



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday,....January 28, 1863.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I hereby inform the public that the DESERET NEWS is not and has not been an organ of mine, for, except matter accompanied with my name, I have only occasionally, and that too some time ago, known any more of the contents of the NEWS, until after it is published, than I have of the copy furnished to the compositors of the New York Ledger.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

G. S. L. City, Jan. 28, 1863.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

There have been of late many rumors in circulation concerning the movements of the army of the Potomac, none of which are considered reliable, at all events, so far as known, notwithstanding the many affirmative reports, no advance has been made across the Rappahannock. A late report says, the army is to be dismembered, and the greater portion of the troops composing it sent to the West, to assist in opening the Mississippi to prevent the disintegration of the North Western States. Another report states that Gen. Burnside has been superseded by Gen. Hooker, all of which may be true. Matters and things are getting terribly tangled up, and it will be fortunate for those immediately concerned, if they do not get so entwined as to constitute an "embroglio" more difficult of solution than any to which the attention of the public has for years been called.

So far as known, the operations in North Carolina, which a few weeks ago was believed would soon become one of the principal theatres of the war, have not been very extensive of late, and the anticipated battle has not been fought. Some little skirmishing has taken place, but nothing worthy of note in the fighting line has, so far as known, transpired.

In the West and South West, no great battles have been fought since the conflicts at Vicksburg and near Murfreesboro. Gen. Rosecrans has been largely reinforced, and has been gradually extending his lines towards those of the enemy, but no important movement has been made, and it is stated that there will not be, so long as Generals Wheeler and Forest remain in his rear. The depredations committed by these Confederate commanders, including the capture and destruction of several steamers employed as transports on the Cumberland have not been few nor small. Their treatment to some of the prisoners taken by them is represented to have been of a very barbarous nature.

Gen. Grant, as per report, evacuated Holly Springs about the 10th inst., destroyed the place by fire, tore up the railroad, and took a large quantity of the rails to Memphis, to which place he retired. It is understood that that portion of Mississippi has been abandoned for the present, and that Grant has been assigned to the command of the great expedition organizing for another attack on Vicksburg, the reduction of which seems to be considered of vast importance just now and which, if not effected may produce disastrous results. The Confederates seem to be fully aware of the designs of the 'Yankees,' and are making every possible arrangement for resistance. The last heard from Commodore Farragut, he was preparing for an attack on Port Hudson.

It is reported that Gen. Butler will soon resume command of the Department of the Gulf, and that Gen. Banks will then go to Texas with a large army to conquer and restore it to the Union.

INFORMATION WANTED, by Elizabeth Walker, St. Louis, Mo., of the whereabouts of her son Henry W. Walker.

EXPEDITION FOR THE ARREST OF INDIAN CHIEFS.

On the affidavit of William Bevins, a miner, made before his honor Chief Justice Kinney, on the 19th instant, a warrant was issued and placed in the hands of Marshal Isaac L. Gibbs, for the arrest of Bear-hunter, Sandpitch and Sagwitch, chiefs of a band of several hundred warriors of Snake Indians, now inhabiting Cache Valley.

Bevins is understood to have stated in his affidavit that, on the 8th instant, while on his way from the Grasshopper Gold Mines, in Dacotah Territory, to this city, he and seven other men of his party were attacked by the Indians referred to, in Cache county; that one of said party, John Henry Smith, was killed by said Indians, and that Bevins and the others lost gold dust, animals and other property, to the amount of about two thousand dollars. He further represents that another party of about ten men from the mines, en route for this city, had been murdered by the Indians only three days preceding the attack in which he was a sufferer as narrated.

Anticipating, from representations of Bevins and others, that no legal process could be served upon the chiefs named, without a military force to sustain the officer of the law, the Marshal, by direction of Judge Kinney, made representations to Col. Connor, commanding the California Volunteers in this vicinity, which resulted in the march of a company of infantry northward on Thursday afternoon, under command of Capt. Hoyt. On Sunday evening, about sundown, four companies of cavalry marched through the city, under the direct command of Col. Connor, Marshal Gibbs accompanying, for the same place, with the expectation, no doubt, of surprising the Indians, who would be looking for the infantry only.

We understand the expedition has taken forty days' rations, but counting on returning within ten days: of course, none can tell when starting on such an expedition when and how they may return, and prudence is a very essential element in generalship while among Indians and deep snows.

Of the present condition and number of the Indians and their locality we have heard various reports; the commander of the troops, however, we anticipate, marches with the expectation that he will come up with the red skins about eighty or ninety miles from here on Bear River, and that with ordinary good luck the volunteers will "wipe them out," if the chiefs named in the writ do not deliver themselves up.

The Indians are said to have seventy-five lodges—six hundred warriors under Sandpitch, about 125 miles from here, and forty other lodges and one hundred and seventy warriors on Bear River, the whole ready for a fight, with "breastworks and rifle pits," awaiting the arrival of the volunteers. This all may be so; and again it may not be so. However, Col. Connor is well posted, and well supplied with guides, infantry, cavalry, howitzers and shell to meet mountain or scientific warfare.

We stated in previous issues of the NEWS that the Indians were determined to be revenged for their comrades who were killed in the other expeditions, and the recent facts confirm our past statements. Parties who arrived in this city from the Indian country while the troops were marching through make the same statements. The Indian has ever been a difficult subject to handle with nicety and justice. We believe in treating him like a human being as long as we can, never expecting from him more than from white men, and often expecting much less. When he is determined on robbery and murder he needs looking after, and when chastised must be handled effectively; but we think, in dealing with him, Crockett's a sure maxim—"first know you are right, then go-a-head." The present warlike attitude of the Indians may be without cause; but they aver that they have been the injured and provoked party. However, as we may expect better information shortly, on the return of the Volunteers, we shall defer further remarks.

In this connection it may be stated that we have heard of charges against parties trading with the Indians, purchasing from them emigrant plunder, and in return supplying them with "munitions of war." We expect that unprincipled persons are to be found on every frontier who would purchase from Dick,

Tom or Harry, if they could only "get a bargain" without regard to the color—white, red or black, of the seller. There is no apology for such illegal traffic, and if our information is correct, the present expedition north is likely to seek some light on this subject. We wish this community rid of all such parties, and if Col. Connor be successful in reaching that bastard class of humans who play with the lives of the peaceable and law-abiding citizens in this way, we shall be pleased to acknowledge our obligations.

CONFEDERATE VICTORY AT GALVESTON.

The attack on the Federal land and naval forces at Galveston on the 1st instant was evidently unexpected by the officers in command there, and the result so disastrous to the Federal arms caused much consternation, and a general gloom on hearing the report thereof is said to have pervaded every department of the service in the Gulf and bordering States.

The attack was, as stated, simultaneous on land and water, and made with such overwhelming force that it could not be resisted, notwithstanding the bravery of the men who fought desperately to prevent the Confederates from regaining possession of the place, which is one of great importance to them in the prosecution of the war.

The Federal fleet in the Bay was attacked early in the morning by five steamers filled with troops, protected by bales of cotton. The troops were armed with rifles and muskets which they used with telling effect. The exact number of gunboats and other vessels comprising the Federal fleet, has not been made known to the public. The Harriet Lane, which was seized by the enemy soon after the commencement of the war, and subsequently retaken, was, after nearly all her officers and crew, including Capt. Wainwright, had been killed by the murderous fire of the Confederate riflemen, boarded and it is stated that only two officers and about a dozen men out of one hundred and thirty escaped death. The Westfield, commodore Renshaw's flag-ship, was ashore, and on being attacked, Renshaw transferred her crew to the transports as quickly as possible, and then to prevent her from falling into the hands of the enemy made the necessary preparations for blowing her up. By some miscalculation, or accident, the explosion took place sooner than anticipated, and the commodore, one lieutenant and several of the crew were blown up with the vessel. The gunboats Owasco and Clifton escaped, and several transports, but not without loss. The balance of the vessels belonging to the fleet, more or less, were captured. Those which were fortunate enough to get away, sailed for New Orleans with as little delay as possible.

The Confederates on land were equally successful and their victory was complete. Their plans had been so secretly and completely arranged, and were so artfully carried into execution, that Colonel Burrell, the officer in command, was not advised of their intentions nor of their approach until they were within the limits of the city, in force. They had managed to bring eight pieces of ordnance into the city, concealed in leads of bay, and had placed them in a warehouse where they could be easily and quickly brought to bear upon the Federal troops whenever the attack might be commenced, which was effectually done as soon as the Harriet Lane became engaged. The troops are represented to have fought with great desperation, but had to yield to the greatly superior force of the enemy, and after driving them far back several times were surrounded and taken prisoners.

On the receipt at New Orleans of the news that Galveston had been retaken by the Confederates, and that the fleet there had sustained a disastrous defeat, Commodore Farragut immediately sent six or eight formidable gunboats to recapture the Harriet Lane at all hazards, and retrieve, as far as possible, the losses which had resulted to the Federal arms by the unlooked for and successful attack of the Confederates on one of the most important points on the Texan coast. The result of the expedition may be expected to be favorable to the Union cause, but it will be no easy matter to place things in as favorable a condition as they were before deemed to be for the occupancy of Texas by the Federal troops and its subjugation to the government from which the State has seceded.

SIGNS OF BARBARISM IN OHIO.

The Columbus (Ohio) Crisis has an account of horrible disclosures in relation to a political prison in Ohio—not a place of confinement for prisoners of war, but for the incarceration of men daring to entertain and express sentiments at variance with the policy and acts of the party now in authority. This prison, or bastille, of State, located at Camp Chase, Columbus, if recently published accounts be true, is likely to cast into the shade the inquisitorial proceedings at the Federal bastilles—Forts Warren and Lafayette, or even the famous Russian O'mutz itself.

The Crisis states that from six to seven hundred of this class of citizens, adroitly designated "political prisoners," have at the same time been immured in this Ohio bastille; that, although several hundred have been lately discharged without trial, there are yet there some four hundred—one or two hundred of these having arrived there within a few days past from Kentucky and Western Virginia. These men are taken from their homes, some from their beds at night, some from their houses in daytime, and a great many of them are picked up in their fields at work, and never suffered to see their families before being spirited off to Ohio and incarcerated. Many of these doomed objects of invidious suspicions have been kept in this prison for over one year, a great many for five, six, seven and eight months, without even seeing outside, or being allowed to communicate personally with any one, not even wife, child, father, mother, or stranger. They are furnished with but a single blanket, no bedding but bare boards, but little wood, raw provisions, which they must cook for themselves the best way they can. The filthiness of this political-pen is horribly pictured in the Crisis' statement—that "a dead man, one of the prisoners, was the other day carried out to the dead yard, and laid there over night, and when visited in the morning by other prisoners, who heard there was a dead man there, they found the hair on his head stiff with lice and nits—the lice creeping into his eyes in great numbers and, as he lay with his mouth open, the lice were thick crawling in and out of his open mouth." The rats are said to exist there in droves—and any attempts by the prisoners to kill one of them, exposes the ratside to the penalty of being instantly shot.

These political prisoners are men, says the Crisis, against whom no one appears as accuser, whose names are kept secret, "against whom some malicious negro worshiper has created a suspicion of disloyalty," but in whose cases no trial is or can be instituted.

Medary confirms his statements as above in the following term:

"Now, if any one doubts this—if the authorities at camp or at the State House doubt it, if the Legislature, when it meets, will raise a committee, we promise to name the witnesses who, if sent for, will, under oath, prove all this, and as much more, some of which is too indecent to print in a newspaper for the public ear."

MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.—A few weeks since, say five or six, our wheelbarrow—a very good vehicle of the kind, having a wrought iron wheel—either rolled or was rolled away from our premises, but whereto has not as yet been ascertained. Information concerning it is requested, and that which will lead to its recovery will be suitably rewarded. Such implements being much in use, and not subject to taxation under the Internal Revenue law seem to be considered by some persons as public property, and are too often found in the possession of others than their rightful owners, the borrower forgetting to return them.

THEATRE.—The representations last week of Ingomar—the Barbarian—drew "crowded houses." The Burlesque Tragic Opera—Bombastes Furioso—was the best farce of the season—it took immensely. To-night, the management announces the beautiful drama—Retribution, followed by Domestic Economy, and concluding with Bombastes Furioso, which will, doubtless, crowd the house.

Some very fine plays are in rehearsal of a first class order, and will be early put on the boards. The management seemingly spares neither talent or expense in the "make up" of the pieces. Every thing indicates fine taste and anxiety to meet the wishes of the patrons.