

## SOUTHERN NEWS ITEMS.

The Raymond (Miss.) Gazette says that on the very day the Federal fleet commenced operations in the Yazoo river, President Davis and his staff, Gen. Johnston and his staff, Gen. S. D. Lee and his staff, and innumerable other military men of renown, all dined at the house of Mr. Blake, near the banks of the Yazoo, not only within hearing of the guns of the Yankees, but also within sight of those terrible gunboats.

At Memphis, on the 15th ult., snow fell to the depth of ten inches, a thing before unheard of in that latitude.

It is reported that 75,000 Confederate troops have been taken from the Rappahannock and sent into North Carolina; also that another force has been withdrawn thence for the south-west.

The steamer Giraffe lately run the blockade, bringing to the Confederates a very valuable cargo, including some twenty lithographic engravers and printers for the Treasury Department.

The Richmond Examiner pronounces Gen. Butler's being permitted to depart from the city of New Orleans alive, a stain upon the character of every man in that city, who has the strength to raise a weapon.

The Richmond papers publish President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation—not being afraid of its effects on the colored population—as another evidence of unconstitutional encroachment.

The New Merrimack—reported to have been a failure—has made her appearance at the mouth of James river, doubtless on the lookout for a chance to "goible up" some of the Federal fleet.

At the Varieties Theatre in Richmond, Dec. 24, was played a new play entitled "The Guerrillas"—the characters being "Confederate" and "Federal"—the leading one of the latter being Gen. Fremont.

The Confederate privateer Ovetto, or Florida, which escaped from Mobile on Jan. 17, is a propeller of 1,000 tons, bark rigged, with raking masts, a low, sharp hull, with two smoke pipes issuing from her deck. Her hull, which was originally black, has been whitewashed, but the whitewash becoming dirty, she looks a sort of smutty gray. Her crew consists of 130 men. She is armed with two eleven-inch guns, two 32-pound rifles, two 64-pounders, and two pivot guns. Rumor says that she carries a 15-inch gun, but this is not credited. She is very swift, and has, according to rumor, repeatedly made 16 knots an hour. It is reported that the Florida and Alabama are hereafter, to hunt in couples.

A Havana correspondent says, it is well understood here that vessels of the Confederacy will be allowed to coal, take provisions and make repairs in any Cuban port convenient—in other words, they are accorded all the privileges enjoyed by vessels of war of the United States—or the most favored nations!

Richmond advices represent that preparations are on foot in that city for the construction of several formidable gunboats, to be built of heavy live oak timber and then mailed with iron.

Rio coffee sold at auction in Augusta, Ga., about Jan. 20, at \$2.95 per pound.

Richmond is in direct telegraphic communication with Port Hudson, Miss.

The Richmond Examiner of Jan. 20 has a remarkable editorial, in which it makes the following singular admissions: "It is not altogether an empty boast on the part of the Yankees that they hold all they ever held, and that another year of such progress as they have already made will find them masters of the Southern Confederacy." The Examiner concludes its jeremiad by urging the strictest enforcement of the conscription, and says, "If within the next two months we do not add seventy-five or a hundred thousand men to our forces in the Southwest we shall come to grief."

The Jackson Appeal says, "If there are any fears of the safety of Port Hudson, let them be at once dismissed. All the Yankees in the world, &c., could not reduce Port Hudson."

The Confederates in Havana are in high glee. Mr. Helm, their agent, holds a reception every Friday evening, and ex-Mayor Wood's daughter was present at a late one.

Confederate papers mention Tulahoma as the spot where Bragg will make a stand for the battle which "shall determine the fate of Tennessee."

Interesting news from Charleston, S.C., has

been brought north by deserters. They report about 30,000 troops now massed in and around Charleston, of whom three regiments are "regulars" of the Confederate army. Upon James' Island are stationed from 15,000 to 20,000 men. Sullivan's Island bristles with batteries, garrisoned by two regiments of infantry and two artillery companies. Fort Sumter holds a force of 650 or 700 men, under Colonel Rhett, and the fort on the middle ground is also well manned. The force on Morris' Island numbers about 1,000 men, and the entire shore of Charleston harbor is lined with heavy guns. The two iron-clad batteries constructed for harbor defence are afloat, and it is generally supposed that they will prove very effective.

The conscription law is being enforced everywhere throughout the South, with greatly increased rigidity.

The debt of the Confederacy, at the close of December last, as per report of the Sec. of the Treasury, was \$556,105,162. The expenditures from the 18th of February, 1862, up to Dec. 31st, were \$416,671,735. The additional amount required to carry on the government up to the 1st of July next will be \$290,493,713. Up to Dec. 31st, \$85,775,500 worth of interest-bearing Treasury notes had been issued, besides \$260,149,692 worth of Treasury notes exclusive of those bearing interest.

The Richmond papers complain bitterly of the character of a cargo of women lately sent from Washington to Richmond under a flag of truce. The Enquirer furiously demands that "steps shall be taken to protect the community from these characters;" and the Charleston Courier says the women behaved scandalously on the voyage, and calls the thing "an abuse of the flag of truce." The Washington Star wonders "if any of the Richmond editors have got bit."

The Confederate Government has purchased up to this time 10,000 bales of cotton in Mississippi, and is negotiating for much more.

The Wilmington (N. C.) Journal thinks Gen. Foster's strategy in North Carolina either profoundly shallow or profoundly deep. On the whole, it thinks disaffection in his army accounts for his alleged want of fixed purpose.

The Richmond Whig hints that there is no truth in a story that French bankers had loaned the oligarchy fifteen millions of dollars, over which story Richmond was half crazy on the 26th ult.

A Fredericksburg letter of the 22d, to the Whig, shows that the Confederates are as essentially bothered to understand the movements of the Federal troops in that quarter, as we are to divine the movements of theirs.

## SEVENTIES HALL LECTURES.

Tuesday 27th ult., Mr. T. B. Broderick delivered the second of a series of lectures on Geology. The discourse was chiefly devoted to the reconciling of the Mosaic chronology, found in the first book of the Pentateuch, with the discoveries recently made in geological science. The lecturer then pointed out the opposition Columbus met with from theologians, when he gave his views of the earth's formation. Wound up by calling attention to the antiquity of the rocks of the Nile and Niagara, stating how long a period was required for the waters to wear off a solid foot of rock, and thus, by analogous reasoning demonstrated the great age of our globe.

Friday Evening, 30th ult., The subject of this evening's lecture was, "Tokens of Divinity in our Religion," which was discoursed upon in a very able and interesting manner by Mr. Elias L. T. Harrison. The style of the lecturer's reasoning was new and highly instructive. In the forepart of his address he pointed out the class of physical evidences generally given by the Almighty to physical minded men, such for instance as the permitting a man to be sick and then healing him by miraculous interposition; allowing another to be afflicted with evil spirits, and by a display of his power releasing him. Mr. Harrison's arguments on the mental evidences imparted by the Lord to those of refined taste and cultivated minds, were of that sublime character that are seldom met with in the lecture room or pulpit. In all the creations of God, he remarked, one thing is adapted for another, as the lungs for the atmosphere, the eyes to admire the various tints of color; he that made the organs of taste made the fruits that man finds aound him and which he desires. Man like his maker has a love of the beautiful, he is created with an unbounding ambition, and all this tends to confirm the doctrine of Joseph the Prophet, that man is the offspring of God.

Mr. Jaques' lecture on "Fruit Culture," delivered on the 3d inst., was published in our issue of the 11th.

Friday Evening the 6th, Mr. H. E. Phelps read a paper upon "Honor and Honesty." He was followed by Mr. Edward W. Tullidge with an excellent lecture on the "Intellectual

development of the Latter Day Saints, past, present and future."

On the 10th inst., Mr. Wm. H. Groves delivered a lecture on the "Arctic Ocean, and the inhabitants of its shores."

Friday evening 13th, there was a full house, all evincing some anxiety to hear Mr. J. V. Long's lecture on "Biblical Witchcraft." After a brief introduction to a subject of so novel a character, the lecturer defined that which is generally denominated witchcraft, to be "the influence and power of evil spirits, manifested through wicked men and women." Mr. Long denounced spiritual rappings, mesmerism, electro-biology, clairvoyance and kindred arts, as being in direct opposition to the pious hood of God, all having been developed by the Devil to deceive those who know not God, and who take pleasure in unrighteousness, as much so as the Magicians of Egypt were raised up by that power to oppose Moses and Aaron. He next proved that witchcraft was condemned by all the prophets, and by Jesus and the Apostles also, and hence the necessity of the Saints discouraging and disapprobating all spiritual intercourse which is not under the control of the priesthood.

Mr. Harris' second lecture on the "Tokens of Divinity in our Religion," was delivered on Tuesday the 17th, to an attentive audience.

## DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB FESTIVAL.

The annual festive gathering of this society came off on Monday evening of the 9th inst., in the Social Hall. Dancing, of course, formed the chief recreation of the evening.

After supper, the President, Mr. Geo. B. Wallace, entertained the assemblage with a brief, impromptu address, referring to the origin, objects and expectations of the Domestic Gardener's Club. His remarks also embraced some valuable hints recommedatory of more general interest in fruit-growing and everything pertaining to practical soil-culture. Allusions were also made to the real benefits already derived by the community from the unobtrusive efforts of this infantile society—thus affording stimulating encouragement to the farmers and gardeners in other localities and settlements in Deseret to secure to themselves the well-defined advantages of similar associations.

The table of apples displayed on the front of the stage, tastefully arranged by the committee, would have done credit to older fruit-growing countries. Of their excellence in quality and flavor, the assembly had the opportunity of judging for themselves.

The assemblages of the Gardener's Club have heretofore been annually observed in a more private manner—being held at the residences of various members, the number having been limited to fifteen. The number of members and friends of the Society having considerably increased, the demand for a more commodious place seemed imperative; and the opinion was unanimous that, for the present occasion, no house was so desirable as the Social Hall.

It was announced as the intention of the Club in future to celebrate their anniversaries in the fall—at the close of the season of fruit and while most of the finest and rarest varieties are obtainable—that they and their friends may be not alone delighted with the sight of the many delicious fruits, grown by the members collectively, but also be feasted upon them, as many of us were wont in other days.

The social re-union of a body of Deseretians so practical and exerting influences so wide and beneficial to the agricultural interest of this region of the American continent cannot but be regarded as a significant omen in the march of our permanent progress, prosperity and independence.

GOLD FIELDS ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.—Intelligence has been received from the prospecting parties from Canada, and from the Red River settlement, which set out last spring to explore the Saskatchewan, on their way to the gold fields of Cariboo. Gold has been discovered at Fort Edmonton, and at various other points along the river, in sufficient quantities to satisfy them that the valley of the Saskatchewan is likely to prove a rich auriferous region, and the whole party have accordingly resolved to winter at Edmonton instead of proceeding on to British Columbia. While one portion of them are engaged in mining and prospecting for gold, others have commenced agricultural operations and buffalo hunting, with the view of laying up a store of provisions for the winter. In the course of another year, as the gold discovery spreads, it may be confidently anticipated that a considerable community will be collected on the banks of the Saskatchewan, for whom some settled form of government will be required to be organized.—[Bulletin.]

—A female preacher occupies a pulpit in Pittsburg, preaching steadily to a congregation.

## A CALIFORNIA STORY.

In the Northern part of this State (California) is a stream called Yuba River. Across it some enterprising individual built a bridge; and on the banks somebody else built three or four houses. The inhabitants called the place Yuba Dam. Three bars were instantly erected, and the "town" increased rapidly. About noon one cool day, a traveler and sojourner in the land passed this flourishing locality, and seeing a long-legged specimen of humanity in a red shirt smoking before one of the bars, thus addressed him:—

"Hello!"

"Hello!" replied the shirt, with vigor, removing his pipe from his mouth.

"What place is this?" demanded the traveler, whose name was Thompson.

The answer of the shirt was unexpected: "Yuba Dam!"

There was about fifty yards between them, and the wind was blowing. Mr. Thompson thought he had been mistaken.

"What did you say?" he asked.

"Yuba Dam," replied the stranger, cheerfully.

"What place is this?" roared Mr. Thompson.

"Yu-ba Dam!" said the shirt, in a slightly elevated tone of voice.

"Loo-ee here!" yelled the irate Thompson; I asked you politely what place this was; why in hunder don't you answer?"

The stranger became excited. He rose and replied with the voice of an eighty-pounder:

"Yu-ba-dam! Do you hear that?"

In a minute Thompson, burning with the wrath of the righteous, jumped off his horse and advanced on the stranger with an expression not to be mistaken. The shirt arose and assumed a posture of offence and defence.

Arrived within a yard of him, Thompson said—

"I ask you for the last time. What place is this?"

Putting his hands to his mouth his opponent roared:

"Yu-ba-dam!"

The next minute they were at it. First Thompson was down, then the shirt, and then it was a dog-fall—that is, both were down. They rolled about, kicking up a tremendous dust. They squirmed around so energetically, that you'd have thought they had a dozen eggs instead of four. It looked like a prize-fight between two pugilistic centipedes. Finally, they both rolled off the bank and into the river. The water cooled them. They went down together, but came up separate and put out for the shore. Both reached it about the same time, and Thompson scrambled up the bank, mounted his warlike steed, and made tracks, leaving his foe gouging the mud out of one of his eyes.

Having left the business portion of the town, that is to say, the corner where the three bars were kept, he struck a house in the suburbs, before which a little girl of about four years of age, was playing.

"What place is this, Sissy?" he asked.

"The little girl, frightened at the downed rat figure which the stranger cut, streaked it for the house. Having reached the door she stopped, turned, and squealed—Oo-bee-dam!"

"Good Heavens!" said Thompson, digging his heels between his horse's ribs—"Good Heavens! let me get out of this horrid place, where not only the men but the very babes and sucklings swear at inoffensive travelers!"

## AMERICAN NATIONAL AIRS.

Yankee Doodle is an old English agricultural song, and was sung in derision by the British soldiers during the revolution at Boston.

The music of the "Star Spangled Banner" is an old English air, once bearing the title of "Anacreon in Heaven." Robert Treat Paine adapted to this air one of his popular songs, "Adams and Liberty," during the life of Washington, one verse of which was in praise of the Father of his Country. But it was not until 1811 that Francis Scott Key, then a young lawyer, composed the present words in remembrance of the bombardment of Fort Mchenry, when Baltimore was besieged by the British fleet; the sight of the national banner proudly floating amid the carnage and destruction of the attack inspiring the refrain which has given the title to the song.

The words of "Hail Columbia" were written in 1798 by Judge Joseph Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, to what was called the "President's March," an air composed by a German named Foyles, on the occasion of a visit of the President to one of the New York theatres.

AN ABDUCTION BY AN OURANG-OUTANG.—A recent traveler in Borneo relates an abduction case which exceeds in novelty anything which has occurred among the fast population of our large cities. A monstrous female ourang-outang, taking a fancy to a poor Muret gentleman whom she saw bathing, which she compelled him to climb, and lodged him in a warm nest, watched him with feminine jealousy, fed him with fruit and palm cabbage, and forced him to travel from one branch to another instead of treading the ground. The tale is a tragedy, for the ungrateful Muret not only ran away at the first opportunity, but afterward shot the forest siren with a poisoned arrow.

—Of about forty newspapers in New Hampshire, one year ago, nearly one-third have been discontinued or consolidated with others.