

The East.—Advises from Japan state that the agents of Satsuma have agreed to pay the indemnity immediately, and relax to the English.

A Bombay telegram reports the termination of the war on the Punjab frontier.

The ship *Formosa*, from Shanghai, has arrived at Puget Sound, after twenty-one days' passage, bringing China date to 5th December. Passengers bring information that the Imperialists are under Major Gordon.

It is asserted that the French and English troops have invested Soochow, and there was no doubt the city had fallen. The notorious General Burgoyne, who deserted the Imperial cause, and took up with the English, had been reported from China by order of the American Consul. He went to Yokohama, Japan, but it was thought he would shortly return. His band have mostly joined the Imperialists.

India.—Rev. E. Sargent, Church missionary in South India, writes to a friend as follows:—

"I think that even when we were here there were rumours about among the natives of the advent of a certain king who is to rule the whole country. These rumours drive out the foreign rulers. Since then the matter has become a subject of common talk and belief in every town and village. . . . The native officials say that this king, Vasanta Rajah, is only a spiritual personage. We (missionaries) who move about, and get the people to speak with us freely, know that this is a misrepresentation of the case. Our catechists and Christians have it constantly thrown in their teeth by the heathen that their day is coming, that the English Government will run away."

"You must not suppose from my taking up such a subject, that the whole country is ripe for revolt. No such thing. But ignorant people do not know what to think or do, except as they are moved by other influences, such as these oracles. I consider these oracles to hold the same position now that the chupatties did in the late revolt. The people who were forward to countenance and promote the circulation of the chupatties do not seem to have taken any decided part against us in our late troubles in the North; and so it may be here. But who can tell? Every conceivable blessing is promised to all who read these oracles, copy, and forward them to places beyond. Monday is set apart as a day of worship to these oracles. In short the popular mind is engrossed with the subject. As Dr. Caldwell says, little else is talked of now in the villages."

There is a movement which will probably be successful, to move the Capital of Maine from Augusta to Portland.

The leading people of Aroostook County in the State of Maine, meeting last week, and organized a Company to build a Branch Railroad from Houlton to the St. Andrews line. The stock is divided into one thousand shares of \$20 each. S. Carey, Esq., was elected president of the company.

Our AKA-BEING POPULATION.—In view of the drain upon our population by the waste of war, the figures we give below, from the forthcoming volume on population in the eight census, will be found of interest to others besides the statisticians:

The white male population of the United States between the ages of 15 and 45 is stated in the census of 1860 at 5,624,065.

The increase of arms-bearing population for the year 1861 was 124,400.

The increase during the past year must have been much larger, as the immigration was nearly double what it was in 1861. It probably reached 150,000, or half the quota called for by the President to recruit our armies.

Add to this the negroes who are being made into soldiers, both North and South, and the fighting material of the States of America is not likely to become exhausted at present.

Over one hundred thousand men have been enlisted in the army since October 1st.

DIVIDING PLANTATIONS OF REBELS AMONG THE NEGROES.—The President has sent instructions to Gen. Saxton to give the privilege of preempting deserted and confiscated plantations to the negroes cultivating them, each one being allowed to take twenty or fifty acres, according to his ability to pay two-fifths of the price, which is fixed at one dollar and a quarter per acre. The same privilege is also given to soldiers and sailors. This mode of disposing of forfeited and abandoned estates foreshadows the policy to be applied to the whole South, and the means by which the slaves are to be transformed into independent landholders on a small scale.

Arkansas Convention at Little Rock, is composed of the most respectable men from all parts of the State; 80 Counties are represented.

A constitution has been engendered, declaring the State free forever, only one dissentient, and he favored gradual emancipation.

Gov. Vance of N. C. publishes a card against taxation of State property by Confederate Government. Public meetings are held favoring the call for a State convention.

Raleigh Journal says, these movements in connection with President Lincoln's proposition for reconstruction, look disloyal and treasonable.

A lady who left Charleston on the 11th, reports half the city abandoned and damaged by shells.

Gen. Foster officially reports Gen. Sturge's cavalry fight, near Knoxville, a decided victory.

BANQUET, Jan. 20.—Knockville correspondent of Cincinnati Gazette, 23d, writes that Federals garrisoned Holston, at Strawberry Plains, falling back to new position. Loss of stores at Strawberry Plains quite severe.

Enemy picked up two hundred stragglers. Federals burned bridges, &c. likely to fall into enemy's hands.

On 22nd enemy and Federal sharpshooters were skirmishing across river six miles above Knoxville. Supposed Longstreet will besiege Knoxville, which is being strengthened.

Longstreet is in strong position at Bull's Gap, whence he can throw forces into either side with great facility.

Southern despatches report Forrest operating successfully whipping Federals at LaGrange, Collierville and Germantown.

Large forces in West Tennessee ready to join him. WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Two divisions of the 9th Army Corps have gone to Knoxville, Tenn. The remainder of the corps will leave at once under Gen. Sedgwick.

Yves-President Stephens is seriously ill at Augusta.

Confederate despatches report the Mississippi river blockade at Milliken's Bend and Greenville batteries; also their cavalry reached within four miles of Knoxville, capturing five thousand cattle, one hundred wagons and a large amount of other property.

On 23d, Jan. 28.—A special dispatch to the Gazette from Nashville, says persons who left Knoxville on Saturday reported skirmishing between Lee's street's cavalry and ours. No doubt is felt but that Knoxville can be held.

It is reported that John Morgan with 7 regiments will make a raid into Kentucky through the gaps in the Eastern part of the State.

BANQUET, Feb. 1.—President Lincoln orders draft of five hundred thousand men for March 10th, crediting all enlistments to March 1st not heretofore credited. This is proposed includes the three hundred thousand ordered in Federal law, and is in effect a call for three hundred thousand more.

Supply train of eight wagons, with eight hundred escort, for Petersburg, West Va., was attacked near Williamsport, by 3000. Engagements lasted four hours. Train captured and garrison evacuated Petersburg.

Another rebellion occurred in Matamoros. Certain signs of power.

The Federal government went across river to protect American property, and brought to Brownsville two millions of dollars belonging to Americans.

President Lincoln approves Action of Arkansas Convention.

Reported Secretary of the Treasury will reopen ports of Barbados, Brownsville and Pernambuco to commerce.

Five hundred Confederate prisoners having taken the ship *Albatross*, arrived at Charleston from Chicago and were being received ship North Carolina.

Eleven regiments 13th Corps re-organized and being recruited to march.

Missouri to unrestricted commercial intercourse. The same policy will soon be followed in Delaware and Maryland.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 27.—Later information from Gen. Dodge, at Polaski, Tenn., under date of the 26th, says:—

The enemy crossed the Tennessee river last night and attacked Athens, Alabama, this morning, and were defeated, and they are now trying to get back. The troops at Athens had mostly gone to Florence to attack Johnson's force crossing there and Col. Harrison, with 600 rebels and two pieces of artillery, took advantage of their absence and were badly defeated.

Still later advices say that Gen. Dodge has badly whipped Johnson at Florence. In all probability the rebel raid is at an end.

The rebels have news from Pascagoula, Miss., to the 20th, which, if true, may indicate lively times near Mobile. They say that on the 20th, "The enemy's rebellion and the repeated discharge of musketry were distinctly heard at the west end of Horn Island. Two gunboats are in sight off the end of Horn Island."

BANQUET, Feb. 2.—Reconnoissance to Ringold and Dalton reports main Confederate force undoubtedly left to reinforce Longstreet for invasion of Kentucky, or to reinforce Mobile, where attack was expected.

Washington despatch says new call for troops was rendered necessary by recent advices from the South. Reinforcements for army from New York City averages three thousand weekly.

Federals also making preparations to occupy Jackson, Miss.

RUMORS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.

The *World's* Washington despatch says, it is rumored in high official circles, that the United States is on the eve of war with France, on account of Seward's demands upon the French Government, relative to iron clads building there.

Gen. Lee issued general order acknowledging rejection of nations, and appealing to the army's patriotism.

Richmond *Enquirer* denounces general conscription, and declares endurance the policy of the South. Gen. Imboden is reported across Potomac river, for a dash on Chambersburg, without any adequate force to pursue or intercept. Harrisburg authorities do not credit it.

BANQUET, Feb. 2d, 1864.—Memphis advices report 14th Army Corps preparing movement to attack enemy in Mississippi, and secure large stores corn and forage on railroad to Memphis, 25,000 cavalry concentrated at Corinth for that purpose.

An expedition of ninety men went up James river on the 31st, to Smithfield, and encountering 600 enemy, retreated on board the transport "Smith Briggs," on which the enemy opened with artillery, shelling, capturing and destroying her. Expedition lost—killed, wounded and missing 80. Enemy lost one hundred and fifty.

Five hundred Rebels cavalry cut wires and fired two bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, but were driven off.

Imboden's crossing Potomac a canard. Superstition, \$6.45 @ 65. Extra, \$6.90 @ 75.00. Gold \$4.

THE CONFEDERATE BISHOP GENERAL.

Bishop Polk is a good-looking man, with all the manners and affability of a "grand seigneur," tall, upright, and "looks much more like a soldier than a clergyman." He hoped "his brethren in England did not much condemn his present line of conduct."

When he had done fighting he intended to go back to his law profession, and to live very bravely and whereof here is a specimen instance, extracted from him by Colonel Fremont. Bishop Polk gives the following sketch of himself.

"Well, Sir, it was at the battle of Perryville, late in the evening, in fact, it was almost dark, when Liddell's Brigade came into action. Shortly afterwards arrival I observed a body of men, whom I believed to be Confederates, standing at an angle to this brigade, and firing obliquely at the enemy's advanced troops. I said, 'Dear me, this is very sad, and must be stopped; so I turned round, but could find none of my young men, who were absent on different messages; so I determined to ride myself and settle the matter. Having cantered up to the Colonel of the regiment that was firing, I asked him what he meant by shooting his own friends, and I desired him to cease doing so at once. He answered with surprise, 'I don't think there can be any mistake about it. I am sure they are the enemy.' 'Enemy?' 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