

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE STATES.

NEWS FROM EUROPE. ARRIVAL OF THE SIDON AT HALIFAX. HALIFAX, Sept. 19. Sidon, Martyn, left Liverpool, 2 p. m. 6th, Queenstown, 7th; arrived Halifax, 2.30 p. m. 19th.

Prospects of armistice continued subject of anxious debate in England. Times continues to represent that the feeling of the North in favor of an armistice was rapidly increasing, but the idea was strongly combated by many who refused to believe in an armistice, because it would at once necessitate the raising of the blockade.

The Times' article, under the feeling of a panic in finances which peace prospects created, seeks to modify financial apprehensions it has raised by arguing that it is premature to regard peace as certain, owing to the North maintaining a restoration of union as one of its absolute conditions. It, however, labors to show that if Southern ports are thrown open by armistice, and a flood of cotton seriously aggravates the existing pressure for money, contracting influences will be at work to prevent the drain of money which is feared.

Funds were greatly depressed on the 5th. Consols experienced a decline of a half per cent., being a heavier fall than on any single day for some years. The quotation is only one per cent above the lowest point during the panic of 1857.

Rumors of heavy failures were rife, and assisted the depression, but they all proved false. There was active demand for discount, both at the Banks and in open market at full rates.

The Times attributes indecisive character of the war to the use of breach loaders and earthworks. It says that a quarter of an hour of such fire as good troops well armed can now maintain, is enough to stretch whole divisions on the ground. In Virginia and Georgia both armies are entrenched—alike rifle; the main body of each army holds secure positions and only fight each other as it were by sorties.

Frankfort advices show renewed activity in the U. S. bonds and improvement in prices. Nathaniel Palmer & Co., merchants, London, have suspended; liabilities two hundred thousand sterling; assets equal.

Princess and Princess of Wales embarked on 2d, at Dundee for Denmark. Royal Alliancees reported. Princess Dagmar, second daughter of King Christian of Denmark, is about to be betrothed to the czar, the eldest son of the Emperor of Russia; also that King of Greece is to marry a Russian Princess.

FRANCE.—Rumored the Emperor intends to establish a new nobility as a counterpoise to Democracy. House steady, 67 1/2. AUSTRIA.—Official Wiener Zeitung denies rumor that Austria intends forming ten new infantry regiments.

DEMOCRAT QUESTION.—Prussian papers refer to hitches in peace negotiations, owing to difficulty of Denmark on financial question. Breaking off of negotiations is threatened.

SEAN.—Queen received new Mexican Minister. Speeches on both sides express sympathy and good understanding between the two Governments.

UNLAPPY DENMARK is experiencing the truth of the old adage that it is better to agree with your adversary quickly in the way less he refuse afterwards to let you off, unless you have paid the very utmost farthing. Having surrounded the Duchies with the understanding that the States, which are supposed to be benefited by the change of rulers, shall pay the expenses of that change, it now appears that Prussia, and probably Austria also, are bent upon obtaining some hard cash out of their impoverished victim.

Denmark, obstinate as her enemies call her, heroic as her friends call her, resists this last piece of injustice, but to no purpose. She is told that if she does not pay, Jutland, which is now occupied by the Allies, will follow the Duchies, and be annexed to Germany. The two German Powers know that they may do this with impunity. Even the Times has ceased to threaten those future punishments which were to befall the robbers at some unknown time by some unknown hand. There is no reason, so far as England is concerned, why the allies should not finish off their work by fulfilling the programme which Lord Palmerston pictured. Only it would be wiser for them to delay it until after the Prince and Princess of Wales have finished their tour to Copenhagen. To put King Christian in chains while his daughter and son-in-law were looking on might produce unpleasant consequences, might even induce her Majesty's Ministers to call a Cabinet Council to consider whether they should "take any steps," might lead into ordering the Channel fleet to the Downs.

The foreign papers give currency to rumours nearly affecting ourselves which are not altogether new in this country. The relations between the Prince and the Princess of Wales and the Queen are said to be of an unsatisfactory character. The absence of their Royal Highnesses at the inauguration of the Albert Memorial at Perth, and the fact that they did not take leave of Her Majesty before they embarked at Dundee, are considered to indicate the estrangement produced by the Danish question, and which it was hoped had been removed, is now revived. There are also in Paris unfavorable rumours respecting the Queen's health, which are said to cause considerable anxiety.

The Prince and the Princess of Wales have left for Denmark by way of Dundee, and as that town had been honoured by the presence of Her Majesty, it is not surprising that the inhabitants can hardly be censured for running court to the Prince's wishes, and giving a hearty welcome to both their Royal Highnesses. They arrived in Dundee somewhat after the appointed hour, but the misunderstanding which caused the delay was fortunately obviated in time. It is believed that their absence from England will last about five weeks, in which time they have not only to make some stay in Denmark, but to pay a short visit to the Baltic and to see St. Petersburg. Beloit continues quiet, and there appears a probability that the disturbances are at an end. Another death had taken place at the hospital, and the lives of several of the wounded there are despaired of. The Belfast magistrates have been busy during the past day or two disposing of cases arising out of recent disturbances. Some of the prisoners were committed for trial and others were fined, and a large proportion appeared to have been discharged.

Complaints are rife all through France of the effects of the excessive drought which is being experienced there, as well as other parts of the continent. The grass is literally burnt up, the supply of water is running out, the wells are dry, and man and beast are alike suffering.

A return made to an address of the House of Commons shows that there are 2776 policemen in Scotland, of whom 1855 are married, and 791 single. The married men are 10,623 days in absence during the year; the single men, 6002.

INDIA. The news from India is rather interesting than usual. It has been passed that the British army, which had been doing relative to the Bhodan affair.

Often have the horrors connected with the annual procession of the Car of Juggernaut been depicted, but the last sketch of this Brahmin deity, which was made by a painter, shows a man and woman who threw themselves under the car, and life was speedily crushed out of them. "The crowd stood still," says the account, "and they dragged the car back so as to remove the dead." The soldiers and the dying women were left together. With the same frantic roar the car was dragged on again; but whether its wheels were dyed with fresh blood or not we cannot say. The bodies of the women were scattered in the streets, and the Indian Government that this monstrous celebration has been so long tolerated. Any interference with the religious ceremonies is deemed an insult to the deity. It is said that the British Government has been so cautious, but would human life be so wantonly sacrificed in this barbarous and brutal way, the civil arm should arrest the murderous exhibition.

THE UNION QUESTION AGAIN.

Charlotte town, September 26, 1864. We find in the Morning News of St. John, N. B., of a late date, a condensed report of the speeches delivered at the dinner given in honor of the Union Delegates, at Stubbs' Hotel, St. John, on the evening of their arrival in that city.

The principal speakers appear to have been Messrs. Carter, Brown, McDougall, Galt and McGee (of Nova Scotia); Dr. Tupper and Mr. McCully, of Nova Scotia; Messrs. Tilly, Gray, and Woodward, of New Brunswick; and Messrs. Coles, Gray and Palmer, of P. E. Island. Without a single exception, they all pronounced in favor of a Union of the Colonies, leaving to the imagination of their hearers to define what the details should be. The views of the outside Provincial Delegates on the general abstract question are so well known, from their speeches here, that it is quite unnecessary to republish their observations at St. John; but as our Delegates did not drop any opinion in public, while in Convention here, we may as well let our readers see what they said in St. John, where they appear to have shown less reserve. After the speeches delivered by Messrs. Carter, Brown and Tupper, the report goes to say:—

"Hon. Col. Gray, of P. E. Island, followed in a neat though brief speech, favoring the project of a federation of all the N. A. Provinces. "Hon. Mr. Coles, of P. E. Island, came next. His remarks included the humorous, and abounded in lighter-provoking allusions at the expense of Canada, who, he said, had come over to effect a Union with his little daughter P. E. Island. He would permit her to wed him, but must understand fully whether Canada, with her expansive territory and great resources, was able to maintain her in the connection as well as she was while in the enjoyment of a separate existence. The prospect, he finally confessed, were favorable to a happy and prosperous federal union."

"Hon. Mr. Palmer, of P. E. Island, spoke at some length on the question of union, taking a federal union of all the Provinces, but evincing a determination to be careful in the arrangement of the details."

Mr. A. McDonald, another of the Island Delegates, has not publicly expressed an opinion, that we are aware of, in any place, on the subject of union, but we have no doubt he is favorable to it. Mr. W. H. Pope, the only other Delegate from the Island, is quite an enthusiast, and we may judge from his editorials in the Islander, in favor of union. Thus it will be seen that the whole of the P. E. Island Delegates are advocates of the measure; but Mr. Coles assures us, that it will only have his support on the condition that the proprietary claims shall be bought up by the Federal Government, and the lands transferred to their present occupiers on the most easy terms, without the outlay of one farthing from our public chest. The Delegates who represent the Government will be sure to find in this condition of Mr. Coles an excuse for thwarting, as far as they can, the whole project of union; for it must be very well known to every person that the Government of this Island have not the remotest wish to see our Land Question settled, although they may nibble at it by impotent resolutions and worthless Finance Year Purchase Bills. The Government here is too much under the control of Land Proprietors and Land Agents to allow their annual profits to be diminished by legislation. And so we will find that the want of union action on the part of the Provincial Governments will postpone, if it does not frustrate, a very important measure; and thereby leave the Colonies to be absorbed, through their weakness, by the grasping Power over the border, as soon as the present war shall be brought to a close.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. We regret that we did not receive in time for this day's issue, the continuation of the factious and graphic "Notes of a Traveller," in which our Parliamentary men are being photographed to the life. The "Traveller," who makes the venerable Mr. Birch the exponent of his views and descriptions, has, so far, confined his observations to the Government side of the House; and certainly the "Traveller" does not appear to have been favorably impressed by his view of that side.

We shall continue his interesting "Notes" in our next No. "A Bellator," on the Union question, and "Truth," in reference to certain misdeeds of the Road Commission about Montague, will also appear in our next. Both require considerable corrections before they can be placed in the hands of the printer. It is a very great tax on the time and patience of an editor, no matter how humble his sphere of action may be—to expect that he will be ready at all times to make such corrections in the letters of his correspondents as will fit them for the press. If such letters are, for a long time, delayed in going to print, or altogether cast aside, the fault rests not with the editor but with the writers.

A Catechism of Geography adapted for Provincial Schools, by Edward Manning, English and Mathematical Master in the St. John Grammar School, is the title of a little work which has been just issued from the press of Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, of St. John, N. B. The work appears to be a very correct manual of the kind; and not the least of its merits is, that it gives more prominence than other Geographies to the aspects and territorial resources of British America. Schools generally should receive it, if approved by their respective Boards of Education, as we think it might be; and older scholars who don't go to school, we are confident, would find a refresher to their general information on Geography by a perusal of Mr. Manning's pages.

THE PHILOLOGICAL JOURNAL, for October, has been received, and is a very interesting No. It is embellished by a portrait of President Lincoln, on the first page, and the biographical sketch which accompanies it is entertaining, and much more flattering to the President than his portraits.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, for August, has been received from the American Publishers. "Tony Butler," and "Cornelius O'Dowd," maintain their usual interest unimpaired. As for "Tony Butler," we left savage with the author when we came to the conclusion of his fortieth chapter, leaving us at a point where our interest was the most strongly excited. Of course, we shall have to get the next No. if we never after read another page in Blackwood.

A Professor Lowe, from the States, made a balloon ascension from St. John, N. B., on Friday last. The Telegraph of that city, in noticing the event, says:—He attained an altitude of one mile, and could distinctly see the city of Fredericton, and vessels on the Atlantic beyond Nova Scotia; and could distinguish the outline of Prince Edward Island. The time occupied by the voyage was about one-half hour. He landed at Loch Lomond, about seven miles from St. John.

PICTURE RAILROAD.—The Colonial Standard learns that Mr. Fraser, the contractor on Railway section No. 1, is busily engaged in forwarding the work on his contract. He has about 150 men employed, and is making satisfactory progress with the work. We learn that something over 10 miles additional are ready for contract on that end of the road, which will be let separately and together with the remainder of the line to Pictou.

The Pope has gone to Castle Goffredo to enjoy the pure air of that place, which is always so beneficial to him. Every afternoon he takes pedestrian exercise in the shaded avenues leading from Castle Goffredo to Albano. Antolini and Mercede each visit the Pope once a week.

AN INHUMAN MURDER.—On Friday morning, at the night express from Suspension Bridge on the Great Western Railway was on its way to Windsor, the conductor, Richard Furness, in passing through the cars, had his attention called to the wailings of a child which, upon investigation, was found lying between the seats of the car. A strict enquiry among the passengers, it was ascertained that the infant had been seen in the arms of a woman, apparently his mother, when the train left the bridge, but it was supposed had got off at St. Catharines, or perhaps at some other station. A little stranger of the seat to the floor, which of course caused it to cry out, and led to its discovery. The passengers manifested considerable interest in the welfare of the infant, which proved to be a fine male child, about twelve months old. It was a beautiful specimen, and the train arrived in Windsor, when it was suddenly taken very ill. A physician was procured who gave it as his opinion that the infant had been dosed with laudanum or some other narcotic. This had no doubt been done by the unfeeling mother, to cause sleep, and perhaps to prevent her from being detected before its cries would attract attention. The infant was respectfully clothed, and evidently belonged to some person in the higher walks of life. The authorities at Windsor refused to accept the charge, and it was accordingly sent to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Company, to be taken care of until the parents are found, or adopted by some family whose affection for foundlings will cause them to take it in charge. Who knows but that in years hence the history of this specimen of humanity may furnish food for a yellow covered novel, or further demonstrate the fact that truth is stranger than fiction? Who wants a baby?—Detroit Free Press.

DESERPTION FROM THE ARMY.—Deserption from the regiments stationed in this Province is becoming very common, and it would seem that the military authorities are determined to put a stop to it if possible. Recently several have been court-martialed, and the punishment inflicted was death, and the three deserters who tried to escape across the Niagara River having been sentenced to be shot in this city. An endeavor is being made to save this city the sad spectacle of such an occurrence, and with that view persons are sought out who are ready to receive the Commander of the Forces to command the sentence. The severity of the punishment is too great, and as no life was taken in the struggle on the Niagara River, it is thought the lenient manner in which those who induce soldiers to desert are to be dealt with our courts. The man who induces a soldier to desert is more than the deserter, because it is a money-making operation with him. The law, however, does not regard it, and he is left off easily. There should be heavy punishment inflicted on those who induce soldiers to desert.—Spectator.

We crave for no man's blood, but we think if those deserters fired at the pursuing party, with intent to kill, and not to frighten, that the law should be allowed to take its course. The crime of deserption, with resistance to lawful authority, is a fearful offence, and must be put a stop.—Kingston Whig.

A NEW MIXTURE OF WEALTH.—The discovery of gold on the Chaudiere, and other valuable minerals in other parts of the Eastern Townships, has within the last few years created a great excitement here, and has induced many of the means of introducing a large amount of capital into the Province. But our wealth is not confined to the mines. Our rivers and harbours along the coast are studded with pearls, purer and more costly than the finest found in any other part of the world. During the past season, excursions into the interior of the Province were shown pearls found in the streams emptying into the St. Lawrence near that neighbourhood—real genuine pearls—which were sold at prices ranging from five to one hundred dollars. One of the most valuable ones was in the possession of James M. L. Esq., which was found at River du Loup. It is larger than the largest sized pea, is perfectly round, and is a most brilliant gem, perhaps the best of its kind in America. These pearls are found in the streams emptying into the St. Lawrence near River du Loup and Kamouraska.—Quebec Mercury.

MR. ELIAS, of the St. John Evening Globe, who is now travelling in the States, sends us his paper some interesting statements of matters and things there. He says:— You published a short time since an account of a wholesale deserption of something like 100 men who had fled from a New Hampshire Regiment, as they were passing through Boston. That regiment numbered 535 men, enlisted at an expense of \$1000 per man. It was camped at Grebow Point, on the Maryland side of the Potomac. On the night of the deserption, the officers and non-commissioned officers—When the men found this, about 200 of them left. Since leaving New Hampshire, 300 men out of 335 deserted, and the Government has lost three hundred and thirty-five dollars. This is the fruit of a night's desertion. It is not an exaggeration, which a friend of mine here who knows it thoroughly describes as abominable; as worse than any thing ever done by English recruiting sergeants; as bad as the worst phases of slavery.

A SEPARATE FLEET.—The London Army and Navy Gazette has the following article:—The Messrs. Russell and Brimingham are now engaged in the manufacture of an extensive and very novel order of the Russian Government. A fleet of vessels is being built under the surface are made of iron and steel in Russia. To afford some idea of the magnitude of the Russian enterprise, it may be stated that the most of the tubes alone for a single vessel of this submarine fleet will be made of iron and steel, and will contain no less than 38 lengths of wrought iron, each 60 feet long, having a 13-inch bore, and a thickness of seven-sixths of an inch. The specification demands that they shall be capable of bearing a pressure of 2000 pounds to the square inch. Messrs. Russell test every tube up to 2500 pounds. The tubes are being made in such quantities that it is estimated that 200 tons of iron and steel will be used in its construction. The cost will, it is calculated, reach 275,000 silver rubles, or £27,500, and the expenditure for about 1000 men. The vessels are to be worked by compressed air, and have a very strong break, with provisions for attacking large cylinders charged with powder to the bottom of vessels, to be fired by electricity. The parties navigating the vessel will see that they are doing well, and will be able to what they are doing, and will be able to regulate the depth at which they swim, generally keeping quite close to the surface."

An exceedingly rich gold field has been discovered within thirty miles of Nelson, New Zealand. Two diggers dug down a trove upon the banks of a river, and from the soil beneath its banks, in less than two hours, they extracted fifteen pounds weight of pure gold.

THE SITUATION.

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The anticipated battle on the Weldon Railroad was deferred for some days yet, judging from our information yesterday. Some heavy artillery firing took place on Saturday morning on our left. The pickets of the Second Corps accomplished quite a clever feat on Saturday. The enemy's pickets were driven from their commanding ground in front of Hancock's position, was quickly seized by a part of General De Trobriand, a brigade of Mott's division. There was hardly a shot fired until the enemy's position was occupied by our troops, and one hundred pickets were taken prisoner. The rebels were then opened with musketry and artillery, which was kept up for several hours, but did not succeed in dislodging our men. From information received from deserters, it appears that the rebels have disposed their forces with Longstreet's corps on the extreme right, holding the line on the extension of the Weldon and Danville Railroad, and Hill's corps in the centre, occupying the line of defence from the Weldon road to Petersburg, while Beauregard, with his divisions, garrisoned the fortifications around the city.

The Union signal on the Litch Gap was bombarded by the rebels on Friday evening. The Union batteries replied with vigor. The officer at the station remained at his post during the contest, and witnessed from aloft the flight of the missiles on both sides. The rebels fired a shell which would scarcely be possible to inflict a permanent injury to it by merely artillery firing, although the occupation might be made exceedingly unpleasant and dangerous during a bombardment.

Despatches from General Sheridan's army on the 16th inst. state that the enemy under command of General Early in person, with Johnston's, Vaughan's, McCausland's cavalry and General Rhodes' infantry division, attacked a brigade of Averill's division at eight o'clock in the morning at Darksville, on the Weldon road. The rebel army was driven back in three successive cavalry charges. The infantry and cavalry, who again entered the contest, shared a similar fate. The enemy lost heavily, much greater than we did. It appeared to be the intention of General Early to strike our centre, and his troops are all concentrated on Johnston's line; but the promptitude of Averill's cavalry frustrated the design.

Despatches from Gen. Sherman down to New York on Friday morning, had been received by the War Department, stating that his army was concentrating at Atlanta, and that his troops are all concentrated on Johnston's line. He says that Wilson and Steedman are keeping the rebel General Wheeler actively employed, and will probably secure him as Gen. Gillen did John Morgan—that is, extinguish him and destroy his command.

The condition of the rebel army near Andersonville, Ga., is reported to be still more pitiable than before. They are dying at the rate of one hundred per day. Two blockade-runners have recently been captured off the North Carolina coast. The steamer A. D. Gordon is a contracted cargo ship. She had on board four hundred and twenty bales of cotton, from Wilmington bound to Halifax. The steamer Eisse was taken on the 5th inst., in latitude 33 1/2, longitude 77 02, from Wilmington bound to Nassau. The latter arrived at this port yesterday on route for Boston. The cargo consists of goods worth about half a million of dollars. It was reported that the rebel steamer Edith was about to leave Wilmington, heavily armed. The fleet were on the look-out for her appearance.

The rebel army, running upon the Dismal Swamp Canal between Norfolk and North Carolina, was captured on Saturday by a party of rebel raiders and burned. The crew and passengers were all taken prisoners.

The capture of the rebel guerrilla and raider Quarles is announced to have been successfully effected in Indianapolis. He was there in disguise, and was recognized on the street by a retogue.

A report is in circulation at Little Rock, Arkansas, that the rebel Major General Sterling Price died recently at Arkadelphia, of dysentery.

WOMEN AND THE WAR.—NORTH AND SOUTH. The women of Carthage, when the Romans were at the gate, gave their hair to be made into bowstrings; the Countess Isabelle vowed never to change her hair, and her hair was cut and sent down from her ramparts; and the butcher's wives of Newgate Markt declared they would drink no more barn sack until King Charles's head was cut off; but I question whether either ancient or modern history can furnish an example of conflict which was so much of a "Woman's War" as this. The bitterest, most vengeful of politicians in this engaged controversy are the ladies. They differ in opinion, but in exasperation and impetuosity they are unanimous. You have on one side, the peace, the pretty, timid, shrinking Puritan, Alice Bridgforth—the pious, well-meaning, tract-distributing, novel-writing, poetry-reading, chapel-bunting, parson-petting, negro-loving lady of New England, transferred to a ferment of some kind, the mother of the North, who has the haughty and defiant Flora Melvor, the embodiment of the indomitable will and the constant mind of the South, ready to fasten on the white cockle to the bonnet of her lover as he rides by on the storm, and with fingers as firm as just as ready, and with fingers as firm, to stitch at the shroud which is to enwrap the mangled remains of that lover after he has been hanged and drawn and quartered at Carlisle. There may be a ludicrous side to devotedness of the sex in this strife, as when we hear of a fresh widow, who has been devoted in the North, who are to wear "jackets with bright buttons, tunics with hoops, and pants;" or when we read of "starvation parties" and "homespun balls" in the South; but the bitter, persistent animosity of the women of the North, who do believe among women on either side. I do not forget that we have Richmond, Petersburg, Atlanta, Augusta, and Charleston to fall, and were the armies of Lee and Johnston annihilated, the ladies of the South would buckle on the sword and continue the contest. All that mothers, wives, sisters, lovers, hold dear, the women of America, North as well as South, have shown themselves ready to abandon.

You remember that story of the country-house party which I drew in the Journal. Yet, the South can furnish stories of devotedness as heroic, of sacrifices as sorrowful. In the history of the war there is not an episode more piteous than that of the poor working woman in Georgia who had four sons. Three of them went to the war, and the Confederate side, and were killed. The case of the bereaved mother was held to be so exceptionally cruel, that Gen. Polk went to visit her, to pray with and console her. She heard him, and then looked at him with a steady eye. "I'm a lone woman, General, now," she said, "and the higher the price you put on my life, I will wear a pair of arms to help me move, and fix me up a few things, and then you can take Harry too." And this Harry, a frail, delicate lad, was the last son of his mother, and she was a widow.

An order issued from Richmond provides that all foreigners and others who have been entrapped or compelled to serve in the Federal army against their will, upon coming into the Confederate lines, will be received, protected, and supplied with means of subsistence until such of them as desire it can be forwarded to the most convenient points on the border, where facilities will be afforded them to return to their homes."

The California mail steamers are to be employed by a man-of-war to Aspinwall and back. The government makes no charge for the service of the mail-steamers, but the protection it affords will lead shippers to send their gold to New York instead of England.

Bells Bay was married in London on the 25th ult. to Miss Havard, and about that time the U. S. Navy, who means now to enter the Confederate service.

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WOMEN AND THE WAR.—NORTH AND SOUTH. The women of Carthage, when the Romans were at the gate, gave their hair to be made into bowstrings; the Countess Isabelle vowed never to change her hair, and her hair was cut and sent down from her ramparts; and the butcher's wives of Newgate Markt declared they would drink no more barn sack until King Charles's head was cut off; but I question whether either ancient or modern history can furnish an example of conflict which was so much of a "Woman's War" as this. The bitterest, most vengeful of politicians in this engaged controversy are the ladies. They differ in opinion, but in exasperation and impetuosity they are unanimous. You have on one side, the peace, the pretty, timid, shrinking Puritan, Alice Bridgforth—the pious, well-meaning, tract-distributing, novel-writing, poetry-reading, chapel-bunting, parson-petting, negro-loving lady of New England, transferred to a ferment of some kind, the mother of the North, who has the haughty and defiant Flora Melvor, the embodiment of the indomitable will and the constant mind of the South, ready to fasten on the white cockle to the bonnet of her lover as he rides by on the storm, and with fingers as firm as just as ready, and with fingers as firm, to stitch at the shroud which is to enwrap the mangled remains of that lover after he has been hanged and drawn and quartered at Carlisle. There may be a ludicrous side to devotedness of the sex in this strife, as when we hear of a fresh widow, who has been devoted in the North, who are to wear "jackets with bright buttons, tunics with hoops, and pants;" or when we read of "starvation parties" and "homespun balls" in the South; but the bitter, persistent animosity of the women of the North, who do believe among women on either side. I do not forget that we have Richmond, Petersburg, Atlanta, Augusta, and Charleston to fall, and were the armies of Lee and Johnston annihilated, the ladies of the South would buckle on the sword and continue the contest. All that mothers, wives, sisters, lovers, hold dear, the women of America, North as well as South, have shown themselves ready to abandon.

You remember that story of the country-house party which I drew in the Journal. Yet, the South can furnish stories of devotedness as heroic, of sacrifices as sorrowful. In the history of the war there is not an episode more piteous than that of the poor working woman in Georgia who had four sons. Three of them went to the war, and the Confederate side, and were killed. The case of the bereaved mother was held to be so exceptionally cruel, that Gen. Polk went to visit her, to pray with and console her. She heard him, and then looked at him with a steady eye. "I'm a lone woman, General, now," she said, "and the higher the price you put on my life, I will wear a pair of arms to help me move, and fix me up a few things, and then you can take Harry too." And this Harry, a frail, delicate lad, was the last son of his mother, and she was a widow.

An order issued from Richmond provides that all foreigners and others who have been entrapped or compelled to serve in the Federal army against their will, upon coming into the Confederate lines, will be received, protected, and supplied with means of subsistence until such of them as desire it can be forwarded to the most convenient points on the border, where facilities will be afforded them to return to their homes."

The California mail steamers are to be employed by a man-of-war to Aspinwall and back. The government makes no charge for the service of the mail-steamers, but the protection it affords will lead shippers to send their gold to New York instead of England.

Bells Bay was married in London on the 25th ult. to Miss Havard, and about that time the U. S. Navy, who means now to enter the Confederate service.

THE SITUATION.

The rebels appear to be somewhat confused as to what to do with General Grant's army before Petersburg. They do not appear to have a general engagement, and their defeat would certainly be the result. At the same time, they do not like to lose any of their men without an equivalent.

The anticipated battle on the Weldon Railroad was deferred for some days yet, judging from our information yesterday. Some heavy artillery firing took place on Saturday morning on our left. The pickets of the Second Corps accomplished quite a clever feat on Saturday. The enemy's pickets were driven from their commanding ground in front of Hancock's position, was quickly seized by a part of General De Trobriand, a brigade of Mott's division. There was hardly a shot fired until the enemy's position was occupied by our troops, and one hundred pickets were taken prisoner. The rebels were then opened with musketry and artillery, which was kept up for several hours, but did not succeed in dislodging our men. From information received from deserters, it appears that the rebels have disposed their forces with Longstreet's corps on the extreme right, holding the line on the extension of the Weldon and Danville Railroad, and Hill's corps in the centre, occupying the line of defence from the Weldon road to Petersburg, while Beauregard, with his divisions, garrisoned the fortifications around the city.

The Union signal on the Litch Gap was bombarded by the rebels on Friday evening. The Union batteries replied with vigor. The officer at the station remained at his post during the contest, and witnessed from aloft the flight of the missiles on both sides. The rebels fired a shell which would scarcely be possible to inflict a permanent injury to it by merely artillery firing, although the occupation might be made exceedingly unpleasant and dangerous during a bombardment.

Despatches from General Sheridan's army on the 16th inst. state that the enemy under command of General Early in person, with Johnston's, Vaughan's, McCausland's cavalry and General Rhodes' infantry division, attacked a brigade of Averill's division at eight o'clock in the morning at Darksville, on the Weldon road. The rebel army was driven back in three successive cavalry charges. The infantry and cavalry, who again entered the contest, shared a similar fate. The enemy lost heavily, much greater than we did. It appeared to be the intention of General Early to strike our centre, and his troops are all concentrated on Johnston's line; but the promptitude of Averill's cavalry frustrated the design.

Despatches from Gen. Sherman down to New York on Friday morning, had been received by the War Department, stating that his army was concentrating at Atlanta, and that his troops are all concentrated on Johnston's line. He says that Wilson and Steedman are keeping the rebel General Wheeler actively employed, and will probably secure him as Gen. Gillen did John Morgan—that is, extinguish him and destroy his command.

The condition of the rebel army near Andersonville, Ga., is reported to be still more pitiable than before. They are dying at the rate of one hundred per day. Two blockade-runners have recently been captured off the North Carolina coast. The steamer A. D. Gordon is a contracted cargo ship. She had on board four hundred and twenty bales of cotton, from Wilmington bound to Halifax. The steamer Eisse was taken on the 5th inst., in latitude 33 1/2, longitude 77 02, from Wilmington bound to Nassau. The latter arrived at this port yesterday on route for Boston. The cargo consists of goods worth about half a million of dollars. It was reported that the rebel steamer Edith was about to leave Wilmington, heavily armed. The fleet were on the look-out for her appearance.

The rebel army, running upon the Dismal Swamp Canal between Norfolk and North Carolina, was captured on Saturday by a party of rebel raiders and burned. The crew and passengers were all taken prisoners.

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