

pass department, is making a profit out of it; his receipts average \$250 per day or about \$90,000 per annum. This is a direct tax upon the trade and travel of Louisville. The city, in point of commerce, has about gone up and if the war continues, it will be most effectually destroyed. The above we copy from the "Cannibals."

Reporters. We have but little doubt of its truth in every particular. This extreme surveillance, merely to put money in the pockets of a set of sharks, who really have no right to exact such fees, has become a nuisance almost unbearable. As an instance, John B. Gardner, an old resident of Posey county, well known, not only in Vanderburg county, but in Posey, and for three years Treasurer of the latter county, a man whose Union sentiments are undoubted, was debarred from having shipped from Evansville to Mt. Vernon two gallons of Irish whiskey for Christmas purposes, the articles being considered contraband by that pink of perfection, Major Robinson, port surveyor of Evansville.—Things have certainly come to a pretty pass when the loyal citizens of Posey county cannot receive small packages from a neighboring town without the consent of an upstart, who is making, perhaps, from twenty to thirty dollars per day by an assumption of power totally unauthorized and illegal.

THE NATIONALITY OF THE VOLUNTEERS.—The report of the Sanitary Commissioner of the army, which we published yesterday, acquaints us with the important fact that at least two-thirds of the volunteers are Native Americans. This is an official refutation of the allegations of foreign journals, that our army was composed almost entirely of foreigners. It is true that Germans and Irish have enlisted in large numbers; but a country composed to a great extent of men of all nations like this, such was to be expected.—*New York Herald of the 10th.*

So much the more shame. We had hoped for the credit of the country which once claimed our affection, that the state, at that heroic army were composed of foreigners, was a correct one. The above, however, conveys a different idea and means, if it means anything, that the domination of Yankees are towards.—*Norfolk Daily Book.*

ARRIVAL.—Mr. J. W. Zacharie, one of the passengers taken from a British schooner in the Gulf by the U. States steamer Santiago de Cuba, has arrived in Richmond. The occasion of this release is understood to be the same which governed the Lincolnites in giving up Messrs. Mason and Slidell—a wholesome fear of the British Lion. Mr. Zacharie, it is said, has important communications to make to our Government.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

TOO POOR TO GO TO THE SHOW.—Greely with all his faults, sometimes tells the truth with a good deal of force in matters which are not fanatical. In the following whine he gives us some light as to state of the finances of his rotten, corrupt and broken down Government. Poor Rump, you are so despised by the nations of the earth, we might interfere for you, and get you a chance as a "dead head" in the show.

"We cannot realize that this country wants to pay \$35,000 just now to promote the great Exhibition which is to come off in London next summer. We are too poor to have too much trouble in short, we don't feel like it. If Congress can devise and provide ways and means for crushing that rebellion it will do very well. Exhibitions are good things in their way, but just now we are in quite another way, and do not care to attract the whole world's eye to our financial disaster."

Among the latest acts of my mailings was a chap who almost wore his lungs out trying for immediate secession, and when secession came, and war with it, he held back under pretense that his business was such he could not leave home! The truth is he was afraid. Another chap of the same kind I caught nosing about for a list of names before he could volunteer. I have slaughtered regions of these "immediate" larks who were going to play the devil with the Yankees, if war followed secession, and some of them "pitched out" as soon as they smelt gunpowder.

"They sneaked out by various ways: some by one 'ailing' and some by another; and some by getting a civil appointment at home. But since I was born I never heard of so many 'ailings' that didn't seem to impair the physical man a bit. The hardest case, however, that I have had to chastise was a clamorous secession chap, who had business South when the first tap of the drum for a volunteer company fell upon his ears. They say he hid in a barn as he saw the recruiting officer approaching, and he was found, his excuse was that he had business in the South that wouldn't let him do it."

SEIZURE OF STEAMSHIPS.—The N. O. Delta says that all the steamships in that harbor, except two, were seized by the Government on the morning of the 17th. Some twelve or fourteen were taken in charge by the military authorities. The subject of the seizure has not been disclosed.

PORK.—The Nashville Union of the 4th says: "The pork market continues dull, and small lots were sold during the week at 10 cents per lb net. A gentleman from one of the largest growing counties in Middle Tennessee informed us the other day that there was a large number of hogs remaining 10c per lb gross, though there were no buyers at the price, the Government agents having supplied themselves, and withdrawn from the market. It now appears that there is a better supply of hogs in the State, as well as other portions of the South, than was supposed when the market opened."

The Richmond Examiner says: "We learn that the Government has secured about three hundred thousand head of hogs, which will furnish ample provision, with the beef packed, for the army the ensuing year."

We have made some inquiry as to the number of hogs the Government has purchased, and to having slaughtered and packed in Tennessee, and give the following approximate estimate:

Bristol, about	12,000
Korristown and vicinity	20,000
Knoxville	15,000
London and Sweetwater	10,000
Chattanooga	20,000
Shelbyville	50,000
Nashville	50,000
Clarksville	10,000
Other places, about	16,000
Making, in all	200,000

From these hogs the government will net about twenty-four million of pounds of bacon. Tennessee alone will have contributed something handsome in this one article toward the sustenance of the army for the ensuing year. We may say literally of that Tennessee, as the Lincolnites have

said figuratively, that there is a good deal of secession "bacon" in it. Had Andy Johnson's grand army got in here in the fall, it is now plain that the Southern Confederacy would scarcely have "saved its bacon."—*Knoxville Register.*

STIRRING NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST.—We have stirring news from General Jackson's command. At last accounts he was in pursuit of the enemy, and had advanced to New Creek, twenty-three miles west of Romney, where he again touches the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

It will be seen, from this movement of General Jackson, that he has obtained a position of great importance, which will soon place him in the rear of the enemy at Laurel Hill, Cheat Mountain, and in that neighborhood.—*Richmond Examiner, 20th.*

GOVERNMENT AID TO RAILROADS.—We learn that the railroad connection through Tennessee and North Carolina, recommended by President Davis, is to be made a test question in Congress, as to the propriety of the government extending aid to some other railroads. The matter of aiding three roads is under the consideration of the government, viz: that recommended by the President, that completing the time now wanting between Montgomery and Jackson, and the Texas road, to complete communications between that State and Louisiana.—*Richmond Examiner.*

A STRANGE JUNCTURE.—The Boston Tribune of the 13th says: Five officers of the British army reached this city on Friday last, in a steamer from Europe, on their way to Canada, preparatory to fighting the United States, should a war with England occur. They stopped at a hotel, and their names were recorded upon the register. Later in the day four officers of the Confederate army, just released from Fort Warren, on their way to the South, undoubtedly to fight against us in that quarter, stopped at the same hotel, and placed their names just below those of the British officers.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.—In our despatch of Havana news, published yesterday, mention is made of a very significant fact. It was stated that the Spanish fleet left there in December, and had taken possession of Vera Cruz, that the French fleet left on the 2d of the present month, and that the English fleet had withdrawn from the expedition. Why was this? The Mexican expedition was a tripartite arrangement between the three Powers, England, we believe, being the foremost, and each was to furnish a given number of troops and ships of war. This sudden backing out of the Majesty's craft would seem to indicate that she has more important business on hand than teaching mankind and good government to the half-civilized Mexicans. Very likely she intends to civilize the Yankees, who have become both exceedingly insolent and barbarous of late. ("Abe" would, at least, do well to look out for his retreating fleet.)—*Savannah Republican, 18th.*

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.—We publish elsewhere an abstract of the report of Mr. Reagan, Postmaster General, taken from the Richmond Dispatch. The Examiner in referring to the exhibit of the report says: Congress is likely to reduce the rates of postage, if the deficiency in the post office receipts of the Confederate Government have fallen off about half a million of dollars, compared to a corresponding period of time under the old government, notwithstanding the exaction of the franking privilege, the fact that since the 1st of June last, there have been more petty offices discontinued than established, and the amount of public and private correspondence induced by the war and incident to the army. The only explicable cause for this falling off of receipts, where all others can have conspired to enlarge them, can be in the excessive rates of Confederate postage: the effect of high postal rates being always to diminish correspondence in more than an inverse proportion to the increased rate, thereby reducing the revenue derived from this branch of the public service.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 21st, 1862.—Mayor Monroe has closed all the gambling houses in this city, and has determined to convict the gamblers if possible. The gamblers are holding an indignation meeting.

BATTLE OF PRESTONBURG.—We had the pleasure of reading a letter this morning, from a gentleman who participated in the battle of Prestonburg. He represents the charge made by Col. Moore, as being one of the most terrible scenes to be recorded in the book of war. For but an hour, that heroic regiment held hand to hand combat with five times their number, but the bayonet and bowie knife gleamed terribly victorious in the hands of the Southern.

The Yankees threw down their arms ingloriously leaving the field of battle, as for the killed and wounded on either side, the writer says he can give no authoritative statement.—*Columbus (Ga.) Sun, 18th inst.*

John Hughes from Virginia, aged about 40 years, a shoe maker by trade, was found dead on Monday night, the 13th instant, in the grog shop of Grandison Roberts, in Salisbury, the bar being kept by one Mr. Little. He had been drinking from the Saturday evening before up to that time. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was that he came to his death by excessive drinking of intoxicating liquors.

It is said that the Lincoln fleet have been ordered to cut down and ship northward all the live oak to be found on the islands of the South in their possession.

Why is Seward like a restless sleeper? Because after lying on one side, he turns and lies on the other.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—We learn from the Vicksburg Citizen that the boats still continue to bring large quantities of sugar and molasses to the landing of that city, and the levee is all covered over with barrels and hogheads.

The Citizen is told that the shipment of these articles on the Southern railroad was so large that the company is compelled to refuse receiving any more at present, not having sufficient rolling stock to forward it eastward.—*Raleigh Register.*

DESETERS.—We learn that four of the regulars at one of our posts on the coast, deserted on the morning of the 11th and have gone over to the enemy. They had received permission to go out in a boat to oysters, and were discovered soon after proceeding in the direction of the blockaders. A boat with sixteen men started in pursuit, but were unable to overtake the fugitives, the latter having sometime the start. They were last seen climbing the side of the enemy's gunboat.—*Charleston Courier.*

It has been known that numerous robberies of the mail between this place and Raleigh have occurred within the past three

months; and recently suspicion fixed upon one of the stage drivers named Cooper. A great number of letters broken open have been found in the woods near the road. On Tuesday night last, our Postmaster, Jas. G. Cook, Esq., proceeded up the road and arrested Cooper, whom he took to Raleigh for examination.

After an examination before Magistrate at Raleigh, yesterday, Cooper was admitted to bail in the sum of \$250.—*Fay. Obs.*

THE WORLD'S FAIR.—The World's Fair takes place in London sometime this year, and Mr. Bisbee, of Norfolk, who has just returned from England, states that he engaged a space for exhibiting the manufactures and productions of the Southern States. He says he could not engage space in the name of the Confederate States because the Confederacy has not yet been recognized, but he engaged it in his own name, and hopes the productions of the South will be sent forward for exhibition. We hope the Southern people will be well represented on the occasion.

WEEDS.—Branches of common elder, and also of the China tree, plentifully mixed in the crib with corn, will, it is said, prevent or destroy weeds.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.—We learn that the following resolution has been adopted by the Provisional Congress and will be communicated to the Governor of Virginia: "Resolved, That Congress hereby approves of the resolutions passed by the Legislature of Virginia, expressing her determination to vindicate the integrity of her ancient boundary, and pledges all the resources of the Confederacy to uphold her determination."

THE PATRIOT.
GREENSBOROUGH, N. C.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1862.

The Convention.
The Raleigh papers of yesterday bring up a report of the proceedings of the Convention to the adjournment on Saturday last, since which date we have no account of its proceedings. On Friday the ordinance granting the exchange of State Bonds for those of solvent corporations, to aid in building a railroad from the Chatham Coal-fields to the N. C. Road near Raleigh passed its second reading, yeas 37, nays 34.—This ordinance was to be brought up again on Tuesday of this week, and has probably passed its final reading before now.

The Greensborough & Danville Railroad Charter was made the order of the day for Thursday (to-day). What will be its fate we are unable to say, but hope it may pass.

Mr. Badger has introduced an ordinance to repeal portions of the stay-law; but what portions we are left in the dark.

The Federal Fleet.
From the article which we copy from the Northern Progress, of Wednesday morning, it is plain that the fleet of the Confederacy, generally prevails that this fleet has received great damage from the late storm; but to what extent we have no reliable information. Late Northern papers received at Norfolk show that there was much anxiety felt in the North for its safety.

Dr. Lindsay.
We are happy to report the safe arrival at home of Dr. James E. Lindsay, in the enjoyment of excellent health, after his long voyage and subsequent imprisonment in Fort Warren.

Our Defeat in Kentucky.
Our disaster near Somerset in Kentucky deeply to be deplored. The most authentic accounts we have seen, put our loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, at from three to five hundred. The enemy got one cannon, two thousand horses and mules, and three hundred wagons. All our stores were burned to prevent their capture by the enemy. Our forces, 6,000; theirs 14,000.

From intimations we have seen thrown out in some of the papers, we look for the blame to be thrown upon Gen. Crittenden, who had chief command of our forces, for this sad reverse. It is said that he was greatly deceived as to the number of the enemy he was attacking. Bad as this defeat is, it is not irretrievable, and we hope it may prove a blessing, in arousing the South to renewed and more united exertions.

Gen. Beauregard.
The Richmond Dispatch announces upon responsible authority, that Gen. Beauregard has been transferred from the army of the Potomac, to Columbus, Ky. We fear this may cause discontent in the army of the Potomac; though appearances indicate that his services are more needed at this time in Kentucky than anywhere else.

Gen. F. K. Zollicoffer.
The death of this gallant man has filled Tennessee and the South with gloom. It is said, that no man since Gen. Jackson, has enjoyed so completely the confidence and esteem of the people of Tennessee, as Gen. Zollicoffer. He was a native of Halifax county, N. C.

Col. Samuel Powell, who was in the warmest of this fight, receiving a severe wound in the arm, expressed the opinion to the Editor of the Knoxville Register that but for the untimely fall of Zollicoffer, or had some other officer commanding the same confidence of his men been in the field to take his place, the Yankees would have been whipped.

Virginia Senators.
Hon. R. M. T. Hunter and William Ballard Preston have been elected to the Confederate Senate, by the Legislature of Virginia. Mr. Hunter was a Democrat under the old party organizations, and is at present Secretary of State in the Provisional Cabinet. Mr. Preston was a Whig, and was a member of Gen. Taylor's Cabinet. They are both statesmen of fine abilities

For the Patriot.

Our County Courts—Their Organization and Management.
Mr. Editor:—I have long been convinced of the inefficiency of our County Courts. Nor can they be rendered more beneficial to the public, while they are organized and managed as they are at present. Much might be said touching the partialities, prejudices and lack of legal information that frequently prevail in these Courts, were it deemed necessary to expose what hideous jobs can be done in these Courts, when the Magistrates consent to bench it for a particular purpose, and a submission is made, and the prosecuting Attorney sits silent, and no evidence is introduced. It could easily be done; but I do not deem it prudent to cumber your columns with such mementos of human depravity, at present. I will let it suffice to refer to the act passed by the Legislature a few sessions back, to prevent the game of "benching it," to grant license to retail spirituous liquors. This law plainly illustrates how matters may be managed in these Courts by "benching it," or having a numerous shifting judiciary. It is in this way that our large counties are so imposed upon in the legislative department of the Court. The members of the Court may all be honest and patriotic, yet I hold that it is impossible for any body of men, even if each one of them was a Solon, and gifted with the foresight, prudence, and sagacity of Lycurgus himself, to legislate with any thing like wisdom or economy when so much is often done on the *ipse dixit* of a few, and without any investigation on the part of the majority. In less than half a day the most of the legislation for Guilford County is despatched, and yet this half-day's work is more important by far to the tax-payers of the county than all that is done in an entire session of the Legislature. But this is not the worst feature of this matter, by a great deal. I call particular attention to this point. How often is it the case that a large majority of the Magistrates of our large counties are used only as ready instruments to ratify the well-digested plans of a few of the prominent members on the bench, who are aided too often to carry their point by the eloquence of prominent men—members of the bar. It needs no argument, no further argument, it seems to me, to prove to the satisfaction of any reasonable man, that a large, irregular, shifting tribunal, composed of men, who, like all other mortals, must be more or less fallible and selfish, holding their offices by a life-tenure, and altogether independent of the people, for anything that they may say or do in their official capacity, cannot fail to prove in the end a dead weight, if not a grievance to the public where there is not great care and pains-taking on the part of all members of the Court to prevent such a result.

ment of money is passed, let it be done after mature deliberation, and to be expended for a particular and well-defined purpose—and not at the pleasure or discretion of any particular set or body of men. Let not a cent of any appropriation be expended without the consent of a majority, deliberately taken. In this way it is possible to get rid of some of the grosser evils of the benching or shifting policy of these Courts.

As to the legal department of this double-gear machine, I will not attempt to go into particulars at present, for fear of incurring the contempt of some who from my inmost soul, I pity rather than disdain, when in silent majesty and pomp, they go strutting on their way to fame and fortune, in profound silence by me. But all who may wish to know the capacities of our County Courts, for evil and oppression, when put to their best, may get a faint glimpse of what they can do, in the name of justice, and how it is done, by reading State vs. Stanley, to be found in Jones Report, vol. iv.

Now when we remember that prior to the Revolution most of the officers and pettifoggers who worked these grinding machines, became so obnoxious to the public on account of the gross frauds and villainies, that they perpetrated, that the people, after exhausting every peaceable remedy to redress their wrongs without success, at last rose in their righteous indignation, and dispersed the court, sitting in Hillsboro', by mob-violence, and by lynching some of the more guilty of the offenders. It is not strange after this, that many in the upper counties who took a part in the achievement of our liberties, should, when they were called upon to form a permanent Constitution, labor heroically to secure the election of Magistrates by the people, and to prevent all prominent officers of the Government from holding seats in the Legislature, who took any part in the administration of the laws of the land in our Courts of justice. These facts are prominently set forth in the instructions given to the delegates from Mecklenburg in the Convention which formed our State Constitution. The people of that county also went so far as to instruct their delegates to have a clause inserted in the Constitution of the State to the following effect: "You are instructed to move and insist, that all public accounts shall be fairly stated, and regularly kept in a proper book or books, open to the inspection of all persons. If this shall not be confirmed and acted for, I will here add, that it would have been well, if the Magistrates had been required to render to the clerks of the County Courts a particular and specific account, of all the appropriations made by them, and the different items for which the money was finally expended, so that the people might have some chance to look into the conduct of this most important and independent tribunal. But unfortunately, such is not the case. The County Courts can contract debts and levy taxes to any amount, and expend the money as they

please, without troubling themselves, in the least, with giving, much less, recording and publishing a detailed account of the debts they have contracted, or how the money they have collected has been expended. Indeed, I hazard nothing in saying that there are not a half dozen Magistrates in the County, if there is one, who can at this moment, tell what is the precise amount of the debt of the County. Nay, the most of them cannot give even an idea of the correct amount, and much less, can they tell the items for which the large sum of \$72,951.87 has been expended within the last four years, to say nothing of the large sums that have been borrowed from time to time. I do not wish to be understood as intimating that any portion of this money has been corruptly used, or mispent; for I do not believe such to be the fact. But I do contend that the public have a right to know how every cent of it has been expended, whenever they desire to make the investigation. And they should have such opportunity afforded them hereafter. It seems strange that the Legislature should have required the clerks of our Courts to spread out in full upon each execution the several small items composing their fees; the Sheriffs to publish a list of insolvents in one or more public places. The clerks are also required to publish a list of every cent remaining in their offices for a certain period of time which duty our worthy County Court Clerk performs, as he does every other duty pertaining to his office. The wardens of the poor, County superintendents of our common schools have also to publish a complete account of all the moneys received and expended by them. Yet strange to say, our County Courts, the members composing which hold their offices by a life tenure, have power to levy and collect any amount of tax that they may deem expedient, are under no obligation to give an account of what they do with the money they receive from the public and comparatively none to the Court itself. It is possible to ascertain the amount of taxes levied for each year, for many years past, but I defy any one to tell for what purposes the money thus levied and collected from the people of Guilford County has been expended, or what is the amount of our indebtedness from any book or record now in existence. There is no book or books of record kept for public inspection. Even the meagre reports of the Committee on Finance are barely read to the Court, and are not put on record in any book provided for that purpose. Under such a loose, reckless, and inefficient course of management, it is strange that our taxes should constantly be on the increase in this county, until now, the people of Guilford pay a heavier tax than any other county of the same territory, wealth, and population in the State of North Carolina.

I will briefly notice the progress we have made in this matter hereafter with a hope of awakening all our Magistrates to take an active part in the business committed to their charge, and correcting as many of the evils and blunders that have heretofore been committed for the want of care and their vigilant attention. ALONE.

For the Patriot.

According to a notice given, a part of the committee appointed at a previous meeting held on the 10th of August last, together with a number of citizens, met at Gibsonville on the 15th of November, for the purpose of hearing a statement from the Rev. Mr. Sheek, having a reference to his late visit to Manassas, and the amount expended by him during the said visit. From him we learn that from the \$37.55 collected at the meeting held in August last, he had expended \$19.50.

The committee having pledged themselves to pay all his expenses incurred during his visit to Manassas, Mr. Sheek, acting in good faith, immediately after his return, proposed to pay the committee the unexpended amount in his possession, which amount the committee declined to receive, and instructed Mr. Sheek to retain it until they should dispose of it.

Therefore, Resolved, that in the estimation of this committee, not the smallest censure attaches to Rev. Mr. Sheek, but is deserving the highest commendation for his zeal and devotion to the cause of the South, and especially for his efforts to promote the comfort of our sons, who were prompted him to become the prime mover in this praiseworthy enterprise.

Resolved, That Rev. Mr. Sheek be instructed by this committee to retain the balance now in his hands as a small compensation for his labor of love during his visit to Manassas, and for his attention to our sons and personal friends connected with our noble army.

Resolved, That if any person who contributed to the \$37.55 above named, is dissatisfied with the decision of the committee, and will apply in person, stating the amount he subscribed, Col. Dick obligates himself to refund the same.

Resolved, That in the estimation of this committee, Rev. Mr. Sheek has been grossly misrepresented during his connection with them, and that the reports put in circulation with a view to soil his character as a man, but more particularly as a minister of the gospel, are the offspring of malicious hearts, and deserve unqualified condemnation of the virtuous and the good.

GIDEON DEVAULT, Com.
WM. COBLE,
H. C. DICK.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 26th, 1862.—Intelligence from Wilmington, N. C., has been received in official quarters announcing that a British vessel named the "York," had stranded near the mouth of Cape Fear, and that some Federal vessel threw on board combustible material and set fire to her. The crew escaped.

The ship "York" was stranded on or near Bogue Inlet, Onslow county, some two weeks ago and what remained of her had been advertised for sale. Several days since we learned officially, she was destroyed by the enemy, as stated above. The fact of her destruction has been officially reported.—*Wilmington Journal.*

From the Newbern Progress, Jan. 28.

The Great Burnside Expedition.
Nothing would afford us more pleasure at this particular time, than to be able to give a strictly correct statement of the strength and condition of the Burnside fleet. We doubted some days ago whether there really had ever been such a thing in existence and began to think it was all a Yankee lie, but more recently we have become convinced that there is such a thing, and that what's left of it is actually at Hatteras.

The country is so situated about Hatteras that it is difficult to get close enough to the enemy to take satisfactory observations without being observed. We saw, however, and conversed with a gentleman yesterday direct from Portsmouth, having left that place Saturday and arrived here Sunday night, who went to Ocracoke before leaving, took a horse and rode down the bank as near to the enemy as was safe, within 10 or 12 miles and took as good an observation as he could with a glass. He says he counted 93 vessels, about two thirds of which were steamers, all inside the Bar and about 20 inside the Sound, and puts down the number at one hundred.

Those in the sound were lying at anchor and the one outside appeared to be a large man of war, and he supposed it to be the regular blockading ship. We interrogated him particularly as to the ravages of the storm and amount of damage done to the fleet and he informed us that he could not satisfy himself on that point. He, however, was confident that he distinctly saw the wreck of what he took to be a large frigate on the bar outside and several vessels aground inside and gives it as his opinion, that not less than from ten to fifteen vessels of one kind or another, have been lost inside the bar in the recent gale.

These observations were taken on Saturday morning and have been reported here by a man who is said to be every way reliable and is the latest we have from the "great expedition."

The same gentleman informs us that eight of the Ocracoke men had been impressed as pilots but have subsequently all been released, having refused absolutely to serve in that capacity, even at the peril of their lives.

The above information has been furnished by a special agent who was left by Col. Singletary when he left Portsmouth for the special work and may be relied upon as being an honest and faithful report.

Col. T. M. Crosson, who we are happy to learn has been appointed in command of Artillery at this post with rank of Lt. Col. went down yesterday morning in command of the Albemarle as far as the mouth of Pamlico river and seeing nothing returned yesterday morning.

We are fully apprised of the anxiety felt by persons at a distance, particularly those of our friends who have lately left their pleasant homes to avoid contact with vulgar Yankees, to hear the latest news and be apprised of all the movements of the enemy, and we shall spare no pains in our efforts to gratify their desires, but shall strenuously avoid street rumors or anything that does not bear upon its face very strong semblance of truth.

It is not believed that the fleet will be able to rectify the breach made by the recent storm, got through lightening their vessels, and get away in good time, but several days perhaps a week or two, but that they intend coming, seems to be pretty generally conceded.

Meantime, our preparations to receive them should not be relaxed. Let the work go bravely on, and when they do come let them feel that they have invaded a State of freemen and stout hearts—a State that has never yet bowed the neck to a tyrant's yoke. We are glad to see that confidence is daily strengthening in our ability to give them Jesse when they do come, but we should recollect, with reverence and profound thanksgiving to God, that the storm was sent upon them last week to enable us to get ready for them and should not let a moment pass unimproved.

Our military directors of course, are better posted as to the strength of the expedition than we are, but they will pardon us for reminding them of the fact that should they come they will bring some of the most powerful guns known to modern warfare and while to whip and repel them is the prime object, next in importance to that is the one of so engineering our river as to enable ourselves to take possession of some of these guns should they be so bold as to venture into our river. We believe this can be done. We will not suggest a plan however, believing that we have heads in the service here fully competent to devise the stratagem.

The Burnside Expedition.
We copy the following from the Norfolk Day Book of the 24th inst:

A gentleman who reached this city, direct from the North Carolina coast, addresses us a communication, in which he states that the report of Gen. Gatlin and others as to a large Federal fleet being in Pamlico Sound, with the purpose of making an attack on Roanoke Island. Newbern and other places in the vicinity, turns out to be entirely unfounded.

He further states that this report reached Edenton on Monday night and such was the given to it that Judge Biggs immediately adjourned the Confederate Court in session at that place; but that reliable information has since been received by letter from Roanoke Island dated Wednesday, 5 o'clock A. M., to the effect that no such fleet is in Pamlico Sound, and that no fears are entertained there of an immediate attack. Reliable information from Hyde county also corroborates this statement.

Richmond, Jan. 25.—It was stated in Congress to-day that a message had been received by a high Government official, stating that the Burnside expedition had proved a failure, most of the vessels having been wrecked.

We think it evident that the Burnside expedition suffered greatly in the storm last week. The Newbern Progress, of Saturday, says:

Heavy winds have been prevailing over our coast for several days, in fact ever since Burnside launched his great expedition. Official news has been wiped out the rebellion ever this. Well may the Southern heart quake and tremble in anticipation of the calamity that may have befallen it.

The storm has been unusually severe at Beaufort one of the safest harbors on the Atlantic coast. We understood from passengers yesterday morning that a ship that has been at anchor there for a month or two loaded for Europe was blown aground, and that the ferry boat was high and dry. Heavy disasters may be expected.

A lot of 120 bags of Coffee sold in Mobile recently at prices ranging from 45¢ to 54¢ cents per lb.

From the Newbern Progress, Jan. 28.

The Great Burnside Expedition.
Nothing would afford us more pleasure at this particular time, than to be able to give a strictly correct statement of the strength and condition of the Burnside fleet. We doubted some days ago whether there really had ever been such a thing in existence and began to think it was all a Yankee lie, but more recently we have become convinced that there is such a thing, and that what's left of it is actually at Hatteras.

The country is so situated about Hatteras that it is difficult to get close enough to the enemy to take satisfactory observations without being observed. We saw, however, and conversed with a gentleman yesterday direct from Portsmouth, having left that place Saturday and arrived here Sunday night, who went to Ocracoke before leaving, took a horse and rode down the bank as near to the enemy as was safe, within 10 or 12 miles and took as good an observation as he could with a glass. He says he counted 93 vessels, about two thirds of which were steamers, all inside the Bar and about 20 inside the Sound, and puts down the number at one hundred.

Those in the sound were lying at anchor and the one outside appeared to be a large man of war, and he supposed it to be the regular blockading ship. We interrogated him particularly as to the ravages of the storm and amount of damage done to the fleet and he informed us that he could not satisfy himself on that point. He, however, was confident that he distinctly saw the wreck of what he took to be a large frigate on the bar outside and several vessels aground inside and gives it as his opinion, that not less than from ten to fifteen vessels of one kind or another, have been lost inside the bar in the recent gale.

These observations were taken on Saturday morning and have been reported here by a man who is said to be every way reliable and is the latest we have from the "great expedition."

The same gentleman informs us that eight of the Ocracoke men had been impressed as pilots but have subsequently all been released, having refused absolutely to serve in that capacity, even at the peril of their lives.

The above information has been furnished by a special agent who was left by Col. Singletary when he left Portsmouth for the special work and may be relied upon as being an honest and faithful report.

Col. T. M. Crosson, who we are happy to learn has been appointed in command of Artillery at this post with rank of Lt. Col. went down yesterday morning in command of the Albemarle as far as the mouth of Pamlico river and seeing nothing returned yesterday morning.

We are fully apprised of the anxiety felt by persons at a distance, particularly those of our friends who have lately left their pleasant homes to avoid contact with vulgar Yankees, to hear the latest news and be apprised of all the movements of the enemy, and we shall spare no pains in our efforts to gratify their desires, but shall strenuously avoid street rumors or anything that does not bear upon its face very strong semblance of truth.

It is not believed that the fleet will be able to rectify the breach made by the recent storm, got through lightening their vessels, and get away in good time, but several days perhaps a week or two, but that they intend coming, seems to be pretty generally conceded.

Meantime, our preparations to receive them should not be relaxed. Let the work go bravely on, and when they do come let them feel that they have invaded a State of freemen and stout hearts—a State that

