

FOREIGN NEWS.

The steamer Merrimac, which has been lying in Plymouth Sound since the 7th of June, heavily laden with stores for the Confederates, suddenly put to sea on the 29th ult. *en route* for Nassau. The same evening the U. S. frigate Tuscarora left Southampton, and her departure excited great anxiety under the belief that she was in chase of the Merrimac. A later dispatch states that the Tuscarora arrived at Queenstown on the 31st ult. The Bishop of Oxford has recommended prayers to be read in his diocese for peace in America. A letter from Prince de Joinville has been published, giving an account of the retreat of Gen. McClellan's army to the James river. The letter was written June 27, and details the causes which compelled Gen. McClellan to undertake the movement. He says:—"On the previous day it was announced that Jackson was about to act on McClellan's rear, and that Beauregard had arrived at Richmond. The Prince says that all that greatly complicated our situation, and it was then and there determined to take up a new base of operation upon James river under the protection of the gunboats. He describes the part he took in arresting a panic among the federal troops, and says 'Your Prince and his nephews were more than once under a most violent fire of musketry and artillery, and acted with distinguished bravery.'" The London Times is very severe on the confiscation bill, and declares that no ruler will ever dare to put it in force. In the House of Commons, on the 30th ult., the bill for the relief of the manufacturing districts was amended and then recommitted. The ministry opposed the amendment. It is announced that on the 1st of September the Queen and the younger members of the royal family will proceed to Belgium for a short visit to the King; thence they will go to Castle Reinhart-frunn, near Gotha, the property of the Grand Duke Saxe Coburg Gotha, where they will remain some time in strict seclusion. It is reported that on the 15th instant, the Napoleon *fete* day, the Emperor will issue a manifesto, in which he will allude to the great question of the day. Garibaldi has been making inflammatory speeches at Marsala, in which he made frequent use of the words "Rome or death," and spoke in violent terms of Napoleon.

LATER.—The steamer Scotia, from Liverpool on the 2d, arrived at St. John's, N. F., on Saturday. Cotton was firm with an upward tendency. Earl Russell justifies the vigilance of the Federal cruisers at the Bahamas. The Federal gunboat Tuscarora was at Queenstown, watching for a Confederate steamer which left Liverpool, but which put back to Holyhead and there lost all her men. The sloop of war St. Louis was at Madeira, July 21. A later dispatch says:—"Tuscarora left Queenstown on the evening of the 1st, destination unknown." The French have reoccupied the Roman frontiers. Garibaldi has issued a proclamation for his volunteers to assemble at Sicily, saying that the time for action has arrived. The destination of the expedition was unknown. The Independence Belge asserts that France, Russia and England are negotiating a plan for mediation, and that the two former have submitted a plan to the latter, which has not been replied to yet. It is rumored that a British envoy has been sent to

Washington to urge President Lincoln to take the initiative in peace measures to avoid mediation. Earl Russell recommends strict attention to the Queen's neutrality proclamation.—Gen. Pope's orders to subsist his army upon the enemy is construed as the adoption of a system of rapine. Gen. Forrey left Cherbourg on the 29th for Vera Cruz. Troops were being rapidly embarked also.

The New York Express, of Saturday afternoon, announces that the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Kennedy, has received orders from Washington authorizing him to act as provost marshal of that city, with his officers as guard."

The New York World says there is no difficulty whatever in supplying the complement of United States war ships. Just at this time there are more able-bodied seamen offering than are required by the authorities at the various naval rendezvous.

The Richmond Enquirer, of August 5th, says: "We learn that a communication from our government inquiring whether Butler's course in New Orleans was countenanced by his government not having been responded to, another communication has been dispatched, with the accompanying notice that an explicit answer will be expected in a given time, and that, in the absence of such, the silence of the Lincoln government will be considered as an affirmative reply."

The U. S. steam frigate Lackawanna was successfully launched on Saturday morning, at the Brooklyn navy-yard.

Under the leadership of Judge J. M. Edmunds, Commissioner of General Land Office, in the Interior Department, the clerks are organizing a military association, with a view of meeting any emergency that may arise in the defence of Washington. One hundred and sixteen of the clerks are already enrolled. They have adopted a constitution, and have, through the Commissioner, tendered the services of the corps to the Secretary of War, and asked the requisite arms to fit them for military duty.

A dispatch from New York on Saturday says:—"The steamers Etna and Saxonia, about to sail hence for Europe, were detained until this evening to permit an examination of passengers under the Secretary of War's order relative to persons seeking to escape the military draft. The Saxonia has 457 passengers and the Etna 578. Some of them will doubtless be detained, but the War Department has consented to allow all to go who procured their tickets before the order was promulgated. The Etna takes out \$170,000 in specie.

There are now at Fortress Monroe about fifteen hundred sick and wounded on transports from the Army, all of which are going North to different places, some to Philadelphia, Annapolis and New York. It is understood that the army hospitals on the James river are all to be immediately cleared out.

The steamer Connecticut arrived at New York yesterday with late advices from New Orleans and other points on the Southern coast. Hon. Rev. Johnson is among the passengers by the Connecticut. It is rumored that the yellow fever had appeared at Key West. Admiral Farragut's fleet were all at New Orleans.

An exchange of prisoners is going on at Aiken's Landing on the James river.

The Wheeling Press of the 8th says:—The following order was yesterday made at the Adjutant General's office of this State, directed to all the commandants of Regiments of Virginia Militia, viz:

HEADQUARTERS VIRGINIA MILITIA,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wheeling, July 7th, 1862.

"You will forthwith order each commander of a company of Militia of the line of your Regiment to divide his company by ballot into divisions from one to ten, and return as soon as completed to you a roster (list) of each division and its number in rotation, and that you cause the Clerk of your Regimental Court to record the same, and report to this office immediately the period at which this order will be fully complied with."

By order of the Governor.

HENRY J. SAMUELS,
Adjutant General Virginia.

The New York Post states that not less than eight iron-clad ships, most of them Monitors, are now in hand in that city and vicinity alone. Two of them are very large vessels, and will not be ready for some time; but one of the new Monitors will be ready in a few days; one is promised by the first of September, and another, in Capt. Ericsson's hands, is to be ready in thirty days.

It is said that the court-martial which was appointed by Gen. Buell to try Col. Turchin has cashiered him and dismissed him from the service. But, as he was made a Brigadier General after the court was organized, there is a question as to the practical result of its proceedings.

The official report of the killing of General McCook represents that the wound of which he died was inflicted by guerrillas near New Market, Alabama. General McCook being indisposed was riding in an ambulance, accompanied by his staff and a small escort. He had stopped to select a camping ground for his command, when the party was attacked by a band of guerrillas, one of whom rode up to the ambulance and shot him in the side.

General Halleck has urged the President to appoint officers in the new regiments to be brought into the field, none but educated and experienced soldiers, and as far as possible to select these officers from the men now in actual service, who, as commissioned or non-commissioned officers, or privates, have won distinction and exhibited capacity to command.—General Halleck is to furnish the President with a complete statement of his programme in this respect, and it will probably be adopted and acted upon.

The London Morning Star publishes an account of an attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Russia. As Alexander was walking in the gardens of his palace in St. Petersburg, he was fired upon by an assassin.

Robert Dale Owen, who declares himself to have always been a democrat and always opposed to interference with the institutions of the South, has addressed a letter to the U. S. Secretary of War, in which he declares himself satisfied that there can be no solid and enduring peace until slavery is wholly abolished.

The New York World publishes an extract from a private letter of Gen. Kearney, in which he says that it is "now no longer time for hesitation," and that the Southern negroes "should indiscriminately be received, if not seized." He does not propose to arm them, but to use them to relieve our soldiers in various ways.