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THE NEWS.

We have northern dates to the 19th. The movements of the armies are suggestive of important events. Gen. Lee's army is apparently falling back to the line of defenses in the vicinity of Richmond, while at the same time it is reported to be greatly depleted by reinforcements to Bragg and Beauregard. Deserters and some escaped Union soldiers report that there are signs of an evacuation of Virginia and the concentration of the rebel armies in the Cotton States. The Mobile News has a despatch speaking of Gen. Johnston as the commander of the army of Virginia, which may indicate either the removal of Lee or his transfer to the western army in place of Bragg. Rosecrans has massed his army and is advancing against Atlanta. A battle was thought to be imminent. Bragg had been reinforced by Longstreet with 2000 men. The enemy had appeared in great force in front of our lines in North Carolina possibly with the intention of masking the transfer of troops through that State from North Carolina.

The news from the Army of the Potomac in this connection is interesting. On Sunday morning at 4 o'clock, General Pleasanton, with his cavalry, crossed the Rappahannock at three fords, and advanced rapidly, driving in the rebel pickets about two miles from the river, and through Brandy Station to Culpeper. From the point at which the pickets were encamped, a running fight was kept up with the rebel cavalry, which fell back continually until our forces reached Culpeper, when all the rebel troops at this point hastily retreated, a loaded train narrowly escaping capture. Gen. Pleasanton, we learn by a despatch from headquarters, advanced to the Rapidan, where the rebels were found in position with infantry, artillery, and cavalry to prevent a crossing. During the advance of our cavalry, several gallant charges were made on the enemy, in one of which three guns were captured. Our casualties were three killed and forty wounded—among the latter, Gen. Custer, slightly.

We have additional official particulars of Gen. Blunt's recent operations in Arkansas. Dispatches received in St. Louis, dated at Perryville, Choctaw Nation, Aug. 27, 1863, state that on the 22d ult. Gen. Blunt crossed the Arkansas River with his forces, for the purpose of attacking Steele, who had concentrated the forces under Cabel, Cooper, and Stand Waite, numbering nine thousand and posted them on the south side of the Canadian River, sixty miles from Fort Blunt. After a march of sixty miles in forty-eight hours, he came up to the point where the enemy had been encamped, and learned that they had divided their forces and commenced to retreat. Gen. Blunt forced his way in, killing several of the enemy, taking a captain prisoner, and capturing Perryville. The latter was a regular military post, and an important depot, being the only point between Boggy Depot and North Fork Town. As nearly every building contained government stores, Gen. Blunt directed the burning of the whole place. A large amount of clothing was captured and destroyed at their depot at North Fork Town. Advices from Gen. Steele's army in Arkansas, as late as Sept. 2, have been received at Brownsville. Operations were progressing in a manner that left no doubt of the complete success of the expedition.

Private advices from Tennessee state that hand in hand with the military operations of Gen. Rosecrans, important movements are making to reclaim the people as fast as the army advances. Gen. Rosecrans waives military law wherever loyalty prevails, and Gov. Andy Johnson re-establishes civil authority by placing in office men true to the Union cause. The military force is only to be used to prevent invasion, and to protect the citizens in the free exercise of their rights.

It is positively stated in diplomatic circles that the rebels have mounted in Fort Moultrie the 600 and the 800-pounder Blakely guns which were to be a part of the armament of the two

rams recently launched by the Lairds. These guns were already known to have arrived at Nassau. Doubt is, however, thrown upon the report that they are at Moultrie, by the silence of Admiral Dahlgren.

Complete returns from the principal counties in California, indicate an immense Union majority in the state, in the late election. Downey, the democratic candidate for governor, runs considerably ahead of his ticket, but Low's majority, notwithstanding, will hardly fall below twenty thousand. All the counties heard from elect the Union legislative ticket. In San Francisco county, the Union majority will probably average several thousand. The independent Union ticket got nearly as many votes as the combined vote for the regular Union and democratic tickets. This election gives us three more Union members of Congress.

Returns from 275 towns in Maine give Samuel Cony, Union, for governor, 16,000 majority over Bradbury, copperhead. The towns yet to be heard from will considerably increase this majority, probably to nearly 18,000. Last year the Senate of the State stood 25 Union to 6 democrats—this year, 30 Union to 1 copperhead; the Assembly, last year, was 101 Union to 50 democrats—this year, as far as heard from, 110 Union to 31 copperheads.

By the arrival of the Arabia off Cape Race, we have three days later news from Europe to Sept. 6. By the Hansa, which arrived at this port yesterday, we have received foreign files to Sept. 2. The reply of Earl Russell to the letter of the Emancipation Society, calling his attention to the new rebel steam rams, is published. He says he finds in the letter no such proofs for the assertions made by the Society as the English law demands. Quite a sensation was made in Paris by a pamphlet on Mexico and the Confederate States, strongly urging the recognition of the South by France, and asserting that a war with the United States would be favorable to France. It was believed that the pamphlet expressed the opinions of the Emperor and the Cabinet. The language of the official papers of France toward Russia had all at once become so friendly, that even a report of an approaching alliance between Russia, Prussia and France was spoken of. It is expected that a constitution for Russia will soon be published.

A correspondent of the *St. Louis Republican* writes from New Orleans, under date of Sept. 1, as follows: "The great item is that of an immense force from here for the Rio Grande. Most of the sailing vessels have been chartered—some sent to Ship Island to convey the troops from there, and others leaving here crowded with troops. Napoleon's movements in Mexico and Nicaragua have rendered it necessary for Uncle Sam to reassert the Monroe doctrine in a forcible manner. There is no doubt on this point. The French commander here, I am told, is fully aware of all that is going on. And what if he is? Considerable excitement prevails here, though smothered by prudence. A French war 'is snuffed from afar.' Brownsville is said to be the destination of the troops. A large body of Mexicans, supposed to be Juarez's party, are said to be expecting aid. This is conjecture only, but the troops have gone, and are going, sure. Look out for stirring times from this quarter. It is predicted here that the American flag will soon be planted in Matamoros itself, which is just across the river. 'He whose name is up may lie abed,' is a French proverb. Napoleon's name is up, but it is my opinion he will have to keep wide awake, or rise unusually early, to keep ahead of Uncle Samuel in the land of the Montezumas! So look out for breakers ahead!

The Secretary of War has directed that, except in special cases, no prisoners of war shall be enlisted in our army. Whenever a prisoner desires to enlist, a statement, comprising a brief history of his connection with the rebel army, must be forwarded to Department Headquarters. No such enlistments are to be made without the special sanction of the Department Commander, or the Secretary of War.

The *Richmond Enquirer* of the 11th inst. says: The office, type, and presses of the *Raleigh (N. C.) Standard*, edited by William Holden, have been destroyed by a party of Georgia soldiers. Mr. Holden was in Petersburg at the time. In return for this outrage, the citizens and friends of *The Standard* destroyed the office of *The State Journal*. Gov. Vance reached the spot after the work of destruction was nearly completed, and begged the crowd to desist, rebuking them for the act, and telling them that no such example had been set in "Lincoln's dominions."

Gov. Vance of North Carolina, in a proclamation against those who oppose the Confederate conscription law, appeals to the people thus: "Let us exert ourselves to the utmost to return to duty the many brave but misguided men who have left their country's flag in the hour of danger." Another admission of the extent of desertions from the rebel army. His proclamation is ample proof of the wide disaffection among the people of that state—a disaffection so formidable that the governor finds it prudent to beg instead of threaten.

Beside the three ships Yorktown, Jamestown, and Richmond, at Richmond, the rebels have three iron-clads there, one finished and the other two nearly so. They are built on the same general model as the Merrimac, and plated with railroad iron. The monitor Sangamon and the triple-turreted Roanoke, are awaiting the advent of the rebel ram, whose casing can hardly withstand the effect of the 15-inch guns. It is supposed by some that these rebel iron-clads are waiting to co-operate with the expected English pirates in raising the blockade. Another suggestion is that they are to aid in an attack upon Norfolk.

The Navy Department has contracted with the Messrs. Cramp of Philadelphia for the construction of an immense cruiser, intended for fast steaming. She will be over 3,000 tons burden, and longer than any other vessel at present in the service. The price to be paid for her, I understand, is \$964,000. Contracts were invited generally from ship-builders throughout the country. None in New York, I believe, would do the work under a million of dollars; but Secretary Welles did not seem disposed to give so high a figure. It is understood in naval circles here that a fleet of rapid vessels will be built. Indeed they would have been commenced now, had the contractors and the Navy Department come to an agreement about the price.

An unofficial estimate of the number of colored seamen in the navy shows that there are now about 5,000 in that branch of the public service. They were originally introduced as cooks and stewards, and for years were not seen on deck. Long before the war, however, they were allowed in the "after-guard," and got along so well with the sailors and marines that the propriety of putting them in "the top" soon became apparent. At present they are seamen, ordinary seamen, landmen, and boys—the marine corps and ward-room being the only portions of a man-of-war from which they are excluded.

Acting Rear-Admiral Bailey, under date of Key West, Sept. 6, states in order to correct an erroneous impression, that not a single instance of yellow fever or anything approaching it, has made its appearance either in the town or harbor during the entire season, and the health of the place in every respect is remarkably good.

A boat from Gen. Sibley's command, Aug. 24, has reached Leaveaworth. He was just starting for a Sioux camp of 6,900, intending to capture or destroy them. All the way down the river the boat was watched and frequently attacked by hostile Indians. A party of thirty miners were supposed to have been killed near Mill River.

Gen. James W. Ripley, Chief of Ordnance, was, by an official order, retired from active duty to-day. Col. Ramsay, lately on duty at the Washington Arsenal, is appointed Chief of the Ordnance Bureau. Capt. Benton, formerly Gen. Ripley's chief of staff, is ordered on duty at the Arsenal.

The Hon. D. W. Voorhees, member of Congress from Indiana, was roughly treated by some soldiers on a train of cars in Indiana. They wanted to hang him, but the officers protected him; the soldiers, however, forced him to leave the train before he reached his destination.

A dispatch from Washington states that the President will not consent to accept the resignation of Gen. Burnside, but requests him to remain in command of East Tennessee, which he has liberated from rebel control.

There will be no draft in Indiana under the present call. She has furnished 93,895 three-years men, which is 28,501 more than her quotas for 1861-2. This surplus being more than one-fifth of the whole number enrolled under the drafting law, she has done her duty and no draft can be made.

Gold has risen again, standing now at 131. The New York banks hold \$31,989,381. The Boston banks \$7,637,402.

Acting Commander Merim of the steamer *Ninereh*, on the 17th sent an armed boat expedition, consisting of two launches of that ship and two cutters of the *Habe*, to destroy a signal station, in which they succeeded, capturing the picket, and completely surrounding it before the rebels were aware of the approach of the expedition, and securing arms, ammunition, signal flags, telescopes, etc.

The capture of this signal station, which severs the rebel line within three miles of Jacksonville, will either break up this end of the line, or will detain here to protect it the troops—five small companies of infantry, two full companies of cavalry, and one company of artillery—which were about being forwarded to Richmond.

The total number of guns captured in Wagner and Greeg is twenty-five of the following descriptions:

IN WAGNER,

Two 10-inch Columbiads.
Five 8-inch Navy Shell guns.
One 9-inch Navy Shell gun.
Four large C mmonades.
One Brooks's rifle (not mounted).
One 10-inch Mortar.
One 8-inch Siege Mortar.
One Field Howitzer.
One Columbiad (exploded).
Total, 18 guns.

IN GREGG,

Two 10-inch Columbiads.
One 9-inch Navy Shell gun.
One 10-inch Mortar.
Three brass Field Howitzers.
Total, 7 guns—in all 25.

Besides these eleven guns have been discovered buried in the sand, making in all thirty-six. Most of these guns are now serviceable against the enemy.

A correspondent in Arkansas says: Citizens flock in daily and take the oath of allegiance, and our cavalry are continually sending back prisoners. Rations are being issued to citizens, many of whom are perfectly destitute of the necessaries of life. They are beginning to wish (nobody was ever known to pray in this State) for peace, convinced that a return to the old Union is all that can save them.

The law against obtaining husbands under false pretences, passed by the English Parliament in 1700, enacts: "That all women of whatever rank, profession or degree, who shall, after this act, impose upon, seduce or betray into matrimony any of his Majesty's subjects, by virtue of scents, paint, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, iron stays, bolstered hips, or high heeled shoes, shall incur the penalty of the laws now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanors; and the marriage under such circumstances, upon conviction of the offending parties, shall be null and void."