

turn and passed uninjured. It is said, as per report, by old naval officers that never within their memory have so many shots been fired with so little effect as from the rebel batteries on the Lower Potomac.

A brigade of Federal troops left Rolla, Mo., about the middle of January, composed of the 35th and 36th Illinois, 25th and 44th Missouri regiments, and Bachoff's and Hoffman's batteries under command of Gen. Otterbans. Another brigade, under Gen. Sigel, would probably leave in a day or two, and General Sigel would doubtless assume command of the entire division at a proper time.

It was reported that the pickets of the enemy extended fourteen miles from Springfield, and the force of Gen. Price was estimated at about 12,000 men. It was reported that General McIntosh was coming to his aid from Arkansas with large reinforcements.

A dispatch received at Cairo on the 17th, from Cipe Girardeau, stated that the expedition which left there for Dallas and Bloomfield had returned bringing twenty-three prisoners, among them Capt. Doy, of Jeff. Thompson's army.

A battle is reported to have taken place on Saturday the 18th of January at Somerset, Ky., between the Federal forces under Gen. Schoepf and the Confederates under General Zollicoffer, which lasted from early in the morning till dark, in which General Zollicoffer was killed. Another account of the battle represents that General Thomas' division was attacked by Zollicoffer and that he was the victorious General and not Schoepf.

A Louisville dispatch of the 20th says that General Thomas telegraphed to head quarters that General Zollicoffer came up to his encampment on the night of the 17th and attacked him on the 18th at six o'clock in the morning at Wells' Roads, near Somerset, and that at three o'clock in the afternoon Zollicoffer and Baillie Peyton had both been killed and the Confederates were in full retreat to their entrenchments with the Federal troops in hot pursuit.

A Cincinnati dispatch of the 20th says that a combined attack was made that day on the Confederates, at Mill Springs, Wayne county, Kentucky, resulting in a complete victory, the Federal forces capturing all their camp property and a large number of prisoners. The loss on both sides was reported heavy. Another account states that General Thomas followed up the Confederates on Sunday afternoon to their entrenchments, sixteen miles from his own camp, and when about to attack them, on Monday morning, he found their intrenchments deserted, the Confederates having left their cannon, quartermaster's stores, tents, horses and wagons, which fell into the hands of Gen. Thomas. They had crossed the Cumberland in a steamboat and nine barges, at White Oak Creek, opposite their encampment. Two hundred and seventy-five of the enemy were killed and wounded, including Gen. Zollicoffer and Baillie Peyton, who were found dead on the field. The 10th Indiana lost seventy-five killed.

It is alleged that Baillie Peyton, reported killed, was a son of Baillie Peyton, late member of Congress and, under President Fillmore, Minister to Brazil.

The latest accounts estimate the entire Federal loss at thirty-nine killed and one hundred and fifty wounded, and that Gen. Thomas took fourteen cannon and one thousand four hundred mules and horses.

The great Southern expedition, which commenced moving from Cairo on the 10th, turned out to be a reconnaissance only, and did not advance towards the Gulf. The whole force under General Grant returned to their former positions on or before the 21st. It is reported that the object of the expedition was a reconnaissance in force of all that part of Kentucky upon which operations against Columbus will necessarily be performed, and a demonstration to aid Gen. Buell's right wing. The Federal forces, it is alleged, were eminently successful as the engineer corps under Gen. Webster had obtained an accurate knowledge of the country.

It was understood that Gen. Smith had taken the camp equipage, and whatever was left in Camp Beargard, and the Confederates fled to Columbus. General McClelland's brigade went to within seven miles of Columbus, and encamped on the night of the 16th in sight of the enemy's watchfires. They afterwards visited the towns of Milburne, Leve-

lanceville and Blandville, surveying all the roads as they went.

Some who were disappointed at the result of what they had supposed was intended for a grand expedition to Dixie, not fully comprehending the utility of such movements, denounced it, in unmeasured terms, as an ill-devised feint from which no good could possibly result.

A report by Adjutant-General Harding to Gov. Gamble shows that 33,862 Missouri troops have entered the Federal service for three years, or the war, of which 25,000 are infantry, 3,000 artillery, and 6,000 cavalry.

Miscellaneous News Items.

Mrs. Myra Gaines, whose celebrated lawsuit against the city of New Orleans was decided in the Supreme Court, just before the secession of Louisiana, recently received permission from government to return to New Orleans by way of Fortress Monroe and Norfolk.

Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War, resigned his office on the 13th of January. It was generally supposed that his resignation was in consequence of his disagreement with the President and Gen. McClellan in relation to the way and manner of conducting the war. He shortly after received the appointment of Minister to Russia, which he accepted. His successor as Secretary of War, is Edwin M. Stanton, of Pennsylvania, Attorney General at the close of Buchanan's administration.

The latest dates from Santa Fe, published in the Eastern papers, were to December 29th. Two thousand Texan troops were then reported to be marching up the Rio Grande river for the purpose of attacking Fort Craig, and the same number marching up the Pecos to attack Fort Union. The troops stationed at Fort Wise have been ordered to New Mexico.

Numerous applications are said to have been made to the Commissioner of Patents for cotton seed; and if a way shall be opened by a movement of the army at a sufficiently early day, it is the intention of the Commissioner to procure a quantity of such seed as he believes will succeed in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, for distribution. It is suggested to those who design to attempt the cultivation on a large scale to secure seed through persons connected with the advancing army, and not look to the Post Office for their supply.

On the 15th, some of the transports with troops belonging to Burnside's expedition were still in Hampton Roads, detained by bad weather. There was a severe storm of snow and wind along the coast, which commenced on the 14th and continued two or three days.

The director of the mint at Philadelphia has announced the regulations of the mint in relation to the purchase of silver bullion for coinage: The mint price of silver, heretofore 121 cents, is now raised to 122½ cents per ounce of standard weight, melted and assayed as usual, and the standard weight determined therefrom in ounces to the one-hundredth part of an ounce. The receipt given at the first weighing must be presented by the seller or his order. This direction will apply to the mint at Philadelphia and the assay office at New York. The silver purchased for coinage will be paid for in the silver coins of the United States of less denomination than the dollar. By this regulation, five-franc pieces are worth 98 cents; the Mexican and South American dollars, 106.3 cents; old Spanish dollars, 105.1 cents; Revolutionary or "hammered" dollars 101.2; half-dollars of the United States coined before 1837, 52.2 cents; the same since 1837 to the last change or standard in 1853, 52.5 cts.

A portion of the cars of a freight train from Albany to Boston, on the 14th of January, were thrown off the track while passing a sharp curve near Turtle Bend bridge, in Russell, Mass., and the flooring and timbers of the bridge were so cut by the car wheels that two spans gave way and precipitated seven cars loaded with flour, hogs and beef cattle into the river below, a distance of thirty feet. The cars were entirely demolished, but, as reported, no lives were lost.

A wood train on the Delaware road is reported to have gone through the draw of the bridge over the Delaware and Chesapeake canal, near St. George's station. There were no passengers and only fifteen employees on the train, of whom seven were killed and several badly wounded. The dispatch, announcing the occurrence, says the accident was not "very serious."

A snow storm, on Jan'y 15th, accompanied by thunder and lightning, was reported by the telegraph-operators at Sleystown and Connaught, Penn., as a strange phenomenon.

Such storms are of frequent occurrence in this mountainous region.

The New York Tribune says that the first cargo of cotton from Port Royal, shipped to New York by order of Government—twenty-nine bales—was sold at auction on the 10th ult., according to previous announcement. About fifty cotton brokers were present, but there was a lack of spirit about the affair, no one appearing to manifest much interest in the sale; prices ranged from twenty-seven to sixty-three cents.

The committee of ways and means, in the Senate, at their meeting on the morning of the 13th ult., it is stated, finished their bill making appropriations for the army, and authorized the chairman to report it. The amount asked for in the bill was \$487,000,000, merely for the army proper, and did not include the amount needed for fortifications, which was \$4,000,000, and the other appropriations for the Department, amounting to several millions more.

The Legislature of Ohio have passed an act authorizing the suspension of specie payments by the banks of this State.

The workmen of the Philadelphia Navy Yard struck on the 16th of January, and refused to accept the new regulations of reduced wages and extended time for labor. They resolved to communicate with their fellow-workmen at New York, Boston and Washington, and request their active co-operation in urging Congress to repeal the eighth section of the act of December.

The investigating committee, appointed by Congress, known as the Van Wyck committee, were looking into the contracts made by Col. Crossman, Quartermaster at Philadelphia, and late of the Department of Utah. The evidence that had been elicited showed great frauds on Government, and the committee were determined to sift his operations thoroughly, and, if possible, put a stop to such frauds forever, at least in Philadelphia. That they will not be able to do, unless they either hang Crossman or remove him from office. He has been engaged in swindling Government too long to be reformed.

At St. Louis, on the 17th of January, the navigation of the Mississippi was entirely suspended in consequence of the gorging of the ice twenty miles below the city, and extending to some distance above.

Four deserters arrived at Cairo from Columbus on the evening of January 17th, and reported that there were forty thousand troops at that post.

Mr. Collins, of Boston, also arrived there the same evening, in eight days from New Orleans, and reported that the feeling at the South was getting worse and more bitter every day. He escaped by representing himself bearer of dispatches from the Belgian consul, but was detained two days at Columbus.

Heavy rains prevailed in Ohio during the week preceding the 20th of January, and the Ohio river at Cincinnati on that day, had fifty-two feet of water, and still rising at the rate of three inches per hour. On the 23d there were fifty-five feet seven inches of water in the channel.

It is reported that in connection with the preparations which have been in progress for some time past for crushing the southern rebellion the Government has been making provision for the reception and safe keeping of such Confederates as are expected to be captured in the march south.

The prison referred to is in the course of erection on Bull's Island, in Sandusky Bay, about a mile from its mouth, and about two miles from Sandusky, Ohio. The island is said to comprise about three hundred acres of land, sixty of which have been leased by Government for that purpose. The buildings were expected to be ready for occupation by the first of this month, and would consist of a store-house, three houses for officers' quarters, a soldiers' barracks and a hospital building. A short distance from these buildings is the inclosure for the prisoners, of about fifteen acres, a stout plank-board fence, eight feet high, with sentry boxes and sentry walks. Within the inclosure are eight large two-story structures, substantially built and airy, and said to contrast very favorably with the narrow, crowded and unhealthy jail accommodations provided for the Federal prisoners at the South.

The steamer Atlantic from Port Royal on the 20th, arrived at New York on the 23d ult. with 1,523 bales unginned cotton, 62 bales ginned, 1 pianoforte, and one billiard table belonging to Government, as freight.

California News.

By mail from the West we have California dates to January 18th. The papers are filled with accounts of the late flood in that State which inundated the country to an extent before unknown to the present inhabitants, destroying a vast amount of property and many lives. The flood at Sacramento was at its greatest height on the 10th ult., exceeding that of the 9th of December by at least twenty inches. At Folsom on the night of the 10th ult. the American river rose sixty feet above low water mark, sweeping away every thing with which the raging waters came in contact. All the streams, the waters of which flow into San Francisco Bay, were up to the highest water mark ever known before, and in some places considerably higher, and the amount of damage, destruction, death and desolation caused by the flood was beyond computation, and no one pretended to make estimates. All that could be said was that nearly every thing along the streams and wherever the waters went was swept away. How many lives were lost it was not supposed would ever be ascertained, but the number was large, principally Chinamen and others engaged in mining.

There was a destructive fire in San Francisco on the night of the 11th of January, consuming several small tenements adjoining the Pacific Flour Mills and Sarsfield Hall, corner of Pacific and Montgomery streets, in which seven persons are reported to have been burned to death. Several others were killed and many were badly injured in jumping from the balcony and windows to escape from the flames.

From Mexico.

The latest accounts in New York received from Mexico represented that the Mexican Congress had adjourned, after fully authorizing the President to adopt all measures he might deem prudent to resist the Spanish invasion.

Letters received from Mexico at Havana to the 6th of January, stated that different opinions existed there in regard to the war. The moderate tone of President Juarez's message contrasted strongly with the language of the municipal and other public documents on the matter. Different opinions also prevailed in regard to the abandoning of Vera Cruz by the Mexican troops; some declare that the Mexican general ought to have destroyed the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa before leaving it.

The Mexican Congress, before its adjournment, passed a law of general amnesty to political prisoners, and called upon people of all political shades to unite for the common defense of the country, and established a tax of two per cent. on all capital over five hundred dollars in value to be collected in four payments.

The English minister left Mexico on the 16th of December; M. de Saligny the French minister, had also left the capital with the members and archives of his legation. The subjects of France and England would seek the protection of the minister of Prussia.

Mr. Picket, the envoy of the Confederate States, left Mexico in company with the French minister.

A Naughty Governor.

"The Governor of Utah (Dawson, of Indiana,) now before the Senate for confirmation, who has been driven out of that Territory, was so driven out, as is stated by affidavit, because of improper conduct with a white woman there, whose affidavit is to go before the Senate. The affidavit excited considerable sensation at Washington."—*D. trait Tribune January 24th*

It would seem from the above, and other newspaper paragraphs which have come under our notice, that Mr. Dawson is not likely to soon forget his short sojourn in this Territory. The gentlemen of the quill are notorious for excellent memories on such little "tit bits." The Tribune, however, at the above date was rather behind the times in its Washington intelligence, as we have reliable information that the Senate almost unanimously refused to confirm Dawson's appointment on the 16th.

THAT WHEAT.—The roads are now good—first rate—and no better time may be expected for months for hauling that wheat which was to have been delivered at the General Tiding Store House months since.