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A telegraphic dispatch from Major General Butler at Fortress Monroe to the Agent of the Associated Press at Baltimore, requests him to give notice that the Confederate authorities decline receiving any more packages or provisions for the Federal prisoners, so that parties interested may refrain from forwarding any more goods to Fortress Monroe. A dispatch from Fortress Monroe says:—"Rev. Mr. Florence, who went to City Point, returned this morning. He had an interview with Captain Hatch, who was sent from Richmond to meet him.—He informed him of the above decision of the Confederate Government, and gave, as a reason therefor, what they alleged to be an imputation of their honor by the press and the Government authorities, that they were not delivering goods forwarded in good faith to the prisoners, and he asserted, of his own knowledge, that the officers in Libby prison, from the immense supplies which they had received, could set a table from their stores on hand equal to any hotel in the United States. He admitted that there had been some irregularities in supplies at one time, but the officers who had been guilty of neglecting the prisoners had been promptly removed and punished. As to the bad condition of the prisoners returned to Annapolis, he said that they were extreme cases of consumption, and that it was a grave error on the part of the authorities to have relieved such persons to return. For the present nothing would be received but letters and enclosures of money, and that Southern money had better be sent."

The Washington Chronicle of Sunday morning has a very doubtful rumor to the effect that Vice President Stephens, of the Southern Confederacy, and five other gentlemen have come down to Fortress Monroe under a flag of truce, with proposals of peace. The Chronicle states that these gentlemen have asked to be received in their official capacity as Commissioners from the Southern Confederacy, but that their request had been refused; they were, however, informed that they would be listened to as private citizens from Southern States. It is not stated whether they have consented to be thus received. A dispatch from Washington last night says:—"If any commissioners or persons acting by authority of the Confederate government made a visit to Fortress Monroe, it was upon another subject, namely: the exchange of prisoners, which, for certain reasons, is more probable than the rumor to which reference is made."

Provost General Hayes, of New York, has put a check upon substitute brokers in that city, in an order which says that all recruiting officers are ordered not to swear in any recruit or veteran unless said recruit or veteran receives the money himself.

It is rumored at the Brooklyn Navy yard that instructions have been received from the U. S. Secretary of the Navy, at the naval stations, to dispatch a large force of naval vessels to strengthen the blockade off the port of Wilmington. Seventeen or eighteen vessels are now in various stages of preparation for sea at the navy-yards of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia; and rumor says that ten or twelve of these have been ordered to the destination named. Some of the fastest vessels in the navy are now off Wilmington, but the numerous inlets of that harbor render it almost impossible to maintain an inviolable blockade.

A youth named William Ogden, residing in Surratt's District, in Prince George's county, Md., came to his death on Saturday last, in the following manner: He was out hunting, and in passing a persimmon tree, attempted to knock down some of the fruit with the breech of his gun, when the piece discharged, lodging the entire load in his side. He died almost immediately—or at least before assistance could reach him.

On Friday last Charles H. Brooks, convicted of the murder of his father, near Vincentown, N. J., on the 12th March, 1863, paid the penalty of his crime with his life. He was publicly hanged in the yard of the Mount Holly jail in the presence of about five hundred persons.

Advices from Nassau to the 2d instant have been received at New York. The steamers Lucy and Beauregard had arrived from Wilmington. The Nassau Herald states that advices from Richmond are to the effect that "the month of December is regarded as the most trying one of the whole war, its entire future and essential final result depending in a very great measure upon the issue."

The steamer Circassian has arrived in Hampton Roads from the Rio Grande. On Wednesday last she captured the steamer Minna, a blockade runner with a valuable cargo on board, and brought her into Hampton Roads. The Minna is reported to be a large and valuable steamer.

Further details of General Banks' operations in Texas are given. On the 30th ultimo the Confederates blew up the magazines of Fort Esperanza, having evacuated it two hours before. It had a garrison of one thousand men, all but six of whom escaped. General Banks reports that in consequence of a gale the gunboats could not furnish him with men to enable him to cut the garrison off. The same cause prevented the gunboats from taking part in the attack.

By the arrival at New York of the steamer Fulton from Port Royal intelligence is brought of the loss of the monitor iron-clad Weehawken, which sunk at her anchor inside of Charleston bar on the afternoon of Sunday, the 6th instant. Four of her engineers and twenty-six of her crew were drowned. A furious gale prevailed at the time, but no damage was sustained by the remainder of the fleet.

**PLUNDERERS.**—The following is the report of a case tried before the Provost Court, in New Orleans, some days since:

"Lieutenant John Bauer, of company F, 2d Rhode Island cavalry, and Sergeant Karl Fischer, of the same regiment, were tried for levying black mail on a planter named Joseph Alex. Frere, who resides near Franklin, in the parish of St. Mary. The accused were attached to the army under Gen. Banks, which, in May last, reduced the Attakapas country to subjection. Bauer had command of a scouting party, consisting of from a dozen to twenty men, which wandered around as independent rangers. In disposing of the case, the Judge said that the regiment to which the accused belonged was a disgrace to the army while in the Teche country, a terror to the entire region.—So low did it descend in its plundering as to rob women of their cloths, and its conduct brought a blush of shame to the cheek of every officer of repute in the entire army. He concluded by sentencing Bauer to hard labor on Ship Island, with ball and chain, for one year, and Fischer for six months, with dismissal from service.

In detective Franklin's office (at Philadelphia) is a lottery wheel, seized a day or two ago at an office in Harmony court, near Fourth street. The wheel is made of tin, lined inside with cotton flannel. The operators of the lottery were George Ochslager, Ezra W. Merriek, and Casper Whitman. The apartments occupied for the sale of the tickets were the front room of the premises above indicated. The printing was done in the room in the rear. The lottery purported to be that of Sussex, Delaware. It had not even the merit of genuineness. The parties printed their own tickets, drew their own prizes, and did up every thing on their own account. They have been taking in from three to four hundred dollars a day.

On her trip from Port Royal to New York, the steamship Fulton fell in with and captured the schooner G. O. Bigelow, of Bermuda with a cargo of salt, evidently intending to run the blockade of the North Carolina coast. An effort was made to tow her to New York, but she was too old to bear the strain of a quick passage through the water. The master and crew of the schooner, however, were willing to try to get their craft into port, and the Captain of the Fulton not thinking the prize of much value let them again take possession, and away they went rejoicing.

The Houlton (Me.) Times says good beef sold in Fredericton last week for two cents per pound. Good young beef—the Whig says—can be had in Bangor by the quarter, for five and one half to six cents, which is not a very great rise over former prices.

The Washington Chronicle states that from information received, there is no doubt that General Meade will be retained in the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac.

On Tuesday night a party of Confederates made a raid near Lewinsville, Va., capturing a lieutenant, several men and a number of horses.