

ITEMS OF MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

On or about the 17th ult. the shoddy mill of Hurst & Co., at Cohoes, N. Y., was destroyed by fire—burning to death several of the female operatives. The flames, says the report, spread with such rapidity that the only means of escape left for the girls was through the window. Some of them were so terror-stricken that they abandoned themselves to their fate and perished in the building. Others fell from the windows into the fire. Many were badly injured by jumping to the ground. Twenty-five were missing—fifteen of whom are reported burned to death.

It is said that a certain Dr. Segun, of San Salvador, has been sent to the United States to raise a force of adventurers to aid in a war against the Central American States.

Gen. Chamorra, one of the revolutionary leaders in Nicaragua, was recently killed in a skirmish near the frontier of Honduras.

West Tennessee is reported cleared of guerrillas. May be so.

A "Constitutional Union" meeting convened at Rochester, N. Y., on the 18th ult. The chief object was announced to have been for the purpose of organizing in the different States the old Whig Bell and Everett element. Much of the doings were in secret; but whatever other desperate plans were proposed, the country was informed that the restoration of peace and the re-establishment of the Union can only be brought about by the organization of the conservative elements in the North, upon a platform similar to that of the Union-straddling Democracy of Kentucky. This was stated as a foregone conclusion. The last day's session was held with closed doors. What momentous deeds of political daring were then and there resolved upon, the rest of mankind have yet to learn.

On the afternoon of the 18th, the New York Tattersalls, an extensive livery stable on Sixth Avenue, was destroyed by fire. Loss, forty thousand dollars. A number of firemen were injured. Twenty-five horses were burned. It was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary and part of a general scheme of outrage plotted by riotously-disposed persons, exasperated by the renewal of the draft, but being awed from acts of open violence by omnipresent bodies of troops, whose imperative orders were to administer death with unhesitating hand upon the first appearance of resistance or mob violence.

The draft was re-commenced in New York on Wednesday, 19th and, at latest advices, was progressing favorably under a strict and overwhelming military surveillance—Gen. Canby commanding the government forces.

Gov. Seymour, having entered a special protest against the enforcement of the draft, as being unproportionably heavy in the city as compared with the ratio of enrolment in the rural districts of the State, and urging its suspension until its constitutionality could be tested in the courts, received in reply, from President Lincoln a positive declaration of the intention of the government to promptly enforce the draft in the city at every hazard and by whatever of military power at his disposal might in any emergency be required. Mr. Lincoln stated that, while he was ready to submit and would give every facility to the testing in the courts of the constitutionality of the conscription act, he was not disposed to lose the time which would be occupied in this proceeding.

On the 18th ult. Gov. Seymour, with a courteous and statesman-like deference to the Executive decision and judgment, issued a proclamation counseling obedience to the law. While I believe, says he, it would have been a wise and humane policy to have procured a judicial decision with regard to the constitutionality of the conscription act, yet the failure to do this in no degree justifies any violent opposition to an act of Congress. Until it is set aside it must be obeyed. He warned the people that the only opposition that could be allowed was an appeal to the courts. In the event of any riotous proceedings, vigorous and effective measures to suppress it would be used.

A meeting was held at Washington, N. C., on the 11th ult., said to have been composed of citizens representing every county in the first, second and a portion of the third congressional districts—at which resolutions were adopted declaring an energetic prosecution of the war in that department as the only means by which the Union sentiment in the border can be made useful in restoring North

Carolina to the Union; also asking the government for reinforcements for this purpose; accusing the Confederate government of cruelty and perfidy towards North Carolina; declaring her people absolved from any further obligations to sustain it; placing the destruction of slavery on Jeff. Davis and Co.; expressing the belief that North Carolina will find ample compensation in free labor for the present inconvenience of emancipation; rejoicing at the Union victory in the Kentucky election; denouncing the Copperhead Democracy of the North, and commending the ability of the administration in the conduct of the war—especially in the sound national currency organized by the Secretary of War. Are these representative "citizens" assumed proxy cases, such as have heretofore, along the Atlantic's bleak coast, on a narrow strip of sand scarcely to be called *terra firma*, wrested by force of arms from the "insurgents" of the South, blustered so boisterously about "Union and Reconstruction?"—Then have the friends of the Union no cause, as upon the penitent return of a prodigal son, for any extravagant demonstrations of joy.

The draft was ordered to be very light in the States of Ohio and Illinois—not more than twelve thousand in each State—under the consideration that these States had already furnished more than their quotas of the former calls.

The steamer City of Madison, while loading with ammunition at the Vicksburg levee on Wednesday, 19th ult., was blown to pieces through the falling of a percussion shell from the hand of a negro who was carrying it. Out of one hundred and sixty men on board, only four are known to have escaped.

C. Edward Lester, a clerk in the War Department, was arrested at Harper's Ferry on the 24th of August, having important documents in his possession intended for the enemy. He had been suspected for some time of being in communication with the Confederates.

Gen. Pleasanton, whose cavalry was reported to have played such terrible havoc with Gen. Lee's trains in his retreat from Pennsylvania, says a dispatch from Cairo, died at Selma, Ala., about the 20th ult.

By circular from the War Department, Provost Marshal General's Office, Washington, dated Aug. 2d, 1863, the President directed the division of the State of California into three districts—Northern, Middle and Southern—preparatory to enrollment for the conscription.

The U. S. brig Bainbridge foundered at sea during a violent gale on the night of the 21st ult. All on board are reported to have perished, except a colored man, who was picked up on the 22d, by the brig South Boston, for New York.

The Washington *Intelligencer* publishes a letter from one John Adams, just returned from a trip through Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, who reports having initiated himself into the secret pulse beatings of the Confederate leaders—all of whom, according to this wiseacre's ipse dixit, regard their final defeat as inevitable and express a willingness to accede to any terms not humiliating. They say, however, he affirms, that it is not for them to beg for peace, but that it is for President Lincoln to extend the olive branch. The writer urges a proclamation by the President, after the fall of Charleston, offering protection to all who will at once lay down their arms. The *Intelligencer* says the statements of the writer are entitled to full credit.

ITEMS OF SOUTHERN NEWS.

Guerrilla bands infest the western border and interior of Mississippi—murdering straggling citizens or soldiers, destroying property and then suddenly disappearing. Their depredations are exceedingly afflictive. Steamers on the Mississippi are almost daily attacked by them—more or less of their crews and passengers being killed and wounded.

Gov. Shorter, of Alabama, has issued an address to the citizens of that State, urging upon them the impressment of their slaves into the Confederate service.

The Confederate steamer Habershaw, about the 15th of August, exploded her boiler in Savannah river, destroying the vessel and killing all the crew.

Gen. Mercer, commanding at Savannah, is impressing one-fifth of all the able-bodied slaves of Georgia for work on the fortifications.

Confederate cavalry are reported as busily engaged conscripting in that portion of Eastern Virginia south and west of the Rappahannock. Some sections are said to have been nearly depopulated of males—none but very old men, women and children remaining. Parties are also scouring the country for provisions and forage, taking everything. Wide spread suffering and fears of famine during the coming winter are also among the rumors. The negroes were being sent south to prevent their falling into the hands of the Yankees.

A great deal of destitution and suffering are said to exist in North Alabama. The people are limited to a very scant supply of flour and vegetables for food. Meat cannot be had, except in the smallest quantities. The prospects for the coming winter are dark and dismal, and unless relief is afforded to the poor, if reports be true, hundreds of them must die of starvation.

The privateer *Florida*, according to recent accounts, is even out-rivaling the far famed Alabama in her ravages upon American shipping. Capt. Moffat, also, is evidently no novice in his profession and partakes considerably of the Buccaneer element, if reliance may be placed in the accounts received of his exploits. A doubtful statement is made by Capt. Luce, of the bark *Sunset*, which was captured by the steamer *Florida* on the 7th of July. The *Sunset* was not destroyed, but was spared, as is the practice of Capt. Moffat, to convey to New York the accumulated crews of several doomed vessels, together with her own—Capt. Luce being required to sign a bond to the Confederate government for the full value of the vessel and cargo. All the preliminaries, says Capt. Luce, detained him some five hours on board the privateer. In the course of conversation, Moffat indicated very plainly that he was fully informed in regard to Lee's invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and that he was to be aided by the copperhead demonstration in New York and other northern cities; which he believed would compel the United States Government to make peace with the Confederates and acknowledge their independence. The *Florida* was reported off Queenstown, Ireland, on the 18th ult., on the track of American vessels.

Friday Aug. 14th, was the day fixed for the execution, at Richmond, of Capt's H. Washington Sawyer, of the first New Jersey Cavalry, and John Flynn, of the fifty first Indiana Volunteers, in retaliation for the shooting of Capt's Wm. F. Corbin and F. J. McGraw, by Gen. Burnside, at Sandusky, Ohio, on the 15th of May last. None of the Richmond papers of the 15th, however, referred to it and it was considered not only probable that their execution would be postponed, but that there was very little danger of it being ordered, so long as Gen. W. H. Lee and Capt. Winder were held as hostages for them.

In referring to the probability of an almost indefinite continuance of the war, the Richmond *Inquirer* says that "a long protracted war will prove a great evil, wholly unmixed with good; for, the longer the war continues, the more thoroughly exasperated the Southern heart would become with the whole Yankee race and Yankee institutions. We want the aid of France. We are able to pay for it. Let us do it. We shall then have peace or the power to work a sweet revenge on our foul foe."

Gov. Letcher ordered the General Assembly of Virginia, elected in May last, to meet at Richmond, in extra session, on the 7th inst., for the purpose of devising means for the public defence. He said it would require extraordinary exertions on their part to meet the advancing of large levies of additional Federal troops.

The Richmond *Whig*, of the 29th ult., deprecates absenteeism from the Confederate army and makes the remarkable statement that, in the battles around Richmond last June twelve months, the number of soldiers on Gen. Lee's roll was 120,000. The largest number present in battles was 48,000. At the battle of Sharpsburg, the number on Gen. Lee's roll was 40,000. The number actually present and in the fight was only 35,000, and that, at the battle of Gettysburg, the ratio of absentees was about the same. It is useless, continues the *Whig*, "to conceal the fact any longer that our cause will ere long become hopeless if the evil of absenteeism is not arrested."

The *Whig* says, the Yankees are making large hospital accommodations at the Pensacola navy yard and vessels are congregating there, indicating that they contemplate moving on Mobile from that place directly or indirectly.

The Savannah *News* of the 18th ult., says, it is estimated that the number of soldiers now in the Confederate army and preparing for the field is 575,000 and adds that this has hardly reached one half of their fighting population.

A correspondent of the Savannah *Republican* grows considerably at the reconstruction talk of the Raleigh *Standard* and says, "late reverses have developed a number of cases of trembling, weak-kneed fellows who are ready to fall down on their knees and beg mercy of their Yankee masters."

Guerrillas are reported to be very troublesome along the line of the Ohio and Chesapeake canal. Some three hundred of White's band crossed the Potomac at White Ford and gobbled up about forty Federals and a number of teams belonging to the canal company.

Information from Arkansas states that Gen. Kirby Smith has been invested with additional credentials as provincial Secretary of War, with full powers to act as he deems best without awaiting general orders from the Confederate War Department. His headquarters are at Little Rock, which is now the grand center of the Confederate military operations in the trans-Mississippi department.

Gen. Pemberton, vanquished at Vicksburg, was recently taken to Richmond under a strong guard. He was reported to have been killed by a Texan soldier. This was substantially denied. The mortal hatred existing towards him by his late command, however, is reiterated. Cause, not stated; possibly alleged treachery at Vicksburg.

Southern papers announce that Jeff. Davis, after a conference with the Governors of the Confederate States, has decided to call out half a million of black troops, who are to receive their freedom and fifty acres of land at the close of the war.

The noted guerrilla leader, Mosby, it is announced, died recently at a farm house just beyond the Bull Run mountains, from wounds received in a late encounter with Federal skirmishers.

Robert M. T. Hunter, now in Paris, it is rumored, is to be sent to Mexico as the representative of the Southern Confederacy, in order to prepare the way for an offensive and defensive alliance between the Emperor of that country and the Government at Richmond. It is said that this gentleman has received instructions for an immediate recognition of the future Emperor of Mexico—in return for which it is hoped that His Majesty will be led to recognize the Southern Confederacy.

CONFEDERATE SUPPLIES.

The communication between Wilmington, N. C. and European ports seems to be almost uninterrupted. It is reported that a line of steamers leave that port on advertised days of sailing—a ponderous argument for the effectiveness of the Federal blockade. About the middle of August, it is reported, fourteen large steamers arrived at Wilmington—having run the blockade—loaded with stores for the Confederate army—among which there are 96,000 English rifles, 16,000 army blankets, 130,000 ready-made uniforms, 23,000 cases of shoes, eleven locomotives, six rifled cannon of heavy calibre, and five cargoes of railroad iron.

A Federal officer, recently at Washington, remarked that, with only nine or ten vessels as a blockading fleet off Wilmington, when thirty were needed, the blockade of that port was simply a farce.

ARRIVAL OF IMMIGRANT COMPANIES—Captain Patterson's company, independent as called in contra-distinction to the Church trains, arrived on Friday, the 4th inst., in the afternoon, on the public square, 8th ward, and on Saturday, about the same time in the day, Captain Sanders' company, Church train, arrived. The cattle in both trains—er many of those we saw, were quite poor, indicating that they had seen hard times in crossing the plains.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT—As was anticipated, Judge Drake opened his court at Provo on the 1st inst., and adjourned it the same day without transacting any business.