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## Accident on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

A dispatch to the Washington Chronicle from Manassas Junction gives the particulars of an accident which occurred on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, on Saturday night, reports of which were current in this place yesterday. The correspondent of the Chronicle states that at about 6 o'clock, the second P. M. train from Brandy Station ran off the embankment at Bristoe Station, destroying several yards of the track, the locomotive, and four cars, besides killing four men, and wounding fifteen. At the time of the accident, the train was moving at the rate of at least 20 miles an hour.

At Bristoe Station, where there is a switch, the track is in bad condition. Within eighty yards of the scene of the accident is a bridge of considerable size, which must have given way had the train proceeded farther, thus rendering certain the loss of at least one hundred lives.

It is stated as the cause of the catastrophe, & at the switch having become immovable farther than to a certain point, the person whose duty it was to change it ran up the track towards the coming train and attempted to stop it; but being unprovided with either lantern or torch, his efforts were fruitless.

The frequent occurrence of accidents on this military railroad is beginning to attract the notice of the authorities. The trains are carried at too great a speed over the road, which is in poor condition, and, seemingly, not often inspected. On starting from Rappahannock Station, a car in the same train was thrown from the track, and demolished,—the passengers merely escaping death from the fact that there were people on the side-roads to signal the engineer. In this case, as in the more fatal one which succeeded, there was a bridge within a few yards of the place where the accident occurred.

The wounded men were at once removed to the hospital of the 8d Division, 5th Corps.

The track was repaired during the night, and trains are now running as usual.

Had this accident occurred two hours before, the loss of life would have been fearful."

In accordance with instruction received from the Emperor of Russia, the Russian Minister at Washington, Mr. Edward de Stoeckl, had an audience of President Lincoln on Saturday morning for the purpose of expressing the thanks of the Imperial Government, for the kind reception of the vessels of the Russian navy and their officers and crews in the United States, and also for the assistance extended at San Francisco to a Russian corvette, (the *Norwick*.) The communication was acknowledged by President Lincoln.

Some negroes got into a quarrel on the wharf, on Christmas day, and during the disturbance pistols were used, and one of the negroes shot dead on the spot. The same day, at the upper end of King street, there was a "row" among some contrabands" in which one of them was shot in the face and seriously injured.

## REPORTS FROM CHARLESTON.

BOSTON, December 27.—The Traveller has a letter from Beaufort, S. C., dated 22d inst., which says an expedition is about starting, all in a hurry. No one knows its destination, but the fact that it is to be commanded by Gen. Seymour indicates its importance, for he is a fighting man. The order to strike tents was given at 6 o'clock, and ten o'clock the troops were on the march.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 27.—The United States steamship Massachusetts arrived this morning in fifty-four hours from Charleston bar.

She brings two hundred and forty discharged men, forty-four sick, and sixteen Confederate prisoners, captured on board the steamer Cheatham.

The Massachusetts has on board a portion of the Confederate obstructions from Charleston harbor, to be forwarded to Washington by Admiral Dahlgren.

CHARLESTON HARBOR, Dec. 24.—No event of importance has occurred since the sailing of the last steamer. There has been but little firing between the land batteries for the last few days. The Ironsides and the monitors are all lying safe at anchorage. No prospect of active operations.

## FROM PANAMA.

A letter from Panama to the New York Times states that the town of Tumaco, in Cauca, has been captured by Ecuadorians, who are invading Colombia under Flores. The Colombians, under Mosquera, are concentrating to resist Flores.

Considerable ill-feeling has been exhibited towards U. S. Minister Partridge and Consul Livingston for aiding Gen. Barrios' escape, but the presence of the gunboat *Saginaw* prevented any demonstrations.

Carrera, with his army, has left Salvador to invade Guatemala.

Cotton was being considerably cultivated in Nicaragua.

A road from San Jose to the Atlantic ocean has been authorized by the Costa Rican Congress, which also voted ten thousand dollars to their Minister at Washington. The coffee crop in Costa Rica will be heavy this year.

On Saturday two car loads of contrabands, numbering about 150, about one half of whom are men, arrived in Washington from Baltimore. "They were sent from Benedict, Prince George's county, by Gen. Birney, to Baltimore but the men not being fit for service in the field, they were sent on, and have been forwarded to Giesboro Point, where they will be employed as laborers. The women will be sent to Freedman's Village."

Capt. Irving of the 5th Maryland regiment, from Libby Prison on Tuesday, says there is no truth in the report of Gen. Ullman being in Richmond.

The Decatur was successfully launched at the New York Navy Yard, Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

FIRES.—On Christmas afternoon, about 3 o'clock, a large frame store house and four small tenements, in South Royal street, near the corner of Wilkes, were consumed by fire. The storehouse belonged to Mr. C. C. Smoot, and had in it about 2,700 bales of hay, belonging to the U. S. Government, all of which was destroyed, the loss being estimated at \$15,000. Three of the frame tenements consumed belonged to Mr. Wm. N. Brown and one to Mr. Jas. Welch. These houses were all occupied, but the furniture &c. was saved. The loss on these is about \$1,500, on which we hear there was no insurance. The steam fire engines and the city fire apparatus were on the spot quickly, and by the exertions of the firemen a further destruction of property was prevented. The origin of the fire is not known, though it is supposed by some that it was caused by the discharge of fire crackers, a spark from which ignited the hay in the storehouse, where the flames were first discovered.

On Christmas night, the Hospital at the Convalescent Camp, near the Old Cotton Factory, in this county, accidentally took fire, and was burned to the ground.

On Saturday afternoon, about half-past one o'clock, a fire broke out in the bakehouse, attached to the store and dwelling of Mr. John Vincent, on King street, near the corner of Alfred, and next door to the Cabinet establishment of Mr. Bradley. Fortunately the flames were extinguished in a short time, but not until the roof of the bakehouse, and some of the inside frame work was destroyed.

THE CASE OF GENERAL LOVELL.—The Court of Inquiry called in Richmond to investigate the circumstances attending the capture of the City of New Orleans, and the defence of that city by the Confederate troops under the command of Major General Mansfield Lovell, has made a report in which that General is not only exonerated from blame, but commended for great energy and extraordinary capacity in his position.

Gen. Butler has returned from Point Lookout, where he has made a thorough inspection of the prisons and hospitals. He also examined into the probability of a revolt among the Confederate prisoners, and took testimony in regard to the rations, &c.

The English bark *Circassian* at Philadelphia has been seized under suspicious circumstances by the United States authorities. Contraband of war was found on board. A letter reports the capture in Doberi Sound of the Confederate steamer *Cheatem*, laden with cotton, tobacco, rosin, etc., by the gunboat *Huron*.

The west end of Gray's Ferry bridge near Philadelphia was entirely consumed by fire on the 22d, including the draw, which has fallen into the river. This disaster will not interrupt travel between Philadelphia and Baltimore.