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GENERAL NEWS.

At New Orleans, Gen. Butler has issued an order directing that every negro found after dark about the streets, without a pass from his master, should be treated according to the laws of the State, viz: whipping, and imprisonment on bread and water.

Accounts from New Orleans say that the weather was scorching hot, but the city healthy. The prices of provisions had declined considerably, in consequence of heavy arrivals from the North, and flour had gone down to \$12, thereby causing much loss to the speculators. The laboring and poorer classes are, however, still suffering considerably, and the government was feeding about 1,800 to 2,000 poor families from the free market.

It is thought that Malvern Hill will be the scene of many skirmishes, its peculiar position rendering it a point of great advantage to the party holding it. It is only some two or three hundred yards from the Union outposts.

We learn, says the Macon Telegraph, that several large planters in Southwestern Georgia, have sold their growing crop of corn, to be delivered at the nearest railroad depot, at twenty-five cents per bushel, and others are anxious to sell at the same figures.

By order of Gen. Boyle, "a prison for rebel females is in the course of preparation at Newport, Ky."

The Mayor of Baltimore has ordered an election to be held in all the wards of that city except the fifth and sixth, on Friday next, the 1st day of August, for members of the Second Branch of the City Council.

Among the new accommodations at Piney Point, are the cottages put up by the proprietor of the "Pavillion Hotel," now eight in number, and to be increased. His guests have, at their option and without extra charge, rooms in these cottages while taking their meals at the Hotel.

A letter from on board the Hartford, Com. Farragut's flag ship, dated on the 17th inst., gives an account of the passage of the fleet down before the batteries at Vicksburg. It appears that owing to the darkness and smoke the ram Arkansas could not be seen. First Master George Lounsberry, of the Hartford, a brother of Lieut. J. W. Lounsberry, of the Fifth New York Regiment, was killed by a cannon ball as the Hartford was passing the batteries.

The Horse Shoe and American Falls at Niagara were illuminated on the 4th of July by means of lights placed behind the sheets of water. The effect is said to have been very beautiful.

Henry Smith was convicted at Philadelphia some days ago of robbing the mint, about five years since.

Lieut. Robertson, of the Fourteenth Maine regiment, was dishonorably discharged from service by Major General Butler, and sent before Judge Bell, on a charge of having swindled a number of soldiers who had been discharged on account of disability and sickness. It appears that the Ex-Lieutenant had received certain sums of money from said soldiers, on the promise that he would procure their speedy passage by sea to their homes, and that he gobbled up the money, but did not perform his part of the contract.

It having been represented to the Secretary of the Treasury that the practice of requiring accrued interest to be paid in coin prevents the conversion of United States notes into Five-twenty 6 per cent. Bonds, he has authorized subscriptions for those Bonds, without requiring such payment of accrued interest. The day of deposit will be stamped upon the Bonds, if registered, and upon the first coupon, if Coupon Bonds. The interest will run from such date.

The Lindsay motion for a recognition of the C. S. A. was to have come up in the British House of Commons on Friday, the 18th inst., and the result may reach us any moment, via Cape Race. The following is the text of the motion in full: [The mover of it, it should be added, by way of explanation, is to be Lord Vane Tempest,—though the real author of it is Lindsay himself:] "That, in the opinion of this House, the States which have seceded from the Union of the Republic of the U. S. have so long maintained themselves under a separate and established Government, and have given such proof of their ability to support their independence, that the propriety of recognizing these States as an independent nation is worthy of the serious and immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government, and that this House will cordially support Her Majesty in endeavoring, in concert with foreign Powers, by mediation or otherwise, to bring to a termination the existing contest in America."

The funeral of ex-President Van Buren took place at Kinderhook, N. Y., on Monday, and was attended by a large concourse. The remains were deposited in the cemetery of the village. The stores and houses were closed and draped in mourning. The impressive exercises were brought to a close with a prayer and benediction by the Rev. A. Van Zandt, of Wisconsin, who for a period of ten years, was a much respected pastor of Mr. Van Buren.—The only adult relatives present were Abram, John and Smith F. Van Buren, sons of the deceased, and Major Lawrence Van Buren, a brother of the ex-President. A letter says: The people of the surrounding country appeared to have turned out *en masse* to the funeral, and the number of old men to be seen among them was truly a marvel.

Gen. Butler has had a severe attack of bilious fever but was quite well again, and showed himself frequently in public.

A letter in the Washington Star, from Hagerstown, Md., states that Lieut. George Shearer, of Bradley Johnson's First Maryland (Confederate) Regiment, was captured at Hagerstown, Md., on the 25th, together with a fine horse and equipments. He was brought to Hagerstown and committed to jail. It is alleged that he had been in Washington and Frederick counties for three weeks, recruiting for his regiment, with poor success, and was about to return to Virginia when arrested.—Mr. Henry Rice, a wealthy "Dunkard" farmer of Washington county, was also arrested in Hagerstown, and refusing to take the oath of allegiance, he was committed.

A Washington letter says:—"The President and family are at the old Soldiers' Home.—Secretary Stanton has taken up his residence on Georgetown Heights, while Secretary Smith has gone to Bedford Springs for his health.—Secretaries Seward, Chase, Bates and Blair reside still in town."

The correspondent of the New York Express announces that by the evacuation of James Island all chance of approaching Charleston by any feasible land route has been abandoned.—The Federal troops have also retired from Edisto Island and now only hold Hilton Head, Beaufort, Pulaski, and their immediate dependencies.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 25th says that twenty-two pieces of artillery, part of the eighty taken by the English from the Russians at Inkerman, and presented to the Confederacy by English merchants, have arrived at Macon. They give evidence of having seen service.

Capt. Gwin, of the gunboat Tyler, reports that on board his boat during the engagement with the Confederate ram Arkansas, he had eight men killed and sixteen wounded. He accuses Lieut. Hunter, commanding the Queen of the West, of cowardice. The latter is charged with running to the fleet for protection without firing a gun, notwithstanding he was signalled to come to the aid of the Carondelet.

Dr. Stone, regular army surgeon, has just reached Washington under the operations of the new exchange of prisoners. He was captured at Bull Run, and consequently remained in prison one year and seven days.

The office of the St. Croix Herald, published at St. Stephens, N. B., was again visited by a mob last week, and their work of destruction was this time nearly complete. The Herald is about the only newspaper in New Brunswick that has supported the Union cause; hence the wrath of the Provincials against it.

The Union Irishmen of St. Louis held a meeting on Friday evening, and about 2,000 are said to have been present. Resolutions were adopted declaring unalterable attachment and loyalty to the government, institutions and flag of the U. S. The following was also adopted: "We denounce the conduct of those men who attempted to secure British protection."