

Democrat and Sentinel. H. HASSON, Editor & Publisher. WEDNESDAY, DEC 21, 1864. S. M. Pettengill & Co. Advertising Agents, 37 PARK ROW New York, and 10 State street, Boston.

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Christmas.

Before we can issue another paper, that great festival will have passed away. And we sincerely wish our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. But, notwithstanding how sincere our wish may be, we know that too many it will be sad indeed. There will be a vacancy at many a family board. The beloved lost ones will not be there. The insatiate thirst for blood has taken many a father, and many a brother who used to grace the festive board, and I conigned them to death, the camp, or a prison, and left nothing behind them but squallid poverty, to bewail their absence in a feast of tears.

The present incumbent has a galaxy of talent who went before him as illustrious predecessors, worthy of imitation, and unsurpassable. Jay, Ellsworth, Marshall, Taney. We say this much of the Chief Justice; because all those who went before him retired from politics, and never, was heard of except when robed in the Judicial ermine.

A Sad Tragedy.

On one day last week, or rather at night, a sad tragedy occurred on the borders of our county. We believe in Knox township, Clearfield county. A man by the name of Thomas Adams, who had been raised in this county and moved away to that locality a few years ago, seemed to be amenable to military law, for not reporting or desertion, or some other offence of the kind of which we are not advised.

How to get the Office of Chaplain!

Get yourself called on to preach—preach politics; abuse the Democrats; speak God that Lincoln is re-elected—speak of him as the most beautiful and virtuous of living things; and then "Go in Lemons and get"—appointed.

The Chief Justice of the United States.

Salmon Portland Chase has been nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and entered on his duties. He now occupies the seat of the lamented Roger B. Taney. The President might have made a worse appointment. Though he is an Abolitionist he has the reputation of being a good lawyer and a sincere man. Like the most of the rest of the men who wield the destinies of our Government, he was born and educated in the Yankee States, at a place called Cornish, in New Hampshire in the year 1809.

He was sent to the United States Senate from Ohio, in 1849, receiving all the Democratic votes in the Legislature and all the Free-Soil votes that favored Democratic principles. In 1852 he endeavored to raise a new Democratic party and failing in that he withdrew from it altogether. He was twice Governor of Ohio, and is said to be instrumental in establishing the finances of the State on a firm basis.

He was Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, and father of the Greenback system. He retired from that office and took very little trouble about public affairs during his retirement. The only place we hear of him is delivering a lecture at the opening of some literary institution in Ohio. Such is a synopsis of the public acts of a man who holds a position only second to that of the President.

My parting from you has been terribly agonizing to me. But it must be! Oh! receive my gratitude for the love you have shown me, the sacrifices you have made for me, and forgive me the sorrow I have caused you. Do not lament us, for we have been faithful in our love till death.

In case my father should have a worthy successor in his clinical chair (Dr. Demme, Senior, is one of the leading professors at Berne, in the University), I bequeath my galvanic-plastic apparatus to the University; otherwise, let my family keep it.

To my mother, with my heart's farewell, I leave the clock which has measured out the weariest hours of my life. You will understand that at this solemn moment I cannot recall all that I would wish done; I trust in the thoughtfulness of my parents to fulfill all that I forget to mention.

Henry Ward Beecher, in his Thanksgiving sermon said that "the nation in voting for Abraham Lincoln, voted to double its taxes." If any one had said that before the election, Beecher would have denounced him as copperhead and traitor.

The Trumpy-Demme Case.

This extraordinary drama in real life has created more sensation in Europe, than anything that has occurred during the last century.

The facts of the case are briefly these. There lived in Berne, in Switzerland a gentleman by the name of Trumpy, a wealthy banker, who had one daughter, it appears he was a passionate man, in one of these fits he threw some missile at his wife and knocked her eye out. A young Doctor of great promise the son of a professor in one of the institutions, was called on, he could not restore the sight of the eye, but preserved the lady from being disfigured. Hermann Demme, the Doctor never divulged the cause of the accident, consequently the family were exceedingly grateful to him. He subsequently spent the greater part of his time at their house, and traveled with them. He also became affianced to the daughter. In the latter part of the summer the old gentleman took sick and died rather suddenly. Demme attending to him in his last illness. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Trumpy publicly accused herself and the Doctor with making away with the old gentleman by means of strychnine. They were tried, the trial lasted for many days, and they were acquitted. It having been proved that the old gentleman did not die of poison at all, but a natural death. Immediately after their acquittal the Doctor and his beautiful bride, Flora, left their home in Berne and proceeded to the lovely lake of Geneva, and there drowned themselves in its waters. Truth is stranger than fiction.

The following is Hermann Demme's letter to his parents:

DEAR PARENTS AND BROTHERS!—I know well that the news of my death, which this letter bears to you, will cause you fearful pain. But I know, too, that the unalterable love you bear to me will secure for me the pardon which I now beg of you. The step which this letter tells you I have taken has not been taken lightly, but upon calm reflection and after a careful examination of all the circumstances.

My existence is shattered by the terrible events of this past year. I did not wish to turn my back on the battle. I resolved to see my conscious innocence victoriously established, despite the terrible complications which have come to pass; and to this end I persevered as long as my honor and that of my family were threatened. But I could never recover from the wound unjustly inflicted upon my medical honor by the tribunal.

My enemies were not content with all the misery which had this year overwhelmed me. They have persecuted me down to the last moment, and have even sought to tear from me her who has loyally borne up with me through all the storm, and whom I have vainly implored to leave me now. I declare that I could never have been happy after what I have suffered; that the honor of our name is safe; that, so far as I have been free to do so, I have given my life, not to dissipation, but to conscientious labor. These considerations, dear parents, should be to you a consolation.

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parents, farewell! Farewell, beloved brothers! Faithful friends, farewell! May you find strength to bear this news, and not be crushed by it. Preserve yourselves, dear parents, for my brothers, who so much need you, and remember with love your HERMANN.

The Military Situation.

We resume, to-day, our sketches of the "military situation," suspended during the recent Presidential canvass, because that contest seemed to have superseded, in the public mind, the events and movements of our armies. The war news, as it comes to the press, is so vague that, as well as unreliable, that it is at all times difficult to get at the exact truth; yet sharp, cautious and candid observer may manage to gain a more intelligent and correct view of what is transpiring in the field than the general multitude, whose whole knowledge is derived from a confused mass of partial, conflicting, and oftentimes positively false dispatches.

The interest of the war is centered just now in the operations of Sherman before Savannah, and those of Thomas at Nashville. As regards the former, the news thus far received is by no means distinct or positive though it has been assumed by a portion of the press that Savannah has fallen. No intelligence has reached us warranting such a conclusion. The reported firing of a salute by Flaggen's army, or a part of it, had effected a communication with the co-operative naval force of the Georgia coast. This, we believe, is all that had taken place at the time of which we are speaking.

General Thomas, in a dispatch to the War Department claims a brilliant victory over Hood near Nashville. Besides the capture of many prisoners, including several officers of high rank, together with a considerable number of wagons, artillery, and small arms, the Confederate lines are said to have been broken and driven back at all points. That there was a severely contested fight appears probable, and that Thomas had the best of it at last advices may also be conceded. But it is not so clear that the success won by our arms was conclusive. Hood is represented, in one dispatch, to have shifted his position with a view to renew the fighting, and if he were in a condition to make a stand on the defensive he may be strong enough to turn the tide of battle in his own favor, and again assume an offensive movement against the Federal troops.

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Reminiscence of Gen. Jackson.

Mr. Rives was a worshipper of Gen. Jackson, with whom he was on the most intimate terms, as publisher of the Globe, then edited by Mr. Blair, and the acknowledged organ of the Old Hickory. No man was better acquainted with the eventual administration of General Jackson than Mr. Rives was, and I have sat in his office hour after hour listening to reminiscences. Among these were the attempts made at different times by Mr. Van Buren, Attorney General B. F. Butler, and others, to tone down and modify Jackson's messages and proclamations.

"The honor of my country shall never be stained by an apology by me for the statement of truth and the performance of duty; nor can I give any explanation of my official acts, except such as is due to integrity and justice, and consistent with the principles on which our institutions have been framed."

"I was waiting for the Globe's copy of the message," said Mr. Rives, "chatting with the General, who was smoking his pipe, when Major Donelson, his private Secretary, came in, and read the page or more of manuscript which the Cabinet had substituted for this sentence."

"It was late on Sunday night, and Congress was to meet the next morning. When Major Donelson read the substituted sentence, the General said: 'Now read that again.' It was read a second time, and he then rose, and paced the floor, stopped and said: 'Strike all that out, sir, and put what I wrote. That's what I meant, and by G—d, that's what my message shall say.' The alterations were made, and I have the original copy to show that this was so. 'The words omitted' Mr. Rives went on to say, 'were milk and water, but those retained had the bark on.'"

More money, more men, more war is the programme.

The Latest Dispatches.

WASHINGTON DEC. 18—9 P. M. Major-General Jno. A. Dix, New York.

An official dispatch from General Sherman was received to-day, dated near midnight, Dec. 13, on the gunboat Dandelion, Ossaban sound. It was written before General Foster had reached him. He reports, besides some military details of future operations (which are omitted), the following interesting particulars of his operations:

To-day at 5 P. M., General Hazen's division of the Fifteenth corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened to us the Ossaban sound, and I pushed down to this gunboat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication, we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah, and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah river, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee, at King's bridge. The army is in splendid order, and equal to anything. The weather has been fine, and supplies were abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas.

We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister could not communicate; but now we have McAllister, we can go ahead.

We have already captured two boats on the Savannah river, and prevented their gunboats from coming down.

I estimate the population of Savannah at twenty-five thousand, and the garrison at fifteen thousand. General Hardee commands.

We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our trains are in far better condition than when we started.

My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules and horses.

We have utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of rails, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. The quick work made with McAllister, and the opening of communication with our fleet, and the consequent independence for supplies, dissipates all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army.

I regard Savannah as already gained. Yours truly, W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

OFFICIAL FROM SECRETARY STANTON. WASHINGTON, DEC. 17, 1864.

Major-General Dix, New York: Despatches have been received to-day from General Foster, who had a personal interview, on the morning of Wednesday, the 14th inst., with General Sherman at Fort McAllister, which had been taken by assault on the preceding day.

Savannah was closely besieged, and its capture with the rebel forces there, was confidently expected. It was to be summoned in two days, and if not surrendered Sherman would open his batteries upon it.

General Foster reports that Sherman's army is in splendid condition, having lived on its march on the turkeys, chickens, sweet potatoes and other good things of the richest part of Georgia. The march was feebly resisted.

Nothing has been heard from General Thomas to-day. Unofficial despatches state that the Provost Marshal at Nashville reports 5,000 prisoners and 49 pieces of artillery as being already secured.

It is ascertained that in transmitting General Thomas' report last night a telegraphic mistake was made at Louisville or Nashville in the estimated number of our casualties. The despatch written by General Thomas stated that his whole loss would not exceed three thousand, and very few were killed.

A despatch from Lexington this evening states that on the 13th inst., at Kingsport, Tennessee, Gen. Burbridge had a fight with Basil Duke's brigade (formerly John Morgan's) and routed it, with a loss to the enemy of one hundred and fifty killed, wounded and prisoners, and their trains. Dick Morgan, a brother of John, was captured.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

UNEMPLOYED GENERAL OFFICERS.

The Senate Military Committee have under consideration the bill which passed the House, dismissing all unemployed general officers. The following are the names of those effected by the bill: Maj. Generals David Hunter, Ambrose E. Burnside, Franz Sigel, Samuel P. Heintzelman, Daniel E. Sickles, James S. Negley, John M. Palmer, Julius H. Stahl, Carl Schurz; Brevet Major-Generals Wm. W. Averill, George J. Starnum; Brigadier-Generals, George W. Morell, Samuel D. Sturgis, Eleazer A. Paine, Adolph Von Steinwehr, Jacob G. Lauman, Speed S. Fry, Mahlon D. Manson, Fitz Henry Warren, Francis B. Spicola, Alfred W. Flett, Thos. W. Sweeney, Robt. O. Tyler, Alex. Schimmelfinnis, Frank S. Nickerson, Gabriel R. Paul, Walter G. Gresham, James H. Lullie, A. B. Underwood, Cyrus Russey, Wm. F. Bartlett, John B. McIntosh, George H. Chapman, Eli Long, Selden Connor.

The Firing of New York City.

It appears that after all the alarm created in New York some time ago, it turned out to be nothing but a big scare, or rather a big hoax. The savans of New York are entirely at a loss yet what to make of it. The attempt, if attempt it was, to burn, was made simultaneously in twelve different places, using the same agent in all the places, phosphorus, an agent well suited to frighten, but will not ignite anything except the most inflammable substance, such as powder, sulphur, and like. The New York World seems to understand it, from the following consideration of an article on the subject.

That the attempted plot—or call it what you please—was a grand scare, is too obvious from the feverish pulse of the public even at this date; but that, as a plot, if in earnest, it was just worth, and no more than worthy, of the invention of a Tom-John Bedlam is susceptible of the most lucid demonstration.

This scientific analysis of phosphorus—the particular and sole agent of ignition used on this occasion—shows conclusively. Prof. Doremus, in discussing at Cooper Institute on Monday evening the peculiar properties of this gas, said that "phosphorus, although highly inflammable of itself, was not a good agent for purposes of ignition, and would not ignite the majority of cases ignite wood, even paper, unless accompanied by other highly inflammable agents, as, for instance, sulphur." The learned professor proved, by actual experiment, that paper, although heated and blackened, even reduced to a film, when exposed to phosphorescent action would not be ignited. No flame was, in the same experiments, communicated to the paper, and it is well known that in the composition of ordinary "lucifers" sulphur is used simply because of the incapacity of phosphorus to ignite wood. Phosphorus ignites the sulphur—a material in itself highly inflammable—and sulphur in its turn communicates flame to the woody part. The sole reason why some "lucifers" will burn but a second after ignition is due to the purity of sulphur in their composition. You strike light; it burns with brilliancy for a moment and suddenly expires leaving wood peculiarly black and smoky.

Lucifer was wanting in sulphur, and phosphorus, which burned so brilliantly for an instant, was not sufficient to communicate flame to the wood. Now, what is the deduction from premises? An attempt, either last or otherwise, has been made to ignite the public at large to be the most fearful agents of ignition, but reality one of the most inefficient agents possible. A little sulphur added, and shudders at the havoc which might be done. What we ask is the deduction from premises. The solution turns upon a question whether we are to suppose the incendiaries were ignorant of agent they used. If they were, they were too egregious fools to make even respectable incendiaries; and that they were so, if the plot be as extensive and bold as so many men of parts as abolitionists pretend, is not to be credited for an instant. What, then, is the other half of the dilemma? Is it that the whole called plot was a gigantic hoax—a plot intended to unsettle the public and precipitate by the best of excuses into the arms of martial law—of a Butler, or other minion of usurpation. This dilemma, which horn will abolitionists take? Are rebel incendiaries or was the attempt to burn our cities other of those inimitable "jukes" pause for a reply.

The Way the Money Goes.

The Washington correspondent of Chicago Tribune, (Lincoln's organ) that Gree Adams, late Auditor of Postoffice Department, and John F. S. retts, his chief clerk, had been in habit of selling the waste paper of Department, which accumulates rapidly, to dealers, and putting the money in their own pockets. During their term they have sold over \$5,000 worth, one dime of which have they ever turned into the Treasury. They even went further. They cut down the wages of laborer who had been employed to pare the paper for selling, from forty cents a month to fifty dollars a year. They said that in the present time when the country was reeling under a terrible load of expense and that it was the duty of every public official to save what he could to the Government and make all the sacrifices possible to save his bleeding country. They were, with great reluctance, docked poor devils wages twenty dollars a month, and mournfully put the same in their pockets. They divided their gains, and left not a word nor a scrap of paper in the office to indicate to Sam that they were grateful to the Government for this special mark of his favor.

The new Auditor, Mr. Sells, in this business operation, when he was paid over his half of the money has not yet paid over. He is now agent at Nashville!