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## SOUTHERN NEWS.

### FROM CHARLESTON.

Richmond papers of yesterday have been received at Fortress Monroe, by the flag of truce boat from City Point. They contain telegrams from Charleston, dated on the 11th, which state that twelve shots were thrown into the city on the previous night, at intervals of three hours, but that the damage was trifling. A second dispatch states that the city had been shelled at intervals during the day. About 9 o'clock on the morning of the 11th Sumter took fire from some cause unknown. The fire destroyed the outer timber work of the Southwest angle; some ammunition was also destroyed. There were ten killed and thirty wounded in the fort. The Federal land batteries opened heavily on the fort during the fire, and were replied to from Moultrie and the land batteries. A dispatch of the 12th states that eleven shells were thrown into the city that day, several of which contained Greek fire, which burned for fifteen minutes after the explosion. A dispatch of the 14th says that the fire at Sumter was purely accidental. It had been extinguished and the fort was as strong as before it occurred. On the 15th matters remained pretty much the same—firing was still kept up on the city, and although several houses had been struck no one was injured.

Thirteen Federal prisoners, including the commissioned officers of the United States brig Perry, captured at Murrell Inlet, have arrived at Charleston.

### FROM TENNESSEE.

BRISTOL, Dec. 12.—The news from the front is decidedly encouraging. Our cavalry are at Morristown and the enemy is retiring since Longstreet placed Cumberland Gap in his front instead of his rear. Longstreet's, Ransom's, and Vances' commands have consolidated, and perfect confidence is felt that he will hold the country. Vaughn's command had also succeeded in joining the main body.

BRISTOL, Dec. 14.—The main body of our army remains at Rodgerville, and Gen. Longstreet's headquarters are there.

BRISTOL, Dec. 15.—The situation at the front remains unchanged. Some 200 of those wounded at Knoxville have arrived here.

Lieut. Col. Magee of General Morgan's staff, who escaped with him, has arrived in Russell county en route to Richmond. He left Morgan at Cincinnati, and is satisfied that he is now in our lines.

The Richmond Whig of the 16th, in an editorial says:

"The Atlanta Confederacy asserts that our cavalry advanced on the 10th above Ringgold, and finding the country clear of the enemy, they proceeded thence to Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Here they found nothing but the debris of the enemy's camps. The position seemed to have been deserted on Saturday last. In the town of Chattanooga below, the enemy had visibly decreased his force, and the presumption is that a heavy column of the Longstreet expedition has been started into West Tennessee, to look after Forrest, who has taken advantage of the absence of Sherman's corps.

The same paper also says that, although there appears to be no doubt of the movements of Averill from the Kanawha, in the direction of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, the War Department has received no additional information from that quarter. The enemy, so far as known, seem to indicate a raid on the railroad, or probably upon the counties of Botetourt, Rockbridge or Augusta.

### FROM GEORGIA.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Dec. 15.—The Legislature of Georgia adjourned sine die last night. The appropriations amount to over \$14,000,000: For soldiers' families, \$2,000,000; for clothing the Georgia troops, \$2,000,000; for the military fund, \$1,000,000; for the public deficit, \$500,000; for the Georgia Relief Association, \$1,000,000; and about \$1,000,000 for general State expenses.

### FROM NORTH VIRGINIA.

GORDONSVILLE, Dec. 15.—There is nothing transpiring on the Rapidan.

The speech of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, in the U. S. Senate, on Tuesday, in the debate on Mr. Garrett Davis' resolution attracts considerable attention; and it is said, disappoints those who regarded him as likely to be a "Conservative" leader in the Senate, while it is much applauded by the friends of the Administration. Both in regard to the exchange of negro prisoners in the South, and the enlistment of negro troops, and the employment of slaves he supported the views and policy of the Administration. The Washington Chronicle in an abstract of Mr. Johnson's speech, says:—

"As to compensation for slaves, some complaints had been made, and justly, perhaps, as the Senator thought, as to the manner in which the law had been executed by some agents. This, however, should not induce him to lift his voice in the Senate, or his arm out of it, to weaken or embarrass the Government in its efforts to suppress rebellion.—When the authority of the Government was restored to its full extent, then inquiry might, and would, be made into all such matters.—As to the slave himself, compensation divested the owner of all his rights and conveyed them to the public; and he had never doubted that the employment of the slaves in the military service of the country ipso facto emancipated him. It would be disgraceful if, after the employment of colored men to defend its existence, this Government should permit them to return to slavery. He thanked God they never could be re-enslaved. It gave him pleasure to remember that when he formerly had the honor of occupying a seat on this floor, in 1847, he declared, in a debate upon the subject of slavery, that it was wrong. As a system, morally, politically, and especially economically, slavery was indefensible. The people of this country were rapidly becoming wiser on this subject."

"Wooden weddings" are getting to be the order of the day. The Quincy (Ill.) Whig notices one which took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Nichols, in that city, a few days ago. The gifts were water pails and cradles, clothes pins and boot jacks, washtubs and rolling-pins, potato mashers and rat traps, beefsteak maulers and matches, sugar-boxes and washboards, wooden trumpets and jumping jacks, wooden shoes and glove stretchers, cord wood, &c.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, a petition was presented from the inspectors of customs at the Baltimore Custom House, praying an increase of compensation. The resolution voting the thanks of Congress and a medal to Gen. Grant was adopted. The bill to increase the bounty and pay of volunteers was reported back with amendments. A bill to amend the enrollment act was reported. This bill allows the furnishing of substitutes, and exempts the only son liable to military duty of a widow, wholly dependent upon his labor for support: the only son of aged or infirm parent or parents; where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents, all of whom shall have been drafted, the father, or if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt; the only brother of children not twelve years old, having neither father nor mother; the father of motherless children under twelve years of age; where there are a father or sons in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States, or have deceased, or become permanently disabled in said service as non-commissioned officers, musicians or privates, the residue of such family and household, not exceeding two shall be exempt. A bill to satisfy the claims of American citizens by French spoliations was introduced. A joint resolution from the House to adjourn over the holidays to the 6th of January was rejected. A resolution offered by Mr. Lane, of Kansas, in reference to the prisoners from his State in Richmond, was adopted when the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the Speaker announced the select committee on the Pacific Railroad, on Emigration, on Emancipation, and on the Rebellious States, Mr. Davis, of Maryland, being Chairman of the latter. The States were then called for resolutions, and several were offered and referred, including one calling for all documents from the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of armoured vessels. Mr. Rollins, of Missouri, offered a resolution in substance the Crittenden resolution—that the war was brought on by disunionists, but should not be prosecuted for conquest or subjugation; and when obedience to the Constitution and the laws is secured it ought to stop. The House refused to demand the previous question, and the resolution was laid over. A resolution was adopted, instructing inquiry into the alleged cruel treatment of the Federal wounded soldiers in the field; and also a resolution declaring that the wanton act of the Confederates, as declared by Mr. Foot, of starving Federal prisoners, deserves the execration of the House and the condemnation of the Almighty. Various bills and resolutions were introduced and referred. Mr. Kassan offered a resolution for the establishment of a Committee on National and Internal Coinage. The House, after some important business, adjourned.

Franklin Hussey, of this place, is at present a prisoner in the Old Capitol, at Washington.