THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the House of Representatives the naval appropriation bill was considered in committee of the whole and reported back to the House. Appropriations of one million of dollars, for the ordnance Department of the Washington Navy Yard and of fifteen millions for the building of gunboats were passed. The resolutions to observe Washington's birth-day with appropriate ceremonies were adopted.

In the House of Delegates—evening session, Thursday—the bill relating to the inspection of grain was read a third time and passed, as were also the bills amending the license laws, by adding a section relating to partnerships taking out licenses, and licenses to ordinaries. The bill appropriating twenty-six hundred dollars for the relief of the Potomac Home Brigade was read a second time.

In the State Senate yesterday, the bill incorporating the City Passenger Railway Company was referred to the Committee on Corporations. The Treason bill was reported from the committee without amendment and read a second time. The bill to take the sense of the people on the propriety of holding a convention to frame a new constitution was passed. The bill to protect the Provost Marshals of Baltimore from prosecution was read a second time.

In the House of Delegates leave was given to report a bill relating to States' Attorneys; also, authorizing the enlistment of volunteers. A bill was reported from the Judiciary Committee relating to Attorneys at Law. The Baltimore election bill was made the order of the day for Monday next.

The very copious details which we publish today in regard to the capture of Roanoke Island, will serve to furnish a tolerably correct idea of the extent to which the Federal arms have been successful. The statements previously given from the Richmond and Norfolk papers are confirmed, in all essential particulars. The number of killed and wounded on both sides has, however, been considerably overstated, and the later accounts received do not quite bear out the original report of the desperate courage with which the works on the island were said to have been defended. The recent battles have made manifest the fact that open field works hastily improvised, as those defences generally are, cannot be successfully maintained against the concentrated fire of iron-clad gunboats, formidable in point of numbers, and armed with rifled guns.—In respect to the force of Confederates upon the island at the time of the attack there appears to be a wide diversity of opinion. Commodore Goldsborough, in his official despatches, estimates it as scarcely less than five thousand, whilst the Richmond *Enquirer* states that the total force was "less than twenty-five hundred men." As there are said to have been some two thousand taken prisoners of war according to General Burnside's despatch, and as it is supposed that some two hundred made their escape from the Island before the surrender took place, it may be safely concluded that the actual number did not exceed twenty-five hundred men. There were rumors current at Richmond that Burnside had proceeded to Edenton, and was in possession of that place; but it seems to be quite certain that the main body of his troops was at Roanoke Island at the last advices, the capture of what remained of Elizabeth city having been effected by a flotilla of thirteen gunboats commanded by Commodore Rowan.

Thus far then the triumph of the Federal arms is clear and unequivocal. The gunboats now hold undisputed command of the North Carolina Sounds, and, to some extent, of the navigable rivers that empty into them. What General Burnside will be able to accomplish when he leaves the gunboats behind him and takes up his line of march inland remains yet to be seen. If he should fail in his attempt to penetrate the interior, the mere possession of the coast line of North Carolina would not have any serious effect in reducing the seceded States to obedience.

General Johnston, in command of the Confederate forces on the Potomac, has issued an address to his troops, praising them for "the indomitable courage which they have already exhibited on the battle field," and for the spirit of self-sacrifice they have shown in leaving the comforts and luxuries of home for "the privations of camp life, the exactions of military discipline, and the rigors of a wintry campaign." He announces that "the enemy has gathered up all his energies for a final conflict," and that, expecting a large portion of the army to be disbanded, he hopes to overpower the remaining Confederate troops by the force of numbers. In this emergency General Johnston appeals to the twelve months' men to stand by their brave comrades who have volunteered for the war; and warns them that their decision, be it for honor or dishonor, will be written down in history.

Governor Letcher has sent a communication to the Legislature of Virginia, on the subject of organizing the whole available population of Virginia for the defence of the State. He expresses the belief that if a draft is ordered, the patriotism of the people of Virginia will respond to it.

A telegram from Memphis, published in the Southern papers, states that Pillow is confident of holding Fort Donelson; but although he may be able to successfully defend that post, it is hardly probable that he has the Federal force hemmed in. Fourteen boats laden with Federal troops have gone up the Cumberland river to co-operate with the force under Grant, and all the indications point to a severe contest at and near Fort Donelson in the course of a few days. In what manner the battle now impending will terminate depends almost wholly upon the number of troops which the Confederates can oppose to Grant; but, at the worst the latter has always a way of retreat open to him by means of the gunboats and under cover of their fire. By telegram from Chicago, we learn that more than fifty thousand men have marched, under General Grant, to the attack of Fort Donelson, and that a large number of gunboats have been sent up the Cumberland river to assault the works' in front. The engagement was to have taken place on Thursday afternoon, and it is difficult to believe that any adequate defence could be made against such overwhelming numbers.

The latest intelligence from Missouri is to the effect that General Price, eluding the snares that had been set to entrap him at Springfield, has abandoned that place and retired southward in the direction of Arkansas, that being the only route that was open to him. The Federal cavalry, after taking possession of Springfield, were pushed forward in close pursuit.

The news from Mexico indicates that President Juarez is disposed to offer terms to the Allied Commissioners; and although his first proposition has has been rejected, there appears to be a possibility that he will finally accede to the demands which have been made upon him.

Later advices from Port Royal state that the Federal forces operating against Savannah have succeeded in completely cutting off all communication with Fort Pulaski, and in destroying the pipes by which Savannah was supplied with water. Eight thousand troops were to have been landed on Monday morning last. Heavy reinforcements of troops have reached Port Royal within the last month, together with a large quantity of the heaviest ordnance in use in the army. Twelve regiments of infantry and three of cavalry were under orders to proceed in two different directions for the purpose of obtaining possession of the railroad and marching thence to Charleston.

DISUNION.—Great regret is expressed that Senator Fessenden should have, last evening, even hinted at the possibility of disunion as a supposition. The exact language used by him was this:

"Sir, suppose for a single instant that, to a certain degree, this rebellion is to be successful; suppose that the cotton States, so-called, are to be cut off from us; what have we left? We have lost the production of one or two great staples; we have lost a portion of our population; but everything else, substantially, we retain. We retain all that I spoke of as going to make a great, a prosperous, and a glorious people; and I am not certain that what we might lose in extent of territory and in the production of certain staples, even should this rebellion be successful, we should not gain by greater homogeneousness and singleness of purpose, and by the power which would arise from that singleness of purpose and that homogeneousness, and the loss of what, after all, must be conceded to be an element of weakness to any nation on the face of the earth, which has proved to be so to us, though in some particulars an element of wealth."

Many were pained to hear a Senator admit that disunion is even a supposable case.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

LETTER FROM DELAWARE.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

MIDDLETOWN, Delaware, Feb. 14, 1862.

I notice in your issue of yesterday a mention of the Legislature of Delaware, stating that resolutions were passed by that body "requesting Mr. Bayard to resign, and another instructing Mr. Saulsbury to vote to sustain the Government in its conduct of the war." This, sire, is entirely untrue. Such resolutions were offered by the abolition element of the House, but promptly voted down by the conservative and peace-loving majority who really represent the people of Delaware. Several attempts have been made by some of "Garrison's Underground Railroad Conductors" to place our good little State in a false position on this war question, but have as signally failed as their resolutions before the Legislature. The fact is, Delaware is opposed to this war, and earnestly desires to see peace once more established; and her people can and will vote down all abolition measures. T.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Burnside Expedition.

From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 11.

Until within a day or two past, the capture of Roanoke Island by Burnside was a foregone conclusion. A fleet of nearly a hundred sail, and an army of fifteen or twenty thousand men, with guns and equipments in profusion, were esteemed equal to the capture of an exposed piece of water-bound land like the island in question. But the brave resistance offered, for nearly two days, by our troops, and the hopeful terms in which they spoke of their prospects, led our people to believe that the island might be held. It has, however, been lost, and we are compelled to resign ourselves to the conclusion which a day or two of hope—we confess not strong in our own case—had unsettled.

Burnside has landed, after a hard fight, on a seaboard island, not as advantageously situated, nor encompassed by as rich surroundings of country as Beaufort. His object is supposed by some to be Norfolk; but if we are to believe the recent outgivings of Northern journals, his leading purpose is to make a demonstration against the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad, with a view to cutting our great line of Southern communication. That thing seems, for the present, to be the especial aim of the enemy in every quarter. His movements in Western Kentucky and Tennessee seem to have that single object for the present in view; and it has been repeatedly declared by Northern journals that Burnside's primary purpose is a demonstration upon our railroad. It remains to be seen whether such be his real design, and with what success he will prosecute it. The experience of Sherman in a similar undertaking may possibly be his own.

An assault upon Norfolk is the only object next after the railroad enterprise, commensurate in importance with the magnitude of the expedition. In such an undertaking the enemy's vessels could be of little direct use. The water approaches to that city from North Carolina are too narrow, tortuous and easily obstructed to admit the use of vessels; and if the enemy attempts a land attack, the chances in our favor of repelling him are two or three to one. The reduction of Norfolk would be the work of months, and could only be effected by a large increase of Burnside's forces, an increase which the Yankee exchequer is not able to afford for an operation stretching through a protracted period. Nothing at all can save their Treasury, and nothing can keep the war on foot but rapid operations and decisive successes. Yet we do not see wherein the Burnside Expedition promises these results more unmistakably than Sherman's did, which landed in November, nearly three months ago.

General Johnston's Address to the Army of the Potomac.

From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 11.

We are indebted to the kindness of a friend for a copy of Generals Beauregard and Johnston's addresses to the army of the Potomac. The first we have already published; and we now have the pleasure of laying before our readers the stirring appeal of General Johnston, relating to the re-enlistment question, the all-absorbing topic of conversation in the camps and elsewhere. We have reliable authority for saying that the troops in the army of the Potomac are rapidly re-enlisting, and we cannot doubt this address will serve to arouse the volunteers in other portions of the country.

GENERAL JOHNSTON'S ADDRESS.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Feb. 4, 1862.—*Soldiers:*—Your country again calls you to the defence of the noblest of human causes. To the indomitable courage already exhibited on the battle-field, you have added the rarer virtues of high endurance, cheerful obedience and self-sacrifice. Accustomed to the comforts and luxuries of home, you have met and borne the privations of camp life, the exactions of military discipline, and the rigors of a winter campaign. The rich results of your courage, patriotism and unfaltering virtues are before you. Entrusted with the defence of this important frontier, you have driven back the immense army which the enemy had sent to invade our country, and to establish his dominion over our people by the wide-spread havoc of a war inaugurated without a shadow of constitutional right, and prosecuted in a spirit of ruthless vengeance. By your valor and firmness you have kept him in check until the nations of the earth have been forced to see us in our true character—not dismembered and rebellious communities, but an empire of Confederate States, with a Constitution safe in the affections of the people, institutions and laws in full and unobstructed operation, a population enjoying all the comforts of life, and a citizen soldiery who laugh to scorn the threat of subjugation.

Your country now summons you to a nobler and a greater deed. The enemy has gathered up all his energies for a final conflict. His enormous masses threaten us on the West; his naval expeditions are assailing us upon our whole Southern coast; and upon the Potomac, within a few hours' march, he has a gigantic army, inflamed by lust and maddened by fanaticism. But the plains of Manassas are not forgotten, and he shrinks from meeting the disciplined heroes who hurled across the Potomac his grand army, routed and disgraced. He does not propose to attack this army so long as it holds its present position with undiminished numbers and unimpaired discipline; but, protected by his fortifications, he awaits the expiration of your term of service. He recollects that his own ignoble soldiery, when their term of service expired, "marched away from the scene of conflict to the sound of the enemy's cannon," and he hopes that at that critical moment Southern men will consent to share with them this infamy. Expecting a large portion of our army to be soon disbanded, he hopes that his immense numbers will easily overpower your gallant comrades who will be left here, and thus remove the chief obstacle to his cherished scheme of Southern subjugation.

The Commanding General calls upon the twelve-months men to stand by their brave comrades who have volunteered for the war, to re-volunteer at once, and thus show to the world that the patriots engaged in this struggle for independence will not swerve from the bloodiest path they may be called to tread. The enemies of your country, as well as her friends, are watching your action with deep, intense, tremulous interest. Such is your position that you can act no obscure part. Your decision, be it for honor or dishonor, will be written down in history. You cannot, you will not draw back at this solemn crisis of our struggle, when all that is heroic in the land is engaged, and all that is precious hangs trembling in the balance.

From the Norfolk Day Book, Feb. 13.

The Total Confederate Force on Roanoke Island Less Than 2,500 Men.

The Richmond *Enquirer* has the following with reference to the Wise Legion:

In the various sharp skirmishes with the enemy in the West comparatively few casualties had occurred, but typhoid and other diseases had fearfully thinned the ranks of many of the companies. The field officers of the 1st regiment were Colonel J. R. Richardson, and H. W. Fry, Jr., Major.—There were present of this regiment in the battle of Roanoke Island, the companies of Captains O. Jennings Wise, Abbitt, Harrison, Miller, Watson, Coles, Crank and Williams. Of the 2d regiment, commanded by Colonel Frank Anderson, of which John Lawson was Major, the following were present, viz: Ben. McCulloch Rangers, under command of Lieutenant Hazlett; the companies of Captains Dickinson, Wallace, McDonald, Dorman, Morris, Lewis and Swann. There were three Richmond companies in these regiments, viz: The companies of Captains Wise, Dickinson and Wallace. Seven besides the Richmond companies mentioned were from Eastern Virginia, and four from Western Virginia. The McCulloch Rangers were from Louisiana, and McDonald's company from Mississippi.

Two companies left to guard the hospital and public property near Lewisburg have not yet returned from the West.

The artillery, under Gen. Henningsen, is at Elizabeth City. It consisted of three companies—Roemer's, McComas' and Lowry's.

The cavalry regiment, commanded by Colonel J. Lucius Davis, is quartered at various points, awaiting equipments and the orders of the War Department.

The 3d regiment, commanded by Colonel J. Wharton Green, is in North Carolina.

There remain, therefore, in fact:

The cavalry regiment,	600 men.
Green's regiment,	700 men.
Edgar's and Woodram's companies, at Lewisburg,	100 men.
Artillerymen,	200 men.
Total,	1,600 men.

It is believed that at least 200 have escaped, which, added to the above, will make 1,800 effective men yet under command of General Wise.—*The number of his Legion who were in the fight at Roanoke Island is believed to have been less than 1,000, and the total force less than 2,500 men.*

Further Account.

The Richmond *Whig* says that the prisoners captured consisted of six companies of Col. Robinson's regiment, numbering perhaps 300, eight companies of Col. Henningsen's regiment, numbering 600, Col. Green's North Carolina regiment, Wise's Legion, Col. Shaw's North Carolina regiment, and the men who manned the batteries, from 2,500 to 3,000 in all.

The Richmond *Whig* in describing the battle says:

At early dawn on Saturday the enemy advanced. A small breastwork flanked by the swamps was unfortunately supposed by Colonel Shaw to be impassable to infantry. This error was soon ascertained, as the enemy, rushing through the swamps, outflanked the breastworks. Captain Wise, commanding a battalion composed of the Blues and Captain Cole's company, deployed as skirmishers on the right flank, and the McCulloch Rangers on the left. The enemy soon concentrated their whole force on these flank companies in an effort to turn each flank. The fight ranged foremost on these flanks—overpowering numbers carried each flank, and a surrender was necessitated.

Escape of General Wise.

The arrival of Gen. Wise at Richmond is announced in the Richmond *Enquirer*. The *Enquirer* says that the excitement and exposure which he has undergone has had rather a favorable than unfavorable effect on his disease. As to the loss of his son, he takes it with all the philosophy of a patriot who has immolated his son on the altar of his country, &c.

From the Norfolk Day Book of Thursday.

Further from our Fleet.

An officer of our fleet, who was in such a position as to enable him to see all that was transpiring around him, furnishes us with the following account of the engagement:

The advance forces of the enemy, consisting of twenty-two large steamers and one tugboat, began the attack upon the Island at half-past ten o'clock on Friday morning. The battle continued throughout the day, and whenever our steamers drew near, to lend assistance, the whole of the enemy's flotilla, excepting three in shore, concentrated their fire upon them.

About four o'clock in the afternoon, the Curlew was disabled by a shell from the enemy, and was compelled to make for shoal water, where she sunk. During the cannonading the enemy were busily employed in landing their troops below Pork Point Battery. Two of their steamers ran into a slough in the neighborhood, and succeeded in covering their landing. The enemy continued the attack until about dark, when they withdrew.

A little after 4 o'clock, the ammunition of our squadron getting short, an application was made for a supply to the upper battery, but the commanding officer could spare only about ten charges. As it was essential that ammunition should be had, and as there was no more to be obtained from the batteries, a steamer was sent to the upper battery, with a despatch to the officer in command, informing him that the fleet was without ammunition, and that it would repair to Elizabeth City—thirty-five miles distant—for the purpose of obtaining a supply, and that it would return without delay. Previous to leaving, information was received by the fleet, from Captain Taylor, of the navy, who had been at Pork Point Battery during the day, that they had only one killed and three wounded, and there was every reason to believe that they would be able to hold out if the rear of the batteries was not turned.

The fleet reached Elizabeth City on Saturday morning, and finding very little ammunition there, sent an express to Norfolk for it. On Saturday afternoon, having put all the ammunition and fuel which could be obtained on board the Seabird and Appomattox, these two steamers were sent forward to Roanoke Island. On arriving at the mouth of the river they met a boat and learned from it that the island had been surrendered, and shortly afterward discovered five of the enemy's gunboats standing for Pasquotank river. They returned immediately to the battery at Cobb's Point, about a mile-and-a-half below Elizabeth City, and after sending an express to Gen. Henningsen, distributed all the ammunition among four steamers and a schooner, and formed a line just above the battery. A company had been detailed the day previous for duty at this battery, and the object of the fleet was to co-operate with them.

Shortly after daylight the enemy appeared in sight, and a messenger was sent from the fleet to ascertain the condition of the battery. Finding only seven men there, and supposing that the enemy would first attack the battery, the officers and crew of the Beaufort were sent ashore to man two of the guns, these being as many as they had ammunition to supply. The Beaufort was sent to the mouth of the canal, where the Raleigh had been previously sent.

Instructions were given by the Commodore to the commanding officers of all the vessels that when all means of resistance failed, and they found themselves unable to escape, they should run into shoal water, set them on fire and save their crews.

The action commenced at forty-five minutes past seven in the morning, and resulted in the enemy passing the battery and overwhelming the Seabird and Alice.

The last mentioned vessels were the only ones known to have fallen into the hands of the enemy. The Fanny was burned by her commander, and the Appomattox is believed to have escaped up the river. The Forrest was on the ways at Elizabeth City repairing damages, and if the information we received yesterday be correct, she too was burned to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. As far as known, there were only six killed and three wounded among the entire naval force which we had in the action.

We omitted to mention that the guns at Cobb's Battery were all spiked before being possessed by the enemy.

Military Organization—Defence of the Cities and Towns of Virginia—Views of the Governor.

The following communication from his Excellency, Governor Letcher, was read yesterday, in the Senate:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, February 11th, 1862.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

A crisis is upon us. The results of recent reverses to our arms at Mill Spring, Fort Henry, and Roanoke Island, appeal in the strongest terms to our patriotism, and demand an exhibition of all our energies, an uncompromising spirit and stern and determined resolution.

The exigencies of the times are not duly appreciated by many of our people; the dangers which environ us are too lightly estimated.

We must see and feel their imminence before we can be aroused to that action which is necessary to save us from alarming ills, and to avert evils which threaten our existence, our peace, and our organization as a government. The results referred to should be sufficient to arouse the people of the Confederacy, to stimulate and call into action all our energies, physical and intellectual.

It cannot but be apparent to every mind that the object of our enemies is to cut off our Southern connections by railroad and otherwise, and to defeat the transportation of troops from one point to another with certainty and celerity as our necessities may demand. This result accomplished, and one great stop will have been taken towards their success and our subjugation.

It becomes us, therefore, to perfect our organization, and bring into active use all our strength, to defeat the designs of a wily and unscrupulous foe, whose march has been marked by brutality, bloodshed and plunder. Every citizen of Richmond ought to feel and know that the possession of this city is an object of the most earnest and anxious desire on the part of our enemies. Its mechanical and manufacturing interests are doing so much to uphold the Southern Confederacy, that its loss to us would be well-nigh irreparable.

The various propositions which have been made by Lincoln to his allies to parcel out the territory of the Commonwealth make the possession and subjugation of Virginia an object not less desirable.—The casual observer cannot have failed to see these things, and they should rouse up every latent feeling of patriotism that slumbers within him, and bring it into prompt and decisive action.

The defence of Richmond, Norfolk, Fredericksburg, and other parts of the State, is of the utmost importance, and to secure this defence, we must, at once, take steps to secure organization, and bring an efficient corps into the field. I therefore recommend:

First—That the male population of the cities and towns be divided into those subject to ordinary and extraordinary draft—the first class to embrace those between 18 and 45—the second class to embrace those between 16 and 18, and those between 45 and 60 years of age.

Second—To authorize the Governor, when informed by the President of the Confederate States of the urgency for so doing, to call out both classes for home defence—to make rules and regulations for their organization into companies and regiments, in conformity with the laws of Virginia, and require all places of business to be closed at two o'clock, P. M., and the whole force drafted as aforesaid, to come out for discipline and instruction.

Third—The ordinary draft to be ordered, if necessary, to defend any line of approach to the town or city to which they belong—the extraordinary draft not to be required to serve beyond a distance of five miles from the limits of the town or city to which they belong.

Fourth—To include in such drafts all persons sojourning in the cities or towns for a period longer than ten days.

Fifth—None to be exempt for any other reason than service in the State or Confederate States.

If this is considered hard service, let the people of the cities and towns recollect that the people of New Orleans, Charleston, Mobile and Savannah have adopted this policy, and have steadily practised it for months past. The people of Richmond and other cities and towns in Virginia are just as much exposed as those of the cities I have named, and should be willing to sacrifice as much for the common cause in the way of ease and comfort.

If the Legislature will pass a law, the patriotism of the people of Virginia will respond to it, and show that they are not less ready to make all necessary sacrifices for the common cause than those of any other State in the Confederacy.

Respectfully, JOHN LETCHER.

The Situation of Affairs at Columbus.

In consequence of the conviction of Gen. Polk that the enemy intended to make an early and formidable demonstration against Columbus, our forces at that point have been heavily reinforced within the last two weeks. Regiments from Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have been pouring in, as well as some few Texas regiments, who came through Arkansas.

General Beauregard is at Columbus. He reached Nashville on the 4th inst., wherein he was enthusiastically received. The same night he quitted Nashville, and had probably just reached Columbus on the morning of the day on which Fort Henry was captured.

A Spirited City.

The city of Columbus, Ga., with a population of about 8,000 souls, has sent to the field sixteen infantry companies and two full light artillery companies. It has supplied to the service five colonels, one lieutenant-colonel, four majors, four adjutants, four assistant quartermasters, four assistant commissaries, nineteen captains, and sixty-two lieutenants.

Arrival of the Confederate Steamer Raleigh at Norfolk.

The Confederate steamer Raleigh, one of the fleet engaged at Roanoke Island, made her appearance in our waters yesterday afternoon. She proceeded to the hospital wharf, where she landed Midshipman Camm, who lost an arm in the engagement.

Telegrams to the Southern Papers.

FROM TENNESSEE.

MEMPHIS, February 12.—The latest advices from Tennessee river report that General Pillow has the Federal force hemmed in near Fort Donelson. The river is still rising. Fort Henry is submerged, and has been abandoned by the Federals. One Federal gunboat returned up the Tennessee river to the bridge on yesterday. The bridge is guarded by 500 Federals. There is a large Confederate cavalry force between them and Paris.

The Union men were cheering for Lincoln. The people of Paris were preparing to leave. The latest advices from Paducah says that boats are constantly arriving with forces from Tennessee river—14 have already gone towards Fort Donelson with troops. Heavy firing was heard in that direction on Tuesday. The Confederate loss at Fort Henry was five killed and ten wounded. General Tilghman was taken prisoner. The Paducah gunboat Essex was injured. 32 were scalded to death. The Federal loss was one hundred.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, February 12.—Congress has passed and the President approved an act authorizing the construction of the railway between Danville, Va., and Greensboro, N. C., on the ground of its being a military necessity.

The Fortress Monroe correspondent of the *American* states that Major Robert Hazlett, of Baltimore, is supposed to have been in command of the McCulloch Riflemen, who fought so desperately at the recent fight at Roanoke Island.

The British steamer Gladiator is reported to be still at Nassau, N. P., where she was being changed into a privateer for the Confederate service.

EUROPE.

MR. SEWARD'S LETTER AND MR. SUMNER'S SPEECH.

From the London Times, January 25th.

Now that the Trent affair is over, the fermentation of Yankee eloquence is rising. Until Lord Lyons delivered the demand nothing could be more still than the official personages who had the power of making amends. The voices which did fill the air were all of most powerless personages. Judges, Governors, Secretaries of the Navy, Civic Corporations, officials who might be avowed or disavowed as future convenience should dictate, expounded the intentions of the North. Amid all that noise the statesmen only were silent, and the world has reasonably judged that they waited to see whether they could venture to keep the prize they had ventured to lay hands on. Now, however, all these responsible gentlemen have found a tongue, and we find every one of them, from Mr. Seward downwards, as indignant at the idea that America ever intended to retain those captured Southerners as a shoplifter is when she is accused of intending to appropriate the roll of silk found under her arm. Our police reports testify that a lady under such circumstances generally casts away the compromising article with vast disdain. Perhaps she declares her reverence for the sacred rights of property, and appeals to her character. She is sure to assert the innocence of her intentions, and to contrast the readiness of her reparation with the harshness and trade tricks of her prosecutors. So it is with these scandalized Republicans, from beneath whose ample senatorial mantles we have just drawn forth the four small objects which they were so silently clutching.

Mr. Seward, by the consent of all mankind, has mismanaged his half blustering apology for his share in this transaction. The last mail has brought us another attempt, made in a speech five columns long by Mr. Charles Sumner in the American Senate. This gentleman is, perhaps, the one American who has been most petted and feted over here. Mr. Charles Sumner was the greatest drawing-room lion of his day, and his mane was combed by a thousand delicate hands, often held up in admiration at his gentle roarings. In America he has arrived at the high distinction of Senator for Massachusetts and Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs; but, after the very general hilarity throughout Europe, caused by Mr. Seward's diplomatic *fiasco*, it seems to have been thought necessary to put some one forward to make "a scathing exposition of British inconsistency," and to show what a victory over the old country had been obtained. So Charles Sumner is the man. His brother George had shown by the fabrication of that celebrated precedent—of which, as Mr. Thurlow Weed so candidly said, "the bottom fell out"—what boldness and imagination there was in the family. Mr. Sumner has not done his work ill—But then he had peculiar facilities for it. Who best has known them can abuse them best. Moreover, his audience at Washington was not difficult. Gentlemen who could congratulate themselves on Bull's Run required no cogent reasons for seeing a glorious triumph, first in the seizure of the Trent, and then in the compulsory surrender of the prize.

Senators who had rejoiced over the attempted destruction of Charleston harbor as an exploit worthy of a civilized people could hardly fail to see that the nation which had alone protested against the provisions of the Congress of Paris in favor of neutral rights, and which had alone insisted on retaining the right of privateering, must be the champion of the rights of neutrals. Of course, it was the easiest thing in the world to prove to such an audience that it was England who was ready to go to war with the world in order to retain the practice of impressment, although she had abolished the practice even in her own ports and in her own ships. And it could not be difficult to satisfy such easy hearers that it was England who was upholding "the most offensive pretensions that ever sailed upon the seas," although she had just tried to persuade America to help her to abolish legal piracy, and had been snubbed for her pains. The facts might be somewhat embarrassing to some orators and before some audiences, and "the bottom might fall out" of all the precedents which should be a little roughly shaken; but, boldly launched and gently handled, the Trent conquest might live as long as the Bull's Run victory.

No wonder, then, that Mr. Charles Sumner's speech in the Senate has been a great success. We are told that all the foreign Ambassadors—except only Lord Lyons, whom nothing but severe diplomatic etiquette kept away—came round him and congratulated him; and that after its delivery "our respected Mother, England, is left out in the cold,"—whatever that may mean. The two points which seem especially to have been admired are, first, "the absence of any allusion in his speech to the Negro question," showing that he is by no means so obstinate upon that matter as had been feared; and, secondly, "the signal rebuke he administered to England." We can go some way with Mr. Sumner's encomiasts in this admiration. It at least shows a versatile and cosmopolitan mind. His "allusions to the Negro question" are evidently absent from his Washington speeches because they are kept entirely for English use and are not fitted for home consumption; whereas the "rebukes" are manufactured expressly for the American market and are never offered for acceptance on this side the Atlantic. Beyond this, however, we cannot advance far with Mr. Charles Sumner's admirers without committing as great an outrage upon history as his countryman committed upon the Trent. When he tells us that Captain Wilkes's piratical attack upon an unarmed vessel is rather glorious than criminal, because he was "inspired by a patriotic impulse," we must protest that this is not the doctrine of a champion of neutral rights. And when he adds that this same piratical patriot was inspired also by "the British examples which he could not forget," we must say again to him, in that ingenious euphuism which Mr. Thurlow Weed has taught us as a means of avoiding a stronger term, that "the bottom has fallen out" of his assertion. There are really no such British examples worth remembering. We have accepted the notion that they were numerous because the Americans have been always saying so. But the assertion turns out to be historically false. Mr. Sumner now repeats that "the victims were counted by thousands" in those old days of impressment. He says, also, that in the American State Department six thousand such cases were numbered. It is now, however, understood that all this was as much an exaggeration as the older story of Jenkins's ears. In the current number of the *Quarterly Review* it is conclusively shown that only two men "*claiming to be Americans*" were taken by our cruisers out of American ships in the year preceding the war of 1812; and it is moreover shown that the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts, after a most elaborate investigation, discovered that out of 21,000 seamen employed in American ships during a period of twenty-four years not more than *twelve* had been impressed by British cruisers, and that of these only one had been retained. Thus again "the bottom falls out" of the Sumner precedents. Of course, we had no right to take those twelve, or to detain that one. But this is not a great catalogue of wrongs. We have no doubt there are more than twelve British subjects detained against their will at this moment in the levies of the North or of the South.

It is of no great consequence to us what cloud of dust American statesmen may choose to raise in order to escape from their difficulty. Now that they have eaten the leek, they may declare, if they please, that it was exquisite in its flavor, and had been presented to them as a mark of honor. But we protest against any suggestion that England has budged one step from her former position with respect to her rights, either neutral or belligerent. What we agreed to at the Congress of Paris we still stand by; what we had before limited only by those concessions, we have still limited. The case of the Trent has not made any new precedent whatever, nor can it clash with any precedent upon which in modern times we ever did or could have intended to rely. The forcible removal of those four men from under the British flag was a rude outrage, redeemed neither by precedent nor principle, and it has been resented and repaired. If all the Federal Senate make set speeches till doomsday they can make no more of it.

FROM MEXICO.

JUAREZ WILLING TO NEGOTIATE—PROBABLE DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION OF THE DIFFICULTY.

From the New York Evening Express.

Via Havana we have dates from the city of Mexico to the 28th of January, and from Vera Cruz to February 1st. The news is highly important and interesting.

The Commissioners sent by the allied Plenipotentiaries to Mexico with an ultimatum, returned to Vera Cruz on the evening of the 28th ult. They report that throughout the entire journey, both going and returning, they were received with the greatest courtesy and kindness. Officers of all grades vied with each other to do them honor and facilitate their progress. Upon their arrival in Mexico, and the delivery of the ultimatum, they were invited by Juarez, Minister of the Treasury, to a sumptuous banquet, at which every luxury that the market of Mexico afforded was produced. They were treated like princes, and the distinguished consideration shown to them was at once interpreted in Mexico as an indication that there would be no war.

After due consideration of the ultimatum, President Juarez delivered his reply, and despatched with the Commissioners Sr. Zamacona, Ex-Minister of Foreign Relations, clothed with full powers to treat with the allies as regarded preliminaries. The reply of Juarez expressed a desire to avoid hostilities. He acknowledged the breach of the treaties, and offered the most satisfactory security for the future. He proposed that the allied Ministers should come to Orizaba and treat there in detail with Mexican Commissioners; but he exacted as a preliminary condition that the whole expeditionary force should be remarked, except a guard of honor of two thousand men, who should accompany the Ministers to Orizaba and remain there during the negotiations. Throughout his communication he manifested much anxiety to make it appear to the Mexicans that he did not yield to the armed threats of the allies.

Sr. Zamacona submitted this reply to the allies on the 29th, and after several conferences with the Marquis of Castillejos, the purport of which did not transpire, he started immediately on his return to Mexico. The allies had concluded that the condition imposed by Juarez was inadmissable, and their reply, refusing to re-embark the troops before treating, left Vera Cruz for Mexico on the 1st inst. In case Juarez should show a disposition to be obstinate in regard to his condition, Gen. Prim had decided to advance with his whole force, opening the roads by fighting if he should encounter resistance. He is determined not to expose the health of the army to the unfavorable climate of Vera Cruz any longer than is necessary.

The expeditionary forces (French) encamped at Tejeria had, by permission of General Uraga, the Mexican commander, advanced three leagues to Santa Fe, in order to procure better water and a somewhat more convenient camping ground.—The Spanish regiment of Cazadores had left Tejeria for Medellin, where they occupied the right of the river at a place called Paso del Toro; the rest of the second brigade were quartered in the village. A company of engineers were engaged in building a bridge and replacing the road. This and other circumstances indicated an intention to march the expedition inland, if for no other reason, to escape the bad climate of Vera Cruz.

On the 27th of January, the British steamer Avon, from Havana, arrived at Vera Cruz with General Miramon on board. His arrival was anticipated, and as soon as the steamer was signalled, a great number of his partisans crowded the pier to give him welcome. The Avon had hardly dropped anchor, however, when she was boarded by an armed boat from a British frigate, whose officer arrested Miramon and carried him off as a prisoner to the Commodore's ship.

This affair caused considerable commotion in Vera Cruz. Report said the arrest had been made by authority of the three allied Ministers, as they had proclaimed to the Mexicans that they would not interfere in the internal politics of the country. To allow Miramon free passage through Vera Cruz would be equivalent to lending strong moral aid to the reactionary party. Miramon returned to Mexico as a private individual, but he probably forgot that after his fall from the Presidency he seized over four hundred thousand dollars of specie that were under the protection of the seals of the British Legation. Another report says that the British Commodore made the arrest on his own responsibility, and that he holds Miramon for this theft, and for the murder of sundry British subjects, for which he will be tried; the general impression, however, is that he was seized as a marked, and will be sent back to Havana. Meanwhile he is kept in confinement on board of H. B. M.'s frigate Challenger.

The General-in Chief of the expeditionary forces was determined to march his army to Mexico at all hazards. He says that the articles of peace and treaties must be signed at the Capital.

A private letter from Vera Cruz says that the rarity of robberies is a matter of remark. They are hardly spoken of. All the guerilla bands have taken advantage of the amnesty accorded by Juarez, and have placed their swords at the disposition of the Government. Generals Doblado and Ramirez Mejia and Zaragosa are all united in the defence of the country.

Gen. Almonte was shortly expected in Vera Cruz, with instructions, it is said, referring to the proclamation of a monarchy in Mexico, with the Archduke Fernando Maximilian of Austria, at the head of it. The Mexicans did not appear to relish the idea at all, and were disposed to look rather unfavorably upon the French Plenipotentiary, who was said to second the plan.

The Spaniards recently expelled from Tampico were to return on board of a Spanish frigate; but they had not yet embarked, as they were waiting till Juarez should give an order to the Governor to receive them.

A conspiracy against Juarez had been discovered in the capital, but it was suffocated by the arrest of the principal movers.

The Government of Juarez were making great efforts to collect the tax upon all capital sums of $500 and upwards.

Colonel Garcia de Leon had left Mexico to join Uraga, who was in command of the army of the East.

The Prussian Minister had notified the Juarez Government that the tax upon capital would only be paid by his countrymen under protest.

The entire press of the republic had received orders not to publish any reports concerning the invasion of Mexican territory by the foreign allies.

From the Catholic Mirror.

THE PROPOSED OATH FOR MARYLAND.

A communication, which we give in another part of our paper, appeared in the Baltimore *American*, of the 8th inst. It is in the nature of a remonstrance against so much of Mr. Price's new test oath bill as relates to the clergy of Maryland. Its arguments are cogent and will command the respectful consideration of all unprejudiced minds. Though the communication is too narrow in its scope, being a plea for the clergy alone, still many of its points apply with equal force to the other interests affected by the bill. Many decided coercionists in our community express themselves hostile to the entire measure, some condemning it as calculated to promote perjury, others alleging that they do not see how any legislator properly impressed with the sanctity of an oath, can assist in a plan to divest it