

From the London Times, Dec. 17.

The style of the American President has fallen with the fortunes of the republic. Instead of the jolly, rollicking periods of former days, each of which seemed to suggest at its close a stave of "Hail Columbia," we have now got a discursive and colloquial essay, ill-arranged and worse expressed. Nor does the matter redeem the style. It is really wonderful, when we consider the present state of the American Republic, how any one placed in the position of Mr. Lincoln could have taken the trouble to produce so strange a medley, so incoherent a rhapsody. There are several subjects on which we earnestly desire information, and on no one is it afforded. Above all things, we want to know what view the American Cabinet takes of the affair of the Trent, what advice it has received from its legal counsellors, and with what feelings it approaches the coming controversy. On this point there is not a word. Then, we should like to hear a little of the financial measures by which the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure is to be preserved in the face of so vast an outlay.

We should like to know what measures the President proposes to adopt with regard to the slave population of the Southern States; whether, with one-half of his Cabinet, he is for emancipation, or, with the other half of his Cabinet, for a maintenance of the rights of the slave owner. On all these points our oracle is silent. But, if he tells us very little that we want to know, he amply indemnifies us by telling us a great many things in which we have no interest. He has a plan for re-adjusting the circuits of the statute law, and for the codification of the statute law. He is very minute on the receipts and disbursements of the post office. He is anxious to extend the District of Columbia into Virginia. He has something to say on the exhibition of 1862. He has, in common with most of his predecessors, plans for getting rid of free negroes by a system of colonization, and has room for an argument to show, not as he wishes, that labor is independent of capital, but how little progress the most ordinary doctrines of political economy have made in the higher circles of American politicians.

[The Times here devotes considerable space to the Trent affair, which we omit as superseded.] The President has given us, instead of the information we desired, his opinion on the real causes of the present war. The North, he says, are fighting for the integrity of the Union—that is, as Lord Russell said, for empire, to compel the South, by force of arms, to live under a government which they detest. The South, on the other hand, are fighting against the rights of the people—that is, against the right of the people of the North to govern them against their consent. This description ought to put an end to the main matter in dispute. But the South have done still worse, and, not content with questioning the right of the North to govern them, they have even gone to the extent of questioning the wisdom of certain Northern institutions. These persons are actually found who wish for a restriction of the suffrage; to contend, in spite of the evidence afforded by the North of the purity of election, and the high moral and intellectual qualities secured by such a process, that it is better election should be confined to legislators, and not extended to magistrates; and some have even been heard to pronounce the horrible name of "monarchy."

No wonder that Mr. Lincoln, luxuriating in the paradise to which the will of an unbridled democracy has introduced him, and looking forward to a desperate struggle with England, brought about apparently by the same cause, should feel a pious horror of those who venture to think such a process not conclusive, and the existing Constitution of the United States a little short of perfection. This is the act which has made the Mayor of Boston and the Governor of Massachusetts eloquent with exultation, and which has excited even the House of Representatives to gratitude. This act is thus dealt with by Mr. Gideon Welles: "Capt. Chas. Wilkes, in command of the San Jacinto, while on duty in the West Indies for the Sumter, received information that James M. Mason and John Slidell, disloyal citizens, and leading conspirators, were, with their suits, to embark from Havana in the English steamer Trent, on their way to Europe to promote the cause of the insurgents. Cruising in the Bahama channel, he intercepted the Trent on the 8th of November, and took from her those dangerous men, whom he brought to the United States. His vessel having been ordered to refit for service at Charleston, the prisoners were retained on board and conveyed to Fort Warren, where they were committed to the custody of Colonel Dimmick, in command of that Fortress. The prompt and decisive action of Captain Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the department; and, if a too generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel enemies on board, it may, in view of the special circumstances, and of its patriotic motives, be excused; but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the treatment of any case of similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying of trade."

There is no disputing the boldness of this act, nor, indeed, the boldness of this threat; but whether it is likely to increase the renown of the Federal navy, future events yet must show. Mr. Welles will want more than 24,000 men to make good these foolish words. That he can get more, and will get more, we are well aware; for we do not undervalue the power or energy of our nation; but he will get little "renown" for his department in such a cause as that he so unnecessarily proclaims, or against the antagonist he so rashly defies. If either the discretion of Mr. Welles or the ability of Mr. Lincoln is to be estimated by their State papers, they are not enemies greatly to be feared either in national or in civil warfare.

The Letter of the Hostile Creeks.—The Fort Smith Evening News gives a short sketch of the leader of the Creek forces hostile to the Confederate cause, of the dissensions existing in that nation, which latter, it seems, had their origin many years ago.—Opotheleholo is stated to be an old man, about eighty years of age, and has long been a leader among what are now termed "Upper Creeks." His first appearance in a public capacity was about 1824 or 1825, soon after the murder, by the Creeks, of General McIntosh, who was killed for making a treaty with the United States. Opotheleholo's name made its appearance about that time as a leader of the party opposed to the treaty. He is an eloquent speaker, and wields a mighty influence over the Upper Creeks by his tongue. The McIntosh party compose the Lower Creeks, and there exists still, between the two parties, the remains of the old national feud, and this may be the cause of the present attitude of Opotheleholo and his followers. Indians never forget injuries, and when life is taken, the relatives of the killed seldom forget it. It is said that Opotheleholo and his Creek followers are very hostile to the Creek regiment under Colonel McIntosh, who is a descendant of General McIntosh, who was slain by the Creeks years ago in Alabama.

Changed his mind.—A few days since the Federalists reported that Gen. Schooff had gone to whip Gen. Zollicoffer, and that he would certainly do so, and capture nearly all of his men. A dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette, from Frankfort, dated the 22d ultimo, says that Schooff got within two miles of Zollicoffer's camp "and returned."

but hold exceedingly cheap. This is not the navy of a first-class Power; it is enough for a people who desire to be at peace, but it is ridiculous for a people who insist upon being quarrelsome. A little man who holds his own against a big man who is trying to bully him, has every bystander's sympathies in his favor, but nothing is more contemptible than a little man who is noisy and offensive only in reliance upon the impunity which he expects on account of his own weakness and the generosity of those whom he insults. To sustain the pretensions of Federal statesmen to initiate all neutral nations, Mr. Welles's increased navy is still but a contemptible force.

Very different, however is its force as propounded to the enemy with which it is immediately matched. The Confederate States have no navy at all. Against them the navy of Mr. Welles is as a giant against a dwarf. Within the last few months the Federal Government has had 263 ships and 24,000 men, and their enemies only two ships and 2,000 men. Yet we believe that the Sumter is still plundering the Federal commerce, and we know that the Harvey Birch has burnt close to our own shores, we see a "sensation head" in the last New York papers that the Federals are blockading the channel of Tybee Island, and Fort Pulaski, and we have Mr. Welles's own testimony, that although his navy "continued to capture every rebel vessel which showed itself on the Potomac," it ceased to do so "when the rebels erected batteries on sundry points of the Virginia shores, and thereby rendered passage on the river dangerous." We confess that we are compelled to look beyond these facts to discover the reasons for the tone of congratulation which runs through Mr. Welles's report, and to deserve the increase of renown claimed for the Federal navy by Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Welles himself seems to think some further explanation necessary.

He urges, therefore, the onerous duties of blockading a coast of three thousand miles in length, of the active pursuit of privateers, and of the organization of naval expeditions. This is all very well, but it is necessary to show that these duties have been accomplished. The naval expeditions have, indeed, reached their destination, but, as they had no enemy worth the name of an enemy to meet, the renown of the navy cannot be much raised by what was little more than transport service. The privateers have, as we said before, not been taken. The blockade has been so notoriously a failure that nothing but the extraordinary scrupulousness of the European powers has allowed it to continue. Ships have passed in and out at all times just as they pleased, and, so far as the harbors are concerned, there has never been any difficulty in getting into them or getting out of them. The Federal Government has itself emphatically admitted the failure of their naval blockade, by an act of barbarity which is unparalleled in the history of national wars. They have actually endeavored to undo what Columbus had done—to shut up from all mankind forever the ports which the great discoverer opened to the human race, and to destroy by artificial impediments the gates by which men of all nations enter and pass out of some millions of square miles of fertile and productive lands. This is a crime against all human kind. If it does not call down universal opposition, it is only because the enterprise is believed to be as impossible as its design is execrable.

We have nearly exhausted the deeds of the American navy during this eventful year. One act, however, yet remains unnoticed, and it is just possible that it may form the staple of Mr. Lincoln's general and very guarded allusion to the great addition of renown so recently acquired. This is the act which has made the Mayor of Boston and the Governor of Massachusetts eloquent with exultation, and which has excited even the House of Representatives to gratitude. This act is thus dealt with by Mr. Gideon Welles: "Capt. Chas. Wilkes, in command of the San Jacinto, while on duty in the West Indies for the Sumter, received information that James M. Mason and John Slidell, disloyal citizens, and leading conspirators, were, with their suits, to embark from Havana in the English steamer Trent, on their way to Europe to promote the cause of the insurgents. Cruising in the Bahama channel, he intercepted the Trent on the 8th of November, and took from her those dangerous men, whom he brought to the United States. His vessel having been ordered to refit for service at Charleston, the prisoners were retained on board and conveyed to Fort Warren, where they were committed to the custody of Colonel Dimmick, in command of that Fortress. The prompt and decisive action of Captain Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the department; and, if a too generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel enemies on board, it may, in view of the special circumstances, and of its patriotic motives, be excused; but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the treatment of any case of similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying of trade."

There is no disputing the boldness of this act, nor, indeed, the boldness of this threat; but whether it is likely to increase the renown of the Federal navy, future events yet must show. Mr. Welles will want more than 24,000 men to make good these foolish words. That he can get more, and will get more, we are well aware; for we do not undervalue the power or energy of our nation; but he will get little "renown" for his department in such a cause as that he so unnecessarily proclaims, or against the antagonist he so rashly defies. If either the discretion of Mr. Welles or the ability of Mr. Lincoln is to be estimated by their State papers, they are not enemies greatly to be feared either in national or in civil warfare.

The Letter of the Hostile Creeks.—The Fort Smith Evening News gives a short sketch of the leader of the Creek forces hostile to the Confederate cause, of the dissensions existing in that nation, which latter, it seems, had their origin many years ago.—Opotheleholo is stated to be an old man, about eighty years of age, and has long been a leader among what are now termed "Upper Creeks." His first appearance in a public capacity was about 1824 or 1825, soon after the murder, by the Creeks, of General McIntosh, who was killed for making a treaty with the United States. Opotheleholo's name made its appearance about that time as a leader of the party opposed to the treaty. He is an eloquent speaker, and wields a mighty influence over the Upper Creeks by his tongue. The McIntosh party compose the Lower Creeks, and there exists still, between the two parties, the remains of the old national feud, and this may be the cause of the present attitude of Opotheleholo and his followers. Indians never forget injuries, and when life is taken, the relatives of the killed seldom forget it. It is said that Opotheleholo and his Creek followers are very hostile to the Creek regiment under Colonel McIntosh, who is a descendant of General McIntosh, who was slain by the Creeks years ago in Alabama.

Changed his mind.—A few days since the Federalists reported that Gen. Schooff had gone to whip Gen. Zollicoffer, and that he would certainly do so, and capture nearly all of his men. A dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette, from Frankfort, dated the 22d ultimo, says that Schooff got within two miles of Zollicoffer's camp "and returned."

THE OUTCRY AGAINST THE CONVENTION.

An outcry has been raised against the Convention, and an attempt is now being made, by certain partisans, to render that body odious to the people. It is alleged, first, that the Convention has transacted, but little, if any business of value, except that of the ordinance of secession; and secondly, that it has usurped power in legislating for the State. Now, what are the facts? The Convention, at its first session, passed among others an ordinance to establish a Board of Claims, by which thousands of dollars have been saved to the Treasury; also, an ordinance to raise a battalion of cavalry, which is now in the field; also, an ordinance to tax all slaves according to value, as land is taxed; also, a resolution exempting our soldiers from poll tax; also, an ordinance to secure to our soldiers the right to vote, wherever they may be; also, an ordinance to provide money to carry on the war and meet the interest on the State debt. The Convention, at its second session, passed among others an ordinance to complete a regiment (Col. Green's) of infantry, now ready for the field; also, resolutions of confidence in President Davis, and pledging this State to prosecute her to the last extremity; also, a resolution requesting Congress to increase the pay of our soldiers; also, an ordinance appropriating one hundred thousand dollars to make salt for the people, now so much needed; also, an ordinance providing for the issue of three millions of dollars in treasury notes—a measure absolutely necessary at the time, to pay for supplies for our troops, and to carry on the government; also, an ordinance to prevent oppressive speculation in the necessities of life; also, an ordinance to continue the Board of Claims, by which the accounts of all disbursing agents will be rigidly examined, and thousands of dollars thus saved to the State; also, an ordinance to raise an additional battalion or regiment of troops.

Now, all these ordinances and resolves, with one exception, are legislative in their character. Who will say they ought not to have been passed? But for one of these, salt, instead of falling as it has, would have increased in price; but for another of them, the fine regiment of cavalry, commanded by Col. Spruill, would not have been in existence; but for another, thirty or forty thousand of our brave soldiers would have been deprived of their right of suffrage; but for another, there would have been but little protection against dishonest State agents; and, but for another, the meat and bread, and clothing of the soldiers would have been cut off, the State would have repudiated the interest on her bonds, and the wheels of government would have stopped. And yet novices in politics, and partisans who think of nothing but offices for themselves, say the Convention ought not to legislate, and ought not to re-assemble on the 29th instant.

The Convention, when it re-assembles, will find it necessary to make provision for supplying the places of some twenty thousand of our volunteers, whose terms of service will expire by the middle of the present year. Again, the Convention has commenced the work of re-writing and condensing the Constitution. It is very important to the people that this document should be put in such words and in such shape as to make it plain in all its provisions to every voter in the State; and it is important also to revise and settle it now, on such firm and just foundations that the people will not be troubled again for many years with propositions for amendments to the instrument, or for a Convention. Virginia has just re-written and revised her Constitution, and that too in the midst of war, with the enemy threatening her at almost every point; and the Convention of South Carolina is now in session.

This outcry raised against the Convention is, for the most part, the work of persons who dislike that body on account of its conservative character, and because it is determined, as its acts will show, to protect the public treasury and keep the military in strict subordination to the civil power. Speculators, peenulators, and plunderers, know that as long as the Convention is in existence their schemes to feather their own nests at the public expense will be exposed and exploded, and the guilty punished, while the honest will be protected; and such as would impose upon or neglect the soldiers, or neglect proper measures for the defence of the State, also know that the Convention, acting for and in the name of the people, will bring them to account. Hence the outcry referred to. But the State has nothing to fear from the Convention. Its ordinances and resolutions heretofore passed, afford the best guarantee that its future action will redound to the good of the people. It will no doubt dissolve at some period during the present year; but its members are not to be deterred from the performance of their duty by inflammatory appeals on the hustings or in the newspapers, nor disturbed by clamors and outcries raised by partisans and demagogues.

Comfortably Housed.—The 14th North Carolina Regiment, quartered on the Model Farm, were admitted into the comfortable buildings there on Saturday. In their tents on the western portion of the farm they were exposed to the rigors of the winter, and had they continued there during the present cold spell even, must have suffered very much. We are glad to state that the spacious buildings were fitted up in excellent order, and every arrangement necessary for their comfort has been made.—Petersburg Express, 6th.

Goldsbury's Irons.—New Year's Day was a busy, bustling time. A great many negroes were hired. House servants and cooks maintained their former positions; but men, boys, and women with children, declined. Men hired for \$75 to \$105, and women and cooks for \$50 to \$80.

Mr. John E. Wright, a prominent citizen of this place, sustained a heavy loss yesterday, in the burning of a large barn on his farm about one mile from town, in which was consumed 20,000 or 30,000 pounds of seed cotton, 100 barrels of corn, and many other valuable articles. No insurance.

At a sale of negroes at Snow Hill, in Greene county, yesterday, a man 28 years old brought \$1,200, and others in proportion.—Cor. Pt. En.

Hiring.—On the 1st January, at this place, negro men hired at from \$80 to \$120—not many at the latter figure. Women went at \$50, \$60, and a few at \$75. Prices ranged about 30 per cent lower than last year, which seems to have been the case throughout the State.

Shoes and Leather.—We learn, through a gentleman just from Memphis, Tennessee, that shoes have recently fallen one dollar in the pair at that place, and that leather was never more plentiful.

Powder.—We learn that the Powder Mill, now being erected near this place, will soon be in operation.—Charlotte Democrat.

Re-Enlistment of Troops.—We feel perfectly justified in saying, from information in our possession, that fully seven-eighths of the Virginia troops now in service will re-enlist when their present terms expire.—Richmond Dispatch.

Yankee Diplomats at Loggerheads.—While in Europe Gen. Scott undertook to settle the Mason-Slidell trouble by a letter to England. He made this point:—

"The pretence that we ought to have taken the prize out of port, and had her condemned by a prize court, in order to justify our seizure of four of her passengers, furnishes a very narrow basis on which to fix a serious controversy between two great nations. Stated in other words, an offence would have been less if it had been greater. The wrong done to the British flag would have been mitigated, if, instead of seizing four rebels, we had seized the ship, detained all her passengers for weeks, and confiscated her cargo. I am not surprised that Capt. Wilkes took a different view of his duty, and of what was due to the friendly relations which subsisted between the two governments. The returned common sense of the English people, I believe, will approve of his effort to make the discharge of a very unpleasant duty as little so as possible to all innocent parties."

Mr. Seward has been settling the matter with Lord Russell. He says:— "In the present case, Captain Wilkes, after capturing the contraband persons and making prize of the Trent, in what seems to us a perfectly lawful manner, instead of sending her into port, released her from the capture, and permitted her to proceed with her whole cargo upon her voyage. He has effectively prevented the judicial examination which might otherwise have occurred. Now, the capture of the contraband persons and the capture of the contraband vessel are to be regarded, not as two separate or distinct transactions under the law of nations, but as one transaction, *non captae nisi captae*. Then it follows that the capture in this case was left unfinished or abandoned."

January Antisecularities.—The following list of opening events in the war may prove interesting:— Jan. 3d 1861.—Capture of Fort Pulaski by Savannah troops. The Arsenal at Mount Vernon, Ala., with 20,000 stand of arms, seized by Alabama troops. 4th.—Fort Morgan, in Mobile Bay, taken by Alabama troops. 9th.—The steamship "Star of the West" fired into and driven off by the South Carolina batteries, on Morris Island. Failure of the attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter. 10th.—Forts Jackson, St. Phillips, and Pike, near New Orleans, captured by the Louisiana troops. 13th.—Capture of the Pensacola Navy Yard and Fort Barrancas and McRee, by troops from Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. Major Chase shortly afterwards takes command, and the siege of Fort Pickens commences. 15th.—Surrender of the Baton Rouge Arsenal to the Louisiana troops. 31st.—The New Orleans Mint and Custom House taken.

Our Released Prisoners.—The New York Herald gives the following list of prisoners (commissioned officers) ordered to be paroled by General Orders:— J. A. J. Bradford, Colonel, Confederate States Army. W. S. G. Andrews, Major, N. C. State Troops. Wm. F. Martin, Colonel, 7th Reg. N. C. Volunteers. G. W. Johnson, Lieutenant-Colonel. J. A. Lagard, Captain, Confederate States Army. L. C. Chas. Taylor, 7th Reg. N. C. V. T. J. P. Osborne, Captain. J. G. Shannon, Lieutenant, N. C. V. G. C. Lamb, Lieutenant, N. C. State Troops. Charles H. Tyler, Lieutenant-Colonel, Confederate States Army.

Total number of officers (commissioned and non-commissioned) and enlisted men ordered, Ke. Officers, (field staff and line). 29 Independent Greys, 75 B. 7th Reg. N. C. Vols. 49 100th Reg. N. C. Vols. 49 Morris Guards, Co. G. do 37 Tar River Boys, Co. G. do 37 Hamilton Guards, Co. L. do 27 Herford Light Infantry, Co. K. do 22 1st Cumberland Guards, N. C. Vols. 12 Washington Greys, 2d Reg. N. C. State Troops. 13 100th Reg. N. C. Vols. 13 N. C. Defenders. do 22 250

A Splendid Galaxy from one County.—When the nomination of Gen. Robert E. Lee was before the Virginia Convention, as "Commander of the Military and Naval forces of Virginia," Mr. Critcher, of the county of Westmoreland, referred thus to the distinguished sons which the county he represented had produced:—

"Sir, when I stand in my own yard, I can turn to one side and look upon the farm on which Washington was born; and turning to the other, I can point to the farm where Gen. Lee was born. On the other farm beyond, Light Horse Harry Lee, who moved the Declaration of Independence, was born; and when my friends visit me, I can drive them to the birthplace of Monroe, and in two hours more we come to the spot where Madison was born. This, it must be admitted, is a splendid galaxy of great names for one county to claim the parentage of."

Southern Literature.—West & Johnston, the Richmond publishers, have now in press a new work, written by the Rev. and Hon. H. W. Hilliard, of Alabama, entitled "The Verger; a story for Plebes and Patriarchs." The characters are drawn from Southern life, and the public may expect from Mr. Hilliard's brilliant pen a production of no ordinary interest.—Richmond Dispatch, 6th.

The Blockade.—Four important and valuable arrivals at least have been reported for the week just closed—one of them a steamer that had left a Confederate port after the blockade was pronounced inflexibly strict and close. These occurrences show what may be done if proper encouragement be given by the authorities at Richmond.

The Blockade is furnishing a noble school for training a competent corps of Mariners, and for developing our resources.—Chas. Courier, 6th.

Blockade Prices.—The following articles, being a portion of a cargo recently arrived from Havana, were sold at auction in Savannah on the 31st ult:— 1,038 sacks coffee, of various brands, brought from 60 to 66¢ cents per pound; 20 pieces of navy and army cloth brought \$100@124 per yard; 20 carboys carbonic acid brought \$1 per pound; 100 lbs. clarified and brown sugars brought \$6@11 cents per pound; 80 reams letter paper brought \$9@10 per ream.

To Save Salt.—A correspondent sends to the Petersburg Express the following receipt for curing hams, and vouches for its value in economy and usefulness at the present time:—

To 30 pounds of hams (or shoulders) take 4 oz. brown sugar, 5 oz. salt-petre, and one pint of fine salt, thoroughly pulverized and mixed. Rub the hams well, particularly on the fleshy side. Make the above quantity hold out, shaking off the loose salt. Lay on boards for 36 hours, then add 2 quarts of fine salt, and pack away. In 15 or 20 days they will be ready to smoke.

The above recipe has been used for years; never, however, with very large meat. The hams are particularly fine. A Good Hit.—The New York Tribune having said that the Southern naval expeditions of Lincoln would prove to us "thorns in the flesh," the Mobile Advertiser laments the text of Scripture in which that term occurs, as follows: Paul's 2d Epistle to the Corinthians, 12th chapter, 7th verse: "There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me."

NORTHERN NEWS.

NORFOLK, Jan. 7.—The following items are from the New York Herald of the 3d inst:—

Our news from the Upper Potomac shows that considerable activity exists on both sides near Harper's Ferry, Point of Rocks, Leesburg, and Frederick, although no engagement has taken place. Contrabands from Culpepper, Fairfax, Loudoun and Fauquier counties continue to flock into General Banks' headquarters, and are sent on to General McClellan.

Our news from Port Royal, by the Ariel yesterday, is interesting. The British steamer Fingal attempted to run the blockade at Savannah, but was foiled. She got ready to make her way through Warsaw Sound, but the gunboat Ottawa was despatched to the Sound, and on her arrival the rebel mosquito fleet of Tattall came down to attack her. After a brisk engagement a shell was put through Commodore Tattall's vessel, when he retired. The escape of the Fingal was thus frustrated.

Three thousand men for General Butler's expedition were put on board the Constitution at Boston yesterday, and are expected to sail for the South to-day.

A correspondent of the Herald says the Barnside expedition is intended for Eastern Virginia. It consists of 25,000 men.

The Herald says a decisive blow must be struck to the Southern rebellion before the end of April. Gen. McClellan's health is rapidly improving. He attends to business in his room.

The workmen engaged in the Brooklyn Navy Yard had a strike on Thursday last. They wanted them to work from sunrise to sunset and to reduce their wages to the same as that paid outside. The workmen held a meeting and refused. There were 3,500 engaged in the Yard; 500 of them went to work and the balance continued on the strike.

Ely in his New York speech says McClellan's vast army has too much to do. The Yankees have to fight a people terribly in earnest. War, even to the knife, is still their cry. They will spare neither life nor treasure to prevent an advance of the Northern troops.

In a speech at Baltimore Ely said "he is convinced that the entire South is a unit on the subject of the war, and that they are determined to fight till the last man falls, or till they achieve their independence. That the utmost cheerfulness prevails there, and that the people are satisfied with what has been done so far. He states that so far as his own action is concerned, that he is willing to let the Southern States go."

The British bark Express, of Hull, far New Orleans, loaded with 6,500 bags of coffee, arrived here yesterday as a prize, having been captured by the U. S. sloop-of-war Vincennes. She took in her cargo at Rio Janeiro.

Fortifying the Canadian shores.—The Detroit Free Press, Jan. 1, says:— "The fortifications at Windsor, C. W.—A few weeks ago a corps of engineers, under command of General Williams, arrived at Windsor, and proceeded at once to lay out fortifications commanding the city of Detroit. The plans have been completed and the works commenced, and, if continued, will be ready to mount guns in a short time. The fort is situated on an eminence a little to the left of the main village, and nearly in the rear of the Town Hall, and completely commands the whole river front and principal business part of this city."

The British papers of the 19th ult. are highly indignant in relation to the "stone fleet." Lincoln's message is severely and unfavorably criticized by the French press.

The first hostile step of the allied expedition against Mexico was taken on the 17th ult., when the Spanish troops from the fleet landed at Vera Cruz, took unopposed possession of that city and the fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, and hoisted their flag over the city and the fort. The rejoicings in Havana on the receipt of the news were most enthusiastic.

The Mexicans had one hundred large rifled cannon in San Juan d'Ulloa, which were all left behind in their flight. From California.—SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1. The stormy weather has interrupted telegraphic communication since the 24th ult. The floods have been renewed to a great extent throughout the State. Business with the interior is suspended. More property has been destroyed in the State by this fresh rain than by all the freshets heretofore since the country has been settled by Americans.

Mason and Slidell.—What was thought in Boston.—Boston, Dec. 31.—When the intelligence that Mason and Slidell were to be surrendered was first flashed over the wires to this city, the solid and many of the weak men of Boston were loud in the expression of their indignation. The Merchants Exchange echoed with the declarations that "they never should be given up," even if war with Great Britain were to ensue. The excitement, however, gradually subsided, and on the receipt of Secretary Seward's letter to Lord Lyons the decision of the government was acquiesced in, cordially by some and doggedly by others.—Cor. N. Y. Herald.

Their Departure.—Boston, Jan. 1.—The steaming Starlight left Fort Warren at eleven o'clock this morning, with the traitors Mason and Slidell, and their Secretaries, for Provincetown, where they will be transferred to the British steamer Rinaldo, now lying there. Her Commander says that he has been ordered to lie there, and is unbending sails and making himself at home.

Boston, Jan. 2.—The Starlight arrived at Provincetown at 4 o'clock last evening and the rebel emissaries were transferred to the British sloop-of-war lying in the harbor. The Rinaldo sailed from Provincetown at 6 o'clock last evening, en route for England. The rebel Commissioners were on board the vessel, and at the time she left the harbor the wind was blowing a perfect hurricane.

The War Spirit in Canada.—The Cincinnati Commercial of the 26th instant, has the following item: "The news from Canada is warlike. The military spirit of the people is excited, and there is a general expression of hostility towards the United States." The militia, to the number of 50,000, have been called out. There is intense activity in all quarters, and the press sounds the war-whoop on every side."

From Norfolk.—NORFOLK, Jan. 6.—The Bakers, wreckers of Norfolk, are now engaged in raising the hull of the old Pennsylvania, which was burnt and sunk by the Lincoln vandals just on the eve of their hasty retreat from the Gosport Navy Yard. The Columbia and Raritan frigates, of 1726 tons each, carrying 50 guns, will next be gotten up. Both of these vessels are perfectly sound, and will prove quite an acquisition to our Navy. Neither of these was burnt by the Yankees, but some of their planks were taken out to sink them. The brig Dolphin, or what remains of her, has been gotten up, and the copper from her and from the Pennsylvania will be worth an immense amount to the Confederate government.

It is the intention of the government also to raise the Columbus and Delaware, two ships of the line which the Lincolnites burnt. The Columbus carries 80 guns. The Delaware carries 84 guns. These two ships have been in ordinary for several years. I do not know what their present condition is, but they are of some value.

WAR NEWS.

NEWS FROM THE COAST.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 6.—Captain S. Elliott, Jr., of the Bufort Artillery, with a detachment of his own Company and a number of men from Captain Radcliff's command, at Red Bluff, went on a scouting expedition Thursday and returned home Saturday morning, with seventy-four head cattle, a large quantity of forage, provisions, &c., from several of the Islands exposed to the depredations of the enemy. They visited Port Royal Ferry, as far as the bulkhead, and report all that neighborhood clear, the enemy having re-embarked, and not a gun boat to be seen. Five freshly made graves were discovered in the vicinity of the late conflict, showing the loss of the enemy to have been severe, as an eye witness states that several of their men were borne off on the shoulders of their comrades.

The repulse of the enemy on Wednesday was another brilliant achievement of the bayonet in the hands of Southern men with hearts fired with Southern spirit. It furnishes additional evidence of the weak point of the foe with whom we have to contend, and the superiority of Southern valor. This fight has served greatly to elate our troops, for if the enemy attempts an advance his artillery can only be got forward with most enormous labor, and by snail-like approaches through narrow defiles, where every inch of ground will be hotly contested by our sharpshooters and the layabouts of an infuriated soldiery.

We regret to learn that in the late encounter Lieut. Power, a gallant young officer in Colonel Jones's regiment, was killed by the same shell from the enemy which took off seven or eight of our men at one stroke. The regiment was marching in column of four, when a ball on board of one of the enemy's gunboats was heard to ring, and a moment after a shell passed through the advancing column, knocking down its victims, and exploded at a distance of about forty yards from the ranks. Not one of our men was killed by a musket ball. The enemy fired one volley at the four companies of Col. Donovant's regiment who charged on them. Two of Col. Donovant's men were slightly injured by this volley, and two more killed by the shell from the gunboat. The force which landed at the ferry marched up in two divisions and by different roads. One division was met by Col. Jones's men and the other by the four companies from Col. Donovant's regiment, and both were driven back by the charge with the bayonet.

We learn that after the fight was over a flag of truce went over from our side with a proposition for time to remove the wounded. Drs. E. B. Turnipseed and Hough, while bringing them in, and dressing the wounds of those requiring immediate attention, were fired upon by the enemy. Content is unnecessary.

The Yankee prisoner who was found on the field yesterday, had been shot through the lung. When our men first approached he begged most piteously for his life, expecting to receive no quarter. When taken to the hospital, however, he became somewhat bolder, it is supposed from the delirium caused by his wound, and abused the South with a great deal of the coarse bombastic language of the Northern press, saying that the South was about to cave in, &c. He died about 12 o'clock Thursday night.

We omitted to mention in our former reports the important service rendered by a section of Captain Walter Leak's Virginia battery, which had taken up a strong position and fired several rounds at the enemy with good effect.

The accounts of the affair at Port Royal Ferry have so far been furnished by passengers. All newspaper correspondence from our camps has, we learn, been specially prohibited by an order from Gen. Lee, which is read to the troops daily, at dress parade. Our readers, therefore, we hope, will make due allowance for any inaccuracies that may occur. We have learned only one of the names of the privates killed in this affair, namely, private Vanlandingham, of Lancaster.

It was currently rumored in the city yesterday that the enemy had again made a demonstration on Gen. Evans' command, and driven in his pickets. Passengers by the Road, however, who left White Point and Adams' Run Sunday morning, report all quiet in that neighborhood.—Courier.

From the S. C. Coast.—The War Department received yesterday an official dispatch from Gen. Lee, stating that he had been ready with reinforcements to offer battle to the enemy on the coast; but that they had retired from the main land, and had fallen back to Port Royal island. Rich. Examiner, 6th inst.

Reported Movements of the Enemy.—The city was full of rumors yesterday relating to the incursions of the enemy in Western Virginia; but we could gather nothing from official sources in confirmation of the reports. Our advices from Alleghany Mountain are as late as January 1st, at which time all was quiet in that neighborhood. Reports from the Peninsula inform us that our lower pickets have been driven in and that a large body of Federals advanced upon Bethel, burning such property as remained there. There is doubtless some reason to believe that an attack upon Gen. Magruder's lines is in contemplation. Richmond Dispatch, 6th.

Affairs in Kentucky.—NASHVILLE, Jan. 6.—Captain Eaton, who deserted from Lincoln's army at Calhoun, reached Hopkinville on the night of the 31st of December. Four other deserters arrived there on the first instant. Some of the deserters report that the Federal army at Calhoun is being greatly demoralized—desertions occur daily, and threats of mutiny are openly and defiantly made. Great dissatisfaction prevails, and it is believed that desertions will soon be made by hundreds and thousands.

From the Lower Potomac.—There has been no arrival from the flotilla since our last report. Small vessels continue to run the blockade daily. Three barges with provisions for the army, arrived at Alexandria yesterday morning, in tow of a steam tug, having passed the batteries during the dark hours of the night before. One of the barges lost her deck load in Chesapeake bay, and one of the others lost also a portion of her cargo. They report that the Confederate batteries (Cooke's) sunk, day before yesterday, a large schooner which was "running the blockade." Fredericksburg News, 4th.

Army of the Potomac.—I was misled after leaving Centerville, into the statement that our army had gone into winter quarters. Speaking collectively, exactly the reverse is true. A portion of the troops have been assigned more favorable positions, but only a small portion are now engaged in the "hutting" process. Although the present prospect is quiet enough, no one can say what the winter will bring forth—another it will be quietly spent in camp, or whether a more active policy will be inaugurated. Cor. Richmond Dispatch.

The Vanderbilt at New Orleans.—NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 6.—The name of the vessel which ran the blockade was the Vanderbilt. She came from England, as first reported, but is not Cuban port. She brought some munitions of war but not in as large quantity as first reported. Authorized. Kentucky Confederate States Senators.—NASHVILLE, Jan. 5.—