The Herald.

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S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,

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THE END OF A SLAVE MARKET.—Three slaves were advertised to be sold in New Orleans on the 7th ult., but before the time of auction arrived it was determined that they should not be sold. The Era intimates that the sale was stopped on account of an unfavorable state of public opinion on the subject, native Louisianians even declaring that such an affair would be a disgrace to the city.

☞ For many years farm produce has not commanded as high prices as it does at the present time. All hands agree that farmers are being well paid for their labor, and should present prices continue, farming will be a good business. Good hay sold in Philadelphia last week for $1 35 to $1 37 per hundred pounds. The price of grain has also considerably advanced, and corn, wheat, oats and rye rule at a high figure. The high freight on grain from the West has a tendency to keep up the price in this part of the country.

CONDITION OF VICKSBURG.—The city of Vicksburg has been greatly improved under Federal rule. It has been cleaned of its accumulated garbage and filth; the barricades of earth have been removed from the streets; numerous stores have recently been opened, and though little business is yet transacted, it is hoped the embargo upon trade may soon be removed, and then there will be great activity. Many churches and schools are again open, and the peaceful pursuit of trade are gradually gaining ground.

TROUBLE AMONGST THE BONAPARTES.—It is said that the baptism of Prince Napoleon's son is at this moment a great stumbling block to the church. The little prince was half baptized immediately after his birth; but it is almost without precedent that the full ceremony of baptism should be postponed longer than six months. The infant is now more than a year old, and the reason given for the extraordinary delay is that Prince Napoleon will have no other godfather for his son than the King of Italy, who is excommunicated. The Pope making a great point of holding to the excommunication in this case, no bishop in France can be found to fly openly in the face of the church, and Prince Napoleon, with equal firmness, declares that unless Victor Emmanuel holds his infant over the font he shall not be baptized at all.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER.—The report of the Commissioner of the Agricultural Department, Washington, for October, shows the fall crops just sown to be full average crops, both in amount and appearance. The condition of the fattening hogs in the Western States in not as favorable as usual, owing to the prevalence of the hog cholera. The production of sorghum has fallen off three and a quarter million gallons, owing to the early frost. The value of frosted corn for fattening hogs and cattle is very small. The amount of old corn in the country is much reduced by the army demand for it during the summer.

☞ Army contractors predisposed to rapacity and scoundrelism, would subserve their physical comfort and general interests, both in this world and the next, by letting the example of John K. Stetler, late of their fraternity, have a proper influence upon their conduct. Stetler, in violation of honesty and his sworn agreement to furnish the army with 160,000 pounds of pure Rio coffee, undertook to make a fortune at the cost of poisoning the soldiers by furnishing an adulterated and vile compound, which would bear neither the test of human stomachs, or the severer ordeal of a chemical analysis. The Government, upon the discovery of the shameful knavery, caused Stetler to be arrested, and his case having been submitted to the summary arbitrament of a Court Martial, resulted in the sentence of the prisoner to five years' imprisonment of Albany, New York.

A CUTE TRICK.—A dandy was recently walking under the arcades of the Rue de Rivoli, in Paris, holding in his hand a gold headed cane of splendid workmanship. A man supported by two crutches came up, and asked for alms in a pitiful tone. The dandy, moved to pity, gave the beggar a small silver coin. At the same moment a person near him suddenly exclaimed, "How can you, sir, allow this rogue to deceive you? Please to lend me your cane and I will show you that this rascal runs better than I can." The dandy, without reflecting, lent his cane; the beggar, the moment he received it in his detractor's hands, threw away his crutches and took to his heels, and was followed by the man with the cane, whilst the spectators and the dandy particularly, remained in convulsions of laughter at the sight, and exclaiming, alternately, "Oh, he will be caught!" "No, he will not be caught!" But both the racing heroes disappeared at the next turning in the street, and their victim remained waiting for his splendid cane, which cost five hundred francs.

THE REWARDS OF LABOR.—There never was such a demand for labor, and labor was never better paid than in this country at the present time. And this will continue if the working classes use their opportunity with moderation and judgement. If they are too exorbitant in their demands, the result will sooner or later be a paralysis in many branches of business. Every mechanic and laboring man whose services are now better paid than ever before ought to feel a new impulse to faithfulness. With some the higher the pay the more lazy and independent they become, and this is particularly the case among the more ignorant classes.—But the great bulk of the intelligent working men we believe are disposed not only to improve their own condition, but to do justice to their employers. While they improve this millenium of labor they will do what they can to prolong its existence.

Rebel Finances.

Perhaps the best evidence that the Rebel Confederacy has about numbered its days, is the Condition of their finances. It is true that their condition in every respect, indicates the hopelessness of their cause. The vast amount of their territory conquered during the last year; the frequent defeats of their armies; the immense losses of men, property and munitions of war which they have sustained; the refusal of Foreign Powers to recognize or assist them, all give assurance of their speedy and inevitable overthrow. However those losses and misfortunes might in some measure be retrieved, if the condition of their Treasury was such as to enable the Rebel chiefs to meet the enormous expenses of their Government in conducting the war, or to give them credit either at home or abroad. Such is not the case. Their finances are in a condition such as would ruin the most powerful and prosperous nations on Earth. This is abundantly shown by the report of their Finance Minister. Memminger's Report like Davis' Message has at least the merit of being a frank document. He developes the doleful condition of his coffers, with a sincerity that seems to draw its inspiration from despair. His scheme of relief is practical repudiation. The "Confederacy" owes a debt of a thousand millions. Of this sum, on the 7th of December, $491, 823,530 was in Treasury Notes, bearing interest, and worth in coin about seven cents per dollar. Memminger proposed to authorize a Confederate loan in the snug sum of One Thousand Millions of Dollars, in 6 per cent 20 year bonds. Then, to levy a tax of 5 per cent on "all property and credits" in the Confederacy, to pay the interest. Then, to compel all persons who hold these Treasury Notes, to fund them in this new stock by the first of April next, or to see them repudiated by the Government, giving, however, those luckless traitors living west of the Mississippi on account of the unwarrantable interference of Gen. Grant, till the 1st of July to fund theirs; and six months from the 1st of April the notes to be declared utterly worthless.—Those now holding eight per cent. Confederate Stocks are to be allowed to take this new six per cent stock at par, and those now holding stocks drawing a lesser rate of interest, to be "scaled" accordingly In the mean time, $200,000,000 of new Treasury notes are to be issued, to "ruin" the current business of the Confederacy. In fine, Memminger proposes to create a new debt, and compel the holders of the old one to merge their notes and bonds in it, on such terms as he prescribes—one of the terms being, that the new debt is to be smaller and draw a lesser rate of interest than the old—or submit to repudiation. And he promises to try and make the new debt better than the old, by forced levies under the name of taxes.

The condition of the confederate Treasury and Mr. Memminger's scheme for enabling his Government to raise funds to carry on the war, must necessarily produce discredit and dissatisfaciton among the Rebels sufficient of itself to cause their Government, in a short time, to fall to pieces from its own weight. While this of itself is sufficient to gladden the heart of every loyal man amongst us, we have still further cause to congratulate ourselves upon the complete success of our own financial measures. Never in the history of the World, has any Finance Minister conducted such enormous schemes with the marked success that has attended the operations of Mr. Chase. To his sagacity and wonderful financial ability we may attribute one continued prosperity under difficulties which would have destroyed the existence of any other nation. Whilst our people may congratulate themselves upon the success and ability with which every department of our Government has been administered, they have special cause for thankfulnes, that our national Treasury has been committed to the care and management of Salmon P. Chase.

When the history of these times come to be written, on the page recording the sold acts of this administration, will be seen this picture—a pyramid of skulls and bones and on its top dancing in frendish glee, a heartless jester and a gibbering negro.—*Volunteer.*

This is a specimen of the ravings of a political hack whose mind has been crazed by the overthrow of the party for which he has labored and to which he looks for support and political advancement. We have no objection to these harmless ebullitions of anger and disappointment. If they afford their author any relief we hope he will favor us with them *ad infinitum.* When however, he next employs his graceful pen in sketching illustrations for the page of history we hope he will give us some suggestions which will enable the historian fitly to embellish the record of the acts and deeds of the Democratic party and its leaders. If a "heartless jester" is the appropriate representation of our noble President, whose pure patriotism, unquestioned honesty and ability have given strength to our Government and guided it safely through the dangers to which Democratic imbecility and treason had exposed it what would our imaginative contemporary suggest, as a fitting illustration of the fiendishness of Democratic leaders, who having enjoyed the offices and benefits of our Government during their entire lives, have brought ruin and desolation on one half of our fair land, in their insane efforts to destroy it. If a gibbering negro is the simile for universal freedom and justice, what would be an appropriate personification of that system of cruelty and oppression, American Slavery—the fruitful source of all our woes, and the favorite theme for the admiration and eulogy of Democratic sycophants and apologists for treason. Benedict Arnold eulogizing loyalty, Judas Iscariot descanting on the beauties of friendship and religion, or Satan denouncing hypocrisy and deceit from the sacred desk, would present a spectacle much less ridiculous and contemptible than the whining of Democratic politicians over the misery and suffering which the treason of their party, and that alone, has caused. Cut off by their interests from association and intercourse with the traitors who were once their leaders, they have let no oportunity of assisting them indirectly, pass by unimproved. Every speech uttered, and every article written by them, gives evidence that their sympathies wherever else they may be, are not with the Government in its efforts to crush treason. They are constantly racking their brains to find new and attractive expressions of contempt for and ingratitude towards an Administration that has been the means of saving them from the treason of their friends, and which has given them a freedom and latitude of action and expression, almost equal to the extent of their desire to slander and ridicule it. We hope this indulgence on the part of our Government may continue, and also that their abuse and villification may if possible be redoubled. For two years the Administration has borne their calumnies and abuse, while affording them protection and prosperity. They have exerted themselves unceasingly to bring the Administration into disrepute, and to withdraw from it the support and confidence of the people, and with what result? The people, speaking through the ballot box have indignantly rebuked these slanderers, have given the lie to their repeated calumnies of there rulers; have laughed at their silly attempts at ridicule and sarcasm, and have overwhelmed the party, for whose interests they have sold their souls, in an irretrievable defeat. We have no wish for the political regeneration of a single leader of the present Copperhead organization. The Administration needs not their support and can better endure their abuse and opposition than it could their friendship. In spite of their slanders and ridicule Abraham Lincoln has received a vindication and support at the hands of the people such as was never given to any of his predecessors; and the "heartless jester" fills a place in the affections of loyal men such as no one since Washington has ever filled. The people are disregarding their jeers and taunts about "woolyheads" and "gibbering negroes" and are every where realizing the fact that the only salvation for our country, consists in wiping the institution of Slavery from its last hold on civilization and consigning all its defenders and apologists to merited political obscurity.

Arms Issued to the Army.

The report of the Secretary of War shows that during the past year the army has been supplied with 1,577 field, siege and sea-coast cannon; 1,082,841 muskets and rifles for foot soldiers; 282,389 carbines and pistols for mounted troops; 1,295,600 cannon balls and shells; 48,719,862 pounds of lead and lead bullets; 1,435,046 cartridges for artillery; 259,022,216 cartridges for small arms; 347,276,470 percussion caps; 3,929,369 friction primers; 5,764,768 pounds gunpowder; 919,676 sets of accoutrements for men; 94,679 sets of accoutrements for cavalry horses; and 3,281 sets of artillery harness, each set for two horses. These articles cost the nation $42,313,630,21. The Secretary remarks that our manufacturers excel those of Europe so much in arms and ammunition, that our soldiers "are no longer willing to use those which have been imported." "Also," he adds, "the efforts made during the war to extend and improve the manufacture of arms and munitions have resulted in discoveries of great importance to the country, in peace as well as war. Among the arts thus improved is the manufacture of wrought iron, now rivaling the qualities of the iron of Sweden, Norway and England. This country, until the present year, has depended upon those countries for material to make gun-barrels, barrel bits, car-wheel tires, and other articles requiring iron of fine quality. Iron of our own production is now superior to that obtained abroad."

Internal Revenue.

The report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is a document of considerable length. It intimates at the outset that the tax-law will require important modifications to adapt it to the needs of the Government, as they are ascertained, and to the settled condition of public and social affairs, when that condition shall be restored. But it is deemed unwise to recommend radical changes at present, but he suggests certain alterations with a view to the increase of the revenue, some of which are as follows;

The imposition of a tax upon malt, or a judicious enlargement of the tax upon malt liquors to $1,50 per barrel. A tax of two cents on artificial mineral waters, soda waters, sarsaparilla waters, and other beverages of like kind usually sold in bottles; of two cents per dozen if of half a pint or less; of four cents for those of a pint; a cent per bottle of larger capacity; sold in any other way, five per cent. ad valorem; increase of tax on auction sales to one-fourth of one per cent; tax on slaughtered animals of 30 cents a head on horned cattle more than eight weeks old; of five cents on calves of eight weeks old and less, and of ten cents on swine exceeding 50 pounds in weight. The taxation of productions of manufactures used or consumed by the producers or manufacturers, being articles of commercial value, and which would be taxable if sold. The reduction of the tax on the sale of lottery tickets. A tax on the tonnage receipts and the dividends of steamboat, ferryboat, bridge, express and gas companies. A tax of a twentieth of one per cent. on sales at Broker's Boards.

REBEL CONGRESS.—The Rebel Congress commenced its session—we hope the last—in Richmond on Monday the 14th. Ten "Senators" and fifty five "Representatives"—over one fourth of whom were "Representatives" of Virginia were present Jeff Davis in his Message, had but little to communicate calculated to cheer his deluded followers. He admits that England and France have given the Bastard Repubuc the cold shoulder—and he represents the currency of the "nation" to be in a lamentable condition. The report of the Treasury, also admits the hopeless condition of the Rebel currency. In his report the Secretary, Mr. Memminger, of South Carolina, sums up the financial situation of the Confederacy in the following terms, which are humiliating enough:

"The continuance of the notes as a circulating medium to their present extent involves the ruin of public and private credit, and will deprive the government of the means of defending the lives and property of its citizens. If the currency remains in its present expanded state, no measure of relief can be made effectual. Prices must advance, and the means of government to pay these prices must daily lose efficiency. Taxes become fruitless, by reason of the depreciation of the money. The army can neither be paid, clothed nor fed, arms and munitions of war can no longer be supplied; the officers of the government cannot be supported and the country must succumb"

As "money is power," especially in war, we must consider that in the absence of the "needful," the prospect of the confederacy is gloomy enough. It must be presumed that the Rebel functionaries have put the best face on, the case would admit of.

TEXAS.

The news received from time to time about Texas, says the *Philadelphia Press*, keeps speculation awake. Although not quite as unexplored as Ethiopia or Tartary, Texas still appears to those who live in the North as a very far-off and uncivilized country, to which an emigration would be viewed with the same feeling of risk with which men seek their fortunes in foreign lands. Her millions of acres are patched and sprinkled with a population gathered in from all quarters of the world. Six times the size of Pennsylvania, she wields a geographical influence which it is time should be equalled or eclipsed by a predominance in moral and intellectual respects. The force of character which resides in her mixed and variously gifted population, distracted as it is at present by the tumults of rebellion, will ere long assert itself. Girt and intersected with noble rivers, which are kept busy with the conveyance of storage and produce to and from the large towns which string their borders, Texas presents abundant opportunity for a glorious campaign to those who know how to seize these advantages and use them aright. The absence of the false refinement of our Northern civilization materially aids in developing the martial resources of her people. The large numbers who devote themselves solely to agricultural pursuits are thus naturally fitted for the soldier's hardships; and the military preponderance thus engendered will become almost universal, affecting, as it does, not only those engaged in commerce, trade, manufactures, and the mechanic arts, but also the comparatively small proportion devoted to professional pursuits. However opposed may be the respective countries whence much of the Texan population originally came, nationalities have become in a sense amalgamated; Irish, English, German, French, Russian, and Swiss have become Texan, and jog along together, not uncomfortably, on the whole. The question of the Union, of course, divides the people into two diametrically opposed classes, of which the loyal is rapidly increasing. The possession of Matagorda Bay will be found to be of incalculable advantage, and the co-operation of native regiments must become a valuable auxiliary to the Federal cause. In spite of the order of General MAGRUDER, circulating throughout the State and his pledge devoting the life, liberty, and property of the citizens to support the Confederacy, and notwithstanding slashing business that QUANTRELL has been doing in the way of spying, arresting, hacking, and hewing men suspected of the crime of Unionism, we have reason to believe that the voice of Texas is for the Union, and that the time is approaching when that voice will speak boldly upon her soil without danger of being drowned in the exultant shouts of rebellion.

With the Union army in possession of the entire Texan coast, including Brownsville, Galveston, and Sabine Gulf, high expectations are excited with respect to future movements

The intelligence that the Federal forces had ascended the Red river, and were marching on Alexandria, there to attack the rebels under General TAYLOR, is likewise looked upon with sanguine eyes, and excited speculation. The fact that despatches from Texas, at once reliable and important, are few and far between, only seems to keep inquiry and interest alive. The state of things there presents us with a view of sweeping conscriptive measures, secret organizations, thug like spies, military despotisms, all centralized, and working together for evil. Cruelty, oppression, outrage, perfidy, distrust, and want, are blent in a focus of terrorism. But this can not last, for amid all this corruption Unionism has given its complexion to men in the army as well as out of it. The ranks, instead of being overawed by their treacherous chieftains, will overawe them. General MAGRUDER should fear the future He should regard his fortunes with anxious eyes MAGRUDER has strung up so many men that no one will be surprised when MAGRUDER is strung up. His murderous policy recoils upon itself, and whilst he is thus up to his ankles in blood, the momentous movement of Gen. BANKS in the Rio Grand region has struck a hard-fisted blow in the very face of rebellion, and further despatches will attest the complete triumph of the Federal arms.

Immigration.

The war has withdrawn laborers from every department of industry, and has materially modified the business pursuits of many who remain at home. In agriculture and in mining, more especially, there is comparatively a deficiency of labor, although there is still enough in these, as in other branches, to render us self reliant. Immigration fills up in a measure the places of those who have left their firesides in the service of the country, so that almost as fast as supply is drawn from one quarter it is furnished from another. The health and wealth of the nation are recruited from foreign shores, and if in distant lands the means of emigration were at hand there would not be the slightest deficiency here in a solitary department. From all parts of the world eyes are cast upon these United States as furnishing the most cheap and comfortable and independent home for the poor man. When the mineral resources of the country shall have become better understood, more particularly in those slightly-appreciated Territories of the West—Idaho, Arizona, and Nevada—enterprise will direct industry in that direction, and a two-fold reason will exist for the augmentation of the national worth. Our internal resources are evidenced not only in the prodigious variety in which they force themselves upon us, but in the invitations they extend to emigrants from all quarters of the world. It is enough to render any country more than self-reliant to view within her own bosom more resources than she can at present make use of with her unassisted hands, and which countless individuals of other nations are anxious and envious to handle.

The Irish exodus seems to have been providential in the building up of America, and especially in the development of the West. It never ceases though it is sometimes lessened Every week brings a shipload of strong arms and brave hearts to our shores. The London *Times*, alluding to this constat immigration, uses the following admirable illustration:

"Some years ago a West Indiaman had discharged its cargo in one of our docks at home. The ship was plagued by rats as never ship had been plagued. Their devastations, their noise, their odor, their destructions had been beyond mortal endurance, but there was no remedy. The captain, who was still on board, was waked at midnight by his mate, and asked to step on deck as quietly as he could. A fruit ship had arrived in the course of the day from the Mediterranean, and, on coming alongside had passed a hawser to the West Indiaman.—'Look there!' whispered the mate, pointing to the rope, which in the darkness seemed to be moving slowly towards the fruit ship. It was alive with rats, which in a continuous stream were migrating from the empty ship to the stranger, whose fragrance told the tale of its delicious freight. Before sunrise there was not a rat left on board the West Indiaman. How it fared with the stranger it is needless to say. That is the very spectacle we are now witnessing on a world-wide scale. The hawser is across the Atlantic, and in one incessant, endless train, hundreds of thousands of our fellow-citizens are passing to a richer continent. Its fragrance comes in letters full of good tidings, and containing often the substantial earnest of golden promises in the shape of notes or orders for pleasant round sums. Could we take the same view of human affairs that the skipper and his mate did of their little world, we should tread softly, and think the less said the better. But we cannot quite do that. It is part of our crew that is leaving us in this strange multitudinous fashion.—They are passing generally to another allegiance, to other laws, to other institutions, to rival interests, to a jealous policy, and, as they think, to assist in founding an empire far above even over our heads. But, as they are consulting their own material interests, and certainly sparing us some trouble, they are welcome to go where they please, and to marry a better soil than that from which they have been divorced. We are disposed to take a philosophical view of the movement, and are glad to find that for once we may be both scientific and kind.—The man who suddenly reappears in an Irish cabin with his pocket full of notes and gold, distributing handsome presents, sleek, comely, and well dressed, asking the girl of his early choice to share this new home, is a vision that conquers all our sentimental scruples, as it appears he has done the remaining patriotism of Ireland. Every such man is a Columbus in Connaught. There is no resisting him."

DIPHTHERIA.

The following article upon the nature and treatment of this peculiar and most dangerous malady appeared in a late number of the Philadelphia *Ledger*. As it was evidently written by an experienced physician, and as it throws new light upon the treatment of a disease which, except in its fatal results, is but little understood, it is worthy of general perusal at this particular time:

We notice the recurrence of numerous cases of diptheria in many parts of the State, and indeed throughout the United States. Many colds seem to run into this, and in cases of croup there are such singular complications, that it is difficult, and often impossible, to tell one from the other. The word diptheria means literally "*leathery*," from the character of the membrane which forms often inside the throat in this disease, and which looks very much like *weak leather*. It used almost always to appear at first in white spots or patches on the back of the throat, or on the tonsils. This would often spread rapidly, and either produce suffocation or fill the whole system with the disease, especially the lungs, stomach and bowels There is now, however, a marked difference in the type and order of many of the symptoms. There are numerous cases of diphtheretic sore throat that never go any farther, and are easily manageable; and, on the other hand, there are many cases of the most real and terrible diphtheria, where the white spots never appear in the throat. Sometimes the throat will be sore and even of a purple hue, with not a particle of the characteristic diphtheretic whiteness, while yet it may at the very same time fill the bronchial tubes below, and even the stomach and intestines, so that a patient has been suffocated by a piece of the detached membrane forming a valve in the throat, while that throat itself was only purple. Probably after the first attack has been in the throat, a second will be more apt to manifest itself in some of the tubes lower down.

The disease itself apparently, is in the blood, into which the poison is most likely inhaled through the atmosphere, and considerable strength of constitution seems necessary to throw off its attacks, for, like all this class of poisons, the tendency to is produce prostration, and then the whole system is an easy prey to it; so that a sore in any part of the body will exhibit this same diphtheretic or leathery tendency.

The great principle of treatment is and naturally must be, as in typhoid and scarlet fever, to keep up the strength of the patient by the most stimulating food. The strongest beef tea, yolk of eggs, tender beef steak and mutton chops under done, where these last can be swallowed, are more valuable than almost any other medicine, so that as these are given the fever of the patient abates instead of rising, as most would expect.

But the most important matter to be borne in mind is the value of *time* in the treatment of the disease. Not an hour is to be lost after the character of the attack is ascertained or even suspected The best medical skill should be sought without the loss of an unnecessary five minutes. Nothing that can impair the vital energy in the least degree should be in the meantime allowed the patient. A dose of opening medicine, physical exertion or a hundred other things which at a different time would be quite natural, may here prove a fatal mistake The fever, headache, sickness at the stomach, which are characteristic of the attacks of this disease in its worst forms, are to be chiefly combatted by the stimuli that overcome the disease, although pounded ice or small lumps of it of ten best allay the sickness and enable other medicines and food to remain on the stomach. Ice cream of the best quality is in fact often here as elsewhere the best of medicines On the other hand, a steam bath, easily made by covering the patient, head and all, with a blanket, and letting the steam of hot water rise into this and be freely breathed, by producing a profuse perspiration, seems of great service. But the whole of these remedies should be guided by the most intelligent care and skill, and form the earliest possible moment.

WAR NEWS.

The Battle with Longstreet.

Reported Death of the Rebel Commander.

HIS FORCES RETURNED TO BULL GAP.

Communication between Knoxville and Chattanooga.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—Gen Grant arrived at Nashville on Saturday.

A special despatch to the *Commercial*, dated Cumberland Gap, the 18th inst. says: "General Longstreet divided his army on Monday, one part making an attack on Bean's Station, and the other at Kelly's Ford, the design being to cut off the forces of Generals Shackleford and Foster, but the movement of General Ferrier frustrated the plan of the enemy.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday between Tazewell and Clinch river.

Longstreet is reported to have been killed and his forces surrounded."

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—A special despatch to the *Commercial*, dated Loudon, Ky., Dec. 20th, says that General Shackleford and staff arrived there on the way home. They left Blain's Cross-Roads on the 16th. The Battle at Bean's Station on the 14th commenced at two o'clock and lasted till dark, General Shackleford holding his ground till that time, when he withdrew. Our loss was from 150 to 200 killed and wounded. Our forces were concentrating at Blain's Cross-Roads when General Shackleford left.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—The *Commercial's* despatch, dated Konxville, Dec. 19, represents everything as quiet in that direction.

Longstreet has returned to Bull Gap, for the proposed purpose of wintering to the Watauga valley, or with the view of moving into North Carolina.

The railroad is in operation south of Knoxville, to Loudon, and the river is open to navigation from Loudon to Chattanooga. Gen. Foster has established his headquarters at Knoxville.

The grounds for the U. S. Cemetery at Chattanooga have been selected and the position chosen for a national monument. The killed, and those dying in the hospitals, and buried in the town are being disinterred and placed in the cemetery.

RECORD OF THE WEEK.

The denunciation of Jeff. Davis by Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, in the rebel Congress, appears to have been much more bitter than was at first reported. He reviled Davis for making a companion of Pemberton after that general had surrendered Vicksburg; he was alleged to be the cause of the Gettysburg and Murfreesboro disasters, and the cause of the opening of Georgia to 100,000 Federal troops, besides laying South Carolina liable to destruction. The probabilities are that Foote will be denounced as an abolitionist in disguise and securely locked up in some jail.

The Navy Department has been informed of the capture of several blockade runners, as follows:—On the 27th of November, the United States schooner Two Sisters took the English schooner Maria Alberta, while endeavoring to run into Bayport, Florida.—On the 9th inst., the steamer Minna, while running for Charleston or Wilmington.—On the 29th ult., the U. S. gunboat Kanawha took the schooner Alvita, while coming out of Mobile bay; her cargo consists of cotton and turpentine.

Recently James Spence, of Liverpool, the notorious secession cotton broker, undertook to deliver a pro-slavery address in the City Hall, in Glasgow. According to a report in the London *Times*, he was constantly interrupted by hisses and groans, and charges that he was a paid agent of the confederacy. After the address a Mr. MacAdam proposed a resolution urging the British government to enter into communication with the European Powers to concert with them as to the best means of bringing about peace between the north and the south. Before this resolution could be put to a vote, a Mr. Councillor Moir offered an amendment, condemning Mr. Spence for defending the unconstitutional procedure of the southern confederacy, and for trying to disguise the execrable and abhorrent character of slavery.—Both resolutions were received with vociferous cheers, and finally the pro-slavery resolution was carried by a small majority.

On the 10th inst., Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, introduced a resolution into the rebel Congress instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of the government distinguishing between its prisoners of African descent and those enlisted in the north as freemen. He said that Mr. Ould, the Commissioner of exchanges, was in favor of the law being amended. Mr. Foote believed that they were bound to recognize the negroes taken as prisoners of war The resolution was referred as he desired.—Mr. Wigfall offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the subject of the treatment and subsistence of prisoners of war in the hands of the military authorities, and report the result of their investigations to the Senate.

General Foster has arrived at Knoxville, and has assumed command of the army lately under Burnside—the latter having departed for Cincinnati. There are rumors, not confirmed, that most of Longstreet's artillery has fallen into our hands.

A most brilliant affair has occurred on the Peninsula. General Butler telegraphs that General Wistar sent an expedition to Charles City Court house and captured the rebel camp at that place, with eight officers, eighty two enlisted men, and a large quantity of camp equipage and stores. Our loss was four killed and as many wounded. The 139th New York infantry marched 61 miles in 54 hours, and the New York Mounted Rifles 96 miles in 44 hours. The whole expedition was carried out during a severe storm.

The 1st Maryland Cavalry Regiment have subscribed $500 for the relief of the Union prisoners at Richmond.

The Maiden Bank of Massachusetts was entered at noon on last Monday, and the son of the President, being alone there, was murdered, and the bank robbed of all its contents. The murdered boy was the son of E. C. Converse, and was only seventeen years of age.

Facts have come to light which show that the Superintendent of the Boston House of Reformation has been guilty of great cruelty to the inmates, beating the boys with a horsewhip, and abusing a young girl.

The Richmond papers report that Fort Sumter has been set on fire, and the woodwork mostly destroyed. Several fires have also taken place in the city, which may have been caused by Gilmore's Greek fire, though the Charleston journals deny this.

Longstreet's rear guard has turned on our cavalry, who were pursuing them Shackleford, on the Holsten river, and at last accounts had driven the Union cavalry back some distance. The rebels attempted to cut off and capture our whole force, but failed in this. Another fight was expected to take place on Wednesday.

A late number of the Atlanta *Confederacy* says that the rebel cavalry had visited Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge and found there only the debris of Federal camps. The position appeared to have been deserted six days before. The *Confederacy* also states that there is no doubt of the advent of Averill's cavalry into southwest Virginia, in the direction of the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad.

The gunboat Aries captured the blockade runner Ceres on the 4th inst., off Wilmington, N. C. The rebels ran the Ceres aground and set her on fire, but the flames were extinguished, and the engines and a part of her cargo were saved.

Captain U. T. Anderson, of the 51st Indiana, and Lieut. Skeltons, of the 17th Iowa, escaped from Libby prison a week ago, and have arrived in Baltimore.

The recent heavy rains have swept away nearly all the obstructions placed in the channel of Charleston harbor by the rebels and believing the road to be clear, Admiral Dahlgren will soon attempt the passage of the forts.

It is reported that Gen. Rosecrans will succeed Gen. Schofield in Missouri:

On Monday week a portion of Longstreet's army came down from Rogersville and engaged the advance of the union army near Bean's Station, on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. General Wilcox has fallen back to Tazewell and has fortified himself there. At last accounts a fight was in progress at Blair's cross roads. During the advance against Longstreet near Knoxville, he was compelled to run forty car loads of ammunition and two locomotives into the Tennessee to prevent them from falling into Sherman's hands.

A Midnight Chant for the Dying Year.

"Then, too, the Old Year dieth,
And the forests utter a moan,
Like the voice of one who crieth
In the wilderness alone,
'Vex not his ghost!'"

'Tis the death howl of the aged year!—throuh pine woods wild and vast,
It rides thou the pinion of the sounding mountain blast
From valley and cold forest, and from icy ocean-shore.
I hear its mournful wailing, blent with the billows roar:
And far upon the summit of the storm-scarred promontory,
I see grim Winter's legions bursting through the cedars hoary!

They come with dismal chanting, and hollow sounding dirges,
They pass unto the music of the sea's orchestral surges;
I see the gloomy warriors their snowy chargers mounting,
I here the gibbering Storm-fiend his cold battalions counting.
Now creaks ye icy forests!—they are forming on the lea,
They are mounting on the mountan, and the surely-sounding sea!

Hark!—hear ye not that distant roar!—'tis Winter's ghostly cry,
O'er the gray haired Year that wrestleth with his dying agony!
He is passing to his slumber! Hist! the winds around him crowd,
And the eagle shrieks his death-song in the snowy mountain cloud:
He is passing to his sepulchre, unborne upon the form of the fiercely-spinning whirlwind, and the gloomy mountain storm!

They bear him to eternity, with wild and solemn moan!
And as they pass, the rocking woods make melancholy groan:
They are creaking on the mountain, and on the lonely shore,
In wild and angry concert with old Ocean's mighty roar;
Dark Winter o'er the dying year howls out his midnight wall,
And ever as they rattle their bare bones in the gale,
Then cometh from the wilderness, and from the stormy sky,
The voice of him who fighteth with his dying agony,
'Tis done:—wan Night now shudders through all her wild dominion,
And haggard Time upon the blast unfolds his awful pinion:
And, legion after legion, the winds, with mighty roar,
Go howling through the pine woods, and pass from hill and shore!

The year is in his sepulchre—approach and view his bier!
Thou will not deem it idleness to shed a parting tear;
For low! here sleep the beautiful, they who, in life's sweet spring,
Were merry as the painted birds that mount on joyous wing;
New they are gone forever!—behold them where they lie!
They of the pure and gentle heart, the bright and sunny eye!

They are gone! the loved, and beautiful—oh! come they back no more!
Speak, friends!—sweet friends, with ye I smiled, and sang in days of yore;
And will ye not return again? Hark! hark!—'twas but the sigh
Of cowled Winter sweeping through the cold and solemn sky;
They come not!—nay, they come not!—the loved are in the tomb,
And I am here, a mourner, over youth and beauty's bloom.

I stand in the grim wilderness, and while the tempest's wail
Doth shake the leafless forest, and die along the vale,
I think many a sylph-like form, and many a fair young brow,
All eloquent with beauty once, but cold and lifeless now:
I think of them while on the hills the mournful whirlwinds roar,
But the beautiful have vanished, and will return no more!

H. W. R.

Letter from Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 1863.

MR. EDITOR—With your permission, I should like occasionally, to fill a small space in your valuable paper, with "jottings" in, and about Washington. Not having the *mousing* propensities of professional reporters, I shall be unable to entertain your readers with descriptions of the secret springs which govern, or are governed by, the politicians; or the under currents which undulate the social circles of the Capital; but must content myself in noting the lighter ripples on the surface, with the hope that they may not prove entirely uninteresting.

The outside work of the Capital extension is progressing slowly, but the large area now covered by the wings, compared with the increased height and size of the dome, destroys the unity of design so conspicuous in the original building, and gives to the entire structure, a rather *squat* appearance. On the second of this month, the "Statue of Freedom," the crowning glory of the dome, was elevated to its position amid the thunders of artillery, and the acclamations of thousands who had assembled to witness it. This statue was modelled in plaster by the late eminent sculptor, Crawford, and cast at the Foundry of Clark Mills, near Bladensburg. It is made of bronze, is nearly twenty feet high, and weighs fifteen thousand pounds; its cost to the Government was about thirty thousand dollars. Though collossal in its proportions, its elevation to a height of nearly three hundred feet from the ground at the east front of the Capital, reduces it to about life size.—The dome itself is double, and between the interior and exterior shells, a winding staircase leads to the very summit.

Within a few days, the two doors intended for the hall of the House of the Representatives have been placed in position. They are of massive bronze, elaborately ornamented with figures and heraldic emblems in high relief, and cost thirty five thousand dollars.—An inscription on the casing informs us that they were modelled at Rome, by Randolph Rodgers, in 1856, and cast at Munich, Bavaria, by Ev. Miller, in 1860. On the frame are four figures representing Europe, Asia, Africa and America, the arch above the doors containing a spirited representation of the landing of Columbus In each door there are four sunken panels each containing an important scene in the life of the great Navigator; while the spaces between are filled with statutes of Ferdinand, Isabella, Cortez, Ponce de Leon, and others so intimately connected with the discovery and settlement of the country. This great work of art is really a study; the details being worked out with a completeness in design and finish which challenges the admiration of every one.

Congress, has, as yet, done but little more than organize, by the election of officers, and the appointment of the standing committees. The election of the Hon. E. McPherson, as clerk of the House, is, no doubt, gratifying to the people of Pennsylvania, who have been twice thus honored, within a few years.—Mr. McPherson's talents and legislative experience eminently qualify him for the position, and his is a gratifying mark of confidence to one, who from youth to manhood has been the architect of his own fortune. Your member, Mr Baily, is at his post, and, I feel assured, will be found in this Congress, as in the last, shoulder to shoulder with those who sustain the Government in putting down the rebellion, until treason and traitors shall go down into that sea of oblivion, which promises so speedily to engulf them forever.

The great influx of strangers here, consequent in the opening of Congress, has filled the hotels to repletion, and those connected with them are kept busy catering for their numerous guests. Among the first class hotels; none is more justly popular than the Kirkwood House, to which large additions have been recently made for the accommodation of their increasing trade. One of the proprietors is Mr. John McIntosh, so long,