

VOL. 1.—NO. 250.

THE WILMINGTON HERALD.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CELEBRATION.—The celebration yesterday, by our colored population, of the anniversary of their freedom as enunciated through the famous emancipation proclamation issued by President Lincoln, January 1st, 1863, was enjoyed highly by the citizens of African descent, who participated in it, and was conducted, so far as we have been able to learn, in a decent and becoming manner. They marched through our streets with banners flying, preceded by a band of music, and made quite an imposing appearance as they passed by our office. Among the devices on the various banners in the procession, we noticed the following:

"Abraham Lincoln, our martyred President, the savior of the American Nation; the Liberator of a down-trodden Race."

"If no better than I be found, I will indeed be your Moses to lead you on to a better and happier future."—Andrew Johnson to the colored people of Tennessee.

"The Emancipation Proclamation—This we celebrate."

"Equal Justice."

There was nothing the least offensive in any of the devices or in the general bearing of those engaged in the celebration, so far as we could perceive, and in this the colored people showed their good sense and their proper appreciation of their duty to those who were spectators of their harmless enjoyment. A prominent feature in the procession was the different colored fire companies of the city who wore their full force in their red shirts and other paraphernalia appertaining to their organizations. In addition to those in the ranks, as the procession marched up market streets, both sides of the street and the sidewalks was a moving mass of dark colored humanity, pushing "scrounging" and elbowing its way in the persistent endeavor to keep up with the "procession." In this motley crowd all ages and sexes, sizes and conditions were represented, from the old woman in specks to "the babe in the arms of its mother," and as they went on their way rejoicing, we could not help indulging the reflection, that freedom to the colored race is not yet a "pathway strewn with flowers." They have a great work before them, in preparing themselves for the proper enjoyment of the priceless boon, and a proper appreciation of their duty to society and to each other. It is all very well to celebrate their emancipation from the thralldom of slavery; and the means of gratitude to their deliverers and benefactors; but it is quite another thing to come down to the social realities of every day. However, we like to see you enjoy yourselves, certainly did so to the fullest extent yesterday.

There was no disturbance during the entire day that we are aware of. The general good conduct, and the absence of anything to arouse unpleasant feelings, on the part of those participating in the celebration, they fully come up to the standard of propriety which the committee of arrangements had promised should mark their proceeding, and for this the people of Wilmington deserves much praise.

The procession proceeded to Hilltop, where addresses were delivered by the various colored orators. The speeches delivered on this occasion would have done credit to any man, white or black. The past condition of the colored population held up to them, and good advice given them for the future. The speakers appeared to be earnest in what they said, and if they will only exert the influence which they are so well qualified to exert, their friends who are not of their color will do much good. The negro, as a general thing, does not place much confidence in the advice which white men give them. They appear to think that there is always something underneath which is not altogether for their good, but when one of their own color puts plain facts before them, and advises them to accept those facts, they believe him, and are inclined to follow his advice, knowing that the speaker is as much interested in the matter as they are.

General Crook was observed to be present, and was loudly called on for a speech, but declined to comply, stating that all he could say to them had already been put before them by previous speakers. He approved of what had been said. He also approved of the orderly and becoming manner in which the entire day's programme had been carried out, advised them to always so conduct themselves, and they would, without any doubt, obtain from the white people that respect which they appeared so much to desire.

The procession then returned to town, and drew up in front of Bailey's Hotel, when they gave three cheers for General Crook. The general was not present at the time, which is to be regretted, as it is probable that he would have delivered an address to the assemblage. Three cheers were given for the citizens of Wilmington.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.—In nothing perhaps is a greater difference perceptible between the people of the various states than in their observance of the holidays which occur during the year. Strange as it may appear, the "Down Easters" and the people of the south "keep up" the same holidays. In the eastern states Thanksgiving is the day of the year. Every one is expected to be at home on that day to eat his share of the Thanksgiving gobble. Even if he has not been "to him" for the other three hundred and sixty-four days—he makes a point of visiting his family on the day appointed for thanksgiving and prayer. There, also, is Christmas thought as much of as it is in the southern states, with the exception that there are no fireworks let off—the Roman candles, rockets, pin wheels or any other specimens of the pyrotechnic art which are so abundantly displayed in the south on the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of the World. Then, again, the first day of the new year is thought very little of—scarcely more than any other day throughout the year. In New York, on the contrary, New Year's day, next to the Fourth of July, is the holiday most looked after by the people.

and look after them throughout the entire winter; now they would have to look out for themselves, which would save him a great deal of trouble and expense. Another said that one year ago he owned sixteen slaves, now he had ten free workmen in his employ, and that the ten free workmen did as much, if not more, in a given time than the sixteen did who were slaves. Consequently he was saving money by the change, and things were going better in every respect.

The weather, notwithstanding it was the first day of the year, did not "turn over a new leaf," as we have heard so many people promise, and have seen so few perform, but kept on in the style it has adopted (apparently permanently) for some time past. Once, and once only, did the sun attempt to shine. We saw it, like a rushlight in a fog, and—twas gone.

After dark, in walking through the streets, we observed that several of our colored brethren were keeping New Year in the same style as several white men kept Christmas, and were "slightly demoralized."

Up to a late hour everything went quietly, both white and colored people behaving themselves in a very proper manner.

MAYOR'S COURT, JAN. 1.—A colored man, who answered to the name of James Simmons, arrested on Water street on the charge of picking up and carrying off that which did not, in the eyes of the law, belong to him, was turned over to Special Magistrate Conoly for final disposal.

Jim Culet, a negro, who was arrested over Bonney's bridge, for firing off a pistol several times, and, by so doing violating an ordinance of the town, was fined in the sum of three dollars, and ordered to be held in "duress vile" until the money should be forthcoming. We shall be happy to see the police exert themselves to put a stop to the careless use of fire arms which has become so common of late, as there is no telling what harm may be done, even without an evil design.

Two white boys, named William Skipper and Chas. Skipper, were brought up before his honor on a charge of having iron in their possession which was supposed to have been stolen. On investigation, however, it was ascertained that the iron had been taken from the camps at Hilltop. "The boys were, therefore, released."

SPARRING.—Yesterday evening, a sparring exhibition was given in Mozart Hall. The attendance, though respectable, was not so large as might have been expected from the ability of the performers, several of whom acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner in the "noble art of self-defense." We do not much admire "blows from the shoulder," especially when directed at our own head, but here that if, when men must fight, they would use their hands instead of knives and pistols, many valuable lives would be spared, even if black eyes should be given and received.

THE GOVERNOR'S ARGUMENT.—The governor argues at some length against the Monroe doctrine and interfering in Mexican affairs. In speaking of the detention of Ohio volunteers in the field, he says it was no part of his intention that these patriots were to be detained as police guard to oversee political reform in the south, still less to be marched to the Rio Grande in order to menace Maximilian or any other despotism.

A Naval Engagement. NEW YORK, Dec. 31. An arrival from the south Pacific states that a Chilean man-of-war had captured a Spanish gunboat after a brief engagement. There was great rejoicing among the Chileans in consequence.

From New York. NEW YORK, Jan. 1. The jury in the strong divorce case have been discharged, being unable to agree.

BY MAIL. WASHINGTON. Matters and Things at the White House.

SAVINGS BANKS FOR FREEDMEN. SOUTHERN MAIL FACILITIES. The Rumored New Loan Contraband Goods for Mexico.

The Fractional Currency. FINANCIAL MATTERS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. There was not a large attendance of visitors at the white house to-day, and none of these were granted an interview with the president until afternoon.

SALE AT POINT LOOKOUT. The quartermaster general, upon the recommendation of General Grant, has ordered the sale of all the government buildings at Point Lookout. These include over eighty buildings, some of which are very large. The steam laundry, used in washing for the confederate prisoners and United States troops on duty there, together with the wharf timber, will also be sold.

General Grant, commanding the department of Washington, has ordered lieutenant colonel Eyre, in command at Alexandria, to arrest all parties concerned in the riots in that city on Christmas day, and not to release any persons arrested on the demands of the civil authorities, but to refer all such cases to department headquarters.

articles, contraband of war, to Mexico, the secretary of state has directed the United States Attorney to keep a vigilant watch on all vessels sailing for Mexican ports, and to seize all contraband articles. The government is determined to break up this sort of traffic. The parties engaged in this business allege that they have a carrier route, entitled, Maximilian Express company. Some facts will shortly be made public, showing up the matter more definitely.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1865. FINANCIAL MATTERS. Senator Fessenden, chairman of the finance committee, and Hon. Samuel Hooper, chairman of the house ways and means committee, are reported to have had a long interview with Secretary McCulloch to-day, whereat financial measures were largely discussed in reference to the introduction of a bill in Congress embodying the recommendations of the secretary of the treasury.

TEXAS. CONDITION OF AFFAIRS. Ignorance, Destitution and Lawlessness. The Feeling of the People, &c., &c., &c.

A dispatch from Washington, dated the 28th, says: Brigadier General William E. Strong, inspector general on the staff of General Howe, of the freedmen's bureau, returned on Thursday from a three month's visit to the southwest, and will soon submit a report of his official action and observation. A large portion of his time while absent was spent in Texas, and accounts of the condition of affairs in that region are far from satisfactory.

On close observation, and after careful consideration of the very significant preparation going on in the neighborhood of this city and other points within the control of the imperial commander of this department, it does seem that the French did not intend to withdraw, but on the contrary, were making every preparation to meet the United States in arms at an early date. This is not the mere opinion of a "new paper correspondent," but it is the belief of "old men" who stand high in society and reason with sound and accurate judgment.

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF VERA CRUZ. The fortifications (especially the earthwork) around the city of Vera Cruz are daily being strengthened. The best of guns are being mounted, and the work is generally performed at night and an attempt made to do it in secrecy.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE. It is still said in the city of Mexico that the Emperor will visit Vera Cruz to meet the Emperor on his return to this place.

FROM THE NORTHWEST. The Indiana Legislature—The Agricultural College Defeated—Fenian Convention. INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 28. The compromise state department bill passed both houses, and will be signed by governor.

MEXICO. THE FRENCH RECEIVING REINFORCEMENTS. Preparations for an Extensive War. IMPORTANT MILITARY TRANSACTIONS.

VERA CRUZ, Dec. 7, 1865. LANDING OF ANOTHER REINFORCEMENT OF FRENCH SOLDIERS. Yesterday, immediately after the departure of the American steamer Manhattan, one thousand two hundred French soldiers, who had arrived on the previous day, in the transport Amazon, direct from abroad, were landed at Vera Cruz. To-day this force was sent into the field.

VERA CRUZ, Dec. 30. SIGNIFICANT PREPARATIONS CONTINUED FOR EXTENSIVE WAR. On close observation, and after careful consideration of the very significant preparation going on in the neighborhood of this city and other points within the control of the imperial commander of this department, it does seem that the French did not intend to withdraw, but on the contrary, were making every preparation to meet the United States in arms at an early date.

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CANADIAN AFFAIRS. The Pirate Georgia Before the Courts—Growing Opposition to the Coalition Government. Toronto, Dec. 22. In the case of the pirate Georgia, demanded by the United States government, and heard before the Toronto Assizes, Mr. McDonald, the Confederate agent, makes an affidavit that the vessel was the property of the rebel government, and was designed for the raid on Johnson's Island, and that the sale to Denison, the present possessor, was a mere blind.

MARINE DISASTERS. Loss of the Schooner Sophronia and All Her Crew—An Unknown Bark Among the Breakers. Boston, Dec. 28. The sunken vessel off Sow and Pigs, Vineyard Sound, proves to be the schooner Sophronia (of Fall River), of Bristol, R. I., with coal. All hands are supposed to have been lost. The names of the crew were: Thomas Thomsen, master, of Wiscasset; W. S. Bodry, mate, of Mattapoisett; Otis W. Chase, cook, of Harwich; James Grant, of Nantucket; J. L. Hathaway and John Shlog, seamen.

FROM BRAZIL. NEW YORK, Dec. 27. The steamer North America, from Rio Janeiro Dec. 2, via Pernambuco and St. Thomas, arrived to-day. The Emperor returned on the 9th ult. from Rio del Sud, causing great rejoicing. Coffee was lower.

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