

beam, and carried eighteen guns, from 32 to 42-pounders.

It was understood that Generals Paine and McClernand would be in command of the forces from Cairo and Bird's Point, and Generals Smith and Wallace of those from Paducah. The whole force would be commanded by Gen. Grant.

The fleet with the troops on board was expected to ascend the Tennessee river some distance, but the final destination was unknown. Much excitement was created by the departure of the fleet and the troops, as the expedition was supposed to be the greatest that had been undertaken since the commencement of the war, and "Dixie," by the "Suckers," was considered as good as conquered, as it would be swallowed up by the overwhelming force as it moved southward.

It is reported that the English engineers have laid off fortifications and batteries opposite Detroit, on the high grounds in the rear of Windsor, and that they are progressing to rapid completion; and that when the cannon are mounted, they will completely command the very heart of the city of Detroit, and should hostilities occur, that ancient city will be compelled to surrender, or suffer destruction from British cannon. Sam. Medary says, for fear that these fortifications might not be manned before spring, Sec. Seward has authorized the British government to land troops at Portland, Maine, that they may be hurried through by railroad at once!

Miscellaneous News Items.

It is stated in connection with the leakage of news from Washington to the Confederates, that a daughter of a high dignitary was one of the parties implicated. The Confederates were aware, from these movements, of the destination of Gen. Burnside's fleet, before it left the Capes. It is rumored that it was talked of in the family of the official alluded to, and by the daughter communicated to her lover, who was affiliated with the enemy. The destination of the fleet was changed in consequence of the knowledge the enemy had acquired of its destination. The young lady soon left Washington, and her father, it was understood, would soon leave for Europe to improve his health.

It seems a report was put in circulation about the 6th of January, that Gen. Jim Lane was to be a subordinate in the proposed military expedition from Fort Leavenworth which, was promptly contradicted by Washington correspondents. They positively stated that the expedition, second to none, if equaled by any, in numbers, character and purpose, was to be under the sole and exclusive command of Gen. Lane, who proposed to demonstrate, with his western crusaders, the ways and means through which the rebellion could be crushed out and the Republic restored in all its integrity, and to enable him to carry out his exalted purpose, he was supported by the active energies of the administration in the various departments.

On the 6th of January, Michael Lananan was hung in the northern suburbs of Washington, which is said to be the second execution of the kind in the army of the Potomac. He was a private in the 2d infantry, and was condemned for shooting a sergeant of his company, who had just before struck him in the guard-house.

The Legislature of New York met on the first Monday in January, and considerable turmoil was created among the Representatives, in consequence of there being so many candidates for the speakership, the friends of each trying to steal the march on the others. After some considerable skirmishing, Mr. Ogden, of Yates, offered the following resolution, in the convention of the Republican and People's candidates who had settled down and met together for the purpose of nominating a speaker:

Resolved, That all the members elected to the Legislature who favor sustaining the government in a vigorous prosecution of the war, and to put down the rebellion and save the Union, and opposed to any unjust, partial legislation and corruption in high and low places, be invited to take seats in this convention.

After a lengthy debate, the resolution was lost by a vote of 16 to 62.

On the first ballot there were eight candidates for that office, Raymond, of New York, and Hulburd, of St. Lawrence, leading. On the second, Raymond secured 47 vote, ten more than Hulburd, was declared the nominee, and subsequently elected.

On the organization of the Senate, the first petition presented was one for a law to prevent the sale of "swill milk." The daily sessions of the Senate were fixed at from 11 a.m. till 1 1/4 p.m.

The inauguration of Gov. Harvey, of Wisconsin, took place on Jan. 6th. Ex-Governor Randall, on retiring, it is said, thanked his friends, and expressed regret at parting, referring to his office, as supposed.

It is said, that early in January, the accumulation of letters sent to Fort Monroe for transmission to prisoners of war and others at the South, had become so large that the members of Gen. Wool's staff employed in their examination, could not attend to a third of those that arrived daily. Orders would soon be issued to limit in some way the number allowed to pass, and, in the meantime, all persons desiring to communicate with friends in the South were requested to make the letters as few and as brief as possible. There were then several thousand waiting to be examined, and many of those, which were too long, would be destroyed without being read.

On the 6th ult., ex-Governor Moorehead, of Kentucky, was released from Fort Warren, on his parole, and proceeded immediately to New York.

Gov. Bradford, of Maryland, was inaugurated on the 8th of January, at Annapolis. It is reported that he made a most able and eloquent address, condemning the rebellion in the strongest terms, and expressing the utmost devotion to the Union and Constitution.

On January 8th an extensive riot took place at Carbonear, Newfoundland. Some twelve or fourteen persons were shot, but none killed outright. Troops were sent from St. Johns, at midnight, to preserve order. The rioters did not injure the telegraph wires, as they generally do in the States on such occasions.

Later accounts stated that the parties at Carbonear were kept down by the military. The town was in a state of siege, and business was suspended. The parties there and at Harbor Grace had been largely reinforced, and hostilities would commence immediately should the troops be withdrawn. The trouble grew out of a difference between the Catholics and Protestants.

At St. Louis, on Jan. 9th, Gen. Halleck issued an order requiring all publishers of newspapers in the State of Missouri, St. Louis city papers excepted, to furnish him a copy of each issue for inspection, a failure with which order will render the paper liable to suppression. On the afternoon of the same day, a great excitement occurred in the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, on the occasion of the election of officers, which resulted in the disruption of the Chamber by the withdrawal of the Union members, who subsequently established a Union Chamber of Commerce which was immediately carried out. The trouble occurred in consequence of the secession members refusing by their votes to admit a number of Union applicants for membership.

An attempt is reported to have been made on the night of January 8th, to blow up the Mansion House in Alexandria, which was occupied as a hospital. A barrel had been secreted in the cellar, filled with powder and projectiles, and a fuse was found extending from there to the stable. In proximity to the combustibles, lucifer matches and Chinese crackers had been plentifully distributed, and the fuse end at the stable had actually ignited, but this act was fortunately discovered by the guard, and the progress of the slow fire extinguished.

Twenty-nine bales of Sea Island cotton, belonging to Government, were advertised to be sold in New York city on the 10th ult., and the occasion was expected to call forth lively times, as cotton was such a scarce article.

Wm. E. Smithson, a prominent banker in Washington, was arrested, January 8th, on a charge of holding communications with the rebels, and sent to Fort Lafayette. It is said that he had been communicating valuable information to the Confederates for a long time. It is alleged, that in his last communication, he gave a detailed plan for the capture of Washington, the number of troops and forts located in its vicinity, and what purported to be the plans of Gen. McClellan. It is stated that the evidence of his crime is so clear, and so great that he will ultimately be tried by the military instead of the civil courts, on the charge of being a spy.

At latest dates, the small-pox was raging fearfully among civilians in Washington, and there was hardly one resident family entirely free from it, and, as reported, there was not a

square in the city where there were not cases. It was estimated that not less than four or five thousand persons were stricken with the disease. There had been but few cases in the army up to Jan. 10th, and great exertions were being made to prevent its spread.

A most brutal prize fight took place at Wehawken, near New York, on Jan. 7th, between two knights of the ring, named Winkle and Elliot, which lasted two hours and ten minutes. Winkle died soon after, as reported, from the injuries received, and Elliot and the other principals engaged in the disgraceful affair, had been arrested.

At Providence, R. I., Jan. 2d, a trial of the McIntyre Heart Repeating Bomb was given in the presence of Gov. Sprague and staff. Twenty-nine explosions were obtained from ten of the nine-inch shells, and the certainty and terrible efficiency of the projectile was fully demonstrated. Gov. Sprague expressed unqualified admiration at the successful issue of the exhibition. The next trial is to be made in Washington.

A new rifled gun made for the Pensacola was recently tried in Washington. It carries a one hundred and fifty pound shell. Two experiments were made under the direction of Commander Wainwright, of ten rounds each. The first ten shots struck within a circle of ten feet, and the other ten within a space of five feet in length by four in height. The target was at a distance of 1300 yards.

Col. Samuel Colt died at Hartford, Conn., Jan. 10th, of acute attack upon the brain, aged 47. It is said that his extensive works in Hartford will be carried on by the present incorporation, known as the Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company.

The Indian territory west of Arkansas is spoken of, in the East, as a place for colonizing contrabands. The railroad from St. Louis to Fort Smith through Rolla, it is believed, can be finished in one year, and it is said that the plantations of the Choctaws and Chicasaws alone could fully supply the American mills with cotton even in the first year of the experiment.

It turns out that the British fleet attached, as was supposed, to the Spanish expedition to Mexico, had other objects in view than the subjugation or humiliation of that wretched and distracted country. Report says that the British contingent of that expedition has gone to Matamoras, a Mexican port on the west bank of the Rio Grande, about forty miles from its mouth, to facilitate arrangements for the opening of a direct trade between that place and England, for the procurement of cotton and the supplying of the Confederates through that channel with English manufactures. The possession of this port would enable Great Britain to obtain supplies of cotton from and through Texas. The Rio Grande is, like the Danube, a neutral river, and cannot be blockaded. The Confederates would be enabled to obtain all the supplies they needed by traffic with Matamoras. Several vessels have recently left England loaded with goods for that port, as reported.

On January 10th, Pierre L. Pierce, of New York, was before Judge Sprague of the U. S. court, on a charge of fitting out as a slave trader at New Bedford the ship Brutus, which subsequently landed a cargo of slaves at Cuba. He was held for trial in bail of \$10,000.

The U. S. Agricultural Society has adopted a series of resolutions advertising to agricultural education, and proposed a premium list for a series of experiments on the cultivation of cotton in the Middle and Northern States, also of hemp and flax, the awards to be made by the central agricultural societies of the States in which the competitors reside.

The commander-in-chief of the Russian naval forces in the China seas, has written a letter to Mr. J. P. O'Sullivan, United States consul at Singapore, in acknowledgment of the important services rendered by that functionary to the late Russian expedition to Japan and China, in evidence of the friendly feeling between the United States and the Russian government.

There was a destructive fire in Philadelphia January 6th, burning with great fury for a time, but by extraordinary exertions its progress was arrested, after causing a loss of \$75,000. There was also a fire in Dover, N. H., on that day, destroying Union Block, occupied by traders, mechanics, physicians, and others, and is said to have been the most destructive conflagration in that town for many years.

On the morning of Jan. 7th, the glass works, erected last week, has not yet arrived.

of Messrs. Phillips & Best, Pittsburg, Penn., were destroyed by fire. Loss \$125,000.

Foreign News Items.

A telegram from Halifax January 8th announced that the steamship Canada, from Liverpool at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 28th, via Queenstown on the 29th of December, arrived there that morning with about 300 troops, a strong battery of artillery, and over 900 tons of military stores.

The steamer Hibernia was to sail from Liverpool on the 2d of January, with 600 to 700 troops touching at St. John's, N. B., to land them.

The steamship Africa was to sail from Liverpool on the 4th of January. She would also take a number of troops, landing them at Halifax.

The iron-plated frigate Warrior had got her sails bent, and was to be kept in readiness to leave, pending the solution of the American question.

When the Canada left Liverpool a state of suspense prevailed, and the greatest anxiety was felt relative to the advices per the Africa, then due, in response to those from England by the Europa.

Every regiment in the camp at A'dershott had been medically inspected, so that they might be in perfect readiness to embark immediately for Canada.

A body of trained nurses, on Miss Florence Nightingale's plan, were to proceed at once to Halifax.

The Paris *Moniteur* announces the appointment of two vice-admirals, three rear-admirals, ten captains and forty lieutenants of men-of-war, and fourteen captains of frigates.

Advices from Canton, China, of the 15th day of November, say that Mr. Burlingame, the American minister, had been well received there, and that he subsequently left for Shanghai en route to the capital.

A few foreigners had been invited to visit Peking.

The rebels were near Ningpoo, and the inhabitants were fleeing to Shanghai, where alarm had subsided.

Hong-Kow was reported to be invested by the rebels. It was also reported that the "Braves" there had attacked foreigners in the streets and houses, and that placards were posted up threatening the expropriation of the Europeans.

The foreigners at Shanghai had been attacked and threatened with extermination.

NEWS FROM SECESSIA.

A deserter from Columbus reported at Cairo on the 6th of January, that General Pillow had resigned his commission in the Confederate army; that fifteen thousand troops left Columbus a few days previous to his deserting; that the officers were impressing all classes of men into the Confederate service, and that over a hundred cannons were planted on Columbus bluffs and the river blockaded by a chain stretched across supported by barges, and torpedoes planted at intervals.

Southern papers received at Fortress Monroe, Jan. 7th, announced that the federal troops had been repulsed in South Carolina, and forced to take refuge under the cover of their gunboats on North Edisto Island.

The Charleston *Mercury* of Jan. 3d announced that a battle had been fought, but did not state where, in which the Unionists were repulsed with the bayonet, and ran in Bull Run style, leaving their guns and knapsacks, and that four dead and many wounded were taken off the field after the fight.

According to a Mobile dispatch, the guns of Fort Pickens opened on a confederate steamer, on the 2d of January when the Pensacola guns returned the fire. The bombardment continued fifteen hours, and none of the "Davissites" were hurt, said the dispatch, but what damage was done to the "Lincolns" had not been ascertained.

The Memphis *Appeal* of the 5th announced that on the 4th five hundred well armed men, left Arkansas for Osceola, Mo., with eight rifled cannon, and two hundred wagons loaded with provisions for Price's army.

The Legislature of Florida had elected A. E. Maxwell, and J. M. Baker Senators to the Confederate Congress.

The Galveston *News* of Dec. 25th, admits that a vessel laden with 20,000 stand of arms had been captured by the blockading fleet.

Western Mail.—The California mail, expected last week, has not yet arrived.