

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Secretary Chase, on the 13th inst., in reply to an inquiry made by the House, in relation to the matter, stated the soldiers had not been paid, because he had not been authorized to raise the money by any practicable means under the existing laws. There had been paid to the troops since the 1st of July, about seventy-five millions, to the quarter-master's department one hundred and ten millions, and to the commissary department, thirty-one million, and for sundry other purposes, thirty-two millions. The balance due the troops, he stated, was three times as much as he could raise, under existing laws. Congress subsequently passed a resolution, providing for the payment of the land and naval forces in the employ of the Government, which the President approved, to do which one hundred millions more of legal tender notes are to be issued, in sums not less than one dollar.

On the 16th, Mr. Upsher, Secretary of the Interior, sent to Congress a communication accompanied by letters from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs recommending an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars at once for distribution among the Utah Indians; based upon the fact that many of the savages are becoming restive and insubordinate, and that the Government has lost its power and ability to protect them on the one hand and to keep them in subjection on the other. In connection with the appropriation thus asked for, it is stated that the Utah Indians agents have expressed the belief that if presents be not distributed to the Indians along the mail route between Salt Lake City and the settlements in Nevada, they will rise and interrupt communication by mail and telegraph. Nothing is said about conciliating the Shoshones and Bannacks who have been committing depredations on the emigrants to Oregon and to California by the northern route for several years.

A dispatch of the 19th states that the committee on Territories, in the House, had agreed to report favorably to the admission of Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada into the Union as States.

A later telegram announces that the committee have instructed the chairman to report a bill for the admission of Utah, with the prohibition of polygamy as one condition upon which she may be admitted, but that the others are has not transpired.

Congress has in view the connecting of all the military posts and naval stations between Fortress Monroe and New Orleans by a submarine telegraph cable, and C. W. Field has made an offer in behalf of Glass, Elliott and Co., of London, for the manufacture and submerging of the cable, to be paid on the successful completion of the work, and the delivery of the lines in complete working order. The expense has been estimated at two and a half millions of dollars. Secretary Stanton, it is stated, has urged upon Congress the acceptance of the proposition and it is believed that the work will be accomplished.

THE WAR IN ARKANSAS.

After the repulse of Gen. Sherman at Vicksburg, the expedition under his command returned up the Mississippi river to Napoleon, at the mouth of the Arkansas, from which point, expeditions consisting of land and naval forces, were sent up the Arkansas and White rivers, to capture and destroy the Confederate posts and fortifications along the banks of those streams, so far as practicable. The name of the officer in command of the Arkansas expedition has not transpired. Gen. McClernand is reported to have been in command of the land force, said to be large, and Com. Porter of the squadron which proceeded up White river, having in view the destruction of the enemy's fortifications at Duval's Bluffs and St. Charles, which rumor says, has been successfully accomplished.

The expedition which was sent up the Arkansas, conveyed by the gunboats, Cincinnati, Mound City and Louisville, proceeded on the 10th to Arkansas Port, some forty miles above the mouth of the river, a very strongly fortified place, the defenses having been constructed of square timbers, with the walls three feet thick shielded with railroad iron.

The troops were landed as per report, below the town and marched to the rear of the fortifications. The Confederates had erected earthworks below the city, which were first encountered by the gunboats. The enemy

fought bravely, but could not withstand the shells which were thrown into their works, and they were forced to abandon them after a severe conflict, in which they did considerable damage to the gunboats, the Louisville receiving three balls through her port holes.

The land forces met with some obstacles which were with much difficulty overcome, before they could get within reach of the fort.

The fighting ceased at night, but was renewed with vigor on Sunday morning the 11th, and continued till sometime in the afternoon, when things were going so bad with the enemy, that they surrendered unconditionally.

The Federal loss is variously stated at from three to five hundred killed and wounded. About five thousand prisoners were taken, including Gen. Churchill, the commander of the Post. The loss of the enemy is stated at two hundred killed and wounded.

During the fight on Sunday, one of those unfortunate affairs which have, from some cause, been of frequent occurrence in the conflicts of the war took place. The naval forces fired upon a column of Federal troops, mistaking them for the enemy, and did considerable damage, how much is not stated.

MUNICIPAL UNION ENTERTAINMENT.

The festive season this winter in our city was inaugurated on the evening of the 19th of November, by what was called the "opening party" at the Thirteenth Ward Assembly Rooms, since which there have been many entertainments of a similar character, in that and the Social Hall, and also in other halls devoted to amusement in various parts of the city. To recount the festive occasions which have thus been held, or to designate them by their several names, including "Social Party," "Select Party," "Union Party," "Ward Party," "Union Ball," "Military Ball," and various other kinds of dancing assemblages would be no easy task, all of which, without exception, so far as our knowledge extends, have been conducted in the most orderly and harmonious manner, and nothing has occurred at either of them to materially detract from the enjoyments derived to the participants from such entertainments.

It is true that some of the social assemblages which have been held in the metropolis of Deseret have been dissimilar in character from the others, having been arranged and conducted in a more elegant and genteel style, as the exigencies of the case and the circumstances severally required. The most princely and magnificent entertainment, which we have witnessed this winter, was the "Municipal Union Cotillion Party," at the Social Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 20th inst., arranged and managed by Messrs. A. O. Smoot, A. H. Raleigh, Jeter Clinton, Enoch Reese, R. T. Burton, Theodore McKean and J. C. Little, at which were present the city officials and a goodly number of prominent citizens, all of whom seemed to enjoy to the fullest extent the festivities and convivialities indulged in on that occasion. The entertainment was complete in all its appointments, and we never witnessed a more pleasant and harmonious re-union of old and long-tried friends and acquaintances.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

Bayard of Delaware; W. A. Richardson, of Illinois; J. K. Doolittle, of Wisconsin; Charles R. Buckalew, of Pennsylvania; Lott M. Morrell, of Maine; Ex-Gov. Ramsay, of Minnesota; Thomas A. Hindricks and David Turpie, of Indiana, have been recently elected United States Senators by the Legislatures of their respective States.

An arrangement for an exchange of about twenty thousand prisoners was effected, as reported, between Captain Laidlow of General Dix's staff and a Confederate officer who met him for that purpose at City Point on James' river about three weeks since.

The Legislature of Arkansas has recently, as reported, enacted a law providing for the punishment, by fine, of not less than five thousand, nor more than ten thousand dollars, and by imprisonment of from five to ten years, of all persons found guilty of trading with the Yankees.

The capitol of Louisiana at Baton Rouge was recently, as per report, destroyed by fire. The State library and many valuable State papers were included in the list of property lost.

It is reported that the Supreme Court of Wisconsin has decided to sustain the writ of habeas corpus, issued in behalf of some of the

ricitors who resisted the draft; by which decision the right of the President to suspend that writ, considered to be the great safeguard of liberty, is denied. The decision caused considerable excitement in Washington, and Senator Howe, of that State, has been sent home by Mr. Stanton to take the necessary steps to get the case before the Supreme Court of the United States in time for argument at the present session.

A severe earthquake is reported to have occurred in Guatemala, Central America, on the 19th of December. Many lives and a vast amount of property were destroyed. Two towns were totally demolished, and others materially injured.

There is evidently a spirit of rebellion existing to a considerable extent in the Northwestern States. The fact was unreservedly admitted or avowed on the floor of Congress by several members from those States in the debate on the bill providing for a ship canal between the Lakes and the Mississippi river, on the 13th of January. It was, of course, done to strengthen the argument in favor of the construction of the proposed canal; but the averments were nevertheless true, if any reliance can be placed upon the reports in circulation to that effect, which none seemed disposed to contradict. As an index to the direction in which public sentiment is strongly setting in that part of the country, resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives of the Indiana Legislature on the 16th inst., and referred to the committee on Federal relations, declaring the admission of Western Virginia into the Union as an unconstitutional act, recommending a national convention at Louisville, Ky., at an early day, and a cessation of hostilities till the convention shall have been held, and also pledging that Indiana will refuse to pay the taxes that may be levied for "compensated emancipation."

Gen. Hunter has been ordered to proceed at once to South Carolina. It is stated that he will be accompanied by the noted jayhawker, Colonel Montgomery, of Kansas, with a commission in his pocket from the War Department, authorizing him to raise a brigade of soldiers in that State of African descent.

The Confiscation Act does not appear to have been very vigorously enforced in the District of Columbia. In reply to a Resolution of the House, in relation to the matter, recently passed, the Attorney General submitted a letter from the District Attorney, stating that, in all cases of property that had been seized, reported to him by the military authorities, with a view to confiscation, preliminary proceedings had been instituted to secure the condemnation of the same; but he stated that there were obstacles in the way, and serious apprehensions were entertained that no satisfactory results would be obtained by prosecuting suits authorized by the law, as it now stands. The act will probably be amended if deemed defective.

The reception given to the Cavalry company raised in San Francisco, for, and at the expense of the city of Boston, on its arrival there, on the 14th of January, is said to have been a splendid affair. Gov. Andrews, in a speech delivered on the occasion, said that he had received assurances from Washington that the tender of a whole cavalry battalion from California had been accepted, which would be counted as part of the Massachusetts contingent.

It has been announced upon the authority of the Richmond Whig, that the Federal prisoners taken in the battle near Murfreesboro, would be sent to Richmond, because the Federal government refused to receive them in exchange, unless the officers—some two hundred in number—were included, which the Confederate government would not do, and, according to Jeff Davis' proclamation, they are to be held in close confinement until Gen. Butler shall be delivered up to the Confederates for punishment. Gen. Halleck has issued orders to the several officers commanding corps and divisions of the army, directing that the Confederate officers taken prisoners shall not be released on parole, as a retaliatory measure for the retention and imprisonment of Federal officers by Confederates acting under orders from their commander-in-chief. There are also as stated a large number of Union citizens, confined in jails and prisons in the Confederate States, not included in the cartel agreed upon between the belligerents for the exchange of prisoners, and therefore the Confederates refuse to exchange or release them upon any system yet proposed. It is under-

stood that if there are not as many seceders confined in Northern prisons, a sufficient number will be seized and incarcerated to balance the books. An "imbroglio" has evidently been inaugurated in regard to the exchange of prisoners of distinction, and exciting times and interesting (if not bloody) scenes may be expected before the matter will be amicably and satisfactorily arranged between the interested parties.

On or about the 12th of January, as about forty scholars, attending a school near Lanesboro, Pa., were skating on a pond, the ice gave way and thirty-one of the number were drowned, according to report.

The failure of the expedition against Vicksburg is attributed to the non-arrival of reinforcements at the proper time.

The court-martial which was ordered for the trial of Gen. Fitz John Porter, found him guilty of the charges preferred against him, and on the 21st inst. the President approved the verdict, and he was cashiered and dismissed from the service. Col. Murphy, the officer in command at Holly Springs, at the time the Confederates attacked and captured the place, has also been cashiered for cowardice and imbecility; and Gen. Davis, late in command at Columbus, Ky., has, as per report, been placed under arrest for his conduct at Island No. 10 and at New Madrid.

The St. Louis papers report great suffering as prevailing among the hundreds of emancipated negroes now in that city. They are of course mostly from Southern plantations. As a general thing they are destitute of fuel, have scarce clothing enough to cover their persons, are crowded together, frequently as many as ten or a dozen in a small, dingy room and for sufficient food to keep them from starving, are dependent upon the charity of their colored brethren who permanently reside in the city. Dying by scores and in this deplorable condition, the subject was brought before the civil powers. By them the case was referred to the military authorities. These latter disclaimed having any thing to do in the premises. Thus the "poor negro" becomes the recipient of the "blessings of freedom." Here was an opportunity for the friends of emancipation and admirers of the negro when he was afar off, to manifest the strength of their love for him when he is brought to their homes. The Republican—game to the last—says, "the great emancipation raffle is in progress—that the ebony elephant is being 'drawn' and that a portion of the huge beast has got to be quartered in St. Louis."

In referring to Mr. Lincoln's Proclamation of Emancipation, the London Times says, "the last news received from America is the worst that has been yet received, for it seems that the match has at last been put to the combustible materials which lie strewn over the whole of the Southern States, and that the President has resolved upon the propagation of a servile war." "So far as these wretched Africans are concerned," argues the Times, "their ultimate fate must be that of the Indians, who have for the most part perished away, and the very names of whose tribes now exist only in tradition or romance." "The word 'extermination,' it continues, 'is a wide word, as applicable to the twelve millions of the Southern States. It means not only extermination of the rebellion by the extermination of the rebels, but it means also extermination of slavery by the ultimate extermination of the negro.' "A single puff of wind," concludes the Times, "may send the folds of the black flag floating wide abroad; and if this happen it will no longer be a war of angry men, but a rage of two peoples tearing each other like savage beasts."

An appeal to the wealthy and fashionable churches of New York city, in behalf of three hundred negro orphan children, the inmates of a colored orphan asylum in that city, who needed food and clothing, elicited the donation of one turkey and one ham. A Southern gentleman—"of course a barbarian, who could not understand the sublimity and glory and philanthropy of abolitionism," as the New Orleans Picayune says—gave sixty dollars to relieve their distresses. The Picayune remarks here, that "Cheever, Tyng and Beecher, and all the other reverend scoundrels, were duly horrified to think that the slaves of the South should have good homes, should be well fed and well clothed, and do not more than half the work that Northern laborers do; but they could not think of bestowing a thought upon three hundred little darkies at home that were in danger of starving!"