New Orleans Bee.

THE DAILY BEE
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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 27, 1862.

Office, 73 Chartres street.

NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1862. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI.—Whole No 12,571.

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Sales at Auction To-Day.

By D. W. C. Farrington, at 11 o'clock, at the Lower Landing, opposite Canal street, Louisiana cotton.

By Hodgson & Landry, at 11 o'clock, at their mart, groceries and furniture.

By E. B. Sykes, at 10 o'clock, at No. 20 Magazine street, groceries, provisions and liquors; at 10½ o'clock, at the same place, sheet iron.

By R. E. Murphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 47 Magazine street, corn and vendues; also, at 11 o'clock, at same place, India bagging.

By J. B. Crozat, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, a lot of ground in Pasheuvg Vendue.

By R. Scott, at 10 o'clock, at No. 54 Magazine street: New York brandy, gin, whisky, coffee, lard, cheese, butter, &c.

By Vincent & Co., at 10 o'clock, at No. 64 Custom-house street, dry goods.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 11½ o'clock, at No. 13 Camp street, flour, corn, oats, choice Goshen butter.

DEPARTURE OF ADMIRAL RETHAUD.—Rear Admiral Rethaud, of the French Imperial navy, left this port last evening, on board the French man-of-war Catinat, for the Balize, where he will take passage on board of the frigate La Gurriere, upon which he will make an inspecting cruise in the Gulf, where his squadron is at present stationed. He will visit the French Islands in the Gulf. The Catinat returns to her moorings in our port.

LOST OVERBOARD.—James J. Adams, second mate of the schooner Alliance, fell overboard at the South West Pass, on the 21st instant, and was drowned. He was a native of New Jersey, aged 22 years.

FOR NEW YORK.—By reference to the list of departures of vessels from this port, it will be seen that the fast sailing bark Garibaldi, Hoyt, master, is now loading and will have immediate dispatch for the above port. Wm. J. Reid, of 32 Magazine street, is her agent.

E. T. Montgomery will make this day (Saturday) the 27th instant, at half past 11 o'clock, at store 93 Camp street, a very large and important sale of flour, butter, corn, oats, whisky, wines and sardines, which comprises a large stock of choice groceries, all of which will be sold without reserve. The above sale should attract the especial attention of the trade, and insure their attendance. For particulars refer to advertisements. At 11 o'clock, at the old auction mart, 87 Camp street, will be sold, a very large assortment of furniture, carpets, crockery, and other merchandize.

The attention of buyers of corn and India bagging is called to the sale advertised this day. See advertisement.

McCarren & Landry sell at their Mart, at 11 o'clock to-day, furniture, groceries, and balance of Holiday presents.

Mr. D. W. C. Farrington sells this morning, at 11 o'clock, at the Lower Landing, 73 bales Louisiana cotton. The terms are cash in currency.

The Latest News from Southern Sources.

The War in North Carolina.—The Latest News from Arkansas.—Later from the North.—Newspaper Comments on Burnside's Dispatches.—A Fight in Norfolk.—News from Richmond to the 19th inst.

The *National Advocate* published last evening late news obtained from Southern papers, which we republish below:

We have been kindly furnished by a gentleman with several late Mississippi papers. We extract from the Jackson *Mississippian* of the 21st.

THE WAR IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Goldsboro' December 19.—A reconnoissance last night by a squadron of the Third North Carolina cavalry, under Capt. Caraway, found the enemy encamped about two miles below White Hall. Citizens represent them as scared and out of food and out of ammunition.

Rumors on the streets this morning say reinforcements passed Kingston, on the north side of Neuse river, to succor their skedaddling friends.

As the smoke of battle clears away, it reveals considerable slaughter among the Federals at White Hall, on Tuesday. One hundred of their dead were left unburned on the field, and a pit one hundred yards long, filled with their dead, had been found.

Only three companies of the Fifth North Carolina and the Eleventh North Carolina were engaged.

Col. Forrabee, of the Fiftieth, with eighteen men of the Eleventh, fought the enemy for several hours, until reinforced by three of his own companies, who were subsequently relieved by the Eleventh, Col. Leventhorpe, under the immortal Bethel flag, who ultimately drove them from their guns into the woods. The Thirty-first North Carolina, Col. Jordan, was on the field, but with the exception of one company, it seems he have taken no part in the action.

CONFEDERATE VICTORY IN ARKANSAS.

Vicksburg, December 20.—Further particulars have been received here of the late battle in Arkansas. It was fought at Prairie Grove, near Cane Hill. Our loss is two hundred and fifty killed and wounded, and, three hundred prisoners.

Twenty wagons of clothing, and four stand of colors were captured by our forces.

All accounts represent its having been a decisive victory. Gen. Hooper and Col. Clarke, of Missouri, are reported killed.

THE BLOCKADE RVADED.

Charleston, December 19.—The iron steamer Connahia, formerly the Giraffe, of Liverpool, with a cargo of shoes, blankets, Whitworth guns and a number of officers, arrived yesterday at a Confederate port. The cargo and ship belongs to the Government.

LATEST FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Goldsboro', December 19, 3 P. M.—Colonel Fremont, chief engineer on the Wilmington railroad, has just arrived in the train from Wilmington. He passed over the entire track to Neuse river, on a hand car, and says he can repair all damages on the road in two days.

All quiet.

Latest from the North.

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON BURNSIDE'S DISPATCH.

Richmond, December 19.—The Washington *Chronicle*, of the 17th, Lincoln's organ, has the following article based on Burnside's dispatch that he had recrossed the Rappahannock:

As this writing we have nothing but this simple announcement, most yesterday morning from Falmouth that our troops are all this side of the river, and that the pontoons are up. If they recrossed back to Falmouth without loss of men and material in operation, as it is reported they did, it indicates skill and good fortune on the part of our Generals, or inattention or over confidence on the part of the Confederates, or all these together. Our army being unable to force the enemy's works was in a most dangerous position on the south side of the Rappahannock, and the Confederates, if vigilant, had no escape, have lost an opportunity such as they have not had since they neglected to take Washington after the first battle of Bull Run. The failure at Fredericksburg has taken the public, especially our military authorities, greatly by surprise that opinions are hardly yet ripened to be what ought now to be done or what it likely to be done. For ourselves, we hope that as few weeks will terminate the winter of this latitude, the army designated for the defence of Washington will go at once into winter quarters.

The *Star* says the failure to bag the rebels will be seen the whole country with feelings of painful surprise. It adds, sarcastically, that perhaps the army was not gotten after all to annihilate the rebels but to guard Washington, and advised that it go into winter quarters for the few remaining winter months.

ROW IN SORRELL.

Richmond, December 19.—The intelligence from Norfolk is that a desperate fight had occurred at that town on Monday night, between a large number of soldiers and the forces of the Provost Marshal. Some one in the theatre proposed three cheers for Jeff Davis, when the whole house shook the building. The individual was called for three cheers for Lincoln, meeting with a faint response from the audience. Four [illegible] were arrested and sent to Fort [illegible].

A Confederate Cavalry made a raid to [illegible], Maryland, and captured about forty [illegible] Cavalry.

Hilton Head's expedition passed Hilton Head on the [illegible].

A skirmish from Nashville of the 16th, says there is no sign of the Confederate advance.

The Federal Generals Jackson and Bayard and Colonel Dickinson, were killed at the battle of Fredericksburg.

FROM RICHMOND.

Richmond, December 19.—All quiet above.

The rest that the enemy at Fredericksburg crossed the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg is unfounded.

No news of interest in official quarters.

GEN. JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

The presence of Gen. Joseph E. Johnson in the Western Department is universally regarded as a most encouraging omen. At every point he is united with joy by soldier and citizen. The people with one bosom of gladness greets his coming.

COL. H. W. ALLEN.

We are happy to learn that H. W. Allen, the gallant commander of the Fourth Louisiana regiment, has recovered from his severe wound received in the battle of Baton Rouge, and joined his command a few days ago. His boys received him with great warmth and enthusiasm.

We learn that a petition signed by all the commissioned officers of his regiment, and which would have been gladly ratified by the privates, will be forwarded to the President recommending his promotion to a brigadiership.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM PORT HUDSON.

We have a letter from Port Hudson, written on the 16th inst., from which we learn that on the night of the 13th inst., Captain Bean's battery, together with a detachment of infantry, were stationed on the other side of the river to give our Yankee friends a touch. Capt. Bean had with him only three pieces of light artillery.

At daybreak, on the 14th, he opened on the gunboat (the only one remaining with the Essex) which, after being hit several times, got beyond the ram for protection, from which position she kept on shelling our troops for about one hour; but finding the position rather too hot, they both left and started down the river. Damages on our side one man wounded in the hand by the explosion of a shell. The gunboat must have suffered severely before she could slide herself behind her mammoth protector.

Three of the Federal gunboats (the Essex among them) were lying six miles below Port Hudson on the 14th inst. Gen. Beal sent a detachment of cavalry over the river, twenty strong, who took with them two negroes as a bait. Having dismounted at a proper distance, they approached near the bank, and concealing themselves behind the levee in front of the gunboats, placed the negroe on the top of the levee, with orders to hail for some boat to come and take them. Five men pushed off in a yawl for the shore; when they were in proper range the negroes skedaddled, and our boys opened upon them, killing two and wounding another. This will teach the vandals a lesson in the art of negro stealing, which may be useful to them hereafter.

CAPTURE OF A FEDERAL STEAMER.

Quite a handsome little exploit was performed a short time since on the Mississippi river by a portion of Captain Terrell's cavalry command, led by the gallant Captain himself.

On the morning of the 27th ult., a report came to Hampton's Ferry, where this company was encamped, that the enemy were committing all sorts of depredations some eighteen miles below and three or four miles back from the river. Captain T. proceeded at once with his company to the scene of the Federal depredations, but upon his arrival the Federals had retreated across the river. It was learned, however, that a few of the enemy had gone up the river. Captain Terrell detached First Lieutenant John Pope, privates J. F. Blanc, F. M. Rogers, F. M. Waddell, and volunteer L. Boothe, and proceeded to the river to stand picket for the enemy; the remaining part of the company were ordered back to camp.

This squad remained on the river till midnight, when they proceeded up the river bank. Late next day they discovered a Federal steamer on the opposite bank of the river. At this place they were joined by T. E. Verbois, and the little band crossed the river in a skiff below Plaquemine. They charged and captured the steamer Lone Star, commanded by Captain McKeire, formerly of the U. S. Navy, commanding blockading squadron off the St. John's river.

The boat was run down eleven miles and landed on this side of the river at Capt Stockdale's pickets, where a portion of her cargo was saved, consisting of about thirty hogsheads of sugar, mattresses, bedding, &c., when the boat, with the balance of its cargo, was burnt.

The crew on the boat consisted of twenty-three men; there were also two passengers on board. Some of those who were on shore at the time of the capture escaped; the balance were sent as prisoners of war to Port Hudson.

Captain Terrell ordered supper, of which his squadron partook with great relish. He also kindly invited the prisoners to join them in the feast, and, with the fine liquors, coffee, cheese and other excellent things he found ready provided, he treated his guests with a profuse and liberal hand. Altogether they had a jolly time of it.

IMPORTANT NEWS—ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY ON THE MOBILE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

We learn from Captain J. E. Brown, of the Pioneer Express Company, that Monday afternoon, as the train was about leaving Shannon Station, seven and a half miles above Okalona, a dash was made upon that point by about 500 Federal cavalry, from the direction of Pontotoc, which place, it was ascertained, had been occupied by a strong force at 11 o'clock in the morning. The train started and escaped, notwithstanding the efforts to stop or cripple it by firing into it. The fire was returned by one man with a pistol, and one of the enemy was wounded.

Connewah bridge, two miles above Okalona, steam having given out, the passengers were all transferred to two cars, the others, three in number, being left behind. The intelligence being communicated to Col. Burbridge, at Okalona, he ordered his own command and another small force under arms, emphatically declaring that he would stop them. This force amounted to about 750 men. He also dispatched a scout to Major Harris, in command of a small force near Saltillo, to join him. Saltillo was occupied at 8 o'clock the same morning by a force reported to be 5000 strong.

The object of this move is, of course, to cut off the railroad, and to distract Gen. Pemberton, as well as to waste the country and obtain cotton, of which there is a great amount throughout North Mississippi, which, with the negroes, it possesses our people every where in front of the enemy, and we must add our Government, has not been destroyed. The corn, which is abundant in that region, and for which planters have been refusing a dollar a bushel, the Federals will now get for nothing.

We omitted to state that the up train was stopped at West Point Monday night, the down train starting at 8 o'clock—two hours before time—in order to meet it there. The telegraph line is down, which prevented the news of this affair from coming through sooner.—*Mobile News.*

THE BATTLE OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

[From the Mobile Evening News.]

Contrary to Gen. Lee's expectation, the enemy did not renew the battle on the 14th, but instead of this sent in a flag of truce for leave to bury his dead. The inference is that he was severely punished in the first stage of his march to Richmond, and was driven back from the whole Confederate front of assault to the cover of his gunboats and artillery on the heights opposite Fredericksburg. At this rate it will take Burnside some time to make the sixty miles of bad roads that separate him from the Confederate capital.

We may, of course, expect to hear of an early renewal of the conflict. What General Lee's plans are, can only be conjectured. Some are of the opinion that his true policy will be to fall back nearer to Richmond, for the purpose of drawing Burnside further from his base, increasing the difficulty of his supplies, augmenting the danger of his retreat, if beaten, and thus bringing our own forces still nearer to their supplies, and that our defences near Richmond are stronger than anywhere else. The country reposes the fullest confidence in the sagacity, patriotism, courage and generalship of General Lee.

While we write we have no further particulars of the losses on either side. That of the enemy appears to be largely in excess of our own. It is a hard and bitter trial to give up our brave men to such a sacrifice, but it is a trial from which brave men cannot shrink with honor.

The *Advocate* adds to the above:

We have also received the Vicksburg *Whig* of the 19th. There is not a word in it regarding the reported attack on that place. We extract from it the following paragraphs:

Four of the enemy's gunboats were in Yazoo river yesterday, in the neighborhood of the "White House."

The Legislature met in Jackson on Wednesday. Upon a call of the roll, it was ascertained there was no quorum present, and both branches adjourned over until yesterday.

Gen. Van Dorn has been placed in command of the cavalry forces about Grenada. This is a position that suits him, and we think that now he will perform some deeds that will shook his waning reputation. He has courage and dash of a high order, and will, no doubt, make an able cavalry officer—something quite needed in Gen. Pemberton's army.

FROM BATON ROUGE.

Fourteen gunboats and sloops were at Baton Rouge yesterday, and it was thought troops were being landed below. The Essex started up the river for Fort Hudson, and we suppose as soon as the land force in Louisiana reached the whole fleet will have up and make a simultaneous attack by land and water. Our troops at Port Hudson are in excellent trim, and the defences are very strong.

SPANISH SQUADRON IN THE GULF.

A Washington correspondent writes: "The Spanish squadron now cruising in the Gulf might undoubtedly give trouble to the large fleet of our transport vessels which will soon, from all indications, be obliged to navigate that region. Looking at the course of France and Spain together, it would seem probable that the *entente cordiale* spoken by Gen. Prim in Mexico, may be renewed in a new Northern latitude.

ARRIVAL OF A BEARER OF DISPATCHES FROM THE FRENCH TO THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, 16th.]

Three French gentlemen arrived in the city on Saturday morning from Washington, via Winchester and Stanton, who, it is understood, were bearer of dispatches from the French to the Confederate Government.

Important from Mexico—Battle between the French and Mexicans—Mexicans Badly Whipped—The French Occupy Tampico—The Commerce in the Port Open to the World—A Panic at Matamoras—Fall of Cotton in Matamoras, etc.

We find the following late and important news in the Vicksburg *Whig* of the 19th:

San Antonio, December 6th, 1862.—By express from Monterey, we are in receipt of the following interesting items of news:

A French force, of about 3000 men, (part of the advance guard) met and engaged a Mexican division of about 25,000, commanded by General Ortega, near the town of Pueblo, and after a sharp fight the Mexicans gave way, and fled in all directions.

The victors took possession of Pueblo, where they still await the arrival of reinforcements, and then advance on the City of Mexico, distance 90 miles.

A French force of 6000 landed and took possession of Tampico. It is supposed that port will be open to the commerce of the world, but trade will not be permitted to extend beyond the limits held by the invaders.

A French frigate, with sailors flying, was recently seen by some Mexicans passing through the Federal fleet off the mouth of the Rio Grande, and supposing that all of the vessels belonged to the same nationality, they made good haste to Matamoras, with the alarming information that a French fleet had arrived to blockade, and probably attack the town.

The news created quite a panic in Matamoras, and it was not until the facts of the case were ascertained and made public, that confidence was restored. The foregoing explains many of the rumors lately in circulation.

Cotton has fallen twenty-six cents in Matamoras—*Austin Almanac Extra, Dec. 5.*

The *True Delta* published in its evening edition the following:

The Guerrillas at their Work—The Steamer J. M. Brown Attacked—One Killed and Three Wounded.

On the 23d instant, as the steamer J. M. Brown was proceeding up bayou Bonfouca after a load of bricks and wood, and when near the plantation of Terrance Cousin, she was fired into by a band of guerrillas, forty-five in number, under the command of Captain Evans. One negro was killed and another wounded; private John Hoyt, Fourth Massachusetts battery, was also wounded. Upon being answered by a detachment of company F, Thirty-first Massachusetts volunteers, and a detachment of the Fourth Massachusetts battery, (which were on board of the steamer,) the guerrillas beat a hasty retreat.

After the steamer had finished loading, and while proceeding down the bayou, and near the ship-yard of Eugene Pichon, she was again attacked by the guerrillas, who had been reinforced by another company, the whole numbering over one hundred. After firing was kept up for some time on both sides, but with what effect to the guerrillas was not known, owing to the dense thicket in which they were concealed. The only person injured on the steamer was Captain Darling, in command of the expedition, who was slightly wounded in the leg above the knee, while standing on the boiler deck giving command to his men. The boat was riddled with balls.

Every one on the boat, we are informed, acted with the greatest coolness. The officers were without arms, but not one deserted his post, but stood up to his duty, notwithstanding the perfect shower of balls that whizzed about them. The soldiers behaved in the bravest manner, and it is believed they did considerable execution in the ranks of the guerrillas.

Confederate Movements in the West.

We published yesterday an article from the Richmond *Enquirer* of the 10th inst., with regard to the military movements in the West. The following, from the New York *World* of the 12th inst., adds to the interest of the news from that quarter:

The campaign in the West has assumed a new and startling phase. The Confederates seem to have abandoned all hope of saving the Mississippi Valley from the combined naval and military expeditions now moving slowly down towards the Gulf, and have concentrated all their forces in the West under General Joe Johnston to attack General Rosencrans, whose army, we apprehend, is not so large as is generally supposed, for the reason that recently all available reserved Union forces in the West have been sent to Generals Grant, Sherman and McClernand. Unless all the signs fail, General Halleck designed that General Rosencrans's army should be one merely of occupation and garrison, while the real work was done on the Mississippi. The Confederates seem to have penetrated this plan, and have concentrated their armies to crush General Rosencrans, which there is great danger they will succeed in doing. The Confederates are fighting for life, and we thought of at all, except in their normal relation in this country. The Constitution provides for them, therefore, only their condition of slaves; but it provides for these slaves only as they regard to the mutual duties of the several States to each other, and not as assuming any right over a foreign, a general government; and secondly, it prohibits the further importation of persons of their race into the country after a certain lapse of time, even here carefully avoiding any assumption of power over them or any recognition of them, except as "such persons as any of *the States* now existing shall think proper to admit," previous to the year 1808.

We think it evident from this showing that neither Indians nor negroes were ever thought of as citizens. The first were expressly excluded. They were not even reckoned as a portion of the basis of representation and direct taxation. With the latter, the case was impossible, because, as Mr. Lincoln says in his message, they were "property acquired by descent or by purchase, the same as any other property." So that, therefore, taxed as slaves at the same time, it was agreed between the North and the South to make them also a fractional basis of representation. They were not even considered human beings in any but a productive persons in a state of slavery. Such was the compromise finally effected, as appear by the debates of the Convention for forming the Constitution. The country taxed them, as property, and the South acquired a certain representation from them, as persons.

The legislation of Congress and of several States is equally clear upon this point of citizenship of negroes, and consequently of the chimerical claim of negro equality now set up by the sentimental philosophers. While some few of the States have admitted negroes to vote upon equal terms, more have imposed a special property qualification, and others again merely refuse them the right to vote, but absolutely exclude them from their soil. Can there be any such thing as American citizenship for a negro, subject to such manifold restrictions? Certainly, but if anything further were needed upon such a point, the action of Congress, from the earliest date, in providing who may and who may not become adopted citizens, and in many other ways what construction is to be given to the term citizenship for those born upon the soil. By the Act of 1790 it is provided, that "any alien, being a free white person, who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States," for the requisite number of years, may become a citizen. The several statutes of 1795, 1802, 1804, 1824 and 1828, employ the same expression, "being a *free white person*," as a condition of naturalization. If, then, a colored person who was a slave in another land cannot become a citizen of the United States, can such a privilege be acquired by one who has been a slave in this country, or by the descendants of such person, taking citizenship from an ancestor who never enjoyed it and was not entitled to it under the laws? We can hardly imagine that the Attorney-General will attempt to make out such a case.

The Western Virginia Bill.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. *World* states the following with regard to the bill lately passed in the United States Congress, providing for the admission of Western Virginia as a State.

The bill which has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, providing for the admission of the people of Western Virginia into the Union, is not likely to be immediately acted upon by President Lincoln, owing to all the circumstances attending the erection of the new State being of so much importance, in connection with the constitutional questions, as to require profound consideration.

It was intimated in the debate in the House recently that the creation of this new State of Western Virginia was to be the inauguration of the policy of the administration in regard to such formations of new States from States partly in rebellion; but this from recently obtained information is known to be untrue, nor was any one so advised by the Executive Department.

Interesting Correspondence from Washington.

We take the following interesting items of news from the Washington correspondence of the N. Y. *Journal of Commerce*:

Washington, December 13, 1862—The *Intelligencer* is pleading with some earnestness in behalf of the joint resolution introduced into the Senate by Mr. Davis, proposing an amendment to the Constitution to alter the mode of electing the President and Vice-President. The fundamental idea of this proposed amendment is to let each State nominate for itself, and the election to be by the Senators and Representatives elected to Congress, who shall not be a Convention. It is thought that the original provision in the Constitution on this subject has proved a failure, and that this new proposition deserves serious attention.

The Superintendent of the Naval Academy at Newport has informed the Secretary of the Navy that the amount which will be required for the support of that institution during the next fiscal year is $359,950; for pay of naval officers generally, $103,569; for 503 midshipmen, as students, $261,500; for watchmen and others, $12,681; and for contingent expenses, $12,200.

The substance of the cumbersome report recently submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury, touching the various expenses of the Government during the ensuing year is as follows:

Civil list	$7,109,276 97
Intercourse with foreign nations	1,288,128 44
Miscellaneous	1,102,000 00
Interior Department	16,052,994 97
War Department	726,226,146 60
Navy Department	68,387,253 01
Total	$827,276,154 98

The management of the mule population in the outskirts of this city is attracting much attention, and the cruelty of the persons who have the poor brutes in charge is heartily condemned. Large numbers of costly and valuable animals have, for weeks past, been congregated on a hill-side near Rock creek without any shelter, and exposed night and day to the inclement weather. From the effects of this hard usage they are dying by the score, and a competent man informs us that all this loss to the Government would have been saved by the erection of a few sheds and a little humane attention.

Saturday Evening.—There is an intense anxiety to hear from Fredericksburg, but the Government is as secret as death, and blank countenances pictured upon every face. I have never before heard such plain talk about men and measures, in high places, as I have heard to-day. The people would seem to be getting savage and reckless, and no wonder, in the end of this horrible state of affairs we have got to.

And now for an assertion that will astonish you. Between the hours of three and six o'clock this afternoon, in and about and in front of Willard's Hotel alone, over one hundred officers of the army were smoking and shaking and laughing, and having a good time generally, and all this while a great battle was said to be progressing at Fredericksburg. Verily the story of Rome on fire and Nero playing the fiddle must give place to the kindred taste of the present hour. Of course we shall to-morrow hear that our good officers in Virginia have been met by *superior numbers*.

Message of Mr. Lincoln on the Indian Outrages.

Washington, December 11.—The President to day sent the following message:

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with your resolution of December 5, 1862, requesting the President to furnish the Senate with all the information in his possession touching the late Indian barbarities in the State of Minnesota, and also the evidence in his possession upon which some of the principal actors and bear been executed and condemned to death, I have the honor to state that on the receipt of said resolution I transmitted the same to the Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by a note, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, marked "A," and in response to which I received through that department a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a copy of which is also herewith inclosed, marked "B." I further state that on the 5th day of November last I received a long and elaborate dispatch from Major-General Pope, at St. Paul, Minnesota, simply announcing the names of the persons sentenced to be hanged. I immediately telegraphed to have transcripts of the records in all the cases forwarded to me, which transcripts, however, did not reach me until two or three days before the present meeting of Congress. Meantime I received, through telegraphic dispatches and otherwise, appeals in behalf of the condemned, appeals for their execution, and expressions of opinion as to the proper policy in regard to them and the Indians generally in that vicinity, some of which, as I understand, is within the scope of your inquiry.

After the arrival of the transcripts of records, but before I had sufficient opportunity to examine them, I received a joint letter from one of the senators and both of the representatives from Minnesota, which contained a statement of the fact not found in the records of the trials, and for which reason I transmit a copy marked "C." I also, for the same reason, inclose a printed memorial of the Legislature of that State addressed to me, and forwarded with the letter referred to. Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak on the one hand, and fearful, on the other, lest, in the zeal of cruelty on the other, I caused a careful examination of the records of the trials to be made, first ordering the execution of such as had been proved guilty of violating the laws. Contrary to my expectations only two of this class were found. I then directed a further examination and classification of all who were known to have participated in the massacres as distinguished from participation in battles. This reduced the number, and included two convicted of female violation. One of the number is strongly recommended, to me, to mercy, which trifled him, for commutation to ten years' imprisonment, and I therefore the other thirty nine to be executed on Friday the 19th instant. The order was dispatched from here on Monday, the 8th instant, by a messenger to General Sibley; and on the 7th the order is herewith transmitted, marked D. An abstract of the evidence as to the forty is herewith inclosed, marked E. To avoid the immense amount of copying, I will send only the original transcripts of the records of the trials as received by me. This is as full and complete a response to the resolution as it is in my power to make.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Fight in Arkansas.

The New York *World* of the 11th, contains the following editorial paragraph upon the late fight near Fayetteville, in Arkansas:

The accounts, official and unofficial, of the victory in Arkansas, must be taken with several grains of allowance. In the first place, there is no doubt rebel army is not 25,000 men. Our correspondent at Helena, who understands whereof he writes, informs us that there are not now more than 15,000 armed rebels in all of the States, and many of these are the rabble of the West, without organization or discipline, and mostly armed with shot-guns. All of the disciplined trans-Mississippi rebel troops were some time since transferred to Pemberton's and Price's commands to resist the march of our armies upon Vicksburg. In the next place, although a victory is claimed, no prisoners or guns are mentioned as having been captured. The affair was probably a prolonged and desperate skirmish without any very decisive result. It is quite time our military historians learned to tell the truth and nothing but the truth.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—The second representation of "Dot" at the Varieties last night, drew a very fine house, and the interest of our theatre-goers in this beautiful play seems as strong as of yore. There was a marked improvement in the *mise en scene*, and the performance gave evidence of a more perfect understanding of the various characters. What we said of the first representation, and the respective performers, was fully justified by the performance last night; and the few delays consequent on a first presentation were removed. Mrs. Gladstone, as *Bertha*, could not be surpassed, we think, in her life-like delineation of the peculiar *role* of a blind girl; and the *Dot* of Mrs. Baker was as near the truth as Dickens himself could wish it. Mr Eyer's rendition of rough, honest *John Perrybingle*, and Mr. Baker's *Caleb*—the good old man waiting for that son from the "golden South America"—were natural in the highest degree. Mr. Rand as *Edward Plummer* gave us a fine exemplar of the dashing sailor-boy; and Mr. Gobay, although suddenly called upon to assume the part, was not wanting in interest as *Tilly Slowboy*, evidently mastered the intricacies of the character, and gave us last night a highly acceptable and very humorous rendition. In the afterpiece, "Out on a Spree," Mr. Baker, as *Ned*, and Mr. Bowers, as *Missile*, kept the house in a roar. "Dot" and "Out on a Spree" are again announced for to-night.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—"The Three Cousteheads," "Mesmerism a Humbug," Diguby and Impedence," and the other oddities and burlesques of the Minstrels kept the audience at the Academy last night in the most rollicking humor. They give a performance replete with fun, humor and melody to-night. That "Sump Spesch" of Campbell's is well worth listening to. Let them have a fine house to-night.

State Tax Collector's Office,
Second District of New Orleans,
Office, corner St. Peter and Chartres sts.

NOTICE is hereby given to the State Tax Payers of the Second District, that my office will be open from 9 o'clock, A. M. to 3 o'clock, P. M. daily, (Sundays excepted) for the purpose of receiving all capital taxes due the State for the year 1862, as fixed by the Capital Tax, which must be paid forthwith, in default of which delinquency will be subject to the penalties prescribed by law. Parties that have paid their taxes for the year 1861 will present their receipts at this office for examination, to avoid mistakes.

E. W. C. CAMPBELL,
State Tax Collector Second District.
New Orleans, December 13, 1862. dec15 10d

OFFICE OF THE SUN,
FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, 1862.

COTTON.—A lot of 16 bales sold 8 bags, classing about Ordinary to Middling, sold to-day at auction, at 56@ 57 c.

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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Shocking Wife Murder.—Inquest.—Coroner Bench, on Thursday, held an inquest on the body of Mrs. Mary Reuter, aged 35 years, a native of Germany, found dead in the house No. 190 Franklin street, corner of Lafayette street. The evidence showed that she had been murdered by her husband, August Reuter, whose arrest is elsewhere noticed. Dr. Bench made the post mortem examination, by which it was found that she had received five wounds in different parts of her body—three in the back, one in the right arm, and one on the right side of her neck. There were two of the wounds necessarily mortal, viz: one above and between the shoulders, immediately on the spine, a transverse wound, an inch and a half in length, and between two and three inches in depth, just below the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra, cutting off a portion of the spinal process, and passing through the vertebræ; and one large gapsue wound in the back just below the left shoulder blade, five inches long, and which had the appearance of two cuts running into one. This wound gaped open about an inch and a half. It entered the chest at the right rib, severing that bone, and penetrated the heart, cutting through the left auricle into the right ventricle. Either of these wounds would produce instant death. Reuter, our readers will recollect, had been driven from the presence of his wife and children, and prohibited from approaching, on account of his being diseased. Judge Bell imposed an order on him to this effect. This order he refused to obey. He was again taken before Judge Bell, who sentenced him, if we mistake not, to a month's imprisonment, which term, we believe, has not, yet expired. How he got out of confinement we know not. A chisel was the weapon with which he perpetrated the deed. The verdict in the case charges him with murder.

No More Blue Tickets!—The City Railroad Company celebrates Christmas by giving notice that it will in future receive no more of the whilom exclusively favored blue tickets in payment of fare. Such of them, however, as the drivers and starters may pronounce genuine will be exchanged for the new tickets. Of course all white ones will avoid receiving the blue tickets; for it is almost impossible for the uninitiated to distinguish between the counterfeit and the genuine ones.

Old Servant Gone.—Officer Chevalier, of the Second District police, who had been for a long time in force, shuffled off this mortal coil, on Wednesday, quite unexpectedly. He had always performed his duties faithfully, and with a single eye, and was consequently respected in his sphere.

Again 226!—Coroner Bench yesterday held his twenty second inquest at that frightful sextraband negro charnel house, 226 Front Levee street. The subject of it was an infant negress found dead, a few years old, belonging to Wm. Schaeffer, of the parish of Catahoula. The child was a native of the State. Her mother and another of the woman's children had previously died at the same place. Verdict, "Pneumonia."

Accident from Orange Peel.—Michel Meyer got into trouble, from slipping on an orange peel yesterday. He was walking on the banquette of Seventh street, between Felton and Chippewa streets, when he trod on a piece of orange peel, and slipping, fell, and sustained a severe fracture of the left fore-arm. He had been conveyed to the Charity Hospital.

Provost Court — Judge Peabody.—Judge Peabody sat on Christmas morning to dispose of dock cases, as well as yesterday.

Notice to Police Officers.—Judge Peabody yesterday gave notice that in future he will severely punish any officer who may in any manner lend trust those whom they may take into custody.

The Judge also gave notice that officers must be punctual in their attendance at Court, by its opening in the morning.

Christmas.—The report from the Fourth District police station for Christmas day, stated that everything was as quiet as quiet that there was nothing to mention but that fact.

Cricket.—There was quite a lively game of Cricket played at the Delachaise Ground on Tuesday last, between eleven of the officers of H. B. M. sloop-of-war Rinaldo, and eleven British residents of the city. The latter were by eighty-four runs. We understand, however, that the Rinaldo players purpose having their revenge during the coming week.

Violent Assault.—Mary M. Naughton was arrested on Thursday, charged by Mrs. Jane Leahy with getting drunk on Christmas morning, an assault and battery on her, maiming her in the arm.

Stealing an Umbrella.—Patrick Moore, of Company K, Twenty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers, was arrested by Officer Goldsteen with stealing an umbrella from [illegible], No. 159 Poydras street, was to answer before Judge Peabody.

Stealing Beef.—Bartley Finney is in custody, charged by James Brannigan with stealing a piece of beef in the St. Mary's Market.

Ought to Know Better.—Lieut Lynch is in