

GENERAL NEWS.

The metaphor so often quoted of going to sea in a tub, was in a degree realized at Newport, R. I., one night last week. A couple of jolly tars attached to one of the ships of the naval school, feeling moved to see their lady loves over in town, or perchance to revel in the delights of the intoxicating cup, and having no means at hand for crossing the intervening waters, launched a hogshead, minus one of its heads, and both getting "on board," "set sail" for Newport, which place they reached in safety, after a "stormy passage" of fifteen minutes.

The question of the legality of the United States notes was brought before the Supreme Court of N. York yesterday. The main question involved is whether such notes are legal tenders or not. George T. Curtis, for the defendants, stated that Congress had not the power to create bills of credit, or to coin money out of any other substance except metals. The court took the papers and will render a decision in a few days.

The late census returns of manufacturing establishments in New York reveal the astonishing fact that more capital is employed in carrying on the printing trade than in any other business, the amount being over eight and a half millions.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger says: "I would advise you not to place too much reliance upon the reports of forward movements against the enemy in Virginia."

W. B. Chance has been appointed Secretary to Gov. Hamilton, of Texas.

It appears that the route to Richmond via Fredericksburg is the one always advocated by Gen. Kearney, who greatly preferred it to the Peninsular road, or that by the way of Manassas.

Gen. Fitz John Porter expresses, as we are informed, the utmost confidence that the investigation about to be made into his conduct will clear him from all the charges preferred.

In December, 1860, a lady purchased four dresses of a merchant in Grand street, N. Y., and was arrested on suspicion of having secreted some goods upon her person. She was undressed for examination, and the affair threw her into a fit of sickness. Afterwards she sued for damages for false imprisonment. The jury on Saturday found a verdict for plaintiff awarding \$4,000 damages, and the Court added an extra allowance of \$100.

Gen. McClellan is expected to be in New York during the last of the present or first of the coming week. A great ovation is said to be in store for him.

It is stated that the half million assessment ordered several months ago by Gen. Schofield on the disloyal citizens of St. Louis is completed. The assessed names and amounts are kept secret by the committee.

Admiral Farragut writes in behalf of allowing Com. Preble a Court of Inquiry, and of revoking the order for his dismissal from the U. S. Navy.

The workmen are getting the halls of Congress, in Washington, ready for the next session.

A woman, tried for murder in Montgomery county, Md., has been acquitted on the ground of insanity.

The War Department will hereafter insist that drafted men when procuring substitutes, shall obtain the consent of the substitutes to join the old regiments. This is the method adopted by the Department to bridge the difficulty of filling up the old regiments. Henceforth all substitutes will be compelled to enter the old regiments, to remain for nine months.

The train from Springfield to Albany was thrown down a fifty-foot embankment last night. The rails were designedly misplaced at a sharp curve. The engineer and firemen and several passengers were severely injured, but none were killed.

The epidemic in Wilmington, N. C., continues steadily to advance.

A company has been formed for the cultivation of American jute, a plant which is indigenous in the swampy lands of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The fibre of the plant is adapted for the manufacture of paper, cordage, textile fabrics, &c.

Rev. John B. Pinney, who has been connected with the American Colonization Society for many years, is consul-general to the Republic of Liberia for the United States.

Recent occurrences in the military career of Gen. John E. Wool have stimulated the publication, by an enterprising New York publishing house, of an elaborate biography of the General, written by a distinguished Southern statesman, a life-long friend of his, who commenced the labor in the latter part of 1858. The original intention was to publish it posthumously, but the General's friends at the North have deemed its immediate publication proper.

Nassau advises of the 7th state that the steamer Kate, from Wilmington, arrived there on the 4th instant with a cargo of cotton.

The Norway Iron works at South Boston, with all the valuable machinery and a large amount of stock, was burnt yesterday. One hundred and thirty workmen are thus thrown out of employment.

Gen. Burnside is regarded as the friend of McClellan, and is popular with the army.

Upon a threatened strike in the U. S. Navy Yard at Charlestown, Mass., four of the most prominent actors in the "strike" were discharged for insubordination, forthwith.

The newspapers in Rockville, Md., heretofore printed once a week, have suspended publication.

Photographic five dollar U. S. treasury notes are in circulation in St. Louis; the most dangerous counterfeit that has yet appeared.

The White Sulphur Springs, in Virginia, now present a desolate appearance—the large hotel in ruins, the statue of Health decapitated, &c.

Three boys were killed in York county, Pa., a few days ago, by the stump of a large tree falling upon them, under the roots of which they were digging a hole.

It is feared that there will be fearful retaliations, on both sides, for the reported hangings in Missouri and Tennessee.

At Cincinnati, the receipts of hogs on Saturday reached 7,000 head. The market, though not buoyant, was steady at \$4 25 to \$4 65. At Louisville, last week, packers were offering only \$2 75 a \$3 gross, which feeders declined to accept. There were very few hogs in the city, and the season promises to be dull.

A man named Adolphus Baker, quartermaster's sergeant of the 137th Pennsylvania volunteers, was yesterday, in Washington, committed to jail by Justice Donn, on the charge of forgery, and attempting to obtain money under false pretences.

The new Turkish Ambassador at Paris brings seven wives with him. The French have christened them Mesdames Monday, Tuesday, &c.—a wife for each day.

The third day of December next, General McClellan's birth-day, is to be celebrated by the Young Men's Democratic Club, of Pittsburgh, by a ball.

The receipts of flour in Boston the present year will average nearly five thousand barrels of flour for every business day.

Gen. Wadsworth will leave Washington today to take a command in the field.

John Ross, Chief of the Cherokees, arrived in Washington yesterday, and had an interview with Commissioner Dole in regard to the affairs of his nation, which he represents as very friendly to the Union; and, having suffered for that reason, he is very anxious to secure the protection of the government. We understand that he has been encouraged.

The N. Y. World strongly objects to the system adopted in New Orleans by Gen. Butler, and argues, that, in the end, it will be prejudicial, rather than beneficial, to the Union cause.

It is denied that the result of the recent election in Missouri is a declaration by the majority of the people of the State in favor of emancipation. Some 90,000 voters did not vote.

A letter from Gauley, Nov. 8, in the Washington Republican, says: "It is evident there is to be no winter campaign in Western Virginia. The horrible roads will not admit of it. It is probable the forces will content themselves with holding the salt region, and defending the loyal parts of Virginia from Confederate incursions."

The poorest kind of whisky is selling at forty dollars a gallon at Holly Springs, Miss. Encouraging for temperance societies!

The U. S. Stevens battery Naugatuck left Hoboken on Monday to test the quality of her new gun off the Palisades. Several shots were fired, and the result was pronounced satisfactory. An apparatus intended to check the recoil of the gun succeeded admirably. The steamer will probably be put into service in a few days.

Military commissions to examine the charges against General McDowell and General Fitz John Porter are to meet at Washington today.

Lieutenant Colonel Colburn and Captain Duane, late of General McClellan's Staff, have been released from arrest, and ordered to return to duty.

A document found on board of one of the vessels recently captured, shows how confidently the blockade runners rely upon the assistance of the British Admiral on the West India station.

Rear Admiral Lavalette, of the retired list, died yesterday at Philadelphia.

The newspaper proprietors of Philadelphia are discussing the necessity of either decreasing the size or increasing the price of their papers.

The Confederates are extensively manufacturing shoes at Knoxville for their army.