

NOTES ON MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS.

A meeting has been called in Memphis "to devise measures to repel the invader whenever he appears." We suppose that the meeting passed a resolution that the invader should be expelled, which is an easy way of getting rid of him.

Small change is so scarce in Memphis that at a meeting of the merchants of that city a resolution was adopted recommending the banks to cut their bills into fractional parts, in order to supply the want.

The planters on the seaboard, since Commodore Dupont appeared to them, seem to have lost all confidence in their seacoast defences, and, reports say, have commenced to destroy their crops of cotton and rice, by the application of the flaming torch, for fear that it may fall into the hands of the enemy. Many of the plantations on North Edisto and the neighborhood elsewhere on the coast of South Carolina are one sheet of flame and smoke. If this be true it will hurt Jeff's Treasury bonds, as they are issued on the cotton basis. We don't believe all the stories we see in the newspapers.

The people of the amiable city of Memphis are getting scared. They are expecting a formidable expedition down the Mississippi, and that "a great battle will soon be fought at Columbus, and if overpowered Memphis will fall into the hands of the Federals unless Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana help." The secessionists of Memphis did everything in their power to bring on the war, and if they feel the weight of its blows it will be no more than stern justice. Gen. Pillow told them at the outset that Memphis was safe, and urged the war upon Kentucky.

The third stone fleet is soon to sail from New York. It will carry over 6,000 tons of stone, to be sunk in the channel between Morris and Sullivan islands, in Charleston harbor, and in the Stone Breach and other inlets running into the harbor.

An immense business is transacted in the Quartermaster's Department in Cincinnati. Directly and indirectly not less than 25,000 persons are employed in the manufacture of clothing, camp equipage, transportation, &c. The Quartermaster states that during the past four weeks he has paid out two millions of dollars, and that he has heavy payments now to make.

When some person, the other day, called General Buell's attention to the telegraphic statement that Jeff Davis's Congress had determined to transfer their "capital" from Richmond to Nashville, he seemed tickled at such presumption, and replied, "That's where we are going."

A large pile of several thousand bricks provided in Boston for Gen. Butler's expedition shows that something more substantial than wood will be used in the construction of the building necessary for the use of the soldier, and will obviate the necessity for such "underground" fireplaces as are common in the army of the Potomac.

A correspondent writing from Paducah, Ky., says "the first thing that arrests the attention of a stranger on his arrival is the great number of business houses that are closed. There are no bills on them, with the usual inscription, "To let," but the entire city presents the appearance of a place that has been abandoned, and is fast becoming the habitation of owls and bats. Another feature, equally striking, is the almost entire absence of women and children in the streets. I have walked through all the principal streets in the suburbs, and I believe it would be safe to say that four-fifths of the dwellings are deserted. Many of them look as though their occupants had been invited out to dine with a friend, and found the entertainment so pleasant that they forgot to return." This place was ruled by secessionists before Gen. Grant's forces took possession of the town.

A citizen of Meadville, Pa., has invented a bomb-shell to contain a half gallon of rock oil, which will ignite when the shell explodes and scatter fire and death wherever it strikes. Seceshers will go on their long journey with their boots greased when these playthings fly among them.

A report from Memphis, Tenn., via Cairo, states that a fight had taken place at Morristown, East Tennessee, on Sunday, the 1st of December, in which three thousand Union troops severely whipped the secessionists. It is alleged that the Union forces were led on by Parson Brownlow, and this seems to be credited

at Washington. The Parson evidently belongs to the fighting stock of the church militant, and seems to have studied with effect the military career of Joshua, Gideon and Peter, who, in one of his fighting moods, struck off the ear of Malchus with his sword. In this war we trust that the Parson may be able to proclaim with great effect that he carries the sword of the Lord and Gideon.

The news from Port Royal is of a satisfactory character. The captured forts are generally in good condition, and earthworks are in progress on other parts of Hilton island. A temporary pier has been constructed for the purpose of enabling surfboats to land the immense supplies of building material and the materials of war, together with the supplies of the commissary department. Boxes of dry goods, provisions, stores, cannon, small arms, ammunition, gun carriages, camp equipage, horses, lumber, bricks and every conceivable article for the support and maintenance of an army of fifteen thousand men were scattered about in confusion.

In a few days, immense store houses, hundreds of feet in length, were constructed, and detachments from the different regiments were busy night and day in filling them with government stores. An immense stable, capable of holding hundreds of horses, has also been built. A large building is going up designed as a bakery. A substantial pier is being built, under the superintendence of Col. Serrell of the Artizan regiment, which command is of incalculable service to the expedition. This pier is composed of sections of cribs anchored by, casks and barrels filled with sand, as there is no stone in all this region. It connects with the government warehouses, and will be extended sufficiently far into the bay to enable vessels to come along side and unload.

Major Gen. Halleck has issued an important order to his commanding officers in Missouri, directing them to arrest and hold in confinement every one found in arms against the government, or those who, in any way, give aid to the enemy, and ordering that all persons found within the lines of the army, in disguise as loyal citizens, and giving information to the enemy, and all those taken from the ranks of the rebels in actual service, shall not be treated as prisoners of war, but as spies, and shall be shot. He further orders that the Provost Marshals of St. Louis shall take in charge the numbers of Union families who are crowding into that city—having been plundered and driven from their homes by the rebels—and quarter them upon avowed secessionists, charging the expense of their board to them, on the ground that, although they have not themselves plundered and driven forth these unfortunate people, they are giving aid and comfort to those who have done so.

A correspondent, in alluding to the unpretending style and dress of the Vice President of the United States, says "the next plainest man of rank is Gen. George B. McClellan. Few men can find him, and few know him when he is found. At the best he only wears the undress uniform of a Colonel, and his shoulder straps—if any he wears—are covered with a coat much worse for wear. He has no fixed location and moves from spot to spot as duty calls. Of course, those who have business with him know where to find him. Not so the eager throng who wish to see the young shoulders which bear the armor of Gen. Scott."

We alluded in our last number to the fact that the captain of the Confederate steamer, *Nashville*, had burned the ship *Harvey Birch*, on her passage from Havre to this port, taking her crew in irons, into an English port. The *London Star* in alluding to this high-handed act says:—"Pirate or privateer, Confederate or corsair, the steamer *Nashville* now lying in Southampton waters, is a hideous blemish upon our nineteenth-century civilization. A wild beast or a bird of prey is an object of dread but not of abhorrence. The *Nashville* is both—a floating den of brutalized human beings making destruction the immediate business of their lives—the destruction of unarmed and unoffending ships carrying on a peaceful traffic upon the common highway of nations. If Captain Pegram holds a commission or a letter of marque, the law of nations—to our shame be it said—will have nothing to say to him; but the moral sense of mankind will still pronounce his achievement an outrage on humanity. If he do not carry either of those documents, the law of England at any

rate will adjudge him guilty of a very specific offence according to the facts stated against him and remit him to the authorities of the nation which he disgraces, to be dealt with according to its laws. In either case, we repeat, he has done a deed which should make the ears of all men to tingle, and bring to a speedy conclusion the abominable system of making war at sea upon the persons and property of peaceful citizens."

A skirmish took place on the Upper Potomac on the 7th, which resulted disastrously to the secessionists. The secessionists, with a battery of artillery and some six hundred troops appeared opposite Dam No. 5, and commenced shelling it with a view to its destruction. A company of Massachusetts troops, armed with Enfield rifles, returned their fire with great effect. Several secessionists were killed, and they abandoned their battery, but returned on Sunday night and drew it off. The Federal forces at that point were not sufficiently strong to cross the river and seize the battery.

The steamship *Africa*, which arrived in this port on the 8th, brings very important intelligence. At the time of her sailing from Liverpool, Nov. 23d, news of the capture of Mason and Slidell had not reached England, but at that time it was thought the U. S. war steamer, *James Adger*, then cruising in the English waters, would seize these distinguished traitors on their way to England. Communications had passed on the subject between the British government and the American minister, and it was ascertained to be the opinion of the law officers of the crown that, according to the interpretation of the law, as laid down in former decisions, the relations of Britain to the American belligerents are, perhaps, such that there might have been fair legal grounds for the American cruiser seizing the mail steamer as a prize, even in British waters, if it could have been shown that she knowingly harbored the persons and property of enemies of the United States, in the shape of the delegates and their dispatches.

The Map of our States to be Altered.

The Secretary of War in his recent report to Congress proposes as a measure of protection to the Federal Capital a reconstruction of the boundaries of the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Wisdom and true statesmanship, he says, would dictate that the seat of the national government, for all time to come, should be placed beyond reasonable danger of seizure by enemies within, as well as from capture by foes from without. By agreement between the States named, such as was effected, for similar purposes, by Michigan and Ohio, and by Missouri and Iowa, their boundaries could be so changed as to render the capital more remote than at present from the influence of State governments which have arrayed themselves in rebellion against the Federal authority. To this end, the limits of Virginia might be so altered as to make her boundaries consist of the Blue Ridge on the East and Pennsylvania on the North, leaving those on the South and West as at present. By this arrangement, two counties of Maryland (Alleghany and Washington) would be transferred to the jurisdiction of Virginia. All that portion of Virginia which lies between the Blue Ridge and Chesapeake Bay could then be added to Maryland, while that portion of the peninsula between the waters of the Chesapeake and the Atlantic, now jointly held by Maryland and Virginia, could be incorporated into the State of Delaware. A reference to the map will show that these are great natural boundaries, which for all time to come would serve to mark the limits of these States.

To make the protection of the capital complete, in consideration of the large accession of territory which Maryland would receive under the arrangement proposed, it would be necessary that that State should consent so to modify her constitution as to limit the basis of her representation to her white population.

In this connection, it would be the part of wisdom to reannex to the District of Columbia that portion of its original limits which, by act of Congress, was retroceded to the State of Virginia.

The alteration proposed by the Secretary of War is a very shrewd measure, and seems to be perfectly feasible. It would wipe from the map all Eastern Virginia by attaching it to Maryland, leaving the State of Virginia most of the Blue Ridge. Delaware and Maryland would both be much enlarged by the project.

THE value of domestic products from New York for nine months commencing the first of January last amounts to \$90,061,000 against \$63,528,000 in 1860.