

THE WAR IN NEW ENGLAND.

Statistical Accounts of the Amount of Cotton on Hand in the Several Corporations.

The Rise in Cotton, and How it Has Affected the Manufactured Article.

THE FACTORY OPERATIVES AND THEIR WAGES.

The War with the South and the Prospect of One with England.

ENLISTMENTS IN NEW ENGLAND.

ARREST OF A SECESSION WOMAN IN VERMONT.

OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE,

&c., &c., &c.

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTPELIER, Vt., Dec. 23, 1861.

Within the past three weeks I have visited the capitals and many of the principal business cities and towns in the New England States, viz.—Hartford, Conn.; Providence, R. I.; Boston, New Bedford, Taunton, Worcester, Lawrence, Lowell, Dracut, &c., in Massachusetts; Portland, Augusta, Saco, Biddeford, &c., in Maine; Dover, Exeter, Nashua, Concord, &c., in New Hampshire, and at last find myself, after a weary journey, in midwinter, in Montpelier, the pleasant capital of the Green Mountain State. During my travels I have discarded political bias of every kind in my intercourse with representative people, and have sought information on current topics of national interest from all classes of persons capable of forming a reasonable judgment upon the present perilous state of affairs and its bearing upon the future prosperity of our country. Information of this kind comes with peculiar fitness from the New England States; for none in the Union have thus far taken a more lively interest in the suppression of the rebellion, and are more likely to be materially affected by its results. Without recapitulating the matter furnished in former letters from some of the localities above named, I will at once proceed to furnish the readers of the HERALD with the results of my investigations since the date of my last letter at Portland, Dec. 13.

HOW CERTAIN COTTON MILLS IN MAINE ARE WORKING—SUPPLY OF MATERIAL ON HAND—EFFECTS OF THE WAR, ETC.

It is a notorious fact that the cotton corporations in New England would realize heavier profits by selling their raw material at present prices than by the sale of manufactured goods, even at the increased rates. The demand is partly speculative and partly not, although it may be hard to satisfy every one of the correctness of the latter assertion. Let me furnish a few facts.

LACONIA CORPORATION, BIDDEFORD, ME.

Now running one mill on fine shirtings and sheetings, heavy sheetings and cotton flannels. The produce, as compared with this time last year, is a little less than one-third. I have the assertion of those well qualified to know, that this reduction in production is not in consequence of the prevailing war, but in order to keep out the stock of cotton on hand without being obliged to stop work before a further supply can be obtained. The amount of cotton now held by the Laconia corporation is about 4,500 bales, which, at the present rate of consumption, will last upwards of two years. It will be thus observed that the Laconia management are anticipating a more protracted struggle than the management at Washington. By the sale of the cotton now held by the Laconia corporation the sum of \$350,000 would be realized. For example, the 4,500 bales should average 470 pounds per bale; in round numbers about 2,000,000 pounds in the aggregate. Supposing this cotton to have cost, with all expenses, interest, &c., thirteen cents per pound, and to be now worth thirty cents, the profit above named would be realized. I learn that it is not the intention of the company to sell; but if they do sell they will, of course, sell to, anybody—speculator or manufacturer. An astute manufacturer would not hold his cotton at present prices, or at any prices when he could not make as much by manufacturing it up as by selling it in its unmanufactured state. It is true there is disadvantage in suffering the mills to lie idle, in consequence of the rusting of the machinery, the difficulty in getting hands and other matters attending upon re-organizing; but if managers get \$20,000 or \$30,000 more by selling their cotton than in working it up, the difference would go a good way toward starting up again. The Laconia now pays out about \$5,000 per month to operatives.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE FACTORY GIRLS.

Some curiosity has been awakened to know what becomes of the large number of factory girls thrown out of employment. It may relieve the minds of those interested in the subject to learn that a large number of the American girls have comfortable homes in the country, to which they repair when out of work; others hire sewing machines at so much per week, and accept contracts from army contractors to make government work. The step from high to low contractors is very short; but, while the first contractors make fortunes, the girls earn a bare pittance, not half so much as they would earn in mills in good times.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE NAVY?

Of the men who are thrown out of work by the mills working short time or stopping altogether, a large proportion have enlisted in the army, and some in the navy. The same may be said of the unemployed of all the other mills in this region. There are several recruiting stations in Biddeford and Saco, principally for General Butler's New England division, in the Rocket battalion, the navy, regular service, &c.

THE FEVERELL MILLS, BIDDEFORD,

Are the largest in the country, working 70,000 spindles, and using up 12,000 bales of cotton per year. They are now working about one-half time. The stock of cotton on hand amounts to about 4,700 bales, and, as now working, will last about nine months.

THE YORK MANUFACTURING COMPANY, SACO,

Have five mills in the corporation. They are now running one of 4,000 spindles—having 23,000 in all. They have 2,000 bales of cotton on hand; using five bales per day. One hundred operatives are now at work. Have had 1,200. Nine hundred women and girls have gone home. Had no business from 3d of July last to the 3d of December. Most of the goods manufactured by the York were what are called Southern "nigger" cloths; and, the market with the South being closed, the corporation were of course obliged to suspend operations.

BIDDEFORD—POLITICS—THE WAR—THE "HARRAQUEM OF EMANCIPATION."

Although generally a lively little place, with a good hotel (kept by Frank Atkinson, who has a brother in Willard's, Washington), Biddeford is rather dull. Were it not for the uniforms of the recruiting officers and the new recruits and the presence of a few choice and enterprising spirits, as well as some orthodox politicians and gentlemen, it would be almost lifeless at the present time. Some of the beaches are said to be in fine order, and the boys and girls occasionally enjoy a skating frolic or a ride to Lane's (delegate to the Charleston Convention), to the Ferry, also to "Old Orchard," and occasionally to a little "old rye."

WHAT THE REPUBLICANS SAY ABOUT THE OLD DEMOCRATS, AND VICE VERSA.

Before leaving Portland I fell in with an old democrat who filled an important station in the last Cabinet at Washington. He was with another prominent old liner. They cheerfully endorsed the conservative policy of President Lincoln. "As to war with England," remarked one, "there is more to be apprehended from France in that respect than from Great Britain. The latter is a government with fixed interests, which would be menaced by a war with us, while the government of Louis Napoleon is that of an adventurer, who has no such fears."

A well known Maine democrat, descending upon the rules of the Union troops, said, with truth, that "they resulted from the ignorance of the North about the natural and artificial defences of the South. The latter," he continued, "have an impassable line stretching from the capes of the Chesapeake to Cairo." His idea was that the policy of the administration would be the formation of new geographical lines, and the South reduced to the condition of Territories. As to emancipation, he believed there was great danger of the administration being forced to adopt that policy, which he styled the "barbarism of emancipation," citing the case of St. Domingo in illustration. He was of opinion that the old whigs and conserva-

tives, North and South, favored the restoration, of the Union under the old compromises and guarantees; and there is no doubt but he reflected the views of many influential men in both sections; but those who express such views in some latitudes I have found are stigmatized as secessionists and traitors.

As a small item of interest in the controversy between the HERALD and Tribune, I have been informed the practice of the Tribune in affording the paper at reduced rates of subscription to clergymen has been improved by parties hereabouts who never entered a pulpit in their lives, and, it is not impossible, were never inside the walls of a church.

ARRIVING AT DOVER, N. H.,

I found the mills (Cocheco) were running two-thirds time, and the print works full time. The supply of cotton would last until about July, forty bales being consumed per week, turning out forty thousand yards of fine goods per day. Notwithstanding the rise in the price of the manufactured article from nine to eleven and twelve cents per yard, it is the opinion of the management that the corporation could make more by selling the cotton than the calico. Fifteen hundred bales midland cotton, for which they paid eleven cents, and which they now hold, is now worth thirty-five cents per pound. The figures differ slightly from those furnished at the Laconia mills, but the net profit to the Cocheco corporation is larger. Notwithstanding the mills are doing relatively better than for years, I am sorry to hear officially that the compensation of the operatives has not improved, "many of the girls now working for scarcely their board." The affairs of the corporation, print works, &c., are in efficient and trustworthy hands; but we were sorry to miss the kind welcome of an old friend, the late Captain Paul, former agent of the corporation, to whose polite attentions your correspondent was much indebted two years ago.

The prosperity of Dover has not much increased within the past two years, when it was governed by the bonnie, bunn-y Bond, who still is gay and happy, and not insensible to the hold he has upon the good will of the people. If nominated for any higher office he will undoubtedly poll a cracking vote. It will be sufficient for those who know "the Doctor" to say that he is still rosy, although the locks of some of his old friends are turning a little gray. Enlistments are continuing in Dover, where many of the unemployed find comfortable raiment, good rations and warm quarters in Uncle Sam's ranks. The war has been of no material detriment to the business portion of the people, although here, as well as nearly everywhere else, there are some who cannot resist joining in the raven cry of "hard times."

The republicans of Dover do not, as a general thing, endorse the emancipation policy of Sumner, &c. They say emancipation will follow as our army advances, and they hope that will be a little faster than it has lately.

Next, rapidly and comfortably conveyed upon that admirably conducted travelling medium, the Boston and Maine Railroad, we arrive at night at the

CITY OF LAWRENCE, MASS.

The cotton mills in this city were so elaborately described at the time of the Pemberton disasters to render it unnecessary to repeat a description here. Since then, however, the Pemberton has been reconstructed upon its old site, with improvements upon its internal structure, &c. The Pacific mill is running full time, and the Bay State is busy manufacturing woollen goods for the army under government contracts. The Little Duck is also swimming along, doing lively work in making tents for the army. The Everett, Pemberton, Atlantic, &c., seem to be briskly engaged, to judge in the brief time had to examine them. The cotton mills have material enough to last them until June. There are now about 6,000 persons, male and female, employed in the Lawrence corporations, and but few idlers about the streets. Another new and useful institution has been created in Lawrence since the last year, and that is the election of W. H. P. Wright, Esq., to the Mayoralty. Mr. Wright, although a young man, has been long identified with the progress of the place, and has assisted materially in enhancing its prosperity. He received the largest majority for the office, with but one exception, ever cast. He has an extensive field for the exercise of his managerial abilities, particularly with regard to the condition of the operatives in the corporations, and in protecting them from imposition as well as in providing for the unfortunate. Mr. Wright was foreman of the committee appointed to investigate the causes that led to the Pemberton calamity, and acquitted himself with success, looking to the rights of the corporators as well as to the interests and to the safety of the lives of the operatives.