New Orleans Bee.

Office 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI.—Whole No 12912.

NEW ORLEANS:
MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 28, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-day

By McCerren & Landry, at 11 o'clock, at their auction mart, front sts.

By F. F. Tinchard, at 10 o'clock, at his salesroom, No. 42 Gravier street, sundries.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 11 o'clock, on the Levee, opposite Jackson Square, coal and dressed flooring; at 12 o'clock, on the Levee foot of Bienville street, sugar and syrup.

By Phinney & Amory, at 12 o'clock, at the corner of Camp and Common streets, 10 bales cotton.

By the Sheriff at 10½ o'clock, corner of Royal and Bourbon streets, furniture.

RHEUMATISM, DIARRHŒA, DYSPEPSIA, ETC.—We invite particular attention to the certificates in our advertising columns attesting the efficacy of the remedies for croup, rheumatism, diarrhœa, dyspepsia, etc., to be obtained at No. 117 St. Ann street.

CROUP AND SORE THROAT.—Mr. Rice, No. 117 St Ann street, announces a sure remedy for croup and sore throat. See his advertisement in another column.

NEW MILLINERY GOODS.—The attention of all who desire millinery goods, of the newest and most select description, especially the attention of milliners, is called to the advertisement of the wholesale house of Daniel Gerren, No. 27 Magazine street, which has just received a shipment of various articles in the above line, and will continue receiving additions to the same by every steamer.

Dealers and speculators will, on reference to our advertising columns, note that R. T. Montgomery will sell on Monday, at 11 o'clock, on the Levee, opposite Jackson Square, 140 tons superior Scotch coal and 14,980 feet tongued and grooved flooring; at 12 o'clock, at the foot of Bienville street, 200 hogsheads sugar and 66 barrels choice syrup; and on Tuesday, 29th instant, at one o'clock, at the salesroom 93 Camp street, 235 bales cotton.

By our advertisements we see that Messrs. McCerren & Landry will sell this day, at 10½ o'clock, the contents of a private dwelling, situated at the corner of Camp and Fourth streets; and also at their mart, Masonic Hall, a fine assortment of furniture, carpets, &c.

The Sheriff will sell at auction this day, at 10½ o'clock, A M., at his Warehouse, corner of Royal and Orleans streets, Second District of this city, handsome furniture, &c., at 4½ o'clock, P. M., at No. 18 Villeré street, between Customhouse and Canal streets, Second District, horses, mules, carts, harness, &c. See advertisement.

Messrs. Phinney & Amory sell this day, (Monday) at 12 o'clock, at their salesroom, corner Camp and Common streets, by order of Hon. B. F. Flanders, Superintending Special Agent Treasury Department, ten bales cotton. The terms of sale are cash, in U. S. Treasury notes.

FRESH CORN HONEY, GOSHEN BUTTER, TEAS, HAMS, &c—E. S. Keep, 62 Poydras street, advertises the receipt of 200 pounds in boxes, of fresh comb honey; 25 tierces of new sugar-cured hams, just landing; a splendid assortment of green teas, Hyson, Gun powder, Imperial, &c.; a lot of strictly choice high color Goshen butter; and 50 baskets of Champagne, Le Legard & Co's.

PINK EYE POTATOES FOR PLANTING—All who are interested in the growth of potatoes of first-rate quality, will welcome the announcement by Mr. King, 62 and 64 Tchoupitoulas street, of the fresh receipt by bark Powhatan of 700 barrels of pure pink eye potatoes, which he will sell in lots to suit purchasers.

THE EMPORIUM OF LIGHT.—One of the most brilliant holiday displays to be observed in the city is that of Artemon Ward's Emporium of Light, No. 6 Chartres street. A slight idea of the various contents of this establishment, and the inducements they hold out to purchasers, may be had by glancing at the advertised catalogue in another place, which comprises several new and curious articles for the economy of coal Kerosine light, its application to heating and cooking purposes, &c. The proprietor offers rich, fancy pattern coal oil parlor lamps at much reduced prices

LADIES' DRESS AND FURNISHING GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAY'S—MARKED LOW.—J. A. Brozelman, corner of Magazine and St. Andrew streets, announces a highly attractive lot of goods just received, and which were ordered expressly for the holidays, but having been delayed, are marked at very low price. See the list in the advertisement

FOR BAYOU SARA.—The regular semi-weekly packet Black Hawk, in command of Captain Saml Ayles, leaves this evening, at 5 o'clock, from the foot of Bienville street, for Bayou Sara, Port Hudson, Baton Rouge and intermediate coast landings. Mr. R. M. McMahon is the obliging clerk of the Black Hawk.

LOYD LYONS AND THE CHESAPEAKE AFFAIR. A Washington dispatch of the 18th says that friendly and satisfactory explanations have taken place between Mr. Seward and Lord Lyons concerning the recovery of the Chesapeake and her crew within the British jurisdiction of Nova Scotia.

ARRIVAL OF THE COLUMBIA.—The steamship Columbia, from New York on the 19th via Havana, passed up the river from South West Pass, at 4 o'clock, yesterday evening. She was expected to reach the city early this morning. Her dates from New York city will be one day later than already published, but her general news has doubtless been anticipated for the most part by intelligence via the river.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—*New Attractions.* Crowded houses continue to attest the unfailing popularity of the entertainments at this place, which are not likely to grow monotonous, thanks to the new attractions introduced from time to time by the provident management of Mr. Bidwell. The numerous frequenters of the Academy will now be glad to learn, as we are happy to announce, that the celebrated clown and jester Sam Long arrived on the steamer Colombia, and will make his first appearance in the circle of the Academy on Wednesday evening. Nor is this all; the trained dogs and acting monkeys, whose astonishing performances excited such interest at the Academy some years ago—eclipsing the merits of not a few actors at the St. Charles and the Varieties—are expected to commence an engagement at the Academy this evening.

Dramatic.

After crediting Mr. Baker's scene painters and carpenters for the effective part which their works played in the performance of Colleen Bawn on Christmas eve, we were compelled to defer remark upon its other features to a future occasion. Since then the performance has been repeated to large and brilliant houses, and enjoys every prospect of completing a successful holiday run. We feel more free, therefore, to criticise it, as it appears to be measurably independent of criticism.

Colleen Bawn was announced as a novelty. Such a claim was by no means tenable. It was produced in this city several years since, when it was comparatively fresh from the hands of its adaptator, Dion Bourcicault, who took its plot and characters from an Irish romance by Gerald Griffin, but who characteristically left most of the literary beauties of the story in the author's book. He, as usual, crowded it with incidents and situations which, combined with corresponding pictorial and mechanical effects, make what is known as a first-rate "acting play," self-acting play would, perhaps, be a better phrase, as histrionism in the higher sense has little to do in a result that owes so much to skilful stage contrivance.

As to the manner in which the actors in the performance of this play at the Varieties have acquitted themselves, we may say that two show decided artistic merit, one is clever, another is positively execrable, a third monstrous, and the rest barely tolerable. Mr. Lawrence Barrett exhibited discriminating conception in the personation of Danny Mann, a character of considerable complexity and by no means easy of delineation. In Myles Na Copaleen, Mr. Baker displayed happily his well-known versatility. Indeed, Mr. B. never does his work shabbily. If not always brilliant, his sound judgment saves him from ever making a complete failure. His Myles, to be sure, has not the pathos and raciness which Collins used to infuse into the part, and, perhaps, none but an Irishman to the manner born could bring out in sunny fullness the native soul of such a character.

Mr. Setchell's Sheelah was a melancholy farce. It is always questionable taste to cast a male actor for a female part. In Mr. Setchell's case it is worse than bad taste. The audience forget the play, forget the character, in his wretched burlesque of a dosting old woman. He makes a monstrosity which has no more to do with the play than any of those to be found at Barnum's Museum.

But the crowning absurdity of the performance is Kinghand's Carrigan, the rascally Irish Attorney. It is painfully, pitiably, ridiculous. More than that, in the scene where Carrigan, after his villainy is baffled, takes leave of the company, it is shamefully offensive. We speak of it as we saw it the first night. If Kinghand has improved the personation since, we are thankful. We trust he has.

M. E. JENNINGS.—The death of this formerly well-known citizen of New Orleans is announced in the Mobile *Register*, as having occurred on the 20th of November at his place near Cuyka. A city contemporary contains the following appreciative obituary sketch of the deceased:

Nowhere in New Orleans was more esteemed than M. E. Jennings. He was a native of Norfolk, Va., but made his home in New Orleans early in life. In 1841 he was appointed Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, which office he filled until the secession of the State. After secession he occupied the same position under the Confederate Government, and held it until the occupation of the city by the Union forces under Gen. Butler. Our deceased friend was a model clerk of court, exact, systematic, courteous, and unfailing in his attention to his important duties. Fond of literature, he read much and had an extensive fund of general information. For many years he was a member of the Public School Board and chairman of the Lyceum and Library Committee. In the schools and the library he took a deep interest, and did much to promote their prosperity. His death will be greatly regretted by all who knew him.

Later from the North and West by the River.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

THE SITUATION IN TENNESSEE.

From Richmond and Charleston.

INTERESTING ACCOUNTS FROM THE SOUTH.

AFFAIRS IN TEXAS AND WESTERN LOUISIANA.

The steamer Continental arrived Saturday night with papers from St. Louis to the 19th and from Memphis to the 21st, containing a variety of late intelligence, the important portions of which we give:

The War in Virginia.

STUART'S CAVALRY AGAIN AT WORK—A FEDERAL COMPANY CAPTURED.

Washington, December 18.—The *Republican* extra has the following: Lieutenant Beck, of the Second Regiment, District of Columbia Volunteers, has given us the particulars of a bold raid made by Stuart's cavalry last night, on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, about a mile and a half beyond Fairfax Station. The rebels, about 800 strong, accompanied by the notorious Mosby, about six o'clock attacked the guard on the railroad at that point, which consisted of Company I, of the One Hundred and Fifth New York. The company made a brave resistance, and were only captured by the cavalry forming a hollow square around them. The rebels had previously cut the telegraph wires, but word was conveyed as quickly as possible to Colonel Drew, in command of a battalion of four companies of the Second District of Columbia Volunteers, at Fairfax Station, who started with his command to reinforce the party. The progress of the train was stopped at Hope, where the rebels had burned the bridge and torn up the track for about two miles. When Colonel Drew arrived at Hope Ken it was extremely dark, and the rain poured in torrents furiously. He fired several volleys at the rebels, which they returned. None of our men were wounded. It was evidently the object of the rebels to capture a railroad train from Alexandria, loaded with a large quantity of forage and provisions for the army, which was due at that time.

The train happened to be an hour and a half late, and consequently escaped capture. It is quite likely the rebels committed further outrages on the railroad beyond Hope Ken, of which we have not been informed. This raid revives very forcibly the former exploits of Stuart's cavalry.

A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT OF THE RAID

Washington, Dec. 18—We learn through dispatches received at the headquarters of this department from General Corcoran, that last night, Company I, One Hundred and Fifth New York regiment, at Sangsters Station, in the midst of a terrible storm then raging, were attacked by a body of Stuart's rebel cavalry, about 1000 strong, under command of the rebel General Rosser, which left Alexandria early on Wednesday night last. Contrary to their expectations, the company on railroad guard duty there made a gallant, and, as it turned out, successful resistance, having beaten them off four times before being taken, and having their tents burned by a portion of the enemy who got in their rear. The company was then forced to retire, with a loss of two men wounded and one taken prisoner. The rebels attempted to burn the bridge over Hope Run, but took a stampede before doing it any damage to speak of, as it was repaired in two hours this morning, and trains are now running again.

On moving off again the rebels sent back to Fairfax Station three ambulances of their wounded and left one prisoner in our hands. They left in the direction of Centreville.

A soon as daylight, General Corcoran in command, sent cavalry in pursuit of the foe, which has since reported that its advance had come up with the rebel rear.

From Chattanooga.

PURSUIT OF JOHN MORGAN—ARMY MOVEMENTS—FEDERAL TRAIN CAPTURED, &c.

Chattanooga, December 18.—John Morgan escaped across the Tennessee river at Gillispie's Landing, sixty miles above here, Sunday afternoon. Capt. Wm. Cummings and Robt. Cummings, who escaped from Columbus with him, were captured, together with fourteen of his escort of thirty. On reaching the neighborhood of the river, they pressed every citizen to prevent the alarm being given, and hurriedly constructed rafts at the mouth of Miles creek, on which an attempt to cross was made. A citizen who ridded himself of his pickets gave the alarm, and the attempt was nearly frustrated. Morgan escaped on a valuable race horse presented to him in Kentucky, going in the direction of Athens, Gen. Howard, who commands at Athens, has cavalry scouring the country, and possibly Morgan may yet be taken.

Wheeler has rejoined Hardee, and is reorganizing his cavalry force near Dalton. Refugees and deserters say the rebel cavalry will be actively employed during the winter.

Wednesday Champ Ferguson, a guerrilla, with a small force, captured part of the rear guard of the First cavalry division on this march from McMinnville, Sparta. Peter Ely, sutler of the Ninth Pennsylvania cavalry, and three others, were murdered.

Hardee's headquarters are at Dalton. His pickets extend as far as Tunnel Hill. His army, inclusive of the Georgia militia, is thirty-five thousand strong, and represented to be utterly demoralized.

Generals Grant and Sherman left for Bridgeport to-day.

Steamboats make trips from Bridgeport to Loudon, whence stores are transported by rail twenty-two miles to Knoxville.

There is nothing from Gordon Granger who, with Burnside, is probably fighting Longstreet at bay, near Rogersville

Accounts from the South, via Memphis.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE UNDER JOHNSTON—BRAGG CHIEF OF STAFF—ABUNDANCE OF FOOD.

The Memphis *Journal* of the 21st says:

A friend, who has made an extensive tour through Eastern Dixie, returned yesterday, bringing us a file of Southern papers, and communicating much interesting intelligence from Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. He tells us that the people are by no means discouraged by the recent disasters to their armies; that they are as plucky as ever in their determination to contend to the last for entire independence from the North. The conscript law is everywhere being rigidly enforced, and camps of new recruits are seen in all directions.

The soldiers are generally well clothed for the winter, the only serious deficiency being in the supply of shoes. Food everywhere he travelled seemed abundant; it is his opinion, from personal observation, that there is bread stuffs enough in the South to feed the population and armies for two years. There is some apprehension that the supplies of meat may, in consequence of the interruption of the intercourse with Texas, be deficient, but the abundant corn crops will increase the quantity of pork fattened, and there is no fear of famine in the meat department. Our friend visited the market in Mobile for several mornings in succession to see if gaunt famine was stalking abroad in that rebellious and threatened city.

He says the display of meat, game and fish, vegetables and fruit, would absolutely shame the poor exhibit made upon our stalls, and for his part, he would gladly exchange our Northern abundance for Southern famine, if Mobile market is a fair criterion of Southern destitution; and when the currencies are compared by any true standard, prices are relatively from thirty to fifty per cent. cheaper there than here.

The new organization of the army under Johnston; with Bragg as chief of his staff, had created the highest hopes, and inspired the people and army with the greatest enthusiasm—The self negation and devotion to the cause, which Bragg has displayed in accepting the chief of staff of his successor, had won for him more love and honor than the most brilliant victory could have secured for him. He has secured for himself an enduring place in the affections of the people. Our informant is a close and accurate observer; yet we give his statements, and leave every one to judge of them for himself. The following items we gather from the papers

FROM RICHMOND VIA FORTRESS MONROE.

Fortress Monroe, December 17.—A flag of truce steamer arrived last evening, brought down from City Point a free negro, who was captured at Gettysburg, and recently liberated by the rebel authorities, and two surgeons, who had been some time in prison at Atlanta, Georgia. While the latter were at Richmond, the rebel officers showed them through the prisons in and around the city. They report they found our prisoners quite comfortable and well fed, though they were furnished from provisions sent from the loyal States.

The Richmond *Whig*, of the 15th, says on Thursday last an explosion took place at the Chesterfield coal pits, from the admission of gas in the room of Raccoon pit, near Clover Hill, twenty-nine miles from Richmond. Sixteen men were killed and three injured. The accident occasioned a tremendous explosion. The flames from the hissing gas ascended some hundred feet above the orifice of the pit.

THE LATE STORM AND THE OBSTRUCTIONS IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

New York, December 18.—By the Arago it is stated that the recent heavy gale swept away nearly all the rebel obstructions in Charleston harbor, and their remnants line the shores. The entrance to the harbor is now believed to be clear, and it is supposed our navy will take due advantage of the fact.

Texas and Western Louisiana.

TEXAS CROWDED WITH SLAVES AND STOCK, FROM OTHER STATES—THE MILITARY SITUATION—GEN. MAGRUDER'S PLEDGE OF LOYALTY—HIS PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN TEXAS—GEN. TAYLOR NEAR ALEXANDRIA, ON RED RIVER—PROVISIONS PLENTY IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY.

A special to the St. Louis *Democrat* from Fort Smith on the 15th instant, says a gentleman named W. Taylor had arrived there, having left Dalton, 100 miles below Red River, on the 1st. He reports that General Dick Taylor was on the Red River near Alexandria, expecting the approach of a Federal column.

General Magruder had ordered the circulation throughout the State of a pledge resolving life, liberty and property of citizens to the support of the Confederacy. Those refusing to sign it are considered enemies and traitors, and treated as such.

A fourth of all the negroes have been conscripted and promised their freedom.

Provisions and forage are plenty in the valley of Red River, and in Western Texas.

The State is fairly crowded with slaves and stock, taken there by rebel owners, from States further east and north. The Confederate army in Texas were generally at posts on the outskirts of the State. Kirby Smith commands the troops in Texas. General Steele is at Dokinville, seven miles north of Red river, near the State line, with a small force. Rebel pickets are at the crossing of the Little Rock and Line roads. Price was twelve miles south of Washington, with three or four thousand men. The entire force of the enemy, under Marmaduke, Shelby and Cabell, are near him. Quantrell has been in Texas four weeks. His command, of 400 men, is distributed in detachments in various counties in Northwestern Texas. Their business seemed to be to act as spies on the people, and to hold the country in subjection, arrest deserters, kill suspected Union men, and rob and plunder indiscriminately. The Union sentiment in the State is strong, and would be expressed in immediate political action, if the people could be protected by the Union army. Four or five thousand men are in the brush, waiting the approach of the Federal forces. The people are held in subjection only by such parties as Quantrell's in each county.

Gen. Magruder had issued an address to the people of Western Texas, dated Houston, November 27, in which he denies that it was his intention to abandon the defense of Western Texas and confine his operations to the east side of the Colorado. He declares his purpose to defend the whole of the country to the best of his ability, as a proof of which troops were marching to the West, and San Antonio and Austin were being rapidly fortified. He then urges the minute men—indeed all who can bear arms—to report at once to Gen. Bee, with such weapons as they can procure, at Saroo Creek or Victoria. He concludes by assuring the Western Texans, that as soon as the Federal army has developed its plan, he will be in their midst to share their hardships and witness their triumps.

General Hooker and the Affair at Ringgold.

The New York *World* of the 18th says:

The western press are commenting very sharply upon Gen Hooker's terrible blunder, or worse, at Ringgold. The five hundred men who were needlessly sacrificed were Ohio and Illinois troops, and their friends in those States are raising an outcry which may lead to a court-martial and the retirement of Hooker from all connection with the army. General Grant has demanded an explanation of his conduct, and reports are current of his unfit condition to command a body of troops at the time the disaster occurred. The correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* writes:

"The conduct of Hooker, in rushing so many men to a place of death, cannot be too severely reprehended. He had won laurels at the battle of Lookout mountain, and his head was turned, and he was too impatient to obey the strict orders of his superior. In his impetuosity—I will not indicate that he should be taken to blow into his mouth to steal away his brains, though that is currently reported—he determined to carry the post here, regardless of its strength, and of the loss of life which an assault would entail. Gen. Grant demanded an explanation of the unprecedented conduct, when Hooker replied that his skirmishers became engaged, and that it was a point of honor with him to sustain them The object of sending them out was to ascertain the position of the rebels, while a flank movement was made under cover of night, which, if successful in the capture of most of them; but by his recklessness, Hooker lost on the advantage which this would have secured, and consigned hundreds of brave men to their graves."

United States Congress.

There were no features of special interest in the proceedings of the 16th.

The most notable occurrence on the 17th in the Senate was a personal explanation by Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, relative to the charge of the New York *Tribune* that he was bribed with $3000 to procure the release of certain prisoners in the Old Capitol. The prisoners being traitors, according to the *Tribune*, Mr Hale's loyalty could not be the soundest. Mr. Hale, contending that he had acted in the matter as a lawyer, and not improperly, upon his own resolution the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Wade offered a resolution, which was agreed to, calling on the Secretary of the Navy for all official dispatches and papers relating to actions in which ships of war have been engaged, but especially with regard to the operations of the iron clads, from the engagement between the Monitor and Merrimac down to the sinking of the Weehawken. A message was received from the President, accompanying a letter from a committee of the Freedmen's Aid Society, containing a plan having reference to the contrabands The President submits the whole subject to the consideration of Congress, deeming that their attention thereto is imperatively demanded

In the House, Mr. Harrington, of Indiana, offered a resolution regarding the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, which was rejected, 67 to 89 Mr Edgerton, of Indiana, offered a resolution setting forth that "the House cannot but regard with anxiety the unprecedented and extraordinary claims and assumption of high prerogative by the President in the Emancipation and Amnesty proclamations, and that the House denounce, as among the gravest of crimes, the invasion or occupation by armed forces of any State under the pretext, or for the purpose of coercing the people thereof, to modify or abrogate any of their laws or domestic institution of the United States." This was laid on the table by a vote of ninety against sixty-three. Mr. Smith, of Kentucky, then offered a series of resolutions, one pledging the House to a vigorous prosecution of the war, and declaring against any armistice or proposition of peace so long as there shall be found a rebel in arms against the Government. This was adopted by a vote of ninety-three against sixty four. The other resolutions, in favor of voting money for the war, and thanking the soldiers in the field for their gallantry, were adopted with but one negative vote—Mr. Harrie, of Maryland.

In the SENATE, on the 18th, Mr. Wilson, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back with amendments the bounty law; also, the bill amending the militia act with amendments, one of them repealing the $300 commutation, of which he had very serious doubts.

Mr. Dixon offered an amendment exempting clergymen from draft. The amendments were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Sumner's resolution for a new rule, requiring Senators to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by act of Congress, before entering on their duties, was taken up

Mr Saulsbury said his colleague (Mr. Hayward) was the only Senator to be affected by this order, and he had a right to ask that the question involved should be referred to the Committee on Judiciary, for their action and opinion. Mr Saulsbury made a motion to that effect. Mr. Trumbull opposed the motion.

Messrs. Johnson and Collamer could not see how any evil could result from the reference proposed

Mr. Sayard said he was unwilling without the decision of the Senate to take the oath. He wanted their decision on this subject. His views were against the constitutionality of the oath, but he could take the oath as readily as any member of this body.

Messrs. McDougal and Powell advocated the reference to the committee.

Mr. Ten Eyck could see no good to result from the reference, as the Judiciary Committee are of the same opinion as when they reported the act.

The Senate refused, by eleven majority, to refer.

Without concluding the subject the Senate adjourned.

(From our Sunday Edition.)

STEAMERS FROM NEW YORK.—In addition to the Columbia and George Cromwell already announced to leave New York on the 19th, the Morning Star is advertised to leave on the 20th for New Orleans via Havana.

The subscriptions to the Five Million National Bank closed in the city of New York on the 17th, the entire capital being taken by a large number of subscribers, among whom are numerous Philadelphia names.

The Washington correspondent of the *World* repeats on the 17th his previous assertion that General Schofield had not removed, though the Radicals would be satisfied with nothing short of his removal.

General Buford, commander of cavalry in the Army of the Potomac, died in Washington on the 16th, and much preparation was made to honor him with a distinguished funeral.

The Richmond papers say that out of 30,000 prisoners held in Richmond since the 1st of January, 1862, 671 have died, which it considers a very small proportion.

HEALTH OF GENERAL GRANT.—The country will regret to learn, says the New York *World*, that the health of General Grant is precarious and that his friends are apprehensive for his life. He is said to be still suffering from his fall at New Orleans, to be thin and stooping and declining in strength, though working as indefatigably as ever.

It is reported from Washington that General Rosecrans will probably take command in Missouri as successor, to General Schofield.

Late Southern News via Fortress Monroe.

The New York papers have extracts from Richmond papers to the 16th instant, from which extracts we take the following:

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN ABANDONED.

The Richmond *Whig* of the 15th is an editorial, says: The Atlanta *Confederacy* asserts that our cavalry advanced on the 10th instant above Ringgold. Finding the country clear of the enemy they proceeded thence to Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. Here they found nothing but the debris of the enemy's camp—The position seemed to have been deserted on Saturday last.

In the town of Chattanooga below, the enemy had visibly decreased his force. The presumption is that a heavy column of Longstreet's men started into West Tennessee to look after Forrest, who has taken advantage of the absence of Sherman's Corps.

EVACUATION OF CHATTANOOGA.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Dec. 12.]

The President is said to have received from Colonel Ives, his Aid, now in the Army of Tennessee, a telegram announcing the evacuation of Chattanooga by General Grant, and his retreat upon Nashville, tearing up the railroad behind him. We understand that Gen. Hardee will pursue. What has caused this sudden and unexpected evacuation is not known. By many it is regarded as a strategic move to concentrate a new campaign. Whatever may be the enemy's designs, he will find his adversary upon the watch and fully prepared. Perhaps the army under Grant is to undertake the "On to Richmond," and be paralyzed in this Sebastian bag, "where armies whole have sunk," where McDowell, McClellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker and Meade have been buried by General Lee.

FROM SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA.

(From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 14.

A dispatch was on Saturday received at the War Office from General Sam. Jones, at Dublin Station, on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, stating that Averill, with a heavy force of cavalry and mounted infantry, was advancing from Kanawha upon Lewisburgh, and that it was probably his intention to endeavor to cut Longstreet's railroad communication. Nothing was heard from this movement on yesterday. There are those who believe it to be Averill's design to penetrate into Rockbridge and Botetourt Counties. Imboden, when last heard from, was in Pocahontas. What force he can oppose to Averill we are not informed.

CAPTURE OF CAVALRY NEAR RICHMOND.

(From the Richmond Examiner, Dec. 16)

We have some facts concerning the incomparable cavalry affair at Charles City Courthouse. Several citizens of the county have made the trip to Richmond to post us as to the facts. Two companies of our cavalry were captured entire. We lament the loss of the brave. The force of the enemy, as estimated by our informants, who counted them on their way up to the Courthouse, was two hundred. The number of our men captured was at least two hundred. Each Yankee took a man. One of our companies was on parade when the enemy came in sight, and, without resistance, threw down their arms and surrendered; the other company made a *show* of resistance, but only a show. The citizens of Charles City mourn this event—they weep and cannot be comforted, because all the cavalry, who, up to this time, have been running over that country, shooting deer, partridges and poor people's turkeys, had not been captured. A few more of the sort are unfortunately left. We regret to learn that Lieutenant S. Ballard, of this city, was very badly wounded. We are sold to have killed six Yankees and wounded many, but we think this very doubtful. The enemy burnt the Courthouse and returned toward Williamsburgh. It is unnecessary to make any comments on this brilliant affair.

THE MILITARY PRISONS.

[From the Richmond Examiner of Dec 15]

There were, yesterday, in the Lobby prison and its dependencies, over 10,000 Abolition captives. In this number are included 293 commissioned officers, domiciled at the Libby, under the immediate supervision of Major Thomas P. Turner. By the record it appears that nine were received on the 14th inst. Twelve died the same day. The arrivals for several days past have not been very numerous. On last Friday night Captain Anderson, of the Fifty-first Indiana cavalry, (Streight's command,) Lieutenant Skelton, of the Nineteenth Iowa regiment, a red-headed, bullet eyed, pestilential Abolitionist, escaped from the Libby prison. The latter was a bribing the sentinel, one Mack, a member of the Tenth Virginia battalion of heavy artillery. This person was purchased for $10. The escape becoming known, the occurrence elicited inquiry, which led to the arrest of the sentinel, who will be tried by courtmartial for the offense with which he stands charged. On Monday night three more unsuccessful attempts were made by four of the officers confined in the centre building to leave surreptitiously. Through the vigilance of Private Jones, of Company C, Whittington's Alexandria artillery, Company H, a guard at the prison, the conspiracy to escape was made known to the officers in command.

THE FEDERAL PRISONERS—THE STOPPAGE OF SUPPLIES.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Dec. 17.]

The subjoined letter from Commissioner Ould to Lieutenant General Hill has been delivered, and it notifies him that no more supplies will be permitted to come from the United States.

Confederate States of America,
War Department, Richmond, Va., Dec. 11.

Brig. Gen. S. A. Meredith, Agent of Exchange.

SIR: As the assent of the Confederate Government to the transmission, by your authorities and people, of food and clothing for our prisoners at Richmond and elsewhere, has been the subject of so much misconstruction and misrepresentation, and has been made the occasion of so much vilification and abuse, I am directed to inform you that no more will be allowed to be delivered at City Point. The clothing and provisions already received will be devoted to the use of your prisoners When that supply is exhausted, they will receive the same rations as our soldiers in the field

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
RO. OULD, Agent of Exchange.

Late European Items.

It is stated that after the receipt of the reply of Earl Russell touching the Congress, the Emperor Napoleon addressed a letter to Queen Victoria, which letter will be published

The *Monitor* says that the government entirely disclaims any connection with the pamphlet entitled, "Napoleon III. at Congress."

The French semi-official journals continue pacific in tone, but the note of the war journals has become louder. One of them declares that the Congress has put an end to all hopes of peace.

A private letter from Hull, dated November 27th, published in the *Daily News*, says:

There was a prize vessel got away from here some days back. She was an unfinished "ram," with masts fitted to lower on the deck, and a large propeller. She was lowered down, up, and came alongside the West pier Two cabs full of Southern looking gentlemen drove down and went on board, and she was off like a shot Every one was taken by surprise

The vessel is said to be taken to England by the West India mail steamer says:

It is reported on good authority that the Federals in California and Sonora are supplying the Juarez government with arms, which proceeding, it is believed, will lead to complications between the French and American governments.

The London *Times* says:

When the admiralty sold the "Victor it was stated that she was intended for the China trade, and she was consequently fitted up with that view, while her name was changed to Sevilla, of London. Several suspicious circumstances, however, occurred, and the dock yard officials felt it their duty to make a report to the admiralty. The result was an order at Sheerness, directing her to be stopped

The order, however, arrived a few hours too late. Those in charge of the vessel evidently suspected the intention of the Government, and had her taken out of the harbor a few nights since. She immediately hoisted the Confederate flag She is of three hundred and fifty horse power, but owing to some slight defects in the construction of her screw propeller and chimney, her rate of steaming was never very high, which was the principal reason for the Admiralty directing her to be sold

A special report has been made to the Lords of the Admiralty of the circumstances under which she left Sheerness dock yard

The Baltic *Gazette* says that the two steam rams built at Glasgow for the rebels, have been purchased by the Russian Government for one million thalers

The London *Times* says the Government has appointed Sir John Lawrence to the Governor-Generalship of India, made vacant by the certain resignation and the probable death of Lord Elgin. The new Governor General was expected to set out at once for India.

The London *Morning Advertiser* gives a report that the Duke of Newcastle had resigned his office of Secretary for the Colonies, on the ground of ill health, and that Lord Clarendon had been appointed his successor.

The Grand Duke Maximilian, who is now at Vienna, is said by the Vienna *Vertaldt Zeitung* to have lately expressed himself, in conversation with his brother, the Emperor, in these words: "I will accept the crown of Mexico if I am offered the guarantees I have plainly and positively indicated in my speech to the Mexican Committee, and under the condition *sine qua non* that the re-establishment of the American Union becomes an impossibility."

The Pope Invoked to Become the Pacificator of the American War.

The Paris *Monde* announces the surprising fact that two Americans of the South sent, on the 17th November, a message to the Pope from Jefferson Davis, "concluded in terms that would do honor to a good Catholic," and imploring Pius IX to become the mediator and pacificator of the contending sections of the United States.

The Holy Father replied that he should esteem himself happy to fulfill this righteous mission, if President Lincoln, following the example of Jefferson Davis, would invoke his personal intervention.

MONEY AND FINANCIAL.

FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 25, 1863.

There is some disappointment among the reports of the Money Market published in the New York evening papers of the 18th, the *Express* quoting the closing rates of Gold at 56½ @ 56¾, and the *Commercial Advertiser* at 152, but the latter is probably correct, as it is corroborated by private letters to banking-houses here giving the same figures. Our own market opened this morning with considerable activity, imparted to it both by its being "pocket day" and by the heavy sales of Cotton on Thursday having brought out a much more liberal supply of Domestic Exchange. At the same time Specie was in better request and showed increased buoyancy. Cotton also has received an upward impulse from the reduction in the supply by the recent operations and the course of the New York market.

Sterling exchange we noticed sales to a liberal extent of first class sight and one day's sight on New York and Boston at 1 and 1½ ⅌ cent. discount, with other transactions of some amount as high as ¾ for New York Sight. We also noticed some second class Cotton bills, offering at 1¼, but meet with no transactions to establish quotations for that description of signatures. The banks checked on New York at par, and dealers drew at par @ ¼ ⅌ cent. discount for Sight and one day's Sight. The market may be reported as steady, but with more dispositions among parties to come together. Foreign Exchange continued quiet but very firm. We note some sales of Sterling at 158 for unexceptionable private bills, the extreme of which may be quoted at 162¼ @ 162½. The banks still hold Sterling at 155, 157 and 170, exacting payments in their own notes, which makes the rates equal to 168@170 for currency. The bank rates for France are 5.40@5.35, payment in their own notes, while the outside market is quoted at 5 20@5.40.

The specie market was buoyant with a moderately fair demand. Dealers paid 54@54½ per cent premium for small sums of Gold offered at their counters and sold at 56@56¼, but the latter was an extreme rate. The operations in the street ranged from 55¼@56, the heaviest sales being at 55½. Silver was in request at 48 @ 48½ ⅌ cent premium, with sellers at 45. Nothing transpired in Mexican dollars, very few of which were offered. It is understood, however, that there have been some receipts recently, which, as yet, the holders have not placed in the market.

Legal Tender Notes circulate freely at par with other currency, but when wanted in an emergency they command ¼ @ ¾ per cent premium. Citizens' Bank notes rule at 12@1¼ per cent premium. Dealers offer 1½ per cent premium for Canal but ask more. Crescent City Bank notes have been in request at 6@6¼ per dollar. Dealers ask 65. Bank of Louisiana notes are still wanted and command 50@60c. Merchants' are quoted at 50@ 60c.

We but hear of some sales of Bank Stock, the particulars of which we may get at Monday. A small lot of City Railroad sold at 1.0. It is held at 12@12½. In view of an anticipated divid-nd holdown of Gas Light scrip, we hear of nothing further in Insurance Scrip accepting a trifling sale at auction to-day, at which New Orleans Mutual brought 85c. ⅌ dollar for 1861, and 85½c. for 1862. At the same time 13 shares Polk County Copper Co. (6100 paid) sold at 3 ⅌ share; 10 shares Burra Burra Copper Co. at 8 10 ⅌ share, and 60 Hindo Oil Co. at 20c. Insurance Scrip may be quoted in 25¼@60c. according to the date and company.

Cattle Market.

JEFFERSON CITY, December 25, 1863.

Arrived since last Friday 77 Beeves, 481 Hogs, 260 Veals and 26 Cows. Amount of Stock sold was 352 Beeves, 438 Hogs, 80 Sheep, 90 Veals and 9 Cows. Stock remaining on sale is 437 Beeves, 559 Hogs, 363 Sheep 327 Veals and 91 Cows. We quote:

Western Beeves, 1st quality, ⅌ lb net	—@— 17
Western Beeves, 2d quality, ⅌ lb net	—@— 14
Western Beeves, 3d quality, ⅌ lb net	—@— 12
Texas Beeves, 1st quality, ⅌ head	50 00@45 00
Texas Beeves, 2d quality, ⅌ head	—@40 00
Veals, 1st quality, ⅌ head	20 00@25 00
Veals, 2d quality, ⅌ head	10 00@15 00
Hogs, ⅌ lb, gross	9 00@— 11
Milch Cows, ⅌ head	60 00@80 00
Stock cattle, quality, ⅌ head	8 00@10 00

MARINE NEWS.

Port of New Orleans, Dec. 28, 1863.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Ship Arctic, Chandler, 17 days from New York, to master—1st district, 17

Ship Mayflower, Goodwin, 16 days from Bath, (Me) to master—point

Ship Oswego, Morton, 18 days from New York, to master—point

Bark Conqueror, Nickerson, 18 days from New York, to master—point

Bark Harriet, Hutchings, 19 days from New York, to master—3d district, 53

Bark Mollie Metcalf, Ames, 14 days from Philadelphia, to master—point

STEAMBOAT.

Black Hawk, Ayles, from Baton Rouge
Jennie Rogers, McQuold, from Bayou Sara
Scioto, Ward, from Donaldsonville
Hope, McLean, from Bayou Lafourche

TOWBOAT REGIST