
THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

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VOL. 4

Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, December 1863

NO. 12

Our exchanges from the country are giving respectable lists of contributions that are being made for the relief of soldiers' families. We have every assurance that they are every where being amply provided for. In many instances more is offered than is required. If there is any suffering in this State, it can only be where the wants have not been made known. As was to be expected, there are, however, some who fail to give from their abundant means. We hope they will be made known.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 2, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

Our people now will have to learn the lesson we have persisted in urging upon them ever since the war began—that of self-dependence. The Rio Grande trade is now cut off. No more supplies can be drawn from that source. The blockade runners also, we regret to learn, have been of late so unfortunate that most of them have broke and retired from the business. We presume the last bale of calico and domestic has arrived that will be in for some time. Now should the people betake themselves to their spinning wheels and looms. Let the ladies set the example and make domestic made goods fashionable. Let us all practice economy and prove that we are independent of the world practically, if we would deserve to be so politically.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 3, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

Fort Point, Nov. 27th, 1863.

Editor Telegraph:--Can't some of our good friends send us some tobacco? Our money has been out for a long time; we don't draw any these times. A few twists of homespun would be a Christmas present that would raise the sunshine in our faces. We intend to "hang up our stockings." if they can't send tobacco, please send us the seed, and we will commence preparing the ground; for we mean to defend this place till h-ll freezes over, and then fight the Yankees on the ice.

Private Co. A, Cook's Reg't,
Galveston Island.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 3, 1863, p. 2, c. 4

Waco, Nov. 27th, 1863.

Ed. Telegraph—The young ladies of Waco gave an entertainment, consisting of music, plays, &c., on the night of the 31st Oct. last, for the benefit of the "Soldier's Home," at Waco. to furnish food, lodging, and medical attendance if necessary, to soldiers on furlough, wounded or otherwise regularly absent from their commands. The funds have been turned over to the committee in charge, and the "Home" is in a flourishing condition, and has already been of service to the soldiers. The proceeds of sales of tickets were \$462.50, and at the close a subscription was taken up with the following result:

[list]

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 5, 1863, p. 2, c. 3

Camp Groce.

Ed. Telegraph—The "Soldiers' Christian Association" feel grateful to you for the publication of their card. The Association numbers eighty members. Some of them, however, have left this post for other portions of the command.

It affords us much pleasure to know that officers and men alike are held in high esteem by the "officials" at Houston.

The object of this Association is to furnish reading matter for the command and for other commands, as far as we can. To do this, we earnestly solicit the aid of all friends of the soldier. The mind must have food. If intellectual and moral reading is not furnished, other habits will be formed which will, by no means, be profitable to the men of the country. There is but little or no difficulty in commanding moral men. The immoral and vicious are hard to command. There is one other view of the subject. It is to be hoped that the bloody strife now existing will, at no distant day, close. When it does, it id desirable that the hundreds of thousands of men in the field should return to the common walks of society, moral and not vicious men.

In behalf of the soldier, we ask all persons having a spare Bible, Testament, or any other book pamphlet or tract, to forward it to our care, Hempstead, Texas. Will the News please copy.

A. J. McGown,

Cor. Sec. and Treas. Soldiers' Ch. Ass.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 3, 1863, p. 2, c. 4

S. S.

The people here and elsewhere have noticed the appearance of the above cabalistic letters, and have had to question the meaning of them. We betray no confidence in stating that they are the initials of the Sons of the South, a purely patriotic organization of men who are thus banded together for the purpose of aiding the present struggle for liberty, in preserving the constitution of the Confederate States from violation, and in perpetuating our present form of government. Another object is to dispense charity to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers, to supply the wants of wounded and distressed officers and soldiers, and their families. These objects are sought through an organization that brings all its members into the close relation of a common brotherhood.

Where the organization originated we are unable to say. We only know that it is co-extensive with the Confederacy, and pervades all our armies. We have been witness to a vast amount of good it has accomplished. It has nothing political in its scope or field of operation, unless a most entire devotion to the cause of the Confederacy may be deemed political. To them who regard that as partizanship, the S. S. will not present many attractions.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 5, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

The Victoria Advocate says a fine quality of oil is being made from the Buckeye nut, by W. O. Reagan of that place. The nut is found in great abundance in our river bottoms.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, December 5, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

Lady in Distress.

Mrs. T. A. Herbert, a refugee from Missouri is now at this place in almost a destitute condition. She has brothers in Gen. Cooper's Brigade, who will assist her if they have a knowledge of her condition, which is the object of this notice. She also has relatives in Red River County, Texas.

A. B. Genkins,

Farmersville, La. Sept. 9th, 1863.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], December 5, 1863, p. 2, c. 2

We regret to note the suspension of the Crocket Quid Nunc for want of paper. The editor thanks us for lending him some paper. We are only sorry that it was out of our power to lend him more. We have now over eighty reams loaned out to our brethren of the press, and the prospect is we shall ourself run out before we are able to return it.

The State Gazette, a paper inclined to criticise the military for doing things not provided in the law, admits on seeing the statement recently published with Gen. Magruder's circular, that it contains sufficient evidence to satisfy any who might have formerly entertained a doubt as to the necessity of the arrests made by him of disloyalists.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

The Legislature.

Austin, Dec. 2, 1863.

A bill appropriating two hundred thousand dollars for the manufacture of spinning jennies, has passed both houses. . .

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

Received, Velasco, Texas, November 22d, 1863, of Captain S. L. Ballowe, the sum of one hundred and twenty-three dollars, being the proceeds of a "Negro Ball," given at Brazoria, for the benefit of Brown's Battalion.

R. R. Brown,

Col. Com'dg Reg't.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

For Sale—(Whole Sale.)—A small invoice consisting of perfumery, plumes, young ladies' opera chenille caps, laces, linen shirts, fine Italian straw hats for Misses, veils, fans, combs, tooth brushes, hair braids, sewing silk, buttons, &c., &c. Apply to

P. Reynaud,

At McIlheny, Willis & Brother.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

The State Gazette anticipates furnishing the State of Texas with paper, when the mill being established by its enterprising editor and his associates is set agoing. We hope to hear of its successful establishment, and wish the editor to take our order for the first one hundred reams.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

We learn that there are 145 students at Waco University. The boys are drilled in military tactics one hour each day. The Institution is the most flourishing in the State.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 2

Alexandria, Nov. 29.

. . . A lot of Mexican blankets arrived here, which were placed in the Quartermaster's Department. Forthwith several picayune officers, who happened to be lying here on furlough or for other reasons, and several detailed men in the different departments here, all of whom sleep in good comfortable quarters, go tout their "requisitions" and drew these blankets, while the poor blanketless soldier, who is compelled to sleep in the open air, with the thermometer down to within 20 degrees of zero, as it was last night, could not draw one! A captain told me yesterday that he applied for some of these blankets for his men, who have none, or shoes for their feet, and he was told that there was none to spare!

To use a mild expression, I consider this a damnable outrage. And, yet, you will hear these very men, who have robbed the exposed soldier of these blankets say, "We are bound to succeed in this contest, because God is on our side." If we ever do succeed it will be in spite of innumerable acts of injustice, such as every generous heart turns from in disgust. If the Great God had had the issuing of requisitions, a few suffering soldiers, at least, would have been cared for. My soul is sick of such acts of injustice, for they have long been familiar to my eyes, not only here but elsewhere.

H. P.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 1, c. 3

Camp Lubbock, Dec. 3, 1863

Editor Telegraph:--A great deal has been said lately in different papers about treason and treasonable acts. If you will permit me a small space in your interesting paper, I will call your attention to a certain public annoyance, which in its consequences is fully as bad as treason. I refer to the continued squibs thrown by various publications against foreigners—Germans or "Dutch" in particular. Direct blows would not be so painful as the covered attacks upon the good faith and loyalty of the mass of German Texans, indicating an existing prejudice against them. Look at the repeated "slurs" of papers, published no one knows by whom nor where but certainly by men who claim exemption from the army as printers. Look at such publication as the "Tracts for the people No. 2," where cowardice is charged upon "Dutch" generally, and published in Houston by a man whose son was the first man in Texas who took the oath of allegiance to old Abe. The feeling it caused among the troops at Camp Lubbock came near finishing the book store. I write this since they have left.

Brave soldiers that will march to meet wounds and death, are stung almost to madness by these continuous fly stings. It is not only the most vulgar who use offensive epithets, but even a former Governor in his state paper, where every word ought to have a defined meaning, used expressions such as the "hired Dutch and Hessians." Why use expressions that define nothing, but must be offensive to a large portion of our fellow citizens? It was by this sort of publications, that the youth of the North were gradually imbued with hate to the South and Southern institutions. These teachings are the cause of raids as the one recently made by a
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Camp Lubbock, Dec. 3, 1863

Continued from page 2

set of young villains, calling themselves "Randolph's Cadets," amongst the women and children of Industry, Austin county, where the mothers, wives and sisters of soldiers who fought through the desperate campaign of Mississippi, were insulted and beaten by a gang of boys, who pretend to be organized for home protection! (?) Let them beware of a contact with Waul's Legion!

Think of the number of German-Texians in our army; according to the voting population, fifty per cent. more than American born. Why raise ill-feeling for no good? I am proud of being a Texian, but claiming to be an American generally is very little credit in my eyes. In Europe every Indian, Negro, yankee claims to be an American!

It should be the duty of every intelligent man and good citizen to suppress publications, emanating from whom they may, causing ill-feeling amongst different classes of our people. Those causing ill-feeling are the worst traitors to the country, they could not do more harm in the ranks of the enemy.

Yours respectfully,
H. Wickeland.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 8, 1863, p. 2, c. 5

An organized gang of deserters were lately attacked in Angelina county, when a battle ensued, in which several persons were killed on both sides, among them the sheriff of that county.

The Tyler Reporter mentions the departure of the Federal prisoners (non-commissioned officers and privates) for exchange.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 2

Fulcrod and Randall's Battalion of Cadets, is now nearly full. Young men who wish to join it should lose no time in reporting to Lt. Col. Fulcrod, at General Bee's Headquarters, or Major Randall at Hempstead. They will have active service and gallant leaders, and the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing their country as much service, as the noble men who have gone before them. Capt. Williams is assigned to duty as Quartermaster, and is now in Houston getting supplies for the battalion. All who have been sworn into the battalion are requested to report at once to Headquarters.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 2

We paid last week \$2500 for printing paper, which in "old" times we would not have given \$75 for. We gave \$75 per ream for French letter paper, which we have often refused to purchase at \$1.25. A keg of ink which formerly cost \$25, cannot be had for less than \$150. If, therefore, such a step is contemplated, we take the liberty of suggesting that the most feasible plan would be to give out the work by contract to the lowest bidder.—Shreveport News.

Prices are cheaper in Shreveport than here. Printing paper cannot be had in Texas for less than 25 per cent. above these rates, and, as for ink, we have not for a long time paid less than \$5 per lb. for ink that before the war cost 18 cents. A keg that cost us \$18 before the war is now worth \$500.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 2

Lieut. Col. Barnes, who has been in command of Camp Groce for some time, called on us on Monday, as he was on his way to the front. He says the Federal prisoners have all been sent off for exchange. They appear to have been entirely satisfied with their treatment, and to have a much better idea of the rebels than they had before they came here. They were provided with such clothing as they needed, and sent forward to be paroled. The officers, we presume, remain at Tyler, or at some other point.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

Old Cloths vs. Silks.—Our country women complain that the Jews are making fortunes from the sales of costly dry goods. If our fair friends will cease to patronize, instead of complain of the Jews, wear their old clothes, and give the money now spent in silks to thinly clad and badly shod soldiers, one source of speculation would soon dry up. Try it, gentle lady, and you will sleep sweeter at night, feeling that you deserve the protection of the brave men now periling their lives to save you from future insult and degradation. Try it; and dry goods will fall to rational prices within six months.—Punch.

Gardening in Texas in December—From Affleck's Almanac.—Continue to transplant during favorable weather. Sow peas, cabbage, onions, radish, lettuce, parsnips, carrots, turnips, beets, spinage and sweet herbs. All of the seed beds and many young plants will need protection during very cold weather.

Manure and prepare the ground for all spring crops.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 9, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

A letter from Sherman, Grayson county, informs us that many families from S. W. Missouri, are now coming into that part of Texas, having been driven out by the heartless Federals who are now making this a war of extermination as well as destruction, to the extent of their ability. They have no horses, these having all been [illegible] many of them are said to be entirely destitute.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 9, 1863, p. 2, c. 4

A case of some interest was tried before the District Court in this city last Saturday. Two Yankee prisoners of war escaped from the guard house here, stole a couple of horses, and endeavored to make their way to Mexico. They were arrested in San Antonio and sent back. They were here handed over to the civil authorities on charge of theft. After full consideration, the jury, under the idea that the horses were stolen for the purpose of facilitating their escape, found them not guilty. They regarded their offence as not against the civil law, but the military, and that as members of the enemy's army they were, so far as the law is concerned, doing their best to obey the laws of their country in escaping from confinement here. The questions are interesting and worthy of discussion.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 14, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

Bastrop Military Institute.—The next semi-annual session of this Institute, will begin on the 25th of January, 1864. Charge for board and tuition, for session of five months, four hundred dollars in Confederate money.

Robert D. Allen, Superintendent.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 16, 1863, p. 2, c. 4

News from Arkansas and Missouri.

Clarksville, Tex., Nov. 12, 1863.

Editor Telegraph:--I having just returned from the *Ark River*, have concluded to drop you a few lines which may be interesting both to yourself and readers of your inestimable paper; as I am aware that you have but little information of what is going on in the north-west.

Gen. Shelby has just come out of Missouri, having been up there on a raid. He says, in going up he met with no resistance. Though he had but twelve hundred men, (detachments from Marmaduke's Cavalry,) he captured every town that lay upon his route from the Arkansas line to Booneville on the Missouri river, which place he entered without resistance, as the Feds who were holding post there, on hearing of his approach, fled across the river. He then proceeded from there up the river to Arrow Rock, and from thence to Marshall, county seat of saline county, where he fought a most desperate battle, being entirely surrounded by ten times his own numbers. Shelby divided his men into two divisions, taking command of one himself, and Hunter the other, and cut their way out. The fight lasted several hours. The enemy is said to have lost in killed as many as Shelby had men. Our loss is small. From Marshall Shelby started for Arkansas, and by the most desperate fighting only did they succeed in getting south of the Arkansas river. His men look hearty. All came out completely rigged in Federal uniform, and armed to the teeth, and superbly mounted.

There are said to be from eight to ten thousand guerrillas along the line of Arkansas and Missouri who intend to come south to winter. The most conspicuous among them is the young dare-devil guerrilla chieftain, Will Campbell, of Texas. He has but a small company of men, not over forty, but they are true and brave, all Missourians, the heroes of Grand Gulf, Port Hudson and Vicksburg. Fore dare-devil bravery, fox-like cunning, or unerring strategy, he cannot be excelled by Nora McCarty, Quantrell or John Morgan. Since he has been in Missouri, he has been a source of the greatest annoyance to the Federals, fighting them upon every occasion, frequently drawing them into ambuscade, and slaughtering them buy the wholesale. Upon several occasions, he has attacked large encampments by night, causing great panic among them and killing a great many. I will give a description of him as I got it from one who is acquainted with him. He is about 21 years of age, about 5 feet 7 inches high, of slender form, as straight as an arrow, and active as a panther; his long dark brown hair hangs in wild curls about his shoulders; his complexion is fair; his eyes are of a dark hazel color, wild and restless and piercing as the point of a dagger; he wears a suit of plain gray cloth, with a scarlet silk sash around his waist, a six-shooter on his right side, and a sabre on his left; he wears a pair of cavalry boots that come above the knee, and large Texas spurs; his hat is black, low-crowned and broad-rimmed, one side fastened up with a silver star, which holds a long black plume. His men are armed with two revolvers and a double-barreled shot gun each, and mounted on fleet horses. Campbell has already gained a great reputation, and, if the war continues another year, his reputation as a partisan chieftain will outshine the reputation of those illustrious heroes of the old revolution, Marion and Sumter.

The Federals along the Arkansas river are holding several posts, and are treating Southern citizens most inhumanly. At Fort Smith they have about 3000 men, one-third of whom are Negroes. They also hold post at Ozark and Dardanelle. The troops holding the latter place are those who have deserted our army, and are commanded by the notorious Bill Hevinton, better known as Wild Bill. When I was on the Arkansas river, Steele's Division was at Scullyville, Choctaw Nation, fifteen miles from Fort Smith, and it was thought they intended to attack it, but since I have not back to Clarksville I have heard that Steele had got back to his command from Shreveport with six pieces of artillery, and instead of attacking Fort Smith, had fallen back to Doakville, C. N. Quantrell and his men have already come out from Missouri, and are at Bonham. Quantrell has turned over to the Confederacy all but eighty of his men. Those he turned over are very much down on him for it, and swear they will go back to Missouri in the spring, and guerrilla fight the Feds. Clarksville has been made a military post. Martial law reigns over the city. One company of militia is to be kept quartered here. I must close. I will write more another time.

J. J. W.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 10, 1863, p. 1, c. 4

We are requested to say that the cotton cards for Harris county have arrived. There are 720 pair, and are to be disposed of to soldier's families, and the destitute of the county at \$10.50 per pair. All who are entitled to them are requested to come forward at once to either one of the Commissioners and make their application, that it may be known whether there will be any left for wale to those who are not entitled to them under the above classes of population. Soldier's families and the destitute have preference under the instructions from the Military Board.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 10, 1863, p. 2, c. 1

Headquarters District, Texas, New }
Mexico and Arizona, Hawkins' Farm, }
On Caney River, Dec. 10, 1863. }

To the Ladies of Texas:

The Commanding General announces to you that (20,000) twenty thousand haversacks are required in the army. These are sachels about 14 inches wide and 12 deep, with a flap from the top buttoned on the outside of the sachel, and slung by a belt over the shoulder, passing under the arm.

They are absolutely necessary to the efficiency of the soldier in the field, and cannot be made by the Quartermaster Department, for want of material. The best material is strong, unbleached cotton, but as it is also scarce in private families, they may be made of carpeting, curtain calico of double thickness, table covers, cotton or woolen, or any strong material whatever; and the belt passing over the shoulder and under the arm can be made of the same material, doubled and hemmed, or of buckskin or leather.

The noble example which you have set of undying patriotism and the most unselfish devotion, inspires the Commanding General with a hope that he does not call upon you in vain, when he asks you, as he does now, to furnish with the least possible

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To the Ladies of Texas:

Continued from page 4

delay, each, as many haversacks or sachels of this description as you can make, or induce your friends to make. They should be sewed in the strongest manner, and made of the strongest material which can be procured. Should any of the ladies desire them to go to particular regiments in which they have friends, by fixing the name of the regiment to the articles, they will be assorted by the Q. M., and forwarded according to address.

Every lady in Texas is requested to forward as many as she can make to the Quartermaster nearest her residence, and all Quartermasters East of the Colorado are directed to send them, as soon as a sufficient number has been received, to Capt.

Wharton, at Houston, and those West of the Colorado, to Capt. Prescott, Q. M. at San Antonio.

Quartermasters of regiments, battalions and detached companies, are hereby directed to make requisitions at once. Those East of the Colorado on Capt. Wharton, and those West on Captain Prescott, for haversacks, in accordance with the number of men present with their corps.

J. Bankhead Magruder,
Major General Commanding

Dist. Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 15, 1863, p. 2, c. 4

[From the Goliad Messenger.

. . . There was much alarm at Corpus Christi, and all who could get the means of conveyance were preparing to leave. There have been some frightened persons even here, who have packed up, to take their flight at the distant approach of the invaders. We think they are scared before they are hurt. It is not the intention of Gen. Bee to evacuate this section of the country, unless in pursuance of a wise military policy. Hundreds of volunteers have flocked to his assistance, and we are assured that if our planters will load their wagons with corn and send it to feed the horses of the soldiers, and let their negro men drive the government teams and cook for the men who are ready to meet the infamous invaders, that their homes and property will be protected.—There is little or no grass in the vicinity, and corn must be procured for the horses, or the soldiers cannot remain west of the Nueces. It is hoped our planters will consider this matter and act promptly. How much better to supply our own soldiers than to leave everything to fall into the hands of our enemies.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 16, 1863, p. 1, c. 7

More of the Enemy on our Coast.—The Telegraph has a letter dated on Caney, Dec. 9th, which says:

We find the entire country in a great excitement. The majority of the planters have removed their negroes, &c., towards the interior, and many families have left them all behind, in fleeing from the perils of invasion. We think much of this fright is uncalled for. The people are rallying to the standards of Gens. Magruder and Bee with enthusiasm.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 16, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

Salt is now selling at 75 cents per pound in this market by the sack, and so far as we can hear, there is but very little in the city. Are we to be without this important, nay, indispensable article?

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 16, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

Died, Oct. 7th, 1863, Stephen L. Jarmon, of company F, Terry's Texas Rangers, of a wound received during the battle at Farmington. Deceased was the son of Stephen Jarmon, Esq., of Fayette county, and a brother of Captain W. R. Jarmon, of the Terry Rangers.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 19, 1863, p. 2, c. 5

Camp Groce, Dec. 17th, 1863.

Special Order, No. ____.

All men who have enlisted in Fulcrod's and Randle's Battalion, under Captains Williamson, Randle, Coffield, or any of their recruiting officers, are hereby ordered to report at Camp Groce, near Hempstead, and be ready to march by the 1st day of January. Positively those who fail to comply with this order, will be published and treated as deserters.

J. A. Randle, Major

Com'g Det. Magruder Drag'ns.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 21, 1863, p. 1, c. 5

Impressment of Negroes.—It should be born in mind that many of the female slaves on every farm are now employed in spinning and weaving and in making up clothing not only for the whites and slaves in each family, but also for our soldiers in the army, in many instances. If, therefore, the females are taken for this purpose (and we know no other way to provide clothing) and the males taken to fortify our inland towns, what are our people—nay, what are our armies—to do for food another year? We believe every intelligent farmer in the State will agree that the next two or three months are of more vital importance to the planting interests of the State than any other period of the year. Indeed, if this time is lost we know not what is to save the country from a famine. The negroes are required to take with them axes, shovels, spades, hoes, picks, grubbing hoes, &c., and we fear, therefore, even if there are a few old negroes and boys left, there would scarcely be any agricultural implements for them to use, and considering the number of horses, mules and wagons already taken from all the counties within convenient distance, the failure of the next year's crop in these counties seems almost inevitable unless this last call is modified and the animals so necessary for farming purposes returned in a short time. . .

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 23, 1863, p. 1, c. 4

The Telegraph says the enemy came up to Indianola on the 13th, threw a shell over the town, landed, took possession, raised the grid-iron, told the people they would garrison the town in a day or two, and then left. No damage done. Several miles of the S. A. & M. G. Railroad have been thoroughly destroyed by order of General Magruder.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 23, 1863, p. 1, c. 5

To-day being Christmas we will issue no paper to-morrow. We have heretofore been in the habit of observing no holidays, but for various reasons, chief of which is that we are short of printing paper, we make a breach of our habit this time.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 25, 1863, p. 2, c. 3

Salt.—If we are not greatly mistaken the scarcity of salt is going to be felt in this State as one of the serious calamities. For the last 3 or 4 weeks the price has been advancing in this city at the rate of about 20 or 25 per cent. per week, and cannot now be had for less than 75 cents by the sack. In some parts of the country, as in Burleson and other counties, we learn that the price is \$1.50 per pound, and many who have been corn-fattening their hogs for bacon are now turning them out again, not being able to get salt enough to save the meat. The consequence is likely to be that, while we have a larger number of hogs in the State and more abundant mast and corn to fatten them than ever before, the country will be more destitute of bacon than for several years past. We fear it is now too late to attempt a remedy for this evil, if indeed a remedy be now within our reach. For months during the past season cotton teams have been returning from Brownsville almost without loads, when by a little deviation from the direct road, they could have passed by Salt Lake and supplied our market with salt.

But, as in so many other instances, we have neglected to provide for the future till too late. We now believe our military authorities will be compelled to take measures to supply this want, otherwise there is ground for serious apprehension that there will be no bacon for our army for the next 12 months.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 23, 1863, p. 1, c. 3

Sergt. J. W. McKinney, of Uvalde, writes to the San Antonio Herald that on the 16th ult., a party of Indians carried off Geo. Schander's wife, his son, about six years old, and a Mexican girl, from Camp Wood, about forty miles from that place. He got 17 men and started on trail and followed them to the Pecos river, 20 miles below Ft. Lancaster. While drying themselves after swimming the river, they were attacked that night by a large party of Indians, who wounded two of his men and killed one horse. The Indians being too numerous for the small party they were compelled to return without recovering the persons carried off. He supposes they were a part of Lipans.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

Some of Quantrel's men have been behaving badly at Shreveport. One hundred and forty of them having been ordered to report to him at headquarters by Gen. Smith, to be assigned to some other command, they became enraged and some went into a church, broke up divine service, and one slapped the wife of the minister for expostulating. The reverend gentleman shot the perpetrator; they attempted to assassinate him, when Gen. Smith had a guard placed around his house to protect him.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 6

Mule Hair for Hats.—Mr. Barnes, of Barnes' Cross Roads, has shown to the editor of the Clayton Banner, an elegant, substantial hat, manufactured from the hair shorn from a young mule, with the addition of a small portion of wool. While our patriotic people continue to economise and develop all our abundant resources, as we are now doing, the combined powers of the earth cannot subjugate us.—This hat is said to be far superior to those made of wool.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 3

Houston, December 5th, 1863.

Colonel Buchel—We send you a flag, not dedicated as is the old world's wont, under the august domes of religious worship, amid wreathing incense and chaunted prayer—but by the quiet hearthside, in the hushed sanctuary of home, as we stitched on the star an cross, have we prayed to the God of battles to bless and consecrate it to victory and renown. Borne by Texians, Texians who entered this war in the morning light of the Alamo, Goliad and San Jacinto, yet whose mighty deeds have carried them onward and upward blazing to the zenith, until the world looks with awe and wonder at the sublime splendor of their fame—borne by such men it can never know disgrace. Your countrywomen have perfect confidence in you, knowing full well that whatever men have dared or done, you will do. We shall watch you with interest, and pray for your safety, however never forgetting that he only lives who conquers, that earth has no graves for victors. Who would dare say that Fannin, Travis and Bonham are dead; they live forever, and march with every vidette, and have planted the cross and stars over blood-bought batteries from the flowing plains of Valverde to the rugged heights of Gettysburg, from Gaines Mills to the dashing stream of proud Chickamauga. Wherever the sons of the Lone Star strike, the hailed hands of the old warriors of the Republic are seen. Therefore, should you fail in freedom's cause, and be even denied the sculptured pile that peaceful days give to the true and brave, be assured that the hearts of the women of your State shall be the urns to enspire and enshrine you. We will remember your deeds and tell to the children at our knees, how battling for our rights, you fought and fell, and teaching them thus, will raise them to avenge you.—May the great God, whose cross you bear upon your banners, be your shield and mighty deliverer both from the seen and unseen dangers of the battle-field of armies and the battle-field of life.

Respectfully, Jane M. Young.

Headquarters 1st Regiment Texas Cavalry, }
Camp Gulf Prairie, Texas, Dec. 19th, 1863. }

Madam—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the beautiful standard made for my regiment by the Ladies of Houston, as well as your patriotic letter in regard to it. It is more highly prized by us from the circumstances of its "consecration," than if dedicated with all "the pomp of grandeur of olden times." I offer the thanks of my regiment and myself to you and your fair associates for the beautiful gift, and pledge myself that whenever "the reddening storm of battles pours" along the plains of Texas, the 1st Texas Cavalry will rally around that standard, which shall be borne triumphantly aloft, and only be trailed in the dust when the hearts of its defenders are stilled in death. I am madam,

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't

A. Buchel,

Col. 1st Texas Cavalry.

Mrs. Jane M. Young, Houston, Texas.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 28, 1863, p. 1, c. 2

Polk [sic] Weed.—Among the most valuable shrubs, as well as among the most common in the Confederate States, is the poke weed. It grows in every State and is readily found in nearly every locality. From Dr. Porcher's "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests" we condense some of the uses of this plant:

One drachm of the powdered root or leaves mixed with an ounce of lard, makes a good ointment for diseases of the scalp, as psoralea capitis, etc. A strong decoction of the roots applied to sores of secondary syphilis, heals them up. The root powdered and infused in brandy, is good for rheumatism. The same infused in wine, an ounce in a pint, makes a slow but kind emetic. The dose is two tablespoonsfull. The tincture of the ripe berries is a remedy in chronic and syphilitic rheumatism. The decoction is useful in scrofula. A desert spoonful given repeatedly of whiskey in which the berries have been laced, is one of the most efficient remedies in rheumatism. The root applied externally cures mange in dogs.

An excellent *crimson dye* may be made as follows, to two gallons of the juice of poke-berries when they are quite ripe, add half a gallon of strong vinegar, to dye one pound of wool. The wool must be washed very clean with hard soap. When wrung dry put it in the mixture and simmer in a copper vessel one hour. Take out the wool and let it drip awhile and spread it in the sun. The vessel must be free from grease of any kind. To dye solferino, a lady friend tells us take the juice of pokeberries and copperas, shade to your liking. The juice with alum to fix the color makes a fine red ink.

WAX MYRTLE.—The Wax Myrtle, like the poke weed, grows everywhere. It is equally useful. The root is a powerful astringent, and a decoction is employed in diarrhoea, dysentery, hemorrhage and as a gargle in sore throat. The wax (made from the boiling berries) make a very good candle. *To Make Soap.*—Lixivate 3 ½ bushels common wood ashes with half a bushel unslaked lime in a cask capable of holding 60 gallons, for 48 hours, then draw off the lye, which will float an egg. Put from six to eight gallons into a copper kettle capable of containing 25 gallons. To this add 4 lbs. Myrtle Wax, boil for six hours, for the first three hours pour in occasionally a supply of strong lye, the whole frequently well stirred with a ladle.—After six hours boiling, throw in two quarts of common large grain salt, leave this to simmer an hour more over a slow fire. Place the liquid in tubs to cool for 24 hours. Wipe the soap clean and you will have nearly 50 lbs. Good solid soap. After extracting the wax the water used makes, with copperas, a brown dye, or by repeatedly boiling in the same water it makes a blue without a mordant.

GARDEN PURSLANE.—The medical qualities of this weed are that it is antiscorbutic, diuretic, anthelmatic. It will coagulate milk. Its chief value in domestic economy is as a dye. Boil a bushel of it in an iron kettle until it is soft. Strain off the liquor. Boil a pound of logwood also in iron for two hours. Strain off the liquor and mix with the purslane liquor, then dissolve half a pound of alum in soft water sufficient to cover 3 lbs. Of yarn, put in a brass kettle and simmer the yarn in it three hours, then wring and put the yarn in the dye. Simmer this three hours with frequent stirring. This is a very fine blue.

PEACH TREES.—Besides the fruit of this tree it has several qualities that render it valuable. Peach leaf tea is an excellent purge. Dose for a child a teaspoonful every half hour till it operates. The gum of the peach dissolved in water is an excellent substitute for gum-arabic. Peach leaves put in layers of cotton and boiling water poured over will dye yellow. The cotton or thread should first be boiled in a solution of alum. Peach leaf tea is also an excellent palliative in whooping cough.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 28, 1863, p. 1. c. 4; repeated December 29, 1863, p. 1, c. 3

The Mutual Aid Association are now selling flour to its members and the needy at fifty dollars per hundred while the market price here is just double that sum or \$100 per 100 pounds. This shows what the Association could have done had its funds been made sufficient by liberal subscriptions. Those who declined to subscribe may now see that they could have saved \$50 on every sack of flour had they done so, while with a general and liberal subscription by all, the funds of the Association would have been sufficient not only to purchase flour, but every other article of country produce now so much needed in this city, and at even a greater saving in the cost; for in that case the Association could have purchased its own teams, and would thereby have saved probably fully one half of the present cost of transportation.

The present experiment, therefore, though on a limited scale, has demonstrated that, by entering into it properly our citizens could have saved one half of their present expenses of living. Had the proposals, when first made, met with suitable encouragement, teams might have easily been purchased and two or three trips made to Brownsville, and the stockholders might have received supplies of dry goods, blankets, shoes and clothing at a similar saving in price. The Association in San Antonio has been operating successfully in these ways on a capital of several hundred thousand dollars, for several years past. But in the present condition of the country, it is now too late to correct our past oversights, and we must suffer the consequences. Those who are able to pay the present enormous profits on all the necessaries of life, are certainly welcome to do so, but the misfortune is, there are very few who are able, and we can see no alternative but that they must suffer. The Association, on account of its limited means, is almost confined to the article of flour, and on this it has to pay the usual profits to teamsters and other charges the same as are paid on any other flour in our market, and yet \$50 not only covers cost and charges, but leaves a little for contingencies. It should however, be borne in mind that the Directors charge nothing for their services, and even at that, we are sorry to learn that some of the subscribers seem disposed to find fault with them. We understand some of the stockholders have never yet called for any flour, but that they can get it by making application.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

We understand that abundance of salt can be had at the salt works at the Salines, in Smith county, at 10 cents a pound, about 175 miles from Navasota, and that it can be hauled and delivered in this city at 50 cents a pound, with a handsome profit. But our informant states that no persons can now be induced to employ their teams in hauling salt for any thing else for fear of impressment, and the owner of the salt would also stand a chance of having his salt impressed by the time he gets to Navasota with it, and taken by the government at some 7 or 8 cents after it had cost him fully four times that amount. This fear of impressment, our informant states, is also preventing transportation generally, and inducing many teamsters to turn out their teams, so that there are now very few to be found in the country. We regret also to learn that some (though we hope not many) of our farmers declare their purpose to limit their next crops to what may be sufficient for their own families, on the ground that they are not willing to make corn, wheat, &c., to be impressed at the present wholly inadequate schedule prices of the Government. This is an important subject, and involves the welfare of the whole country, but we have no time to dwell longer upon it this time.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 1

Private Express Notice.—We are authorized to state that Mr. Warren Adams will leave this city again, to take the army mail East of the Mississippi, on the 10th of January. Those wishing to send letters to their friends in the army may rely upon their being delivered if in Bragg's army at his headquarters, but if to soldiers elsewhere, or to those not in the army, then they will be deposited in the post office at Meridian, Miss., where they will be taken by the regular mail without delay. Correspondents wishing answers will inform their friends to have their answers left at Meridian, to the care of Mr. W. Adams, at any time up to the 8th of February, and they will be brought by him on his return at one dollar each. Money letters will be taken by special contract and receipted for, provided the parties are within each, so as not to delay his return. All letters to be taken by him should be directed, under cover, to the care of the Telegraph or News offices of this city, with the usual fee of two dollars enclosed, and they will be properly assorted and registered.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 1, c. 3

Occupation of Indianola by the Enemy.

[Extract from a letter dated Lavaca, Dec. 19]

The enemy came up from Saluria (about 15 miles) on the 13th inst., in a steamer, supposed to be the Matagorda, formerly of the Harris & Morgan line and came direct to the wharf, and fired a shell at a little squad of our pickets, who were burning a ferryboat with six bales of cotton. The firing of this shell, they afterwards said, was to drive off our pickets, for they "came to protect and not to destroy the property of citizens." They landed two or three companies and marched up through the town to the courthouse, to the tune of Yankee Doodle, followed by squads of admiring young darkies and urchins generally. They hoisted the old "grid-iron" on the cupola of the courthouse and made it headquarters for about two hours. Meantime sundry officers and privates perambulated the streets in search of tobacco and information, offering to pay for the tobacco in almost

any kind of money; said they would buy in greenbacks and then buy back the same with Confederate money at five for one; but they only got a very small quantity, and that without money. In answer to the question from our folks, as to how many troops they had here they said they "had 777 in the hospital and 49 dead." The information they got from our people is said to be about on a par with theirs. They then quietly left, no doubt thinking they had done a wonderful feat in capturing the county-seat of a county in Texas, which contained nothing in the shape of plunder for them, and was defended by the wives and children of our soldiers and a few old men. But we shall, no doubt, hereafter be treated to a graphic description of the feat in the New York Herald to help raise their category of lies, which is already mountain high.

Here, in Lavaca, we did for several days look for the Yankees, and sundry preparations were made for the occasion but, for various reasons, I have come to the conclusion that they will not come at all; and now, the most we dread is the inconsiderate action on our own part.

[We refrain from publishing the balance of this letter, relating to certain orders issued by our District Commander. We will merely remark that, according to our correspondent's account, orders have been issued for the destruction of the property of citizens, that, if executed, must subject some eight hundred families to much suffering this winter; and these are mostly the families of soldiers. We most earnestly hope it may yet be found consistent with the public interest to withhold the execution of those orders.]

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 2, c. 5

Rebel Women.—"B. F. T.," army correspondent of the Chicago Journal, in one of his letters from Tennessee, says: "I shall never be done admiring the patriotic faith and undying devotion of the Loyal women of the land, but I must tell you that the Rebel women of the South are worthy in everything but a sacred cause, of their Northern sisters. There is nothing they will not surrender with a smile—the gemmed ring, the diamond bracelet, the rich wardrobe. They cut up their rich carpets for soldiers' blankets without a sigh, they take the fine linen from their persons for the bandages. When four hundred of Longstreet's men came up to Nashville, prisoners of war, about the roughest, dirtiest, wildest fellows the sun ever shone on, and a flight of stairs in the building they occupied fell, killing and wounding a large number of them, you should have seen the fair young traitresses come forth from the old aristocratic mansions, bearing restoratives and delicacies in their hands, mingling in the dingy crowd, wiping away the blood with their white handkerchiefs, and uttering words of cheer—should have seen them doing this (with hundreds of Union soldiers all around), and smiling back upon the rough blackguards of Rebels as they left. But in all there was a defiant air, a pride in their humanity, strange to see. Of a truth, they carried it off grandly. And almost all those girls were in mourning for dead Rebels—brothers, lovers, friends—whom these same girls had sneered into treason and driven into rebellion, and billowed all the South with their graves, and the least they could do was to wear black for them and flaunt black from the window blinds. Clothed be their souls in sackcloth! I said they were worthy of their sisters of the North, in all but a righteous cause; but I said wrong. There is a bitterness, there are glimpses of the Pythoness, that makes you shrink from them. But they are fearfully in earnest; they are almost grand in self-sacrifice. Oh, that they were true and loving daughters of the old flag!"

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 30, 1863, p. 2, c. 5

**From Bonham.
Indian Raid.**

Bonham, Dec. 27, 1863.

Editor Telegraph:--I have just returned from the scene of the late Indian raid in Cook county, having left here as a volunteer with Lt. Col. Showalter's command immediately on the receipt of the first intelligence. Though we made a forced march of seventy miles, the savages had hastily retired, pursued by those who were much nearer the scene. With twenty-four hours' advance, it was useless for us to follow them further. I remained in the vicinity long enough to get the facts as they transpired, and now give them to you *as facts*.

On Sunday forenoon, Dec. 20th, the Indians first appeared in Spanish Fort bend of the river, about thirty miles north-west of Gainesville. There they stole eight head of horses.

In the afternoon they appeared in Illinois Bend, some miles below. This is a camp for one of Col. James Rowland's companies, but the company was absent on a scout.

Three families resided there, named Anderson, Hatfield and Willett. They killed Mrs. Anderson and five children, aged as follows: David, 16; Thomas, 14; Willie, 12; Susan, 10, and Sarah Ann, 3. Mr. J. R. Anderson, the husband escaped. Another son, six years old, was slightly speared in five places, and designedly spared. He then traveled along 12 miles, crossed Red River twice, and reached a house. He is safe. Mr. Wesley Willett and one daughter were killed.—Mrs. Willett and another daughter escaped. Mr. G. L. Hatfield, his wife and four children escaped. The houses of these parties, after being plundered, were burned.

Crossing the river twice, the Indians next appeared on next day, the 21st, on Fish Creek, which runs into Red River in Cook, west of north from Gainesville. Here they speared Miss Gown in several places, but the appearance of white men caused them to leave her. She will recover. On Fisk [sic?] Creek they first plundered and then burned the houses of Messrs. Potter, McNab, Elmore and Dawson, their families having all escaped.

Turning the ridge to the north, they next appeared on the prairie on Dry Elm, a small branch of the Elm fork of Trinity, on which Gainesville stands. There they came upon Mr. White, his stepson, young Patton, and Mr. Jones, the latter of whom escaped. White was killed and Patton supposed to be mortally wounded. He was still living, however, when I left. He belonged to Capt. Wood's company, Fitzhugh's regiment, was severely wounded at Millican's Bend on the 7th of June and has been home on sick furlough.

In the same vicinity Serg't Adams (of Patton's company,) with about thirty-five men, including ten from Rowland's company, met the Indians and skirmished with them for several hours. He lost Corporal John A. Schriener and Marcellus West killed and Robet Gist and Pollard wounded. He evidently inflicted considerable damage on the enemy, the extent not being known. A little later in the day Capt. S. P. C. Patton, with eight men, united with Capt. Mosby and seven citizens, and had little skirmishes with the savages, killing one Indian and losing Joel Sprouse killed.

The Indians numbered from 200 to 250, and while the main body moved, as I have described, small parties were scouring the prairie collecting horses, in which they were very successful, carrying off in all over a hundred head.

The family of a widow Shannon left her house in a two-horse wagon to seek safety at Bonnet's, 2 ½ miles distant. The party consisted of herself, six grand children and a son, just grown. The latter had a gun, and a boy eight years old drove. For two miles the Indians followed, yelling and firing at them. The coolness of young Shannon in reserving his fire and presenting his gun, kept them off, though himself and the brave little driver were both wounded twice, and the wagon body received many arrows. They also chased a young Mrs. Shannon two miles, but she outran them and reached Bonner's.

On seeing the Indians advancing upon his house from a distance in the prairie, Mr. Wiley Jones caused his daughters to dress in his clothes, and then, with sticks in their hands, paraded them in the yard. This kept the cowardly enemy off. In fact, from first to last they showed all the cowardice of the wild tribes, and only dared to fight when they had every advantage. At every house burnt by them, they left hanging conspicuously a blanket branded U. S. During the night of the 21st, they made a hasty retreat, leaving about 50 Indian saddles, numerous blankets, buffalo robes and a good deal of the booty they had taken from houses.

In the meantime, near a thousand men had reached Gainesville, and made pursuit, as soon as their trail could be found next morning. Citizens turned out by thousands. The result is unknown. Judging by their usual celerity in flight, I have but little idea of their being overtaken.

Col. James Burleson was on business with Gen. McCulloch. When this news reached him, the old veteran spared neither himself nor horse till he was on the ground doing his duty. Major Diamond, with a portion of his battalion, Capts. Patson and Mosby (the latter of whom belongs to Fitzhugh's regiment) and hundreds of citizens, all showed energy and true grit in the emergency. Lt. Col. Showalter, with Capts. Wm. S. Rather, Wilson and Carpenter, rode day and night for 26 hours, all eager for a tilt with the barbarians, but their precipitate flight disappointed all.

I omit many interesting incidents of individual escapes as they would lengthen this note too much [We don't think so.—ED. TEL.] It is due to Capt. Wm. C. Twitty, Quartermaster at Gainesville, to say that he performed important services in the absence of Col. Burleson, in sending expresses, etc.

It is now proposed to have the frontier settlers for up at intervals of 10, 15, and 20 miles along the whole line. It is the true policy, and will save the frontier, but of this more hereafter.

Yours, &c., B.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 31, 1863, p. 2, c. 2