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## PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The news in relation to the war has, of late, been unusually meagre, and what little there has been in circulation has not been of a very exciting or interesting nature, admitting that the rumors which have been set afloat have been substantially true, of which serious doubts are entertained.

Rumor says that nothing of importance has transpired on the Rappahannock further than that the army of the Potomac is being re-organized; that efficient measures are being taken to catch and punish deserters, and that the Confederate forces in the vicinity of Fredericksburg have been materially diminished by the withdrawal of many thousands of troops to strengthen their armies in other locations further south and in the west.

A fight is reported to have taken place on the Blackwater, Va., on the 28th of January, in which Gen. Corcoran, commanding the Federal forces, defeated the Confederates, under Gen. Pryor, with considerable loss. A later report represents that the enemy were again in force on the north side of the Blackwater, and vigorous measures had been taken to prevent their further advance towards Suffolk.

Rumor says that operations at Vicksburg are progressing, and the work of deepening and widening the canal was advancing, with a fair prospect of success. The enemy are also represented to be strengthening their defenses and increasing their effective force at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The latest rumor represents that no very important news may be expected from that quarter under about one month.

The Confederates under Gen. Forrest made an unsuccessful attack on Fort Donelson on the 3d instant, as per report: The loss of the enemy is said to have been heavy, considering the number of men engaged. Gen. Forrest was among the wounded. The Federal casualties were but few. The navigation of the Cumberland below Nashville has, according to Southern rumor, been very materially interrupted by the operations of Gen. Wheeler, who has recently destroyed several transports.

It is said to be doubtful about Gen. Butler again resuming command of the Department of the Gulf. In relation to the movements of General Rosecrans, rumor is very reticent.

An attack on Galveston by the Federal fleet subsequent to the sinking of the Hatteras is reported, but no particular results have been given. The Harriet Lane is represented to have escaped to sea after having been fitted up as a privateer. Confederate rumor represents that an expedition from their fleet on the coast of Texas captured two Federal armed vessels—a brig and a schooner, near Sabine pass on the 21st of January, from which a considerable amount of munitions of war and medical stores were obtained.

The Federal fleet, consisting of a large number of gunboats, sixty steam transports, having on board about seventy thousand men, together with one hundred and fifty schooners, freighted with artillery and other munitions of war, which had been collected at Beaufort, N. C., is reported to have sailed from that place for Port Royal on the 26th ult., with the exception of one gunboat. By this movement, if the report be true, it may be inferred that General Foster's laurels are to be won on some field farther south, and not in North Carolina as hereafter generally believed.

A Confederate rumor, represents that the Federal gunboat J. P. Smith, was captured in Stone Inlet, about two weeks since, by a superior Confederate force, after a warm engagement which lasted about an hour, she carried eleven guns, and had over two hundred men on board.

An attack on Fort McAllister, Savannah, by the iron-clad Montauk is reported to have been made about the 30th of January, in which the Montauk withstood the fire of the fort some four hours without receiving any injury. A Southern report sets forth, that a Federal fleet of six boats, made another attack on the fort, and after a bombardment of six or eight hours gave up the contest and retired.

The most interesting item of intelligence communicated by Confederate rumors received of late, is the alleged raising of the blockade of Charleston, on the 31st of January, by two Confederate gunboats, the Pa'metto State and the Chicora, accompanied by three small steamers, which under the command of Com. Ingraham, went out and attacked the blockaders early in the morning, and sunk or disabled two steamers, the Mercidita and Quaker City or the Keystone State, which so alarmed the other vessels of the squadron, that they put off as soon as they could be got under way. The occurrence is reported to have caused great rejoicing in Charleston and throughout the Confederate States wherever the report thereof came, and Gen. Beauregard and Com. Ingraham very pompously declared the blockade of Charleston legally raised.

The foreign consuls are represented to have been of the opinion that such was the fact. A vessel is reported to have been dispatched immediately to Nassau to inform the British authorities there that the blockade had been raised. It is admitted, however, by Southern reports that the blockaders soon returned to their former positions, and resumed the blockade.

There are several different versions of the affair which have been put in circulation in the North, where very different views in relation to its effect are entertained from those expressed by the Confederate leaders and press.

## WESTERN ITEMS.

So exciting and interesting has been the news from the east for months past, that but few of the events which have transpired on the Pacific have been considered worthy of notice. Our western exchanges have generally come to hand, although in several instances they have been quite too long in transit, owing to carelessness somewhere, but who has been in fault we know not and do not intend to institute an inquiry, deeming it useless, and besides we consider it fortunate that things in that respect have not been worse than they have, when so much confusion and plunder is complained of in connection with postal arrangements in all parts of the country—on the Atlantic as well as on the Pacific slope. Our latest dates from Sacramento and San Francisco are to the 31st ult., from which we cull a few items.

The Legislature of California, in session at Sacramento, had not elected a United States Senator to succeed Mr. Latham, whose term of office will expire on the fourth of March next. The professed Unionists, Senators and Representatives had been in caucus every night for some two weeks, for the purpose of nominating a candidate, but they were so disunited that no choice had been made and the prospects that they would soon effect a nomination were not flattering. On the fifty-second ballot taken on the eighth meeting, T. G. Phelps now representing that State in Congress, received 37; A. A. Sargent, also a member of Congress, 33; Mr. Conness 24, and Mr. Brown 6 votes.

During the ninth meeting of the caucus held on the evening of the 29th of January, some bribing revelations were made, and a scene of confusion ensued. Startling disclosures concerning proffered bribes to members were made, implicating them as well as government officials, some of whom were evidently much interested in the result of the caucus which would decide the election. Among those accused of attempting to induce members to change their votes for a valuable consideration, Mr. Watrous, mail agent, was pre-eminent. He as the business agent of Mr. Phelps, was very anxious to secure his election, if it could be done on business principles. It was not expected that the caucus would be able to get disentangled from the imbroglio very soon.

Business in Southern California is represented as greatly depressed. Sales of several thousand head of cattle were recently made in Santa Barbara county, at from one dollar and fifty cents to three dollars per head.

It is stated that there are in Monterey two whaling companies, composed of eighteen men each, and that they took eighty-three whales during the past year, the aggregate profits of which amounted to sixty thousand dollars. The whales were all caught in the Bay, or so near that they were towed to their works on the shore near the town, where the oil was extracted.

The locality of the treasure lost by the burning of the "Golden Gate," has been discovered by the wreckers who were in search of it, as reported, but the sea is so rough where it lies that it cannot be raised without constructing a "back water" to seaward of the wreck.

Dr. Rabe, ex-U. S. Marshal for California, who, on being ousted from office last summer, went post-haste to Washington to clear up his record, which had been a little blotted by the friends of his successor, has according to the *Bulletin*, been appointed by President Carrera, Consul for Guatemala for the Pacific coast of the United States. President Lincoln has recognized the appointment, and so the Doctor is in office again.

## COOK'S EVAPORATOR.

We have read the proceedings of the State Sorghum Conventions held in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan, with much interest. Large premiums were offered for the best samples of Sugar, and a large number of very fine samples were exhibited, taken from lots of sugar varying in weight from 100 lbs. to 2000 lbs. each. The gentleman who took the premium in Illinois, had made a ton of Sugar.

It is rather remarkable that out of the large number of Evaporators before the public, the entire credit of the Sugar displayed at these Conventions is due the Cook Evaporator which, a reference to our advertising columns will show, is now being manufactured by Messrs. Carothers & Bates, Sacramento. The premiums, were all taken by men who used this Evaporator. The claim of the manufacturers that it was the only one which could make Sorghum Sugar successfully, was apparently so extravagant that we paid but little attention to it, but these exhibitions and the failure of the other Evaporators to come forward with Sugar, seems to favor their assertion.

## SALE OF THE SPOILS.

The arms, mules, horses, ponies and other property taken from the Indians at the recent battle of Bear River, will be sold as per announcement, at public auction at Camp Douglas, on Thursday the 12th inst (tomorrow)—the sale to commence at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Many of the animals taken, had been stolen from citizens of this Territory, by those thieving red men, some of which, as we have been informed, were claimed by their owners, as the command passed through the northern settlements, returning from the battle-field, and when satisfactory proof was made, they were restored to the claimants. Since the return of the expedition to Camp Douglas with the captured animals, several other claims have been made, to adjudicate which, as reported, a commission has been appointed by the Colonel commanding. The officers designated for that purpose, entered upon the duty yesterday, and will continue to hear or receive evidence in such cases till the time of sale, a course which cannot fail to give satisfaction to all concerned, as justice no doubt will be done in the premises.

PROGRESS OF WINTER.—Although the weather of late has not been very cold, it has been somewhat stormy. There was a slight snow storm on Saturday evening, and another on Sunday night, during which, there was a fall of some four inches of snow in the valley, but more on the mountains. There was considerable of a sifting down on Monday evening, followed on Tuesday morning by a mountain fog, but not so dense as has of an been witnessed in Salt Lake Valley at this season of the year. After the fog disappeared, the sun shone out brightly during the after part of the day, not indicating however, that the stormy season had ended, or that winter was about to terminate.

TO WHOM DO THEY BELONG?—A pillow and a black alpaca shawl were left at our office a few days since. When, where, and by whom found, not known.

## THE BATTLE OF BEAR RIVER.

In the last issue of the News, and the one preceding that, we noticed, as far as we had information, "The expedition for the arrest of Indian Chiefs," and "The fight with the Indians." The Volunteers have now returned to their Quarters on the bench, east of the city, and through them we learn the facts in detail of the expedition, and of a hard fought battle, which, though in a locality outside of our Territorial limits, will not be the less felt in its results by our citizens. As we have been freely furnished with what information we have requested, we give it as freely to our readers at home and abroad.

## THE EXPEDITION.

At the time we noticed the departure of the Infantry under Capt. Hoyt; and of the Cavalry under Major McGarry. We now learn that the former had 69 men of Company "K" 3rd Infantry, and the latter had 220 men of Companies "A" "H" "M" and "K" 2nd Cavalry. These, together with 12 mounted men as an escort to the baggage train, and Col. Connor, Major McGarry, Major Gallagher and Lieut. Berry, constituted the entire fighting force that went North. Guides and others attached to the company are, of course, not counted. Five or six irregulars, among them "Dutch Joe," a gentleman with whom we have no acquaintance, went in and had a free fight by way of wiping off all scores with the Indians; so altogether, the force exceeded a little over 300 men.

The judiciary, probably, regard the marching of the expedition as an aid to the U. S. Marshal, in serving writs for the apprehension of several chiefs; but it is quite as probable that the movement was but a part of the campaign upon which Col. Connor and the Volunteers have entered to clear the north and central routes to California of the marauding, thieving Indians, whose murderous hostilities we were so frequently called upon to record last summer. Two previous expeditions under Major McGarry were but the prelude to that which we have now to record, and as far as we can learn, conjecture leads to the conclusion that the end of expeditions has not yet come, and that the colonel will either make an end of Po-co-tello and San Pitch, with their bands, this summer, or drive them far enough from the northern route to render it safe for the emigrants.

## THE ARRIVAL AT BEAR RIVER.

On reaching Bear river, though it was yet early daylight, by the aid of his field glass, the Colonel could plainly discover the position of the Indians on the north side of the river. The cavalry dismounted, loaded arms, remounted, and Major McGarry had orders to lead across the river and if possible surround the Indians. Companies "K" and "M," Lieut. Chase and Capt. Price, first reached the banks on the north side, after considerable difficulty from the ice in the bottom of the river and from the masses of ice that were carried along with the current: companies "H" and "A," Capt. McLean and Lieut. Quinn, followed close behind them. The first companies galloped up to the base of a range of hills to the east and formed in line of battle; but before all the men had dismounted, the Indians sent a shower of lead among them, wounding one of the volunteers. The first companies were deployed as skirmishers, and ordered along the front of the ravine. The two other companies were up immediately after, and dismounting were ordered forward in the same manner.

## THE POSITION OF THE INDIANS.

The Indians had excellent winter quarters in a deep ravine, about three-fourths of a mile long, running almost directly due north from Bear River into the mountains that formed their protection on the left. The banks of the ravine east and west were almost perpendicular, with only three places of difficult approach, which the Indians had made for their own convenience and for the annoyance of any approaching enemy. Anticipating an attack, they had cut steps in the east side of the banks of the ravine, from which they could conveniently fire without exposure, and descend again for perfect security. Besides these natural advantages in the ravine, on each side there were rising benches about ten feet apart, which also gave the Indians the advantage over their exposed enemy, who had to discover suddenly that ready rifles awaited their approach.

In the ravine, the wick-i-ups were planted among the willows, which partly concealed