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LATEST SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Dispatch of October 21, contains the following dispatches:

CHARLESTON, October 20.—Our batteries have kept up a brisk fire upon the Yankees, who appear in much larger force than usual at Gregg and Wagner. Another monitor from the North has joined the fleet, making five in all. The Ironsides, for the first time since the attack upon her, steamed around Cumming's Point this afternoon, evidently making a trial trip of her machinery.

GORDONSVILLE, October 20.—One thousand Yankee prisoners, captured last week, are expected here to-night. The Kapidan bridge will be repaired to-morrow morning.

The following dispatch from Gen. R. E. Lee to Gen. Cooper, dated October 20th, is published.

"Gen. Stuart yesterday opposed, at Buckland, the advance of Gen. Kilpatrick's division of cavalry, while Fitz Lee attacked his flank and rear. The enemy was pursued until he reached his infantry support at Haymarket and Gainesville. Two hundred prisoners were captured, with their horses and equipments."

The Dispatch also says:
Dr. W. P. Rucker made his escape from Pittsylvania jail, last Sunday night, and is now at large. Had justice been dealt out to him at a proper time, this loss would not have been sustained.

FROM THE TRANS MISSISSIPPI.—Gen. Price, twenty thousand strong, is marching on Little Rock, with only about six thousand Federals in his front. Gen. E. Kirby Smith says Price is on his way to Missouri.

CHARLESTON, October 17.—A boat, from the French corvette Si-ePHONE, Captain Mari-vaux, off the bar, came up to-day to communicate with the French consul.

MERIDIAN, Miss., October 17.—A column of cavalry and infantry 8,000 strong, which crossed the Big Black a few days since at Bridgeport, moving out towards Canton, was met yesterday by our forces near Brownsville, where a light artillery fight occurred. Our forces have fallen back a few miles. A general engagement is looked for.

MISSIONARY RIDGE, October 17.—For the first time for four days we are blessed with sunshine. The flooded creeks are receding, and the bridges are rapidly being repaired.—The enemy's pontoons were swept away again, and the trestle bridge above the town submerged. Gen. Adams was brought in under flag-of-truce to-day.

Siegel's corps are reported at Stevenson on the 14th instant.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 20th claims that Stuart's cavalry chased the Federals across Bull Run on the previous Friday, and states that the Confederate Brig. Gen. Kirkland was among their wounded in the engagement at Bristow on Wednesday of last week.

Commissioner Ould publishes a notice in the Dispatch of the 20th, declaring all the Confederate officers and privates captured previous to September 1st, (except those captured at Vicksburg, July 4th,) to be exchanged.—This, that paper states, includes the staffs of Generals Pemberton, Stevenson, Bowen, Moore, Barton, S. D. Lee, Cummings, Harris, and Baldwin, and of Cols. Reynolds, Cockrell, and Dockery, and the officers and men of their

Engineer Corps and the 4th and 46th Mississippi regiments.

The Virginia Confederate House of Delegates has passed a bill to "suppress exchange in gold and bank notes." A bill to conscript all the free negroes of the State (Virginia) between 18 and 50 years, to work in the mines and manufactories, was before the same body.

A poll was opened in Richmond on Thursday last to determine whether the Legislature shall pass a bill regulating the prices of articles of prime necessity.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

A special to the N. Y. Times, dated Chattanooga, October 21, via Nashville, on the 22d, is as follows: Rosecrans received the order relieving him from command on Monday evening, and yesterday left for Cincinnati, where he was ordered to report. A late report of the Chattanooga Rebel says Bragg will be relieved for his failure in the defeat of Rosecrans in the late battle, and it is yet undecided whether Johnston, Longstreet, or Lee, will be his successor. The late rains have swollen the Tennessee river very much, and steamers could very easily reach Chattanooga, did the Confederates permit.

STEVENSON, October 21.—Generals Grant and Rosecrans both arrived here last night, the one from Nashville, the other from Chattanooga, and were the guests of Gen. Hooker.

Mrs. Wm. Johnson was arrested several days since at Point of Rocks, and brought to Baltimore, charged with violating a custom-house permit, by having more goods in her possession than the permit allowed. She resided in Loudoun county, near Leesburg, within the Federal lines, and had come to Baltimore, obtained a permit, and was on her return home when she was arrested. Yesterday morning she was ordered across the lines, not to return until the war was over.

The report of the capture of the Seventh Maryland Regiment, at Thoroughfare Gap, is incorrect. It appears that the regiment was surprised by a force of Confederates late in the afternoon of Monday last, but that the troops succeeded in sustaining themselves until reinforcements arrived, when they cut their way out, losing two killed, five wounded and a small number missing.

The U. S. War Department issued an order to-day, directing all officers now in Washington, except those permanently assigned to staff duty there, to rejoin their command. Several hundred gentlemen of leisure will thus be forced to "forward march." The duties of those few who have any to perform will be discharged by the officers of the Invalid Corps.

In a recent march from Knoxville to Cumberland Gap the brigade of infantry under Col. Fitzroy de Courcy made sixty miles in fifty-two hours. This is the best exhibition of military pedestrianism that has been chronicled during the war, and President Lincoln has directed the Secretary of War to present his compliments to those engaged in this expeditious feat.

Admiral Dahlgren has addressed a communication to the Navy Department, covering a correspondence between General Gilmore and himself, which goes to show that the most amicable relations exist between the commanders of the land and naval forces now operating against Charleston.

The Russian fleet, now at New York, is expected in Washington, on Tuesday next, by invitation of the Secretary of the Navy. Extensive preparations are making at the Washington Navy Yard for the reception. The sight of a Russian fleet coming up the Potomac, will be one which will attract much attention.

A writer in the Washington Chronicle complains that the guard at the steamboat landing in Washington, "are not strict enough" in their search of the baggage of travellers down the Potomac," and says that trunks, &c., should be more thoroughly examined than they are now.

The condition of the residents of Fauquier and Prince William counties is represented as painful, there being very scant supplies of the necessaries of life. They are bordering on starvation.

A whole family, father, mother, three sons and two daughters were recently murdered in their own house, near the town of Paoli, in Indiana. The house was also robbed.

The negro boy, in Washington, who recently killed young Samuel Howard Kinsey, has been found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to two years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Lieut. Glassel, who had charge of the expedition which left Charleston to blow up the U. S. steamer Ironsides, has been brought to New York, and committed to jail there.

A soaking rain has followed the late delightful weather. It rained all last night. We may now reasonably look for winter weather.

The Ladies' Festival for the benefit of the Methodist Protestant Church will close to-night. It has been well attended, and successful.

It is said that the fire plugs in town, are, generally, out of order, and should be attended to immediately.

General Forey, before his departure from the city of Mexico, issued some stringent orders against the unknown assassins of a French zouave, threatening to burn the town of Tlaxpan, where the man was murdered, if the act was not otherwise expiated. The new campaign against Juarez was about to begin, with limited chances of success on the part of the French.

An arrival at San Francisco brings dates from Japan to the 27th August. It is reported that the British fleet had severely repulsed one of the Japanese Daimias, but no particulars are given.

The funeral of General William H. Lytle, killed at Chickamauga, took place at Cincinnati on Thursday afternoon.

The draft in New Jersey, has been suspended, the Governor of that State pledging that the quota shall be filled with volunteers.

The U. S. War Department has decided that drafted "Shakers" must toe the mark.