

The press of Victoria, Vancouver's Island, is divided in opinion as to the advisability of the Union. Among the supporters of Union is the *Coloanist*, one of the oldest established journals, while it is opposed by the *Chronicle*, an energetic rival of the *Coloanist*.—*Journal*. Is it possible! Why there must be *Chronicles* and *Coloanists* squabbling all over British North America. Happy Halifax, whose *Chronicle* and *Coloanist* at last lie together in unity.

Maximilian is taking liberties with British rights at Honduras. He must be looked after. *Sun*. Certainly! The sooner the better. Perhaps the *Sun* will go and do so.

The *Reporter* informs us that the superb sleighing which has converted our country into a railroad during the past week or ten days, has been completely spoiled by recent rains. If railroads are so easily to be destroyed, it were well to cease constructing them.

The *Pictou Standard* calls the *Presbyterian Witness* "the religious, so called, bifurcated organ of bigotry, superstition and intolerance." Hard but true.—*Morning Journal*. The excessive uncharitableness of the remarks of the *Pictou Standard* seem to please the *Morning Journal* which endorses them. Perhaps, however, the *Journal* is taken in by the long words of the passage above quoted. Bifurcated is a pretty word, but does not mean divided into three prongs, as the *Pictou Standard* would lead us to suppose. If the *Journal* must quote rampant passages from country papers, let it give a preference to those which are written in good English.

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

The latest despatch from Nashville locates Gen. Thomas' Head Quarters at Rutherford Hill, 8 miles this side of Columbia, the enemy retreated without firing a shot. The rebel force was at Palaski on the 22nd. Still moving South.

At least one third of Hood's army are without arms. Everything which impeded their flight having been dispensed with.

Forrest effected a junction with Hood on Tuesday. The loss of the rebels during this campaign in Tennessee is estimated at 17,000 men, 51 pieces of artillery, and 18 General officers killed. Gen. Davidson's raiding party from Baton Rouge is reported by the Richmond Whig to have passed through Augusta Perry, Miss., on the 9th, on their way to Mobile.

The Hon. J. M. Wood, of Portland, formerly member of Congress, and prominent in Railway enterprises, died at the Riverside House, Boston, on the morning of the 24th inst. The fire in Beekman Street, in New York, on the night of the 23rd inst., destroyed property to the amount of \$150,000.

The Confederate General Mosby is again reported killed. General Davidson who left Baton Rouge on the 17th, has reached Pensacola all safe, losing only about 60 men on the trip. He destroyed an immense amount of Confederate supplies and a number of miles of railroad track. He met with very little opposition.

Late Richmond papers state that a portion of Sheridan's army estimated at 5,000, had crossed the Blue Ridge at Chester Gap and occupied Madison Court House. Their destination being Gordonsville.

Another Federal force was marching on Weldon. These papers confess that Richmond is in serious danger of being cut off from all its railroad and telegraph communication.

A despatch from the Secretary of War, announces that Gen. Sherman entered Savannah on the 22nd, capturing 8,000 prisoners, 150 guns, 23,000 bales of cotton, 3 steamers, &c.

The rebel General Hardee escaped with his Infantry and Light Artillery, on the afternoon and night of the 20th, first destroying the rebel iron-clads and Navy-yard.

Business generally suspended in New York on the 26th inst. No regular gold board. Parties in the streets offered to sell at 210, which was refused.

Hood has been again defeated in Tennessee, losing 15 guns, all his pontoon equipment, and nearly eight hundred prisoners.

The following is the official announcement from Sherman.—Savannah, Ga., Dec. 22nd, to His Excellency President Lincoln, I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton. Signed N. T. Sherman, Major General. Governor Watts of Alabama has issued a proclamation calling out the Militia of that State.

He says two strong Federal columns were within twenty miles of Mobile and rapidly approaching the City.

The Richmond Enquirer of Saturday says editorially:—"The march of Sherman through the heart of Georgia has been accomplished, and he has been allowed to establish his communications with the naval forces without any other loss than that of stragglers and the wear and tear of an army on a long expedition. The Enquirer anticipates that Sherman will at once march into South Carolina.

The New York Herald correspondent says a Federal force

from Newburn has successfully penetrated into the interior of North Carolina.

General Grant telegraphs to the War Department at Washington the following extract from the Richmond papers of the 27th inst.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 25th. "The enemy's fleet of over fifty vessels, including two monitors, several armored vessels and many heavily armed frigates and sloops of war, made a furious attack on Fort Fisher about 1 o'clock on Saturday, P. M., and kept up an average fire of 30 shots per minute until night. Our loss is 23 wounded. The attack was renewed on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, and has been very furious and continuous. The enemy under cover of the heavy fire, landed about two brigades, two and a half miles above Fort Fisher. They were immediately engaged by a smaller force. The enemy held the ground at night.

It is reported that Sherman is moving a force up the Savannah River to capture Augusta.

The bombardment of Fort Fisher continued furiously.

An old vessel loaded with three hundred tons of gunpowder was run in close to Fort Fisher and fired with slow match; explosion was awful but its effects not known. For fifty miles along the coast the shock was thought to be an earthquake.

At a large open air-meeting of Conservatives at Manchester, resolutions were adopted, strongly opposing recognition of the Slave-holding Confederacy.

Nothing later from Wilmington.

Hood, with the shattered fragments of his army, is reported as having crossed the river at Florence, leaving Tennessee free of hostile invaders.

Gen. Davidson's expedition has returned to Baton Rouge. The force travelled one hundred miles in 15 days, burned 15 bridges and many miles of railroad, and destroyed enormous quantities of property.

Richmond papers state that Saltville, in South Western Virginia, is in Federal possession.

The Saltworks located there have supplied rebeldom with salt, and their capture is acknowledged as a serious disaster.

Kilpatrick with a force of Cavalry, has left Savannah for the purpose of liberating Federal prisoners held in the interior of Georgia.

Admiral Porter has made an official report of his attack on Wilmington. The powder ship exploded near the walls of Fort Fisher, at 2 o'clock, Saturday morning, but failed in the anticipated effect. The attack commenced shortly before noon. The firing of the fleet was magnificent. The fire of the Fort was speedily silenced, and the enemy driven to the bomb proofs. Two magazines were blown up, and several buildings set on fire.

During the heaviest of the bombardment 115 shots per minute were fired. The enemy was silenced so quickly that no one was injured on board the fleet from their guns.

Six 100 Parrott guns in the fleet exploded, killing and wounding 54 officers and men.

An infantry force of 3,000 men was landed, but Gen. Weitzel found it impracticable to storm the fort, and the force was re-embarked, and will return to Fortress Monroe.

The naval attack will be resumed.

Gen. Burbridge officially reports the destruction of the Confederate salt and lead works. He defeated the Confederates in various fights, captured 20 cannon, broke up railroads, and destroyed a vast quantity of stores.

THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

(Continued).

"Hide me—anywhere; let nobody find me. Mrs. Rivers, they hoot at me down the street. They say—oh, I dare not think what they say and I dare not tell him. Perhaps—oh, horror!—perhaps he thinks so too."

Long shudders possessed her; it was sometime before she gained the slightest composure. It was not difficult for me to guess the cause of her anguish.

"Never mind their tongues Mrs. Merchiston, they will cease if let alone. Only live in peace and patience. Hope in God still."

"I can't," she said with a wild look that I had not before seen. "How should I hope in Him? He has forsaken me; why should I live any longer? Oh! save me, save me! Let me go away from here from my husband. I must go, their cruel tongues will kill me."

"You shall," I cried with a sudden idea, as suddenly converted to a resolution: "you shall and I will help you."

Whereupon I explained all to her; somewhat hastily, for I was afraid of Mr. Rivers coming home; he who had just a man's notion of marital authority and the wickedness of conjugal rebellion. But this was a case in which I set even him at defiance—or rather I trusted to my own influence to convince him that acting from my conscience solely I acted right.

Mark me, children I would have a woman submit to any lawful authority even unjustly and cruelly exercised so long as the misery does not ruin her soul. When the torment goads her thus far—when like Job's wife, the devil tempts her to "curse God and die," then I hold, all duty ceases, except to her Maker and herself the creature which He made; let her save her own soul and flee!

My counsel to Mrs. Merchiston was this: at once—openly if she could, secretly if that was impossible to leave her husband, absolutely