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GENERAL NEWS.

An article in the last Edinburg Review laments the increasing difficulty of procuring good or even tolerable family servants in England. The supply is not at all equal to the demand. The main reason assigned for this growing trouble is the fact that the more capable class of the young girls go into the factories, where the wages are higher, the work easier, and limited to certain hours, the company more numerous and pleasant, and the independence in all respects far superior. Thus, though domestic wages are high and still rising, the character of the servants is constantly deteriorating.

The Charleston Courier says that persons in the South are engaged in a crusade against Jefferson Davis, and wish to depose him, &c. The Charleston Mercury denies it.

The synopsis of the correspondence between Major Gen. Wool and Gen. Huger, in relation to the release of Col. Corcoran and other Union prisoners, represented that a misunderstanding existed between Gen. Wool and Gen. Huger. This is incorrect. No misunderstanding has ever occurred between these officers. The misunderstanding is between Gen. Huger and the Confederate Secretary of War, Mr. Randolph.

Mr. James Anderson, of Louisville, is now in Washington, for the purpose of taking out a patent for an invention, which he claims to be of that efficiency, in the preparation of hemp and flax, for the spinning process, as to reduce the cost of the raw material below that of cotton. The process, moreover, is so rapid, that the flax may be gathered in the morning, and woven into cloth before night. No rotting is required, as at present, the flaxen hemp being rendered perfectly manageable by an instantaneous operation. As flax and hemp can be raised in abundance in the West, the importance of this invention, if it be what Mr. Anderson assumes, can hardly be overrated. It will revolutionize the agriculture of the North West.

A correspondent of the Memphis Appeal, writing from Richmond, May 28, says:—"We have intelligence of an unfavorable kind from General Heth, who met with a repulse at Lewisburg, in Greenbrier county, on Friday last, in which the Oley Battery, recently organized in this city, lost two pieces and several horses. The casualties on our side are set down at three hundred. This is bad enough, but General Heth's despatch, if properly reported in the newspapers, is worse, for he attributes the disaster to an "unaccountable panic which seized upon the men"—and this reads very much like the explanation of the rout at Manassas.

Gen. Burnside has been on a brief visit to Washington.

Owen Lovejoy, of Illinois, delivered the second of a series of lectures before the Emancipation League at the Cooper Institute in N. Y. last Thursday. His theme, as may be expected, was the abolition of slavery. He held that the safety and welfare of the republic depend upon the emancipation of the slave, a right to which, he says, the negro is entitled beyond all contradiction.

The great camp of instruction which it is proposed to establish near Annapolis, Md., is an old idea, now for the first time carried into practice in this country.

The schooner A. E. Douglas which left Philadelphia on Sunday, the first of June, for Middletown, Conn., was wrecked off Abescom Beach, and five lives lost.

In pursuance of orders from General Wadsworth, the churches of the Epiphany, on G between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets; Ascension, on H street between Ninth and Tenth streets, and Trinity, corner of Third and C streets, in Washington, were taken possession of yesterday as Government hospitals.

A new steam line is to be started from Washington to Aquia Creek and Piney Point. The service will be commenced on Monday morning, by the James Guy (Captain Stackpole,) now running to Alexandria, but additional boats will be put on, to meet the requirements of the public.

A large number of slave claimants were examined before the Emancipation Commissioners, yesterday. The cases were rapidly disposed of, "as the loyalty of the claimant and his title were proved in each case without delay or hesitation."

It is understood that one of the charges against Ben Wood, for communicating information to the enemy consists in causing to be transmitted to the Southern States copies of the speech which he asked leave of the House to have printed a few weeks since. These were sent, it is alleged, to Southern subscribers of the old New York News.

The recent course of Gen. Butler, and especially his order about the females in New Orleans, appears to have excited intense feeling in the South.

Lord Lyons sails for England in the Persia, on Wednesday next, for an absence of some weeks. He had an audience of the President on Thursday, for the purpose of taking final leave. Mutual good wishes were expressed, and the interview is said to have been very cordial.

The National Intelligencer in alluding to the habit of saying that certain things are perfectly right and very desirable, but not practicable, holds that "it were wiser to say with the philosopher Edmund Burke that those things which are not practicable in statesmanship are not desirable."

Several vessels from Southern ports have recently arrived at Nassau, N. P.

NEW ORLEANS ITEMS.—The following items are given in late New Orleans papers:

Ex-Senator and late Provost Marshal Pierre Soule has been arrested by Major General Butler, on a high political charge, at New Orleans, and will be sent North in a few days.

Gen. Butler gives notice that the Chief of Subsistence will sell to families for consumption, in small quantities, pork, beef, hams and bacon, at seven cents, and ten cents for flour.

Very little business is being done in the city, but provisions are gradually arriving, which will relieve the working classes from the danger of want.

Gen. Butler had an interview with the officers of the Southern Bank on Thursday, and, after a full hearing, the bank was ordered to pay all depositors, on demand, in specie and according to the provisions of Butler's general order No. 30, published a few days since.

The bells which were taken from the churches by the order of Beauregard were shipped to New York on Tuesday last in the ship North America, by order of Gen. Butler. The Delta wants them united in one casting and placed on the roof of Faneuil Hall.

Gen. Butler has ordered that religious services be had in the different churches of the city as in times of profound peace, but no prayer for the destruction of the Union, or for the success of the Confederates, will be tolerated.

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN NAVAL SERVICE.—Secretary Welles has addressed the following letter to Com. Rowan, of the flotilla in the North Carolina Sounds, who had incidentally mentioned in a dispatch that the claimant of a fugitive black had been permitted to go to Roanoke Island in search of him and to take him away if willing to go.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Washington, June 8.
Sir—In your dispatch of the 18th ultimo allusion is made to a conversation with Mr. Brooks, at Elizabeth, N. C., relative to his efforts to obtain a favorite servant supposed to be with the United States forces. As similar applications may frequently be made, it is proper to remind you that persons who have enlisted in the naval service cannot be discharged without the consent of the Department, and that no one should be "given up" against his wishes.

Very respectfully,
GIDEON WELLES.

The U. S. Senate committee which had charge of the application for the admission of the new state of Western Virginia into the Union, with the constitution adopted by the Wheeling convention, have reported a bill in accordance with the proposition, together with a provision for submitting to the people of the several counties comprising the State the question of the toleration or prohibition of slavery. It is considered as certain that the Senate will pass the bill with the provision mentioned. The two Senators from Virginia will support the bill under instructions, and the representatives from that State in the House will be divided in regard to it. Some will oppose it on the ground that it will destroy any prospect of the restoration of Virginia in her original integrity to the Union. On the other hand, Mr. Willey, in presenting the application expressed a confident belief that the time would soon arrive when Virginia would be reunited.