

From the Bulletin:  
FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 13.

New York papers of the 10th, and Baltimore of the 11th, have been received at Centreville. The news of the Mason and Sidell affair had not reached England.—The steamer Nashville was still at Southampton, and creates great discussion.

The London Times says the Nashville, must be treated as a ship of war, and occupy the same footing of those of the United States.

Abolition sentiment is increasing at the North.

In the Virginia Legislature there is a contest for Confederate Senators, there being considerable rivalry between Hunter and Harcourt. The friends of both appear confident.

John Ballard Preston seems to be the favorite candidate on the whig side. The time for the election has not been determined upon.

President Davis sent the following message to Congress to-day: The calamity which has laid in ashes a large portion of the city of Charleston, calls for our sympathy, and seems to justify the offer of aid to the master herself suggested.

The State of South Carolina will no doubt desire assistance to the people of Charleston in their hour of need, but as her resources are now taxed to their utmost in defending her, all the prompt intervention of this government may not be deemed unsuitable to the occasion. The State of South Carolina is common with other States, has made liberal advances on to war account, and this Government is unquestionably largely her debtor. With the existing pressure upon her resources it is probable he desire to aid the suffering City of Charleston may be restrained by other demands upon her available means. Under such circumstances, we may not exhibit our sympathy with her people by an offer to place at the control of the legislature now in session a portion of the sum we owe her. The magnitude of her calamities afford reason for making an exception in her favor, and promptness of action will manifest in most appropriate manner our sympathy and regard for the people of that gallant State, and our sympathy in all that concerns them.

I recommend therefore that Congress make appropriation of such an amount as may be deemed sufficient for the purpose proposed, to be placed under the control of the authorities of the State of South Carolina.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

Mr. Bonner, of Louisiana, offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we make an advance to the State of South Carolina, on account of her action against the Confederate States.

Resolved, That the sum of \$250,000 be, and is hereby appropriated as an advance on account of any claims the State of South Carolina may have against the Confederate States, and that the same be paid to such persons as may be authorized by the Legislature of South Carolina to receive the same.

CONFIRMATION BY CONGRESS.

Commissioners under the registration Act—Geo. P. Scarborough of Virginia; T. C. Reynolds of Missouri; Wm. Brooks of Mississippi.

District Attorney—J. C. Nicholl, of Georgia; W. Randolph for eastern district of Arkansas.

Nothing interesting from the camps to day.

CAPTURE OF A CONFEDERATE SPY.—The Washington telegraph correspondence of the New York Times, dated December 4th, says:

A Confederate spy, who has been in the habitation for a long time, as his wife acknowledges, of visiting our lines for the purpose of obtaining information for the Confederate States, was captured yesterday, about six miles below Alexandria, by parties sent out from Gen. Beauregard's brigade. His name appears to be as follows: Crossing the Occoquan River in a small boat, he managed to sink it so as to prevent its being discovered, at the same time hiding the ears in the woods. At night he would emerge from the woods and slake the peck at, arriving in Alexandria, where he would get his latest of information, together with the New York and other papers, and leave at once for the Confederate lines. He is now in possession of Gen. Heintzelman, and will be handed over to the Government.

Extordinary Shot from a Revolver.—The Bowling Green (Ky.) correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune, November 29, says:

A singular case of shooting occurred here yesterday. Some officers of Col. Brown's regiment were shooting off their arms near Columbia, S. C., and one unluckily went down there.

Common School Notice.

PERSONS desiring certificates of school teachers in Mecklenburg County can be examined at the Court House on Saturday the 28th day of December.

J. P. ROSS,  
E. SYE HUTCHISON, Com.  
M. D. JOHNSTON.

December 17, 1861.

Gallant Exploit.—On Sunday morning when our forces were momentarily expecting a re-opening of the fight near Fowson, private Kelley, of the Clayton (Ga.) Guards, climbed to the very top of the Light House, 175 feet high, and crossed the highest flag, perhaps, in the Confederate States. Under cover of smoke the air as the beautiful banner was unfurled to the breeze.

#### FROM VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, December 11.—There is a report by passengers of a skirmish last Sunday, between Ashby's command and the Federals, in which eighty Federals were captured and fifteen killed. Twenty wagons were taken. I give the report as it was received.

The following released prisoners arrived here this afternoon, via Fortress Monroe and Norfolk, on their parole: From Virginia, S. E. Vaden, Dr. Hinman, A. G. Sandt, E. M. Haycock, W. M. Mallon, A. J. Singlet, John T. Mays, John Driskill and Charles Nott; from Alabama, T. T. Buck, J. W. Davis, J. D. Perkins, Richard Poole, D. H. Howard, W. A. Prince, J. S. Walker, and Robt. Paulding; from Georgia, W. C. Humphreys, A. T. S. Branch, J. Kershaw, R. Gray, J. Bulkeley, and Mr. Hammond; from South Carolina, James Silks; from Louisiana, Thos. Mays and Michael O'Keefe; from Mississippi, W. Davis; from Maryland, George Howard; from New York, but a Southern volunteer, A. P. Rose.

Nothing unusual yesterday from Fortress Monroe, but the people to-day about Norfolk are expecting a battle soon.

RICHMOND, December 11.—The Examiner of this morning learns that a bill has been passed in secret session in Congress granting a bounty of fifty dollars to non-commissioned officers and privates who shall serve continuously for three years or during the war, to be paid at the end of their first term to those re-enlisting for the next two years. The bill also provides sixty-day furloughs, with transportation home, but back to twelve months men who may re-enlist for the war or two years longer. It is understood that the bill provides that troops re-enlisting shall at the end of the present service have power to organize themselves into companies and elect their officers; and said companies allowed to organize themselves into battalions or regiments and elect their field officers.

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The Act referred to in the Examiner, this morning, granting a bounty of fifty dollars to soldiers, was approved by the President to-day. It also includes musicians and all troops who have volunteered or enlisted for twelve months or more in the service of any State, who may hereafter volunteer for service in the Confederate States.

—South Carolina.

Nothing new from below yesterday.—There were ten vessels of Tybee and one coming. The Yankees still occupy the island, but nothing is known of their designs.

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