

# THE ROLLA EXPRESS.

VOL. II.

ROLLA, PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI, JAN. 6, 1862.

NO. 16.

## INTERESTING FROM SECESSIA.

Mr. Nelson R. A. Biddell, a highly intelligent merchant of Philadelphia, who married his wife in Savannah, Ga. and who left there on the 2d inst., has just arrived here by way of Nashville, Bowling Green and Louisville. I have had a long conversation with him, and as he accurately observed the places through which he passed, his information is of a decidedly interesting character.

Mr. Biddell describes the alarm and panic at Savannah, after the Federal attack on Port Royal, as most extraordinary. Fear seized every one, and all the citizens fled from the place. The city has no defenses or protection whatever, all the guns and ammunition and cannon having been sent to Virginia. There were no soldiers there but one regiment, which was encamped near the town temporarily on its way to Virginia.

The South, he believes, has all the force in the field that it can possibly raise, having made the most persistent and determined efforts to furnish men money for the cause. The people have been most severely taxed, and those at all suspected of Union sentiments or proclivities have been forced to contribute enormous sums. Many of the merchants and professional men have been absolutely impoverished by the exactions of the "Confederacy."

The strongest and boldest Union man is Hon. John E. Ward, formerly our minister to China, and he is dreadfully persecuted by the rebels, who have arrested him about twenty times while attempting to escape, robbed him of his entire property, and some \$400,000 and threatened several times to hang him.

According to the general army order just issued, the Subsistence Department will purchase at cost prices all sorts of articles of subsistence saved by the troops or employed by an economical or management of the rations. All other sales of provisions issued by the Government to any persons whatsoever are strictly forbidden. This regulation is intended to embrace savings from bakeries and in hospitals, as well as all other savings from the army ration.

**THE SUTLERS.**—The sutlers have lost their lien upon soldiers' pay, as the Paymaster General will soon inform them in a General Order, founded upon the act recently passed by both houses. But they are straining every nerve to defeat the other measures for the curtailment of their oppressive privileges, which are in contemplation. Numerous letters from soldiers and soldiers' friends, praying for relief, are still coming to Senator Wilson, who has received but one in favor of the sutlers save those from themselves.

The bill which he will introduce at an early day will provide for the election of regimental sutlers by all the commissioned officers, and for the preparation of a schedule of articles to be sold and of prices to be paid. A sutler who violates these regulations forfeits his situation and all his property to the camp, one half of which is to go to the informer.

Commodore Porter's mortar fleet will be ready to sail the latter part of this month. The schooners and brigs, 20 in number, are now receiving extra timbers at New York ship yards. The mortar bed plates, upon which the ponderous ordinance will rest, are now in process of manufacture at New York iron works. Each vessel will carry one mortar of the largest dimensions, supplied by the Government. The draught of the vessels, equipped, will range from nine to twelve feet, especially adapting them for service in shallow waters. The destination is known only to the Government.

Capt. Si Gordon, to the great joy of the people of Platte county, has taken leave and gone to join Price, into whose army he has probably been sworn by this time. This will prevent the dire calamities with which our neighbors were threatened by Gen. Hunter.

**Horse Shoeing in Winter.**—Some blacksmiths seem to forget that horses shod in the winter should have the inner side of the shoe of such configuration as to let go easily of snow balls formed within the hoof. It only requires a gradual increase in size outward, with no dovetailing in figure, and each ball, almost as fast as formed, will readily be parted with. Why could not the horseshoe, for city use, have a slight coating of gutta percha on its upper side, so as to break the momentum of blows on the paving stones? This would materially ameliorate the difficulty so frequent in cities, where one fifth of the horses have their feet ruined in a few years by continually treading on too solid pavement.—*Scientific American.*

A story is told that a volunteer Brigadier, who has publicly announced that not only his sword, but his brains have been placed at the disposal of the Government, in an interview with General Buell, asked:

"Well, sir, now what are the plans of the campaign?"

The Commander of the Department of the Ohio quietly answered:

"You will find business enough, General, to look after the interests of your division."

The General who had volunteered his brains, left headquarters in a high state of indignation.

A correspondent of a New York paper thus shows the effect of Gen. Phelps' (Ship Island) proclamation:

It was read to us and caused very great dissatisfaction and indignation, nothing but a sense of duty and a regard for discipline preventing the strongest expressions of disgust.

Kentuckians have registered their oaths in heaven, that no rebel, or rebel sympathizer, shall ever again hold place or power in that Commonwealth; that no man who has not been firm and unwavering in his devotion to the Federal Constitution and the Union as our fathers made them, shall ever again enjoy the confidence of the free, brave, enlightened and loyal people of that State.

There is a report in circulation that when Gen. Lane went to Washington, he took with him a recommendation from Major General Hunter, urging the War Department to appoint him a Major General and assign him to the command of that Department.

Dispatches were received by General Halleck yesterday from Sturgeon, by way of Hudson to the effect that on Saturday morning Gen. Prentiss with two hundred and forty of Col. Glover's cavalry, and two hundred of Col. Birge's sharpshooters, encountered the rebels, nine hundred strong, under Col. Dorsey, at Mount Zion, Boone county. The rebels were routed and dispersed. Rebel loss in killed and wounded, one hundred and fifty, our loss three killed and seven wounded. Ninety five horses, one hundred and five guns, and thirty five prisoners were taken.

The Philadelphia Inquirer urges that the Government avail itself of its present facilities on the Southern coast, and set the contrabands at work in the live oak plantations getting out ship timber. Live oak is now, and has been scarce for months past, not only at private ship yards, but also at our navy yards.

Gov. Letcher, in a recent message, thus speaks of our soldiers: "A hired soldiery, composed of the reckless and abandoned, the dissolute and the depraved, gathered from the parlious of the cities and villages of the North, and the floating scum of the Western population. The personnel of their army is a living libel on mankind."

Gen. McClellan wants more light artillery of bronze, iron pieces being too heavy for field use. Orders will be issued for their construction immediately.

Prince Albert died a short time back

## SURRENDER OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

The report that Mason and Slidell were to be placed in the hands of Lord Lyon for rendition to the British Government, will probably strike all who have the honor of the country at heart, with a feeling of surprise, if not indignation. Our opinion has been that the demand of Great Britain for their surrender ought to have been met by a call of 500,000 additional men into the field. But policy, no doubt, dictates that the surrender of these comparatively unimportant individuals, at the present time, is a wise act. It will not only avert a foreign war, but take the wind out of the rebel sails better than any thing that has been done for a long time. Although we preferred to have seen the "wind taken out" of the rebel individuals above named, yet it is far better in the long run to give them up. We will gain a point in international law that will work for us rather than in favor of Great Britain.

We regret to learn that Mr. A. Smith-peters, one of the strongest Union men in the country, was killed at his residence near Bear Creek, Laclede county, beyond the Gasconade, last week. The rebels shot sixty balls into his bleeding body. Every "gaping wound" is a mouth crying for vengeance on the perpetrators of this most foul murder. How long must such a state of things last? Here we see an old and valuable citizen murdered in cold blood, almost within range of the siege guns at Fort Rolla. Wood ought to be sent out with orders to kill a rebel for every wound inflicted on poor Smith-peters' body. He should be cashiered if he didn't do it.

"On with the dance,  
Let joy be unconfined."

A *Sociable* will be given tomorrow (New Year's Eve,) at the Tiffany House, under the auspices of the Thirteenth and Thirty-sixth Illinois Regiments. Acting Assistant Adjutant General Williamson will be manager of the occasion. These social gatherings heretofore have been very pleasant affairs, and there is no doubt that blessed by the presence of the fair ladies of these regiments, and the good management of Adj't Williamson, a happy time will be the lot of the favored ones of New Year's Eve.

A horse case was up yesterday, involving important principles (to the horse) in the case. The case was Johnson vs. Clark. The latter was charged with aiding and harboring the rebels; assisting in stealing horses and running them off South for sale. A cloud of witnesses were sworn, and the case seemed to go rather against the prosecutor than the accused. Clark was released and his horses given up.

Four companies of Benton Cadets, under Lieut. Col. Cramer, left here Saturday evening, for Anervrotte, the point where they were mustered into the service.

Maj. Wright's men brought in eight prisoners Sunday evening, from the Gasconade river. We understand the charges against some of them consist in aiding and abetting the enemy. Two were from the rebel army.

The Provost Marshal has commenced a preliminary examination of all the prisoners in Jail. He has some old work on hand before he gets through with the job. He commenced yesterday, disposing of one or two cases, and will take up the others as fast as possible.

The telegraph at Sullivan has dried up for a short time—until a new Operator is sent down.

## DISGRACEFUL.

A disgraceful incident occurred last Monday night in the camp of the Illinois Thirty Sixth Regiment. It appears that Lieut. William Walker, of Co. I, who has for some cause or other been kept from taking his position in the company ever since the formation of the regiment, within a few days has been ordered to report himself for duty. Accordingly he did so, and Monday, his company being on guard, and the captain being under arrest, he was officer of the day. During the night, some of his enemies influenced by a spirit of jealousy, poor whiskey, or something meaner than either, manufactured an effigy of the lieutenant, and hung it upon a tree in a conspicuous part of the parade ground, where it was discovered by the whole regiment next morning. It was a mean revenge, and a dastardly act—unworthy of the lowest scullion in the service, and doubly so of the gallant Thirty-Sixth.

Five companies of the Illinois Thirtieth, stationed at Salem, returned here Saturday evening. They had a fine time about Christmas. A dance came off the same evening of their arrival, another the night after, and the night before they got there. That's what's the matter.

A large force of cavalry under the command of Col. Carr, left this place Sunday morning, on an expedition to some point. Destination not given in the Red Book.

Two companies of the Missouri Reserve went down to Cuba, where they will be stationed for some time.

Major Wilson, the accomplished Pay Master recently here, has gone to Cairo, to pay off.

Eight prisoners captured by Capt. Montgomery, of Major Wright's Battalion, on the Gasconade, were brought in Sunday evening. Provost Marshal Williams gave them a preliminary hearing. Four gave bonds in \$2,000 each, and one of \$1,000, to make their appearance on Thursday next. Two of the prisoners, W. R. Long and John Keany were lodged in jail, having been in the secess army.

The last day of the year has some thing saddening in the thought. We regret the departure of friends, the farewell of loved ones, and the last expiring taper of a departed year, so soon to go out in oblivion. The holidays have thus far been unusually pleasant, and we hope ominous of the advent of a "Happy New Year" to all. To-night is "watch night," and we advise all to stuff their pockets with a supply of raisins, Jackson balls, and lick candy for the watering mouths of the little folks who will be crying round for presents.

To the people of the South West.—As I design starting for the Southwest on Wednesday next, the 1st of January, this is to notify all the citizens of Southwest Missouri who desire to return to their homes, to meet at the Railroad Depot, in Rolla, early on the morning of that day, properly armed and equipped. Capt. J. A. J. LEE.

One thousand two hundred and fifty one people died in London during the first week in November; one thousand two hundred and eighty eight in the second, and one thousand four hundred and thirty four in the third.

An extensive range of hay sheds is being put up, nearly opposite the Railroad depot.

## NO PAY, NO PAPER.

Patrons who subscribe for newspapers and neglect or refuse to pay for them, are worse than no subscribers at all. We have a few names upon our list of persons who have not paid anything, though they have been receiving our Daily all the while. This does not pay us. If the paper is worth having it is worth paying for, so be it understood that after to day, all subscribers who have not paid, will have their names stricken from the list, and no papers will be left by the Carriers for them. Don't be offended, gentlemen, for we shall treat all alike.

DIED.—Dec. 23d, David H. Walton, Co. B., Wood's Battalion Union Rangers.

Dec. 28th, William Jones, Co. B., Wood's Battalion Union Rangers.

Dec. 30th, Serg't James Cox, Co. B., Wood's Battalion Union Rangers.

The test of Ward's steel rifled cannon, at the Washington Arsenal, proved them to be the most accurate shooting guns ever tried there.

Nashville has no defenses, and the people there have, or pretend to have, no fear of any attack from the Federal forces, as they say they can never pass Bowling Green.

The State House at Nashville was protected by six sixty four pounders, but those were to be sent to Bowling Green in a few days.

The chap who dropped his mother to the pavement from a fifth story window in New York, is pronounced "insane" by a coroner's jury.

Lieut. Col. John Gallagan inspecting officer of the 4th Iowa, 36th Illinois, the Phelps Regiment, Twenty Fourth Missouri, and Kansas Rangers, will inspect these forces to day. The 4th Iowa at 8 o'clock, a. m., and the Thirty Sixth at 10 o'clock.

An interesting child, son of D. O. Gorman, came to his death from injuries received a short time since at the railroad time table.

DIED.—December 28th, Samuel Brownell, Company I, 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, of Oswego, Illinois.

At Little Piney, of measles, Dec. 28th, Louisa, wife of Hon. W. C. York, of this county, aged about 35 years.

**COST OF THE ARMY.**—The estimates to be submitted to Congress for the fiscal year, give the military expenses thus:

Cost of army proper,	\$343,600,275
Military Academy,	199,611
Fortifications, ord'nc, &c.,	16,160,100
Army militia,	200,000

\$350,159,986

That is upon the supposition that the army is not to be increased on its present basis.

Ben McCulloch made a speech at Savannah on the evening of the 12th inst., and told the people the South had won all the battles thus far, and would continue to be victorious until their independence was recognized. Some one in the crowd said they (the rebels) must expect some reverses. "No, we need not," said Ben, "G-d d-n them, we can whip them all the time. We are heir natural masters."

The Irishman, when asked by some jokers how they made cannons, naively answered that they "take a long hole and cast some iron around it." Cannons are not cast hollow at all, but one solid piece of metal is cast and afterward bored out.

A man named Carl Horne was last week found guilty of murder in the first degree in the District Court for Leavenworth county, Kansas, and sentenced to be hung on the 24th day of next January.