

# BRITISH COLONIST-SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 5.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1864.

NO. 21.

## Arrival of the Sierra Nevada

Eastern Dates to 26th.

## Destruction of Paducah, Ky. BY THE CONFEDERATES.

## CAPTURE OF ALEXANDRIA L. A. BY THE U. S. FORCES.

## The Entire Militia of the North to be called out.

## FRENCH FLEET OFF THE RIO GRANDE.

## War with France Probable

## GOLD AT 171!

## Later from Europe; Mexico; California, &c.

## The steamship Sierra Nevada arrived on Thursday bringing San Francisco files to the 21st, and Portland files to the 29th inst., containing the following despatches—

The Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention has instructed delegates to vote for McClellan as President.

The Post's special says the Committee on conduct of the war find no evidence against Gen. Meade.

Joe Coburn, pugilist, has accepted a challenge from Jim Mace, and leaves for England on the 15th of May.

Gen. Pleasanton has been removed from the command of the cavalry corps, and ordered to report to Rosecrank.

Gen. Sickles has been ordered to report to Gen. Curtis.

Gen. Pickett, Gibbon, and Wadsworth have been ordered to report to Gen. Meade, for assignment to command.

Gen. Caldwell has been relieved to enable him to sit on court-martial.

Gen. Grant's first general order prohibits the use of intoxicating liquors by any persons when on duty on military railway service.

The railroad from Long Bridge to Brandy Station is being stockaded to protect communications.

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honorable settlement of all the difficulties, and the restoration of the Union under the Constitution.

Calto, the 25th March.—Colonel Hawkins, in command of Union City, Tenn., surrendered his whole command to Forrest. Our forces consisted of 425 cavalry, all armed and equipped, 200 of whom were mounted. An insignificant amount of property fell into the hands of the enemy.

After destroying the forts the rebels retreated. Pierson sent a strong force in pursuit. Their force, which had been reported at 700, is now said not to exceed more than one-third of that number.

Dispatches of the 25th have the following: The expedition recently sent into Green Co., Virginia, under Gen. Graham, has returned, having captured a large number of horses and mules and 300 contrabands.

Special Washington dispatches say the Senate Post-office committee have introduced a bill providing for carrying mail between the Missouri river and Fresno, California. The bill authorizes the Post Master General to contract with the old contractors or other responsible parties, for a daily mail for four years, at an annual sum not exceeding one million dollars. The time is reduced from twenty to sixteen days.

The Baltimore correspondent of the World gives the following as the exact number of the rebel army: Under Gen. Lee, placed in various places in Virginia, 130,000; Dept. of the South, 70,000; in East Tennessee, under Longstreet, 20,000; Dept. of the Gulf, under Beauregard, 20,000; at Mobile, under Gen. Maury and Clayborne, 50,000; under Kirby Smith, 15,000. Total number of troops, 335,000.

New York, 26th.—A special says.—The House Naval Committee are preparing a bill to provide for the building of four iron clad ocean cruisers, for the coast.

It appropriates from five to seven millions. The Committee Ways and Means struck out the appropriation for them, on the ground that it would take two years to complete them. Further, the naval service does not require that class of vessels.

The army of Western Louisiana is moving. Gen. A. L. Lee's cavalry advance had occupied New Iberia.

Two of our gun-boats crossed Berwick Bay and Grand Lake, and ascended Grand River nearly to Lake La Rose. They came upon a rebel camp and opened fire upon them; the rebels ran. The gun-boats landed their men, who burned stores, camp equipage, and captured the arms and ammunition of the entire force.

We have nothing definite from Banks and Steele. It is reported that the former is meeting with considerable opposition from Dick Taylor, but he was expected to be at Alexandria or about the 20th.

Owen Lovejoy, member of Congress from Illinois, died at Brooklyn to-day.

Chicago, March 25.—Gen. Grant visited the Army of the Potomac on the 24th and was enthusiastically received.

An order has just been issued by the War Department in substance as follows: That the Army of the Potomac, comprising the Army of the Potomac, will be reduced to three—second, fifth and sixth, the troops of other corps will be distributed temporarily along by their commanding generals.

Major General Warren is assigned the command of the fifth army corps.

New York, March 25.—The steamer Evening Star from New Orleans on the 19th and Havana the 21st has arrived.

A part of Admiral Porter's fleet had appeared off Alexandria and demanded its surrender, which was complied with without opposition.

Chicago, March 26.—A Cairo telegram says no doubt exists but that Col. Hicks, commanding at Paducah, has destroyed the city.

New York, March 26.—The World's special has rumors that the entire organized militia of the North is to be called into the service for six months, to make a certain spring campaign against Richmond, which is about to commence.

Cairo, 26.—A party numbering about thirty-five, who had been cut off from their regiments at Union City, came to Columbus yesterday afternoon. They confirmed the report of the World's special, that the entire militia of the North is to be called into the service for six months, to make a certain spring campaign against Richmond, which is about to commence.

Cairo, 26.—Str. Ravian from Nashville passed Paducah, Ky., at 5 o'clock this morning. The captain furnishes the following information: Forrest, with about 5000 men, made an attack on Paducah at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, capturing the city and completely gutting the place. He burned a number of dwellings and the steamer Arizona. Col. Hicks with a force of between 700 and 800 men occupied the fort, while Forrest occupied the town. Gunboats played on the city for some time. The enemy made four assaults upon the fort, but were repulsed each time. At one time some of them gained the top of the breastworks, and a few fell inside the fort. The wharf boat and about 3000 people were moved across the river on Forrest's approach. Steamer Josephine Pearce, bringing later news, has arrived. Forrest had left Paducah. The fire in the back part of the city was dying out. People on this side of the river are returning. During the fight a number of rebels had occupied a large brewery on front street, which gunboats opened heavily, battering down walls of buildings and killing many rebels. It is not known how many were killed in the city. It is said that some women and children were killed.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—A light rain has been falling within the last 24 hours throughout the State, with considerable snow on the mountains.

Overland line news.

New York telegrams of Saturday, quote gold at 169½ to 176 (170)

A special to the Commercial says that the Secretary of State is understood to be in favor of an immediate demonstration against France, owing to the designs of the Mexican Empire and of France in connection with the rebellion. If such demonstrations were really inaugurated, it is to be regretted that it was delayed so long that now its only effect must be to precipitate us into dangerous complications. The Government was apprised lately by telegram of the appearance of a fleet of French frigates at the mouth of the Rio Grande. This has a great significance.

Numerous changes are being made among the subordinates, and in the ordinance of the Army of the Potomac, with a view of enhancing its efficiency.

Chicago, 26.—Cairo dispatches say it has been determined to give up places back of the river, which are held by small forces, and only hold such places of importance as are necessary to insure the safety of the river communication.

Eastern Arkansas has recently been a scene of much revolting outrage. Loyal bands of guerrillas go about the country, from house to house plundering citizens of money, clothing, and anything else of value. Efforts are being made by the 15th Illinois cavalry to rid the country of these villains.

Rebel conscription is being mercilessly enforced in various localities. Loyal bands of guerrillas have made their appearance in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, and had several skirmishes with the fourth Wisconsin mounted infantry, which resulted invariably in our favor. Several prisoners were taken.

Advices from Brownsville, Texas, report no prospect of fighting.

The steamer McClellan, from New Orleans, has arrived.

The capture of the Alexandria occurred on the fifteenth day after the capture of Fort DeRussy.

Gen. Lee's force had a fight at New Iberia and captured the enemy's stores. Five million prairie to Vermilion Bayou, a distance of 18 miles.

Gov. Babn has resigned all connection with the Trus Delta.

The Free State Executive Committee had adopted the following resolution: That the Free State Party is unanimously opposed to assuming debts contracted by the State of Louisiana under the rebel rule, for the purpose of carrying on a war against the United States.

Deserters and refugees continue to arrive from Brownsville, Texas; 3,000 in all had been captured at that place, including 150 from one regiment.

New Orleans.—Gen. Banks would leave for the field on the 21st.

The gunboat Octoroon, one of the participants in the attack on Fort Powell, near Mobile, had arrived at New Orleans for repairs.

The prisoners captured at Fort DeRussy have arrived at New Orleans.

Fortifications are being made at New Orleans.

CINCINNATI, March 26.—The Alice Deane ran ashore near this place and sunk last night. The boat and cargo valued at \$40,000. The cargo will probably be taken out, but in a damaged condition. It is thought that the boat can be raised.

A large number of troops are now en route from the West to reinforce the Army of the Potomac.

## LATEST EUROPEAN TELEGRAMS.

Our London correspondent sends us Reuter's latest telegrams received before the departure of the mail in advance of the morning papers. They have been partially anticipated by telegraphic despatches from the East, but nevertheless furnish reliable information of the progress of events in Denmark.

PROCLAMATION OF DUKE FREDERICK AT HOLM. RENDSBURG, Feb. 6th, Evening.—Duke Frederick has been enthusiastically proclaimed at Holm and in the vicinity.

Nothing new is reported from the theatre of war.

THE WAR IN SCHLESWIG. HAMBURG, Feb. 6th.—A telegram received here from Kiel dated yesterday evening says: The hills ground in front of the whole Miskow line has been taken by the Prussians. The Austrians have advanced to Jahrdorf. It is stated that the Prussians have formed a cordon in Schleswig, and allow no war intelligence to pass.

Severe fighting is supposed to be going on, a number of wounded are constantly brought into Rendsburg.

12.20 P. M.—It is stated here that the town of Schleswig has been evacuated by the Danes, and that Missunde has been taken. The statement meets with some credit.

2 P. M.—The news of the evacuation of Schleswig appears to be confirmed.

The allies are now said to have entered the city at 5.30, this morning.

Nothing has been heard from Missunde.

FROM THE MEXICAN COAST. The steamer Oregon arrived in San Francisco on the 20th, from ports on the north-western coast of Mexico, bringing papers from San Blas, dated the 12th of March. She brought about \$200,000 in specie.

The French blockade of the Mexican coast.—The Mazatlan Times of 5th March says:—

Capt. Simpson, who reached this port on Wednesday from San Blas, has furnished us with some items in reference to affairs on our southern border. He informs us that both San Blas and Tepic are virtually in possession of the French, although they are no French forces at either point, but the officials at both places are governed entirely by the orders of the French commandant at Guadalupe.

The Admiral in command of the French vessels on the coast, Tepic is claimed as a separate territory by the parties who are at present in control of the city.

About the middle of last month the schooner Libertario, from San Francisco, for Manzanillo, with a cargo of flour, was stopped off the port of Manzanillo by the French man-of-war Cordelliere, and ordered to San Blas to discharge her cargo. The Libertario discharged at San Blas the contents of the French naval commander being fully carried out both at Tepic and San Blas. Several foreign vessels have been stopped by the Cordelliere, and it seems to be the purpose of the French to establish an "effectual blockade" of all ports to the south of this place. The business of ever-living vessels, Captain Simpson says, has been conducted with the least possible inconvenience to the vessels themselves, and he says that all who have fallen into the hands of the commander of the Cordelliere, have been treated with the utmost courtesy by him and his officers.

Our informant says that the commandant at San Blas, Antonio Rodriguez, seems ready to exhibit an inordinate amount of zeal for the cause of the invaders by throwing every possible obstacle in the way of vessels from this port or Guaymas, justifying his course upon the plea that such vessels are in the hands of the Government, and that he has been conducted with the least possible inconvenience to the vessels themselves, and he says that all who have fallen into the hands of the commander of the Cordelliere, have been treated with the utmost courtesy by him and his officers.

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