. The result of the action of the House was to qualify Messrs. Ross and Armstrong, and put Messrs. Meyers and Findlay in the position of contestants if they believed they had any claim to the seats. But this remedy they did not choose to avail themselves of—knowing as they did that it would result in an exposition of their frauds and make their efforts to reach seats in the legislature by consummate villainy a matter of record. Rather than face an investigation they withdrew, and in order to divert attention from their own wrongs, Mr. Meyers devotes a column or two of the Bedford Gazette to personal defamation of the chief editor of the Repository. To this mode of warfare the Gazette is welcome to an entire monopoly, and until it pretends to controvert the facts stated in this journal and by its editor in the House, the subject is dismissed. If Mr. Meyers assumes that we have wronged him either in these columns or in the House by the statements we have given of his case, and will give the best defence he can make on his own side, we shall give it publicly if he will in turn copy our reply. If he wants the truth to get to the people, we can think of no better way of accommodating him, nor is it his billingsgate will harm no one, unless it is still possible to harm himself.

By an almost unanimous vote the Constitutional Convention of Missouri, on Wednesday last, declared for freedom. The moment the vote was announced the shackles fell from every slave within the State. Missouri has secured for herself the power and greatness which have since been heaped upon her under free institutions. Her natural resources when developed, as they surely will be by her free labor, must place her in the front rank of States, for in distributing favors nature was prodigal with her. With the return of peace her material prosperity must increase, so that Missouri ten years hence will little resemble Missouri of the present day.

The following congratulatory messages passed between Gov. Curtin and Gov. Fletcher, of Missouri:

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 11.
To the Governor of Pennsylvania:
Free Missouri greets her oldest sister.

T. C. FLETCHER, Gov. of Mo.
To His Excellency, T. C. Fletcher, Governor of Missouri, Jefferson City.

Pennsylvania, the first-born of freedom, welcomes her disenthralled sister State of Missouri, redeemed in the agony of the nation, and the throes of woe and rebellion. Her offering of liberty comes baptized in her richest blood, and will be accepted by a faithful free people as one of the crowning tributes to her matchless heroism and sacrifices to preserve and perpetuate our common nationality.

A. G. CURTIN,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

THE REMOVAL OF GEN. BUTLER.—By the order of the President, Major General Butler has been relieved of the command of the Army of the James. In another column will be found his farewell address. It is evident from this address, that the cause of his removal was his conduct as commander of the land forces in the recent attack on Wilmington. Whether he acted wisely or unwisely on that occasion can only be known when the complete history of the expedition and attack shall have been published. The high tribute he pays in his address to the patriotism, valor and skill of his army, is richly deserved. Its success on many occasions has thrilled the nation with joy, and gratitude to it and its commander, while its patient endurance of severe privations and fatiguing duties have challenged the admiration, and commanded for it the sympathy of the whole country. The command of this army devolves upon Major General E. O. C. Ord, a tried soldier and skillful commander. While we are not prepared to question the wisdom of Gen. Butler's removal, we may be permitted to express the hope that his eminent abilities will not be lost to the service of his country, and that the Army of the James will not suffer from the change.

THE STATE LIBRARY.—The report of the State Librarian is brief, but informs the Legislature that the expenditure for books during the past year was about eleven hundred dollars, one hundred dollars more than the usual annual appropriation; but as there was a surplus from the preceding year, the entire amount could easily be spared from the Treasury for such a commendable object. There are now in the Library about forty thousand volumes, more than are contained in any State Library in the country, except New York. There are, however, only two rooms which can be used as the Library proper, and consequently a large

number of books are arranged in cases in the apartment occupied by the Executive Military Department; none are on shelves in a small cupboard some are in the original boxes in which they came into the custody of the Librarian; and others, amounting in the aggregate to about seven thousand, among them a complete set of journals and State papers of Pennsylvania, from the creation of the commonwealth to the present time, are stored away in an attic, almost utterly inaccessible save to rats, mice and insects. During the usual exchanges of State papers have been added Tennessee, with which commonwealth the exchange has, during the war, been interrupted. The second volume of the catalogue will soon be ready for the printer, and will be about the size of the first volume.

MAJ. R. J. DODGE, Provost Marshal General of Pennsylvania, has issued circulars announcing that by directions received from Provost Marshal General Fry, the district quotas assigned by him, under the call of December 19th, 1864, and announced to the district provost marshals of the State, by letters from Maj. Dodge, dated December 29th, are repealed, and that new quotas will be established for the different districts by January 31st, up to which time corrected enrollments will be received. They should be forwarded immediately. It has heretofore been the custom for the provost marshal general of the State to assign the district quotas, and the district provost marshals and enrollment boards assigned the quotas of their sub-districts.

The Senate on Thursday, after much debate, adopted by 31 to 8 the resolution to give notice to terminate the Canada Reciprocity Treaty. As it has already passed the House by a vote nearly unanimous, the President's signature is required only as a matter of form, and it will then become his Executive duty to carry into effect the will of Congress. We suppose there is no doubt that the measure has the hearty approval of the country.

We are indebted to Hon. William M. Sherry, of the State Senate, for public documents.

WASHINGTON.

Peace Rumors.—F. P. Blair, Sr., in Richmond.—The Amendment Abolishing Slavery.—The Removal of Gen. Butler.—Provost Marshal Gen. Fry.—Resolution giving all Clerical Vacancies to Discharged Soldiers.—Petitions for Increase of Pay.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 13, 1865.

Peace and rumors of peace is at present a subject of much gossip among all classes of the citizens of this district. There is very little foundation on which to base these flying sensation rumors. We know that the Senior Blair has arrived at the Spotswood House, Richmond, and what his object is in going there is a mere matter of speculation outside of the President and his advisers. Some have it that he is gone there to see on what terms the rebels will throw down their arms. Others that it is altogether on personal matters of his own. As many valuable papers were taken by the rebels from Mr. Blair's house, when they invested this city last July, the latter looks reasonable as one of the reasons of his visit. To-day it is reported that a whole embassy of eminent rebels, headed by A. H. Stevens, have applied for permission to visit this city. Until the Blair mission is cleared up, there will be no end to the number of absurd flying reports.

The further discussion of the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, has been postponed for two weeks from next Tuesday. The prospects that it will receive a two third vote of the present House is very poor. If it should not, the new Congress will convene soon after the 4th of March in extra session. The Judiciary committee of the Senate has reported, that there is no law requiring the President to give sixty days notice, but that an extra session can be called at once.

The removal of Gen. Butler has caused much discussion, than the relieving of any other general, save perhaps McClellan. There is no doubt but that the failure of the Fort Fisher attack has most to do with it. That affair will soon be cleared up, as the War committee have been instructed to investigate it at once, and Gen. Butler has been sent for to testify in the case. Porter throws the blame on Butler, telling him at the time, after he had thrown some hundreds of tons of shot and powder at the fort, all he (Butler) would have to do, would be to go towards the walls of the fort with a few men and blow a few ramrods horns about the wall, as did the Priests of old about the city of Jericho until they fell down flat. Butler sent out and making an inspection of the work, found not only the walls standing, but the inside of them filled with men, seeing which he retired, much to the disgust of Porter. There is certainly something here to investigate, and the sooner the committee let us have it the better. Gen. Butler is determined to have a full investigation of the whole affair.

The confidence of the public in the administration of Provost Marshal Gen. Fry is entirely destroyed. The absurdity of his decisions is not only rendering him an object of contempt, but working great injustice to many districts and counties. According to a late decision of his, it matters not how many any particular district sent in before Dec. 19; no credit is to be allowed for them. Another decision, a substitute will be accepted for three years but the person putting him in is only given a certificate of exemption for one year. Again he telegraphs all over the country, that a three years man is a three years man, a two years man a two years man, and a one years man a one years man, and that is all he says, and no one knows now what he means by it and it is questionable if he does know himself. All this however may not seem strange when it is taken into consideration that Gen. Fry is no friend of the conscription law. He pronounces it an obnoxious enactment. Hence it cannot be supposed that any public officer will exert himself to render a law of the land agreeable to the people thereof, when he declares he has no sympathy with the law himself. Inasmuch as he annoys the people through his conflicting and unreliable decisions, just so much he heaps obloquy upon a law which he defies. If any one doubts this, let him consider for a moment the acts of Gen. Fry and their effects upon the people under and in connection with this law since first passed by Congress.

Mr. Clark has introduced a resolution into Congress giving all clerical vacancies in the Department to competent disabled discharged soldiers, and that to be done as speedily as vacancies can be made without detriment to the service. This is but justice and the bill should be at once adopted and its requirements carried out. Let those who fight and defend with their blood the liberties of the country, enjoy such emoluments as the government can give.

Congress is literally flooded with petitions for increase of pay, from every branch of the military and civil service. There is little prospect of any of them receiving the increase, for it would require millions of dollars to affect anything that would be of material benefit to employees, and at present the Treasury is too empty and orders on it for payment too numerous, to allow it.

S. C.

SOUTHERN MERCHANTS PAYING THE DUES AT THE NORTH.—We hear, with pleasure, that a number of the leading merchants of Savannah have already forwarded to this city funds for the part or whole payment of debts they owed in this city when the war broke out, and which they were then prevented from paying. Some who have made but partial payment at this time, have, we understand, given notice that they intend to clear off all their obligations as quickly as possible.—New York Post.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

—Hood is reported to be going into winter quarters at Corinth, Mississippi.

—Beverly, West Virginia, was attacked and captured on the 11th, by a force of rebels under Gen. Rosser. The enemy left soon after, however.

—Deserters and contrabands, arrived at the headquarters of the army of the Potomac, report that the rebel cavalry have gone into winter quarters at Hixford, picketing to Beam's Station.

—Information has been received at the Navy Department of the capture of the schooner Flash off the coast of Mexico, on the 27th of November, by the Princess Royal. Her cargo was an asorted one.

—From the Army of the Potomac we have a dispatch stating that the rebels made another attack on the picket line on Monday week, before daylight, and captured a few videttes on the right of the second division of the Sixth Corps.

—Army of the Potomac advices state that the James river has risen to several feet above the usual height. The high tide has caused an opening in the bulkhead of the Dutch Gap Canal, and a stream eight or ten feet wide and several deep now flows through it. Deserters who have come in report that forces have been sent from Richmond to North Carolina to meet Sherman.

—Gen. Thomas, after marching South to Pulaski, Tenn., suddenly cut loose from Nashville as a base; went to the Tennessee river, and, turning eastward, marched up it towards Chattanooga. His object is unknown. Gen. Hood has made a report of the battle of Nashville. He says he lost fifty pieces of cannon, but that his loss in killed and wounded was small. He says nothing about prisoners.

—We have conflicting reports from Arkansas. One is that our forces have evacuated Fort Smith and Van Buren, for what reasons does not appear. The Rebel army under Price (since dead) was at Bragg Depot, on the Red River.

—Another story is that our troops have not left Fort Smith, and will be required to remain there to protect Government stores until the Arkansas River is risen again so they can be removed.

—Sixty Indians attacked the overland mail express near Julesburg, Colorado territory, and robbed the mail. The troops at Julesburg went to the relief of the white settlers in the vicinity, and drove the Indians to theuffs, a mile back, when 1500 Indians made their appearance and drove the troops back to the fort. The stage station and a large quantity of telegraphic material were then destroyed. Thirty-five Indians were killed and 19 of our troops and citizens.

—The steamer Arago, from Port Royal on the 9th, brings reports which are important if correct. It is said that several counties of Georgia have held elections and declared in favor of a return to the Union by overwhelming majorities. It is also reported that the people are arming to protect themselves from the rebels. Gov. Brown is said to be the principal promoter of these movements. These rumors are all published in the Savannah Republican extra of the evening of the 7th.

—Of Gen. Grierson's recent raid in Mississippi we have some particulars. The expedition, 3000 strong, left Memphis on the 21st ult. At Egypt, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, there was a sharp fight, in which 500 rebels were captured. The command then struck westward, destroying 30 miles of the Mississippi Central Railroad, several locomotives and fifty cars. At Grenada extensive cloth and shoe factories were destroyed, and at Bankton a few horses and mules and some contrabands were captured.

—General Sherman's advance guard is slowly moving from the Savannah river towards Charleston. A large part of his army has been transferred from Savannah to Port Royal, and whilst one column moves north from Hardeeville which place was evacuated by the rebels, another is marching from Hilton Head. Both columns are moving toward Grahamsville, thirty-four miles North of Savannah. They march along the roads between the sea coast and the railroad, and the rebels gradually retreat before them, making but feeble opposition. On Friday week New River was crossed, and Sherman's advance was fifteen miles South of Grahamsville. Wheeler's cavalry were immediately in front of Sherman's troops.

—Throughout the march of Sherman, the advance of the 17th Corps was covered by the First Alabama cavalry. This is a large regiment, made up of the Unionists of north Alabama. It has been in existence since the first occupation of Huntsville, and has become a most efficient organization. On the entire march it was only necessary to bring up infantry to its support on one occasion. The regiment wears a system of war peculiar to the forces recruited from such material. Nearly every man has suffered fearfully in person or property, or in the savage cruelty inflicted upon their families. Every man has private wrongs to redress. The war which such men wage brings terrible retribution with it.

—Gen. Thomas, in a dispatch dated Dec. 29, says: "From the best information I have at this time, Hood's losses, since he invaded the State of Tennessee, sum up as follows: Six General officers killed, six wounded, and one taken prisoner at Franklin—thirteen in all; and about six thousand men killed, wounded and taken prisoners at the same battle. On the 8th inst., at Murfreesboro, he had one general officer wounded, and about one thousand men killed and wounded, and two hundred and seven taken prisoners, and losing two pieces of artillery. In the two battles of the 15th and 16th inst., before Nashville, he had one lieutenant general severely wounded, one major-general and three brigadier-generals, with four thousand four hundred and sixty-two officers and men made prisoners, besides losing fifty-three pieces of artillery and over three thousand stand of small arms. During his retreat we have captured fifteen more guns, and from fifteen hundred to two thousand prisoners, and a large number of small arms have been picked up by the way."

PERSONAL.

—Brevet Maj. Gen. Crook has been made a full Major General.

—John B. Gough, the lecturer, has an income of \$8000 a year.

—Major General Sickles and staff sailed for California on Friday.

—General Sheridan was once a newboy. That was when he learned how to go to press Early.

—Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas has been appointed to the vacant Major Generalship in the regular army.

—Henry Ward Beecher's salary has been increased by the Plymouth Church, of Brooklyn, from \$7,500 to \$12,500.

—General Godfrey Weitzel has gone to Cincinnati to get married. This additional proof of his courage was not needed.

—General Steele has been relieved of the command of the Department of Arkansas, and is succeeded by Gen. Reynolds.

—General Scott is not the oldest General in the world. A London writer says Lord Combermere is entitled to that distinction.

—Major General John A. Logan has gone to Savannah to re-take command of his old corps, now led by General Osterhaus.

—Major General Warren is absent from the army on a fifteen day's leave. Gen. Crawford is commanding the 5th Corps in the interim.

—General George B. McClellan and his family are in Philadelphia, making a farewell visit to their relatives prior to their departure for Europe.

—Mrs. Henry S. Fooks arrived at Alexandria on Friday. She states that her husband is under arrest in Richmond on account of his recent speech in the rebel Senate.

—Some political friends of Hon. Reuben E. Fenton, Governor of New York, last week presented his wife with a beautiful set of Victoria china, valued at \$3,500.

—The Crawford Journal (Meadville) urges the selection of Hon. Joseph A. Lewis as the representative of Pennsylvania in the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln after the fourth of March next.

—Brig. Gen. Rowley has resigned his position in the army, and is about to engage in business in Pittsburgh. The General was promoted from Colonel after the first battle of Fredericksburg.

—The newly elected Governor Fenton of New York, was formerly a Democrat and voted for his predecessor, Gov. Seymour, three times for the same office of Governor, and sustained him during the first two years of his administration.

—The Union colleagues of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens in the House of Representatives, addressed a note to him requesting the use of his name in connection with the Secretaryship of the Treasury, but Mr. Stevens in reply declines the honor.

—It is said that A. T. Stewart, of New York, lately paid an income tax of \$250,000 upon a net income of \$5,000,000. He does a business of \$30,000,000 a year, and has 14,000,000 invested in real estate. A. T. might retire on his income.

—The President has approved the joint resolution tendering the thanks of the People and Congress to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, and the officers and soldiers of his command, for their gallant conduct in the late brilliant movement through Georgia.

—The wife of Gen. Grant has been presented by the citizens of Philadelphia, with a residence costing \$50,000 and the widow of Gen. D. B. Birney, with a home costing \$10,000 while \$20,000 have been invested for her benefit. Good for the Quaker City.

—Ex-Gov. Pellock has been appointed Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, vice Dr. R. R. Reed, of Washington county, deceased. The society, at its meeting on Tuesday, passed resolutions of regret at the removal by death of Dr. Reed.

—Maj. Gen. Ord, who succeeds Gen. Butler in the Army of the James, is a native of Maryland, a Catholic, and a graduate of West Point, where he was a class-mate of Gen. Halleck. His residence is in Carlisle, Pa. Previous to the war he served in California, and is said to have been ultra-pro-slavery in his views.

—Aaron H. Cragin, the newly elected United States Senator from New Hampshire, for the term of six years from the 4th of March next, was born in Vermont in 1821. He is a lawyer by profession, was a member of the Legislature of New Hampshire from 1852 to 1855, and was a member of Congress from 1857 to 1859.

—Richard Yates, the new United States Senator from Illinois, is a native of Kentucky, where he was born in 1818. He served in Congress from 1851 to 1855, as a representative from Illinois, and was chosen Governor of that State in 1861, for the term of four years, which has just expired. His Senatorial term will close March 4th, 1871.