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Wednesday, discount day.

RICHMOND, February 5.—It is reported that the influence of the Hon. Alfred Ely with Lincoln and Seward, has caused the release of a great number of Confederate prisoners, including the placing of the privateers now imprisoned in New York and Philadelphia, on an equal footing with prisoners of war. The result will certainly be a very general exchange of prisoners.

THE "EFFECTIVE BLOCKADE."—We have the evidence before us that two schooners, laden with valuable cargoes, arrived safely at Confederate ports within the last forty-eight hours, in spite of Mr. Lincoln's vigilant fleets.

We have reliable information of a still stronger case. Two Confederate ports closely watched, sent to sea, during the last week, five merchant vessels, each; and from one of them, the whole fire went out in a single night.

And yet, John Bull, though starving for want of Southern products, is preaching up the sanctity of the blockade.—*Savannah Republican.*

The crew of the schooner E. H. Atwood, of Boston, which put into Fortress Monroe on the 10th instant, were obliged to subsist for ten days on raisins, the extreme length of the passage from Malaga for New York, over 81 days, using up all the supplies.

The regular meeting of Presbytery will be held at Ashboro, Randolph county, on the Second Wednesday in April next.

Dr. Hawks of N. Y., has been elected to the rectorship of Christ church, Baltimore, and it is thought he will accept, as he desires to remove South.

GOLD.—We think the Confederate Government ought to restart the Mint at Charlotte. We believe that by its means four hundred thousand dollars of coined gold could be introduced into our circulation each year. We believe this could be done for about two per cent., and this the gold-miners would willingly pay. Let Charlotte, Dahlonega and New Orleans pour a million of gold dollars a year into the channel of Southern circulation and it will make an excellent amalgam. [*Wilmington Journal.*]

The African colonization Society has failed to work out any results this year. It has but \$1,100 now in the treasury. It sent no emigrants to Liberia during the last year, although 18,000 emancipated in Va., and Louisiana were to have left the country in May, but were prevented by political troubles from doing so.

The Ohio river is rising rapidly. All of its tributaries above are overflowing, and have not had such a stage of water in them since 1832. A flood is coming down that, it is expected, will overflow the ground occupied by Fort Holt. The garrison there will be immediately transferred to some other point. It is expected, however, that the water will rise enough to endanger Cairo.

The Yankee commissioners, Messrs. Fish and Ames, are at Fortress Monroe, en route for the

ANOTHER BACKDOWN.—Mr. de Bebian, a French subject, and resident of Wilmington, N. C., and Mrs. Kerr, of Savannah, arrived at Norfolk on Sunday.

Mr. de Bebian was arrested last summer and sent to Fort Lafayette, was released through the French Minister, but was refused permission to return to Wilmington. He obtained a passport to go to Europe. Seward endorsed upon it, "it is understood Mr. de Bebian is not to enter into any of the insurrectionary States." He went to Paris and had an interview with Emperor Napoleon, and showed him Seward's endorsement. The Emperor said that he should be allowed to return to his place of business, and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs prepared the necessary papers for the French Minister at Washington. Mr. de Bebian returned to Washington and applied to Seward for a passport to Wilmington, but Seward refused it. The next day the French Minister called on Seward and showed his paper, when Seward granted the passport.

Mr. de Bebian has applied to the Federal Congress for damages.

The Petersburg Express states that Gen. Beauregard is to take command at New Orleans, instead of Columbus, as heretofore published.

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says—

A more than reliable report exists, to the effect that a very brief note has been received from Mr. Mason, after he got on board the Rinaldo, in which he stated that the captain of that vessel told him that he had been instructed to receive Mr. Sedell and himself in their official capacity as envoys of an independent nation. The report comes to me in such a way as to entitle it to credence.

WELL DONE MISSISSIPPI.—Rev. C. K. Marshall, of Natchez, Miss., says the Knoxville Register, of the 28th instant, who is here looking after the comfort of the wounded of the 15th Mississippi regiment in the late fight, informs us that on the reception of the news of Crittenden's defeat, a bill at once passed both houses of the Mississippi Legislature calling out 20,000 volunteers for the war.

POISONED QUININE.—The Memphis Avalanche discovered that a quantity of poisoned quinine has been introduced into the South by our enemies, since the demand for that drug has become so great. Several packages of quinine have been lately tested, and acid morphine was discovered to be mixed with the quinine in such quantities as to render it poisonous. Strychnine was also detected in many other packages.

A portion of a whaling bark or brig, including the name "New England," was driven in against one of the Atlantic wharves, (South,) on Saturday evening. It is no doubt from one of the submarine investments lately made of our harbor for the benefit of all Northern owners of old and useless hulls.

The drifting ashore of such a piece of a wreck or hulk, with the name "New England," may be taken as an omen by some.—*Chas. Courier.*

Martial Law has been declared in Newbern, and Lieut. Col. Robinson appointed Inspector General and Provost-Marshal of the district.

At a sale of negroes in Alexandria, La., on the 18th, young lads sold for \$1,700.

Some of the troops at Cairo have five months pay due them.

It is said that a discovery has been made in New York, by which a cannon can be rifled in one hour by hydraulic pressure power.

The Northern accounts state that Mr. Ely continues his opposition to the war to such an extent that he may be Lafayette!

The Richmond "Dispatch" says that profane oaths in that city are punished at the rate of a dollar each in the Mayor's Court. Quite a revenue is derived from this source.

We learn from the Columbus (Kentucky) "News" that sugar is selling at 50 cents per pound at Paducah. This is a much more serious matter for the Lincolnites than 50 cents per pound for coffee is to us.

A large gunboat was launched at Mobile on the 30th.

SAD ACCIDENT.—Two men were out hunting, Saturday week, in the vicinity of Gold Hill. There was a little rain came up, and one of them, in attempting to cover the lock of his gun by placing it under his coat, discharged the piece, the load taking effect in the leg of his companion, named Stoner, who was walking immediately in front of him. The ball entered the lower part of his leg, and ranging downward, shattered his foot so frightfully as to render amputation indispensable. Dr. S. G. Boyden performed the operation on Sunday. Since which time the sufferer has been doing as well as could be expected.—*Sat. Watchman.*

THE POWER OF SONG.—A rather touching incident took place at Richmond "Varieties" on Friday night last, which is worthy of being related, as showing the influence of music over the human soul. Mlle Boisvert was singing the touching song of "Home, sweet home," when the attention of a portion of the audience was attracted by the frequent sobs of a Mississippi volunteer, as fine a specimen of manhood as one would wish to gaze upon. The soldier was thinking of his home and loved ones a thousand miles away, and became entirely oblivious of the hundreds gazing upon him. At the conclusion of the song, he vociferously called out for an encore, offering five dollars if the lady would sing it over again. The pretty cantatrice came forward and sang in its place the "Marseilles," with her usual fire. The Mississippian, with a yell of triumph, raised himself to his full height, exclaiming, "I was a child just now, but now I am a man—Hurrah for Jeff. Davis and the Southern Confederacy!" That man has a noble heart under the rough exterior.—*Richmond Whig.*

Georgia has given one half of all that has been contributed for the relief of Charleston.

The gunboat Trent was launched at New Orleans on Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, in the Bayou St. John.

The democrats of Indiana recently held a State Convention at Indianapolis, in which every county in the State, five excepted, was represented. The delegates denounced old Abe and his abolition party in red hot and blazing terms, and charged upon them the destruction of the Union. They are for peace, and roundly declare that coercion can never restore, as it could not preserve the Union. They are alarmed at "heavier taxes than were ever before imposed upon a free people." They say they are abused in the eyes of the nations by the scandalous management of the Mason Sedell question. And that the money of the Government instead of being employed to put down the rebellion, is parted among thieves at Washington.

STATE CONVENTION.—This body has passed a bill for a Railroad connecting the Coal Fields with the North Carolina Railroad. The last Legislature ought to have passed it. There is immense treasure on Deep River which the State and the Confederacy now stand in great need of, but which are almost entirely unavailing. This Road has become an indispensable requirement, and we rejoice the Convention has provided for it.

The annexed highly important announcement is copied from the Milton Chronicle of the 31st January. It will be seen that friend Evans is ahead of us and has actually beat the Telegraph. We will wait for a confirmation of the "Glorious news" before shouting.—*Chas. Bull.*

GLORIOUS NEWS!—We stop the press to announce that a battle has been fought at Bowling Green, Ky., which resulted in a glorious victory to the Confederates—12,000 Yankees were taken prisoners. Old grumpy Lincoln and his minions are as blue as Indigo, and in great commotion. This news is reliable—particulars next week.

Over \$75,000 worth of Yankees Government stores were inundated at Parkersburg and Point Pleasant, Va., by the recent flood in the Ohio.

The New York "Tribune" expresses the opinion that within the last ten months the Union treasury has been robbed of a hundred million of dollars by corruption in the public service.