THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET will be issued daily from the office formerly occupied by the *Daily Exchange*, and will be, as its name implies, simply a "News Sheet." It will furnish the latest intelligence as derived from the despatches of the Associated Press, by which it will be supplied in common with the New York journals; from its exchanges, and from such reliable private sources of information as it may be able to command. Expressing itself no opinions, it will devote its editorial columns to such extracts from other journals as may be deemed of interest to the public.

BALTIMORE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1862.

Owing to an unforseen difficulty, which was however but of a temporary nature, we were unable during the past week to supply the whole of our country circulation. The impediment has been removed and the papers will henceforth be regularly mailed.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the House of Delegates—evening session, Friday—resolutions of thanks to the officers and men who participated in the recent victories were called up and passed. The bill more clearly defining the rights of the Protestant Episcopal Church was read a second time.

In the House of Delegates on Saturday the joint resolutions relating to the agitation of the slavery question were reported with amendments and passed. A bill dividing the State into Congressional districts was reported from the Committee on Elections. At noon the ceremonies took place, as previously arranged, for the celebration of Washington's birthday, and at their close the House adjourned.

The European news, by the steamer Bohemian, is of pretty much the same even tenor in regard to American affairs, that characterized the previous advices from across the Atlantic. The English Parliament had just assembled when the Bohemian left, and we have nothing concerning its doings except the debate on the Queen's speech. During that debate some brief allusions to the civil war, now raging here, very naturally occurred; but they turned chiefly on the action of the British Government in the case of the Trent—which was endorsed by all parties. With reference to the future, Mr. Portman, in the House of Commons, who was deputed to move the acceptance of the address in reply to the Queen's speech, expressed his belief that he might congratulate the House upon the determination of the Government to maintain its present neutrality as the wisest policy ultimately, even for the suffering manufactures. Mr. D'Israeli, the leader of the opposition approved of the course of neutrality which had thus far been pursued by the Government, whose conduct in the Trent affair had been distinguished for vigor and prudence; but he must say that, in granting reparation, the Government of the United States had acted quite as worthily. He did not, however, deem it possible to decide upon the future course of England, but he hoped the Government would take no precipitate steps. Lord Palmerston, in reply, expressed his satisfaction that, under present circumstances, the address to her Majesty would be agreed to without the slightest opposition. With respect to America, he said that the British Government were well aware of the difficulties in which this country was involved, and which pressed so severely upon English commercial and manufacturing interests; but the Ministry "did not think that was a sufficient reason why they should depart from that course which a sense of prudence and a sense of honor had imposed upon them."

In the House of Lords similar sentiments were expressed. Lord Derby, however, took occasion to state that the Federal Government "had acceded to the just demand of England with a very ill grace." Earl Russell spoke of the Southern blockade as of the most ineffectual character, but said the Government had "no desire to press hardly on the Northern States;" and that, however, the struggle terminated "her Majesty's Government would feel they had done their duty to both sides, by preserving a strict neutrality.

The arrival of the steamer Niagara at Halifax yesterday puts us in possession of some brief but remarkably interesting details in regard to the correspondence that had previously taken place between the Governments of England and the United States on various matters growing out of our civil war. A large number of official documents upon the subject have been laid before Parliament, some of which indicate that war with England was at one time most imminent. Even now it is said that the complications have by no means been adjusted, and that the vote in the House of Commons, if it were taken, would show that parties are pretty equally divided as respects the policy which the British Government ought to adopt with respect to American affairs. The London *Globe*, however, states that if Lord Palmerston were defeated he would dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country.

The Confederate war steamer Sumter is reported to be at work again. From Cadiz information had reached London that she had overhauled a ship from New York, but subsequently released her upon the captain signing an order payable in London for $20,000.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing ostensibly from Baltimore, professes to give a variety of interesting particulars in regard to the defences now going up at Nashville. He states that General Beauregard has been there energetically at work for the past ten days. In strengthening the works to protect the city, he has been assisted by the inhabitants of the place, who have laboured day and night until the fortifications have reached such a stage that the city was considered safe. The writer estimates the Confederate force at Nashville at sixty thousand men, exclusive of the troops which escaped from Fort Donelson under Pillow and Floyd. Other reinforcements were continually arriving, but not in very large numbers. Memphis also is said to have been very strongly fortified recently, and is reported to be now but little inferior in point of strength to Columbus.

We publish, from the New York *World*, a singularly interesting account of the battle of Fort Donelson. It is written with great force and clearness, and follows the eddying current of the fight through all its checks and turns and windings, from the commencement of the struggle until its close. The writer states that the surrender was evidently forced upon the Confederates in consequence of a want of ammunition. The loss in killed and wounded on both sides is given, and an estimate is made of the number of prisoners taken; but the accuracy of both statements is fairly open to question.

Additional reinforcements to General Butler's command at Ship Island have left Boston during the past week.

A Federal scout, who left Columbus as late as Tuesday night last, reports that no preparations were being made for the evacuation of that place, but that, on the contrary, a large number of steamers were at the wharf, and a salute was fired, indicating the arrival of a General and reinforcements from the South.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* announces, in a mysterious sort of way, that on applying to the State Department on Friday last for diplomatic news an influential functionary stated that a sealed packet was about to be delivered to the Senate, the contents of which, when made known, "would ring throughout the country."

READING OF MR. MURDOCH.—The occasion of the reading of selections from Shakespeare and other authors by the distinguished actor and elocutionist, Mr. James E. Murdoch, on Saturday evening, attracted to the New Assembly Rooms a very large and appreciative audience, the spacious saloon being filled throughout. The selections were of the most popular and pleasing character, and both the grave and comic portions were infused with the versatile genius of the reader, and commanded at times, as the theme changed from grave to gay, the serious attention or the hearty laughter of his audience. His recital of the poem entitled "Drifting" by T. Buchanan Read, deserves especial mention. It was most admirable. The next reading will take place to-morrow evening, and will embrace copious selections from an unpublished poem by T. Buchanan Read, entitled "The Wild Wagoner of the Alleghanies."

THE NATIONAL JUBILEE.

Celebration of Washington's Birthday.

THE CELEBRATION AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, February 22.—All the Federal and Corporation offices and many business houses are closed in honor of the day. Continuous salutes are being fired.

The Hall of the House of Representatives being the great centre of attraction, as early as half-past nine o'clock the galleries set apart for the public were densely crowded, while the doors leading thereto were blockaded with standing occupants.

The portions of the galleries reserved for the families of the Diplomatic Corps, and those of other invited spectators and of Members of Congress, were gradually filled, according to their convenience. Tickets had been issued to them in order to avoid confusion, and there were many polite doorkeepers and ushers to carry out this part of the programme. Additional chairs had been provided on the floor of the Hall to seat about six hundred persons.

Immediately over the Speaker's chair was a large painting of Washington, surmounted by a gilt eagle, and over this a golden-starred American flag, while from each of the upper corners of the painting hung banners of smaller paterns.

Crowds continued to penetrate the Capitol, and many persons were unable to obtain admission.

The interval between eleven and one o'clock was relieved by scenes in the galleries. Some of the dear occupants would loudly and imploringly call to others who were crowding behind them not to precipitate them on the heads of those comfortably and enviously seated below them.

Occasionally a boy would be lifted over the heads of the spectators to a seat in front, amid the laughter of the spectators. Living subjects usurped the various niches designed alone for inanimate statuary. Members of the House arrived occasionally, entered the Hall and took seats. Impatient cries continued to be uttered in the galleries for the crowds at the door to fall back, and calls for the police frequently resounded but met with no response.

At 12 o'clock the Speaker called the House to order, when the journal of yesterday was read.

At his request the members proceeded to occupy the seats on the left of the Hall, leaving the three front circles for the invited guests. An ineffectual suggestion that the ladies in the lobbies be admitted to the unoccupied spaces on the floor was made.

The Speaker requested those in the galleries to preserve order, saying that if decorum was violated it would become his disagreeable duty to have them cleared.

Mr. Crittenden said the joint resolution relative to the celebration did not contemplate the presentation of flags, and he therefore moved this be omitted as part of the ceremonies.

Mr. Lovejoy supposed from the general tenor of Mr. Crittenden's remarks heretofore that he would not oppose what every military man desired, and this flag presentation had been arranged by the War Department.

Mr. Dawes inquired how could the flags be presented if Congress will not take them. He did not propose to magnify the Rebel flags in this way, and hoped they would respectfully decline to receive them.

Mr. Campbell said these were trophies won by our officers and brave soldiers in hotly contested battles. He would not magnify the flags, but would magnify the deeds of our armies, and he trusted these badges or flags would be received with respect.

Mr. Roscoe Conkling remarked that these flags were not trophies to be treated either with the respect or the consideration of our Government.—He submitted that they are badges or tokens carried by armed rebels—men red-handed with the murder of citizens of the country—men who are not entitled to possess or carry any flag, and whom we do not recognize in any national aspect.

Suppose there had occurred here a riot of formidable dimensions, and the municipal authorities had succeeded in quelling it, and that at a meeting of the Common Council it should be proposed a public assemblage be called to receive the flags or other tokens of the conspirators. Did any one suppose they could be received with self-respect or public decency?

If not, why should Congress accept the presentation of these flags—nothing more than tokens coming simply from rebels of no national standing?

He would go as far as any other gentleman, in this House or out, in his respect and admiration for those who have left their homes to sustain on distant battle-fields the existence of this Government; but he wished on this occasion to act in a manner consistent with self-respect and official propriety.

After further debate the question was taken on the adoption of Mr. Crittenden's motion, and the result was ayes 70, nays 61.

After some further proceedings the Senate and invited guests entered the chamber, and the ceremonies proceeded according to the programme.

It was now a few minutes to one o'clock when a few of the Foreign Ministers entered the Hall and were conducted to one of the cloak rooms, front of the Speaker's table.

According to a resolution directing the Clerk of the House to inform the Senate that the House were ready to receive that body with the invited guests for the purpose of participating in the anniversary exercises, at one o'clock that body entered the Hall with the Vice President of the United States and the Secretary of the Senate, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Next followed the Senators, Heads of Departments, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, Representatives from foreign Governments, together with the invited officers of the Army and Navy, and other distinguished citizens.

At the appearance of General McClellan there was one continued applause.

On motion of Mr. BLAIR, of Missouri, the doorkeeper was directed to admit ladies to the area of the Hall that remained unoccupied.

After a fervent prayer by the Chaplain of the House, the SPEAKER announced that, by resolution, Washington's Farewell Address would be read at this time.

The Secretary of the Senate, Col. J. W. FORNEY, then proceeded to the reading of the address.

At the conclusion of the reading of the address, the SPEAKER announced that the House would now resume its session.

The Senate and invited guests left the Hall in the same way they came in.

The SPEAKER announced that, by order of the House, it would now stand adjourned until Monday.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—Evening.—A large number of our citizens, as well as the Government, had made preparations for the proposed illumination to-night, and a few of the former, although a general demonstration of that kind has been postponed, carried out their original intention.

The day was celebrated at Alexandria by the hoisting of a flag over the new office of the Quartermaster: namely, the depot of the Loudon and Hampshire Railroad Company. Speeches were made by Lieutenant Ferguson and others, and salutes were fired from Fort Ellsworth and from various batteries on the left wing of the army. The loyal citizens of Alexandria also assembled to hear the reading of the farewell address.

THE NATIONAL JUBILEE AT PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.—An immense amount of powder has been expended firing salutes this morning. The different sections of the city, the Navy Yard and Camden city, are liberally decorated with bunting.

The Volunteers and Home Guards are mustering in all sections of the city. The inspection takes place on Broad street, where they will be reviewed by the Governor, Legislature and other dignitaries, from the platform in front of the Academy of Music. The Farewell Address will be read within the building.

This evening the Governor, legislators and officers of the military, will partake of a public dinner at the Continental Hotel. Great preparations are making in all sections of the city for the illumination this evening.

The hotels, newspaper offices, and Cornelius & Baker's store, on Chesnut street, will make a splendid display.

The military parade will embrace ten thousand men under arms. Business is generally suspended.

IN NEW JERSEY.

HUNTINGDON, N. J., February 22.—Washington's birthday is being celebrated here with great *eclat*. The bells are ringing, gunsfiring, bunting flying, &c.

Washington's "Farewell Address" will be read in the Town Hall.

To-night there will be a splendid display of fireworks, a grand illumination of the place and a torch-light procession.

IN RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., February 22.—A large public meeting is being held this forenoon at the First Baptist Church.

Lieutenant-Governor Arnold is reading the "Farewell Address" of Washington to the American people.

Governor Sprague and his Staff and an immense audience are in attendance.

There is to be a splendid military display this afternoon.

IN MAINE.

BELFAST, Me., Feb. 22.—The anniversary of the birthday of Washington is being most appropriately celebrated in this city.

Our streets are decorated with flags, and business is generally suspended.

One hundred guns were fired at noon and all the bells of the city were rung.

At a large mass meeting Washington's "Farewell Address" was read by ex-Governor Crosby.

Other exercises pertinent to the occasion also took place.

THE CELEBRATION IN BALTIMORE.

The one hundred-and-thirtieth anniversary of the birth of the "Father of his Country" was celebrated in this city, on Saturday last, with a spirit that has not for years past characterized the recurrence of the Twenty-second day of February. Citizens of all shades of political opinion laid aside, as it were, for the day, all differences growing out of the present condition of the country, and united in honoring the natal day of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

At early dawn the bells were rung and the United States flag was displayed at all prominent points in the city, on the shipping in the harbor and from the residences of a large number of citizens; and despite the threatening aspect of the weather the principal thoroughfares were soon thronged with men, women and children.

A committee of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Washington Monument at ten o'clock, and decorated it with flowers. From the top of the shaft a large flag was displayed; on the esplanade surrounding the shaft pyramids of flowers were placed, while across the bottom of the shaft wreaths of flowers and evergreens were neatly arranged. The iron urns at each of the doorways were also decorated, and over the doorways were hung wreaths of flowers.

At noon, salutes were fired from different points of the city, and a number of bells were rung for an hour. About this time the military stationed about this city began forming on Broadway, under the direction of Brigadier-General Duryee. After the formation of the line, the entire body of troops was reviewed by Major-General Dix, commanding this Department. This done, the procession moved through the principle thoroughfares of the city, and attracted to the sidewalks large crowds of observers. The display was a creditable one, and decidedly the largest body of troops that have been seen in the streets of Baltimore for many years. The line was formed in the following order:—Two squads of Maryland Cavalry, 300 men, Col. Miller; Second Battery of Massachusetts Artillery, 150 men, six brass six-pounders, Captain Nims; Seventeenth Massachusetts Infantry, 700 men, Colonel Amory; Fourth New York, (Scott Life Guard, 400 men, Lieutenant-Colonel McGregor; Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania, 300 men, Colonel Hays; Fourth Maryland, 400 men, Colonel Sudsburg; Third Maryland, 900 men, Adjutant Dobson; Fifth Maryland, 900 men, Colonel Schley. Total—4,050 men.

The Fifth New York regiment, (Zouaves), Col. G. K. Warren, numbering over 1,100 men, made a dress parade in the afternoon. They passed from Federal Hill to the Washington Monument, on Charles street, where they were taken through the light and heavy infantry drill as well as the regular French Zouave drill. Their movements were witnessed by a very large concourse of people.—After the drill they were reviewed by Gen. Dix, and then returned to their camp.

The ceremonies at the Maryland Institute were of an interesting character. By noon the immense hall was filled, a large proportion of the audience being ladies. The Mayor, City Council, Gen. Dix and Staff, and prominent citizens were on the platform. The House of Refuge Band was in attendance, and the ceremonies were commenced by playing the Star Spangled Banner. The Rev. Dr. J. McKendree Reiley then offered an eloquent and impressive prayer, when Hail Columbia was sung by an amateur Glee Club. There was more music by the band, when S. F. Streeter, Esq., delivered an address. Washington's Farewell Address was then read by Wm. S. Crowley, Esq., President *pro tem.*, of the First Branch of the City Council. After the conclusion of the ceremonies as laid down in the programme, a large proportion of the immense audience remained in the hall and enjoyed themselves by singing national airs, congratulating each other on the happy manner in which the day was passing, and gathering in groups to hear some embryo orator descant upon the "signs of the times."

Between five and six o'clock in the evening bells were again rung for an hour, after which the immense body of people, which had all day long thronged the streets, began to disperse to their homes. After night fireworks were displayed by some persons from various quarters of the city, and a few citizens illuminated their houses. The Adams House, corner of Pratt and Hanover streets, and the National Hotel, Camden street, both used as Government Hospitals, were very brilliantly illuminated. Although there was a great crowd of persons in the streets no difficulty of a serious character occurred to mar the pleasure of the day—a rather unusual circumstance.

THE DAY IN FREDERICK, MD.

FREDERICK, Feb. 22.—The anniversary of Washington's birthday was celebrated here in a becoming manner by the soldiery and citizens. The presentation of a flag by the ladies of the city to the Maryland Home Brigade, and the reading of the "Farewell Address," together with a parade of the 1st brigade, the regiment of Michigan cavalry and a battalion of artillery formed the principal features of the day. Many stores were closed, and the military display was grand, there being from nine to ten thousand soldiers in line.

FROM EUROPE.

The Mails of the Bohemian.

THE LONDON TIMES' CORRESPONDENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ADVANCE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—Well may the journalist exclaim, "We cannot indefinitely prolong the war; we shall, if continued long, sink under the exhaustion." And 7 per cent. on the loans too! Well, this is all very true; but move your armies you cannot. It is astonishing what apathy or self-conceit has prevailed among military men in Washington on this subject. They talked about famous Winter campaigns made by great Generals in Europe, as if they had either the armies or the experience or the country of which they spoke; or they referred to some paltry expeditions of a few hundred men on the frontiers without artillery or cavalry, or such vast baggage and transport trains as would be required for the heavy corps that are to be set in motion, as proof that there would be no great difficulty in undertaking operations in the Winter. One General, for whom I have a high respect in every way, thought it would be easy to march to battle over corduroy roads to be laid down as the troops went along. As to the deployment of guns and horses in the deep snow, mud, or soft, pasty earth on either side of the road, it appeared to him to be an easy matter. But let Winter present such aspects all over the theatre of operations as it does here, and it is quite certain that the "grand combined movement of columns," on which the very soul of the North is now depending, must be a physical impossibility. A small corps of hardy troops could undertake enterprises in Winter which are not feasible for large bodies. Will it be resented as impertinence to point out such obvious considerations, or do Americans imagine they are exempt from the operations of the laws of nature?

MR. BRIGHT'S SPEECH AT BIRMINGHAM.

From the London Times.

We cannot make out that Mr. Bright, or the Chamber he addresses, is prepared to censure any part of the policy of the Government, or any advice given in these columns. The inviolability of private property at sea is a subject on which it is natural to hope for much, and possible to do little or nothing. It is a question in that shadowy and embryo stage that no suggestion can be accepted as more than a pious wish, for it cannot be doubted that in the event of a war the Americans would capture or destroy every British merchant vessel that fell into their hands, and we should not be slow to retaliate. It is possible that, after some ages of controversy, and some very heroic forbearance on the part of a high-minded and self-possessed Power, the world may come to practice the sublime doctrine of chasing the enemy's watch-dog and leaving his sheep alone. When all nations agree in such a distinction, the Millennium of Peace will not be far distant, for war, in that case, will have lost much of its vulgar charm, and be an affair of hard blows. But Mr. Bright only wishes that more had been done, and that more could now be done in this direction; and he does not animadvert on the inconsistency of the Americans, who preached to the whole world a doctrine which, on the first occasion, they set at nought themselves in a squabble one with another. As to the blockade, Mr. Bright only insists on the fact that the blockade is ineffective, as is proved by the relative prices of cotton at New Orleans and Liverpool. He thinks that we should not in any respect mend matters by breaking it, in which he is probably right. Government, at least, has been beforehand with him on this conclusion, and thus far there is no idea of sending a British fleet to liberate cotton and set our mills going. As to any other ground of quarrel with the Northern States, it cannot be objected that we have been seeking one, or that the late difference was one of our provoking. It certainly is very unmanly, as Mr. Bright says, to attack a man with one arm in a sling, but if the man, smarting with pain and unable to punish his real adversary, breaks into a blind rage, and with his remaining arm assaults everybody that comes in his way, or carries off our property, we must stand on our own defence against him as well as against anybody else, and recover our goods and chattles, even from a misbehaved cripple. The immense efforts made during the few weeks that we had a difficulty to settle with the Federal Government prove that we count the cost of war with that Power, and do not need to be reminded by Mr. Bright of its population or its privateers. On these points Government is quite as alive as Mr. Bright can be; and, perhaps, it even took a higher measure of the Federal power and enterprise when it sent 10,000 or 12,000 men, and an immense quantity of cannon, ammunition and stores to provide against the contingency of a Winter campaign in Canada.

It is satisfactory to hear from Lancashire that there is at present no such case of enormous distress as to justify the Government in breaking the American blockade, or even adopting the more peaceful and less costly resource of a State subsidy or loan. From a report of a deputation of the Manchester and Salford Provident Society to the Manchester Board of Guardians, it appears that the distress is certainly of a sort to excite much respectful sympathy, but one which admits of local alleviation.

THE SUMTER AT WORK AGAIN.

A Madrid letter of the 31st says:

"The privateer Sumter has gone to Gibraltar, where she expects to remain as long as she thinks proper, and to revictual with everything not absolutely contraband of war. Letters received this week from Cadiz, state that a large three-master, from New York, had been stopped near Trafalgar, and only released upon the captain signing an order, payable in London, upon the owners of the cargo, for $20,000. Two American war ships are expected to arrive at Gibraltar daily, and it seems tolerably certain that if she should not be speedily sold, her adventurous career will come to a close."

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

THE DEBATE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

In the House of Lords on the 6th inst., after her Majesty's speech had been read,

Lord Dufferin moved an address in answer. He alluded, in feeling terms, to the loss which the nation had sustained in the death of the Prince Consort. The noble Lord also referred to the death of Lord Herbert, whose abilities and character he warmly eulogized. Adverting to America, he pointed out the ties of interest and parentage which bind us to the United States, and expressed his approval of the attitude the Government had assumed from the commencement of the civil war, which was ruining and desolating that country. He regarded the disputes which had arisen between the Northern and Southern States as the result of an incompatability of temper, but, at the same time, he believed that her Majesty's Government, in the wise precautions they had taken to preserve the commercial interests of the nation and to maintain unimpaired the prestige of our naval prowess had received the full sympathies of every British subject. Amid loud cheers from all sides of the house, he adverted to the patriotism and spirit of determination which had been manifested by Canada in a moment when war with the United States appeared even more than imminent. In conclusion, the noble Lord moved an address in answer to the royal speech, which, as usual, was a mere echo of the speech itself.

The Earl of Shelbourne, in seconding the address, observed that the life of the late Prince Consort showed the large share of utility a Prince could exercise in an empire like this, without, in the slightest degree, intrenching upon those prerogatives, which Parliament and the people held so dear throughout the whole of the country. He did not believe there was a single individual who was disposed to deny the truth of the assertion made by Lord Aberdeen, that Prince Albert had never given expression to a syllable which did not promote the honor, integrity and welfare of the country. With regard to America, the noble Earl expressed his regret at the ebullitions of feeling which had been manifested on the other side of the Atlantic, with regard to the Trent, but warmly approved the moderation of the course taken by her Majesty's Government, and the confidence that course had succeeded in establishing in the country generally.

The Earl of Derby concurred with the mover and seconder of the address in the tribute they had paid to the memory of Prince Albert, and said he felt that this was an occasion when no differences of opinion ought to be manifested. With regard to the American difficulty, he was bound to admit the Government had no alternative in the course. The moment they found that the act of Captain Wilkes was unsanctioned by international law, a grave, serious and imperative duty devolved upon them, from which they had not shrunk. However great might be the horrors of war, far greater must be the ignominy of forfeiting the honor of the country. He deeply regretted the course which the Federal Government had taken, because, although they had acceded to the just demands of this country, they had done so with a very ill grace. Though feeling that they were in the wrong, and had placed themselves, their Government and their people, in a position of undeserved humiliation, they had yielded, not to their own sense of justice, but to a demand by force, because they knew that this country would be satisfied with no less. Yet, though he approved of the course the Government had taken in reference to the American difficulty, he thought they ought to be cautious. They entered upon negotiations which had for their object an alteration in the principles upon which international law was now regulated. They must not forget they had a deep and preponderating interest in maintaining the rights of belligerents, and this country was not one which could lightly sacrifice the legitimate rights which they now possessed in that respect.

Earl Russell stated that all the papers which related to the American difficulty, and to the affairs of Mexico, should, at an early day, be laid before Parliament. He expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the efforts of the Government to maintain the honor of the British flag had been supported by the country, and drew a contrast between the unanimity which prevailed on the present occasion with what had been the course adopted in former times, when whatever might be submitted by the Minister would be sure to meet with the dissent of the Opposition. Adverting to the present position of American affairs, he stated that there could be no doubt, from the rapid successes which had attended the efforts of the Confederates to break the blockade, that it was of a most ineffectual character. At the same time, the Government had no desire to press hardly on the Northern States, but he hoped that they would be able themselves to settle their difficulties with the South. Whether this struggle ended in the total disruption or in more firmly cementing the Union, her Majesty's Government would feel that had they done their duty to both sides by preserving a strict neutrality.

THE ADDRESS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker having read the Queen's speech from the Chair,

Mr. W. H. Portman rose to move the address in reply, and in so doing paid a most eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Prince Consort, who had been so suddenly cut off in the midst of his unceasing exertions to promote the physical comforts and morals and social advantages of all, and especially the poorer classes. Debarred from political life, his conduct in his public and domestic relations had greatly contributed to raise the throne to the high estimation in which it is now held. During the recess serious questions had arisen, especially with the Northern States of America, and he was sure the determination of the Government to maintain the honor and dignity of the country would meet with universal approbation, and more especially for the wise, prudent, and forbearing manner in which they acted in such delicate matters, notwithstanding the country had received most gratifying proofs of the affection of an important colony, and of the friendship of the Emperor of the French. At the same time he believed that, although an important branch of our manufactures was suffering very considerably, he might congratulate the House upon the Government maintaining its present neutrality, which would ultimately prove the wisest policy, even for that interest.

Mr. Western Wood, in a maiden speech, seconded the address, and highly eulogized the proceedings of Her Majesty's Government, which had established a firm hold upon the confidence of the country.

Mr. Disraeli said the instruction in the royal speech with respect to our foreign relations must be satisfactory to all. The future, however, was still fraught with anxiety; but if wisdom prevailed in our councils, it might be regarded without apprehension. He approved of the course of neutrality pursued by the Government, and although any Ministry must have acted in the same way, he cheerfully admitted that the Government had acted with vigor and prudence, while he must also say that, granting the reparation so properly demanded by the Government, the Government of the United States had acted quite as worthily. With respect to the disturbances in the United States, it was not possible at present to decide upon our future course, and he hoped that Government would decide on taking no precipitate steps. As regards, also, the interference in another American State, he was not prepared at present to express an opinion, but he hoped that the same prudent policy would influence the Government. With respect, also, to the recognition of the Southern States and the blockade of their ports, Parliament could not pretend to declare an opinion on the merits of the case, and he hoped that the Government would at once lay before it the information which it must have received from its commanders and officials on the spot.

Lord Palmerston expressed his satisfaction that, under present circumstances, the address to her Majesty would be agreed to without the slightest opposition. He would, therefore, briefly advert to the topics which the right honorable gentleman opposite had touched upon. He was convinced that the House would ratify the conduct of the Government in the serious difference which had arisen with the Government and the Northern States of America, and it would agree with him that the communication of his noble friend was framed with the utmost courtesy and moderation, consistent with firmness, and that to it and the energy of the other departments of the Government the satisfactory termination of that difficulty was very materially to be ascribed. He maintained that the Government could not have acted otherwise, for they knew that angry passions were excited in America, which might overrule the desire of its Government to act justly and honorably. The Government was well aware of the difficulties in which America was involved, and which incidentally pressed so severely upon important commercial and manufacturing interests in this country, but they did not think that this was a sufficient reason why they should depart from that course which a sense of prudence and a sense of honor had imposed upon them.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

The Fall of Fort Donelson.

From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 19.

After three days of the most desperate fighting ever witnessed on this continent, (so declares a veteran regular officer), the most desperate fighting against the most tremendous odds, in which day after day the multitudinous host of invaders were driven back past their own camps, our glorious Spartan band from sheer exhaustion has been borne down by a new avalanche of reinforcements piled upon the already enormous weight against which they have hitherto struggled with complete success, and has suffered one of those misfortunes which are common to war, but which entail no dishonor on our cause, and which will only animate to the most stern and undying resistance every true Southern heart.

If these bloody barbarians, whose hands are now soaked to the elbows in the life-blood of men defending their own homes and firesides, dream that they are now one inch nearer the subjugation of the South than when they started on their infernal mission, they prove themselves to be fools and madmen as well as savages and murderers. They have taught us a lesson we admit; they have admonished us to be more wary and circumspect, to husband with greater care our limited resources and not to underrate our enemy.

But they have also placed between them and us a gulf that can never be crossed by their arts or arms, and a universal determination to die, if die we must, for our country, but never permit her to be subjugated by the most malignant, the most murderous, the meanest of mankind, whose name is at this very moment such a by-word of scorn and reproach throughout Europe, for their combined cruelty and cowardice, that their own ambassadors cannot stand the scorn of the world's contempt, and are all anxious to fly back to the United States.

Their success at Fort Donelson, gained only by vast superiority of numbers, will only have the effect of converting the whole population of the South—men, women and children—into an immense army, who will resist them at every step, and everywhere "welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves." The glorious valor of our troops at Fort Donelson is not dimmed in the slightest degree by their inability to hold their ground against overwhelming odds; but, on the contrary, shines through the black clouds of disaster with a radiance which will kindle the whole South into a blaze, and surround their own names with a halo of imperishable renown.

The Crisis.

From the Richmond Dispatch.

The crisis of the war is upon us, and reverse upon reverse comes in quick succession. We have scarcely recovered from the depression consequent upon our defeat at Fort Henry and Roanoke, ere we are called upon to meet a still heavier calamity in the fall of Fort Donelson, and the surrender of our brave troops holding that important post. It is true the facts concerning this last disaster have not yet reached us from sources entitled to our belief; but enough is known to convince us that we have sustained another staggering blow.

We have not been of those who entertained the belief that our arms would always be successful, or that it was within the bounds of possibility our small army could meet and drive back the overwhelming hordes of the enemy at every point at which they could penetrate, and are not, therefore, taken by surprise, nor greatly discouraged, by the untoward events which have taken place in the West and on the Atlantic coast. We have not known our own strength, although we have been greatly too confident of the weakness and cowardice of our foe. If these disasters shall turn our thoughts in upon ourselves, and shall arouse us to the full comprehension of our perilous situation, and to the energy and activity requisite for the occasion, they will not have overtaken us in vain.

We do not believe the defeat at Fort Donelson is of the proportion our telegraphic columns would give us to understand. It must be remembered the intelligence they furnish comes from the enemy, who are not apt to depreciate the victories they gain. And we see much to encourage us even in this dark hour. Our permanent Government is launched upon the stormy sea, it is true; but we think her timbers are stout enough to bear the strain, and that the noble structure will be none the worse for the rough usage to which it has thus early been subjected.

The War Department received, on Monday evening, from General A. S. Johnston, a telegram announcing the fall of Fort Donelson, but couched in so ambiguous a style that it became necessary to request more intelligible information. No answer has as yet been received from that officer, probably on account of the interruption of telegraphic communication, occasioned by the severity of the weather.

Disaffection of the Foreign Residents of Richmond.

From the Richmond Examiner.

The disaffection of a large portion of the foreign population in Richmond, which has been developed by their stubborn resistance of the military draft now in progress, is, of itself, sufficient to excite the vigilance of our citizens, and to put them on their guard with respect to particular classes of foreigners in our midst. We are not in the habit of reporting information without satisfactory assurances of its correctness.

We have in our possession some curious information, which is from a source not only highly patriotic, but to which implicit credit is due, respecting the movements and suspicious speeches of a number of the foreign population of this city. We are not entirely at liberty, nor do we deem it prudent, to detail the facts which have been communicated to us; but we may assure the public that vigilance is to be the price of their safety from enemies in their midst.

To be Transferred.

We learn that President Davis has authorized Col. T. R. R. Cobb to increase his Legion to the number of five thousand men, and that the Legion will be transferred for service on the Tennessee line.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE----REGULAR SESSION.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

EVENING SESSION.

ANNAPOLIS, February 21.—The House met at half-past seven, and was called to order by the SPEAKER.

Mr. MATTHEWS called up the resolutions of thanks to the defenders of the Constitution who have so recently won victories, offered by him a few days since, and offered the following as a substitute, which was read a second time and passed. Yeas 38; nays—Messrs. Dent, Harris of St. Mary's, Magruder, Carrico, and Davis of Charles:

RESOLVED by the General Assembly, That we feel it to be, not more an act of duty than of profound satisfaction, to express for ourselves, and in behalf of the public whose representatives we are, our heartfelt thanks to each, and all of those gallant defenders of the Constitution and Laws of the United States, by land and sea, who have recently, by their unsurpassed heroism, augmented the glory of American citizenship; and through the sublime lessons of victories won by fortitude and courage above all praise, have assured us beyond peradventure that our Government is established in the hearts of the masses, securely resting upon the solid foundation of virtue and patriotism.

The bill incorporating the Harford and Cecil counties Boon Company was taken up for consideration, when

Mr. Enson, under a suspension of the rules, reported from the Committee on Corporations a bill incorporating the Susquehanna and Maryland Boon Company.

A discussion then sprang up between Messrs. Cresswell and Enson on the merits of the respective bills, after which, the bill to incorporate the Susquehanna and Maryland Boon Company was read the first time, and the bill to incorporate the Harford and Cecil Company was laid over.

The bill to allow S. D. Collins and others to divide certain lands and property was taken up for a second reading and the enacting words were stricken out.

The bill authorizing the Circuit Court of Worcester, to confirm a sale was read a second time.

The bill authorizing the Comptroller to settle the accounts of the Inspectors of Grain, was read a second time.

The bill amending the laws relating to corporations by adding a section more clearly defining the rights of the Protestant Episcopal Church was read a second time.

The bill to prevent the sale of liquor to free negroes was read a second time.

The bill to prevent the sale of liquor to slaves was read a second time.

The vote by which the bill to prohibit the sale of liquor at or near the polls on election days was reconsidered and the bill laid on the table.

At 10 o'clock the House adjourned.

ANNAPOLIS, February 22.—The Senate was not in session to-day, having adjourned yesterday to Monday.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

CELEBRATION OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The House met at eleven o'clock, and was called to order by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. ETHAN ALLEN. The roll was called, and the proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. PURNELL, from the select committee to whom were referred the resolutions offered by Mr. Harrison, relating to the agitation of the slavery question, reported the resolutions, with amendments, which were read, and the resolutions passed. Messrs. Dent, Bond, Carrico, and Davis of Charles, were excused from voting.

As amended, they read as follows:

Joint resolutions relating to the agitation of the slavery question.

While on this 22d day of February the people of the United States are listening to words of peace and conciliation, and of solemn warning against sectional contests and jealousies from the Father of their country, Maryland, one of the States of the Revolution, makes this solemn appeal to the citizens of the loyal States of the Union:

WHEREAS, We believe that the useless and wicked agitation of the slavery question, both North and South, has been the ostensible cause of the rebellion, now devastating our once happy country, by affording a pretext to those who have long desired on this subject, our Government, for putting their long cherished plans in operation, and by furnishing arguments by which the Southern people have been misled and betrayed; and whereas, we believe that a continuance of such agitation will have a tendency to prevent a cordial return of our South ern brethren to their position in the Union; therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the General Assembly of Maryland, That we appeal with united voice to our brethren of the Northern States to discontinue, by every means in their power, all attempts to revive the agitation of this subject, as not only productive of no good, but, as the history of the present shows, fraught with danger and untold evil; that the legislature of State of Maryland has a right to insist that her voice be heard on this subject, in which she has so great an interest at stake; that the dissolution of this Union, however much to be deprecated by other States, would fall with tenfold weight upon her; and that, in the spirit of conciliation, she calls upon her sisters of the North to frown down every attempt to revive a subject which has, in the hands of wicked and ambitious men