

From Bowling Green.

We have information from Bowling Green up to yesterday, some of which is not suitable to be made public, and the rest not important. The stampede of the Federals on Thursday last across Green River was causeless, a fact which they soon found out, and are endeavoring to repair by recrossing to this side with additional force.

On the contrary our managers are cool and sagacious, and have foiled them at every point. It is the enemy's business to come and fight us, at least for the present, and whenever he dares it, he will leave the laurel with our invincible legions.

CHINESE EXPEDIENTS.—A letter from Washington to a Northern paper, says:—Experiments are being made with an apparatus for the ejection of "liquid fire."

A RAPID ADVANCE.—The Northern papers say that McClellan is now advancing at the rate of one hundred yards a day!

The Federal Government held the commander of the Brooklyn responsible for permitting the Confederate war steamer Sumter to run the blockade at the mouth of the Mississippi, and get out to sea.

"His extraordinary regard for Capt. Semmes, of the Sumter, because the latter was his school mate, and had once been his superior officer, is looked upon as a display of affection, and respect of such exalted and unusual character, as to require investigation."

Hon. JEREMIAH S. BLACK, one of Mr. Buchanan's body servants, has been elected reporter of the U. S. Supreme Court, in place of BENJAMIN C. HOWARD, who resigned on account of his sympathies with the South.

A Military Board is to meet in Washington to examine the affairs of the army. A despatch says in a notice of the Board, it is understood to be the intention of General McClellan to make sweeping work of the officers who are incompetent to the faithful and efficient discharge of their duties.

Cyrus W. Field, of Atlantic telegraph notoriety, was recently at Washington endeavoring to get the government to adopt a plan for the building of a telegraphic line from Fortress Monroe to Baltimore, or some other point on the northern coast.

Letter from W. G. Brownlow—His Treatment.

KNOXVILLE JAN., Dec. 20, 1861. EDITORS OF THE NASHVILLE PATRIOT:—In your issue of the 17th inst., you say: "We learn that W. G. Brownlow, imprisoned at Knoxville, refuses to eat any thing, desiring to starve himself to death."

I have no doubt, Mr. Editor, that you have learned such things, but it is wonderful intelligence! And but for the fact that I do not wish to be understood as trying to commit suicide, I would not care to correct the erroneous statement. The truth in my case is, that I have now been in jail two weeks, and I have eaten too much, every day, my family, with the permission of Brig. Gen. CARROLL, furnishing me with three meals each day.

But, sir, I will now give you an additional item or so, which many of your readers will peruse with interest, if you are allowed to publish them. I left home about the 5th of November, with a view to collect some claims due my office for advertising, and to relieve the fears of my family, who were daily annoyed with the calls of drunken soldiers, calling in front of my house, and flourishing their side-knives, and pistols, and making threats of violence.

Supposing the head of the War Department, and the Maj. General commanding here, to be acting in good faith, I reported myself in person, and accepted the offer of passports, I agreed to start on Saturday, and the General designated Capt. GILLESPIE's Company of Cavalry for an escort.

But, on Friday evening, just before sundown, I was arrested for treason, founded on certain editorials in the Knoxville Whig, since June last, the warrant being signed by Commissioner Reynolds and Attorney Ramsey. I am, therefore, in jail—in close confinement—perfectly contented, and making no complaints against any one. I am patiently waiting to see which is the highest power, the War Department at Richmond, associated with the Major General in command here, or the Commissioner's Court for Knoxville!

Nay, I am anxious to know whether the high authorities inviting me here were acting in good faith, or were only playing off a trick to have me incarcerated! I am not willing to believe that the representatives of a great Government, struggling for its independence, and having in charge the interests of twelve millions of people, intend to act in bad faith to me. The chivalrous people of the South, and all the journals, have denounced the high handed measures of the United States Government, in suspending the Habeas corpus act, suppressing public journals, and incarcerating citizens upon letters cachet, and I will not allow myself to believe that the Confederate Government will resort to similar tricks! I am, sir,

Very respectfully, &c., W. G. BROWNLOW. In connection with the above, we commend the following article from the Chattanooga Gazette and Advertiser to the attention of the reader. It, possibly, furnishes a solution of Dr. BROWNLOW's troubles:

Knoxville. We made a short visit to Knoxville last week. Our military authorities in that place are growing rigorous to a degree that is little short of terrorism. A great many arrests have been made from adjoining counties, and several prisoners sent to Tuscaloosa, among whom were Judge Patterson and Levi Trewitt, father of Dan. Trewitt, of Hamilton. If the Commissioner of the Post at Knoxville, has been remiss in duty heretofore, he now seems anxious to atone for it by stretching his authority to the utmost. If, while in Chattanooga, he turned traitors loose, indiscriminately, upon their taking the oath, singular change has been wrought in his mind since he left for Knoxville, for he is inaugurating a complete reign of terror in that vicinity.

Unfortunately for our cause in Knoxville, it is headed by a little clique which allows no opportunity to slip for avenging itself upon old political enemies and placing itself forward as the anointed guardian of the Southern cause to the disgust of decent men. People at a distance are sadly deceived as to the real state of affairs in and about Knoxville.

The very men who have been most clamorous in the cause of the South have done more to injure it than, perhaps, all the Union sowers combined. They have by repeated personal attacks, low Billingsgate slang, and a restless and feverish anxiety for selfish aggrandizement, disgusted the sensible portion of the Southern Rights party and driven conservative men to desperation. We by no means justify the course of those who advocated Unionism at a late day, because this contemptible little clique was unsparring in its personal abuse of those who did not espouse the Southern cause as soon as it did. They should have taken a higher and bolder stand and disregarded the silly carplings of mere place hunters. But the conduct of a few sordid politicians, and their tools, who were both pig and puppy previous to the beginning of our present troubles, who early espoused the cause of the South for the sake of place and power, and who are now under

the pretext of serving the cause of Independence, fomenting their malice upon old political opponents, is reprehensible in the extreme and deserves the execrations of all mankind. They have succeeded to some extent, in misleading public opinion abroad; and have, it is feared, more or less influence over our military authorities at our home, whose minds are not remarkably clear at all times by reason of spirits more ardent than their own. We don't speak from mere conjecture. We know whereof we assert. Such a state of affairs is much to be lamented, but ought never to be equated at a high toned press in upper East Tennessee, capable of rising above mere personalities, independent in its character and circumstances, and conducted by men of moral stamina and ability, would have saved the military authorities much trouble, and the Government much expense in that section. Knoxville has for years past been cursed with a set of little politicians, who for the want of ability and personal merit, sought power and place by attempting to pull down others; and it has at no time perhaps been more grievously plagued with this class of men as at present. The "extra small fry," to adopt the language of Senator Hayes, whose constantly impugning the motives of men, or calling the authorities at Richmond and Nashville to account, merely for the purpose of placing themselves prominent before the people, are becoming troublesome. Their fulminations are becoming nauseous, and it is getting high time the true state of affairs should be made known abroad, and for this and no other reason have we written thus much upon the subject—a theme which is anything but pleasant to contemplate.

"Behold how Rightly Breaks the Morning!"

NASHVILLE, Dec. 23d, 1861. MESSRS. EDITORS.—This is the joyful exclamation of those who imagine they can foresee a speedy, and satisfactory solution of our national difficulties, in the present hostile attitude of England, towards the United States. To such a view our troubles from their standpoint, this is truly an intimation of approaching good, and I would be glad to flatter myself that their opinions are well founded. The sacrifices to which our people have already submitted are bringing about an anxious desire for an honorable termination of hostilities. Every true patriot is now urging on the war, with all his energy, having his eyes mainly upon this happy consummation. I know of no class—except perhaps, the heartless speculators in army stores—which would not hail with delight the close of the war. Hence the unfeigned pleasure with which this towering rage of John Bull is observed. But, in my judgment, we have little reason to congratulate ourselves, on this account. There are but two courses left the Washington Administration. England has forced an issue, and they are compelled either to restore our Commissioners, or refuse to do so. I offer a few thoughts on the probable consequences of both these lines of policy.

And first: I would greatly prefer, that the United States would break down from her position, and offer full and satisfactory reparation to the British flag. Isay this, in the belief that such a course would profit us in many ways, whilst the opposite would tend to evil, and evil only. Consider the moral effects of the act of Mr. Lincoln, should he restore Mason and Slidell. The government he represents would be humbled in the eyes of all nations, and what little of prestige it may chance to have would be completely overthrown. The boasting of its cabinet, and the taunting of its press would be re-erected upon it, and its avenues to the friendship of other powers would be closed up, effectually. But more than this; the masses of the North, stung by the disgrace of their country, would cease to furnish any substantial support to the army, and probably set up such a wall of disaffection, as to shake their Executive in his seat: thus crippling all his efforts at Southern subjugation. Our Commissioners too, backed by the force of all these circumstances, would exert a double influence on the courts to which they are sent. Those distinguished gentlemen might possibly succeed in their diplomacy, under these auspices, when their missions would have otherwise proved hardly so satisfactory.

These are some of my reasons for desiring what most people are not anxious to see: I mean continued amicable relations between the United States and "perfidious Albion." But, let us view the foreign relations of the Union, in the other light which I mentioned. What will result from their refusal to deliver Mason and Slidell and salute the flag of England? A war will most certainly ensue. If this should happen it will be, in my judgment, a most serious calamity to our young and struggling Confederacy. I hope I shall not meet a harsh or hasty condemnation. It will be no wrong to glance at the condition of affairs as they at present exist in Europe. Those who have observed the drift of events, and read the opinions of English statesmen, quite recently expressed, will observe a perfect understanding and community of action between that nation and France. This is true of Spain in a less degree. The Mexican intervention is in proof of this. Now, as has been maintained during our whole war these two nations, with Holland, will follow England. All intelligent men know that if the Queen had raised her scepter to make the old Union respect her, the Casar, with Austria at his heels, will make ample preparation to resist such motion in this direction, and thus the whole civilized world will be drawn into our quarrel. But it may be said: "Victoria is no party to our trouble, since she is only avenging herself. I admit the objection in its full force, and still claim, that it will be

impossible for our Confederacy, and that power to make common cause against the North without becoming identified, and in that manner provoking the hostile interference of the growing, snarling Russian Bear. That England will virtually espouse the Southern cause is now not only claimed, but rejoiced over, by the journals. They say she will recognize us, break the blockade, buy our cotton, and lend us money. These would be great advantages to us I know, but when all the world shall be transporting their legions to this fair land, protracting the war to many years continuance, and shedding the blood of untold thousands, we will see how little occasion we have to exclaim: "Behold how brightly breaks the morning!" In the worst, however, we can console ourselves with the thought that "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" I trust, Messrs. Editors, I have expressed myself with becoming moderation. W.

Terrible Exploit of a Rifled Cannon Ball.

The Boston Courier publishes a letter of a correspondent on board the United States steamer Massachusetts, off Ship Island, October 26, giving an account of the affair between that vessel and a Confederate steamer, in which the following extraordinary exploit of a rifled cannon ball is chronicled: During the action I think we hit her four times, and I know she hit us once with a sixty eight pound rifled shell (that is the way we got the exact size of her rifled gun). The shell entered on our starboard quarter, just above the iron part of the hull; it came through the side angling aft (as it were a little abait his beam when it struck us), and took the deck in the passage way between two state rooms and completely cut off eighteen of the deck planks, and then struck a beam, which canted it up a little, so that it took the steam heating pipes under our dining-table, cutting off five of them, and tearing our dining-table all to pieces—then went through the state room bulkhead and ceiling of the ship on the opposite side, and struck one of the outside timbers and broke every outside plank abreast of it short off from the spar to the gun deck; it then fell down on to the cabin deck and exploded, knocking four state rooms into one, breaking all the glass and crockery ware, shattering the cabin very badly, breaking up the furniture, and setting fire to the ship; but we had three streams of water on the fire at very short notice, and put it out before it did any damage—keeping up our chase as though nothing had happened.

FROM TYBEE.—By the Ida we learn that two large Federal transports arrived below yesterday, and during the forenoon sixteen boat loads of troops, each supposed to contain about one hundred men, were placed on the island. It is supposed that there are now about two thousand Federal troops on Tybee. They have erected a derrick near the Martello tower, and yesterday were engaged in landing what appeared to be guns. A rifle gun from the fort threw a few shells among a party of troops on the beach, when they scattered in double quick. There are now three war vessels below, two of which are frigates. A propeller went to sea yesterday forenoon. The Federals have a ferry boat with side wheels, which plies between Tybee and Port Royal Island.

From their own account, which we publish in another column from a Northern paper, the Yankees, after two thorough explorations, having found the island unoccupied, have determined to colonize it. Will they be permitted quietly to take possession of and fortify the mouth of our harbor?—Savannah News, 20th.

The Philadelphia Enquirer states that a few days since, on the adjournment of the Federal House of Representatives, a call for a caucus was announced, inviting the attendance of the Republicans of both Houses on matters of importance. Mr. Vallandigham expressed his surprise at the continuance of King Caucus' reign. He thought gentlemen intended to carry out their "No party" professions. The "hit" was a hard one.

A YANKEE DODGER.—One of the best jokes of the war, says a cotemporary, is the newborn generosity of one Commodore Levy, of the northern navy. This man owned Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson; and the property was recently sequestered by the Confederate government. As soon as he got wind of the fact, he gave out, through the newspapers, that, in his will, he had bequeathed the estate to the northern government. Cute!

The Delta says that the banks of New Orleans have agreed to lend the State of Louisiana \$4,000,000, at the rate of eight per cent. interest, to enable it to pay the Confederate tax and meet its own obligations.

The Case of the Nashville.

That Rebel pirate formerly running between this city and Charleston, and partly owned here, it is to be hoped has made her last trip as a Confederate steamer. It is understood that her owners in New York, who never disposed of their interest in her, or consented to her seizure by the Rebels, are after her, having sent orders to arrest her immediately on her arrival in England. This proceeding will at once take her for adjudication before the Courts of Great Britain, where she is likely to be detained for months before making her escape.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The following highly interesting and important news has just been received by the Louisville Courier:

Exciting News from England!!

WAR INEVITABLE!

ENGLISH OFFICERS ORDERED TO THEIR POST.

THE BRITISH NAVY PREPARING FOR BUSINESS—THE "WARRIOR" COALING.

MR. ADAMS EXPECTING HIS RECALL IMMEDIATELY!

British Consols Down to 89 1/2—American Shipping Disastrously Affected.

PORTLAND, Dec. 18. The steamer Jura from Liverpool, after-noon of the 5th, and Londonderry 6th, arrived here this morning.

The excitement relative to the Trent affair continued unabated. The stock market on the 4th was more heavy and unsettled than ever. The U. S. Consul at Paris had communicated to the French papers a letter from Gen. Scott, in which he declares there is no truth in the report that the Cabinet had ordered the seizure of the Southern Commissioners, even under the protection of a neutral flag. He is quite ignorant of the decision of his Government, but says it is necessary to preserve good relations between America and England, and he hopes both Government will agree upon a solution of the question, whether the prisoners were contraband or not. If they were agents of the rebels, he says it will be difficult to convince even the impartial minds, they were less contraband of war, than rebel soldiers or cannon. In conclusion Gen. Scott expressed the conviction that war between America and England, without more serious provocation than is at present given, is impossible.

The London Star thinks Gen. Scott's letter will receive a hearty response in England, as a message of peace. The Times says that Gen. Scott, like his countrymen, is rather inclined to disavow the conception of the outrage than to repudiate it. It is reported that rebel and federal privateers are cruising at the entrance of the English channel.

It is said the Admiralty has ordered two ships to proceed immediately to the West Indies, to act as convoys to mail steamers. The Paris correspondent of the Daily News states that Slidell's dispatches were entrusted to his wife as he was leaving the Trent.

The Paris Patria learns that the San Jacinto, in November, searched a French, Danish and Portuguese vessel. These facts, says the Patria, are of some importance as proving that the Washington Cabinet fancies it has the power to exercise the right of search to the fullest extent.

Speculations from France represent the predominant tone of feeling as favorable to a reconciliation between England and America. It is reported that the French Minister at Washington reported to his Government a refusal on the part of the Washington Cabinet to deliver up dispatches addressed from Paris to the French Consuls at Charleston and New Orleans.

Hostile demonstrations were made in various parts of England, on the occasion of the departure of an Armstrong battery thence for shipment to Canada. In the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Rattazzi explained the failure of negotiations relative to Rome, stating he was convinced the French Government wished to terminate its occupation of Rome, and was a sincere friend of Italy.

LATEST, VIA LONDONDERRY.

An Admiralty notice was issued yesterday, requiring all men absent to return immediately to their respective ships. The iron-clad frigate Warrior is coaling for service—on the North American coast, if needed. There was quite a rise yesterday in sugar and saltpetre. No charters are now being taken for American vessels.

Several of the morning papers have leaders on Mr. Bright's speech. The Times says: "Let Americans judge by the speech of her greatest admirer, how little can be said for her outrage upon a friendly and altogether neutral country." LIVERPOOL, Dec. 6.

Warlike preparations continue to be made. A considerable number of troops are under orders to leave for Canada. The Persia has been chartered by the government, as well as the Australasian. The London Daily News thinks that if the American government will treat the difficulty in the spirit Gen. Scott urges, the war may be avoided.

The American shipping interest is already disastrously affected. LONDON, Dec. 6. It is reported that Mr. Adams regards his recall as inevitable.

Several leading Paris papers blame the English government for having yielded to the pressure of public opinion, as represented merely by Manchester and Liverpool, and for having acted too hastily in the Trent affair.

U. S. FOREIGN COMMERCE.—A committee from New York has gone to Washington to confer with the President. A dispatch says they will urge the adoption of immediate measures to protect our foreign commerce, which is now suffering by reason of the difficulty of procuring insurance on American bottoms.

The Mason-Slidell Affairs—Opinion of the Crown Law-Officers.

The London Times says the depositions of the officers of the Trent have been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and their opinion has been given that the proceedings of the American frigate are not justified by the law of nations. It is, we understand the opinion of these jurists that the right of the Federal Government, acting by its officers, was confined to the visiting and the searching of the mail packet; that if any men or things believed to be contraband or had been found on board of her, the proper course was to take her into port and submit the question to the Prize Court, which would bear evidence and argument on both sides, and would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities. The Times observes that this proposition seems so clear that it requires only to be stated to obtain universal assent.

Brown's Hotel in Washington has been sold to Messrs. Andrew Potts, Cornelius Wendell and Thos. J. Fisher.

FINDING THEIR LEVEL.—The Savannah Republican says, Mr. Lincoln in his message, recommends the recognition of Hayti and Liberia, and the establishment of friendly intercourse with them. Congress will doubtless respond, and then we shall soon see Sambo and Dinah elegantly installed at Washington, and the odoriferous associates of the wives and daughters of the Lincoln ministry. Well, if it is their taste, we say let them enjoy it.

YANKEE ACCOUNT OF THE WOODSONVILLE FIGHT.

MONSTROUS LYING.

The following is the Yankee report of the Woodsonville fight. For huge lying it puts far in the back ground all previous efforts of the Yanks in that line. The official report of Gen. Hardee published in the COURIER yesterday shows our loss to have been only 4 killed and 9 wounded:

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 18.—The recent Mansfieldville, Ky., engagement, considering the disproportion of numbers, proves the most brilliant Federal victory yet achieved. Four companies of 350 men of Col. Willich's regiment, led by Lieut. Colonel Von Webber, drove back over 3,000 rebel cavalry, infantry and artillery. They were first attacked by a regiment of Texas Rangers, whom they repulsed, when they were drawn into ambush and fired at on all sides by the rebel infantry. The Federals returned the fire vigorously and stood their ground until the rebels fell back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements reached Webber's command as reported yesterday, until the fight was over. Stone's Louisville battery supported the Federals from the North side of Green river, firing at very long range from rifle cannon. Four other companies were on the south side of the river, but were engaged as pickets, one mile and a quarter distant from the action.

Among the Federals killed were Lieut. Hatch, of Cincinnati, who killed eight men with two revolvers, but was finally killed, receiving nine bullets from the rebels. Among the Federals killed were also Henry Joser, Richard Wey, Fred. Shoemaker, J. Shamrose and Peter Smith, all of Cincinnati. Smith's remains go to Cincinnati tomorrow.

Of the Texan Rangers sixty-two were killed, besides Col. Terry, and Lieut. Brown.—The Federal forces buried the rebel dead. Fourteen rebel's bodies were found dead on the field, and three rebels taken prisoners.

Parties just arrived from the scene of the fight, report that yesterday and to day 69 dead and wounded rebels were found in the bushes. Federal loss—Ten killed on the spot and 13 mortally wounded, and 19 otherwise wounded. Of these mortally wounded, four have since died. The rebels lost a Colonel, Captain and Lieutenant.

The report of a general crossing of the Federals southward, yesterday, is denied and would probably not take place till Green river bridge, on which a large force is engaged, is reconstructed. The rebels sent a flag of truce to-day, asking permission to inter their alleged unburied dead.

The N. Y. Express—Men in Buckram.

While the abolition journals, on one hand, are openly assailing the government or undermining it by covert acts, because it will not make the war a war of emancipation, one of the secession journals in this city, which, by some mistake, was not swept away by the Secretary of State, with the same besom as the daily News, the Day Book and the Freeman's Journal, is laboring hard to damage the administration, by the most outrageous attacks upon its integrity. We allude to the recent articles of Booby Brooks, of the Express, in which he says the 700,000 troops mentioned in the report of Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War, as having been raised by the government to carry on the war for the Union, are "soldiers on paper only," "men in buckram;" and that "he has not over 500,000 men in arms," though "the Treasury may be bleeding for them." In proof of his case, Booby says, for want of troops, Hatteras is in statu quo. Gen. Wool cannot budge three miles, McClellan is afraid to go ahead, Parson Brownlow cannot be relieved for want of men by the Union General in Kentucky, Kelley stands at Romney, Hunter is quiet in Kansas, and Halleck retreats from Western Missouri. Whence, concludes Booby, Mr. Cameron's army is "only on the pay roll, and not in the field."

We are authorized to announce LINCOLN MERRICK as a candidate for Clerk of the County Court of Davidson County, at the ensuing March election. Dec 21-18