

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

NO. 28.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1862.

VOL XI.

SONNET.

What constitutes a State for human right?
Not armies, navies, nor defensive pow'r,
Nor all the battlements of fort, or tow'r
Entrenched by warriors arm-clad for the fight.
Not—men pure, nobly, heavenly gifted men,
Who love, and practice what they do profess,
And dare to punish those who do transgress;
Who act with even balanced justice, when
Corruption would commit the crime of fraud
In judge or jury, villainy to defend.—
To wink at horse thieves, pander to a bawd,
And robb the treasury to support their end.
These, these, are men tho' seemingly elate
In power, are sure to damn the State.

LXON.

WAR NEWS ITEMS.

It was rumored that on December 11th, seven hundred troops for Price's army left Lexington, Mo., and that on the 9th, a scouting party from Otte ville surprised a camp of secessionists in Saline county and captured many wagons and fifty prisoners. A fight is also reported to have taken place on the 10th, between a body of Confederates under the notorious Joe Shelby and a detachment of Federal cavalry, near Waverly, La Fayette county, but the result is not stated.

At latest dates by mail, Washington city was reported intensely quiet. All the stragglers had been arrested and returned to their respective regiments.

The indiscriminate use of bad whisky seems to be a source of great annoyance, for despite all the precautions taken to keep it from the soldiers, they obtain it in large quantities, especially when marching from place to place. A private in a Pennsylvania regiment, which on its recent march from Darnestown, bivouacked on the Monocacy for the night, and had permission to get supper at the farm houses, in an intoxicated condition, insulted a lady, when he was promptly seized by Major Scott, but before assistance could be called, the soldier made a furious assault upon the major with a heavy western knife. This the latter wrested from him, but quick as thought, he drew a second and smaller knife, and would have killed the major had not Lieut.-Colonel Parkham arrived just in time to avert the blow and secure the weapon. The culprit was placed in confinement to await trial.

Generals Rosseau, Negley, and Johnson's federal brigades had crossed to the southern bank of the Green River, near Mumfordsville, Ky.

The following are extracts from a letter, published in this New York Express, written by a lieutenant on the United States steamer Richmond to his father in New York, dated November 22d, 1 p.m., the fight having commenced on the morning of that day:

"At ten o'clock on the morning of the 22d, the Richmond opened a bombardment of Fort McRea and the neighboring sand batteries. For a while everything went on swimmingly; but the enemy opened a powerful rifled battery on the ship, and the conflict grew serious.

I had been complimenting the captain of one of our guns, for the accuracy of his aim, when a shell from Fort McRea bounced through our bulwarks and took the poor fellow's head square off. His brains and blood were scattered all over my face, blinding my eyes and making my brain reel.

We had thirteen men serving that gun. Of these six were wounded and one killed outright. The spectacle was one of the most horrid imaginable.

The firing continued all day, and was resumed by the enemy next morning. By this time, however, we had moved beyond range of their guns, but the Niagara was still doing her best to silence them.

Up to this time Fort Pickens had lost but one man killed and seven wounded.

Some idea of the weight of the rebel metal may be had, in the fact, that when the shell, alluded to above, struck us, the explosion raised the ship out of water, and made her stagger like a drunken man.

Another shell burst six feet below the water line causing the ship to leak freely, but by aid of the steam pumps, we think we can keep her free.

We have impaired but have not destroyed, and cannot destroy Fort McRea, until we have rifled guns. The smooth bore guns which we are obliged to use, is no match for the rifled cannon of the enemy, and the sooner the government act upon that truth the better.

The Niagara, all the while, was at some distance outside the bar, and cannot be much injured.

To-morrow (23d) we intend to renew the bombardment, with the determination to whip or be whipped.

The Richmond, previous to coming here, was employed in the blockade of the Mississippi Passes. During her absence from there we have learned that several rebel vessels have managed to go to sea.

A Spanish vessel had come down, with a number of Spaniards on board, who were obliged to escape from New Orleans to avoid imprisonment.

These fugitives report that the most vigorous preparations were making by the rebels to repel attack. They had three iron clad steam battering rams ready, each carrying from 18 to 20 guns, of the heaviest calibre. They were also constructing additional steam-rams and fire-rafts."

It is reported that the 10th United States infantry, recently stationed in this Territory, but now quartered at Washington, are to be immediately dispatched to reinforce Fort Pickens, and that other regiments will also be sent to Santa Rosa Island without delay.

On Dec. 13th, there was a battle fought at Alleghany Camp, Pocahontas county, Virginia, between Gen. R. H. Milroy, commanding the Union troops, and Gen. Johnson, of Georgia, commanding the Confederates, which, according to the report, lasted from daylight till 3 p.m., in which the Union loss was stated at about thirty, and the Confederates some two hundred, including thirty prisoners. Gen. Milroy had one thousand eight hundred men from the 9th and 13th Indiana, and the 25th and 32d Ohio, and the 2d Virginia, and Gen. Johnson about two thousand. Gen. Johnson received a wound in the mouth. The 9th Indiana are said to have made five charges upon the enemy after they were driven into their barracks, and retired in good order.

Gen. Milroy withdrew his forces at night-fall, intending to renew the attack in the morning. During the night, however, the Confederates silently left their camp, burning everything they could not carry with them, and retreated to Stanton.

The battle is represented as having been well fought, and a very interesting conflict.

A foray is reported to have been made by a party of two hundred Secessionists in Linn county, Mo., about the middle of December, in which twenty houses were pillaged, and one man killed.

Louisville papers announce that on the afternoon of Dec. 17th, four companies of Col. Willick's German Indiana Regiment were attacked on the south side of Green river, opposite Mumfordsville, by Col. Terry's regiment of Texan Rangers, two regiments of infantry, and six pieces of artillery. Col. Willick, on being reinforced, drove the enemy back, with a loss of thirty-three killed, including Terry, and fifty wounded. The Federal loss was eight privates and one lieutenant killed, and sixteen wounded.

Miscellaneous News Items.

The latest dates received from the east by mail, are to the 19th of December. The following brief summary of news is all we have space for in this number:

The belligerent tone of the news from England and caused great excitement throughout the Northern States, especially in financial circles, stocks declined and the probability of a war with Britain was freely and very generally discussed. It seems not to have been very generally believed that the British Government would demand the release of Mason and Slidell. So far as reported, there was much unanimity expressed by the people in relation to the matter. Concessions to England by the Government at Washington was not approved of by the masses, and, if the alternative should be to give up the commissioners or fight, they preferred war.

Six vessels belonging to the second stone fleet sailed from Boston on the 11th, and five from New London on the 12th of December. Two were to leave New York in time to rendezvous and report to the officer command-

ing the blockading squadron off Port Royal entrance.

Mr. Clarksdon, of Hampshire, recently introduced into the Legislature of Western Virginia, a resolution to prohibit any person engaged in the rebellion from ever holding office in that State, and Mr. Snider, of Monongahela, introduced a resolution modifying those parts of the code which prohibit writing or speaking against slavery, so as to make them conform to the spirit and genius of their institutions.

There were in the military hospitals at St. Louis, as reported during the first week in December, not less than two thousand five hundred sick soldiers. This is explained by the peculiar hardships of the campaign, which have fallen with terrible severity upon the young and undisciplined volunteers.

Within the last four months, as per report, immense stores of ordnance and ammunition have been stored in the arsenal at Washington. The following are the statistics: 382 guns and howitzers, 717 gun-carriages and caissons, 53 traveling forges, and 27 battery wagons; and of ammunition, 18,150,000 rounds for foot soldiers, 1,124,900 rounds for mounted soldiers, 61,306 rounds for field batteries, and 16,942 rounds for garrison and sea-coast.

On December 10th, the Legislature of Kentucky elected Hon. Garrett Davis, United States Senator for the remainder of the term of Mr. Breckenridge, by a vote of 84 to 12. In the nominating caucus, Davis received only one more vote than his opponent, Hon. James Guthrie.

The notorious marauder, Capt. Sweeny, and his band of robbers, who had, for some time previous, kept the country in the vicinity of Glosgrow, Mo., in terror, was captured on the 9th of December, at Roger's Mill, by a detachment of cavalry under Capt. Merrill. Sweeny's pickets were surprised and captured, and his whole band, 35 in number, taken without firing a gun, such is the report.

Late advices from Santa Fe, represent that Col. Canby has required all the merchants in the territory to turn over their money to the Messrs. Donaldsons, of Santa Fe, as a loan to the government.

A band of Navajo Indians recently went to Carroll's, near Albuquerque, and stole a large quantity of stock. A party of citizens started in pursuit, for the purpose of recovering the property, but six of the men having got on in advance, fell into an ambuscade and were killed.

Another massacre at Fort Stanton is reported. At the approach of the Texans, last summer, all the inhabitants in the vicinity fled to the settlement, leaving their houses, crops and everything else behind.

After the Texans abandoned the place the Apache Indians took possession and had command of all the country around. A party of twenty men determined to revisit the neighborhood and obtain what they could of their remaining crops, when the whole number fell into the hands of the savages, and were brutally murdered.

On the 16th of December, in the suburbs of Baltimore, as the 2d Maryland regiment was drawn up for dress parade, private Koons took deliberate aim with a musket and shot Lieut. Wilson, killing him instantly. Wilson had, a few weeks before, shot a private for insubordination and killed him. Koons was a friend of the soldier thus killed, and shot the Lieutenant to avenge the death of his friend.

It is announced that Commodore Porter's mortar fleet would be ready to sail the latter part of December. The schooners and brigs, twenty in number, were receiving extra timbers. The mortar bed-plates, upon which the ponderous ordnances will rest, were in process of manufacture at the New York iron works. Each vessel will carry one mortar of the largest dimensions supplied by the Government.

The Sun says that the heavy contracts which the government made some time ago with parties in Troy and vicinity, for the manufactures of bullets, are nearly filled, and no more contracts for this instrument of warfare will be made by the government. There is stored in Washington over 20,000,000 cartridges, all ready for use.

A St. Louis dispatch of Dec. 12th, says that in order to suppress entirely and prevent any aid, assistance to, or communication with any person or persons, directly or indirectly, disloyal or in arms against the Federal government, the commerce of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers have been placed under military control and surveillance, and no boat will be permitted to take freight or passengers or be allowed a clearance except those authorized and commissioned by proper military authority. All owners, officers, and employees of boats will be required to take a strong oath of allegiance, and any owners or officers committing any act contrary to the above-expressed object of this order will cause the immediate forfeiture of their boat and cargo to the Federal government, and such owners or officers will be subject to all the penalties prescribed by the articles of war for giving aid to the enemy.

A serious accident occurred at the coal pits at Harrisburg, Penn., on December 14th. A car fell through fifty feet, killing four persons and wounding six others severely.

On the night of December 11th, at St. Joseph, Mo., the woollen factory of Buell & Co. was destroyed by fire; loss unknown.

At Elyria, Ohio, on the night of the 15th, a fire destroyed twenty-three frame buildings.

A portion of Platte City, Mo., including the Court House and Post-office, was destroyed by fire on the morning of Dec. 17th, said to have been the work of secessionists, many of whom were arrested. The same morning there was a fire at Dunkirk, New York, destroying the warehouses formerly occupied by the Michigan Central Railroad Company, together with the propeller Dunkirk, lying at the dock. Five hundred barrels of flour in the warehouses were burned. The loss on the propeller was \$18,000. The other losses had not been ascertained.

There were several other fires reported on that day. It seems to have been a "day of burning."

Winter has Come.

After a delay of many weeks beyond the usual time, Winter made its appearance in Great Salt Lake valley on the night of Thursday, the 2d instant, and on the following morning the ground was covered to the depth of two or three inches with snow, which continued falling during the day, giving a wintry aspect to things in general, although the weather was not very cold. As is usual in these valleys at the setting in of Winter, the ground was not frozen and the snow melted quite fast as it fell, and when the storm ceased, it was only five or six inches deep—at least one half the amount that had fallen having dissolved, making the streets woefully muddy till frost took action in the premises, since which they have become quite passable for wheeled vehicles, and runners have been used by pleurists as far as they deemed it practicable.

The thermometer stood at 16 deg. above zero on Sunday morning, the coldest day thus far of the season.

NEW POST OFFICES IN SOUTHERN UTAH.—The Postmaster-General some time since, established a postoffice at Tonaquint, Washington county, and appointed James Richey postmaster, and recently a post office at St. George, also in Washington county, and appointed Orson Pratt, jun., postmaster. These new offices will be a great accommodation to the citizens there, but inasmuch as that part of the Territory is receiving large additions to its population, more post offices will soon be needed for the accommodation of the cotton growers.