

EASTERN NEWS.

From California papers, by the steamship Oregon.

The Alabama Making for the Pacific.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8. Speedy dispatches from Washington say: The fact the Alabama is believed to be making for the Pacific coast has at last attracted the attention of both the War and Navy Departments to our derelict situation there. It is stated by Californians that a single 30-gun frigate could take the harbor of San Francisco, or any other harbor on the coast. The Navy Department has determined to send two or three men-of-war to that place, at the earliest possible moment. Senator Conness has also secured from the War Department the assignment of a prominent and able Major-General to the Pacific coast, with several batteries of artillery and a small addition to the infantry force. This resolves Gen. Wright, Californians have for some time been making urgent representations of the need for these changes and reinforcements.

Arrest of Dr. Gwin.

Special dispatches from Washington say: Dr. Gwin, of Boston, employed in the Treasury Department, has been arrested, charged with having abstracted a large amount of greenbacks. The amount taken is not yet ascertained.

Military Nominations.

A large batch of military nominations, mostly promotions, were sent to the Senate yesterday. Among them is that of U. S. Grant to be Major-General in the regular army, dating from the fall of Vicksburg; Gen. Thomas to be Brigadier-General in the regular army, dating from Chickamauga; Meade, McPherson and Sherman, to be Brigadier-Generals in the regular army, the former dating from Gettysburg, the latter from Vicksburg.

Death of Caleb B. Smith.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 8. Judge Caleb B. Smith, of the U. S. District Court, died in this city last night, of hemorrhage of the lungs.

Removal of Military Factories South.

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Indian Spoilation Claims from Minnesota.

Arrest in New York—Gold. A special dispatch from Washington says: The Commission appointed for the relief of sufferers by Indian hostilities in Minnesota have reported 1,940 claims presented and examined. The claims amounted to nearly \$2,000,000. There was a number of others but the Commission did not examine them for want of time. The Commission awarded the sum of \$1,370,000. The sum of \$200,000 appropriated last session for the immediate relief of the most needy of the sufferers was paid over to 1,400 persons, many of whom were made widows and orphans by the Indians. Nearly 11,000 widows were present in South Carolina. This is the result of Longstreet's failure and our expedition against Knoxville, as our continued occupation of East Tennessee is entirely incompatible with the security of the rebel occupation of Richmond as a chief military depot.

Domestic Items.

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