

Our columns will be found heavily laden this week with interesting foreign and domestic news. The progress of events is rapid, starting us at almost every point.

It will be seen that a war between England and Lincoln's Government is almost inevitable. Should it occur, the introduction of this new party will materially effect the character of the war, and any events which are addressed of at this time by the people of this country.

Christmas.—We tender to our readers the congratulations of the season, with them all the happiness possible under the present disturbed condition of the country. God in His goodness and mercy has blessed us with abundant crops and more than usual health. We may therefore greet the return of this sacred festival with thankful hearts and songs of praise in honor of Him, however bitter the ending of the political storm now pouring its fury upon us.

Col. Ransom's Regiment.—A portion of Col. Ransom's splendid regiment of North Carolina Cavalry, as is generally known, performed a brilliant action near Manassas on the 26th November. 120 of his men, led by the Colonel and Major Gordon, went out on the hunt of some Federal Cavalry who had been marauding in the neighborhood.

Important from Europe.—Sandy Hook, December 12.—The steamer Hansa, which sailed from Bremen via Southampton, on the 27th ultimo arrived to-day. A steamer from St. Thomas arrived at Southampton on the 26th, bringing the intelligence that Messrs. Mason and Sidel had been forcibly taken from the British mail steamer Trent.

Murder.—Sunday evening, 8th December, was blackened by a murder in Cabarrus county. A young man named Murf, killed John Dipe, a middle aged man. Murf has confessed to the crime, and says he did it in self defense—that Cope shot at him, and swore he would kill him; and believing he would do it, he first knocked him down with a stick and then cut his throat.

We will not relate all the circumstances as detailed to us by one who conversed with Murf on the subject. The case will be duly investigated hereafter by the Court, and it is not proper to prejudice the public mind with a relation of its incidents before that shall have been done.

It is a singular fact that Cope, some 15 or 20 years ago, was tried for the murder of John Briggs, and acquitted on the ground of justifiable homicide. Now he has fallen by the hand of violence, and his destroyer comes forward with the same plea.

A man named Lodwick, and Cope's wife, were present when Cope was killed. Lodwick has run away. And the long silence of Miss Cope on the subject—from Sunday until Thursday—adds mystery to the case, supposing her to be innocent, unless it shall hereafter be satisfactorily explained.

The Knoxville Register says the agents of the Government have purchased in East Tennessee alone not less than 600,000 hogs, and it believes that East Tennessee has this year produced hogs enough to supply the Southern army for twelve months.

At a public meeting held in Yancey county, N. C., the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the citizens and soldiers of said county, will render such aid and assistance to our military forces of said county, as may be reasonable and right.

Latest Foreign News.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN ENGLAND.

From the South Carolinian.

English Opinion on the Arrest of the Confederate Commissioners.

RICHMOND, Dec. 18.—It was announced in the House of Delegates, this morning, that a despatch had been received from Norfolk, stating that a special English messenger had arrived out in the steamer Europa, which landed at Halifax, demanding the surrender of Messrs. Mason, Sidel, Eastin and Macfarland. She brought eight thousand stand of arms and a large amount of ammunition, which were landed at Halifax. Despatches have been received in high official quarters here, announcing that England demands the unconditional surrender of Mason, Sidel, Eastin and Macfarland.

Behold how brightly breaks the morning. The Norfolk Day Book extracts from the Baltimore Sun and New York Herald, of the 16th. Each paper publishes late foreign news received at Halifax on the 15th by the Europa, which sailed from Liverpool on the 30th, via Queensdown the 2d, where she was detained until Monday by the Government.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

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STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.

GARA RAN, December 15.—The City of Washington, from Liverpool via Queensdown on the 5th, has arrived. The excitement with reference to Mason and Sidel continues unabated. The Paris Temps repeats the statement that Napoleon has tendered his services as mediator. The Paris Petre has an official foreboding of the disposition of France to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy, if England sets the example.

The London Times has no hope that the Federal Government will comply with the demands of England.

Cabinet are said to be unanimous, are explicit and determined. The London Petre says that an acknowledgment of error and surrender of the prisoners would be received with great joy, but if the Federal fail to do so, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative. England must do her duty.

The Times asserts that it has been Seward's policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparations in Canada. The Paris Petre argues clearly that France will side with England, and recognize the Southern Confederacy.

The Liverpool Times gives a rumor that Napoleon has been proposed as an arbiter between England and the United States. The Liverpool cotton market was inactive, and prices declined one-half penny. A large number of English naval vessels have been ordered to be ready for immediate commission. Several were loaded with immense military stores destined for Canada.

The Queen has issued a proclamation forbidding the exportation of arms, powder, lead, or materials for making powder. The New York Herald urges the North to put her harbors and coasts in a thorough state of defence.

Latest News.

From the Charlotte Bulletin.

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.

New Orleans, Dec. 11. Carvajal, at the head of the Roma party, attacked Matamoros on the 20th ult. After twenty hours severe fighting, the issue was still doubtful. Carvajal had possession of part of the town, but Garcia made a sally and drove every man of Carvajal out. A Brownsville paper of the 21st ult., says the conflict is still going on, the firing incessant, and a great carnage on both sides.

New York, Dec. 10. A large number of the Hatteras prisoners, including eleven officers, are to be released in a few days from Fort Warren.

FROM KENTUCKY.

Bowling, Dec. 18. Yesterday two hundred Texas Rangers, under Col. Terry, came upon the enemy's pickets, drove them in, and about one mile this side of Green River bridge, were attacked by 300; the 2d Indiana—300 on each side.—The Rangers concealed themselves in a cornfield, behind trees and hay stacks.

The enemy lost 75 killed and wounded, and 8 prisoners. Terry, while leading a charge, was killed, and his horse was afterwards shot through the head and killed. The Rangers lost four killed; one mortally and 8 slightly wounded. The Hessian who shot Terry was killed and his gun secured. He killed two just before he fell.

Nashville, Dec. 18. Terry's remains arrived at two o'clock.—The Legislature adjourned and proceeded in a body to the depot to join the procession composed of military, Masonic Fraternity and members of the Legislature. The city Council and citizens escorted the remains to the capitol, where they were laid in state in the Hall of the House of Representatives. The remains will go forward to-night to New Orleans.

A passenger by to-day's train reports that the enemy is crossing Green River in two places, and a general engagement is expected. A gentleman who participated in the fight yesterday is now here. He counted 55 killed on the side of the enemy.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Wilson gave notice that he would introduce, to-morrow, a bill for the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, paying legal owners the value of slaves.

A general bankrupt law is under consideration in Congress. Washington, Dec. 18.—The Lincoln Government is firm in adhering to the arrest of Mason and Sidel, and fear no war with England and France.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—The news by the Memphis creates much excitement. Strong British feeling prevails throughout the province. Washington, Dec. 16.—Mr. Vallandigham introduced certain resolutions—the last of which is as follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this house it is the duty of the President now, firmly to maintain his stand taken, approving and adopting the act of Wilkes, in spite of any menace of the British Government; and that this house pledges its full support to him in holding now our honour in vindicating the courage of Government and people of the United States against foreign powers.

Mr. Vallandigham moved the previous question, but the house decided by 109 to 16, to refer the resolutions to the committee on foreign affairs. News received at Washington states that Senator POLK, of Missouri, has gone over to the rebels.

The N. Y. Times says,—neither Lincoln, nor any member of his Cabinet is permitted to favor the course pursued in arresting Mason and Sidel. The Times does not anticipate trouble. The World considers war not very probable. The Tribune urges suppressing the rebellion and the completion of the blockade. It thinks the English difficulty will only lead to a long diplomatic correspondence.

Northern papers state 240 Fort Warren prisoners would leave for Fort Sumner on the 17th, to be exchanged. Richmond, Dec. 12.—The Hon. Charles J. Faulkner arrived this evening. He was met at the Depot by Gov. Letcher, the Mayor of the city, and a large concourse, with music, and escorted them through a portion of the city, when the crowd increased to thousands.

Major Mayo introduced Mr. Faulkner, when he made a short speech, detailing his captivity, imprisonment, and present position on parole, and referred to the position of England and the United States, and said if Lincoln renounces his present attitude—the Massachusetts abolitionists furious against North will overwhelm him; and if he does not, they will be involved in war with England.

Mr. Faulkner said he was a fellow-prisoner, at Fort Warren, with Mason and Sidel; and they could be freed, but felt confident that England would promptly vindicate the outrage on the flag.

Mr. Letcher made a few remarks, welcoming Mr. Faulkner to Virginia, after which the immense crowd dispersed. The Register this morning reports on authority of passengers by the central cars last evening, that a battle took place at Lehighburg on Tuesday, where four hundred Yankee prisoners were taken.

SECOND DISPATCH.

RICHMOND, Dec. 19. A special dispatch to the Richmond Dispatch, dated Norfolk, yesterday afternoon, reports the reception of the New York papers of the 15th. The steamer Africa was detained a few days to take out Lord Lyons's response to the dispatch from the British Government. The Queen's messenger, and the messenger from Minister Adams, left Boston on Tuesday for Washington.

English dispatches were sent in great haste to the Admiral commanding the North American Squadron at Havana. The privateer Sumter overhauled the ship Massachusetts, from Bahia, Bahia. She was captured for \$20,000, and allowed to proceed. The New York Herald says that in three weeks not a dollar will be left in the Federal Treasury, while no provision is made to replenish it.

Well street is in a perfect confusion. Stocks have greatly declined, with an entire stagnation of business. The city authorities urge the immediate recalling of all young able-bodied men to the city.

A report was brought to Richmond this morning that two Yankee regiments, amounting each to about 500 men, were on Wednesday, and proceeded in, killing some hundred or more, and wounding many. Both retreated, while the Confederates coming up took fifty prisoners.

Richmond, Dec. 18.—The Examiner publishes dispatches from Norfolk this morning, announcing the universal suspension of payments at the North. Minister Adams demanded his passports on the landing of the Queen's proclamation. The effect of the news in New York was a great fall of three per cent and the depreciation of from 5 to 8 per cent in all stocks.

The Federal Securities fell two per cent. Missouri fell three per cent. Salt-petre advanced 15 cents per lb. The tone of the Northern press is unduly for war. They say England must be humbled—that was inevitable.

Richmond, Dec. 21.—A portion of our Potomac army suffered defeat yesterday. At 4 o'clock, yesterday morning, Gen. Stuart with 150 cavalry, the Jeff Davis Artillery, first Kentucky Regiment, tenth Alabama, eleventh Virginia and 6th South Carolina Regiments, being a portion of General Longstreet's Brigade, left Centerville to attempt the capture of a Federal foraging party at Driscourtville, sixteen miles from Centerville. As they neared the place they found the Yankees 15,000 strong, and Gen. Stuart with his 3,000 struck them. The fight lasted the greater portion of the day, when the Confederates retired.—Our loss is thirty killed and an equal number wounded.

Among the killed were Col. Taylor, of first Kentucky, and a Major of the same Regiment; the 11th Virginia from Lynchburg had seven killed and twelve wounded. A third field officer was killed, and another had his arm shot off. Four of the Tennessee Flying Artillery were killed at their guns and several wounded.

General Stuart sent to head quarters for reinforcements, and last night the balance of General Longstreet's Brigade, 14 Regiments, left to give the Yankees another fight. Nothing heard of the operations to-day.

The Troubles of the Navy.—A gentleman of intelligence, recently arrived from Washington city, says that the feud between the Senators, of whom Cameron and McClellan are the respective military heads, is bitter and violent, to a degree of which we have a very inadequate idea here. Cameron and his backers are strenuous in demanding that the war will be conducted on unqualified terms, while McClellan opposes that policy to the extent of declaring that he will resign his position if ordered to adhere to it. McClellan is therefore supported by Lincoln.

The premium upon McClellan, regarding him to advance his line, is also said to be very great and almost irresistible. The Abolition politicians are reinforced in this demand by the New York capitalists. "What does he care?" they ask, "if he cannot advance now, they argue that he never will do so. A success of some sort is with the Abolitionists a political, and with the money-bags, a financial necessity. If McClellan would stand still forever, the world will not, and the independence of the Confederate States will soon be acknowledged and established by default.

McClellan, however, knows that, in a military point of view, he has much more to lose by a defeat than to gain by a victory. He is, doubtless, also afraid to trust his often-whipped men before the admirable army of Johnston and Beauregard, not desiring that he has an equal chance to win the day. Whether he is to be trampled by them who urge him, or vanquished by those who withstand him, remains to be seen. The impression in Washington is, that he will choose the chance of a fight.

THE GREAT FIRE IN CHARLESTON.

ACONNA, Dec. 14.—The Charleston Mercury of this morning gives a list of five hundred and seventy-six buildings destroyed by fire on Wednesday. One negro woman was fatally burnt.

DRINKING LOWER.

The public acts of the Lincoln Government have rendered it in the eyes of the world the most inflexible despotism now existing in the civilized world. It is possible to sink lower or it will continue to go down until the course of infamy is exhausted by its spasmodic efforts of spite and malice. When Hatteras Island was taken, the machinery of a pretended pro-Union of the flag was commenced on the spot. His willing has been rewarded by the Lincoln Government by setting him up as Provisional Governor of North Carolina. The N. York Herald gives an account of a pretended Convention, held at Hatteras on the 16th ult.—no doubt of the Yankee troops, who now consider themselves as citizens of the conquered domain. At this "Convention" the renegade preacher—appell'd by his Methodist brethren for his defection—was made Governor of North Carolina! The New York Herald gives his Excellency, Marble Nash Taylor's "proclamation" for the benefit of the Yankee nation. We have good authority for saying that the document was written by the Hon. George Bancroft, the historian of Massachusetts! What a descent from writing the history of the once powerful United States Government, to acting as Secretary to a traitor in the employ of the despot Lincoln, on his domain of a barren sand bank, where the waves dispute his possession and ere the winter is over will overwhelm him!

The efforts of the Northern press to induce the people to believe that there are Union men in the South still continue, and their delusions is fostered most assiduously. When they discover the deception practiced on them to induce volunteering, the first of restriction will arrive, and the troubles now brewing in their Cabinet and Congress will mature.

The Richmond Dispatch says of the renegade: "Taylor—long live his Excellency—is not a native Carolinian, to the credit of the Old State be it spoken; but he sought and found service as Chaplain in her army, and went in that capacity to Fort Hatteras. On the Sunday before the battle there, as pronounced an extreme secessionist. During the fight he deserted to the enemy, and now turns up as Governor of North Carolina, and issues proclamations! The poor dog—a hypocrite in religion and politics, a traitor to his God and to his country—he is indeed the very man for a Lincoln Governor. Let the North rejoice over him if they like him—we are glad that he has gone to his own!"

IMPORTANT NEWS.

The Norfolk Day Book, of the 13th received a copy of the New York Herald of the day before, which states that a panic has occurred in Wall street, from the Secretary of the Treasury having, in his report, called for an additional six hundred millions (\$600,000,000) of dollars, and estimating that, if the war lasts till July, 1863, he will want one thousand millions. It is rumored in New York that General McClellan has handed in his resignation, because the Administration persists in conducting the war on Abolition principles.

We heard recently, in Richmond, that a large number of officers would resign if that policy was determined on.

DIED.

In Salisbury, on Monday the 18th of December, at the early hour of seven, A. S. CALDWELL, Attorney at Law, and son of the Hon. S. F. Caldwell. The announcement of the death of this noble and estimable gentleman, will awaken in our community a sorrowful remembrance of his life. He was a man of high talents, and a most successful lawyer. He was a man of high talents, and a most successful lawyer. He was a man of high talents, and a most successful lawyer.

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N. C. Presbyterian please copy.