

News Summary.

The result of the Burnside Expedition on the Southern Coasts appears to involve the principal interest of the present Federal operations. The expedition had effected a landing somewhere about Hatteras. Three descents upon the coast have been effected by the Federal Troops, who seem to have established their footing pretty firmly upon the enemy's ground. No advance, however, into the interior, to any extent, had taken place, but business and trade of all kinds on the seaboard, will no doubt be effectually stopped. Reports are current of some severe fighting near Fort Donaldson, in which the Confederates are said to have been worsted. The latest Despatches say that the Fort has been taken, and the four Generals Pillow, Buckner, Johnson, and Floyd with 15,000 men were taken prisoners, but that on Saturday night, Floyd with 5,000 men had escaped. Great rejoicing had of course followed this news in all the great cities of the North, but there is little trust to be put in the vague reports that daily reach us.

The Federal armies have of late been evidently getting the advantage, but the most unpromising feature of the war at present, is the financial embarrassment that exists in supplying the sinews of war. These are hourly becoming greater without any very definite plan of relief or affording adequate supplies. The stoppage of specie payments by the banks, at so early a period of the war, is a circumstance of the most serious character. It does not seem, from present appearances, that the Government can attempt to raise, either by direct or indirect taxation, one third of the amount required to meet the enormous expenditures of the war, and the payment of interest on debts already incurred. The resort which the Cabinet have been obliged to have to the issue of irresponsible paper, can only arrest the evil for the moment. A glut of paper money must inevitably occur, if extended beyond certain and well known limits. In such cases the resources must soon fail, and the Government efforts be brought to a stand still. The South, no doubt are quite aware of this, and however exhausted themselves, can better act merely on the defensive than their opponents on the aggressive. As we see it justly observed in one of the English prints, "The North will sooner get tired of fighting for dominion than the South for independence," where the means of both are becoming exhausted. Besides all this, the moral if not the material interference of Commercial Europe, may shortly become engaged in bringing the matter to a close. A substantial re-union is becoming every day more and more impossible.

A great part of the troops that have lately arrived at this port and those of New Brunswick, are now on their way to Canada. A good many have already arrived, with little or no accident or difficulty. Two or three Regiments, we believe, are still expected. The large stores of heavy ordnance and munitions of war, now in Halifax, will be sent to Quebec and Montreal, the moment the navigation opens in the Spring.

Our Legislature commenced its session on Thursday last, the account of which will be found on another page. We shall give attention to the proceedings of our law-makers and advise our readers from week to week, as to what their representatives are doing. We are glad to find a promise on both sides of the Assembly to curtail the speeches and shorten the time of the session as much as possible. The first day or two there was great harmony in both Houses. The first clause of the Speech referring to the death of the Prince Consort, seemed to have induced both parties to lay aside, for the time, feelings of hostility.

Letters Received.

Rev. Dr. Tupper, 7th and 12th. Rev. P. F. Murray, 23th. G. V. Rand, 10th. Have sent with \$1. T. H. Rand, 10th, \$9. Ward Eaton, Esq., 8th, 20s., 1 sub. B. L. Telfer, 4th, \$5. Gaerdon Eaton, 5th. W. Cummings, 8th, 20s. W. Cook, per Chas. Hall, Esq., 11th, 15s. John Stubbart, Esq., 4th. T. P. Calkin, 7th, \$2 2s. 6d. David Bentley, 4th. R. B. Much, 10th. W. H. Chipman, 30th, £5. Dr. W. L. Bent, 10th, 32s. 6d., 1 sub. Put it in with Donations. Asaph Marshall, 10th, per Avar Longley, Esq., £2 1s. 6d. Thos. Patillo, 11th. E. Johnson, 10th. J. McLearn, 11th. L. S. Payzant, 11th. Rev. Hugh Ross, 10th, 1 sub. Chas. Sutherland, 8th. D. H. Jenks, 8th, 21s. R. Chambers, Esq., 14th, \$5. Nelson Miller, 10th, £2. H. H. C. paid 6s. in 1861. J. F. Nash, 6th. Dr. Shaw, 15th. Rev. J. Shaw, 10th, 1 sub. Rev. J. Balcom, 13th, 20s.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

FIRE INSURANCE.—There is some talk about getting up a New Fire Insurance Company in Halifax. The large amount of money paid annually into the United States Agencies would form a pretty large income for a local office. There is abundant room for another office.

ACCIDENT.—We are informed by an eye-witness that on Wednesday, 5th inst., as one of the omnibuses was driving to the Depot, by some mismanagement on the part of the driver of a sleigh coming towards town, a collision occurred which tore the sleigh to pieces, and seriously injured a young lady who, with two gentlemen, were in it at the time. She received a severe contusion over the left eye. We have been told that she belonged to Lunenburg, and that she is doing well,—her eye not being, as was feared, destroyed.

WINDSOR.—Great excitement appears to have been created by the Sheriff making some seizures of property of persons in Windsor who refuse to pay the Railway tax. At an attempt to sell the same by Auction on Saturday, about three hundred people assembled, but none bid for the articles. We have no further details at present.

BAZAAR AT WESTPORT.—A Bazaar under the auspices of the Ladies of the Westport Baptist Sewing Society, came off on the evenings of the 1st and 2nd inst.

A variety of useful and ornamental articles including several choice presents from a friend in Halifax, made up a splendid assortment.

In addition thereto, tables loaded with cakes, confectionary and other edibles so arrested the attention and stimulated the appetite that at the close the sum of £27 9s. 4d. in cash was realized. Our lady friends evince warm sympathy in most of our public interests, and by their aid and influence contribute largely toward forwarding them.

The sum of £20 has been invested in a piece of Land, whereon to erect a Parsonage adjoining the site of the Baptist Church.

May their past success stimulate to further effort.

The goods comprising the Nova Scotia department of the International Exhibition have been shipped in the *Julia*, which left for London on Saturday last.

The second Lecture, in aid of the Volunteer Band, will be delivered at Temperance Hall this, Wednesday evening, by Mr. G. E. Kenny. Subject—The Constitutionality of Secession.

We are informed that a party who is sinking a shaft at Laidlaw's hill, has struck upon another vein of quartz, parallel with and very similar to the one near the surface.—*Colonist*.

INDIANS LOYAL TO BRITAIN.—At a Council of the Six Nations, held recently at St. Catherine's, Canada, 600 Indians, fully armed and equipped, offered their services to the Government.—*Rep.*

TEMPERANCE IN THE CITY COUNCIL!!—On Thursday last, at a meeting of City Council a question was raised concerning the Temperance memorial recently presented. Several of our City fathers spoke out their sentiments, when Ald. Ackhurst enquired, was it the case that parties in the city sold liquor without license?

Ald. James Duggan replied—Hundreds!

Ald. Ackhurst spoke of having heard of persons selling liquor in back shops and rooms, without paying license. He alluded to the discreditable character of such practice, and to the appearance of those who frequented drinking places, as painfully indicating what their habits were. He enquired, was the traffic in intoxicating liquors a crime? and if so, why was it legalized? He spoke strongly of the baneful effects of such traffic—describing them as horrifying—and expressing a hope that the time would come when such a system would be abolished. Revenue was raised and parties were tolerated in a business of which such deplorable consequences were stated!

This brought out several other expressions but mostly having a tendency to allow a little tipping, but not too much!

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The next Lecture of the Course before the Young Men's Christian Association will be delivered (D. V.) on Tuesday Evening next, the 25th inst.; at Temperance Hall, by the Rev. P. G. McGregor.

Subject—Our duty to the Citizen, the Sailor, and the Soldier. Chair to be taken at half-past 7 o'clock.

Word has been received in town that on New Year's Eve Mr. Horatio Gardner, of Brooklyn, fell from one of the yards of the ship *John Bright*, on the passage from Liverpool, G. B., to New York, and was instantly killed. He leaves a wife and family in Brooklyn.—*Liverpool Transcript*.

Mr. Hart, of Wallace River, a very old and eccentric inhabitant of that neighborhood, died about a fortnight since. The deceased, who was over 90 years of age, had worked all his life at the problem of perpetual motion, at which he was engaged even the day previous to his death, saying that he had only a few more wheels to make to complete his machine. He fell dead the next day from his chair. Many years ago he was taken to England in a steamer, by the British government, to explain his plans there. He was buried, at his own request, on one of the most lofty peaks of the Cobequid Mountains, in his ordinary clothes, at a depth of 12 feet below the surface, and the grave marked by a large hemlock tree growing near the spot, which, by his directions, was cut up into lengths of 10 or 12 feet and laid over the grave.—*Sun*.

CANADA.—It is proposed to have a Soldiers Institute at Montreal—a large room well supplied with newspapers and periodicals and where hot coffee will also be provided.

Racing on snow-shoes is much in fashion with the soldiers at Kingston.

New Brunswick.

The Legislature of New Brunswick was opened on the 12th inst.

The Speech made by the Lieutenant Governor was in many respects similar to the one made in our own Legislature. It referred to the bereavement of the Queen, the difficulty with the United States, to the discoveries of gold in Nova Scotia, and to the importance of steps being taken to ascertain if the precious metals were not also in that Province. With regard to a union of the provinces His Excellency said:

You will learn with satisfaction that the Imperial Government has agreed to sanction any well considered arrangement for facilitating the commercial intercourse between the different Provinces of British North America. I have no doubt this liberal concession will be thankfully received, and that the measures, which may be found necessary to secure to New Brunswick the full advantages to be derived therefrom, will accordingly be adopted by you. I am of opinion that such measures if wisely framed and judiciously carried into execution will be attended with great and lasting benefit to the Province.

Mr. J. M. Johnston was elected Speaker without opposition.

Latest from the States!

[By Telegraph to Morning and Evening papers.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 11th.—Report Roanoke Island captured by Federals after three days fighting. Three Confederate gunboats sunk; two captured; remainder dispersed.

Extensive preparations making for removing South from Fort Henry. Confederate troops taken refuge at Fort Donaldson on Cumberland River.

Vera Cruz dates to 21st January received; Allied forces advanced to Espirito Santo—Mexicans retired without fighting; Allies occupying Vera Cruz, fifteen days each alternately; they have fifteen thousand troops there.

NEW YORK, 12.—Daily communication is to be established between Fortress Monroe and Roanoke Island, by swift steam packets.

Intelligence from Confederate sources, via Richmond and Norfolk, give particulars of complete success of Burnside's expedition at Roanoke Island, which was taken together with whole Confederate force of about 3000. Their loss was 300 killed, and 1900 wounded. They represent Federal loss very heavy.

Federals then attacked Elizabeth City, which was burned and evacuated by inhabitants; whole Confederate fleet captured.

Southern papers admit their disaster as a very serious one, and represent the fight as hotly contested. They lacked light artillery.

Gunboat expedition up Tennessee River to Florence, 250 miles, reports enthusiastic greeting by inhabitants on beholding stars and stripes. Two Confederate steamers captured—and six destroyed.

NEW YORK, 13.—Active preparations going forward for attack on Fort Donelson.

Report great Panic in Norfolk. City placed under martial law.

British schooner *Hart*, from Liverpool, captured off Florida coast. Had no papers but a cargo of arms and ammunition. Suspected to be bound for a Southern port.

Allied Commissioners returned from City of Mexico—Mexican Government will accept intervention of France and England, but demands that Spanish force be withdrawn.

The expedition up the Tennessee River disclosed a strong Union sentiment among the people.

The officers were assured that whole regiments might be raised, and if arms were furnished, they could bring back Tennessee into the Union in a few months.

Large numbers were anxious to enlist under the old flag.

To escape capture, the Confederates burned six steamers laden with military stores.

The greatest activity prevails in Fort Leavenworth preparatory to starting the expedition under General Hunter.

Mexican advices via Havana state that Miramon had been arrested at Vera Cruz by the British Legation in Mexico.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—It is said that the proposition of Mr. Gregory for the speedy recognition of the Southern Confederacy will be discussed soon after the meeting of Parliament.

Earl Russell had written a letter to the Admiralty prohibiting belligerent war vessels from entering British Ports, except from stress of weather, and to receive only supplies enough to convey them to the nearest home port.

It is presumed that this order will compel the *Nashville* and *Tuscarora* to leave Southampton immediately.

The exportation of salt-petre from India, except to British ports, is prohibited.

Special despatches to Chicago, and St. Louis papers on the 14th, report a severe fight going on for the capture of Fort Donelson, which commenced on the 13th.

The Confederates in the fort and entrenchments outside, number from fifteen to twenty thousand, with Generals Pillow, Floyd, and Buckner.

The fort is completely invested, and the Federal force which is concentrating from Fort Henry and Paducah, will number full 50,000.

The Federals had driven the enemy from entrenchments at various points, and advanced towards the redoubts.

Gunboats were arriving to co-operate, and it was designed to attack with the whole force of the Unionists and storm the fort if it is not surrendered.

By the capture of Roanoke Island the Federals obtain possession of 6 forts, 40 guns, and 3000 stands of arms, &c.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Accounts from Fort Donelson represent the fighting on Friday and Saturday as very severe.

Six gunboats advanced to the attack, two of them were seriously disabled and the rest badly damaged.

More gun-boats are coming from Cairo. The right wing of the fortification is reported taken, "Stars and Stripes" floating over it. Loss on both sides very heavy.

Flag of truce from Confederates at Fortress Monro yesterday, says Fort Donelson is taken. Pillow, Johnson, Buckner and Floyd, with 15,000 other prisoners, taken.

The batteries of the fortifications situated one above another, delivered a plunging fire.

The Confederates hoisted a black flag, made a sortie, and captured a battery, but it was retaken by the Federal forces.

NEW YORK, Monday Evening, Feb. 17th.—General Floyd escaped Saturday night with five thousand men. Confederates denounce him as a black-hearted traitor and coward.

Confederates said to have had 30,000 men in the fort—the balance taken prisoners and escaped, reported killed, wounded, or sick.

Federal loss very severe.

Greatest rejoicing in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and elsewhere. Congress could not proceed with business.

Fighting reported going on near Savannah, and that city is thought to have been captured.

Mitchell's Division of Buell's army crossed the River and now occupies Bowling Green.

General Curtis reports having overtaken Price's rear guard retreating from Springfield, Missouri, and captured large number of prisoners and great quantity of stores, &c.

This, it is thought, will end the campaign in Missouri.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND.

—It was (says the *New Zealander*) in consequence of invitation personally delivered by our old ally Tamati Waka Nene (who no sooner heard of Sir George Grey's arrival than he hastened to Auckland), that the Ngapuhi tribe has been honored by his first visit. Influential chiefs from other districts, including the lower Waikato, have also been to see his Excellency and have urgently requested him to visit them, which we understand he has promised to do as soon as he returns from the Bay of Islands.

The same paper advertizing to the probable settlement of the Native Question, remarks:—It is said that it is Governor Grey's intention to offer to the natives a system of civil institutions similar to those he introduced at the Cape of Good Hope, and which led to the settlement of difficulties of far greater magnitude than any which exist here. The Cape Colony was, we believe, divided into districts, over each of which was placed a European Commissioner, Resident Magistrate, and other officers, who were assisted by a District Council of leading Chiefs and subordinate Councils, similar to the Runanga of the New Zealanders. To every Runanga or Council were attached, a chief policeman and a certain number of subordinate constables, all being natives. These officers as well as the members of the District Council, all received pay, varying in amount; judicial powers, within certain limits, power of local taxation and of constructing public works, were conferred on these bodies. *Bona fide* settlement by Europeans on lands within the native districts, on certain terms, and always with the consent of the native authorities, was encouraged, and thus hundreds of Europeans soon became dwellers beyond the frontier, to the natural advantage of the races. This system, somewhat costly in the first instance, was inaugurated only about seven years since, yet, before Sir George Grey left the Cape Colony, it was, as we have heard, actually not only paying its own expenses, but leaving a surplus—the funds being provided by the local, voluntary taxation of Caffres and other native races. He has been a month maturing his plans; receiving in the meantime personal visits from such leading chiefs as have come in to Auckland to see him. He has launched no protocols; neither threatened nor cajoled; and now he is off to the Bay of Islands, accompanied by a single responsible Minister and an interpreter, for the purpose of taking the first practical step towards the solution of the problem before him.

AUSTRALIA.

MURDERS BY NATIVES.—By the Sydney *Morning Herald* of November 21, 1861, we have an account of a fearful tragedy,—nineteen white persons were murdered by natives at Rockhampton on the 27th of October last. One person escaped on horseback, after hiding himself for some time in a flock of sheep, after traveling to Ramsworth obtained a party who went in pursuit of the murderers and after following their track for several miles, found that about 800 sheep had been stolen by them. A letter from Mr. G. V. Crawford to the news paper says:—"After tedious and difficult work the party succeeded in coming in sight of the camp fires on the second evening. Laying in ambush during the night, the camp was surprised at daylight. The firing was brief but effective—about thirty demons bit the dust, and the camp was searched. To particularise the articles found would be tedious, but everything (except two watches, some papers, books, powder, and knives), together with some two hundred or more spears, a like quantity of boomerangs, and an endless assortment of their own implements, were consigned to the flames."

GOLD.—The amount of gold received for the months of July, August, September, and October, of—1858, was 98,622 ozs. 1859, 103,468 ozs. 1860, 109,692 ozs. 1861, 139,708 ozs.