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Details of Eastern News. CAIRO, April 1st.—Col. Buford with the Twenty-seventh and Forty-second Illinois regiments and part of the Tenth Wisconsin, are now near Island No. 10.

EMANCIPATION PROPOSAL. One of the most singular facts to which the war has given birth is that the men most interested in maintaining slavery are those who have most effectually undermined the foundations of the institution.

Years ago, the Southern people with me accord agreed that slavery was an evil, but intractable in its nature. It has been said that, of late, that sentiment has been revolutionized, and that it is now regarded as one of Heaven's best gifts to man.

IF ANYTHING HAS FORCED THE Southern people to rally more determinedly around the institution it was no higher feeling than that of obstinacy. For years and years they had been assailed by the abolition fanatics of the North, and so hot and furious grew the fight that all fellowship ceased, and even churches were rent in twain.

In this state of affairs the Government, as we learn from late dispatches from the East, proposes to step in—that is to say the Federal Government will meet half way any slave State desiring to emancipate, and contribute an equal proportion toward the compensation of the owners.

It is not proposed, be it remembered, that the Government shall take the initiative by any means in freeing the slaves upon any plan, but that it shall act as an auxiliary to any State that may resolve upon taking such a step.

THE WAR HAS, AT LEAST, stripped slavery of the divine attributes once ascribed to it. It is no longer a subject which must not be touched in any manner, shape or form.

THE ARMY TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT. It is stated that the military telegraph line now has near twelve hundred miles of telegraph wire in operation, and one hundred and thirty operators, and several hundred repairers and builders in the field.

SOME OF THE Fort Donelson prisoners say that John Bell is in very bad health, and will not live many weeks. He is at times perfectly insane.

A SENATOR.—The Washington correspondence of the St. Louis Republican says: "The Governor of Oregon, taking an infamous advantage of the decree of God, which left the seat of Baker vacant, has dared to pollute it by forcing into its occupancy a semi-secessionist named Stark."

IF THE NEW Senator from Oregon is a true man, he should sue his fame for libel. He has a long, narrow countenance; shiny, sandy hair; narrow forehead; white eyebrows; colorless, pale eyes, nearly closed, which watch furtively, feline; a mouth whose expression is hidden by mahogany whiskers and moustaches.

THE APPARENT firmness of the United States troops at Centerville who had not been engaged, which checked our pursuit, the strong force occupying the work near Georgetown, Arlington, and Alexandria, the certainty, too, that Gen. Patterson, if needed, would reach Washington, with his army of thirty thousand men, sooner than we could, and the condition and inadequate means of the army in ammunition, provisions, and transportation, prevented any serious thoughts of advancing against the Capital.

THE PHILADELPHIA Inquirer says that, in conformity with the usage, after the election of Bishop Stevens to the vacant bishopric of Pennsylvania, a notice to that effect was sent, via Fortress Monroe, to the various bishops of the Southern States, requesting their acquiescence.

ARMY GENERALS.—Some of the newspapers advise the soldiers, especially artillerymen, to wear oiled wool in their ears to protect them from the concussion. A correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger professes to know, says "No man's ears will be hurt by the report of artillery, if he will open his mouth."

WHY THEY BURNED THE LIBRARY.—It is surmised that Gen. Pillow burned the State Library of Tennessee just before evacuating Nashville, in order to destroy certain treasonable papers and correspondence filed away within it, which if taken by our troops would have seriously compromised distinguished men in both sections of the Union.

CRAWLED OUT OF A SERAPE.—The Solano Herald tells about a lady in that neighborhood whose dress accidentally getting on fire, was all ablaze before she discovered it, when with ready wit and great courage she adroitly "crawled out of the bad serape in double-quick, without injury."

NEGRO SOLDIERS.—The following dispatch, which occurs in the Bowling Green Courier of January 28th, once more and again confirms the fact and settles the question that armed negroes form a part of the rebel army pressed against us:

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 27.—The anniversary of the secession of Louisiana was celebrated to-day. The military turned out in full force, and there was a grand review of the troops. There were ten thousand, the armed and equipped, ready to take the field, among whom were one thousand free colored soldiers.

IT IS AN old saying that "hunger will eat through a stone wall." So, if Charleston is hungry, let her eat through the stone wall in her harbor.—Louisville Journal.

SECRETARY SEWARD, AND THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.—The following letter from Secretary Seward to a Philadelphia club organized for the special purpose of laboring to secure Seward's elevation to the dignity of the Presidential Chair, shows his character in a most favorable light, doing equal honor to the head which dictated, no less than to the heart which inspired the sentiment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1861. DEAR SIR—I have received the letter which was addressed to me on the 8th inst. by you, an officer of a political association recently organized in Philadelphia.

THE CLUB you inform me, have adopted a resolution to exert themselves to secure my advancement to the Presidency of the United States, and this resolution is generally based upon a high appreciation of such public services as I have hitherto attempted to perform.

IF, when the present civil war is looming up before us, I had cherished an ambition to attain the high position you have indicated, I should have adopted one of two courses which lay open to me—namely, either to withdraw from the public service at home to a position of honor without great responsibility abroad, or to retire to private life, and avoiding the caprices of fortune, await the chances of public favor.

THE COUNTRY is to be saved or lost by the highest efforts of public and private virtue before another Presidential election will occur. If it shall be saved, as I believe it will, I do not fear that my zeal in that great achievement will be overlooked by the grateful generations to come after us.

HOW AMARANTH.—Rebels can be divided into three great primary classes, viz: 1. Surrenderers, 2. Evacuators, 3. Resolvers. The surrenderers are known by having two flags, one white, and one black.

ISLAND NO 10 is a strong position, not far from Hickman, Ky., about 45 miles below Columbus, and 115 above Fort Pillow, and 185 above Memphis. It completely commands the Mississippi river for miles above.

PESTILENCE IN SMALL POX.—If you are ever afflicted with small-pox and the pustules begin to appear, anoint them with sweet oil and lime water, as these are prepared for burns and water scalds, and the irritation will be allayed and the discoloration of the skin and the pitting of the flesh will be greatly lessened.

THE EDITOR of the Louisville Journal accounts for the late defeat of the Southerners by saying that he doesn't believe even brave men could fight well with stolen guns loaded with stolen powder and ball.

THE VALUATION of all property in the State of New York, as fixed by the board of Equalization of Taxes for 1871 is \$1,341,757,430. By the census of 1860 the population was 3,851,653 showing the people to be worth \$370 a piece on the average.

HOW OUR NAVY MIGHT BE ENLARGED. Donald McKay, the eminent ship-builder, writes a very intelligent and striking letter to the Boston Commercial Bulletin, relative to our naval resources, from which we make some extracts:

IT WOULD BE EASY for us to build in one year a fleet of 500 to 600 men-of-war ships, from a gunboat to the largest class of iron-clad frigates. It is a well-known fact that we built, in one year, the astonishing number of 2,034 vessels and steamers of all classes, measuring together, 583,450 tons.

IT IS TRUE, on a very urgent occasion, in a great emergency, our country could greatly increase her navy in a very few months, with very powerful descriptions of vessels, if they would proceed as follows:

CUT DOWN all of our line-of-battle ships one or two decks, ease them with five-inch iron plates, put a battery of 30 or 40 guns of the heaviest calibre on board of them, and moor them across the entrance of our harbors.

TRANSFORM 100 of our best sea-going merchant steamers into so many frigates, sloops, dispatch and gunboats, of a speed superior to any men-of-war ships yet produced.

AMONG our large clipper ships and traders more than 500 may be found that are capable of being transformed into so many efficient sailing sloops and frigates. Their length varies from 120 to 200 feet; their breadth from 30 to 52 feet, and whenever they are cut down one deck, or their decks are lowered, will be found capable of carrying an armament varying from 20 to 50 guns, according to their respective capacity.

THE SCANTLING of all these ships is well known to be larger than that of the best and strongest men-of-war ships of our Navy.

AMONG the barks and brigs there are certainly 400 to 500 capable of receiving an armament of from 8 to 20 guns, and more than a thousand of our large coasting schooners that have a breadth of 28 to 30 feet and over, and a form never surpassed for speed, which can in a few weeks be transformed into men-of-war schooners, armed with one pivot gun of the heaviest description in the middle, and two to four 22-pounders at the ends.

THIS FLEET of about 2,000 vessels of war can, working with all the natural energy of our nation, be turned out in less time than four to six months, and it would be sufficient to protect our coast and meet the first storm.

A TENNISEE RECORD.—We find the following sad obituary record in the Dryden, Cortland county, New York, News:

DIED.—In Etua, Tompkins county, Jan. 1, of diphtheria, Emma Ophelia, aged 4 years and 6 months. Also, Jan. 2, Prudence Eliza, aged 10 years and 17 days. Also, Jan. 4, Hiram, aged 12 years, 5 months and 12 days.

THE FREQUENT use of the name of God or the devil; allusions to passages of Scripture; mocking anything serious and devout; oaths, vulgar by-words, cant phrases, effected hard words, when familiar terms will do as well; scraps of Latin Greek or French; quotations from plays spoken in a theatrical manner—all these much used in conversation render a person very contemptible to grave and wise men.

THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.—The importance of this expedition down the Mississippi cannot be over-estimated, especially as viewed in connection with the grand combined movement which is now taking place. We append a brief resume of the force composing it:

THE FLEET has been prepared with great care, and consists of seventy-eight boats, of which twelve are gunboats, thirty-eight mortar boats, and twenty-eight tugs and steamboats. The gunboats are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Gunboats and their specifications. Includes entries for Benton, Essex, St. Louis, Cairolet, Mound City, and Cairo.

SEVEN of these boats cost eighty-nine thousand dollars each to build. They are one hundred and seventy-five in length, fifty-one feet six inches in breadth, and draw five feet when loaded.

THE MORTAR boats are built of heavy timbers, the sides of boiler iron, loop-holed for musketry, and are so arranged that they can be used for bridges. They will carry one fifteen-inch mortar—the mortar boats will be towed into position by tugs.

NEW AND TRUE.—The secession newspapers have a great deal to say about the suppression of sundry treasonable sheets by the United States Government, creating as they have a spirit of disloyalty in the northern States, tending to paralyze the hands of the Government in the effort to subdue rebellion, and thus aiding, in effect, the rebels themselves.

MR. HORACE GREELY.—Sir: I hereby inform you that I shall not in future deliver from this office the copies of the Tribune which come here, because I believe them to be of that incendiary character which are forbidden circulation alike by the laws of the land, and a proper regard for the safety of society.

THE ANTECEDENTS OF JUDGE SWAYNE.—Considerable interest having been manifested in the East to know the antecedents of the newly appointed Judge on the Supreme Bench to occupy the position which was vacated by Judge McLean, we would say, for the benefit of all concerned that he is a lawyer of the highest character for ability and judicial purity, a resident of this city. He is about fifty-five years old, and of most dignified appearance.

WHEELING (Va.) April 3d.—The vote in this city to-day was 640 majority for the new Constitution. The majority was 588 in favor of gradual emancipation. The interior counties, as far as heard from, give the same ratio.

WOODSTOCK (Va.) April 3d.—Gen. Banks is here, and Shields at Strasburg. Ashby's artillery was reinforced to-day by more guns, with which he practised at a long range during the day, and frequently interfered with our bridge builders, by throwing shells. Privates of Ashby's force were captured yesterday while carrying dispatches. They refused to divulge the contents.

WOODSTOCK (Va.) April 3d.—Rebels when retreating yesterday attempted to burn the bridge over the creek, near a narrow passage, but it was extinguished. The magnificent railroad bridge, two hundred feet long, over the same stream, was burned by Jackson in his retreat from Winchester. Some of Ashby's scouts made their appearance this morning on the bridge over Stony creek, beyond Edinburg. They were fired on by some of the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania (Col. Geary's) troops, when Ashby's unmasked four guns and three several shells into camp. The rebels subsequently retreated under fire of our guns.

CAIRO, April 3d.—The storm Wednesday...