

reign of Claudius, A. D. 43, Plautius, a veteran general, landed and firmly established himself and his legionaries in the country.

Though obtaining some successes in the South Eastern part, yet the more inland Britons, under Caractacus, a man of courage and conduct, made a desperate resistance to the Roman arms and power, A. D. 50. Indignant at their repulse, reinforcements came over, under Ostorius Scupula, who beat them back farther and farther, even to the country of the Siluris, (now called South Wales.) where an engagement took place, in which Caractacus was taken prisoner. This brave, though unfortunate Prince was sent to Rome, and there treated with great generosity. When he beheld the magnificence of the vast wealth and grandeur it contained, he exclaimed, Alas! that a people so situated, would envy the wretched huts of the poor Britons. This generosity on the part of the Romans, is the more remarkable, that the natives still carried on the war; defeat only gave them superior skill; their conquerors taught them the art of war. Though often defeated and extremely distressed, they still fought for every acre of their fatherland; so that Britain was considered battle-ground worthy of the presence of the best officers and hardiest veterans of Rome. Irritated at the slow progress of their arms, the Romans now gave the command of their armies to Suetonius Paulinus, a man of rare courage and of fierce and indomitable will. Determined to strike at the causes of the fierce and persistent courage of the Britons, he wisely conceived that the Druids, the priesthood of the people, infused into their natures their daring and reckless bravery.

He thought that by this stroke of policy—destroying the Druids, he would forever cripple the energies of the Britons. Having attacked them in the small island of Anglesey, (then called Mona), the chief seat of their religion and their priests, he cruelly exterminated them, casting them into fires which they had prepared for their victims. The worst crime of which the Druids were guilty was that of offering to their gods human sacrifices, whether in peace or war. Hecatombs of human sacrifices were ever burning on their altars amidst the dark and gloomy recesses of immense forests. The absence of Suetonius from the main land to wreak his vengeance on the Druids, only aroused the Britons to a fierce conflict, and under Boadicea, widow of the king of the Iceni, they obtained important advantages over the Romans, burning London. 70,000 of the Romans and their retainers perished in this determined effort on the part of the natives to expel the invaders from the soil. Suetonius hastened to meet this warlike heroine, and they respectively led on their armies. The Queen harangued her troops, recounting their wrongs and her own, aroused their fury and their patriotism.

The Roman General drew out his forces with consummate skill. He knew that his iron soldiery required no words to stir their courage. Those fierce legionaries, inured to war, had only to be engaged in the conflict to urge them on to conquest.

The battle was obstinate and bloody; the vast array was again and again broken by the Roman phalanx, and though the Roman eagle had been often put to flight, and the British ground had often drank deep of Roman blood, yet how could enthusiastic but undisciplined valour prevail against the trained and marvellous superiority of Roman discipline. They were routed with great slaughter; the route became a massacre, and the brave Boadicea rather than grace the spoils of a conqueror, destroyed herself by poison.

Though Suetonius had achieved great successes in Britain, he had done so only at the expense of such extraordinary losses and cruelty on both sides, that Nero recalled him, apparently under the impression that he was utterly unfitted for the post by his excessive sternness and severity, when it was necessary for the victor not only to combat the resisting but also to conciliate the conquered.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notice.

Mrs. CATHERINE ELIZABETH NICKERSON, wife of Mr. James Nickerson, died at Canso, Nov. 16th, aged 31 years.

The deceased professed conversion about six years ago, in a Methodist revival at White Head, where she then resided. She was subsequently married to Mr. Nickerson, and removed to Canso. About two years ago she was immersed by Rev. M. Bigelow, and united with the Baptist Church, with which she continued a worthy member until her death.

Her last sickness continued only seventeen days, through the severity of which she was

remarkably sustained by an unwavering hope of a speedy and happy release from the sorrows of earth, to the everlasting joys of heaven.—exhorting all who visited her to prepare to meet her there.

I regret that I was unable, from ill health, to visit her in her sickness, but am informed by numbers who were present that her death was a most triumphant one. She has left a disconsolate husband, a little daughter two years old, and a number of relatives and friends to mourn her loss.

May there be many to imitate, her amiable and christian deportment, who was ever ready to assist her dear companion in sustaining family worship and other religious duties.—Com. by Rev. T. H. Porter.

Religious Intelligence.

LOCKE'S ISLAND.—Rev. A. W. Bars writes "We are holding special services with very encouraging prospects."

REVIVAL AT GREENVILLE.—Two years ago I commenced laboring with the Church in this place a quarter of my time, and found it almost in ruins. A large number of the members were walking disorderly, and the remainder did not manifest much spiritual life, but gradually under the faithful preaching of the Word, part of the members began to feel the necessity of the Church being more fully separated from the world, as the first step to getting right again. Consequently, discipline was exercised, and fifteen were excluded.

A fortnight ago, we commenced a series of meetings there. Brother Dobson came to our assistance, and preached the gospel faithfully, and the Lord blessed the word. The church has risen to a higher state of spirituality, and sinners have been converted. Yesterday I baptized seven believers, and there will probably be several more baptized soon. We hope it is the beginning of better days there.

Surprise party.—Last Friday evening, quite a number of the Christian friends there assembled a short time before the hour for religious services, and brought with them \$17.25, which was presented to me by Deacon Rushton, as a token of their appreciation of my extra labours for their spiritual benefit. I desire to thank God and take courage.

Yours truly,

J. E. BALCOM.

Great Village, Dec. 20, 1862.

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to Morning and Evening papers.]

DEC. 16.—Seward's fight at Fredericksburg was most desperate, the Federals pressing forward and the Confederates resisting them with the greatest obstancy.

About 40,000 Federals it is estimated, were engaged in the battle.

The Federals made three unsuccessful attempts to dislodge the enemy from the first ridge of hills and suffered terribly from their concentrated fire.

By night time it was hard to say who had the advantage, but it was shewn conclusively that the enemy's position was exceedingly formidable!

DEC. 17th.—The Federal army evacuated their position at Fredericksburg on Monday night last, retreating across the Rappahannock River. The movement was conducted safely, the artillery first crossed over; and last of the infantry brought up the rear, shortly after daylight on Tuesday morning. The pontoon bridges were then taken up, and the heavy wind and rain contributed to the success of the movements. The enemy did not discover the movement until too late to take advantage and profit by it. The New York Herald gives the loss of Franklin's grand division, on Saturday last at 6,000 men. The Federal General Bayard has died of his wounds.

Plymouth, North Carolina, has been destroyed by the Federal forces.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Advertiser under date of 15th inst., says:—Should mishaps occur at Fredericksburg, the Cabinet at Washington may be reconstructed, and General McClellan recalled to his former position as Commander of the Federal army of the Potomac.

Congress has adopted resolutions endorsing President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, as a war measure, 78 to 51.

Evening.—Burnside's retrograde movement caused profound sensation in New York. The Herald, World, and Sun, charge the failure on the War Department, under the disorganizing influences of the abolition factions in Congress.—They call for a reconstruction of the Cabinet and expulsion of imbeciles and lawyers from the management of the army.

The World says all the corps commanders were opposed to the advance, but Burnside said the order was peremptory from Washington.

Six large steamers seen off St. Augustine, Florida, supposed Banks' expedition bound further South. Two steamers of the expedition put into Port Royal for coal and sailed again.

About forty thousand Confederates between Murfreesboro and Nashville.

Large negro force fortifying Tullahoma.

Three hundred of Woodward's cavalry came into Federal camp refusing to fight longer for Southern Confederacy.

DEC. 19.—Newspaper correspondents to Northern journals state that the recent battle near Fredericksburg was a butchery. The total loss of the right grand division of the Federal army, under General Franklin, is estimated to have been more than seven thousand men. The centre division of the same force lost three thousand men. And the left division suffered to an equal extent, three thousand being the number of its casualties. The total loss in this disastrous affair is put down at thirteen thousand men; but the official report, when it comes to hand will probably exceed that number. General French's division, which went into action with seven thousand men, reported two days after the engagement only twelve hundred men had reported to him, more than half his force having been placed hors de combat before firing a shot. The report that General Banks is not to cooperate against Richmond causes intense dissatisfaction in the Northern States, and throughout the Federal army. The Federal victory at Prairie Grove Arkansas, is now known to have been a greater success than it was at first reported. The Confederate loss on that occasion was about three thousand men, fifteen hundred being left dead on the field of battle. General Evans (Confederate) has telegraphed in Richmond city, to the effect that he had driven the Federal General Foster, who has been attacking North Carolina back to the federal gun-boats.—Congress will speedily take the requisite steps for an investigation into the matter of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Evening.—Last Friday gun-boat Cairo was destroyed by a torpedo while ascending Yazoo River, sinking in six fathoms. Army appropriation bill for \$631,000,000 passed the house.—Only three days. Bermuda advices report British Steamers—Phoebe, Hornet, Hinckney, Justice and Merrimac, in port, loading with arms, etc., for Confederates. British steamer Carombia sailed from St. George ostensibly for Trinidad, but probably to run the blockade.—About 2,000 wounded arrived at Washington yesterday morning.

DEC. 20.—All is quiet at Fredericksburg.

The official report of the Federal losses gives less than fourteen hundred killed eight thousand wounded, and about eight hundred prisoners on each side. The Confederates are stated to have stripped the Federal dead. The Richmond Dispatch puts the Confederate loss at 2500, including Generals Gregg, Cobb and many field officers. The Third North Carolina Regiment was nearly annihilated. General Foster captured Kingston, N. C., and took five hundred prisoners and eleven pieces of artillery.

Morgan is reported moving to cut off the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Van Dorn had also arrived at Stevens-on, Alabama, with 50,000 to reinforce Bragg. The whole force in Tennessee is estimated at 70,000. The Confederate outposts are 11 miles from Nashville.

DEC. 22.—Mr. Secretary Seward has sent in his resignation to the Washington Government. At a caucus of Republican Senators, they decided on calling upon President Lincoln to dispense with his (Seward's) services.

General Foster's march on Kingston, North Carolina, was continued succession of fighting; and several bayonet charges occurred during its progress.

Advices from Vicksburg report that the Confederates are vigorously fortifying that place; extending their works of defence eight miles from the Mississippi River, with two hundred gun positions. The citizens of Vicksburg are packing their moveable property, preparatory to evacuating the place in anticipation of an attack from the Federal forces.

It is stated that general Hindman (Confederate), has crossed the Arkansas River, and that hundreds of his men are daily joining General Herron, disgusted with the conduct of the Confederate campaign in the West.

It is reported from Washington that General Burnside has tendered his resignation of the command of the Federal army in Virginia.

The changes at Washington are creating intense excitement, to the exclusion of almost every other topic. As before stated, Mr. Secretary Seward has tendered his resignation. Mr. Secretary Chase, of Treasury Department has also resigned. Also Post Master-General Blair. It is not supposed that the President has yet accepted the resignations of Seward and Chase.

The New York Herald says that General Banks will supersede General Butler at New Orleans, thus commanding seventy thousand troops, to operate on Mobile opening up Mississippi River, and counteracting French schemes at the South.

Senators Fessenden and Daniel S. Dickenson are most prominently named as successor to Mr. Seward. Senator Charles Sumner, from Massachusetts, is also named as the new Secretary of the State Department.

President Lincoln keeps his own council; and the New York Times despatch asserts that the President gave General Burnside discretionary orders relative to crossing the Rappahannock River, to attack the Confederates, which General Halleck suppressed.

Official despatches confirm General Foster's success at Kingston, N. C.

Evening.—Burnside's official report assumes the whole responsibility of his manner of attacking at Fredericksburg, relieving the Government of prevalent imputation.

Intelligencer says the President has not accepted his resignation, and probably will not.

New York Commercial's despatch says there will be no change in Cabinet. Members will withdraw their resignations at the request of the President.

Reported that the Confederates have retaken Holly Springs.

The Army letter in the Herald says Seigel's forces reported on their way to Fairfax Court House.

FROM THE SOUTH.—The Lynchburg Republican of the 11th states that the Governor of North Carolina has issued a proclamation prohibiting, for thirty days, the transportation from the State of salt, bacon, pork, beef, corn, meal, flour, potatoes, shoes, leather, cotton cloth, yarn and woolen cloth.

The Richmond Examiner says:—The preparations of the United States to subjugate us are now truly gigantic. In the East, West and North, on land and water, the movements of the Federal armies indicate a zeal, a hope, a fanaticism, a desperate avidity, that should banish from every Southerner's mind all thought of an early peace, and nerve every loyal Southern heart for a battle in which there will be no quarter. Northern Virginia is again overrun, and Richmond, Petersburg, Weldon, Charleston and Mobile are again threatened. Texas, undefended, lies helpless and bleeding in the power of the enemy. Forces are being prepared in Missouri and Kansas for the invasion of Arkansas. The communication between the West and Richmond is menaced at Chattanooga and Knoxville, and the Mississippi and its tributaries are bristling with gunboats, for operations as soon as the floods come.

Latest from Europe!

By the arrival of the Scotia at New York last week we were informed that there was no political news of importance. The Greek question was unchanged.

It was rumoured that failing of Prince Alfred some Greeks will ask for a son of Lord Derby.

The English Government has ordered 1200 miles of cable to complete telegraph connection with India.

Very encouraging statements had been published in regard to the Atlantic telegraph.

The French Government had contracted for two years' supplies for army in Mexico, and prolonged occupation is inferred.

The distress in the manufacturing districts in France was increasing.

The firm of Janvrin, Grassie and Delisle, of London, has failed. One partner absconded Liabilities, £100,000.

Breadstuffs dull. Flour, 23s. to 28s. Little change in markets generally. Consols 92 1-8th ex. div.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE APPROACHING ROYAL MARRIAGE.—The Earl of Caithness who is one of the Lords-in-Waiting, presided at a banquet given at Wick on the 10 inst., in celebration of the coming of age of the Prince of Wales. In proposing the toast of the day, Lord Caithness said:—"When I saw that the Queen in Council had sanctioned the Prince's marriage with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, I wrote to him a congratulatory letter. He immediately wrote me an answer by return of post; and though it is not right to make public the contents of a private letter, may without any breach of confidence, I think repeat to you a single sentence from that letter. His Royal Highness says:—'I beg to return my most sincere thanks to Lady Caithness and yourself for your good wishes, and I assure you that it is to be really happy.' His Royal Highness says:—"I beg to return my sincere thanks to Lady Caithness and yourself for your good wishes, and I assure you that I feel now what it is to be really happy." His Royal Highness says further:—"If I can make the future life and home of the Princess a happy one, I shall be content. I feel doubly happy in the thought that my approaching marriage is one which has the approval of the nation, and I only trust that I may not disappoint the expectations that have been formed of me." The marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will be solemnised at the Chapel Royal of St. George, Windsor, early in April next. The walls of the Rubens room, or King's drawing-room, at Windsor Castle, have just been hung with a rich crimson figured satin, the pattern being the royal arms. The council-chamber has also been hung with crimson damask satin, the design being a wreath of laurels surmounting the royal crown. The picture-frames in these rooms have all been regilded. It is thirty years since the walls of the apartment were decorated in a similar manner.

A learned member of the French Academy has made the profound discovery, according to a scale of height—chronologically arranged, that Adam could not have been less than 123ft. 9in. high, while Eve was about 5ft. less! Since that, humanity is supposed to have been rapidly degenerating, as the academicians only grants 28ft. to Abraham, and but 13ft. to Moses!—Court Journal.

GOVERNESSES.—The following melancholy and significant advertisement has appeared in The Times:—"GOVERNESS.—Mrs. Stone begs to intimate to the ladies who answered her advertisement for a governess, that she is unable to reply to each letter, the number being already close upon 500."

Lord Palmerston has intimated his acceptance of the office of Lord Rector of Glasgow University, to which he has been elected Mr. Gladstone has also acknowledged his reelection to the Edinburgh Rectorship.