THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

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NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9.

On our second page will be found sheriff's and auction sales, bank notices and other advertisements.

Auction Sales this Day.

By S. Guimalt, at 11 o'clock, corner of Grand and Bayou Fleche—Furniture.

DIRECTORS OF THE COMMERCIAL EXPRESS.—As election for Directors of this enterprising and popular Express took place yesterday at the Company's office, 120 and 122 Common street, resulting in the choice of the following ticket: Gerard Stith, John S. Gray, Henry Dumolat, John M. Nelson, J. J. McKeever. The Company may be congratulated on having its affairs administered by a direction so well qualified to protect its interests, conciliate patronage and sustain its character. The business talent and experience along with the personal attributes combined in the above list of names are such as at once to inspire confidence and give assurance of efficiency and satisfaction.

J. J. McKeever is President, John S. Gray General Superintendent, and H. Salisbury Secretary of the Company under its new organization.

THE VARIETIES.—*Mrs. Preston's Benefit.*—This evening is set apart for the benefit of Mrs. Isabella Preston, so long familiar to the Varieties boards, and whose face and name are conjunct of historical reminiscence to the habitues of that theatre. Mrs. Preston is nowhere excelled in consolation effect, and in her peculiar range unless surpassed in discriminating and felicitous performance.

Some of her earliest though eccentric old women impress themselves with a classic force and endurance. Her Mrs Willoughby in "the Ticket-of-Leave Man" will not soon be effaced, and her name is embalmed with the Cricket on the Hearth in a personal fragrance of "the Indigo bachelor."

The plays for Mrs Preston's benefit will be Sheridan's brilliant comedy of School for Scandal, and the amusing piece called Sketches in India. The playgoers of the Varieties will of course extend a fitting recognition of her professional services and personal worth.

We return our thanks to Mr. E. L. Shaw, Clerk of the steam packet Joseph Pierce, for a Vicksburg *Herald* of the 6th inst.

Wilkes' *Spirit of the Times*, (N. Y.) has a letter from Jim Mace, the English prize fighter, signifying that the writer expects soon to visit the United States.

From Richmond and other Southern Papers via New York.

The Richmond Press on Gen. Sherman.

Full files of Richmond papers, of November 7th, have been received.

The following is from the *Enquirer* of that date:

The march of Sherman, which looked so threatening in its inception, has not been productive of any result whatever. Macon has not been captured, nor has Augusta been threatened. From Atlanta his march was unopposed. At first all went well with the modern Attila. He has plundered and burned towns, dwellings and farms; violated and ravished women; stolen and driven off cattle, horses and negroes. But for the last week he has not fared half so advantageously. He has been repulsed and driven back, whenever he has attempted to advance with his army, and is now harrassed on his flanks and rear, and manifully resisted in front. The sea is still more than one hundred miles from his army, and every hour consumes the provisions, and concentrates our armies. Until his movements developed his intentions, it was impossible to concentrate our forces without exposing important places, but now that his destination is known, reasons that have held our forces apart, no longer forbid immediate concentration. We expect to hear of important results being accomplished before long, but it is of great importance that the enemy should not know at what point Sherman may have been forced to flank for the coast.

Our readers must await in patience until it will be safe to publish the news. At present we can only say that Sherman has been forced to keep clear of all important towns in Georgia, and that however much damage he may have inflicted upon individuals, he has not in the least injured one member of defense. Sherman may get through to the sea-coast and embark for Grant's army, but so far doing the Confederate cause any serious injury, there is now no danger whatever. Neither Macon, Augusta, West Point, nor Columbus, all of which were as near vital points as any there are in Georgia, have been attacked by Sherman. He is seeking to get out of Georgia, not to capture any more of her cities. Atlanta was quite enough for him. After he had recovered Atlanta he was never able to determine why he wanted it, and finally has been compelled to abandon it; but prudent reasoning may physicate injury from Sherman's successful march to the coast, we cannot escape a moral defeat by a triumphant raid through the heart of the Confederacy. While Hood's army is switched off on a side-track at Tuscumbia, Sherman is reaching like a stream engine along the railroads of Georgia, penetrating the heart of the Confederacy.

It is neither proper nor profitable now to inquire into the wisdom of this side-track strategy, though at a future day it will be well, if for nothing else, at least for curiosity, to find out who it was that so entirely succeeded in rendering absolutely useless the Army of the Tennessee.

The *Enquirer*, of the 29th, in another article on Sherman, says:

Too fast then Sherman has been baffled thus far in his attempt to penetrate Georgia, has been well known to his city for several days, and further comment on that score is unnecessary. He is floundering about between rapidly concentrating masses of State troops and such portions of the regular army as were not other wise advantageously employed.

To fatten into the field a sufficient number of troops to meet the existing emergency, Governor Brown has ordered a levy en masse of all males, fit for duty, between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five.

The *Sentinel*, of the 29th, says: "We again repeat that, as the enemy have no means of communicating with Sherman, it is deemed best, for the public interest, not to publish intelligence of military movements in Georgia. The *Whig*, of yesterday, is correct in its views of the subject, but is mistaken in saying that an item of news, suppressed by the *Whig*, was published in all the other city papers. The intelligence from Georgia which we have been withholding, from prudential considerations, was flashed upon us from the Augusta papers, from them is copied into New York papers, which reached us yesterday. What is the use of reticence? The New York papers have nothing from Sherman, except what they get through Confederate journals."

The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 29th says: "Our Georgia exchanges furnish us with very little intelligence to copy. Governor Brown has issued a proclamation for an en masse of the whole free white male population in the State, between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five years old, for service. All persons refusing to report will be carried immediately to the front. The fright in Milledgeville, when the enemy approached, was very great. Some of the members of the Legislature paid as high as $1,000 to be carried eight miles. A letter was received in Columbus, on Saturday, from Palmetto, a point on the West Point and Lagrange Railroad, stating that Kilpatrick, with 5,000 Yankees, was advancing upon the country on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee, burning and destroying every thing.

The *Dispatch*, in its editorial, says: "Hood has not failed; he has succeeded in placing Sherman in a most embarrassing situation, from which he could only escape by the desperate plunge which he has taken, and the effect of which we shall very shortly witness. We know nothing of contents or designs of the authorities but and not being strongly suspecting that this movement of Hood has the effect that it was designed to have, and that this movement of Sherman is a legitimate consequence.

"We express this belief without knowing whether any patriotism has been made for resisting the advance of the latter, but from the confidence that, if Sherman reaches the ocean, he will leave the whole country behind him, from the ocean to the western boundary of Alabama, clear of an enemy. The entire State of Georgia, and the lower part of the State of Alabama, will, in that event, be without the presence of an enemy. He can not hold the State of Georgia by means of posts, for he has but 50,000 men, and should he destroy all the railroads they will soon be restored. Should he march for Atlanta, and, as we suggested several days ago, call home to join Grant or Sherman, with his army, the whole country from behind his expedition. Let it terminate as it may, he will not have added another, to already overwhelming proofs, that it is impossible for an army to keep down a people scattered over such an immense surface of country."

GEN. BRECKINRIDGE AND BRAGG.

General orders, dated Wilmington, N. C., since that Gen. Bragg has assumed command of the Department of North Carolina.

The *Enquirer*, of the 29th, has the following: Great results are anticipated from the movement of Breckinridge. He is planning a grand campaign to redeem Kentucky.

The *Whig* of the 28th says Gen. Breckinridge arrived at Richmond on the night of the 27th.

(From the Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, Nov. 29.)

We are told that the wife of a prominent general, who is at present in our city, has received a letter from her husband in which it is stated that General Breckinridge and the troops under him would leave Upper East Tennessee on Saturday, November 12th, on their march northward. By this time the command must be well advanced towards the Georgia line, and will undoubtedly soon give a good report of itself.

IN FRONT OF RICHMOND.

Of affairs in front of Richmond, the *Dispatch* of the 30th says:

All was quiet on the north side of the James River on yesterday. There was considerable shelling of Dutch Gap by our batteries, and it was reported that General Pickett, from his line south of battery Harlett, had also opened with his cannon upon the enemy in his front, who are believed to be mostly negroes. It is also said that picket firing has been actively resumed on his part of the line.

It was reported yesterday that General Grant had sent off a considerable body of corps to cooperate with Sherman in Georgia, and it did that General in reaching and establishing his base on the Atlantic coast. We do not vouch for this rumor, but must say there is nothing improbable in it. Still we think it more likely that Grant is mustering his forces for an early demonstration on General Lee, than scattering them to aid Sherman. It is just as possible that Sherman's coming to grief might not be disagreeable to him; that General Grant already acquired so much of glory as to become a dangerous rival for the next Presidency—the reason sufficient to prevent Grant's regretting any ill luck that may befall him; but if Sherman has gained much reputation early by his campaign, so has General Grant gained little of either, and it is highly important to him to do something before the close of the year. He has laid idle before Petersburg one month and two days, and but one month more of the year is left him. He must do something quick, if he is to do it at all. If the weather permits, expect an early demonstration on both our wings. We expect both wings because we have no faith in Yankee statements that Sherman's campaign is nearly completed; and without the aid of this canal, there is not much likelihood that any attempt will be made upon our center. We speak of this prospect most carefully, as we believe our army was never before so well prepared for battle as at Petersburg.

There are movements on our extreme right that give us the expectation that the enemy are about to make an attack on that quarter.

HOW GRANT GETS RICHMOND PAPERS.

The *Enquirer* of the 28th says the whole South is full of Yankee spies. They are known to have regular lines of communication which leave Richmond, and our evening papers reach Grant's headquarters before three o'clock the next morning.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE IN THE RICHMOND CONGRESS.

In the Confederate Congress, on Monday, Foote, of Tennessee, offered a joint resolution that the people and Government of the Confederate States have no deep an interest in the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine as the people and Government of the United States can have, and that their right to assert and maintain it is as unquestionable, but that,

Whereas, in the event of their early recognition by the United States, they would recognize it as their policy to unite with the United States in support of that doctrine, yet, if such recognition should be much longer delayed, considerations of interest might cause them to lay aside these principles in exchange for material advantage to themselves.

Foote spoke an hour on this.

The *Enquirer* says the speeches sounded like singing paeans to a dead horse.

ACCIDENTAL KILLING OF EX CONGRESSMAN W. R. W. COBB.

The *Dispatch* has the following editorial paragraph:

W. R. W. Cobb, of Alabama, recently expelled from the Confederate Congress for disloyalty, was killed a few days since in Northern Alabama by the accidental discharge of one of his own pistols. He has for years past been connecting with the Federals, and when not long since in Nashville, his Federal friends had presented him with a pair of pistols, which he wore upon his person; one of those dropped to the ground and went off, the ball penetrating his bowels and passing out of his back, causing death. Cobb was formerly a member of the United States Congress. Though of moderate abilities, he was a shrewd and adroit politician, succeeded in winning the confidence of his immediate constituents, which nothing could shake, and in his various contests he defeated some of the ablest men Alabama had produced.

CONFLICT ON THE COTTON QUESTION BETWEEN THE TREASURY AGENCY AT MEMPHIS AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

(From the Cairo Democrat Extra.)

Intelligence reached this city Monday of the arrest of some forty or fifty prominent citizens of Memphis at the mouth of White River, by order of Gen. Buford, for attempting to purchase cotton with permits from Mr. Eilery, the United States Cotton Purchasing Agent at that place. Mr. Eilery sent dispatches to an agent, bearing the following letter of instructions, to investigate the case and report to him:

U. S. COTTON AGENCY,
Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 22, 1864.

Instructions to C. A. Foster, Memphis:

Sir—You will at once proceed to the mouth of White River, and examine into the causes of the arrest of parties holding Government permits to bring cotton to this agency. I wish you particularly to find Mr. Nickolls, Mr. Lacy, Mr. Cessna, and to get their version of the affair. In all plain cases take affidavits. In this Mr. Nickolls will aid you.

In no case use improper or offensive language against the gentlemen connected with the army. The supposition is they have acted in conformity with their orders. It is only facts that I want—not opinions. Keep a memorandum of such items as you may think of any value to this agency; such as the quantity of cotton ready for ship-meat; number of boats in the neighborhood, and owners.

Remember and note whatever statements are made to you by the officers in command, army and navy. In all cases exercise the utmost courtesy with these gentlemen.

Respectfully, G. H. ELLERY,
U. S. Purchasing Agent.

The following letter addressed to the officer in command of the mouth of White River was duly delivered by Mr. Foster:

U. S. COTTON AGENCY,
Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 26, 1864.

To Officer Commanding Mouth White River:

Sir—Information has been brought to my office that several persons, having my permits, are under arrest in the mouth of White River. To ascertain the truth of these reports, and to get reliable information, I have taken the liberty of recommending to your kind consideration one of my clerks, Mr. C. A. Foster. Please allow him to communicate as freely as possible with those arrested. I suppose that most of the rumors are exaggerated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. H. ELLERY, U. S. Purchasing Agent.

This morning Mr. Eilery received the following letter from the bearer of the above instructions:

Treasury Department,
Office of the Assistant Special Agent,
Helena, November 30, 1864.

Geo. H. Ellery, Esq., Purchasing Agent, Memphis, Tennessee:

Sir: Under instructions from you, to proceed to mouth of White River, Arkansas, and there make inquiry into the causes of the arrest of several persons who have been put under surveillance for attempting to transport cotton under permits issued from your department.

I left Memphis on the 29th instant, for the place designated in your instructions. Upon my arrival at Helena, Arkansas, under the military orders there existing I was required to report to Brigadier General Buford, commanding at that post. In obedience thereto, I reported to that officer, and delivered to him, for his inspection, the letter given me for the commanding officer at the mouth of White River, Arkansas, which embraced the subject matter of my visit. General Buford peremptorily ordered me to say nothing, and refused to allow any explanation on my part.

He refused to permit any investigation of the causes of arrest of parties at Helena and mouth of White River, there confined, as alleged, for attempting to move cotton under the authority of the United States Purchasing Agent at Memphis, Tennessee, and positively and peremptorily refused to allow me to proceed on my trip to White River, as directed by you, and was ordered by him to return to Memphis by the first boat.

Under cognition of that order I have returned without the accomplishment of the object set forth in your instructions.

I am respectfully your obedient servant,
C. A. FOSTER.

Mr. Eilery has shown us a copy of General Order No. 265, from the War Department, which entirely suspensions in the new cotton regulation system adopted by him.

MILITARY.—The Vicksburg *Herald* announces the departure on the 5th December of Major Gen. Dana and staff on the steamer Mollie Able for Memphis, where he was to make his headquarters, as Commander of the Memphis and Vicksburg districts.

The Legislature.

THURSDAY, December 8, 1864.

The *Senate* was called to order at the usual hour.

The Mobile Bill was taken up and amended and adopted as far as section 25.

When the Senate adjourned.

The *House* was called to order at the usual hour.

The following resolutions were adopted:

A resolution allowing the Police Officer of the House $5 per day.

A resolution allowing the Sergeant at Arms pro tem $10 per day.

A resolution allowing the warrant clerk $12 per day.

A number of bills were read a first time and laid over under the rules.

A message was received announcing that the Governor had signed the act to extend the time of payment of the State taxes for the years 1861, 1862 and 1863.

The House was engaged with the bill to provide for increasing the revenue of the State, and raise the means to pay the interest of the State debt, when a motion was carried to adjourn.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

First District Court.—Judge Houstand.—The case against Julius Behrens, charged with having purchased stolen property to the amount of over $1000 in diamonds and jewelry was tried yesterday. The property in question consisted of a brooch pin with 42 diamonds, a pair of earrings with a diamond each, a gold watch, pencil case, &c. Ch. H. Gravenor is a counsellor mood had confessed to having stolen the property and afterwards pointed out the accused who is a watchmaker and jeweler as the purchaser. The latter admitted having purchased for a fair price some diamonds and jewelry from the acknowledged thief and added that the same Gravenor stole a gold watch from his store during the negotiation. The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Joe Gray was found guilty of having committed an assault and battery on Mrs. Weber, on the corner of Polymnia and St. Charles streets.

Fred. Williams was found guilty of having stolen a silver thimble and some wearing apparel, valued at $45, from Julia Williams.

Fleanor Jackson, a colored boy, and his mother, Emily Jackson, had been in the service of Mrs. Baird, No. 144 Prytania street. They knew the course of the keys, and one morning the boy possessed himself of $193 in gold, $100 in silver and a doll, from the armoir in the house. Part of the money he gave to his mother, then in the employ of Mrs. Thompson, another part he buried under the doorstepe before Mrs. Thompson's house. Some money was also divided between young boys of his acquaintances. The doll was found in the yard of