THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

THE STEAMER ARABIA AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, March 1.—The Royal mail steamship Arabia, from Liverpool on Saturday the 15th, via Queenstown, on the 16th, put in here short of coals at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon.

The Arabia reports having experienced strong westerly gales during the whole passage. She has 60 passengers for New York.

The sales of cotton on Saturday at Liverpool amounted to 12,000 bales, the market closing firmer but unchanged. Breadstuffs steady, but sales small. Provisions quiet and unchanged. Consols are quoted at 92⅞@93.

GENERAL NEWS.

Austria having protested against the views of Prussia with reference to German affairs, the latter Government, in a note to Austria and the other German States, says there appears to be no well founded motive for such a protest.

The French papers express the opinion that the Mexican question will lead to the fall of the Palmerston Cabinet in England.

It is positively stated that the Archduke Maximilian has accepted the Mexican throne.

The United States gunboat Tuscarora is reported to be at Gibraltar, where the Sumter still remains without coal.

In the House of Lords, Earl Russell, in reply to Lord Stanhope, stated that the British Government had protested against the permanent destruction of any of the harbors on the Southern coast of America by the stone blockade, and the United States Government had answered its protest by denying any such intention.

The expense to England of the Mason and Slidell affair is understood to be £364,000.

It is understood that the address from the French Chambers in answer to the speech of the Emperor will contain a mild rebuke to the Pope for not listening to the conciliatory propositions of France for the settlement of the Roman question.

The Austrian Concordat was to be revised, with the consent of the Pope of Rome.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Army and Navy Operations---Despatches from General Wool.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The War Department has received highly satisfactory reports from Gen. Wool at Fortress Monroe in regard to the military condition of that important fortress, and its state of preparation for any military operations which circumstances may require.

During last week interviews were held between Gen. Wool, on the part of the United States, and Brig. Gen. Cobb, of the Rebel army, respecting the exchange of prisoners of war. It is expected that an arrangement will be made which will speedily release all the United States prisoners and regulate the exchanges in future.

The late account from Col. Corcoran received by the War Department represented him to be on the way from Columbia, South Carolina, to Richmond, to be exchanged.

Provision has been made in the Western States for the safe keeping and support of the prisoners taken at Fort Donelson and elsewhere in the West.

The duty of providing for our prisoners arriving from the South, when they reach Washington, has been assigned Quartermaster-General Meigs.

From Gen. Buel's Army.

By means of steamers which were passed above the broken lock on Green river at Bowling Green, a means of transportation has been established for our troops to their destination.

The outposts of our forces are ten miles out on the Memphis Railroad.

The Latest from Nashville

News from Nashville of yesterday has been received. The enemy is retreating toward the Tennessee river. It is stated that the Rebels have evacuated Columbus, and are concentrating at Chattanooga.

Progress of Union Sentiment.

A great change has already occurred in the political feeling of the people of Tennessee. The War department has authorized the raising and arming of volunteer troops in that State. The indications are that a large force of loyal Tennessees will soon be under arms to aid the United States forces. The policy of the Government is energetically directed toward supporting the loyal feeling in all the Southern States and placing them in a position of resistance to rebel authority. Abundant evidence is adduced that a truly loyal feeling exists, which although for some time overpowered and silenced, is now ready to avail itself of the presence of the United States forces for its manifestation in meeting the enemy in battle.

Despatch from Com. Goldsborough.

A despatch from Commodore Goldsborough to Secretary Welles dated United States steamer Philadelphia, off Roanoke Island, February 23, says: The reconnoitering party sent up the Chowan river has returned. It did not go up beyond Winton. There the enemy, in considerable force, opened a heavy fire upon the vessel in advance. The Delaware with a battery of artillery came to the gunboat, which induced our force to attack. It returned, both by landing the Ninth New York Zouaves and with the guns of the vessel that could be brought to bear. The enemy then took to flight, and the houses occupied as quarters by them were burned. Not a man on our side, of either army, was injured.

The Reported Evacuation of Columbus—Movements of Gen. Buell.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—There is nothing in the official telegrams, last received, to show that the rebels are evacuating Columbus, nor has any intelligence been received from Gen. Buell, since the announcement of the taking of Nashville, when he was four miles in front of that city, hence the newspaper reports of the rebels being surrounded at Murfreesboro' are not considered reliable.

Official Confirmation of the Evacuation of Columbus—The Rebels Burning their Winter Quarters and Removing their Heavy Guns—Probable Destruction of Columbus.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The following despatch was received to-day from Commodore Foote, dated Cairo, March 1:

"Lieutenant-Commanding Phelps, sent with a flag of truce to-day to Columbus, has this morning returned, and reports that Columbus is being evacuated. He saw the rebels burning their winter quarters and removing their heavy guns on the bluff, but the guns in the water batteries remain in place. He also saw a large force of cavalry drawn up ostentatiously on the bluffs, but no infantry were in the scene as heretofore, and the encampment seen in our armed reconnoissance a few days since has been removed. Large fires were visible in the town of Columbus and upon the river banks below, indicating the destruction of the town, military stores and equipments.

(Signed) A. H. FOOTE,
Flag Officer.

It is believed here that our army has by this time occupied Columbus.

Important Official Information from Nashville—Seizure of a Large Amount of Cotton at Nashville—The Rebel Forces being Pressed Back.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Official information to the War Department from Nashville represents that the military work in that State is about completed, and that it only remains to effect a civil reorganization of the State government. It is believed that the United States forces will occupy Columbus to-day.

The rebel forces under Albert S. Johnson are being steadily pressed backward by General Buell.

Cotton to the value of $100,000 has fallen into our hands at Nashville, and the Treasury Department has taken measures to have it brought to New York.

The President has to-day designated Hon. Andrew Johnson to be a Brigadier-General, and he proceeds to Tennessee to-morrow, to open a military Provisional Government of Tennessee, until the civil Government shall be reconstructed.

Gen. Buell will be nominated to-morrow a Major General of Volunteers.

From Commodore Foote—Another highly Successful Gunboat Reconnoissance—Visit to Eastport, Mississippi—The Union Feeling Increasing.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Despatches were received at the Navy Department to-day from Commodore Foote, enclosing a report from Lieut. Gwin, in which he says he returned to Cairo on the 23d, after having gone up the Tennessee river, in the gunboat Taylor, as high as Eastport, Mississippi.—He is happy to state that he has met with an increased Union sentiment in South Tennessee and North Alabama. He saw a few Tennesseans in the counties of Harden, McNany, Wayne and Decatur, and a portion of Hardeman, all of which border upon the river. The Union sentiment is strong, and those who do not express themselves openly loyal, are only prevented by their fears of the military tyranny and coercion which is practiced by marauding bands of guerilla companies of cavalry.

Learning that a large quantity of wheat and flour was stored in Clifton, Tennessee, intended, of course, to be shipped to the South, a large portion of it having been bought for a firm in Memphis, on his way down he landed there and took on board about 1,000 sacks and 100 barrels of flour, and some 6,000 bushels of wheat. He also considered it his duty to take possession of the above to prevent its being seized by the rebels or disposed of in the rebel country.

The glorious successes of our armies at Forts Henry and Donelson, he says, have been most beneficial to the Union cause throughout the South and West. Tennessee and Alabama Union men can now begin to express their loyal sentiments without fear of being mobbed, especially along the banks of the river. He brought down, under arrest, a man named Wm. P. Poole, who has been active in opposing Union men in his community. He has warned the inhabitants of the different towns along the banks of the river that he would hold secessionists and their property responsible for any outrages committed on Unionists in their communities; and he has enlisted seventeen men, and brought down a portion of refugees.

Army Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Judge Freese has obtained leave to vacate for the time being his office as Assistant-Adjutant-General and Provost Judge of Alexandria, in order to join Heintzleman's Division as Provost Marshal.

The War Department refuses to transmit any letters to the Southern States. Numerous passes have been given to women and children, and persons in ill-health to return to their friends and families. Passes for business purposes, or to persons merely desiring to visit the South and West, are invariably refused.

Reports from every military Department received during the past week represent the troops as being in good condition, and that there prevails among them a vigorous and patriotic spirit for action in the field. Numerous applications by regiments and officers have been made to be released from duty in guarding posts and placed where they will have an opportunity of meeting the enemy in battle.

Major-Gen. Hitchcock declines his appointment to that position, on the ground that the bad health with which he has been suffering for several years will not permit him to perform the duties of the field. His letter of declination utters strong Union sentiments, and his fervent desire that the rebellion may be speedily overthrown, and his confident belief that this will soon take place and the authority of the Federal Government be everywhere reestablished. He expresses great admiration of the brilliant achievements recently in the West and of the military genius which they manifest.

Death of Gen. Lander.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The brave Gen Lander died this afternoon at Paw Paw, Western Virginia, from the debilitating effects of his wounds received at Edwards' Ferry. His body is on the way to this city, where his widow resides. Gen. Shields succeeds Gen. Lander in command.

Gen. Lander had every attention which his old and well tried friends around him could bestow. His death was somewhat sudden. It was not until 5 o'clock this afternoon that his wife received intelligence of his illness. She immediately took measures for obtaining a special train to proceed thither, but before the arrangements were completed Secretary Stanton called in person, and with much feeling and delicacy acquainted her with the fact of her husband's death. Secretary Chase and other distinguished friends subsequently visited her in her affliction.

The Designs of the Allied Powers on Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—It is said to be clearly understood between the Allied Powers that a monarchy in Mexico will result from the invasion of that country, notwithstanding the assurance given to the United States that they should not seek any political objects there. It is believed they have disposed of those assurances by saying that the monarchy will be established by the free choice of the Mexican people, just as the empire was established in France by the free choice of the French nation.

Across the Potomac.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—All is quiet across the Potomac opposite Washington. No news from that section of the army has been received to-day.

FROM GEN. BANKS' DIVISION.

Occupation of Harper's Ferry and Charlestown—No Enemy Visible.

HARPER'S FERRY, February 28, P. M.—I have full authority to inform you that General Banks occupied Harper's Ferry on Wednesday, unopposed, with all the necessaries for a permanent occupation.

The advance took possession of Bolivar Heights, and yesterday pushed reconnoissances to Charlestown, capturing a few prisoners.

Loudoun Heights are also occupied to prevent any flank movement by the enemy. To-day Charlestown was occupied by a strong force, and will be held against any attack. The plans of the Commanding General are not known, but the movement is probably to cover the reconstruction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and bridges.

A train of cars passing the Berlin Station was fired at to day by the Rebel battery, but no harm was done.

The troops are in excellent condition, and well protected from the inclement weather. No accident has occurred in transporting troops and supplies over the river.

The inhabitants are almost in a state of starvation, and profess Union sentiments. There has been no opposition—not a shot being fired.

The pontoon bridge was a complete success, notwithstanding the severity of the weather.

Hundreds of refugees have returned to their desolate homes, and those remaining are overjoyed at our presence.

Nothing reliable has been heard from Winchester, but current reports say that it has been considerably reinforced. A small body of the enemy are supposed to lie South of Loudoun Heights, four or five miles back from the river, but not in sufficient strength to create any alarm.

Harper's Ferry and Charlestown, Va., in Possession of the Federal Troops—Rejoicing of the People.

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., February 27.—A pontoon bridge arrived here by the train from Baltimore yesterday morning in charge of Captain Duane, and a corps of engineers, who had it thrown across the river at half-past three o'clock, ready for service.

General Banks was about the first to cross, followed by Hamilton's brigade, the third Wisconsin being on the right of the advance.

Colonel Geary's command had been in possession of Harper's Ferry for several days. Knapp's Battery over by a rope ferry on Maryland, and General Gorman's brigade, and Michigan cavalry, under Maj. Gilbert, followed, and General Williams succeeded Hamilton's brigade. The "sacred soil" at dusk.

The inhabitants of Harper's Ferry, Camptown and Bolivar received our troops with every demonstration of rejoicing and joy. "Yankee Doodle" and "Dixie" were performed by the regimental bands respectively as they reached the land.

Colonel Geary, who was in Harper's Ferry, learning during the forenoon that secession scouts were on Loudoun Heights, and within rifle shot of the bridge, crossed the Shenandoah with four companies, who ascended the mountain on three sides and routed two companies of their cavalry, who were evidently observing our operations. The Colonel held the mountain until our position on the Virginia side was safe from attack.

Captain Hampton's battery also passed over the bridge and took position on Bolivar Heights last night. This battery is now attached to General Hamilton's brigade, which also occupied the same position in advance of other commands.

The signal corps, a division which was stationed in Bolivar during the transit of the army, rendered important service.

The river was quite high, and consequently a strong current was running, but not the least apprehension was felt for the safety of man or beast, and no accident occurred.

Intelligence from Poolesville states that on Tuesday night the Rebel batteries opposite Edwards' Ferry opened on the Canal storehouses there, and also directed several shots at the locks of the Canal, with the evident intention of destroying them and draining the Canal above. It is also stated that they have strengthened their earthworks in front of Leesburg to a formidable extent.

A high wind prevails to-day which will test the permanency of the bridge. At the hour of writing, 11 A. M., no accident has transpired.

A few rebel scouts from Charlestown have been observed beyond Bolivar Heights, reconnoitering, but no large bodies have been seen.

Hundreds of refugees are thronging Sandy Hook, anxious to return to their deserted homes.

Later from Harper's Ferry.

HARPER'S FERRY, Feb 28.—Yesterday morning the First squadron of Michigan Cavalry, Major Atwood, approached near Charlestown. They discovered no large body of rebels there, but captured three cavalrymen and three fine horses.

It is rumored here that Winchester had been largely reinforced by troops from Manassas.

As a train was passing Berlin this morning a rebel battery opposite threw twelve shells at it; ten fell short, and two passed over.

The pontoon bridge withstood the gale of last night, without moving. Wagons with forage, provisions and camp equipage are crossing this morning.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

The Rebels Surrounded at Murfreesboro'—General Buell Demands their Unconditional Surrender.

CAIRO, Feb. 28.—[Special despatch to the Chicago *Tribune*.]—Advices from the neighborhood of Murfreesboro' state that the Rebels concentrated at that place have been surrounded by Gen. Buell's forces, so that none could escape.

The Rebels offered to surrender the position to the Federal troops if they would be allowed to march out with the honors of war.

Gen. Buell refused to allow them these conditions, and demanded their unconditional surrender. He notified them that he would allow two days for consideration, and, if the place was not surrendered at the expiration of that period, he would open fire upon them. The time expired this morning.

Sketch of Murfreesboro'.

Murfreesboro', where this telegraph informs us the Rebels have been surrounded by Gen. Buell, is the capital of Rutherford county, Tennessee. It is a handsome post-village situated in a beautiful plain, and surrounded by a healthy and fertile country. The Union University at this place is a flourishing institution, and was founded by the Baptists in 1841. There are also a female institution, one bank and five churches. Several newspapers are published here. Murfreesboro' was the Capital of Tennessee from 1817 to 1827, when the State House was consumed by fire.

Evacuation of Columbus.

CAIRO, February 28.—We learn from a gentleman who is thoroughly conversant with Kentucky affairs that the Rebels are dismounting their large guns and columbiads at Columbus, and the work of evacuation is now going on.

Several transports are lying at Columbus to carry off the troops.

Every man coming into Columbus is impressed—even farmers with their teams.

Several hundred negroes were sent to the interior yesterday. This is from a reliable source.

The Rebel War Department has called on Tennessee for thirty-two more regiments.

An official despatch received from Knoxville says an ample force will advance from Richmond to protect East Tennessee.

Governor Harris has taken the field in person.

The story of Gen. Beauregard's illness is unfounded. He left Corinth for Columbus on the 19th inst.

The Memphis *Avalanche* of the 24th inst. says that persons reputed to have left General Johnston's command say he entertains no doubt of his ability to re-enter Nashville whenever he wishes to do so.

General Halleck Taking Measures for the Better Protection of Prisoners of War.

ST. LOUIS, March 1.—General Halleck, in a general order, issued this morning, in regard to prisoners of war, directs that where any considerable number of prisoners are captured, the officers shall be separated, as soon as possible, from the privates. A complete list should be made as soon as possible, stating the name, rank and regiment of each person. One copy of this list shall be sent to headquarters, and another furnished to the officers in charge of them. As a general rule, officers will not be given paroles until they reach the depot, and then only by the authority of the General commanding the Department. Medical officers will not be separated from the privates, but will be required to attend to their own sick and wounded. For this purpose they will be given special paroles allowing them every facility.

In the case of the sick and wounded, no distinction will be made between friend or foe. Presents from the friends of the sick and wounded will be distributed to all alike. Prisoners will be rationed the same as our own troops. The commanding officers of departments will receive articles of clothing and comforts which may be sent to prisoners by their friends, and will permit them to receive from and transmit to their friends open letters, which must be inspected by a proper officer. The money sent to friends should not be delivered to prisoners except in small sums, and an account should be kept of such sums to be disbursed upon orders from the prisoners to which they belong.—When a prisoner is exchanged or released he will be paid the balance due him.

Chaplains will be allowed free intercourse with the prisoners to give them religious instructions.—Their friends will be permitted to visit them only when the commanding officer may deem it safe and proper, and then under such regulations as he may adopt.

THE WAR IN ARKANSAS.

Gen. Halleck's Retaliation on the Prisoners.

ST. LOUIS, February 28.—General Halleck, in a general order which he has just issued, states that official information has been received that the Rebels, in evacuating Madtown, Arkansas, poisoned the provisions they were obliged to abandon, and that forty-two officers and men were poisoned by eating the same. We cannot, he says, retaliate by adopting the same barbarous mode of warfare, nor can we retaliate by punishing the innocent for the guilty. The laws of war forbid this. But the same code authorizes us to retaliate upon the guilty parties. Persons guilty of such acts, when captured, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war, nor will they be shot, but suffer the ignominious punishment of being hung as felons.

Officers are in a measure responsible for the acts of their troops. Officers of troops guilty of such acts, although not themselves the advisers or abettors of the crime, will, when captured, be put in irons and treated as criminals to these headquarters. The laws of war make it their duty to prevent such barbarities. If they neglect that duty they must suffer the consequences.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, February 28.—There is nothing of the slightest interest transpiring here today.

The steamer Express, Captain A. L. Colmary, left Old Point at 10 o'clock this morning to go up the James river to receive another boat load of released prisoners, who were, by previous appointment, to have been sent down from Richmond.—The Express waited at the usual rendezvous until 4 o'clock, when the Rancocas brought an order from General Wool for her return.

The Rancocas had previously gone over to Craney Island and received a despatch from General Huger announcing that the prisoners would not be sent until Saturday.

Conflagration at Milwaukee, Wis.

MILWAUKEE, March 1.—A destructive fire occurred this morning, destroying the entire block of buildings known as the "Albany Buildings." The fire door was occupied by the American Express Office, Lesher's gas fixture, Bell's liquor stores, and Wisconsin shoe store. The stock was mostly saved. The second story was occupied by the law offices of Finch, Kynd & Miller, Brown & Ogden, Casey & Pratt, and several others. Their books and papers were saved.

The large concert and opera hall covered the third floor, which was entirely destroyed, together with the scenery and stage fixtures.

The loss on the buildings is estimated at $70,000, on which there is an insurance of $50,000. The amount of the other losses has not been ascertained.

From San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., February 6.—The steamer Cortez, from Oregon and British Columbia, has arrived here, bringing $120,000 in gold.

The weather throughout the northern coast has been very cold.

Many persons on their way from Portland, Oregon, to the mines, have frozen to death.

Thousands who left California for the New El Dorado are detained at Portland until the spring opens.

Shipping Intelligence.—The whale ship Joseph Grinnell has arrived at Carquinez Hall this morning on their way to Fort Wagner.

The weather throughout the number of citizens thronged the passage of the hotel, anxious to obtain a sight of the prisoners, but they were kept close in their apartment, and the curiosity of the anxious assembly remained ungratified.

Colonel Thomas B. Van Buren has resigned his position as Paymaster-General of the State, preparatory to taking the field as Colonel of the One Hundred and Second regiment. Governor Morgan has appointed as his successor Colonel Geo. Bliss, Jr., of New York.

Return of Released Prisoners.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—About four hundred released prisoners arrived here by the Baltimore train at 1 o'clock this morning. They were received at the depot by an immense crowd of friends, who had assembled in expectation of their arrival several hours earlier at the Volunteer Refreshment saloons, when the Philadelphia portion, comprising the majority, dispersed to their homes, made happy by their return.

Disaster to the U. S. Frigate Vermont.

BOSTON, March 2.—The schooner Flying Mist, at Chatham, reports: "On the 27th ult., 95 miles from Cape Cod, spoke the United States frigate Vermont, with loss of rudder, both bower anchors, out of sails, and four boats. She wanted a steamer to tow her in." Com. Hudson sends to-night the steamers San Jacinto, Aroostook and Saxon, and two towboats in search of her.

Celebration of Recent Victories.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—The recent victories of the Union army and navy will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, the 4th of March, by a grand military and naval ball at the Academy of Music.

Arrival of Captured Cotton.

NEW YORK, March 2.—The bark G. W. Hall, from Key West, has arrived. She brought 250 bales of cotton, the cargo of the schooner Lizzie Weston, captured off the Balize by the gunboat Itasca.

Capture of a Rebel Captain.

LOUISVILLE, March 2.—The *Journal* has advices that the rebel Captain, John Morgan, has been captured near Scottsville.

The Passport Order Rescinded.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Secretary Seward has rescinded the order requiring persons leaving this country to procure passports.

Departure of the Steamer Kangaroo.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The steamer Kangaroo sailed to-day for Liverpool with $179,000 in specie.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Washington Correspondence N. Y. Times.

NO BATTLES FOUGHT.

There is authority for stating, in reply to inquiries from distant points, that no battles have been recently fought in the neighborhood of the Potomac. If any had been fought reliable information would have been given by telegraph. The public are cautioned against false reports of battles, defeats, &c., put into circulation by stock speculators and designing individuals. Whenever there is any news of importance to the public on any matter relating to the war, it will be forwarded in an authentic form at the earliest possible moment.

DRY WEATHER.

The earth has become so much dried that clouds of dust fill the air in Washington. A cold high wind is prevailing.

AN EXODUS FOR THE NORTH.

Immense numbers of persons have left Washington for the North by railroad within the past few days. Night before last there were hundreds at the depot who could not get room in the cars. It is possible that the rumors of fighting on the Upper Potomac, which were unfounded, caused the stampede.

Special Washington Correspondence N. Y. Tribune.

THE REVENUE BILL.

The Excise and Internal Duties bill will be reported from the Ways and Means Committee separately from the tariff, and on Saturday, probably. One hundred and fifty millions of income annuality are expected from these two sources.—The tariff bill is matured in ten days and reported. While framed as widely as may be toyield revenue, the opinion of Congress will favor the policy of shaping this bill so as to make far-fetched and dear-bought foreign manufactures pay their full share of our war-tax.

THE LOAN OF JULY 12, 1861.

Eleven millions of United States stock of the loan of 1861, act of July 12, will to-morrow have been sent to New York and Boston this week.

THE CASE OF GEN. STONE.

Gen. Stone's friends are urging Gen. McClellan to bring that officer forthwith to a court-martial. As the Joint War Committee has not yet terminated its investigation into the crime or the blunder at Ball's Bluff, this Court will not be ordered at present. It will be convened soon enough, judging from the damaging testimony the returned Ball's Bluff captives are now giving.

Special Washington Correspondence of the N. Y. Herald.

INSPECTION OF THE TROOPS.

It has been a busy time to-day among the divisions across the river. Being the last day of the month, each regiment has undergone the usual monthly inspection. There is additional labor attending the present inspection, owing to the necessity of making out the pay-rolls, preliminary to paying the troops on the first of the month, it being two months since they were last paid.

MR. VOORHEES' SPEECH IN THE HOUSE.

The special despatch to the *Tribune* the other day does great injustice to the speech of this gentleman, and grossly misstates the public sentiment here in regard to it. It is looked upon by all conservative men as embracing the correct line of policy to be pursued towards the seceded States. As an evidence of this, over twenty thousand copies of it were subscribed for on the floor in as many minutes after it was delivered; and the names on the list embrace the leading Union men of the House. He was also warmly congratulated at the close by the representatives from Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland, as well as by Northern conservative members generally. The Abolition clique are not in favor, we presume, Mr. Voorhees does not court. He has every reason to be gratified at the effect of his maiden effort.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Post.

All the extra ten millions of demand notes have been issued from the Treasury Department. Secretary Chase now awaits the completion of the newly-engraved sheets under the law just passed by Congress.

The health of the army of the Potomac has greatly improved of late.

It is reported here to-day that the New York *Herald* has violated Secretary Stanton's order, and much excitement exists in consequence thereof.

The Judiciary Committee of the House will report against all enactments of emancipation laws for the disloyal States, taking the ground that the power to interfere with slavery rests with the President as Commander-in-Chief.

THE GRAPPLE IN AMERICA.

Americans are at present agreed not only on the general aspect of their civil war, but on the metaphor by which to describe it. The New York *Times* declares, "on the highest possible authority," that "the folds of the giant constrictor are now tightening around the rebellion, and the coming month will see it crushed out completely and forever." Dismissing the prophecy, and venturing to consider the events of the coming month as quite an open question, we may accept the general statement of fact. The South is in the grasp of the North. It is not an affair of teeth and fangs, but of forcible muscular compression. The native American alligator is an absurd not at all up to the situation. Even the constrictor would be much improved for the purpose by being crossed with the great sea-serpent. It matters little where the head of the monster is, if his coil is complete; but suppose it to have been at Washington. Since the blow at Manassas, it has kept itself rather quiet, contenting itself with an occasional dart out its tongue, and a hiss of spiteful defiance. Now, it is thrusting itself out West, grating over Kentucky and Missouri with a roughness which draws copious blood, and looking forth from Cairo longingly down the Mississippi. In the other direction its pliant folds are threatening Norfolk, sweeping the Confederates from Roanoke Island, resting on the wind-swept and sandy beach at Hatteras, sinking a fleet of ships at Charleston, pillowing themselves on some scanty relics of the precious sea-island cotton at Beaufort, terrifying Savannah like the old Dragon of Wantley, twisting lithely round Cape Sable among the Keys and Tortugas, spitting fire from Fort Pickens as from a supplementary mouth, and just wagging the extreme tail as near to New Orleans as possible, in the hope that it will soon roll out a jaunt on with the threatening head—The Richmond *Examiner* does not disguise the fact of this deadly grasp. Just at present, indeed, it hopes that the monster will be torpid. "For a period of uncertain duration, whether of days, weeks or months, the season commands a truce. This is the true winter. The first campaign is ended." But when this forced repose is over, it advocates active offensive measures, which shall place the circle of armies "in the condition of the constrictor whose back has been broken." Here, again, we accept the statement of fact, without assenting to the proposed line of action. From the Southern point of view every moment of delay is so much clear gain of time; every escape from defeat is a measure of virtual victory. If the Southern States can only stay as they are, grow their own food, keep their negroes quiet, and learn to make their own clothes and furniture, they must win at last. The most serious difficulty imposed on them by the Northern blockade is a scarcity of arms and ammunition. But now that we have set saltpetre free again, they will get their share somehow, though no doubt they will have to pay for it. The blockade must not be ignored. A Federal vessel has just disabled a French man-of-war, having run into her on finding her off the pass of the Mississippi, on account of her acting in a very suspicious manner. In this case suspicion fell on an innocent party, for the French steamer was entering the river with the permission of the Federal Government. But if the innocent are sometimes punished, the guilty often escape. Mr. Seward, in reply to Lord Lyons' remonstrance on the closing of the Charleston harbor, stated that an English steamer, laden with arms and ammunition, had just been effected by a British steamer, and that a cargo from a Southern source, has arrived at Texas with a goodly store of gunpowder, percussion caps and cannon-primers. For good and for evil, it is the law of the commercial world that you can have anything anywhere, if you will only pay the price for it.

But will the price be paid? This is the question which North and South have both to consider.—It is not so easily fed. The original animal rolls down still and calm, while the curious spectator can trace its course by the foam it leaves behind. It lies day by day on his side the prey of a thousand worms which seem to travel slowly onward as the process of digestion goes on.—A constrictor has no feet; but we hear that the Federal army has had a million pair of shoes supplied to it, and is still miserably shod. A constrictor is not cheated in contracts, has no taste for strong liquors, and one fed in cold weather cared no little for his blanket that he swallowed it in a fit of absence of mind. But volunteers like to be warm, and drink copiously to assist their more frequent deglutition. Gunboats are expensive things, and Columbiads are not fired for nothing. The Federal Congress has voted that a tax be imposed, which, with the tariff on imports, will secure an annual sum of not less than 150,000,000 dollars. But where are the dollars to be found? The Government will not be the richer for issuing any number of paper notes one day, and having them brought back in payment of taxes to-morrow. All Mr. Chase's manœuvres, which are more complicated than ingenious, cannot prevent the practical value of a promise to pay from varying with the credit of the party which makes the promise. Nothing but ignorance, patriotism, or military compulsion, will induce an American to treat the Government paper as so much gold. The prisons must be much enlarged, if civil and military officers are to follow the precedent of General Montgomery, by arresting citizens who will not exchange silver for paper at par. The Committee of Ways and Means has been instructed to inquire what legislation is necessary to prevent the exportation, hoarding or melting the metallic currency of the country, including also the exportation or hoarding of bullion. In other words, legislation is considered both justifiable and necessary to keep a farmer or a tradesman from hiding his spoons or burying his money, if he thinks his garden a safer place than his bank.

In spite of its poverty, or rather because of its poverty, the South is in a better financial position than the North. The colossal constrictor is wound, not round a colossal man, but round a being of a lower organization than itself. Thanks principally to Mr. Olmsted, we all know that in the cotton States there are few comforts, still fewer luxuries, little money, scanty facilities of exchange, but plenty of Indian corn, pork and molasses. If a Southern planter wanted money, he generally borrowed it from the North; and while the war lasts, he will not be much burdened, either in purse or conscience, by the debts which he owes in that quarter. He must feed his negroes, and clothe them after a fashion; but he has no wages to pay them. The commercial system cannot collapse where it does not exist. When man is in danger of starving at New York, they will only be roughing it at Montgomery or Tuscaloosa. So the match between the constrictor and its victim may not be so unequal after all. There is no telling the consequences of a blow, but the South can endure a great deal of squeezing. Even should the Federal expedition down the Mississippi succeed, and so complete the circle, it should be remembered that a serpent with its tail in its mouth is a recognized emblem of eternity.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—We regret to learn that the fine residence of William Lyles, Esq., on his "Auburn" estate, at the intersection of Piscataway creek and the Potomac, was entirely consumed by fire on last Friday night. It was undoubtedly the work of incendiaries. The house was set on fire in the cellar, and Mr. Lyles and his wife, the only white occupants, merely escaped with their lives. Furniture, clothes, books, papers, plate, money—everything in fact—were lost. This residence was a large brick building, beautifully situated, and has recently cost its owner a large expenditure in its completion, improvements, &c. On the preceding night, a small framed welling, belonging to the same gentleman, on the adjoining place, (known as "Cherry Mount,") was also destroyed in the same manner. We do not believe that either was insured, and the loss is very heavy. Several negroes have been arrested, who are supposed to be implicated in these wanton proceedings, and, after a preliminary examination, have been committed to jail.—*Upper Marlboro' (Md.) Prince Georgian.*

—The revenue of the Russian empire for the year, arising from ordinary sources, amounts to two hundred and ninety-six millions of roubles, and from extraordinary sources—namely, from the loan of 1860—fourteen and a half millions of roubles. The ordinary expenditure is stated at two hundred and ninety-four millions, and the extraordinary expenditure at sixteen and a half millions of roubles.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* states that at a consistory held in Rome on the 23d of December, Rev. Sylvester H. Rosecrans was appointed Bishop of Pompeiopolis, and auxiliary Bishop to the Archbishop of Cincinnati. The reverend gentleman is a brother to General Rosecrans, and has for some time past been President of Mount St. Mary's College of the West.

The Republic of Chili, which until recently has been the most prosperous and happy of the Spanish-American Republics, had a population, at the end of 1860, of 1,628,562 individuals, of whom 801,562 were men and 816,727 women, the latter preponderating to the number of 15,165.

The Portland *Transcript* says that an establishment is in operation in that city, under a contract from Government, for putting up boiled potatoes for the use of the army. Fifty girls are employed in peeling the potatoes, after which they are washed and put up in air-tight cans.

The Kentucky Legislature has passed a bill changing the license on billiard tables, which has heretofore been so high as to be almost prohibitory.—This bill reduces the license from $150 to $50 for the first and $25 for each additional table in a saloon.

The discovery of fossil bones of a new and gigantic saurian, in a cutting recently made for a railway near Poligny, has just been announced. The animal must have been between 90 and 120 feet in length, and must have existed towards the end of the Triassic period.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE----REGULAR SESSION

SENATE

ANNAPOLIS, March 1.—The Senate met at ten o'clock, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

Mr. BRISCOE obtained leave for the Judiciary Committee to report a bill authorizing A. Reed to convey certain real estate.

Mr. WHITAKER obtained leave for a special committee to report a bill authorizing the payment of mileage to J. M. Brewer.

Mr. DENSON, from the Finance Committee, reported the bill for the relief of the families of the Massachusetts volunteers killed or wounded in the 19th of April riots in Baltimore, which was read a second time.

Also, a bill authorizing the payment of an amount of a bond to Johns Hopkins.

Mr. LANKFORD, from the same committee, reported the bill relating to the licenses of hawkers and pedlers.

Mr. SELLMAN, from the same committee, reported the bill to pay E. H. Webster and others for legal services.

Also, a bill to pay the claims of S. Carisa and others.

Mr. BAYNE, from the Committee on Colored Population, reported the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor to slaves.

Mr. TOWNSEND, from a select committee, reported the bill authorizing the Circuit Court of Worcester county to decree a sale of real estate.

Mr. SMITH, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the bill extending the time in which property sold for taxes can be redeemed.

Also, the bill allowing the wife to hold a certain amount of property in her own name.

Mr. BASCOM, from the same committee, reported the bill relating to sentences of negroes.

Also, the bill providing that the widow shall in all cases apply a portion of the deceased's property to her own use.

Also, the bill relating to Registers of Wills making entries of accounts.

Mr. FIERY, from a select committee, reported the bill amending the game laws of Washington county.

Mr. TOWNSEND reported the bill for the protection of fish in the Pokomoke river.

Mr. EICHELBERGER reported a bill to protect fish in Frederick county.

Also the bill to change the name of F. J. Ridgway to F. J. Cahill.

Also the bill to change the place of voting in the tenth district of Frederick county.

Also a bill authorizing the sale of a school house in Frederick county.

Also a bill authorizing the insurance of a schoolhouse in Frederick.

Mr. BLACKSTON, from a select committee, reported the bill to incorporate the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Kent Circuit.

Also, a bill allowing W. Parker, late sheriff, further time to complete his collections.

Also, the bill incorporating a Seminary in Kent county.

Mr. EVERETT reported the bill amending the local laws of Allegany county relating to wild animals.

Also, the bill authorizing the levying of a sum for the benefit of H. R. Atkinson for jail fees.

Mr. WATKINS reported the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor near Sandy Spring, Montgomery county.

Also, the bill allowing Perry Sizes, late collector, further time to make his collections.

Mr. WHITAKER reported a bill to pay J. M. Brewer, late Reading Clerk of the Senate, mileage.

Mr. BASCOM reported the bill allowing J. J. Ogden, late sheriff, further time to make his collections.

Mr. WATKINS reported the bill amending the local laws of Howard, relating to schools.

Also, the bill repealing a section of the local laws of Howard, authorizing the appointment of a bailiff by the Orphans' Court of Howard county.

Mr. SMITH submitted the report of the joint committee to visit the penitentiary.

The unfavorable report of the Finance Committee on the bill to allow J. M. Walker, Notary Public, further time to settle his accounts with the State, was then taken up, and after the passage of the bill was advocated by Mr. Smith and opposed by Mr. Sellman, the report was not agreed to, and the bill was read a second time.

The question was taken on the unfavorable report on the bill relating to notices of opening, altering and widening public roads in Harford county, and the report was concurred in.

The unfavorable report on the bill to allow the Comptroller to employ counsel in certain cases, was concurred in.

The bill to prevent the adulteration of liquors was taken up and reconsidered to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of Mr. DENSON, the order appointing J. Dodord Director in the Bank of Baltimore, was withdrawn.

The bill to release W. Delahay, late Sheriff of Caroline county from the payment of a balance appearing against him, was read a third time and rejected, on its passage.

The bill to change the name of the Pocomoke river was read a second time.

The bill relating to appeals and prayers and instructions was read a third time and passed.

The bill amending the local laws of Baltimore in relation to oysters was postponed indefinitely.

[This bill provided that oysters should be after the 1st in the sealed half bushel.]

The bill relating to the escape of slaves by means of steamboats, railroads, &c, was read a third time and passed.

The bill allowing J. T. Hoxson, late Collector of Prince George's county, further time to complete his collections, was read