THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 126. BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE.

The Advance on Fort Donelson—Fifty thousand Men and a Fleet of Gunboats Sent Against It.

CHICAGO, Feb 14.—Captain Willard, of the Chicago Light Artillery, left Fort Henry day before yesterday (Wednesday) at 10½ o'clock, and reached this city to-day. From him we learn that the artillery left Fort Henry, for Fort Donelson, between three and four o'clock on the morning of the 12th inst. Six regiments of infantry, General Grant and staff, and his body guard left at 10 o'clock same morning, and the rear guard left at 2 o'clock, P. M. The whole force was forty thousand men with twenty-seven pieces of light artillery.

At 4 o'clock A. M. of the same day eleven regiments left Paducah under convoy of gunboats to go up the Cumberland river—making the whole force sent against Fort Donelson over 50,000 men.

The gunboats expected to reach Fort Donelson at 7 o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning. It was desired to make the attack with the whole force yesterday afternoon.

Later from Tennessee--Union Troops Visit Paris, Tenn., and Capture a Large Amount of Contraband Goods.

CHICAGO, February 14.—A special despatch to the *Evening Journal*, dated Fort Henry, February 12th, says that the land expedition under command of Colonel Riggin, returned to Fort Henry to-day from up the Tennessee river, having captured $75,000 worth of contraband goods at Paris, Tenn. They also found tents and camp equipage of the troops that left Fort Henry before its capture.

Gen. Beauregard Reported at Fort Donelson.

St. LOUIS, February 14.—The special Cairo correspondent of the *Democrat* says that Captain Morton left Fort Henry Thursday noon, and reports that no fight had taken place up to that time, but distant firing was heard, which seemed to those at the Fort to be on the Cumberland River, about ten miles below Fort Donelson.

General Beauregard and John Bell are said to be at Fort Donelson.

About $100,000 worth of tobacco has reached St. Louis from the Tennessee River.

THE ATTACK ON FORT DONELSON.

PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE.

THE FORT INVESTED BY UNITED STATES TROOPS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—The following special despatch to the Chicago *Tribune* has been received, dated

CAMP ON THE FIELD,
NEAR FORT DONELSON, TENNESSEE,
February 13th, 12½ P. M.

Fort Donelson is invested by our troops. Our lines are formed from right to left, and from North to South, nearly surrounding the fort.

Heavy cannonading and skirmishing has been going on since 7½ o'clock this morning.

Owing to the extent of our lines of action, but little can be learned of the result. I hear, however, that a captain in company I, 7th regiment, has been killed.

General McClernand's Division is operating on the right wing, and General Smith on the left.

We have had but one gunboat to play upon the fort, until just within the last half hour when other gunboats are firing on the fort

The force estimated within the breastworks, from last information is about 15,000. No reinforcements can now arrive for the enemy as all communication is cut off.

It is now thought that their left redoubt has fallen into our hands. All the officers are acting with great valor, and exhibiting a fearlessness highly creditable to our Western army.

General Grant and staff have been riding along the lines all the morning, regardless of the grapeshot that is being showered in every direction.

LATER—8 P. M., 13th.—The cannonading and skirmishing has continued briskly all day, but has lately discontinued.

A considerable number of soldiers have been wounded on both sides. The 25th Indiana, which rushed boldly up to the entrenchments has had during the day forty wounded, but all slightly.

The 7th Illinois regiment and the 7th Iowa regiment, who have been close to the enemy's fire, lost seven men. Among the killed is Capt. Wind-ll, of company I, of the 7th Illinois regiment; and Col. Morrison, of the 49th Illinois, is wounded.

Burge's Sharpshooters have done good service. They kept several of the enemy's guns idle by picking off the cannoneers as fast as they appeared at the guns.

Captain Berak, with a company of cavalry, went around to the left bank of the river this afternoon, and reports that the gunboat Carondelet received a ten-inch ball through her casemate, which wounded eight men, but did not injure the boat materially.

Captain Walker, of the Carondelet, says he has dismounted three of the enemy's river guns.

The other gunboats had not arrived up to six o'clock, P. M.

The enemy's rifle shots and their grape has been flying thick and fast about here all day.

Some six shots struck around General Grant and staff this afternoon while they were riding along the lines. One bullet hit one of the horses of the body guard.

The fort will certainly be stormed in two days if it does not surrender before.

Our men have driven back the enemy in every instance to-day.

Generals Pillow, Floyd, Johnston and Buckner are said to be here.

One of our companies have been within seventy-five yards of the enemy's entrenchments to day.

Further from the Cumberland River—Progress of the Fight.

St. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Midnight.—The St. Louis *Democrat* Cairo correspondent, says the fight at Fort Donelson began at 9 o'clock Thursday morning, and during the day the Confederates were driven out of the Fort three times by the fire of the gunboats, but forced back again by Gen. Grant.

The gunboat Carondolet had been struck but twice up to noon. A battery of five pieces, on the opposite side of the river, opened on her during her approach to the fort.

The steamer Alps has arrived here with some wounded from the Carondolet. Some of them are seriously hurt by splinters.

The Alps met Commodore Foote 30 miles below Fort Donelson, with the gunboats Louisville, Connestoga, Tyler, St. Louis and Pittsburg, and towed two of the latter to within 20 miles of the fort, where she parted from them at 3 o'clock.

Further Particulars—A Desperate Fight—One of the Enemy's Batteries Silenced.

St. Louis, February 14.—The *Republican's* and *Democrat's* latest accounts, dated Fort Donelson, last night, say that up to that time our loss was about 20 killed and 250 wounded.

The right wing of our army rested within sixty yards of one of the Confederate redoubts, the enemy having been driven in a distance of one mile.

Twenty Confederates were killed in skirmishes with Company G, of Burge's sharpshooters, Captain Cutters, who got within seventy-five yards of a rebel battery and completely silenced it during the entire afternoon by killing every man who attempted to work the guns.

A desperate advance was made on one of the redoubts by the 17th and 49th Illinois regiments under Colonel Morrison, of the latter regiment. They made two gallant charges, getting close to the enemy's breastworks, but were obliged to retire in both instances under heavy cross fire of artillery and infantry. Both regiments suffered considerably.

Col. Morrison was severely wounded while very near the ramparts where there were great quantities of brush piled before the breastworks, which it was impossible to penetrate.

Capt. Brokaw, of the 49th Illinois, was killed.

The loss on both sides, so far as known, is supposed to be about one hundred killed and wounded.

A heavy rain set in tonight which will try the men severely; they having no tents with them and in many cases, owing to their position, not being able to build fires.

Col. Oglesby says we came here to take that fort and we dont intend to leave till we do it.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

Arrival from Roanoke Island—Full Confirmation of the Entire Success of the Expedition Under Com. Goldsborough and Gen. Burnside.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 13.—The gunboat Stars and Stripes arrived here at noon to-day from Roanoke Island with bearers of despatches to the Government from General Burnside and Commodore Goldsborough.

She reports a full confirmation of the victory of our arms at Roanoke Island. The rout of the Confederates was most complete. Three thousand prisoners were captured, and all their gunboats burnt or captured except two, which escaped up the canal, but would doubtless soon fall into the hands of the Federal troops.

The Confederate accounts greatly magnified the killed and wounded. The Federal loss in killed does not exceed 42, and the wounded about 140.—The Confederate loss in killed is only about 30 and their wounded less than 100.

The advance from Hatteras, as already stated, took place on Wednesday morning, the 5th instant, the expedition consisting of about 60 vessels. The fleet anchored off Stumpy Point on that night, and next day proceeded to the entrance of Croatan Sound.

After a reconnoissance the attack was commenced on Friday morning, the Underwriter leading the column.

The Confederate fleet was attacked and dispersed in half an hour by a portion of the navy, while the remainder attacked the land batteries. The fight continued until dark.

During the night 10,000 were landed and on Saturday morning 7,000 were advanced against the enemy.

A masked battery of three guns was soon discovered by the skirmishers and was attacked in front and on both flanks. The Twenty-first, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-seventh Massachusetts, and the Ninth New York, Fifty-first New York and Tenth Connecticut were particularly engaged. The Twenty-fifth Massachusetts and the Tenth Connecticut suffered the most severely.

The fight last d only some two or three hours, when the battery was abandoned.

Our troops quickly pursued the enemy and surrounded the Confederate camps, and finally took nearly the whole command prisoners.

Captain O. Jennings Wise was wounded, and was shot twice while endeavoring to escape in a boat.

Colonel Russell, of the Tenth Connecticut, was killed at the head of his regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Vigler de Monteil, of the D'Epineuil Zouaves, whose services were voluntary, was also killed. No other officers were killed on the Federal side above the rank of Lieutenant. Our total loss in killed and wounded is less than 200, and the number of killed is less than 50. We took in the neighborhood of 3,000 prisoners, who were about being sent to New York in the steamer Spaulding and other transports. Among the prisoners taken are some twelve or fifteen Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Majors.

On Sunday afternoon a fleet of fifteen gunboats started for Elizabeth City. The place was shelled, and having been evacuated and partly burnt by the retreating Confederate troops, was soon occupied by the Federal forces.

All the Confederate fleet was sunk or burnt except two, the Roanoke and Beaufort, which escaped up the canal. The Sea Bird, which was the flagship of Commodore Lynch, was run down and boarded by one of the Federal gunboats. The Confederate Commodore escaped by jumping overboard and swimming to the shore.

The news from Elizabeth City arrived at Roanoke Island on Monday evening, and the "Stars and Stripes" left on Tuesday morning for Old Point, but she grounded on the bar at Hatteras on Tuesday night, and did not start again till Wednesday morning. She will immediately return with a cargo of ammunition, &c.

Gen. Wise was at Nag's Head, and succeeded in escaping to Norfolk, covered with glory.

The Confederates made no fight after being driven from their entrenchments, which was done by Hawkins' Zouaves and the Twenty-First Massachusetts regiment.

Young Wise resisted the storming parties until he was wounded, when he was carried off, and his command retreated with the others to the upper end of the island, where they laid down their arms

Elizabeth City was about half burnt by the Confederate soldiery. The people, however, sent a deputation to Commodore Goldsborough, asking him to send a force to assist in extinguishing the flames.

Edenton was taken possession of on Wednesday by Commodore Goldsborough. No opposition being offered.

The Norfolk and Richmond papers attribute the loss of Roanoke Island to the blundering inefficiency of their navy. They persist in asserting that nearly one thousand Federal troops were killed, which is simply a gross exaggeration designed to console their readers and hide their inglorious defeat.

They charge also some Roanoke Island farmer with having deserted and piloted the Yankees to the only point where they could effect a landing, the island being flanked on all sides by an extensive marsh.

Despatches from Memphis to Norfolk papers admit that the Federal flag was cheered on the Tennessee river by the people, and also admit that the Federal troops neither seized nor destroyed any private property, not even cotton.

Some of the Southern papers are very much dishcartened at the prospect in Tennessee, and seem to apprehend that it will have to be abandoned!

Governor Letcher has issued an order for the formation of Home Guards for Norfolk, Petersburg and Richmond.

Messrs. Ames and Fish return to Baltimore, the Confederates refusing to receive them, which, however, is now of small moment, as the balance of prisoners is now largely in our favor.

Four hundred released Federal prisoners will reach Old Point on Friday or Saturday.

Official Despatches From Flag-Officer Goldsborough--Capture of Roanoke Island.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—A special messenger arrived here this morning, bringing the following despatches relative to the victory at Roanoke Island:

UNITED STATES FLAG SHIP PHILADELPHIA,
OFF ROANOKE ISLAND, Feb 9, 1862

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

Roanoke Island is ours. Its military authorities struck to us yesterday. Their means of defence were truly formidable, and they were used with a determination worthy of a better cause. They consisted of two elaborately constructed works, mounting together twenty-two heavy guns, three of them being 100-pounder rifled, and four other batteries mounting together twenty guns, a large proportion of them being rifled. Eight steamers mounting two guns each, and each having a rifled gun with the diameter of a thirty-two pounder; a prolonged obstruction of sunken vessels and piles to thwart our advance, and altogether a body of men numbering scarcely less than five thousand, of whom three thousand are now our prisoners.

The fighting commenced on the morning of the 7th instant, at about 11 o'clock, and was continued until dark.

The following morning it was resumed at an early hour, and it lasted until well in the afternoon, when, by a bold charge of our army, the Confederate flag was made to succumb, and our own was hoisted everywhere on the Island in its place.

No attack could have been more completely executed, and it was carried out precisely in accordance with the arrangements made before the expedition left Cape Hatteras Inlet.

A detailed account of the operations of the naval branch of the expedition will be forwarded to the Department hereafter.

I beg to submit herewith a copy of a general order to be read on the quarter-deck of each vessel belonging to that branch of the expedition.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't ser't,
L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Flag-Officer Commanding.

General Order.

Your efforts of yesterday and the day before against the enemy were alike worthy of yourselves and the sacred cause our glorious flag upholds. I thank you for them, and congratulate you upon the result achieved. No Commander-in-Chief could have been more gallantly sustained or could have desired a more gratifying display of coolness, skill and discipline.

We have yet more work of the kind to accomplish, and will soon deliver another blow to crush the hydra of rebellion. From what I have already witnessed, I am sure that you will do it well.

[Signed.] L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH.

The Movement on Elizabeth City and the Rebel Fleet.

U. S. FLAG STEAMER PHILADELPHIA,
OFF ROANOKE ISLAND, Feb. 10, 1862

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

SIR—Just as I enclosed my despatch to you of yesterday, I received reliable information that the Confederate steamer which escaped from here had gone to Elizabeth city, and thereupon I immediately ordered Commander Rowan to take thirteen of our steamers under his command and go in pursuit of them, and also, if practicable, to execute another important service, viz:—the destruction up the North river of a link of the Albemarle and Chesapeake canal.

He dashed off with a whole heart at his work, and the way he has already accomplished the first part of it, his own preliminary report, a copy of which I have herewith to enclose, will inform you.

I have decided to send the "Stars and Stripes" off to Hampton Roads to morrow morning to bring me ammunition from there without delay.

Mr. Van Brunt, my Secretary, will go in her, and proceed to Washington to deliver my despatches and two of the Rebels flags we have taken.

I am, respectfully, your obed't serv't,
L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Flag Officer, &c., &c.

Report of Commodore Rowan.

UNITED STATES STEAMER DELAWARE,
OFF ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., Feb. 10, 1862.

Sir: I have the happiness to report that I have met the enemy off this place this morning at nine o'clock, and after a very sharp engagement succeeded in destroying or capturing his entire naval force and silencing and destroying his battery on Cobb's Point.

The only vessel saved from destruction is the steamer Ellis, Captain J. M. Cook, who was wounded and is a prisoner on board this ship. I have also other prisoners. I am happy to say that our casualties are few, considering the warmth of the enemy's fire. Say two or three killed and some wounded.

I send the Ellis to you under command of Acting Master Chase, of this ship, whom I hope you will confirm in the command. The conduct of the gallant men I have the honor to command is worthy of all praise.

A detailed account will be furnished when I have time. I am happy to say that none of our vessels are severely injured. I shall leave here a small force and visit the canals, and take a look into the other places before I return.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. C. ROWAN,
Commander United States Navy.

Gen. Burnside's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT N. C.,
ROANOKE ISLAND, February 10, 1862.

Major General George B. McClellan,
Commanding United States Army, Washington.

GENERAL:—I have the honor to report that a combined attack upon this Island was commenced on the morning of the 7th by the naval and military forces of this expedition, which has resulted in the capture of six forts, forty guns, over two thousand prisoners, and upwards of three thousand small arms.

Among the prisoners are Colonel Shaw, commander of the Island, and O. J. Wise, commander of the Wise Legion. The latter was mortally wounded, and has since died. The whole work was finished on the afternoon of the 8th, after a hard day's fighting, by a brilliant charge in the centre of the Island, and a rapid pursuit of the enemy to the north end of the Island, resulting in the capture of the prisoners mentioned above. We have had no time to count them, but the number is estimated at near 3,000.

Our men fought bravely, and have endured most manfully the hardships incident to fighting through swamps and dense thickets.

It is impossible to give the details of the engagement, or to mention meritorious officers and men in the short time allowed for writing this report, the naval vessel carrying it starting immediately for Hampton Roads, and the reports of the Brigadier-Generals have not yet been handed in. It is enough to say that the officers and men of both arms of the service fought gallantry, and the plans agreed upon before leaving Hatteras Inlet were carried out.

I will be excused for saying in reference to the action, that I owe everything to Generals Foster, Reno and Parker, as more full details will show.

I am sorry to report the loss of about thirty-five killed and about two hundred wounded—ten of them probably mortally.

Among the killed are Colonel Russell, of the 10th Connecticut, and Lieutenant-Colonel Victor De Monteil, of the D'Epineuil Zouaves. Both of them fought most gallantly.

I regret exceedingly not being able to send a full report of the killed and wounded; but will send a despatch in a day or two, with full returns.

I beg leave to enclose a copy of a General Order issued by me on the 9th. I am most happy to say that I have just received a message from Commander Goldsborough, stating that the expedition of his gunboats against Elizabeth City and the rebel fleet has been entirely successful. He will, of course, send his returns to his Department.

I have the honor to be, General, your obedient servant,
A. E. BURNSIDE,
Brigadier General Commanding Department of North Carolina.

Important Executive Order Relative to State Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The following important order has just been issued:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, February 14, 1862.

Executive Orders in Relation to State Prisoners.

No. 1.—The breaking out of a formidable insurrection based on a conflict of political ideas, being an event without precedent in the United States, was necessarily attended by great confusion and perplexity of the public mind. Disloyalty before unsuspected, suddenly became bold, and treason astonished the world by bringing at once into the field military forces superior in number to the standing army of the United States.

Every Department of the Government was paralyzed by treason. Defection appeared in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the Cabinet, in the Federal Courts. Ministers and Consuls returned from foreign countries to enter the insurrectionary councils, or land or naval forces. Commanding and other officers in the Army and in the Navy betrayed the councils or deserted their posts for commands in the insurgent forces. Treason was flagrant in the Revenue and in the Post Office service, as well as in the Territorial Governments and in the Indian revenues.

Not only Governors, Judges, Legislators and Ministerial Officers in the States, but even whole States rushed one after the other with apparent unanimity into rebellion. The capital was besieged and its connection with all the States cut off.

Even in the portions of the country which are most loyal, political combinations and secret societies were found furthering the work of disunion, while from motives of disloyalty or cupidity, or from excited passions of perverted sympathies, individuals were found furnishing men, money and materials of war and supplies to the insurgents' military and naval forces. Armies, ships, fortifications, navy yards, arsenals, military posts and garrisons, one other another, were betrayed or abandoned to the insurgents.

Congress had not anticipated and so had not provided for the emergency. The municipal authorities were powerless and inactive. The judicial machinery seemed as if it had been designed not to sustain the Government, but to embarrass and betray it.

Foreign intervention, openly invented and industriously instigated by the abettors of the insurrection, became imminent and has only been prevented by the practice of strict and impartial justice with the most perfect moderation in our intercourse with nations.

The public mind was alarmed and apprehensive, though fortunately not distracted or disheartened. It seemed to be doubtful whether the Federal Government, which one year before had been thought a model worthy of universal acceptance, had indeed the ability to defend and maintain itself.

Some reverses, which, perhaps, were unavoidable, suffered by newly-levied and inefficient forces, discouraged the loyal and gave new hopes to the insurgents. Voluntary enlistments seemed about to close, and desertions commenced. Parties speculated upon the question, whether conscription had not become necessary to fill up the armies of the United States.

In this emergency the President felt it his duty to employ with energy the extraordinary powers which the Constitution confides to him in cases of insurrection. He called into the field such military and naval forces, unauthorized by the existing laws, as seemed necessary. He directed measures to prevent the close of the Post-Office for treasonable correspondence.

He subjected passengers to and from foreign countries to new passport regulations, and he instituted a blockade, suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* in various places, and caused persons who were represented to him as being or about to engage in disloyal and treasonable practices to be arrested by special civil, as well as military, agencies, and detained in military custody when necessary to prevent them, and deter others, from such practices.

Examinations of such cases were instituted, and some of the persons arrested have been discharged from time to time, under circumstances or upon conditions compatible, as was thought, with the public safety. Meantime, a favorable change of public opinion has occurred.

The line between loyalty and disloyalty is plainly defined, the whole structure of the government is firm and stable. Apprehension of public danger and facilities for treasonable practices have diminished with the passions which prompted heedless persons to adopt them. The insurrection is believed to have culminated and to be declining.

The President, in view of these facts, and anxious to favor a return to the normal course of the Administration as far as regard for the public welfare will allow, directs that all political prisoners or State prisoners now held in military custody be released, on their subscribing to a parole engaging them to render no aid or comfort to the enemies in hostility to the United States.

The Secretary of War will, however, in his discretion, except from the effect of this order, any persons detained as spies in the service of the insurgents or others, whose release at the present moment may be declared incompatible with the public safety.

To all persons who shall be so released and shall keep their parole, the President grants an amnesty for any past offences of treason or disloyalty which they may have committed.

Extraordinary arrests will hereafter be made under the direction of the military authorities alone.

By order of the President.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

War Department, Washington city, February 14th, 1862.

From the South Side of the Potomac--Troops Leaving Annapolis.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—A reconnoissance was made to-day by a portion of the division under command of General Porter in the direction of Centreville. The enemy's pickets were met but retired on the advance of our troops, embracing one thousand men. They met with no casualties.

The "Jersey Blue" left Annapolis yesterday with troops. The sick belonging to them, about 250, remained at that city.

A salute of 34 guns were fired to-day at Annapolis in honor of the success of the Burnside Expedition.

Order in Respect to Water Transports.

In order to know what means of transport can be had by the Government, and at what rates, when required, immediate proposals by telegraph for furnishing the following transports will be received by the War Department:

1st—Barges, such as are used on the North River for transporting cattle.
2—Steam tugs and tow boats.
3—Steamboats of any description adapted only for smooth water.
4—Sea going steam vessels of every description.

The proposals should specify the description of vessel, tonnage and equipment. Also the rate of charter per day, with crew and everything except coal. Sea and war risks to be borne by the Government.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Despatches from Port Royal.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—The Navy Department has received voluminous despatches from Port Royal. They consist mainly of accounts of explorations, allusions to which have already been published. It appears that considerable supplies of cotton may still be found on Edisto Island, if a reconnoissance in force should be made. The negroes report that there are small quantities of cotton hidden in various localities, and small quantities unginned are to be found on nearly all of the plantations on Edisto Island, the soldiers not having been there to burn the cotton houses, as they did on the opposite shores on the arrival of the Pawnee accompanied by the Seneca.

The despatches say it is worthy of note as indicating the changes in the blacks that now they express themselves as most anxious to obtain arms.—The black man who has general superintendence of the colony wished to land his forces on Rockville and drive the Confederate soldiers back, expressing the utmost confidence that with almost twenty old muskets that they had picked up, many of them with flint locks, he would be able to effect his object.

Operations of Our Fleet in the Gulf.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—From special despatches to the Navy Department, it is ascertained that on the evening of the 19th of January the United States steam gunboat Itasca captured the schooner Lizzie Weston, of Apalachicola, loaded with 293 bales of cotton (152,000 lbs.), bound for Jamaica or a market. She was sent in charge of a prize crew to Philadelphia.

A despatch from Ship Island, dated January 16, says that on the 29th of December the United States steamer New London captured the steamer Gypsey. She was discovered inside of Horn Island Pass, was chased and overtaken near Pascagoula, when the crew deserted and set fire to her. The fire, however, was extinguished before she had sustained much injury. She is of about fifty tons burden. Her cargo consisted of cotton, of superior quality, which was shipped on board the storeship safely, and, as has already been published, has arrived at New York.

Capture of a British Vessel on the Coast of Florida Attempting to Run the Blockade.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Despatches from Port Royal, dated February 9th, say that on the 5th instant the steamer Keystone State captured the British schooner Mars off Fernandina, laden with salt. Her charter party sufficiently indicated her intention of running the blockade.

A small sum of money was found on board, among which were bank bills and certificates of deposit in South Carolina and Georgia banks. She has been sent to New York in charge of Acting Master C. Redman, to be delivered up to the Prize Commissioners.

Affairs in New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—James H. Holmes, Secretary of State of New Mexico, arrived here this morning, bringing official despatches to the Government. He was only 14 days on the journey, being, it is said, the quickest trip ever made between that territory and Washington. It appears that Sibley, the Confederate General, has issued a proclamation, in which he says: "A wicked war is waged by the United States for the subjugation and oppression of the Confederate States by force of arms," etc., and makes various misrepresentations in behalf of his own cause. He was at the latest dates marching on Fort Craig, which is two hundred miles south of Santa Fe. He has three regiments of Texans with heavy artillery. Colonel Canby was concentrating all his available troops to meet him, and everybody in New Mexico capable of bearing arms, regardless of profession or business, were summoned to arms.

General Hunter had ordered the two Colorado regiments, called out by Governor Gilpin, to proceed to the relief of New Mexico.

The Governor, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and other Federal officers, had gone to Canby's camp. Great excitement prevails throughout the territory, and an order has been issued for all arms and munitions of war in the hands of private citizens to be turned over to the Quartermaster's Department.

Treaty with the King of Hanover.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—The President today sent a message to both Houses, enclosing a copy of a treaty with the King of Hanover, heretofore ratified, and recommending, according to the terms therein, that 60,355 thalers be appropriated as the proportional quota of the United States in indemnification of Hanover for losses sustained on the abolition of the Stade or Brunshausen dues.

Proposed Law in Reference to Vessels Seized for Engaging in the Slave Trade.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Senator Trumbull to-day introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

BE IT ENACTED, ETC., That whenever the laws of the country on the treaties of the United States may permit, the Consuls and Commercial Agents of the United States on the coast of Africa shall have power to entertain and decide upon any casts of libel of vessels which may be seized for being concerned in the slave trade, in the same manner and to the same extent as such power is now vested in the Courts of the United States. It shall be the duty of said Consuls or Commercial Agents to send to the United States for trial, according to law, the master, crew, or ship's company of vessels seized as aforesaid.

Military Appointment Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—The Senate to-day in Executive session confirmed the nomination of C. F. Smith as Brigadier General of volunteers. This gentleman, it is known, is connected with military operations in the West.

Health of Secretary Stanton.

WASHINGTON, February 14.—Secretary Stanton has so far recovered from sickness as to be at his post in the War Department to-day.

FROM GEN. BANKS' COLUMN

FREDERICK, February 14.—Reports from private sources say that the enemy have completed their strong fort on the Catoctin mountain. It covers one and a half acres of ground, and platforms are prepared for twenty guns, but only four have yet been mounted. The walls are seven feet high, surrounded by a deep wide moat. Its precise location and approach are known to our engineers.

Fresh movements of the enemy's forces are daily witnessed in front of Colonel Geary's command, but flying reports of an attack by them are unfounded.

The health of our brigades continues excellent, notwithstanding the muddy state of the camps.

The Examining Board has adjourned to meet again on Monday. Many resignations have taken place by officers who have been detailed for examination.

A horrible and heinous murder took place on Wednesday in Carctown district, Washington county. A respectable and intelligent man named Frederick Smith had for several months been paying his addresses to Miss Agnes Tracey, a young lady of very respectable parentage, but with no successful result. On Wednesday she was on her way to visit the sick child of a neighbor, having some rice in her hand. Smith met her at a distance from any house, and urged his suit in strong terms. On her refusing the offer, Smith drew a revolver, and, saying she should never marry any one else, deliberately fired, the ball taking effect in her left breast, killing her instantly.

The murderer, taking the rice from her, carried it to the parents of the sick child and told them the above details of his hellish act, on whose evidence he was arrested and now awaits his trial in the jail at Hagerstown. The Court meets on the first Monday in March. Of course the people of the county are deeply indignant, but consistently with their well-known law-abiding character, no resort to lynch-law has been attempted, although the fiendish act is calculated to arouse the public mind to frenzy. The murderer had always maintained an excellent character for sobriety and morality, and the cause of the act cannot be attributed to intoxication or insanity.

A private correspondent at Sharpsburg sends the following: On Sunday last a party of Confederate cavalry made their appearance opposite the pickets of the Twelfth Indiana, and displaying a flag of truce came to the bank of the river, with the request that an officer should cross and receive a letter for this side, but in consequence of the bloody murder perpetrated at Harper's Ferry, Capt. Wilson refused to comply with the request. The cavalry then returned to the woods about a mile back from the river. On Monday they made their appearance a short distance up the river with a flag of truce hoisted, and commenced firing on the pickets of Company D, but doing no injury. The pickets returned their fire, killing a horse and seriously wounding the rider, when the rest took to flight.

On Monday night our pickets heard martial music apparently entering Shephardstown, and it is supposed there was a considerable body of Confederate infantry in that neighborhood.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Our Army Again in Possession of Springfield --The Enemy Retreat, Leaving Behind a Large Amount of Stores, etc.

ST. LOUIS, February 14.—An official despatch says that the "flag of the Union" again floats over the Court House at Springfield, Missouri. The Confederates retreated after a short engagement.

A large amount of stores and equipage were captured by General Curtis.

Our cavalry are in close pursuit of the flying enemy.

Orders from General Halleck--Gen. Grant Appointed to the District of Tennessee.

ST. LOUIS, February 14.—General Halleck has assigned General Grant to the command of the District of West Tennessee, and General Sherman to the District of Cairo. Commanders of districts, divisions, and brigades, and posts, are directed to have an immediate inspection of all their troops for the discovery of stolen and contraband property and fugitive slaves. General order, No. 3, issued ——, 1861, will be strictly enforced, and any officer who has permitted it to be violated by his command will be arrested and tried for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders.

Gun Practice at Point of Rocks.

MONOCACY, February 14.—There has been heavy firing all the morning at Point of Rocks, but it is only our troops practising their guns to get the range.

WAR ITEMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

We take the following from the *Star* of last evening:

RECEPTION POSTPONED.

On account of the illness of the children of President Lincoln, the usual Saturday reception will not be held. The children, we are glad to say, are on the mend.

FROM THE LOWER POTOMAC.

The King Philip, Captain Cooke, went down to the flotilla yesterday, and returned at a late hour last night. The steamer Harriet Lane is at Indian Head. The heavy firing by the Confederate batteries is at passing vessels, but none are struck.

Yesterday afternoon our pickets near Mount Vernon saw two men leave the Virginia shore and go on board of a small sloop which was anchored in the stream. The fact was reported to the officer of the day, and a detachment was immediately sent off to board the sloop. This was done, and a number of letters were discovered, to and from parties in Dixie, and among them ten of a treasonable character. One is said to contain a very complete description of our lines of defence on the Potomac. The two men were arrested.

Washington Correspondence N. Y. Evening Post.

PRESENTATION OF WAR CLAIMS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Claims upon the Government for damages inflicted by the war begin to pour in at a rapid rate. The majority of them come from the States of Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia. Taken together, these claims will amount to an enormous sum. Unquestionably many of them are honest, and should be granted whenever the Treasury is in a condition to bear any draft upon it, except for the daily support of the war and the Government. Mr. Fenton, the industrious and able chairman of the House Committee on Claims, before whom many of these claims come, is framing a bill, or maturing a scheme, by which claims can be adjusted in a more speedy and satisfactory manner than in the present slow, defective system under which each separate case must be taken up in committee by itself, and in the same manner be considered by the House. If the claims growing out of the present war are to be considered after the old fashion, it will take at least a century before the claimants can have a hearing. A comprehensive law upon the subject is needed, and some court of final resort should be established to adjudicate these claims, with the distinct understanding that appropriations to meet the decisions of the Court should be inserted in some one of the general appropriation bills, whenever the Treasury can bear such drafts upon it.

THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

A delegation of prominent Republicans recently came on here from the West to urge upon the Administration a more decided war policy, and to ascertain, if possible, the exact position of President Lincoln on the slavery and emancipation question. After remaining here for several days, and holding repeated interviews with Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Stanton, they left satisfied with the position of the Administration, and especially pleased with the statements and the general position of the new Secretary of War. The conversations which took place between Mr. Stanton and the deputation it would be improper to publish, but they were of such a character as to convince the most radical Republican that Mr. Stanton has no such respect or love for the institution of slavery as will move him a hair from his proper course in the prosecution of the war.

The Body of Gen. Zollicoffer--Letter from Gen. Hardee.

The Munfordsville (Ky.) correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times* gives the following account of the effect on the Confederates of the kindly treatment by General McCook of the body of the late General Zollicoffer:

The honors paid to General Zollicoffer's body by this army has evidently exercised a happy influence on the rebels in Kentucky. They were under the impression that the corpse of Zollicoffer had been ditched with the bodies of their common soldiers, and they were astonished when they received it embalmed and in a costly metallic coffin. The fact seems to have strongly impressed both rank and file with the idea that there is a little civilization yet among the Yankees.

The Confederates were preparing to send a flag of truce to our lines when ours arrived. The purpose was to forward letters of acknowledgment as to the courtesy extended to Zollicoffer, and a number of unsealed private letters, such as are permitted to pass the lines. These letters were brought by Capt. McCook. Among the official ones was one from the Confederate General Johnston, thanking Gen. McCook for the respect paid to the bodies of Zollicoffer and Peyton, and informing him that the $100 sent to Capt. Prime, a prisoner in Confederate custody, had been promptly forwarded to him. He signs himself "A. S. Johnston, General C. S. A."

There was also a letter from Gen. Hardee, author of the improved tactics, and one of the traitors of the regular army, which I have been permitted to copy. It is as follows:

"HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL ARMY, KY.,
"Bowling Green, Feb. 1.

"General:—The remains of General Zollicoffer and Lieutenant Bailie Peyton, of the Confederate army, who fell recently in battle, have been delivered at my outposts by General N. W. Johnson, U. S. A., under a flag of truce from your command.

"Permit me, General, to thank you for this evidence of respect for the gallant dead, and for your considerate conduct in having their bodies embalmed and placed in metallic coffins. I beg to assure you of my hope that the example you have set may serve to mitigate the calamities inseparable from war, and to temper its conduct with a spirit of humanity and Christian civilization.

"With high respect,
"Your obedient servant,
"W. H. HARDEE, Major-General
"Brigadier-General McCook, U. S. A.,
"Commanding Green River.

This letter places beyond doubt the fact that Hardee is in command at Bowling Green, his forces embracing all in our immediate front.

FROM SAVANNAH.

Correspondence Philadelphia Enquirer.

PORT ROYAL, Feb. 10.—Advices have been received at this place from the fleet now *en route* to attack Savannah. These advices are up to Sunday afternoon at one o'clock. Not only have the vessels succeeded, as heretofore known, in cutting off all communication between Fort Pulaski and Savannah, but the forces have destroyed the water pipes leading to the city, and supplying it with water. The gunboats, eleven in number, and transports (three), under command of General Wright, expected to land eight thousand troops this (Monday) morning. The obstacles encountered by these boats were of the most trying character. The piles driven into the Savannah river were of heavy timber, and had been placed with the greatest care. It was a work of no small labor to cut them off, at a depth of sixteen feet below the water. This was done, however. Among the regiments on the Expedition are the Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania, the Sixth Connecticut and the Fourth New Hampshire.

Twelve regiments of troops were, on Saturday, under marching orders to leave on Monday morning for an expedition inland to the railroad and thence to Charleston. Three regiments of cavalry were to join them. Two simultaneous movements were to be made, one to the railroad direct and the other from the vicinity of Edisto Island.—Within the last month a large number of regiments have been arriving at Port Royal, and much of the heaviest ordnance in use in the army. Several regiments of artillery were to accompany the expedition.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE----REGULAR SESSION.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

EVENING SESSION.

ANNAPOLIS, February 13—The House met at half-past seven o'clock and was called to order by the SPEAKER.

The oyster bill, which was under consideration when the House adjourned this afternoon, was made the order of the day for Tuesday, 25th inst.

The bill relating to the inspection of grain was read a third time, and rejected for want of a constitutional vote—yeas 35, nays 6—but the vote was reconsidered and the bill was made the order of the day for to-morrow after the consideration of the special order.

The bill to make valid a deed from Susan E. B. Yates, of Kent county, was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Commissioners of Charlestown, Kent county, to convey a certain tract of land was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to serving summons in civil suits, introduced by Mr. Smith, of Worcester, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. SMITH moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill relating to the inspection of grain was made the special order for to-morrow, which was carried, and the bill was again