

THE WEEK.

There had another week of fair and moderate weather for the season, and the advent of Christmas unattended by the accompaniment of sleigh-riding usually gives a zest to the anniversary. Morning opened lowly, wind southwest, with prospect of a storm. Thermometer, at sun-dial 36° above zero.

Articles from Europe are received to the 20th. The comments of the English newspapers in America are without any particular bias. Chancellor of the Exchequer Gladstone had written a letter to Prof. Newman, in which he denied ever having expressed any sympathy for the Southern cause. At the same time intimates his belief that the North had better not to a separation. The Paris correspondent of the London Times states that contracts have been concluded by the French Government for the army in Mexico for two years—during that a prolonged occupation of the country. The distress resulting from the famine begins to be most severely felt in manufacturing districts of France. The Minister continues in Italy. Voting for the election of a king commenced in Greece on the 20th; 2,500 signatures had been taken, which without exception in favor of Prince Alfred. Election is considered certain. The Queen of Spain in her speech on the opening of the Cortes, felt confident that events on the coast of America would not change the excellent relations maintained with the United States Government.

By way of San Francisco we have news from the 10th ult. The country was quiet. No salute ever given to a foreign minister since to the United States Minister, on the 20th of November. The Japanese Government have ordered two steam sloops of war and one gunboat, built in the United States, to form the nucleus of a regular navy.

In the absence of any fresh movements by the rebels of the Potomac, since the late battle, we were cheering news from the forces under Burnside, in North Carolina. On the 11th inst. (yesterday), after three days' skirmishing, advanced upon the forces of Gen. Evans, killing and capturing two hundred and fifty rebels, taking several hundred prisoners and eleven pieces of artillery. Our loss in the action was not more than a hundred. After this success our troops advanced in the direction of Goldsboro and Weldon, occupation of these places being the main object of the expedition. The destination of the expedition was kept a profound secret in Newbern, it was not until the return of some of the wounded in the attack that the affair was made known. The 9th New Jersey and Tenth Connecticut were remarkable for their bravery and great devotion to the Stars and Stripes.

Later accounts state that after leaving Kingston, the Federal forces took Goldsboro, without loss—tearing up the railroad, burning the telegraph, and destroying the rails, so they cannot be repaired, and also destroyed the telegraph. The rebels have returned to Newbern in safety. The Connecticut seems to have fought gallantly in the late battles, having lost 11 in killed, and 80 wounded—10 of whom have since died. This regiment was mostly from the eastern part of the State. Col. Leggett commanding.

Gen. Burnside has written a letter, which will appear on our first page, giving a full explanation of the movements of the Army of the Potomac in connection with the battle of Fredericksburg, and assumed all responsibility for crossing the Rappahannock when he did and where he did. It was during the attack that the city was determined upon, because he had succeeded in impressing the rebels with the idea that he intended to cross at that point, and had consequently weakened their efforts to reinforce their right wing. Had no doubt that the victory would have been ours. As it is, we say, "we came very near success." This movement steals the thunder from the anti-war party, which imputed all the blame to the President Secretary Stanton.

Articles from Lexington report fears of a raid upon the forces of Gen. Fremont, who are in large numbers from Western Virginia, and rapidly advancing through Bound Gap.

A movement of our troops has taken place in Richmond, Ky., that will relieve Eastern Kentucky of this new invasion.

All is quiet on the Potomac," or, in other words, no new movements have taken place on the Rappahannock.

Notice to Subscribers.

In consequence of the unprecedented rise in the price of the white paper upon which newspapers are printed, we are compelled to raise the price of this paper to 12 cents per copy.

HEADQUARTERS HOSPITAL, Second Brigade, Second Army Corps, near Fredericksburg, Dec. 21, 1862.

EDITOR OF WATERBURY AMERICAN:

I have not the time, and I am so tired with the labors of the day, that I have not the physical ability to give you the result of my observations in the Army of the Potomac; in which I have spent my time since Wednesday last. I have visited the 8th, 11th, 15th, 16th, and 21st regiments, in Harlan's brigade, 3rd army corps, and the 14th and 27th in the 2d army corps, and shall go tomorrow in search of the 5th, 17th, and 20th regiments, if we can find them. And here I will say that there is difficulty in finding a regiment, besides all the trouble you are at, as we found in looking up the 27th regiment yesterday, for they are continually moving their camps. It is like a city of 200,000 inhabitants, without a directory and the streets not numbered; and then on the move at that.

I have seen all the Waterbury boys that are on duty in all the regiments, and in camp—some are detached on service. I have seen some of the sick, not all, as we divided our labors in the committee, and the surgeons of the party took that branch of the service.

Our Connecticut regiments, except the 14th and 27th, were not much within the battle proper. The brigade of Harlan only lost about thirty in killed and wounded, and those by chance shots. The killed and wounded in the 27th and 14th, who were in the thickest of the fight, have been reported to the Adjutant General, and will be published before this reaches you.

For my own gratification, I took the names of the Waterbury boys that I saw personally or knew me, and which you can publish if you think best.

You have no idea of the depression there is in the army at the result of this third attempt to go to Richmond. That it is a complete failure no one can deny. The causes of it may be an open question, but one thing is certain: that there will have to be different management or we shall not be a nation much longer, and shall have Jeff Davis to rule over us. I dare not write what I think to you, from what I can gather in the limited time I have had for observation and thought,—but this is certain, that the President has got to stop acting as commander-in-chief, a part of his cabinet be removed, and another man placed at the head of the army; politicians in and out of Congress silenced; and more than all, the people take hold of the interests of the country, stop carrying on the war for selfish ends, and also all keep quiet and let the army alone.

I have found but one opinion in the army about the merits of Generals. The army almost to a man are for McClellan, and if you expect the army to conquer a peace, you have got to give them a choice. It is as clear to them as the sunshine, and that too with the best friends of Burnside, who is much respected by all, but he has not the capacity for the moving of an army of this magnitude.

All of the sick at Belle Plain, and down to the regiments coming here, and all the wounded who could be moved, were sent to Washington before my arrival, and that you will find from other sources. Yours truly, L. W. COE.

Here are the names of the "Waterbury Boys" alluded to in Mr. Coe's letter, which we publish for the gratification of their friends:—

FOURTEENTH REGIMENT.

Lieut. Simpson, James H. Chamberlin, Henry Bissell, Theodore Byington, Lyman Chatfield, Leonard Merchant, George W. Munson, H. W. Nelson, Charles B. Warner, Fred. F. Welton, William Carey, Charles Upson, George Adams, John D. Chatfield, Frank Merrill, W. S. Guilford, Nathan Stow, Eli Charter, Treat Andrews, James Somers, Duffie Platha, H. W. Wadhams, James J. Gilbert, Charles Merrill, W. A. Rice, John Lives, Alexander McNeil, Abner C. White, Charles A. Beebe, Dwight Somers, Daniel L. Frisbie, Henry Castle, Birdsey Pickett, Seth Hungerford, Nelson Stone, Frank Somers, Louis Sarylamp, Michael Delany, Keuben Snazy, Walter B. Gosman, John Whornt, Owen McQueen, Edward Judd, Edward Killard, Henry Brown, Charles Smith, John E. Durand, Wm. Patrick, Thomas Farrell, W. M. C. Scott, Augustus Adams, Frank Aldrich, James McLanlan, Daniel B. Joice, Geo. A. Stocking, Valentine Longwitch, Fred. Austin.

Missing as yet—Frank J. Percy.

EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Frank Edwards, Silas P. Keeler, Harrison Taylor, Wm. Terrell, Samuel L. Williams, Capt. M. B. Smith, Roger W. Cook, W. R. Post, Walter Porter, Alonzo Harper, W. M. Rice.

FIRST CONNECTICUT ARTILLERY.

Lieut. H. B. Cummings, Lieut. Charles A. Bannau, Only two companies here and in fine condition.

Christmas.

Though the sky was overcast, the day, on the whole, was quite agreeable in temperature, and was welcomed with the usual compliments so pleasantly exchanged on the occasion. There was a general suspension of business in the factories, stores, &c., each one choosing his own way of passing the time. Some attended church, while others

We have been favored with the following extracts from a letter of a member of the 14th Reg't Band, to his relatives in this city, which we are permitted to publish, and no doubt will be read with much interest:

CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, Dec. 16th, 1862.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I wrote you a few lines immediately after the battle, to let you know I was safe, but did not have time to write particulars. Our cannon were planted on the north bank of the river—those of the rebels on the south, upon a hill directly back of Fredericksburg. Their sharpshooters were posted all along the bank of the river, in the houses, to prevent us from building the bridges,—but they were driven out and the bridges built, and we crossed the next morning. I tell you Fredericksburg was a hard-looking place—scarcely a house but was riddled with balls. In two I counted nineteen holes,—they stood close to the river. In fact the city is pretty well torn to pieces.

Just as soon as our men crossed over, they began to ransack houses. It was a ludicrous sight to see them going through the streets loaded with bed-clothes, looking-glasses, glass and china ware. One with a pot of preserves, another with a ham—in fact, everything that was in the houses that could be moved was carried into the streets.—Passing down one of the streets, I saw a squad of men seated around a table, on mahogany chairs, eating their dinner off gilt-edged china, pouring their tea from a silver teapot, calling on each other to "pass the pickles, preserves and honey." But I could not tell you half I saw, if I should write a week. It looks to you, perhaps, as if such pillage was not right, but when you know that from those same houses, a few hours before, our men were shot down like sheep, it gives a different view of the affair. I went into but one house, and took only an ivory-handled tea-knife, and a few letters which I send you.

While the boys were eating and stealing, a change from the ludicrous to the serious came over the scene in a moment. The rebels thinking the city was filled with our troops, as it was, opened a terrible fire on it, completely riddling it. The shouts of fun and laughter were changed to groans of the wounded and dying, and shot and shell came crashing through the streets—tearing through brick walls as if they were but egg-shells—chimneys came tumbling down—bricks and timber flying in all directions—men lying by the sidewalks, with arms and legs shot off—the dead and dying lying in all directions. Then one could see what war is.

It is quite a different affair fighting in a city where the men are cooped up in streets, like chickens, from the open field, where they can move in any direction. The havoc is greater.

French's division of Sumner's corps, in which we are, were ordered to charge up the hill upon the rebel batteries—not the least thing to protect them. Before they got within rifle shot of them, they were met with a perfect tornado of shot and shell, grape and canister, shrapnel and case shot. Human nature could not stand it, and French ordered them back. He said, "I was ordered to charge up that hill, unsupported by a single cannon, with 6,000 of the bravest men that ever faced a gun—now I have only 3,000 left, and have not gained an inch." Our brigade was all cut up.—The 14th has only about 200 men fit for duty today—not many are killed, but a great many are wounded and missing; but they keep coming in, a few at a time, so we cannot tell how badly we have suffered yet.

What Burnside intends to do now we cannot tell. But he will not give it up yet—he is not beaten—but he did not gain anything by the move. It does not seem as if the rebels intend to occupy the city, as they cannot hold it—our cannon could open on it at any time and knock it in pieces.—They are heavily entrenched back of it, and we shall have a job to drive them out, which I think our heavy siege guns will do, from this side of the river.

I do not know what the 14th is going to do, much more than you do—there are all sorts of rumors, as usual, but I think we shall go into winter quarters somewhere, as we are not very well officered for present duty. Col. Morris is sick; Lieut. Col. Perkins and Clark wounded—only three Captains fit for duty.

You will, of course, wish to know where I was during the fight. I will tell you. We went with the regiment across the river—while they were cooking their dinner in the streets, we were doing the same in a yard. I had just seated myself in a rocking-chair, reading my "secess" letters, when pop went a shell through the opposite house. Col. Perkins rode up and ordered the Band into safer quarters. So we took pretty long steps toward the river, where we sheltered ourselves under the bank—the rebel shot and shell flying directly over our heads from one direction, and our own flying over us from the opposite. Not a very pleasant but a safe place. FRANK.

The 14th at Fredericksburg.

The battle of Fredericksburg continues to be a prominent subject of earnest inquiry. On our first page will be found the report of Gen. Burnside, who gives his explanation of the affair, magnanimously taking upon himself the responsibility of the failure, and thus exonerating the President and the Secretary of War from censure. On Tuesday, the President issued the following proclamation, which explains itself:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, December 23, 1862.

To the Army of the Potomac: I have just read your commanding General's preliminary report of the battle of Fredericksburg. Although you were not successful, the attempt was not an error, nor the failure other than an accident. The courage with which you in open field maintained the contest against an entrenched foe and the consummate skill and success with which you crossed and re-crossed in the face of the enemy, show that you possess all the qualities of the country and of the popular government. Condoling with the mourners for the dead, and sympathizing with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small. I tender to you, officers and soldiers, the thanks of the nation. (Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The congressional committee on the conduct of the war, which went down to Fredericksburg, have made their report on the management of the battle at Fredericksburg. The committee do not censure any one in their report, which only gives the facts they have collected, and on which Congress may pass judgment.

Gen. Hooker testifies that, in his opinion, all the troops in the world could not have taken the rebel position by an assault in front.

Gen. Burnside differs from Gen. Hooker on this point. There is some evidence against Gen. Franklin, which will not be made public at present.

In the matter of the pontoons, Gen. Halleck testified before the committee that he had given the proper orders to have them sent on, and that there is his responsibility ends.

He says, that with the direction and management of 800,000 troops on his shoulders, he cannot be expected to look after details. In this Gen. Meigs supports Gen. Halleck. Gens. Burnside, Sumner, Hooker, and others, testified before the committee, that in their opinion Halleck and Meigs are responsible for the failure of the pontoons. Gen. Halleck, in his testimony, made the important point that at the time Burnside moved from Warrenton toward Fredericksburg, the Aquia Creek Railroad was not in our military control, and that therefore the pontoons could not have been sent to Falmouth by way of this railroad, nor could the railway have been repaired.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED.—Both branches of the Legislature adjourned sine die on Wednesday night, after a session of three weeks. We have brought down our regular journal of proceedings to Tuesday, by which it will be seen that a great number of subjects have been brought before that body, some of them but of little importance, while considerable time was consumed in debate that resulted in very little good. Among the last acts of the session was the passage of the Militia Bill as amended, and the bill allowing soldiers in the army to vote—yes 125, nays 60. Gov. Buckingham was present in Convention at the close, and read a short address. The sheriff then proclaimed the hour of adjournment—"God save the Commonwealth of Connecticut."

CHANGES IN THE CABINET.—For several days there were rumors of contemplated changes in the President's Cabinet, and upon grounds that had some foundation in fact. Secretary Seward and Secretary Chase tendered their resignations, but Mr. Lincoln was unwilling to dispense with their services, and they consented to remain for the present. The untoward demonstration upon Fredericksburg still rankles in the heart of the nation, and has done more to sow the seeds of distrust in the management of the War Department, than any other event since the war began. There is evidently a strong sentiment against several members of the Cabinet, Secretary Stanton coming in for a large share, and even Secretary Welles is not held blameless. The condition of the country is one of trembling anxiety, and if a change in the President's advisers would revive the drooping spirits of the people, the sooner it is done the better.—The Administration has a tremendous responsibility resting upon it—may it be able to weather the storm, and once more entrench itself behind the confidence and affections of the people, who will stand by it to the bitter end, so long as hope is left.

FIRE AT AN INSANE ASYLUM.—A fire broke out on the morning of the 21st instant, in the extensive building of the Vermont Insane Asylum, about two o'clock. The wind blew a gale from the north, and the two large wings running west were entirely consumed, also the center building. The east wings were saved, although somewhat damaged. All the patients were saved. Up to the present time the amount of damage cannot be estimated.