THE SENTINEL.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

The subjoined summary of War News, for the past week, we extract from the Baltimore *Gazette*:

FRIDAY Mar. 6.—We have nothing to report from Tennessee except a skirmish near Eagleville, in which a brigade of regulars, belonging to Gen. Rosseau's division, encountered some Confederates and put them to flight—The number of dead left behind by the latter is stated to have been "several;" the Federal casualties were two men wounded.

A later despatch has been received which states that Van Dorn advanced on Wednesday towards Franklin, and was met by a Federal force which drove him back, and captured one hundred men of his command. The Federal loss was thirteen killed—the number of wounded is not given. The fight was renewed yesterday morning, but it is said that no particulars of the result had been received. We note, however, that reinforcements were pushed forward to General Gilbert, at Franklin, and it is confidently asserted that, with the aid of those additional troops Van Dorn's command would be either destroyed or captured.

It is reported that about one thousand Confederate cavalry are in the vicinity of Harpeth Shoals, waiting to attack any boats that may reach that point on the Cumberland river.

In Eastern Kentucky, near Mount Sterling, there is a camp of nine hundred Confederates, which is being reinforced by prelatory bands. Humphrey Marshall, with from three to five thousand men, is supposed to be at Camargo, Montgomery county, and it is feared that Cluke's regiment has joined him.

SATURDAY, Mar. 7.—On the Mississippi, the two points of special interest now are Port Hudson and Vicksburg. It was supposed that General Banks, on his arrival at New Orleans would have proceeded at once to attack the former place; but the dispersal of his fleet by a storm, the necessity of detaching a portion of his command to operate against the Confederates in the Bayou Teche region, the local troubles, the absence of all iron-clad vessels with the exception of one, joined to the opening of Commodore Farragut's effective fighting vessels to search for the Alabama and the Florida, and to re-establish the blockade of Galveston—all these various circumstances have combined to limit the ability of General Banks to maintaining the position he now holds, and have even compelled him to act on the defensive at Baton Rouge. Unless forced from the North, or he secures in furthering the co-operation of Farragut and Porter General Banks is in no condition to attempt the reduction of Port Hudson. Twenty miles and fifty miles further up the river are the enormous fleet of monitors and ironclads, of rams and transports belonging to the naval part of the expedition which was intended for the reduction of Vicksburg, and lying along the shore opposite the Confederate fortifications are the camps of the military. Its numerical strength, after being joined in junction with Sherman and Hurlbut, is enormous, though, perhaps, exaggerated by newspaper correspondents, was undoubtedly very greatly but from the secrecy imposed on the troops in the attempt to cut a navigable canal across Young's Point, and from the mutinous nature of the local and other forces, numbers are said to have already died, while it is impossible to conjecture how many men have been and are now sickness with disease and therefore utterly incapable of military service.

In Tennessee the main body of the army under General Rosecrans is encamped in the vicinity of Murfreesboro. It was expected that he had commenced to move on Tullahoma; but heavy rains and limited supplies have prevented him from marching as yet. He is, however, prepared to take the offensive whenever the roads are in good condition. He has been heavily reinforced recently, and as the troops in his command are among the best in the service, it is not probable that he will allow them to remain long inactive.

In the meantime the Confederate cavalry are operating in his rear. On Monday last, Van Dorn attacked four regiments of Federals under Col. Colburn, at Springville, sixteen miles south of Franklin, and, after a desperate conflict killed or captured the whole of them. A detachment of Federal cavalry one hundred strong, with one battery of artillery escaped. Two other batteries were taken. The reinforcements, which were said to have been sent in numbers sufficient to destroy or capture the whole of Van Dorn's command, failed to reach the field of battle.

MONDAY, March 9.—We have nothing new to report from the seat of war, except what is to be found in the telegrams to the Southern papers. From these sources we learn that Gen. Van Dorn in the recent fight at Spring Hill captured of the Federal troops sent against him from Franklin, twenty-two hundred officers and men.

Fort McAllister has not been taken. On the contrary, the Federal iron-clads have desisted from their efforts to reduce the work, and have retired from the Ogeechee river.

The bombardment of Charleston had not commenced on the 6th instant. Commodore Dupont was probably waiting the arrival of the iron-clads from Ossabaw Sound. It was supposed at Richmond that an attack upon Vicksburg would soon be made. The New York *Times* is, nevertheless, of the opinion that Gen. Grant has abandoned, for the present, all attempts to take Vicksburg, and will endeavor to reach the Lower Mississippi by the Lake Providence route, and cooperate with Gen. Banks in the reduction of Port Hudson.

TUESDAY, Mar. 10.—A Brigadier General belonging to the Army of the Potomac, together with all his staff, has unexpectedly come to grief. Early yesterday morning a small detachment of Confederate cavalry suddenly entered the lines at Fairfax Court House, and carried off Brigadier General Stoughton, of the Vermont Brigade, and all his staff, with the exception of Lieut. Hooper. They endeavored to find Captain O'Connor, the Provost Marshal of the town, but failed to discover him. They also searched the house occupied by Colonel Johnston, but the latter made his escape in his—well, in his night clothes. General Percy Wyndham was likewise sought for, but that active officer was—fortunately for himself—at Washington. Failing, therefore, in capturing him, they took his Aids and his papers, and decamped. Finally, it is somewhat ominously intimated that "there was a large amount of Government stores at Fairfax Court-House; but, says the *Star*, not overconfidently, "it is believed that the Confederate cavalry did little damage to this property."

The iron-clad steamer Indianola has been sunk, blown up, is afloat and defiant, and has finally been left ashore on the Louisiana side of the river, with the Confederates actively engaged in getting her into condition for prompt service. For this last piece of information we are indebted to a letter from near Vicksburg, dated the 26th ult. We also learn from it, and for the first time, some details of the battle and the nature of the injuries which the Indianola received. During the engagement, the attacking boats—the Webb and the Queen of the West—are said to have both been injured to some extent, but not sufficiently so to cripple their powers as rams. Struck twice on the starboard side by the Webb, the timbers of the Indianola cracked under the shock, and she commenced leaking badly; but it was not until she was driven close to the Louisiana shore that Captain Brown surrendered his vessel. "As the Indianola had not sunk at the last accounts," writes the correspondent of the *Herald*, "it is probable that the Confederates have succeeded in saving her. Their flotilla on the river below Vicksburg now consists of the Indianola—the invincible gunboat of the West, the Webb, and four cotton-clads, named respectively the Lioness, Dan Rice, Quitman and Magenta. As might reasonably have been expected, the loss of the Indianola is reported to have cast a gloom over the Federal forces encamped near Vicksburg. We also learn that the route to the Mississippi—via Lake Providence, the Tensas and the Washita rivers—is now said to have been further obstructed by the erection of strong batteries at the mouth of the Tensas.

Southern telegrams from Port Hudson, under date of March 4th, state that preparations were making by General Banks for an advance. His force is estimated at thirty thousand men. General Grover, who was in command at Baton Rouge, had refused to recognize the negro regiments at that place.

From New Orleans we receive the particulars of the loss of the Federal gunboat Kinsman at the mouth of the Atchafalaya river. The Kinsman struck a snag, and sunk in deep water near Bayou Boeuf. All the officers and crew were saved, with the exception of nine men, who are reported to be missing. She was regarded as one of the most serviceable armed boats in the navy.

The political strife in the North is said to be producing "a direct effect upon the spirit of our army and navy." About one-half of the men are described as "sick of the war on any basis or over whatever." One-fourth are bitter anti-proclamation men. One-eighth are stragglers and skulks, and the remaining eighth of the officers and men are Abolitionists, and perhaps—we say this with fearful emphasis—"the pioneers of Traitors of the north." If that even a part of this statement be true, the chances that General Hunter will capture either Savannah or Charleston are greatly diminished.

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 11.—On Saturday last a skirmish occurred between a division of Federal and a force of Confederate cavalry of unknown strength at Lancasville, ten miles south of Murfreesboro. The Confederates were routed, losing at least one hundred killed and wounded, and one hundred and fifty prisoners. Twenty-six wagons, two artillery caissons, fifty mules and horses, and all the baggage were also captured. One other account adds to the spoils a gravely wounded. The remarkable feature of the affair was Russell's uniform.

General Braxton Bragg's official report of the capture of Federal transports on Van Dorn at the recent battle of Spring Hill, to have been two thousand two hundred and three Federal officers and men killed and wounded, and one hundred and forty-four taken prisoners.

General Rosecrans's report of the battle of Stone's River, which was received in Washington last night, represents the Confederate loss in killed and wounded, and prisoners, at about twenty thousand, and the Federal loss at about twenty thousand. Twenty-six pieces of artillery were taken by the Federals, and twenty-five by the Confederates. The Confederates also captured a large number of wagons, ambulances, and other property. The Federal cavalry captured a train of cars, with its locomotive, at Lebanon, and burned the bridge over Stone's River, thus cutting off the Confederate retreat. The Confederate cavalry, under Wheeler, made a raid in the rear of Rosecrans's army, and destroyed a large amount of property, including