

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

The present condition of the laboring classes in the large cities of the East is truly embarrassing, if not already generally distressing. For some time past suffering from the increasing rates of family supplies, they have earnestly asked and urged from their employers an advance of wages, which in most instances seems to have been passed unheeded, many of the employers obstinately refusing to comply with their demands. In a few, perhaps, some partial relief has been accorded. A "workingman," in a communication on this subject, published in the *New York World*, makes the following startling declaration:

"Now I would ask, what are we to do? We cannot starve, nor do we like to become a burden upon the public charity of the city, for that would be the last thing an industrious New York mechanic would ask for; and yet it must come to that if we do not get a reasonable increase upon our present rates of wages."

In purchasing the necessities of life in New York, it is further stated that three dollars, this season is not equivalent to two dollars at this season last year. Strikes have been resorted to in Philadelphia and other localities; but this writer condemns them, as not alone productive of no good, but of positive injury—especially to those who indulge in them.

A serious negro insurrection occurred on the island of St. Vincent (W. I.) on the 9th ult. It seems to have been the intention of the negroes to massacre the entire white and colored population of the island. Many of the managers or field-directors narrowly escaped, while others were disfigured for life by the brutality of the rebels. Martial law was proclaimed, says a correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*, and all business suspended; and, but for the timely arrival of Her Majesty's ship *Challenge*, it is probable that Kingston, the chief town on the island, would have been laid in ashes. Furniture and provisions of all kinds were wantonly demolished. The houses, goods and effects of the managers were totally destroyed and their families turned out of doors—they being, in some instances, unmercifully beaten; in others, stripped naked and abused. The alleged cause of this disastrous outbreak is traced to the stoppage of some allowance on the sugar estates. It is reported to have been planned since last Christmas.

It is also reported that the negroes of Union island (one of the Grenadines) are also in open rebellion; also, that Carriacou is in revolt.

A government contractor, in a recent game at faro in Washington, lost 275,000 bushels of oats—valued at \$206,250—after which, as reported, the pet left for Baltimore in a state of mind bordering on insanity—probably because he had no more government "truck" to play away.

There are "terrible whispers" going the rounds of eastern newspapers, that the removal of McClellan was to have been the signal for a concerted mutiny on the part of some of the army officers, who were to carry their men with them and establish a military Dictatorship. A special correspondent of the *New York Tribune* writes that, on the occasion of McClellan's parting with his army, a few regiments of regulars stood in dumb silence—not because they were not willing to cheer for McClellan, but because they had been led by their officers to believe that if he was removed, they would be instructed by them to lay down their arms, or in other words to mutiny, and were disappointed that no such orders were given.

The above assertion has since been fully confirmed; and the inferences are, that the people at large know but little of the secret designs, and the treasonable plotting in progress—not in the South, under the insurrectionary reign of Jeff Davis and his associates—but among the professedly "loyal," "grateful" and "patriotic" sons of the Republic—as well in the army itself, as in the civil departments of the government, which have been undergoing a reputed purgative process since the beginning of Mr. Lincoln's administration. Cataline, in the days of Roman degeneracy, was banished on slightly grounded implications of treason; but the conduct which then branded Cataline as a traitor would now—a-days almost pass for a profound devotion to the cause of liberty.

It is stated that, while engaged in the battle of Antietam, McClellan received repeated instructions to immediately fall back to the

defense of the Capital—it being the opinion of the Washington authorities that Lee's movement in front was but a feint and that, with the main body of his army, he designed to attack Washington. The *Washington Star* says that, if McClellan had followed the order—begotten of ignorance and panic—he would have fallen back only to find his retreat converted into a rout, his army destroyed, and the rebels in possession of Maryland, with the isolated Capital in their power.

The *New York Journal of Commerce*, a leading Conservative journal, in presenting to its readers the President's Message, says, "we cannot give it to our readers without an expression of the pain with which we regard its total failure to meet the important crisis in which the nation is placed." In reference to the financial propositions of the President, the *Journal of Commerce* affirms that they are rejected at once by the good sense of the experienced banker or financier, without a moment's hesitation; thus showing conclusively that the President and his advisers cannot have any clear idea of the working of the laws of money. Of the President's emancipation policy, the same journal pronounces the whole plan a failure on the part of the President to appreciate the vastness of the war, the swift nature of its influences and the terrible verge on which the country trembles.

"He proposes," the *Journal* continues, "to adopt a scheme of emancipation involving an immense debt, on the theory that if he can thus dispose of the slavery question he will have removed out of the way all causes of discord, the American Millennium will have dawned, and—no matter what it costs us—we have nothing to do but live on in peace and prosperity, with no domestic broils, no foreign war, no troubles, no block to our prosperity, until we are a nation of a hundred millions—then pay our debt and be perfectly blessed." "Paper money, and negro emancipation," it concludes, "are hopeless schemes to carry us through the present danger and re-establish the glory of the Union."

The library of Congress has been recently enriched by very valuable accessions in American history, topography, antiquities and politics; also by rare works of foreign literature; and a new library room has been opened in the south wing of the old Capital.

The U. S. Senate on Dec. 1, was opened with the following prayer by the Rev. Dr. Sunderland:

"Almighty and Everlasting God, who art in Heaven, while we, Thy creatures are upon earth, we come to Thee in our prayers to be directed aright this day before Thee. We thank Thee that Thy servants are met again in the Capitol undisturbed. We thank Thee that Thou hast graciously preserved them during the period of their separation, and hast brought them together in the high conclave of the Nation to deliberate upon the affairs of a people greatly afflicted, but as yet not wholly destroyed, and while we remember with the deepest reverence and humiliation that it has not pleased Thee to fully answer all our former supplications from this place, we yet implore Thy blessing upon the Congress now convened together in their coming councils and labors. May they stand in more than Jewish reverence, and in more than Roman virtue before the people. Remove far away from the body and members of the American Senate all levity of mind and of manners; all profanity and volubility of speech, and all unworthy motives and desires to give to them influence with the people in their high avocation as Conscrip Fathers and Elders of the Republic. We rejoice that the machinations of foreign intervention have been thus far postponed and defeated. We rejoice in that proclamation which, as we hope, has begun to inspire some salutary fear in the rebels of the South, as well as also to outstretch the false and lying prophets of the North. We rejoice in the terrible fiery furnace through which we are passing to test the true spirit of the people and the real sentiments of those who have so long and so loudly cried out for the extinction of human bondage. We pray that Thou wilt continue to uncover on the one hand the cruel lies of mankind's oppressors, and on the other, the insincerity of their philanthropy, and when our wounds and our wretchedness shall have been fully proved, we pray, gracious God, for Thy cleansing, and healing, and sanctifying power, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

The House proceedings were opened with a prayer from Chaplain Stockton, during which he returned thanks for the brightening prospects of the liberty of the slave; for an emancipation from the system which, he said, had involved us in so much sin, sorrow and shame; and for renewed union and greater power, and greater love, and greater joy forever.

The *N. Y. Spirit of the Times* severely attacks Sec. Seward—no cause assigned.

A St. Louis correspondent of the *Columbian*

(O.) *Crisis* states that the Union man, for the murder of whom Gen. McNeil, a short time since, shot ten Confederate prisoners, has returned home alive and well. The most barbarous feature of the murder remains to be told, which we give in the language of the *Crisis*' correspondent: "The wife of the returned man, before the execution of the ten Confederates, went to McNeil and pleaded with him to wait and see if he had been killed before he executed those men, and the brute spurned her." Late telegraphic dispatches inform us that Jeff. Davis has directed an inquiry into the facts relative to the shooting of the ten Confederate citizens by order of Gen. McNeil. A reply is expected from Gen. Curtis, at St. Louis, which will be looked for with much anxiety.

OPENING OF THE THEATER.—According to announcement, the Theater will open for the winter season on Thursday (to-morrow evening), when will be presented "The Honeymoon" and "Paddy Miles' Boy." The arrangements have been rendered complete in every particular, and those patronizing the Association may be assured that nothing will be wanting to make their attendance agreeable, amusing and instructive. Large audiences are anticipated.

INTERESTING FROM BERMUDA.

We have advices from the islands to the 24th ult.

The Colonial Legislature on the 4th ult. adopted an order requesting His Excellency the Governor to communicate with the Cunard Mail Steam Packet Company, in relation to the encouragement of steam communication between Bermuda and New York.

On the 7th the steamer *Gladiator*, from Liverpool, left St. George's harbor accompanied by H. M. steamship *Desperate*. One of the Federal gunboats hovering round ran down to the *Gladiator* and sent a search officer on board. The *Desperate* immediately ranged alongside. The *Gladiator* "passed muster" on this occasion; but the *Nassau* (N. P. W. I.) *Guardian* intimates the general belief that "had the *Desperate* not been there, the *Gladiator* would now have been making headway for New York." The *Gladiator* had on board a cargo of cotton for Liverpool. The hills on the island were covered with people in anticipation of a fight between the war vessels.

On the following day the steamer *Ouachita*, with a valuable cargo for Dixie, steamed down to the north side to ascertain the whereabouts of her Federal friends, whom she found attracted to the eastward by the approach of H. M. steamer *Plover*, on her way from Halifax to those islands. Immediately the *Ouachita* started back again and out at the west end, and, when seen at sundown, was far in the west steaming for Dixie.

The strictness of Admiral Wilkes' "Yankee blockade" is becoming extremely obnoxious to the people of the Islands. The *Bermuda Royal Gazette* of Oct. 14, asks: "Cannot a reference be made to the highest powers that be, that at any rate the legality of these extreme measures on the part of the Yankees may be at once looked into?"

The same paper gives information that some rockets have been landed from one of the Yankee gunboats, to be fired off at night, when any of the steamers in port should attempt to go to sea.

"By what right," says the *Royal Gazette*, "the American cruisers so unceremoniously bring to and board British vessels without this boundary, unless within the prescribed distance from their coast, I am at a loss to determine. The performances in this way, almost under our very guns, for the last fortnight, seems more like a menace or a studied insult, when we consider the man who was sent in command on this service. Is it not rather queer that the *Gladiator*, an English ship from an English colony, bound to England, should have been stopped, and that, too, in the presence of a British man-of-war? (Shades of Nelson!)"

The bravery of "our gallant Commodore" Wilkes is not held at a high premium in that quarter, as we infer from what follows:

"The 'rare' admiral timed his visit very well to avoid finding men-of-war here, and judging from his antecedents, he will not return until he thinks our coast again clear, but to be forewarned is to be forearmed. A man may stop an unarmed packet or burn an empty tobacco warehouse, who will not be contumacious in the presence of well-appointed opposi-

tionists."

The *Gazette* concludes that if such acts of interference already referred to be not meant as insults, they must be in mere bravado, and will, in due time no doubt, have to be accounted for.

MULE THIEVES CAUGHT.

A few weeks since a brace of government mule thieves were arrested near this city through the agency of some of the citizens, who became advised of their proceedings; and, on being taken before Judge Kinney, were required to give bail in the sum of five hundred dollars each for their appearance at the next term of the Third District Court, in default of which one of them, a young man, named Burton, has since been confined in the county jail. Another stock-dealer by the name of Frank Mathews has of late taken lodgings there of necessity, as he could find no person who was willing to pay eight hundred dollars, in the event he should fail to appear at the appointed time to stand trial as principal in the mule-stealing arrangement entered into between him and the other two thieves. It seems that they had but just commenced business, and had stolen from Camp Douglas only two animals before their operations were discovered and frustrated by the nabbing of two of the firm, which subsequently led to the arrest of Mathews, said to be an experienced dealer of that kind, who sell more stock than they buy.

THE "PIRATE" ALABAMA.

This notorious craft, which has justly become a terror on the seas to American commerce, is a British vessel, with a British register, manned by a British crew, and is commanded by the well-known Semmes, formerly commander of the destroyed "Sumter." Semmes' family are said to be at Philadelphia enjoying the protection of the government he seeks to destroy.

The vessel is 220 feet long, 32 wide, has two decks, and registers 1,170 tons British measurement. She is a full rigged bark, and her propeller is arranged to be hoisted out of water when she is not under steam. Her armament consists of two 64s, four 32s, and two rifled pivot guns, one forward and the other aft; but she has not a 100-pounder, as has been reported in the *New York papers*. Under steam she will go about 12 knots, and with a whole sail breeze going free, she might make about the same rate under canvas alone. She is a wooden vessel, apparently built in a hurry, and is not remarkably well found. Her crew all told numbers seventy-two men.

Some writer remarks in regard to the *Alabama*, that "any of our gunboats, if properly handled, would blow her out of water." However this may be, the catching of her seems to be the most difficult task of all—though it is hinted round that she has been once or twice at least purposely allowed to escape by Federal gunboats sent in direct pursuit of her—they choosing rather to keep out of her wake than to pursue or face her and thus hazard an engagement.

NAVIGATION OF SNAKE RIVER.

By recent advices from Oregon and Washington, it is made to appear, that during the fall explorations have been made up Snake river, as far as Fort Boise, by parties interested in the development of the mineral resources, and the settlement of Washington Territory, by a farming and mining community, the results of which have been highly satisfactory, and it is confidently believed that the river can easily be made navigable for steamboats to that point, estimated at only 340 miles from Salt Lake. From Fort Boise to the mouth of Salmon river, the distance is stated at 90 miles, and Lewiston is said to be only 40 miles above the confluence of Salmon with Snake river, making the whole distance from Salt Lake City to Lewiston by Salmon Falls, on Snake river and Fort Boise, 475 miles.

Very flattering accounts are given of the Boise river mines, extending over a large extent of beautiful rolling country, with so under brush and covered with tall firs. The few miners who have been operating there of late, have been as reported, doing remarkably well, making from eight to twenty dollars each per day. In view of the richness of those mines, and the prospect, that steamers will at no distant day be running on Snake river to Fort Boise, it is predicted that a lucrative trade will shortly be opened between that point and the settlements in Idaho.