

THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

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THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Orders from the War and Treasury Departments.

Important General News, &c., &c., &c.

REDUCTION OF THE EXPENSES OF THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 26.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., May 1, 1865.

I.—All officers and agents of the Quartermaster's Department, having citizens employes or hired articles under their direction, will, immediately upon the receipt of this order, prepare and forward to this office a special report of the persons and articles so hired or employed. This report will embrace in tabular form:—

First—The number of persons or articles of each class.

Second—Occupation or how used.

Third—Rate of hire or compensation.

Fourth—The number of each class discharged since April 1, and rate of hire or compensation.

Fifth—What further reduction can be made during the next two months, and at what dates the reduction can be made.

Sixth—Remarks showing briefly the necessity of continuing the remainder in government employ.

II.—The Chief Quartermasters of military divisions, departments and principal depots will, upon consultation with the respective commanding officers thereof, take immediate measures to break up all minor depots and agencies under their control not essential to the service under the new military situation. The quartermasters' stores at such depots and agencies will be drawn into the main depots; or, in case such stores are deemed not of sufficient value to justify their removal, then a special report of the case will be made to this office, with recommendations as to the best time, place and manner of their sale or other disposition.

III.—The property return of quartermasters' stores on hand April 30, called for by paragraph 8, General Orders No. 24, from this office, on the 29th ultimo, will be made out in the form of an inventory, showing

First—The articles, in alphabetical order, and the quantity of each on hand.

Second—Their condition.

Third—Number or quantity of each required for a three months' supply at their respective stations; and

Fourth—The disposition recommended to be made of the balance—whether to be sold, stored or transferred to other stations, and when to be sold, stored or transferred.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster, Brevet Major General.
ORDERS FROM THE WAR AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS.

CIRCULAR TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.
WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, April 29, 1865.

The executive order of January 20, 1865, prohibiting the exportation of hay is rescinded from and after the last day of May, 1865.

By order of the PRESIDENT,
ED. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
Washington, May 1, 1865.

In pursuance of the terms of the above order all restrictions heretofore placed by this department on the exportation of hay are hereby removed.

H. McCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1865.

IMPORTANT MISSION TO EUROPE.

It is understood that Assistant Secretary Harrington will soon proceed to Europe on important public business. He will probably take with him specimens of all the public securities, with a view to explain their value as investments, and to instruct bankers how to detect counterfeits.

THE CABINET.

It may be stated as a positive fact that for the present, with the exception of the Secretary of the Interior, there will be no changes whatever in the Cabinet.

TRIAL OF EX-CONGRESSMAN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND.

The following officers were yesterday detailed to constitute a general court-martial for the trial of Hon. Benjamin G. Harris, member of the last Congress from the disloyal Congressional district of Maryland:—Major General John G. Parke, United States Volunteers, President; Major General A. A. Humphreys, United States Volunteers; Brevet Major General O. M. Wilcox, United States Volunteers; Brevet Major General J. A. Rawlings, United States Volunteers; Brevet Brigadier General W. W. Morris, United States Army; Colonel Twenty-fifth United States Artillery; Brevet Brigadier General G. H. Sharp, United States Volunteers; Colonel One Hundred and Twentieth New York Volunteers; Brevet Colonel O. E. Babcock, United States Army; Lieutenant Colonel United States Engineers; Colonel Wm. Gamble, United States Volunteers; Eighth Illinois Cavalry; Colonel Chas. Albright, United States Volunteers; Two Hundred and Second Pennsylvania Volunteers; Major W. W. Winthrop, Judge Advocate. The court convened to-day. Only two witnesses were examined. It is probable that the testimony will show that Harris has been guilty of uttering disloyal language, but it is doubtful if the proof will sustain the charge of open acts of disloyalty.

AMOUNT OF UNITED STATES SECURITIES ABROAD.

Information has been received from our con-

suls and from American bankers in Europe that there are now in European markets between three and four hundred millions of United States bonds. The largest amount of these securities are held by German capitalists and by the masses of the people as permanent investments. THE LATE PRESIDENT'S CARRIAGES AND HORSES FOR SALE.

The carriages and horses of the lamented President Lincoln are to be disposed of at private sale. There are already numerous offers for those who are anxious to possess them as mementoes.

LINCOLN MONUMENT ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON.

An association has been formed here for the purpose of erecting in this city a suitable monument to the memory of the late President. The following are the officers of the association:—Richard Wallach, Mayor of Washington, President; Crosby S. Noyes, Secretary, and George W. Riggs, Treasurer. It is proposed to raise for this purpose a sum of at least one hundred thousand dollars by subscriptions, to be limited in amount from one to ten dollars per individual contributors. Such is the general solicitude to contribute for such purpose that it is not doubted the amount requisite can be promptly raised and the monument erected immediately. Persons throughout the country desiring to contribute are invited to send their contributions to the Treasurer of the association.

EXAMINATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of the Treasury has detailed two experienced officers of the department to make a thorough investigation of all the various bureaus of that department, to examine minutely all the books, papers and accounts, and the system of checks in use, particularly in the Note Printing Bureau, and to suggest whatever improvement may be necessary.

THE SULTANA DISASTER.

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Badeau, of General Grant's staff, has been sent West to make a special investigation of the recent disaster in the blowing up of the steamer Sultana.

RICHMOND SPECIE RECOVERED.

A steamer has just been captured while running out of the Rappahannock river. On board of her were found several kegs of specie, stolen from Richmond by the flying rebels.

THE REBEL RAMS.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WEBB.

The Excitement at New Orleans.

TWO OF HER CREW CAPTURED

LIST OF THE OFFICERS OF THE RAM.

Destruction of Another Rebel Ram in the Roanoke.

&c. &c. &c.

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 25, 1865.
One of the most important and daring feats of naval or military history occurred yesterday on the Mississippi river. At about noon a steamer came sweeping around the lower bend of the city, at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. She displayed the national flag at half-mast.

The stranger had nearly passed our fleet at anchor near the city, when the Lackawanna, suspecting her true character, fired the shell entering her near the bow. In an instant the American flag was hauled down and the rebel colors run up, and no one longer doubted that the swift rebel ram Webb was running the gauntlet of the fleet; and the Webb indeed she proved to be.

As she passed the French man-of-war she dipped her flag. Five or six shots were fired from our vessels, but not more than one or two took effect. Two or three horses were hit, but no persons injured. The Webb did not reply to any of the shots, but kept on with the same tremendous speed down the river, followed by the United States steamer Hollyhook, Lieut. Commander (Herard), the only war vessel at the time able to pursue.

THE EXCITEMENT IN THE CITY.

was intense. The news soon spread, and in a few moments it was reported that Jeff Davis and Kirby Smith were passengers, and that Booth was at the helm; gold and silver in unlimited quantities were said to be on board, together with all the valuable and official documents of the confederacy. This tale was believed by several, and was repeated by the majority as a good joke.

THE PURSUIT—THE LAST OF THE WEBB.

The telegraph at Point Celeste—the first station down the river, and not more than forty miles distant—continued to report the reappearance of the ram up to seven o'clock in the evening, and our war vessels opposite the city were on the lookout for her return, when the Hollyhook arrived and reported the destruction of the rebel ram by fire.

The Richmond, unfortunately for the Webb, was telegraphed coming down, so that a meeting was unavoidable, even before Forts Jackson and St. Philip could be reached.

The Hollyhook was only able to keep the ram in sight. A shell was fired at intervals—more perhaps to warn the Richmond of her approach than with the hope of disabling the rebel craft.

Suddenly rounding a bend, near St. Clair's

Pass, the Richmond loomed up, and, not caring to meet such a formidable antagonist, the Webb turned, in the hope of once more passing New Orleans; but there, directly ahead, was the Hollyhook, bearing down upon her like an avalanche, with the evident intention of running into her.

This idea was as disagreeable to the officers of the Webb as the guns of the Richmond.—Hemmed in, bewildered, defeated without firing a shot, the bow of the Webb was turned towards the shore of the left bank, the vessel ran aground, fired and abandoned, the officers and crew escaping to the swamps over McCall's flats.

Only one man and a boy, out of a crew of forty-two, were captured.

Boats were lowered and every effort made to extinguish the flames, but to no purpose, and the Webb was left to her fate.

Her flag was captured.

One man was found asleep in the engine room after the vessel was abandoned and while she was on fire. He was rescued from a terrible fate by our seamen. His name is Charles Preston.

THE PASSAGE OF THE WEBB FROM SHREVEPORT.

From this man and the boy who were captured the following has been gathered:—

On Monday, the 16th instant, the Webb left Shreveport, Louisiana, on the Red river, twenty-five miles below Alexandria. She stopped at Cotes' landing and took on board two hundred and fifty cords of wood.

At half-past four o'clock A. M., on Saturday she left Alexandria and anchored about seventy-five miles above.

On Sunday the Webb passed our fleet at the mouth of the Red river, and though several shots were fired at her she escaped serious injury, and continued her course down the Mississippi. It is said that she arrived opposite this city without being challenged or even suspected. The telegraph wires between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and Forts St. Philip and Jackson were reported cut; but this is doubtful, as it was known in this city as early as ten o'clock yesterday morning that the ram was on her way down the Mississippi.

HER INTENTIONS.

Knowing that the cause of the rebellion was hopeless, it was determined to place a quantity of cotton, rosin and turpentine on board the Webb and attempt to run her out to sea by the Southwest Pass. She was accordingly laden with two hundred and seventeen bales of cotton and several barrels of turpentine and rosin.—The intention was to run her into Havana, sell the cargo, and then run the blockade into Galveston.

HER COMMANDER.

The Webb was commanded by Captain Reed, formerly of the United States Navy, and more recently commander of the pirate Tacony. He was also the chief of the party who captured this vessel.

The Webb has had no opportunity to distinguish herself during the war.

When General Banks proceeded up the Teche two years ago this vessel and the Mary T. were the only iron clads that escaped. The following is a list of

HER OFFICERS.

Captain—Reed.
Executive Officer—Lieutenant Hall.
Assistant Surgeon—Dr. Allison.
Midshipman—Mr. Scott.
Master's Mate—Benjamin Lewis.
Pilot—John Lewis.
Chief Engineer—Mr. Smith.
Assistant Engineers—Henry Lewis and Marsh.

Officers Signal Corps—Messrs. Lewis and Deer.

HER RECENT APPEARANCE.

As the trading Star passed opposite McCall's flats this morning, about ten o'clock, the remains of the Webb could be seen lying with her broadside close to the shore. A sheet of fire four or five feet in height was still burning at her bow. She is almost destroyed to the water's edge, her machinery, bow and a portion of her wheelhouse alone being visible.

ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE REBEL RAM.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1865.

The Navy Department has received a communication from Commander W. H. McComb, under date of April 12, at Plymouth, N. C., in which he says:—I got news yesterday to the effect that the rebels had sent a floating battery down the Roanoke, and that it was then just above this place. I immediately started from Winton in the Wilderness, and arrived here last night. I then found that Commander Feibiger had sent a party up, under Lieutenant Franklin, of the Isadore, which party had found the battery sunk near Jonesville, by one of their own torpedoes. Lieutenant Franklin set fire to all of her that was above water, about two feet, and it is supposed that she is pretty thoroughly destroyed.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT BUILDING.

The work on this Treasury Department extension is now being pushed forward with great rapidity, and the State Department building will shortly be demolished to make room for the north wing. When this is completed the building will be one of great magnificence.

MOVEMENTS OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRANT.

PHILADELPHIA, May 2, 1865.

General Grant arrived in this city this afternoon and went to Burlington. He will return to-morrow with his wife to take possession of the splendid mansion presented by Philadelphia.

WILMINGTON, MAY 11

Proposed Alliance Between France and England—England Declines the Alliance.

Louis Napoleon is sorely beset with fears and anxieties arising out of the triumphant turn which affairs have taken in this country. It is stated that as soon as he heard of the fall of Richmond he proposed to the English Ambassador at Paris—Lord Cowley—an alliance offensive and defensive with England against the United States; that in case this country should make an attack on Canada, France "should assist England with all her land and sea forces," and that in the event of this government "openly or covertly attacking the Emperor Maximilian, or in anywise endangering his throne," England should, in conjunction with France, defend the Austrian Emperor of Mexico in the same manner, and on the same conditions as they sustained the Sultan of Turkey against the aggressions of Russia.

It is also stated that upon this proposition being made, Lord Cowley promptly rejected it, by instructions from his government. Some of the London journals denounce the idea with remarkable emphasis. The *Advertiser*, which, it is known, represents a very large body of the masses of the English people, and which may possibly on this occasion have received a hint from high quarters—and, therefore, probably speaks, as it were, semi-officially—says that on the reassembling of Parliament "the idea will be denounced in the strongest language which parliamentary notions of propriety will allow." It is manifest from the expression of public feeling elicited by the suggestion of an alliance with France to make common cause against the United States, that it finds no favor with the people of England. They do not forget how Louis Napoleon treated them in the matter of the Crimean war. The French Emperor has been sedulously endeavoring for some years past to cajole England into alliances; but, having been so severely bitten in the war against Russia, in the Crimea, John Bull is not to be tempted into forming such a relationship again.—France attempted to draw England into the Italian war, but she declined. When the Mexican enterprise was undertaken, proposals were made to England to join that scheme, and the government apparently accepted the alliance for a time, but subsequently backed out, leaving Napoleon to combat the Monroe doctrine alone. When the rebellion broke out Louis Napoleon, afraid to move alone in our affairs, also made overtures to England to unite with him in recognizing the South, or in offering their joint services in mediation; but the British government was too wily to be caught in that trap, and it respectfully declined; preferring to carry out his own dubious neutrality. In every way Napoleon has been trying to inveigle England into an alliance which would place her indirectly in hostility to this country, and now he makes the plain, outspoken proposition to construct a treaty to make common cause against us.

The success of our simple republican institutions, crowned as it is by the suppression of the rebellion, and the magnificent attitude which the country now assumes, no doubt admonishes Napoleon that the strength of our republican principles is the weakness of the modern Cæsarism over which he wields so feeble a sceptre.—The recent debates in the French Assembly, the boldness with which the victories of this government over the armies of the rebellion were rejoiced in by the opposition members, and the nervousness displayed by the leaders of the Bonaparte Cabinet upon the discussion of the policy of France towards the United States, all prove what uneasy suggestions the success of our arms has created in the mind of the Emperor. It is in this crisis that he proposes an alliance with England against this country; to preserve Canada for England, and Mexico for Maximilian. But Palmerston and Russell know too well the temper of the British people.—They know that it is the interest of England, now more than ever, to remain on good terms with this country; to become an ally rather than a foe.

It is no part of our policy to attack Canada; nor have we any desire to do so. If the Canadians wish to sever themselves from the British crown that is their own affair; they are welcome to accomplish their aims, without either aid or obstruction from us. Neither do we thirst for the annexation of Mexico, and, as far as our government is concerned, we presume that there is no present intention to interfere with the rapidly declining fortunes of Maximilian. We cannot answer, of course, for the action of any voluntary exiles who may seek the other side of the Rio Grande; nor do we suppose that the government will trouble itself much about them; for it has enough to do in the reconstruction of the South, without bothering about Mexico, at least for the present.—Therefore the fears—whether real or assumed—of Louis Napoleon as to any design upon Canada or Mexico are groundless. There is no alliance offensive and defensive against this country required, as the statesmen of England know full well, and hence they have refused to fall into the trapset for them by the wily French Emperor.—*N. Y. Herald.*

There may be a hundred geese with all their quills in one pen.