

WHAT THE REBEL PAPERS SAY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Richmond papers of the 5th inst., contain the following items:

A dispatch from Augusta, dated Jan. 4th, says "the city of Savannah continues quiet. An order had been issued not to cut the shade trees for fuel. Sherman proposes to bring wood by the Gulf railroad. The 14th and 15th corps are in entrenchments reaching from Savannah river to the plank road. The Yankees are building a new pontoon bridge opposite the exchange. Many negroes who joined Sherman in the country, are leaving. The roads are lined with them. Several federal steamers are engaged in removing obstructions from the river.

About three hundred negroes were sold in Augusta, on Tuesday, at auction, at an average of from \$3000 to \$3500 each. Several buildings and five hundred bales of cotton were burned in Albany, Ga., last Tuesday, by an incendiary.

Yellow fever has entirely subsided at Galveston and Houston. Gen. Kirby Smith is impressing tobacco for the use of his army. Everything was quiet in the trans-Mississippi region, and there were no Yankees south of our (the rebel) army, which is in fine condition, well clothed and well-fed.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 5.—No further movements of the enemy are reported to-day. His force is still concentrating between Hardeesville and Savannah river. There is no truth in their reported advance on Grahamsville.

The reported death of Gens. Hood and Forrest is not confirmed.

From Savannah we learn that Gen. Sherman is pursuing a very conciliatory policy and has issued a proclamation permitting planters to bring in their produce as usual, and holds out inducements for them to do so. This looks as if he felt perfectly secure, and meant to make all the friends he could.

The Charleston Mercury understands that Sherman has given the citizens of Savannah fifteen days to settle up their bank and other accounts, which are to be balanced in confederate treasury notes. If this be true, there will be few open accounts in Savannah after the fifteen days truce expires. Everybody and everybody's relation will be eager to square up at once.

Gen. Hood being now safely across the Tennessee river beyond all doubt, we await with some interest for details of his future movements. Gen. Thomas will endeavor by all practicable means to prevent him, if possible, but delay him at all events, from moving to Charleston or any point on the prospective line of Sherman's march. Whether it be the object of Hood to march to the defence of Charleston remains to be seen. Whatever his determination we may anticipate more severe fighting between the rival armies of Tennessee. Meanwhile, Sherman's march northward from Savannah does not appear to be making very much headway. The weather has been unpropitious, or other and more important causes have combined to impede his advance upon Charleston.

The Richmond Sentinel of the 5th has a leader headed "The government and the opposition," in which the opposition receives a severe lashing. They are denounced as a factious, ill-affected, treacherous host of malcontents, traducers, and friends of the north. They are pointed out as eminently dangerous to the south, and if they would quit southern territory there would be a happy riddance. This opposition is, continues the Sentinel, contemptible in numbers, and does not include in its ranks one single man eminent for virtue and talent, and in whom the people have ever been accustomed to confide.

By the Columbia South Carolinian it appears that a number of Union prisoners who had agreed to join the rebel army to escape a rebel prison pen, had been discovered in a plot to escape to Sherman's lines. Seven were shot and the remainder sent to prison.

Gen. Taliaferro is in command of the district of Charleston, succeeding Gen. Ransom. Gen. W. Smith is in Augusta. Major-General John C. Brown, brother of ex-governor Brown of Tennessee, is recovering from his wound received at Franklin.

The Raleigh Progress says of the Roanoke affair, in which the rebels at first claimed so great a victory, that it did not amount to much, no one being killed or seriously wounded on either side.

The Richmond Enquirer reports a skirmish on the Spring place road, near Dalton, Ga., in which the rebels captured seventeen prisoners, seventy horses, and fifty or seventy stands of arms. No date given.

Mobile papers say that a steamer powerfully armed, has just been completed at that city, and has taken her place in that harbor, and that she has elegance, strength, and speed.

The Richmond Sentinel says the arrangements made with Mr. Ingraham to bring beef to Richmond at a less price than \$6 per pound does not work; that he charges now as much as the most extortionate butcher, and that some new arrangements must be made. It says the people of Richmond and the great multitude who by the most unremitting labor cannot make one-half the sum paid to government clerks are starving. This is a fixed fact. The Whig is even more bitter on Ingram, and says Virginia state officers are furnished prime beef at one dollar and sixty cents per pound.

Gov. Magrath of South Carolina has issued a proclamation calling upon free white men between the ages of sixteen and sixty to come to the defence of Charleston, willingly if they will, forcibly if necessary.

The Richmond Enquirer suggests hanging certain merchants in Wilmington who refused to take confederate money while Porter's fleet was before that city.

Richmond papers of the 6th say that a violent tornado passed over middle Alabama on the 27th of December, killing fifteen persons, demolishing a large number of houses and destroying the railroad bridge on the Montgomery and West Point railroad twenty miles east of Montgomery. The damage done was immense.

They also state that at the battle of Franklin, the Missouri brigade went into the fight 688 strong, and had 109 killed, 242 wounded, and 96 captured, making a loss of 447. Gen. Cockerell was wounded three times, but not seriously. Col. Gates was also wounded. Col. Garland and Maj. Parker, with a long list of captains and lieutenants, were among the killed.

The Examiner says that on the 5th a commission from Grant's lines arrived at Varona under a flag of truce with 1500 blankets for distribution among the federal prisoners in Richmond, in addition to 1000 received last week. Of the fifty odd thousand Yankee prisoners held in the south not over 200 are confined in Richmond, and more than half of these are in the hospital. For a year past the great body of them has been shifting south. Richmond is hard pressed to feed its superabundant population, and the large army defending its gates is relieved from the incubus of an overstocked prison post in its midst.

The reports of Sherman having crossed the Savannah are confirmed. He is believed to be moving on Grahamsville.