

NEWS BY THE ARAGO

By the arrival of the *Arago*, we have added to the 6th inst. Most of her news is anticipated by our Charleston and Savannah files. See another column.

The news from Chattanooga of the 5th, reports everything quiet along the lines, and puts the casualties of the Union army at four thousand five hundred men in all the recent battles. We captured six thousand four hundred and fifty prisoners and forty-six guns.

From Cumberland Gap we learn that General Foster had driven the enemy across Clinch river, and was following them yesterday. The report of the death of John C. Breckinridge from wounds received at Ringgold is confirmed.

The news from North Carolina is interesting. The entire company of Capt. White's rebel guerrillas were captured on the 25th ult. by Capt. Graham, of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry, and brought into Newbern. The *Raleigh Standard* says that thirteen blockade runners—all steamers—heavily laden, succeeded in running safely into Wilmington on the 19th ult.

FURLONGS TO RE-ENLISTING VETERANS.
—The order recently issued, that Volunteers now in the service, who re-enlist as veteran Volunteers, shall have a furlough of at least thirty days previous to the expiration of their original enlistment, secures this privilege to the Volunteers, either by ordering all so enlisting with their officers, to report in their respective States, through the Governors, to the superintendent of the recruiting service, for furlough and reorganization, or by granting furloughs to the men individually. Commanding Generals of Departments and Armies are authorized to grant these furloughs within the limit of time fixed, in compliance with the order, as the demands of the service will best admit, reporting their action to the Adjutant-General of the Army. In going to and from their respective States and homes, the veteran Volunteers furloughed will be furnished with transportation by the Quartermaster's Department. When three-fourths of a regiment or company re-enlist, the Volunteers so enlisted may be furloughed in a body for at least 30 days, to go home with their officers to their respective States and Districts to reorganize and recruit; and the individuals of the regiments or companies who do not re-enlist shall be assigned to duty in other companies or regiments until the expiration of their time of service.

The British Government has recently sent communications to all its colonies, stating distinctly that the Home Government will no longer defray the military charges for the internal good order of the several communities, nor for their military defence in the event of war, unless in time of peace the colonists consent to liquidate the expense of keeping up a regular force sent from that country. It is also said that the Home Government is pledged to the reduction of all the establishments in the colonies to the lowest state consistent with safety, and that the military staff, especially, will come under the pruning-knife. This will be sad news for the loyal citizens of the British North American provinces, whose souls are disturbed with forebodings of a Yankee invasion. It is not impossible that they may come to a different view of the blessings of British rule, when they find it taxing them with the burdens of a sovereign state, while hampering them with the restrictions of colonial dependence.

The Hon. Lucien Anderson, recently captured at Mayfield by the rebels, passed through Cairo on the 23d, en route for home. He was released on condition that he would procure the release of Trusten Polk.

Advices from Mr. Adams, our minister to England, confirm the news that a new trial is granted by the Court of Exchequer in the case of the *Alexandra*.

What is it that causes a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor? A draft.

THE NEWS.

FROM GRANT'S ARMY.—Very important movements are in contemplation, but mention of them is contraband. A dispatch reports that Gen. John C. Breckinridge died from wounds received in the fight at Ringgold Station, on the 29th. It is reported that Bragg has been reinforced by Joe Johnston at Dalton, Ga. Another battle is anticipated by some but is generally thought that Bragg's army is too demoralized to make a stand. The winter campaign is probably over in that region, as Grant will have to complete his lines of communication before moving farther.

The *Richmond Whig* in speaking of the defeat of Bragg, says:

"We are frank to confess that we are filled with very grave apprehensions as to the consequences that may flow from this reverse. If the army under Bragg could not hold Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, we are forced to ask ourselves what position is there between them and Atlanta or the Ocean, they can hold? What position is Longstreet left in, and how can he unite himself again with the army of Bragg, unless by an immense circuit through Virginia?"

Details given of the operations at Knoxville are up to Monday, Nov. 30th, from which it appears that Longstreet at that date was still making strong efforts for the capture of the place. On Sunday, Nov. 29th, the rebels made a furious assault on Gen. Ferrero's position, Fort Saunders, but were gallantly repulsed with heavy loss—700 killed and wounded and 234 taken prisoners. Col. Russ, commanding the assaulting party, Col. McElroy and Lieut.-Col. Thomas were killed. We captured three stands of colors. Our loss was 25 killed and 40 wounded.

The supplies in Knoxville are ample for the present. The rebels have been reinforced by one or two of Bushrod Johnson's divisions. Ere this Longstreet will have been caught between two Union armies or will have retreated into Virginia.

The military authorities at Washington received a telegram on the 3d inst. from Gen. Foster who was joined at Cumberland Gap by the forces previously sent thither by Gen. Burnside to guard that important point. It is expected that he will operate against the rear of Longstreet who is retreating into Virginia. Gen. Sherman it is thought had reached Knoxville by the 5th inst.

We have New Orleans advices to the 23d ult. On the 14th Gen. Banks sailed from Brazos with six steamships and took possession of Corpus Christi Pass. We now hold Brazos, Santiago Island, Point Isabel, Brownsville, Fort Brown, and Mustang Island. On Mustang Island the forts, troops and munitions of war, were surrendered without the loss of a man. We took a company of artillery and a squadron of cavalry.

From the Army of the Potomac the news is not so cheerful. Gen. Meade had advanced some miles toward Orange Court House, where he came up with the enemy strongly entrenched and in great force. After visiting the entire line he was satisfied that the enemy had anticipated his movements and secured a position unassailable by the force at his command. His army was then ordered to recross the Rapid Ann and occupy Fredericksburg and the line of the Rappahannock. One important advantage has been gained by his late forward movement, a much shorter line of communication with his base of supply. The line was formerly seventy-five miles long; it is now but thirteen of railroad. The old depot of Aquia Creek will now be used. Upon receipt of this news gold advanced four per cent. It is said that Meade will be displaced and Dan. Sickles take command of the army. In the several fights and skirmishes of the advance and retreat we lost about 1,000 men, inflicting an equal loss on Lee, with the addition of 2,000 prisoners.

Rebel papers say that their great ram *Missouri*, built at Shreveport, La., is a total failure. She cost \$500,000.

News by Flag of Truce.

The Siege of Knoxville Raised.

Longstreet Retreating into Virginia.

BRISTOL, Dec. 7.—There is no longer a doubt that Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville and is retreating in this direction, in consequence of heavy reinforcements being received by Burnside.

Firing was heard this morning in the direction of Morristown by persons from Blountsville.

Capt. Pate Everett, of the 9th Kentucky cavalry, attacked the enemy a few days since at Salliersville, Ky., and routed them completely, capturing a number of prisoners, horses and arms.

CHARLESTON.—We maintained some weeks ago that the Yankee Government at Charleston had been effectually played out, that the whole gigantic expedition was a disgraceful failure, and that knowing it well they only delayed the confession in order to postpone the ignominy which it would bring along with it.

This opinion is about to be sustained by the Yankees themselves. They now say that Gillmore can go no further, and cannot seriously damage the city without a forward movement, that he has got to the end of his tether, and the iron-clads must do the rest, as we are now three times as strong as we were when they attempted it and got battered to pieces in April.

From Richmond.

ORANGE C. H., December 2, 1863.

General S. Cooper—The enemy retreated during the night. Pursuit was made this morning, but he had re-crossed the Rapidan before we reached it. A few prisoners were captured. R. E. LEE.

The enemy left nothing in his retreat. He brought over his whole army, which consisted of five corps of infantry, numbering sixty thousand men, besides his artillery and cavalry. Five hundred prisoners have certainly been captured during this raid of Meade's.

From East Tennessee.

DALTON, Dec. 2, 1863.

General S. Cooper—The enemy has fallen back across the Chickamauga, destroying everything in his route, including the rail road and bridges. His loss was very heavy in the attack on our rear guard under Claburn.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

A special dispatch to the *Atlanta Intelligencer*, from Dalton Dec. 2d, says Bragg has been relieved of his command by the President. Hardee succeeds him.

General Bragg was serenaded last night by the band of the Fourth Florida brigade. Gen. Bragg was called out. He said he accepted with gratitude and heartfelt thanks the compliment paid him.—The association so long existed between us has ceased. To-morrow he would leave them. He alluded to the many battles fought and won during the revolution by the bravery of our troops. In the most feeling and touching manner he then took a long and sad farewell. He assured them that the memory of his associations with them would ever hold fresh in his mind.

From Northern Virginia.

ORANGE, C. H. Dec. 7.—The previous reports of the enemy having retired behind the Rappahannock are confirmed by later news. It is also reported that the enemy is tearing up the railroad between the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. A large wagon train was seen moving down between the two rivers yesterday. The enemy has some camps around Stevensburg, in Culpepper county. His pickets extend to Mitchell's Station, Culpepper county, four miles behind the Rapidan river.

A Successful Raid on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

WATERFORD, MISS., Dec. 7.—General Stephen D. Lee has just concluded a splendid raid on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. He drove the enemy into Pocahontas on the 2d inst., and crossed the river safely to his district. On the 4th inst. Chalmers' command drove the enemy in a huddle on the bridge over Wolf river, slaughtering them terribly. Three hundred Yankees were driven into the river, until it was filled with dead horses and Yankees. Forty prisoners were taken. The road was torn up at Salsburg and Graham's Gap, and the bridge over Cypress Creek, near Chenalla, was destroyed. Our loss was 25 killed and 70 wounded, including Col. Gaines McCulloch, of the staff, and Lieutenant Harris, of the First Mississippi Partizans.

The rebels say they have almost nothing wherewith to feed the Union prisoners at Richmond, yet the Common Council of that city has just voted \$60,000 to buy a house for General Lee.

A Sad Philosophy.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*, Nov. 18.)

The Southern public has long since given up the traditional attitude of standing on tip-toe in expectation of a great battle. It rather plants itself firmly on its feet and sets its teeth closely, the better to receive the shock. We have proved our prowess on too many fields to require the encouragement of one victory more; we have met with too many disasters to have our balance disturbed by a single defeat; and by this time we have attained to a sad philosophy, which embraces both victory and defeat in one category—loss. Our loss seems always to outweigh the immediate positive gain; and, to parody the famous line of Filicaja, the South appears to be doomed "always to lose, or conquering, or conquered." Our adversaries see this clearly, and have based their calculations on it. They design to wear us away piece-meal—to reduce our armies by battle and by capture, and then to break the backbone of the rebellion, vertebra by vertebra, and extract the marrow at their leisure. Of course, we regard this Yankee plan as an utter mistake—as a false application of mathematical principles to the working of organic structures. It is a question of vitality. One man loses both legs and both arms, and lives; another dies from the extraction of a tooth. But mistaken as the Yankees are in thinking that the whole matter resolves itself into two diminishing series, of which the Southern series is to become infinitesimal, yet they are not mistaken when they gloat over the sufferings which our losses in battle occasion us. These losses have been great—have been sufficient to glut the appetite of any being but a New England ghoul—and these are the losses which, whenever a battle is imminent, the public anticipates even before the skirmishers are deployed and the pickets driven in.

As we look forward then to the renewal of the struggle in the West we cannot indulge in any feeling of exultation at the prospect. We hope for victory; we may have some reason to expect it; but we know it to be possible that somebody will be a few hours too late; that some point of the enemy's line will not be pressed, in spite of the explicit orders of the Commanding General; that the ammunition will be exhausted just ten minutes before the Federals receive reinforcements; that some stupid courier will lose his way; that some heedless Aid-de-Camp will forget to deliver a message; and that the Yankees will retire in good order, hotly pursued at a respectful distance by our cavalry, and fall back on a strong position, which they will make impregnable in twenty-four hours. This has been the history of every victory of magnitude on the Southern side, and it may be the history of other victories. And then, the fight is over, in come first as single spies and then in full battalions—the casualties. It is said that the war has hardened us to the horrors of death. It is well that we have become thus hardened, for otherwise nature could not bear the anguish, and we should be too much unmanned to carry on our great work. But we venture to say that the first thought of the majority of the people, who have any claims to thought at all, turns to the lists of killed and wounded. Fortune, like the chary almsgiver in "Homer," but puts the cup of joy to our mouths and "wets the lips but does not wet the palate;" the chalice of sorrow we sip to the dregs. Georgia may be saved, but will East Tennessee be regained? On one thing we may count—a fearful catalogue of death and suffering. No longer can the *London Times* sneer at our sanguinary bar-room difficulties and our bloodless internecine wars. The Generals of both armies are active enough in meeting the demands of the familiar advertisement: Wanted by the Government—dead animals of every sort.

The following appears in the *Richmond Dispatch*:

Wanted to sell privately, by a lady who is going out of mourning, an excellent black French merino dress, not soiled. Any one wishing to examine the dress can have it sent to their residence by addressing a note to "Alpha," Dispatch office. Price \$250.

In Richmond, lately, a bonnet sold for \$800.

Deaths.

- Nov. 26th, Private R. G. Patterson, Co. 144th N. Y. Vols.
- Nov. 27th, Private S. L. Coulter, A. 5th Penn. Vols.
- Nov. 28th, Private Peter Ducl, P. 165th N. Y. Vols.
- Nov. 29th, Private C. H. Smith, Co. 4th N. H. Vols.
- Dec. 1st, Private Lambert Pierce, B. 142d N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 2d, Private Isaac D. Miles, B. 112th N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 3d, Private Stephen A. Wood, B. 127th N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 4th, Private Alvin S. Clark, B. 127th N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 7th, Private Jonathan Grim, K. 5th Pa. Vols.
- Dec. 8th, Private Joseph Davy, K. 103th N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 9th, Private George Hubbard, 117th N. Y. Vols.
- Dec. 10th, Private Charles A. Hunsinger, B. 4th Pa. Vols.