

By Telegraph.

From Texas.

New Orleans, December 28.—Three policemen were severely wounded on Christmas day by a gang of excited negroes.

Western Texas.—The planters, farmers and freedmen are generally making contracts for the next year, satisfactory to both parties.

Early this month, at Jefferson, Texas, the military rescued by force, in open District Court, from the sheriff, two treasury agents who were indicted by the grand jury for swindling.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, January 1.—The War Department this morning issued an order to the Chief Marshal to turn over the Old Capitol prison temporarily to the Navy Department, for the confinement of Captain Semmes.

Mr. Clement C. Clay, formerly United States Senator from Alabama, more recently Confederate agent in Canada, and at present a prisoner of war, has recently been permitted by the President to receive a visit from his wife.

Commander Winslow, formerly of the Kearsage, has been ordered to the command of the Gulf Squadron. The squadron consists of twenty vessels, carrying 138 guns.

From South America.

New York, December 31.—The steamer Atlantic, from Aspinwall on the 22d, has arrived. She brings California mails to December 9th, and \$876,000 in treasure.

The news from the South Pacific is important. On the 28th of November, the Chilean man-of-war Esmeralda captured the Spanish gun-boat Conventado, having on board the Spanish Admiral's correspondence.

The Esmeralda was uninjured. The prisoners taken were the commandant, six officers, and one hundred and ten men, who were treated kindly by the authorities and people.

The Chileans had also captured a launch of the Spanish gun-boat Resolucion. The launch contained one gun and forty men, and was used for watching the movements of vessels near the shore.

The news from other parts of South America is unimportant. The new Government of Peru promises well. Several reforms have been initiated.

Foreign Miscellany.

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

We are gradually approaching a question of vital importance to the efficiency of the navy. Our iron-clad fleet has recently been strengthened by successive additions, exhibiting an enormous increase of defensive power, until at length we possess a vessel which may be expected to resist even a shot of six hundred pounds.

COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON, January 2.—A small lot of middling cotton sold, to-day, at 44c; small sales crude turpentine, at \$5.10; 78 lbs. tar, at \$2.30; 115 lbs. common rosin, at \$5.

RICHMOND, January 2.—The following are the quotations for South Carolina bank notes: Bank of Camden, 40c; Charleston, 20c; Chester, 20c; Georgetown, 20c; Hamburg, 20c; Newberry, 25c; South Carolina, 18c; State of South Carolina, 20c; Commercial Bank, Columbia, 18c; Exchange Bank, Columbia, 10c; Farmers' and Exchange, 10c; Merchants', Cheraw, 20c; People's Bank, 45c; Planters' Bank, 20c; Planters' and Mechanics' Bank, 25c; South-western Railroad Bank, 30c; State Bank, 10c; Union Bank, 60c.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON, JAN. 4.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY. Steamship Emily B. Souder, New York. Steamship Isabella, Wambarsie, Baltimore. WENT TO SEA YESTERDAY. Steamship Granada, Baxter, New York. Steamship Herman Livingston, New York. Brig Robinson, Scott, Boston. Schur. Mary W., Ingraham, Boston. Schur. Hiawatha, up for Charleston. Schur. Hiawatha B. Semors, Baltimore, Dec. 29. Schur. Sedona, Simons, Baltimore, Dec. 29.

tended to be, one of our finest iron-clads. She was designed as an improvement on the Warrior herself, and it happens that she may be seen, beautifully modelled, in the South Kensington Museum. But it is still a question whether this noble ship can carry such guns as would be required to render her battery effective, and accordingly she will put to sea to-day to make trial of her capacities.

It must not be forgotten that this ship which is now to be thus tested represents the first and most powerful class of our new fleet. The powers of Mr. Reed's vessels remain still to be shown, but at present, the Minotaur herself, the Agincourt, the Northumberland, the Achilles, the Black Prince, and the Warrior are our six first rates. These are the specimens in which our iron-clad fleet surpasses the fleets of other countries, and it is, therefore, of no slight importance to discover, if possible, some method of arming them with the most powerful guns known.

Sensible.

In contrast with the radical press of the North, whose editors would undertake to regulate and give new birth and new ideas to the minds of men at the South, we publish the following sensible remarks, from the New York Post:

Southern Spirit.

There are many (says the Louisville Courier) who will not or cannot appreciate or understand the high-toned manliness and unbending courage exhibited by the Southern people in their defeat. They looked for cowardly and cringing submission; a bending of the supple knee and a bowing of the haughty crest. They are disappointed that they do not find these things.

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The rebellion in the Southern States was crushed; the rebel armies were scattered and disarmed; the people have returned to their homes, under oath to make no further resistance to the "supreme laws of the land," but to be henceforth peaceable citizens. They claim that it is their intention to keep this oath; and they add that they do it cheerfully. Their leading men exhort them to attend to their private affairs, and to submit honestly to the penalties of defeat.

We have a right to demand that so long as they remain in the country they shall obey the laws, keep the peace, and respect the rights of all other men; but we have no right to demand that they shall like or admire the laws. Still less have we a right to impose upon them, as a condition to their enjoyment of the benefits of the laws, that they shall adopt our own moral conclusions.

THE CONTRAST.—A Texan editor, on his travels, writes a graphic and very interesting letter to the Galveston News, from which we extract the following paragraph: Morning on the Mississippi! The sun is glorious, as the little white fog fleeces are drunk up by his beams.

SERIOUS POISONING CASE.—SIX PERSONS THE VICTIMS.—A melancholy case of poisoning occurred at No. 2, 316 Spring Garden street yesterday morning, by which six persons were the victims. It appears that Patrick McLaughlin, his wife, two children and his nephew and niece partook of breakfast at different times during the morning, and each one was taken seriously ill within two hours afterwards.

HEAVY COTTON MOVEMENT.—The week's exports of cotton from this port have been unusually extensive, having amounted to 13,596 bales, representing a currency value of \$3,165,479. Included in the exports have been Liverpool, 13,097 bales, valued at \$109,254. There is an estimated stock of all kinds available at this port of 205,000 bales.

A HARD CASE.—In 1861, when the Confederate first superseded the United States Government in these parts, the money in possession of the late William E. Bass, the then postmaster, was (as was generally the case throughout the South) turned over to the Confederate authorities. We learn that the restoration of Federal authority renews the obligations of the gentlemen who were Mr. Bass' endorsers for the amount so disposed of, and the sum—about \$6,000—will have to be paid by three of our citizens.—Petersburg Index.

CANADIANS BECOMING AMERICANS.

It is not merely the European emigrants who have arrived at Canadian ports during the year, that have moved almost en masse to the United States as settlers, but the old time residents of both Canada, of both the French and English stocks, have been migrating thitherward, or rather westward, in huge numbers.

THE DEFEALCATION IN NEW YORK. Dr. Bradford, the public administrator in New York City, is a defaulter to an amount between thirty-five thousand and forty thousand dollars, which was lost in stock speculations.

England has got an infinitesimal revolution close at home. The little island of Lundy, celebrated for its granite, refuses to let any sheriff's officers and policemen land on its shores. A Washington despatch says that Speaker Golph is looming up as the most available Republican candidate for the next Presidency.

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