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CONGRESS.—In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, a resolution of thanks to Gen. Rosecrans and the officers and men of his army, for the victory at Murfreesboro', was submitted, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The Senate Committee reported favorably upon the bill to allow parcels, bundles, &c., to pass through the mails at established rates of postage. The bill to tax bank notes and establishing a fractional currency, was taken up, and Mr. Sherman addressed the Senate in support of it. The bill was then referred to the Finance Committee. The bill for the discharge of State prisoners was further discussed, but without final action. In the House of Representatives, yesterday, the Committee of Ways and Means reported their finance bill, which was made the order of the day for Monday next. The bill provides for the issue of \$900,000,000 twenty year six per cent. bonds; of \$300,000,000 three year Treasury notes, bearing interest at 5.47½ per year, receivable for all dues except customs; for the issue of \$300,000,000 legal tender notes in the usual form, and for \$50,000,000 of fractional notes in place of the postal currency. The bill also provides for the deposits of coin in the Sub-Treasury, receipts for which may be used to pay custom duties, and also taxes bank circulation one per cent. on a graduating scale according to capital. The resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Major General Butler was adopted—yeas 83, nays 28. Mr. Wickliffe offered a series of resolutions in relation to the contrabands at Hilton Head, which were laid on the table—yeas 81, nays 30. Mr. Yeaman offered a resolution, which was adopted, looking to the establishment of a Board of Commissioners to take proof as to losses sustained by citizens from the movements or operations of the army. A resolution was adopted inquiring of the Secretary of the Treasury why he had not provided the means for the payment of the soldiers. The House in Committee of the Whole took up the civil and diplomatic bill, during which an exciting debate took place in relation to the loyalty of the Border States.

REPORTS FROM VICKSBURG.

CAIRO, January 8.—The steamer from Memphis brings nothing later from Vicksburg. Passengers state that the Confederates have batteries at Cypress bend, thus preventing steamers from passing up from Vicksburg, but the Federal gunboats will easily remove them when necessary. By way of Grenada a report had reached Memphis that there had been no fighting since the 26th December, Tuesday week.

It is reported from Washington that the Wachusett, Admiral Wilkes' flag-ship, has captured somewhere in the Gulf, the Confederate war steamer Virginia, said to be an iron vessel very similar to the Alabama.

THE FIGHT AT VICKSBURG.—The Richmond papers have despatches from Vicksburg, dated on Friday last, the 2d inst., from which it would seem that up to that day there had been no general battle, only heavy skirmishing. The following is the despatch:

VICKSBURG, January 2.—Skirmishing continued all day yesterday. No general engagement is expected until the arrival of McClellan and Sherman with the remainder of the Yankee army.

LATER.—This morning our forces advanced against the enemy, who were erecting works on the lake, causing them to evacuate the place, leaving all their implements for erecting fortifications, &c. Our forces now occupy the whole country bordering on the lake, the enemy having returned to their transports and gone down the Yazoo.

LATEST.—The enemy have left Chickasaw Bayou, and are reported going on their transports to Snyder's Bluff, on the Yazoo, where it is supposed they will make an attempt to storm our works. Our forces are well advised of their movements.

Richmond papers of Monday have the following despatch:

VICKSBURG, Jan. 2.—To the Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War: The enemy, finding all his efforts unavailing to make any inroad upon our position here, has re-embarked leaving a considerable quantity of intrenching tools and other property, and apparently has relinquished his designs upon Vicksburg.

J. C. BRAGG, Lieut. Gen. Com.

Governor Letcher's annual message to the Virginia Legislature is published. It is seven columns long. In relation to the division of the State by the Federal Congress, he says Western Virginia would necessarily be free territory. "I cannot suppose in any treaty of peace that may be agreed upon, Virginia will ever recognize the division of her territory, or ever consent to a treaty that will strip her of any portion of her domain. It is better that this war should continue for an indefinite period than that Virginia shall be even partially dismembered." "He accuses the North of vandalism without parallel in the history of warfare, and recites a long list of indignities, outrages and wanton destruction. He estimates the balance in the Treasury, October 1st, at \$434,000. The total amount paid for the war by the State is \$7,337,000. He advises that all free negroes now resident in portions of the State overrun by U. S. troops be removed and put at work on the fortifications. They have it in their power to tamper with slaves and give valuable information to the enemy."

GEN. BURNSIDE.—There appears to be no doubt that Gen. Burnside has urged the acceptance of his resignation, three several times, and was at Washington for that purpose on Wednesday last. Mr. Lincoln refuses to accept it. The reason given is, disagreement between General Burnside and his officers in regard to making another movement over the Rappahannock, of which he is desirous, strangely enough, which his general officers and Mr. Lincoln do not favor.—*Boston Courier.*

FROM THE WEST.

Dispatches from Nashville state that the whole Federal loss at the battle of Murfreesboro' is not over seven thousand, whilst that of the Confederates was between twelve and fifteen thousand. The Federal forces are moving south; the rear on Tuesday was eight miles below Murfreesboro'. Confederate accounts confirm the statement of the falling back of their forces, but allege that the movement was done in perfect order, and all their stores saved. They claim to have taken four thousand prisoners, five thousand stand of arms and twenty-eight pieces of cannon. Strong Federal reinforcements, is given as the reason for the retreat. Gen. Bragg is at Shelbyville, thirty miles south of Murfreesboro'.

Missouri, it appears, is to see more fighting. Advices from Springfield state that a Confederate force, reported as six thousand strong, with artillery, had attacked the town. The commander of the Federal forces was making preparations for a vigorous resistance.

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

Gen. Burnside evidently means to tolerate no semi-disloyalty in the army. At a council of war held before the Fredericksburg battle, he informed a Colonel who had been recommended for a Brigadier General, that he had ordered his name stricken from the recommended list for his denunciatory language toward the Government. The rebuke was administered in the presence of every Division General in the army, and was severely felt. A few days ago a Brigadier General, while with several other officers in Gen. Burnside's presence, used disrespectful language concerning the Government. Gen. Burnside instantly placed him under arrest. After a retraction and reprimand, he was set at liberty, in consideration of his general good conduct and the heat of discussion in which he had spoken.

THE RETREAT TO TULLAHOMA—DISPATCH FROM GEN. BRAGG.

TULLAHOMA, January 5.—Unable to dislodge the enemy from his entrenchments and hearing of reinforcements to him, I withdrew from his front night before last. He has not followed. My cavalry are close on his front.

[Signed] BRAXTON BRAGG.

The Richmond Dispatch characterises the Murfreesboro' fight as a mysterious affair, and says it cannot reconcile Bragg's first with his last dispatch.

The Examiner says it was a disappointment but not a disaster, in the fact that the Union army was terribly crippled.

Dr. McPheeters, of one of the Presbyterian churches in St. Louis, was recently banished from the State on the ground of disloyalty.—His representations, or those of his friends, were sufficient to induce the President to suspend the execution of the order until such time as he may determine otherwise. Per contra, the opposition has gone to Washington to request the President to change his mind.