THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

Office 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXVI—Whole No. 12,886.

NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 8, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By D. E. Morphy, at 11 o'clock, on the Levee, head of Gravier street, apples.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 10 o'clock, at salesroom No. 93 Camp street, 150 bales cotton.

By Gabriel Leaumont, at 4 o'clock P. M., opposite the Marigny buildings, Third District, the schooner Juno.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Do your duty to yourselves, protect your health, use Holloway's Pills and Ointment. For Wounds, Sores, Bowel Complaints and Fevers, they are a perfect safeguard. Full directions how to use them with every box. Only 25 cents.

NEW HAMS, BUTTER, CHAMPAGNE, &c.—E. S. Keep, 62 Poydras street, it will be seen, are in the immediate receipt of shipments of choice extra sugar-cured hams, choice goshen butter; and they also have for sale, at low prices to close, champagne in baskets and a choice article of brandy.

AUCTION SALE OF HARDWARE WITHOUT RESERVE—Merchants, planters, mechanics and others, desiring any species of hardware, will do well to note the inducements held out by the advertisement elsewhere relative to a judicial sale to take place at Nos. 89 and 91 Camp street, of the entire stock of hardware of John D Bein and Sons, on the 11th inst., at 10½ o'clock A. M. Catalogues can be had at 89 Camp street.

The sales of 200 bales, or more, of cotton by R. T. Montgomery, this day, Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 1 o'clock, at sales room No. 93 Camp street, should be fully attended by dealers in cotton and the entire trade. The above lot consists of desirable grades, and the most of the above lot are in original packages. Samples ready for examination early on the morning of sale.

The steamer George Washington is announced to leave New York for New Orleans on the 5th inst. She comes direct

The Purser of the Morning Star has obliged us with acceptable favors.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP MORNING STAR.—The steamship Morning Star, J. M. Courtney, commander, from New York, *via* Havana, arrived at our port early last evening.

The Morning Star left New York on Saturday, November 28th, at 4 P. M.; arrived at Havana December 4th, and left same day. The Morning Star encountered a succession of heavy gales and thick and rainy weather the entire passage. She brings one hundred and fifty passengers and a large cargo.

November 29th, in lat. 37 45, lon. 73 33, passed a propeller, supposed to be the George Washington, hence for New York. December 2d, off Great Isaacs, passed steamship Evening Star, hence for New York. The Evening Star was detained at Havana twenty-four hours in consequence of heavy weather.

The following is the list of passengers by the Morning Star:

Mrs Deenings, Mrs Jackson and two daughters, Mrs John Jewett, Miss Sedgwick, Mrs J F Collins and two children, Mrs R H McMillan, child and sor; Capt J L Swift, Col Thos K Chickering, Mrs Phoebe Hay, Mrs H Oliver, J Barnes, W Lyman, wife and child; Dr M McKay, James Gray, Ann Murphy, John D Culver, W P Peck, W Wham and son, A Dalvill, Henry Otis, Edgar Reed, Jas Greenleaf and wife, W Knox, Geo F Baker, Mrs C Colt and two daughters, John Davidson, Alex Hill and wife, A L Ambler, A R McKenzie, F M Knapp, H Berdsheim, Mr Berdsheim, A Lehman, W M Abbott and wife, Major Grosser, Mrs Miller, Mary Whiton, H Clark, J Avet and wife, George Gurty and wife, Miss Daily, M Flours, A C Morey, Mrs Cosswigge, S D Wanderer, E W Biles and wife, C C Maher, A P Perkins, L Nassatis, wife and nephew Edward Davies, Mrs E R Clark, C Delingham, G K Reed and servant, Mrs E P Clark, J F Phelps, H W Lockwood, LeLocate, wife, two children and servant, Joe Sauer, F Kaus, J C Moses Bates, Mrs B Crosl, Miss Bartlett and child, Mr Prince and wife, Mrs Capt L Smith, Mrs St John, Mrs W J Walker, Mrs Breedwey, Mrs E M Sharpe, Mrs E Miller, Mrs Laurie Barnes, W E Bowle, A Gage, Mrs Downey, Mary W Havershaw, Nelson Taylor, Mrs J N Keen, child and servant, Capt J M Price, Mrs Wood and daughter, C Thatcher, Samuel Hibbs, D R Hanks, J W Ainsworth, J M Rowe and wife, Mrs Taylor, Miss Mollie Place, Mrs Macauley, Lieut Corts, wife and child, Frank Sears, Andrew Oliver, H Vonsantz, Mrs C A Barriere and servant, Chas Barriere, M Salem, M Soyer, D Castro, John Prime, Chas A Jarvis, A Lenber, Ramon S Dalgre and family, Mr James.

The News of the Morning Star.

NOTHING LATER BY HER FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Important Cabinet Councils in England.

RUSSELL AND PALMERSTON REPORTED TO DISAGREE.

Gold 46 1-2 in New York.

The Morning Star arrived last night, about 10 o'clock, with files of New York papers to the evening of the 28th November. The papers thus received contain nothing additional of importance from the principal seats of war.

Advices from Virginia say that Mosby had captured a wagon train of Meade's army during its late advance; and that the Confederates claim a victory at Mount Jackson, in the Valley of Virginia, over 800 Federals.

It is stated that the British frigate Phantom is ordered to Charleston.

The only noteworthy feature of European advices is in the shape of a rumor through a Liverpool journal that Cabinet councils, in which Russel's foreign policy was warmly discussed, had been held, and that Palmerston threatened to resign if Russel remained in the Cabinet.

New York Markets.

The New York *Commercial* reports at 2 P. M., on the 28th ult:

The price of gold is firmer this morning and sold at 144⅝ per cent Bills on London close about 158 per cent. The steamers to day take $1,115,000 in gold, viz: by City of London $1,055,000 and the Hamburg steamer $60,000.

At 2 o'clock gold was up to 146 to 145⅝.

Money is easier at 7 per cent

Our agent writes that at the sailing of the steamer, at 3 P. M, gold was 145⅝.

The *Commercial* also reports:

New York, November 28—2 P. M.—Cotton. The market is dull and heavy, with small sales at 78 to 80c. for Middling Uplands.

Sugar—is dull and nominal, with nothing of moment doing.

Molasses—The market is quiet at about our previous quotations.

Flour, &c.—The flour market is 5 to 10c. better on common grades, with however only a very moderate business doing. The sales are 7900 bbls. at $5 85 to $6 for superfine State, $6 10 to $6 25 for extra State, $6 30 to $6 35 for choice do, $5 90 to $6 for superfine Western, $6 90 to $7 35 for common to medium extra Western, and $7 35 to $7 40 for common to good shipping brands extra round hoop Ohio. The market closing quiet.

The Latest From the Great Seats of War.

[VIE COVINGTON, LA.

ANOTHER BATTLE.

Federal Forces Repulsed by Cleyborne at Ringgold, Ga., with a Loss of 2000 They Retreat Across Chickamanga, Destroying Ringgold, Railroad and Bridges—Bragg Relieved—Hardee in Temporary Command—Longstreet Pressing the Siege of Knoxville—He is Reinforced by Bushrod Johnson, and Burnside Expected to Surrender—The Campaign in Virginia—Meade Retreats Across the Rapidan, Pursued by Lee—Affairs in Richmond—The Siege of Charleston.

The *True Delta* issued an extra last evening, with the following intelligence, taken from the Covington, La., *Wanderer*, of the 5th inst.:

The Late Battles in Tennessee and Georgia.

General Hardee's promptness saved the right wing at Lookout Mountain. General Breckinridge made ineffectual efforts to rally his troops, evincing his usual intrepidity, and by his countenanced a portion of his left wing.

Dalton, Ga., November 27.—Enemy captured Ferguson's battery, and inflicted considerable loss on Maney's brigade. General Maney was severely wounded. We lost no wagons except General Wright's.

On Wednesday our army continued to retreat on Dalton, where head of column halted. Such stores as could not be removed were burned, as also the railroad stock.

The enemy are now retreating to Ridegley, after a bloody repulse by General Cleyborne, who captured 300 prisoners, four flags, and killed and wounded 1500.

The enemy are at Ridgely, and our advance is near there. They destroyed all the bridges in their retreat.

The Confederate army is in possession of Dalton, and in front of it. All trains have been ordered back. The enemy cannot advance without the railroad. There is no reason to apprehend an advance now, if at all. The streams are high and roads terrible. It is very cold.

Dalton, December 2.—Gen. Bragg has been relieved at his own request. The command of the army, for the present, is under Gen. Hardee. The enemy have fallen back beyond Chickamanga.

Grant, Thomas and Hooker were present at the battle of Ringgold, where Cleyborne inflicted such terrible loss on them, now estimated at 2000.

Finding Bragg's army not retreating or demoralized, they retreated to Chickamanga and utterly destroyed Ringgold and the railroad.

Atlanta, December 2.—Special dispatch to the *Intelligencer* of the 1st, says: "Enemy at Chickamanga. They crossed two divisions on the Tennessee at Cotton Point and one at Kingston. Heavy firing heard yesterday in that direction."

A special to the *Intelligencer*, dated Dalton, 2d inst., says: "Bragg serenaded last night. Being called out he said: 'I accepted with grateful and heartful thanks this compliment and assurance of respect and confidence of the brave soldiers he had led in many bloody battles.' He took his leave in the most feeling manner. Generals Barr, Breckinridge and Hardee made appropriate speeches."

Nothing official from Longstreet.

The Situation at Knoxville.

Advices from Knoxville on Thursday last state our lines 250 yards from the enemy. Burnside expected every day to surrender. We had fortified the hills around all positions commanding Knoxville. A report is in circulation that Knoxville had surrendered, though not officially confirmed.

A man from General Longstreet's command on Saturday says General Ransom's division, under Buckner, and Johnson, joined Longstreet, and Burnside will be compelled to surrender. Prisoners are continually coming in reporting the enemy entirely out of bread. Some meat left. They burn houses every night to prevent our forces making an assault on the city. All Union families of the valley sent off. Our forces captured 110 wagons, with baggage, &c.

Bristol, December 2.—Nothing further from Knoxville. Rumors are current that another raiding party passed through Greensboro.

The Campaign on the Rapidan.

FROM VIRGINIA.

Richmond, December 1.—The following was received at the War Department: "The enemy opened their batteries on our lines yesterday. Some skirmishing took place, but no attack.

"R. E. LEE."

Passengers by the Fredericksburg train this afternoon, report all quiet above. No firing heard.

Orange Court House, December 1.—Our artillery opened on the enemy yesterday. Brisk artillery duel during the day at intervals. Some skirmishing. The enemy threw up fortifications last night, built heavy fires in front and moved more to our right. Only one or two discharges of artillery up to 3 P. M to-day, and but little infantry skirmishing. One hundred and twenty-two prisoners sent forward by army provost marshal up to to-day, and six more reported, exclusive of those captured by Mosby and Rosser. Weather clear and cold. Captain Rains, commandant of artillery, was killed yesterday.

Richmond, December 2.—An officer from Orange Courthouse to-day expresses the belief that Meade is slowly receding towards Fredericksburg.

A special dispatch to the *Sentinel* says: "Our cavalry made a successful attack on Granger's division in rear of Meade's army on the 27th ultimo, capturing camps, with 110 prisoners and a number of wagons, and killing and wounding many."

Orange Courthouse, Dec. 2.—The enemy still make show of force in our front, but are believed to be falling back down the river for the purpose of recrossing without a fight, or going to Fredericksburg to winter. Very little firing to-day.

Richmond, December 3.—The following was received last night:

"*Orange Courthouse*, December 2.—To General Cooper: The enemy retreated during last night. Pursuit was made this morning, but he had reached the Rapidan before we reached it. A few prisoners were captured.

"R. E. LEE."

Orange Courthouse, December 3.—The enemy has recrossed the Rapidan to Culpepper, at fords by which they came. 100 more prisoners go to Richmond to-day.

Richmond, December 3.—The following was received last night:

"*Gen. S. Cooper*—The enemy has fallen back across Chickamanga, destroying everything in their route, including railroad and bridges. Their loss heavy.

"BRAXTON BRAGG."

Affairs at Richmond.

Richmond, December 1.—A party of ladies and gentlemen went down to the river to visit the French steamer.

Members of Congress are arriving daily.

On dits.—Resolutions will be introduced in Congress producing sensation throughout the country. Also that Secretary Memminger approves the financial relief proposition, proposed by the convention of bankers at Augusta, and it will probably be introduced to the attention of Congress

The Virginia Legislature meets on Monday next.

Richmond, December 2.—Several city papers this morning mention the report of Bragg being relieved of the command of the army of Tennessee at his own request. Hardee appointed, but declined. Mention is made that Johnston has been assigned to the command. Nothing official yet transpired.

From Charleston.

Charleston, December 1.—The enemy fired 16 shells into the city this afternoon. Several buildings were struck and one white woman severely wounded. Shelling of the city brought on an artillery duel between Gregg and batteries on James Island. No firing on Sullivan Island. Eight mortar shells were fired on Sumter to day and two last night—six missed. Nothing else of importance.

Charleston, December 2.—Nothing unusual this morning. No farther firing on the city.

Gov. Brown, of Ga., on the Tithe Tax in Kind.

Governor Brown addressed a special message on the 20th November to the Legislature of Georgia, urging the adoption of joint resolutions instructing Georgia Senators and Representatives to procure, if possible, the repeal of the tithe tax, and also to obtain such modifications of the impressment law as will secure the payment of the market value for property impressed. He expresses the belief that at least one third of the amount of the tithe tax in kind, of Georgia, will be wasted through the mismanagement of government agents. He favors direct taxation, saying that it would help the absorption of a redundant currency, and save the people from having to pay the public debt in gold after the war is over.

Notwithstanding these views of the Governor, the Columbus (Ga.) *Enquirer* says "the planters are sending in freely the government's tenth of their corn. A large store room is opened for its reception, and the activity displayed there during the day is most cheering. Wagons are all the time unloading, and often they are ranged in line awaiting their turn."

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Stabbing Case.—A man named William Gillespie was taken to the Charity Hospital yesterday evening in a very feeble condition, resulting from three severe cuts in the side, near the region of the heart. The bloody affair occurred on the corner of Benton and Delord street on Sunday evening, and Isaac Sharpe is pointed out as the guilty party who did the deed.

Abandoned Property.—Officer Guinebarg reports that he searched an abandoned house on the corner of Rampart and Lafayette streets. It is the property of Mr. Nicol. Some Silverware and contraband articles are reported to have been found by the detective.

Fires.—The wharf opposite Market street caught fire on Sunday last. It was speedily extinguished.

About five o'clock Sunday the house of Mr. Dawson, on Josephine street, between Rousseau and Tchoupitoulas streets, was found burning. The fire was soon stopped without much damage.

Near eight o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the rear of the city, in the direction of the Marine Hospital. We did not learn the damage done.

First District Recorder's Court—Judge Vonnerd.—Sarah Ann Mest and her infant son were sent to the Workhouse for four months, at the earnest solicitation and recommendation of officers West and Corbett. Mary Ahern and Mrs. King with Ellen Kavanaugh, were sent to the same establishment for thirty and sixty days. Mich. McDonnell paid a fine of $5 for drinking Confederate whisky; and Philip Cleaner and P Nicholson, for fighting each other, paid $10 each. A merry masharader who had suffered two nights in the lockup for coming into the streets, was discharged.

Provost Court—Judge Atocha presiding.—Mich. Curley with his wife were tried yesterday, on the charge of having had Government property in their possession, which was stolen from the hospital of the Corps d'Afrique, in the Southern Cotton Press. Sentence, $100 fine, or sixty days Parish Prison.

An industrious washerwoman who received the visits of soldiers in her capacity as laundress, was charged with furnishing the military with liquor. She was tried and discharged.

Anne Martin and a soldier were up on the charge of having sung the Bonnie Blue Flag and the Single Star. The soldier did not sing, and the woman insisted that she sang the Stars and Stripes with some other soldiers, and that the prying watchman could not distinguish the tunes, listening at the door. The woman was eventually sent to the Workhouse for twenty days.

David George, Susan and Lawrence Fuller, and James Talbot, were prosecuted by an hospital surgeon for robbing the hospital in the Southern Cotton Press. They had taken from bedsteads, linen and blankets by the dozen. The Fullers were sent for six months to Ship Island, Talbot went for one year.

Minnie Brown and Ellen McLellan had been charged with having made a soldier drunk and robbed him of some $30. The man came to the witness stand and said he was ashamed that he had made a fool of himself, and deserved the punishment. Accused were discharged.

A soldier, just arrived from the field, was tried for sticking to his dignity and asserting that he has the same right to get drunk as a tubberly civilian. He was refused the dose of red eye he called for, and drew his sabre, cleared out the persons from the coffeehouse, and proceeded to take to his dose, when he was arrested. He loses two months pay for his exploit.

Wm Ford, a special Government detective of this Department, was tried yesterday and sent to Ship Island for two years. He had received a deposit of $1050 from a Mr. Thomas and taken near $2700 from a colored thief, and had left for New York without as much as saying to his superiors "with your leave."

Ch. T. Manning had another interview with judge Attocha, and satisfied all parties that he would behave honorably in the field, but did not like to rot in prison to please the whim of some obscure person, without a cause. This was the reason, he said, why he took the trouble to punch a hole into his jail, to enjoy the liberty due him. He was ordered to his regiment and told to report to Captain Pickering.

Second District Recorder's Court—Chas. Leaumont, Esq., Presiding.—Angelica is a spiteful colored girl, who for the sake of annoying a cleanly French woman spilled a quantity of nasty grease on the step of her house. The tidy little woman could not stand it, and she had her tormentor arrested. Recorder Léaumont ordered the accused to the Workhouse for 15 days as an atonement for her bad behavior.

Mary, a saddle colored damsel, who had turned to loafing on the Levee to the neglect of her sewing machine and washstand, was sent down for 60 days.

A number of sailors and small offenders were leniently disposed off. The sailors were sent aboard.

First District Court.—Judge Hestand.—This court yesterday was but a short time in session, and after some routine business adjourned until to-day, at the usual hour.

U. S. District Court—Judge Durell.—The celebrated confiscation cases, Griswold & Co., Brickell and others, are drawing to a close on the demurrers filed by defendants. We shall not fail to give the decision as early as possible.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

Late and Important from Southern Sources.

FROM VIRGINIA.

BATTLE CONSIDERED IMMINENT

FROM GEN. BRAGG'S ARMY.

General Grant Pushes His Victory.

GREAT FEARS OF THE SAFETY OF GENERAL LONGSTREET.

Loss of Slocumb's Battery.

The Latest from Charleston.

We have the Paulding, Miss, *Clarion* of the 29th November, from which we take the following important and interesting intelligence:

Atlanta, November 28.—Bragg's headquarters were at last accounts at Ringgold.

The enemy seem disposed to push their advantage vigorously. The battle is likely to be renewed in a day or two between Ringgold and Dalton. Epitome, after three days fighting the enemy, gained what he sought for—Lookout Mountain.

The left of both armies badly whipped. Our loss on the left wing was more than counterbalanced by gains on the right.

We lost Slocumb's Washington artillery on our left, and captured all of Sherman's pieces on the right.

A great many field and regimental officers arrived wounded.

There are great fears for Longstreet's safety.

Three thousand of the enemy are marching on Knoxville from Cleveland.

Fighting reported at Kingston last Monday, and the next day firing was heard at London in the direction of Kingston.

Atlanta, November 28.—The train this evening from Dalton brings sick and wounded troops.

Our forces are still falling back slowly, followed by the enemy, and firing was going on all day yesterday.

The wires have been down nearly all day, but this afternoon have been working to Tunnel Hill.

Richmond, November 27.—All advices from Northern Virginia indicate a battle as imminent in the vicinity of Chancellorsville.

Passengers from Fredericksburg this afternoon report five thousand Yankee cavalry crossed Ely's Ford Thursday morning, and there has been considerable firing in that direction heard yesterday and to day up to the time the train left.

The enemy are believed to be on the south side of the river in large numbers.

The French steamer Grenada brought dispatches for the French Consul.

Charleston, November 27.—The enemy threw six shells into the city to-day, only two buildings struck. Nobody hurt.

The shelling of Sumter, Forts Moultrie and Johnson, together with battery Simpkins, by the enemy's batteries Gregg and Wagner, has been lively and continuous.

The number of shots of all kinds fired on Sumter Thursday and Friday is four hundred and sixty, of which two hundred and eight missed. No casualties and no damage done to the works.

Charleston, November 28.—Nothing new this morning. The mortar shelling of Sumter was continued throughout the night.

ADDITIONAL.

[From the Picayune Extra, 10 A. M.]

From Bragg's Army.

Atlanta, November 26.—The trains from the front came in full of Federal prisoners. No wounded have arrived yet. The Atlanta Relief Committee have commenced sending supplies and assistance to the front. The city is full of rumors, but nothing authentic from the army has been received since Gen. Bragg's dispatch of yesterday.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE BATTLE—OUR FORCES STILL FALLING BACK.

Atlanta, November 26.—The news from our army is conflicting. It is believed that our troops are still falling back. No train has arrived since morning. Every preparation has been made in the hospitals here to receive our wounded; none have arrived yet.

The *Intelligencer's* correspondent has returned from the front, and reports the following:

The enemy, after a desperate and bloody struggle, gained Craven's house on the Northern slope.

Gen. Walthall's brigade suffered severely, holding two divisions in check, and a large portion of it was captured. Stevenson's division occupied the crest of the mountain. The assault continued by moonlight until midnight, the enemy suffering severely, our forces gradually retreating, and at daylight yesterday our troops retired from Lookout Mountain to Mission Ridge.

Seven regiments of the enemy's cavalry crossed the Tennessee at the mouth of the Chickamanga on the evening of the 25th, and Sherman's corps being on this side attacked Wright's brigade, which withdrew after a sharp contest.

The enemy's cavalry raided within four miles from Chickamanga on the night of the 24th, burning twenty-two wagons, and then proceeded on the Georgia and Tennessee road.

The third day of the battle commenced yesterday morning on our left and centre, when, after several assaults, our lines gave way, falling back in some confusion. On our right Sherman's corps was repulsed four times, with great slaughter, and was driven across the river, we burning his pontoons

The fight yesterday was very desperate—probably the heaviest during the war. The enemy's loss was very great—much more so than ours. Ours severe. It was reported that five hundred of the enemy's cavalry came through a gap, eighteen and a half miles from Dalton. Our forces are falling back to Chickamanga.

The *Mississippian* says:

Gen. Bragg has requested the Atlanta papers to abstain for the present from giving the news of army movements in front and in East Tennessee, and they are very prudently "desisting."

THE RUMORS FROM KNOXVILLE.

Bristol, November 26.—There is nothing reliable from Knoxville, though rumors are numerous and conflicting. Weather clear and warm

Battle Expected in North Georgia between Gen. Grant and Bragg's and Longstreet's Armies Combined.

The Mobile *Evening News* of the 27th ult., thinks Grant will rest content for the present with the advantages he has won. It expects, however another battle shortly in the hills of North Georgia, when, Longstreet having accomplished his mission, a junction of his forces with Bragg will have been effected, "and the forces of Georgia and Alabama being organized, will then strengthen General Bragg's army for the decisive battle.

AFFAIRS AROUND RICHMOND.

Richmond, November 26.—The object of the French steamer in James river has not yet been ascertained. It is generally supposed to have some connection with the removal of the French tobacco stored in this city. Both the Confederate and Federal Governments agreed some time since to the removal of this tobacco, but before the arrangements were perfected, the latter withdrew its assent. Reports to-day are that the steamer had arrived at City Point. The French Consul and two or three Confederate officers proceeded down the river this afternoon to have an interview with the officers of the steamer.

Children & Jones's tobacco factory, on Main street, was damaged by fire to-day. The loss of materials is estimated at $5000.

A portion of the Citizens' ambulance corps received orders yesterday to proceed to Marietta, Ga., but the order was countermanded by the Surgeon General in consequence of the movements of Meade.

Hon. W. C. Rives is here.

Orange Courthouse, November 26.—A Confederate scouting party, under Lieutenant Duncan, of the Sixth Virginia cavalry, engaged a party of Federals, and succeeded in cutting off sixteen men near Graffenburg, Culpepper county. Yesterday he captured twelve, who have been sent here. Nearly all the enemy's forces have been transferred from Pasquier to Culpepper.

There was firing for two hours to-day at the lower ford of the Rapidan.

The enemy's cavalry and infantry made a demonstration as of an intention to cross, when our cavalry opened on them.

The enemy is reported to have crossed in force at Ely's Ford, but have gone back. There was some musketry skirmishing at Morton's Ford, but no casualties reported.

News from Richmond—The Siege of Charleston

The Richmond papers of the 29th have the following:

The exchange will probably be renewed if it turns out that Meredith, supposed to be the Yankee Commissioner of Exchange, was not Commissioner, but Agent. The real Commissioner is General Hitchcock. The correspondence of Judge Ould and Meredith has terminated by an offensive and scurrilous letter, written by the latter, which Ould very properly returned. A new correspondence has commenced with Hitchcock. It would seem that the Yankee plot to keep our prisoners from the field, and leave their's in our hands, to be treated as we please, does not satisfy the people of the North; the very falsehoods so freely promulgated about barbarities and outrages inflicted on Yankee prisoners at Richmond, have defeated their own object; instead of inspiring the burning passion for a resistless crusade, to sweep from the face of the earth that den of demons—Richmond—to liberate the prisoners by force of arms, and deliver the city to their mercies; the effect has been to create a pressure on the Government to restore them by reasonable process of exchange.

Lieutenant Crogan, of General Trimble's Staff, has just arrived in Richmond, having succeeded in effecting his escape from Fort Johnson, in Lake Erie. The mode of his escape was very adventurous and perilous, but it is not proper to be made known. The Lieutenant passed through Maryland, and expressed himself very grateful for aid and comfort so freely afforded him, as usual, by good Southerners in that State.

Charleston, November 25.—Several eight inch and 100 pound Parrott shells were picked up in the city to-day.

A spirited fight between the enemy's batteries, Gregg and Wagner, and our batteries, Bee and Simpkins, together with Forts Moultrie and Johnson, took place this afternoon. Gregg opened heavily on Moultrie, and Wagner on Johnson. Our fire, particularly from Simpkins, was remarkably accurate, compelling the enemy to leave their guns at every fire. The contest closed at dark.

The firing on Sumter continues heavy since the present bombardment. The number of shot and shell of all kinds thrown is reported at 15,900, of which about 5000 missed. Total in all, from the beginning, 23,000. The number of shot and shell fired from sundown on Friday, to sundown on Saturday, was 471, of which 136 missed.

There are no further indications of an assault on the part of the enemy.

Ex-Governor Sprague.

The Brooklyn *Eagle* thus daguerreotypes Senator Sprague, whose marriage with Miss Kate Chase has occupied so much of the time of the Washington newspaper-writers:

Mr. Sprague is a young man of vast hereditary possession, accumulated by his father in the printing of calicoes, and so on, in the small but enterprising State of Rhode Island. Personally, Mr. Sprague is not attractive; pecuniarily, he is—seven millions. When he was a mere lad he was taken from school and placed in a cotton mill, where he soon became an expert in all the varied manipulative and mechanical operations, as developed in the calico line, to an extent that warranted his friends in the belief that he would make a merchant worthy of his father's name, and not only keep what cash was left to him, but vastly reincrease his store.

To this one branch of his education young Sprague devoted himself day and night, so that, although comparatively ignorant of the ways of the world, and wholly innocent of an approximate understanding of the arts of science, polite or vulgar literature, he was at the time he attained his majority one of the best informed manufacturers in the country. Socially, he never amounted to much until within the last year or so. Retiring and modest, or rather bashful, he avoided the society of ladies, paid no attention whatever to dress, and was regarded as eccentric, and far on the road which terminates in confirmed miserishness.

Some three or four years since the young men of Rhode Island deemed it well to break up the "machine" which had so long controlled the State, and which had put in nomination Seth Paddleford for Governor. They selected young Sprague, whose family friends were possessed, as well as he, of vast wealth, which they would gladly spend to gain position. At it they went, hip and thigh, Sprague against Paddleford, money against money. It was estimated that the Paddleforddians were mulcted in the modest sum of $75,000. Corruption of the most unblushing nature was openly practised at the polls, and the whole State flashed with the brilliancy of the golden drops. Sprague was elected, and, by the aid and comfort of an able Secretary of State (Bartlett), and a distinguished prelate of the church, acquitted himself creditably. His long purse was opened, and with great generosity his messengers promised the Prince of Wales that if he would visit Rhode Island he should be entertained like a prince and in a peculiarly reckless manner.

Of his military career the less said the better, unless, indeed, General Burnside be quoted, but of that never mind

Sprague did well in raising and equipping troops. These were sent from his State within twenty-four hours after the call was made, and he deserves credit for it.

He was chosen Senator with but little trouble although he was not of the required age. Indeed, we doubt if he is yet old enough for the position. He will take his seat at the approaching session. He will make no speeches, for he neither writes nor talks; he will not contribute to the dignity of the Senate, for he is small, thin, unprepossessing in appearance; he will vote regularly and just as Papa Chase tells him; and he will always regret that he forsook his congenial factory, where he made a mark and could hold his own with the best of them, for the marble halls of the legislators, whom he can neither influence nor comprehend.

However, he, the timid, shrinking youth, has added another success to his list. He has gained the hand of Miss Chase.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

BEE OFFICE,
MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 7, 1863.

The Money market is still without any active movement either in Exchange or Specie. We learn that the "First National Bank of New Orleans" has obtained a case of the commodious banking-house, on Camp street, adjoining the Canal Bank (owned by that institution). It could hardly have found a more central or convenient situation. The cashier embarked in the Columbia for New York on Saturday, with the certificate describing the association as prescribed by law, upon the presentation of which to the Comptroller of the Currency, at Washington, and in compliance with the other requisites of the law and the examination by the Comptroller of the condition of, and certain other facts relating to the institution, he will obtain from that officer a certificate authorising the institution to commence the business of banking. The law also provides that the institution shall deposit with the Treasurer of the United States bonds to an amount not less than one-third of the capital stock paid in, for which it will be entitled to receive from the Comptroller of the Currency circulating notes of different denominations in blank, registered and count-signed by the Treasurer and Register, equal in amount to ninety per centum of the current market value of the bonds deposited, but not exceeding their face. These notes, signed by the President and Cashier, must be payable on demand at the bank in the lawful money of the United States, and are to be received at par in all parts of the United States for all dues to the United States, excepting duties on imports. The law provides that after the first payment of 66 per centum on the capital stock subscribed, the residue, or 34 per cent, shall be paid up in instalments of at least 10 per cent. each, as frequently as one instalment at the end of each succeeding two months from the time of commencing business. It will be observed that the institution is not bound to invest in United States bonds for deposit with the Treasurer to specified, more than one-third of the capital stock paid, and may reserve the other two-thirds in the results, as part of its basis for banking, or make such disposition of it as may be expedient for the interest of the stockholders, subject to the restrictions as to real estate specified in the act.

We noticed some enquiry for Sight and one day's Sight on New York, to-day, at 1⅛@¼ per cent discount, but there appeared to be drawers under ⅛@¼. The Banks and dealers ask par. Nothing transpired in Foreign Exchange, nor anything to show a decline in our previous quotations, which were '60@61 for private Sterling Bills, and 162½@170 for bankers',—the inside figures, when payment is made in the Bank's circulation, which rule at 1@1½ per cent premium. France is bought by the Banks at 5.4 @5.3 and 5.25,—outside 5.35@5.40.

The Specie market was extremely quiet. Dealers offered 42 per cent premium for Gold and there was some demand on the street for round sums at 50, but holders would not sell at these figures. Dealers buy Silver at 35@38 per cent premium, and we hear of sales at 40@42. Nothing was reported in Mexican dollars.

We heard of no sales of Legal Tender Notes over ¼ per cent premium. They were more generally current at the par of our city currency. Canal Bank and Citizens' Bank notes command 1@1¼ per cent premium. Crescent City are quoted at 57½@58 per cent premium, Bank of Louisiana at 48@50 and Merchants' at 35@40. There is very little doing in any description

We heard of nothing of any moment in Stocks and Bonds. City Railroad Shares are held at 125, and Gas Light at 126. The City Consolidated Bonds may be bought at 82@84. Insurance Scrip is quoted at 31½@40 per dollar according to the date and company. We heard of no sales to-day.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
MONDAY EVENING, December 7, 1863.

COTTON—The discouraging accounts from New York have unsettled the market, and holders have mostly withdrawn their stocks. Hence, although there was some little inquiry, we did not hear of a transaction at private sale, nor anything to indicate at what the movement will be resumed. The damaged Cotton below is said to have brought full prices. The auction sales advertised for to-morrow will not be made. The sales at auction embrace 285 bales damaged, sold in 5 bale lots, embracing 5 at @32 30 ₱ bale, 5 at 17½, 5 at 18½, 5 at 21½, 5 at 21½, 5 at 22½, 5 at 22½, 5 at 23½, 5 at 24½, 5 at 24½, 5 at 25½, 5 at 25½, 5 at 26½, 5 at 27½, 5 at 28½, 10 (2 lots) at 27½, 5 at 28½, 10 (2 lots) at 29½, 5 at 29½, 10 (2 lots) at 30½, 5 at 31½, 10 (2 lots) at 32½, 5 at 33½, 10 (2 lots) at 34½, 5 at 35½, 10 (2 lots) at 36½, 15 (3 lots) at 36½, 15 (3 lots) at 35½, 20 (4 lots) at 37½, 10 (2 lots) at 37½, 10 (2 lots) at 37½, 5 at 38½, 10 (2 lots) at 38½, 5 at 39½, 10 (2 lots) at 39½, 5 at 40½, 10 (2 lots) at 40½, 5 at 41½, 10 (2 lots) at 41½, 5 at 42½, 10 (2 lots) at 42½, 5 at 43½, 10 (2 lots) at 43½, 5 at 44½, 10 (2 lots) at 44½, 5 at 45½, 10 (2 lots) at 45½, 5 at 46½, 10 (2 lots) at 46½, 5 at 47½, 10 (2 lots) at 47½, 5 at 48½, 10 (2 lots) at 48½, 5 at 49½, 10 (2 lots) at 49½, 5 at 50½, 10 (2 lots) at 50½, 5 at 51½, 10 (2 lots) at 51½, 5 at 52½, 10 (2 lots) at 52½, 5 at 53½, 10 (2 lots) at 53½, 5 at 54½, 10 (2 lots) at 54½, 5 at 55½, 10 (2 lots) at 55½, 5 at 56½, 10 (2 lots) at 56½, 5 at 57½, 10 (2 lots) at 57½, 5 at 58½, 10 (2 lots) at 58½, 5 at 59½, 10 (2 lots) at 59½, 5 at 60½, 10 (2 lots) at 60½, 5 at 61½, 10 (2 lots) at 61½, 5 at 62½, 10 (2 lots) at 62½, 5 at 63½, 10 (2 lots) at 63½, 5 at 64½, 10 (2 lots) at 64½, 5 at 65½, 10 (2 lots) at 65½, 5 at 66½, 10 (2 lots) at 66½, 5 at 67½, 10 (2 lots) at 67½, 5 at 68½, 10 (2 lots) at 68½, 5 at 69½, 10 (2 lots) at 69½, 5 at 70½, 10 (2 lots) at 70½, 5 at 71½, 10 (2 lots) at 71½, 5 at 72½, 10 (2 lots) at 72½, 5 at 73½, 10 (2 lots) at 73½, 5 at 74½, 10 (2 lots) at 74½, 5 at 75½, 10 (2 lots) at 75½, 5 at 76½, 10 (2 lots) at 76½, 5 at 77½, 10 (2 lots) at 77½, 5 at 78½, 10 (2 lots) at 78½, 5 at 79½, 10 (2 lots) at 79½, 5 at 80½, 10 (2 lots) at 80½, 5 at 81½, 10 (2 lots) at 81½, 5 at 82½, 10 (2 lots) at 82½, 5 at 83½, 10 (2 lots) at 83½, 5 at 84½, 10 (2 lots) at 84½, 5 at 85½, 10 (2 lots) at 85½, 5 at 86½, 10 (2 lots) at 86½, 5 at 87½, 10 (2 lots) at 87½, 5 at 88½, 10 (2 lots) at 88½, 5 at 89½, 10 (2 lots) at 89½, 5 at 90½, 10 (2 lots) at 90½, 5 at 91½, 10 (2 lots) at 91½, 5 at 92½, 10 (2 lots) at 92½, 5 at 93½, 10 (2 lots) at 93½, 5 at 94½, 10 (2 lots) at 94½, 5 at 95½, 10 (2 lots) at 95½, 5 at 96½, 10 (2 lots) at 96½, 5 at 97½, 10 (2 lots) at 97½, 5 at 98½, 10 (2 lots) at 98½, 5 at 99½, 10 (2 lots) at 99½, 5 at 100½, 10 (2 lots) at 100½, 5 at 101½, 10 (2 lots) at 101½, 5 at 102½, 10 (2 lots) at 102½, 5 at 103½, 10 (2 lots) at 103½, 5 at 104½, 10 (2 lots) at 104½, 5 at 105½, 10 (2 lots) at 105½, 5 at 106½, 10 (2 lots) at 106½, 5 at 107½, 10 (2 lots) at 107½, 5 at 108½, 10 (2 lots) at 108½, 5 at 109½, 10 (2 lots) at 109½, 5 at 110½, 10 (2 lots) at 110½, 5 at 111½, 10 (2 lots) at 111½, 5 at 112½, 10 (2 lots) at 112½, 5 at 113½, 10 (2 lots) at 113½, 5 at 114½, 10 (2 lots) at 114½, 5 at 115½, 10 (2 lots) at 115½