THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 145. BALTIMORE, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the State Senate—evening session, Friday—the following bills, among others of less importance were passed:—A bill incorporating the Chesapeake Marine Produce Company. To incorporate the Peabody Fire Insurance Company. A bill supplementary to an act incorporating the City Passenger Railway Company. A bill to incorporate the Social Democratic Turner Society of Baltimore. To incorporate the Baltimore Gymnasium.

In the House of Delegates—evening session—the bill to incorporate the Baltimore Gymnasium was taken up and passed. Also the following bills:—To incorporate the Social Democratic Turner Society of Baltimore. To incorporate the Merchants' Bank of Cecil County. A bill supplementary to an act to incorporate the City Passenger Railway Company.

In the Senate, on Saturday, the bill for the relief of the families of the Maryland volunteers was passed. Also the bill to protect the Provost Marshals of Baltimore.

In the House of Delegates the most important bills passed were as follows:—A bill authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to levy an additional tax on liquor dealers, to aid in paving the streets and supporting the City Jail. Also to levy a tax on all property in the city except such as is specially exempted. The bill to extend the Stay Law was passed.

The steamer from Fortress Monroe, which reached this city yesterday morning, brought the important intelligence that the Confederate iron-clad steamer Merrimac sailed out from Norfolk on Friday last, and, according to the telegram of the Associated Press, in conjunction with the Confederate gunboats Yorktown and Jamestown attacked the Federal fleet at the mouth of James river, sunk the sloop-of-war Cumberland, captured the frigate Congress, and drove the Minnesota ashore. The latter was still aground when the Old Point steamer left. By a telegram from Washington last evening it is stated that the iron-clad United States gunboat Monitor, which reached Hampton Roads on Saturday evening was attacked by the Merrimac, the Jamestown, and Yorktown, yesterday morning. After a contest which lasted five hours, the Monitor is said to have driven off the Confederate vessels, the Merrimac retiring from the fight in a sinking condition.

According to the Norfolk *Day Book* of Wednesday last, two vessels have succeeded within the past week in running the blockade into New Orleans. These vessels are reported to have brought safely into port fifty thousand pounds of powder and a large number of rifles, muskets and other arms. Three vessels laden with cotton from New Orleans, outward bound, also succeeded in running the blockade.

A despatch from Denver City states that a desperate battle was fought in New Mexico on the 21st of February between the Confederate and Federal forces. A regiment of New Mexicans took to flight. The Federal artillery was taken by the enemy, and the loss in killed and wounded on both sides is said to have been very heavy. Both parties, however, claimed the victory. On the other hand we publish a telegram from Washington which gives the movements of the Federal and Confederate troops up to the 16th ult., or five days earlier than the advices said to have been received at Denver City. The statement from Denver, we are informed on the authority of Judge Watts, is of doubtful authenticity, and is, he is satisfied, at least highly exaggerated.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Enquirer* writes that the Military Committee of the Senate have under consideration the project for a new railway from Baltimore to Washington, but it is not believed that it will be reported upon favorably. The correspondent of the New York *Tribune* states that the line of the proposed road runs through the upper counties of Maryland, and that the rate of passenger fare in connection with other roads extending north would reduce some seventy cents per head from the existing rates.

Upwards of six thousand refugee Indians driven out of the Cherokee country, are now encamped in the southern part of Kansas. They are represented to be in a most destitute condition, and an appeal is made to Congress to pass an appropriation for their relief. The Chiefs have tendered the services of their warriors to the Federal Government, but it is said, that they cannot at present be accepted.

Arrangements are in progress for re-organizing the Postal service in such parts of Tennessee as are now in possession of the Federal troops. Mails are already passing between Nashville and Louisville.

A vessel is reported to have been seen about twenty miles east of Cape Cod, having in tow the disabled United States ship-of-war Vermont.

The Federal gunboat Tuscarora is blockading the Sumter at Gibraltar, the Tuscarora being three miles distant, in Spanish waters.

The steam-tug Pendulum sunk whilst passing the light-ship in Hampton Roads on Friday last. All on board however were saved.

It is reported that there was great excitement at Norfolk on Friday last. A large number of officers from the Gulf States were in that city. A strong force is concentrating at Suffolk to check Burnside, who was said to be advancing on that important point.

The release of Col. Corcoran appears to be doubtful. It is stated that he has been detained in consequence of maps and drawings having been found on his person. A number of Union men, principally Germans, have been arrested at Richmond. The Confederate House of Representatives have passed a resolution recommending military Commanders to destroy all cotton and tobacco that may be in danger of falling into the hands of the Federal troops. The Federal troops are said to have possession of Murfreesboro'—Gen. Johnston falling back to Decatur, Alabama.

From the Lower Potomac we learn that the Confederates abandoned Cockpit Point yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, after firing their tents and burning the steamer George Page, and such other craft as they had in the Creek. One hour later, at 3 o'clock, P. M., the Federal gunboats opened fire upon the Point and at half-past 4 o'clock a force was landed and planted the United States flag on the Confederate works.

The mails by the Canada contain some few matters of interest. The Paris correspondent of the London *Post* writes that he believes the report to be well founded which intimated some time since "that the Swedish Minister at Washington had undertaken to prove that the Federal blockade was inefficient." "Spain," says this correspondent, "may follow Sweden."

From General Banks' division we learn that a Mr. Carter, together with three valuable horses, a carriage, and some Confederate scrip, has been captured. Private Whitney, of the Michigan cavalry, who accidentally shot himself, has since died. Col. Brodhead has been promoted, and Col. Geary has taken possession of Leesburg, from which place the Confederates had previously retreated.

THE POOR CONCERT.—We would remind our readers of the fact that the repetition of the Grand Concert, for the benefit of the poor, is to take place this evening at the New Assembly Rooms. The programme is a very attractive one, embracing some of the choicest musical gems. Of the ability of the ladies and gentlemen who will assist in the performance it is needless for us to say aught. We feel confident that the entertainment to-night will be one not soon forgotten by the large audience who will doubtless be present to enjoy it.

GOTTSCHALK'S FIRST CONCERT IN BALTIMORE.—The first concert of the great pianist, L. M. Gottschalk, will be given at the New Assembly Rooms, to-morrow (Tuesday) evening. All that we have ever heard of his triumphs in Europe and Havana is confirmed by his late successes in New York, where the verdict of all the European critics has been enthusiastically endorsed by the public. The following is an extract from a notice of him which appeared lately in the New York *Express:*

The *re-entree* of L. Moreau Gottschalk at Niblo's Saloon, on Tuesday evening, was a perfect success. The talented artist met with a reception equaling that which attended the first appearance of Jenny Lind in the metropolis of the New World. The saloon was filled with an audience composed of the first families of New York, who, by their enthusiastic approbation, testified to the satisfaction with which they once more welcomed a native artist to the land which gave him birth. So determined were the audience that there should be no misapprehension of this sentiment, that all the efforts of the artists who preceded the appearance of Mr. Gottschalk fell still born, and they retired from the stage with scarcely a hand raised to applaud. * * * * In his performances last evening, Mr. Gottschalk surprised all who heard him, by the wonderful progress that he had made since his last appearance in this city. His creations of fancy and powers of expression may now be ranked among the brightest records of his profession.

Mr. Gottschalk will be assisted by the very best artists at present in America—Miss Hinkley, Brignoli, Susini, Mancusi, Sanderson—and Max Maretzek will have the entire musical direction.

The sale of reserved seats, commenced last week, will continue during to-day and to-morrow, at Mr. McCaffrey's music store. We advise our musical readers to secure their seats early, as there have been already a large number sold.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Retreat of the Rebels from Leesburg—The Town and Fortifications Occupied by the Federal Forces—Many Prisoners and Stores Taken.

POOLESVILLE March 8.

Brigadier-General S. Williams, Washington:

Leesburg was entirely evacuated yesterday morning by the rebels, and the reports are that Colonel Geary's advance is there. N. J. T. DANA, Brigadier-General.

Later.

LEESBURG, Va., March 8—Colonel Geary has taken Leesburg and driven General Hill, with his whole rebel command, from the town and surrounding forts. The "Stars and Stripes" now wave over all the enemy's works.

General Hill's army fell back towards Middleborough.

Last night Colonel Geary left Lovettsville with his command and marched through Wheatland and Waterford, taking prisoners at both places, and putting the scattered forces of the enemy to flight. Shortly after sunrise this morning he took possession of Fort Johnson, which was renamed by the officers "Fort Geary." He then entered the town with flags flying and bayonets fixed.

The rear of the Rebel troops, who had thought this one of their greatest strongholds, could be discovered through a glass retreating.

The command took many prisoners and stores, and are in possession of the bank, postoffice and public buildings. Forts Beauregard and Evans were also taken.

The command is well and in good spirits. A detachment of the 1st Michigan cavalry did much service under Colonel Geary in this movement.

The News Confirmed.

CHARLESTOWN, VA., March 9, P. M.—The report of last night that our forces had occupied Leesburg is officially confirmed. The enemy evacuated the town on Friday morning, taking all their supplies and baggage to Middleburg, but it is not known whether the troops retired thither or started towards Winchester. Colonel Geary occupied the town, unmolested, yesterday morning, capturing considerable property accredited to the rebel army. All was quiet at our outposts last night.

FROM GEN. BANKS' DIVISION.

CHARLESTOWN, VA., March 8, P. M.—To day a Mr. Carter, a member of Baylor's, Rebel cavalry, together with three valuable horses, a carriage, and other articles, was captured and turned over to the Division Quartermaster. A considerable amount of "Confederate" scrip was also seized.

Private Whitney, of the Michigan cavalry, who was accidentally wounded on Friday night, died to-day.

Col Broadhead, of the Michigan Cavalry, has been appointed Chief of Cavalry for this division.

During a visit to the residence of Col. Lewis Washington, near Hallstown, your correspondent was informed that subsequent to the departure of the proprietor in August last, the rebels paid a visit and appropriated a large collection of portraits of Gen. Washington and his family, being probably the only collection of the kind extant.

It is to be regretted that previous to the order of Gen. Banks, some wanton depredations were committed on private property in this vicinity, but it is probable that the perpetrators will be detected and severely punished. There has nothing of an important character transpired to-day.

The Latest.

CHARLESTOWN, March 9—10 P. M.—Yesterday, for the first time since our arrival here, country carriages came into town, and the occupants held social intercourse with our officers and soldiers.

Suits of secession grey are gradually giving way to other hues, and the ladies are beginning to frequent the streets on business and pleasure.

Dr. William Alexander an eminent physician and unflinching Unionist, died at his country residence in this vicinity last month. His son, yesterday returned home from Charlottsville College deeply imbued with secession and has been sent to Washington.

Hundreds of contrabands are arriving from the country. The course adopted in regard to them is, if they have been employed by the secession authorities to turn them over to the Division Quartermaster to be employed by the Federal Government, but if proven otherwise they are returned to their owners.

On Friday, Capt. Coles' company of Maryland cavalry, forty in number, pursued a scout of Ashby's cavalry for two miles, between Bunker's Hill and Winchester, when he came upon about one hundred and forty of the latter. A skirmish ensued, lasting one hour, resulting in killing six of Ashby's men and wounding five. Capt. Coles had three men wounded. A section of Matthews' battery came up to Capt. Coles' support, when Adjutant Wilkins, of Gen. Williams' staff, had his horse shot under him.

It is believed generally at Bunker Hill that the force at Winchester has been greatly reduced, having not over from 3,000 to 6,000 men there. Others again say that Jackson's force has been strengthened by the regiments from Leesburg. Captain Cole's scouts last night reached a point only four miles from Winchester, but encountered no resistance except from a small cavalry picket.

It is stated that but 400 of the 19th Mississippi regiment remained in Leesburg at the time of the evacuation, and these retreated in the direction of Manassas Gap.

This morning the rebel scouts attacked General Hamilton's division near Smithville, killing one and wounding another private of the 27th Indiana. They were pursued by the 3d Wisconsin, who had not returned at last accounts.

FROM THE LOWER POTOMAC.

Taking of Cockpit Point Battery—The Rebels Retreat after Burning their tents, etc., and the Steamer Page.

WASHINGTON, March 9—P. M.—The stars and stripes now wave over the rebel works at Cookpit Point.

About 2 P. M. to-day the rebels commenced to retreat, and fired their tents and other property difficult of removal.

They also burned their steamer George Page, and all the other craft which they had in the creek.

Our gunboats opened fire on the Cockpit Point battery about three o'clock P. M., and at half-past four a force was landed and ran up the glorious old flag over the rebel works.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Loyalty of the Indians of Kansas and Nebraska.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. Dole, has returned from the West.—While in Kansas and Nebraska the Indian chiefs called upon him and tendered the services of their Namors for military service, but these cannot now be accepted. Upwards of six thousand loyal Indian refugees, including families from the Cherokee country, are in the lower part of Kansas.

In their retreat thither from the superior forces of the enemy, they threw away everything which impeded their stampede. The panic among them at that time is represented as being frightful. These Indians being in a destitute condition, General Hunter supplied their immediate wants. Commissioner Dole telegraphed to the Government authorities here, and through his representations Congress will probably pass an act for their relief.

The Rebel Batteries on the Line of the Lower Potomac Abandoned—They Spike their Guns and Retire.

WASHINGTON, March 9, P. M.—General Hooker reports that all the enemy's batteries in front of his line are entirely abandoned and their guns spiked. Some of the guns of which we have taken possession, appear to be valuable pieces.

This is virtually opening the Potomac and raising the so-called blockade. The above despatch is dated Budd's Ferry.

Official Information from Nashville.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The Post Office Department received a letter to day from Nashville, dated on the 3rd instant, in which it is stated that our special agent, Markland, took possession of the Post office in that city and found that the Rebel Post Master stripped it of every article of property, blanks, books, mail bags, twine, scales, keys, etc. The agent had managed to get the mails from Nashville to Louisville. The letter adds:

"The Federal officers and troops have agreeably disappointed the Secessionists by reason of their good behavior and gentlemanly deportment.—Others are mad because the officers and men will not commit some act of violence or perpetrate an outrage of some kind. Be it said, to the credit of all officers, soldiers, civilians and camp followers, the order in Nashville was never better. I have never known better order."

Division of the Army of the Potomac Into Army Corps.

WASHINGTON, March 8—By the President's War Order No. 2, he has ordered the army of the Potomac to be divided into Army Corps, to be commanded by commanders of Corps, selected according to seniority of rank, as follows:

First Corps, consisting of four divisions, to be commanded by Major-General McDowell.

Second Corps, consisting of three divisions, to be commanded by Brigadier-General Sumner.

Third Corps, consisting of three divisions, to be commanded by Brigadier-General Heintzleman.

Fourth Corps, consisting of three divisions, to be commanded by Brigadier-General Keyes.

Fifth Corps.—Generals Banks' and Shields' commands, (the latter late General Lander's) to be a fifth corps, commanded by Major-General Banks.

Captain Bell, Third Pennsylvania Cavalry, has been promoted to Major of the Third Illinois Cavalry, now in General Halleck's Department.

The Latest from Fort Craig, New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Judge Watts, the delegate from New Mexico, has advices of an authentic character from Fort Craig, to the 14th of February, and from Santa Fee to 5 o'clock on the evening of Sunday the 16th ult. At that date the advance guard of the United States forces, 500 strong, under Captain Wingate, were on the west side of the Rio Grande, eight miles below Fort Craig, being at Barage. On the driving in of our pickets, Col. Canby marched in force to that point, and after anxiously waiting until night without any appearance of the enemy, retired to Fort Craig, leaving his camp-fires burning.

Col. Cauley's spy, Grayden, had captured the principal spy of Gen. Sibley, and from him it was ascertained that the forces under Sibley consisted of 1,500 troops at Alimosa, and 1,500 behind, under Sibley, with 8 cannon and 300 beeves, and he expected reinforcements soon of 1,100 lancers.—Under these circumstances, Judge Watts is confident that no general engagement had taken place, but perhaps only skirmishing of the advance guard, which resulted in the falling back of our troops on Fort Craig, in order to prevent the Texan cavalry from getting between our forces in the advance and the fortifications at Fort Craig.

The recently published despatch from Denver to Julesburg is not, on its face, authentic, and must have been verbally communicated through a line of express riders over a distance of seven hundred miles; and Judge Watts has other information which satisfies him that the account is, to say the least of it, highly exaggerated, and some parts of it untrue.

The Fortress Monroe Telegraph Line.

WASHINGTON, March, 9.—The telegraph line to Fortress Monroe, was built by order of the Secretary of War, under the direction of the General Manager of Military Telegraph lines. The extension of the Government line, from Harrington, Delaware, to Cape Charles, was constructed in twenty-three days. Thirty miles of submarine cable was manufactured for the channel, crossing in twenty days from the date of the order of S. C. Bishop, of New York city.

The sixteen miles that was laid before the recent gale, was recovered in good condition. The cable to replace the portion lost off Cape Henry was furnished by Mr. Bishop in five days. The shore end was landed at Cape Charles at four o'clock this (Sunday) afternoon by Mr. Wm. H. Heiss, Assistant Manager of the Government Telegraph, who has had the immediate charge of the work.

Its completion at this opportune moment, to bring the news of the splendid victory of the Monitor and the disabling of the Merrimac, has saved the country from great anxiety and suspense. The delay in completing the cable connection has been owing entirely to the continued boisterous weather.

Rejected Army Clothing.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—A large quantity of the worthless army clothing, supplied by contractors, will be returned to them, thus lessening the loss to the Government.

The New Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 9—It is understood that the Committee of Ways and Means will have the new tariff bill prepared for presentation to the House by the time the tax bill shall have passed that body. Some of the articles on the present free list will be transferred to the dutiable schedules, and such other changes made as will yield two or three million dollars of additional revenue.

FROM ARKANSAS.

Gen. Price Unable to Raise Troops.

ST. LOUIS, March 7.—The following intelligence is derived from a late copy of the Van Buren (Arkansas) *Press:*

"Letters have been received at Van Buren from Richmond, stating the probability of the transfer of General Bragg, now in command of Pensacola, to the command of the Arkansas Department.

Col. Sim's Texas regiment, which has been acting with Cooper's command in the Indian country, has arrived at Fort Smith.

A new artillery company is organizing at Little Rock.

The Commandant at Fort Smith advertises for twelve gunsmiths. He also offers to buy good arms.

General Price is getting along poorly in raising the brigade of infantry which he called upon Western Arkansas to supply, and the recruiting officers say a draft is inevitable.

The Federal Gunboat Tuscarora.

BOSTON, March 6.—The Federal gunboat Tuscarora remained near Gibraltar February 15th. She had changed her anchorage from Algesiras to Orange Grove, bringing her within three miles of the steamer Sumter, but still in Spanish water.

The United States Ship Vermont.

BOSTON, March 7.—A large ship in tow of a steamer was seen this afternoon twenty miles southeast from Cape Ann, bound to Boston. The vessel in tow is supposed to be the disabled ship Vermont.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 7—The steamtugs Atlantic and Pendulum, from Philadelphia, came into the Roads this morning.

The Pendulum sunk whilst passing the lightship. All hands were saved.

The Suwanee, which sailed for Hatteras with stores on Thursday, returned on account of bad weather. She was to sail again on Friday night.

The wind is changing to the northwest.

A flag of truce from Norfolk brought down the commandant of the French steamer. He represents that there is great excitement at Norfolk. The hotels are swarming with officers from the Gulf States. The Virginia troops have all been sent away. The people dread the destruction of the city in case of an attack.

A strong force is concentrating at Suffolk to check Burnside, who was reported to have occupied Winton in force, and as moving on to Suffolk.

The reason given by the rebels for not returning Colonel Corcoran is that maps and drawings have been found concealed upon his person.

No further communication has been received as to the release of the Federal prisoners at Richmond.

The Richmond papers of Friday contain no military news, except the arrest of a number of Union men, principally Germans.

A detective officer broke into the room of the German Turners and found two American flags, with a painting on the wall of the Goddess of Liberty holding the Union colors and a shield, and with the words underneath "Hats off." The painting and flags were seized and confiscated.

The House of Representatives have passed a resolution, by a vote of 71 to 11, recommending and directing military commanders to destroy all cotton and tobacco that is in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy.

A resolution was also adopted asking the President to inform the House what certain foreign vessels of war are doing in Hampton Roads.

The Richmond *Dispatch* says that a vessel drawing sixteen feet of water recently passed out of Charleston harbor.

Chas. Palmer, arrested for disloyalty a few days since at Richmond, has been discharged.

Specie is quoted at Richmond at 40 to 50 per cent. premium.

A despatch from Atlanta, Ga., says that the Federal troops have possession of Murfreesboro, and that General A. Sidney Johnston has retreated to Decatur, Ala.

Bishop Andrews has postponed indefinitely the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which was to meet at New Orleans on the 1st of April.

The steamer Merrimac was lying near the Navy Yard yesterday morning, with her flags flying and a crew on board. She draws twenty-three feet of water, and was described to me as looking like the roof of a sunken house, with a smoke stack protruding from the water.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

IMPORTANT FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The Steamer Merrimac Makes an Attack on the U. S. Fleet off James River, and with the aid of the Steamers Yorktown and Jamestown Sunk the U S. Frigate Cumberland and Captured the Frigate Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The Government has received information from Fortress Monroe that yesterday, about 2 o'clock, the iron-clad steamer Merrimac and the rebel gunboats Jamestown and Yorktown, attacked our fleet off James river and sunk the sloop-of-war Cumberland and took the frigate Congress.

The Minnesota went up to assist the two sailing vessels above-mentioned, but got aground after briskly engaging the enemy, and was still aground when the Old Point steamer left.

THE LATEST FROM OLD POINT.

Highly Important—Arrival of the Federal Iron-Clad Gunboat Monitor—She is Attacked by the Merrimac, Jamestown and Yorktown, and after a Five Hours' Battle the Enemy are Driven Off—The Merrimac Puts Back to Norfolk in a Sinking Condition.

OFFICIAL.

WASHINGTON, March 9—7, P. M.—The telegraph line to Fortress Monroe was completed this evening, and the following despatch has just been received by the Government:

FORTRESS MONROE, March 9, P. M.—The Ericsson iron clad gunboat Monitor arrived here last night. Early this morning she was attacked by three vessels—the Merrimac, Jamestown, and Yorktown. After a five hours' contest they were driven off. The Merrimac in a sinking condition.

THE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Efficiency of the Monitor—The Frigate Minnesota Safe.

WASHINGTON, March 9, P. M.—The following was to-night received by Major-General McClellan, from Major-General Wool, dated—

FORTRESS MONROE, March 9, 6 P. M.

Four hours after despatch to the Secretary of War last evening, the Monitor arrived. She immediately went to the assistance of the Minnesota, which was aground, and continued so until a few moments since.

Early this morning the Monitor was attacked by the Merrimac, Jamestown and Yorktown. After a five hours' contest, they were driven off, and the Merrimac in a sinking condition. She was towed by the Jamestown, Yorktown and several smaller boats, towards Norfolk, no doubt for the purpose, if possible, to get her in the dry dock for repairs.

The Minnesota is afloat, and is being towed toward Fortress Monroe.

Despatch from Assistant Secretary Fox.

The following despatch was also received to-night:

FORTRESS MONROE, March 9, 6.45, P. M.

G. Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

The Monitor arrived 10 o'clock P. M. last night, and went immediately to the protection of the Minnesota, lying aground just below Newport News. At 7 A. M., to-day, the Merrimac, accompanied by two wooden steamers and several tugs, stood out towards the Minnesota and opened fire.

The Monitor met them at once, and opened her fire, when all the enemy's vessels retired excepting the Merrimac. These two iron-clad vessels fought part of the time touching each other from eight A. M. to noon, when the Merrimac retired. Whether she is injured or not it is impossible to say.

Lieut. J. S. Worden, who commanded the Monitor, handled her with great skill, assisted by Chief Engineer Stimers. Lieut. Worden was injured by the cement from the pilot house being driven into his eyes, but I trust, not seriously. The Minnesota kept up a continuous fire, and is herself somewhat injured. She was moved considerably to-day, and will probably be off to-night.

The Monitor is uninjured, and ready at any moment to repel another attack.

(Signed) G. V. Fox,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

By the arrival of the steamer Adelaide yesterday morning, important advices were received from Fortress Monroe. About one o'clock on Saturday the much talked of steam ship-of-war Merrimac was observed to leave Norfolk and steam directly for Newport News. The frigates Cumberland and Congress were lying near Newport News, the Congress some half mile nearer Norfolk than the Cumberland. When the Merrimac got within range the Congress opened upon her, but there was no response from the Merrimac. She steamed past within two hundred yards of the Congress and made directly for the Cumberland. That vessel opened her batteries upon the Merrimac but the latter paid no attention to the firing, but with a full head of steam ran into the Cumberland, struck her amid ship and cut her almost in two. The Congress kept up the firing, and the crew of the Merrimac went to work to save the crew of the Cumberland, as she was sinking very rapidly. Many of the crew of the Cumberland swam ashore to Newport News.

After the Cumberland was sunk, the Merrimac turned upon the Congress and fired two broadsides, when the latter ran up a white flag and made an unconditional surrender. The crew of the Congress were sent ashore at Pig Point, and the officers were detained on board the Merrimac. As soon as the fight commenced the Minnesota, St. Lawrence, Roanoke and a number of gunboats, were despatched from the Fortress to Newport News, and at the same time the Confederate steamers Yorktown and Patrick Henry made their appearance in the mouth of James river and were soon at the side of the Merrimac. As the Federal boats passed Sewall's Point, the batteries opened on them, and one shot struck the Roanoke, seriously disabling her, and on coming within range of the Confederate vessels, the Congress, on which a Confederate crew had been placed, opened her guns on the Minnesota and at the same time the Patrick Henry engaged the St. Lawrence, doing her serious damage, and, in her efforts to escape, she ran ashore above Newport News. The Minnesota also ran ashore near the same point. While this was going on, the Merrimac took a position near Newport News and opened on the fortifications. Her fire was so vigorous that the troops were compelled to leave their guns and retire from their fortifications. The Roanoke, in her disabled condition, attempted to return to the fortress, but on coming within range of the guns of Sewall's Point found it impossible to pass, and went back out of range of the guns. All the small gunboats returned to the fortress. The injury done to the Congress in her contest with the Merrimac, and afterwards with the Minnesota, was of a most serious character, and put her in a sinking condition. At night it was found that the Congress would certainly sink, and a little after seven o'clock she was fired and burnt. The conflagration illuminated the Heavens for miles, and the scene is said to have been grand. It was reported that General Magruder was in the rear of Newport News with a very large force, and it was feared that he would capture the forces at that place.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of Thursday states that two vessels run the blockade into New Orleans, having cargoes of 50,000 pounds of powder and a large number of rifles, muskets and other arms. Three vessels, with cargoes of cotton, run the blockade out.

THE GUNBOAT FIGHT IN TENNESSEE.

Correspondence of the Chicago Post.

CAIRO, March 3.—The discovery of a new Confederate battery on the Tennessee river, mentioned by telegraph, was made in this wise. Hearing that the Confederates were planting a new battery somewhere near Savannah, the wooden gunboats Taylor and Lexington were ordered to make a reconnoissance up the river and shell them out. The boats left Fort Henry Friday morning, and proceeded slowly, examining the shores carefully as they went along. They were accompanied by the transport Izetta, with two companies of the 32d Illinois regiment. They passed Savannah about 10 o'clock Saturday morning, having as yet discovered no signs of the expected battery. But now the transport was ordered to keep well in the river, as at any moment a shell or round shot might announce the unpleasant proximity of the object they were in quest of.

Eight miles above Savannah we came to a little town called Pittsburgh, a miserable-looking little hamlet, as they nearly all are in this region. There is an island here in the river, called Diamond Island, and just as we came out of the channel at its head, bang! went a Confederate cannon, and a 24-pound shot came plunging toward us from the Confederate battery situated less than half a mile in our advance. It was followed by two other shots from smaller guns, before our big guns responded. We steamed right on toward them, and opened at about six hundred yards, with shell. Their battery consisted of one 24-pounder rifled gun, and three 12-pounder howitzers. The 24 pounder fired only six shots, when it was silenced, either by our fire or from some other cause. The three smaller guns blazed away for about twenty minutes, when they also ceased firing, not a single one of their shots from the beginning having touched either of our boats. Our gunboats kept up their fire for half an hour longer, shelling the woods in all directions.

When the firing commenced a small body of Confederate infantry was also discovered, who undertook to put in practice the plan which some Memphis newspaper editors proposed, viz: To conceal themselves on the bank and pick off the pilots of our gunboats. They soon found they might as well attempt to swallow an oyster without opening the shell. A few discharges of grape sent them helter skelter over the brow of the hill.

After the woods had been shelled pretty thoroughly, and nothing more been seen or heard of the enemy, about forty soldiers and marines, under command of a lieutenant, were sent ashore to reconnoitre the neighborhood. They proceeded up the long slope of the hill to the distance of a thousand yards or more from the landing, when they suddenly found themselves face to face with two or three regiments of Confederate infantry, who immediately shot at them. Our men returned the compliment, and immediately retired to the shelter of a log house, some five hundred yards from the shore, where they made a stand, and peppered away at the Confederates as vigorously as if they expected to drive back the Confederate ten or fifteen hundred.

The gunboats hesitated to reopen on the Confederates lest they should kill some of our men, but waited in the momentary expectation that they would return to the boats. They did not do so, however, until the Lieutenant commanding (whose name I cannot learn) discovered that the Confederates were flanking him on both sides, for the purpose of making prisoners of his little command. He then ordered a retreat, and the gallant forty made the best time they could to the boats, which they reached with the loss of three men killed and seven or eight wounded. The Confederates pursued hotly, and getting behind trees fired both at our men in the boats and at the gunboats, perforating the latter with a good many musket balls, but injuring no one except the officer in command of the boat howitzer on the upper deck, one of whose legs was shattered by a Minie ball, rendering amputation necessary.

The gunboats reopened their batteries with grape, which caused the Confederates to retreat with most undignified rapidity over the hill again. Seeing and hearing no more of them, the gunboats moved down the stream a short distance and lay at anchor. Having none but fifteen-second fuse shells, the gunboats were unable to do the execution at short range which they could have done with shorter fire. Accordingly, the Lexington was dispatched to Cairo for a supply of the desired ammunition, while the Taylor remained to look after the Confederate battery. The place where it was found is a sort of natural fortification, the hill furnishing a hollow just over the first ridge, in which the Confederate infantry took shelter from our fire. In this particular it resembles Fort Donelson.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatch to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

A PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPER AND THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

Complaints continue to pour in to the Government Supervisor of newspapers publishing contraband news, day after day. One paper in Philadelphia has been reported every day for a week. Considerable leniency has so far been shown them, on their pleading that the paper went to press without the responsible men seeing the military information in it which they are forbidden to publish. Such recklessness is criminal, to say the least, and you may some morning have one press less in Philadelphia, if the officers carry out the instructions which have been issued.

TOOMBS A LIEUTENANT-GENERAL.—INVASION OF THE SOUTH.

The news from the South is that the Confederates have organized a new grand military plan, which is to revive their waning fortunes. A part of it is that Robert Toombs, the violent orator, is to be appointed Lieutenant-General or General Commanding, and that he is to organize an offensive war against the North. Ohio and Pennsylvania are to be invaded, and the forces now in the Border States driven home.

THE NEW RAILROAD.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs are considering the new railroad from Baltimore to Washington. It has not the ghost of a chance, although it is backed by some of the most corrupt influences that ever surrounded a legislative measure.

DEFALCATION.

The accounts of a young disbursing officer have been found "short" over one hundred thousand dollars, and he has left for parts unknown. His friends are endeavoring to arrange the matter, but it is more than probable that his bondsmen will have to make everything square.

Special Despatch to the New York Tribune.

RAILROAD TO BALTIMORE.

The Senate Military Committee have had before them for some time a proposition to construct a railroad from Washington to Baltimore through the upper counties of Maryland, by which it is said that the fare will be reduced to seventy cents per head, to connect with other roads extending North.

The Michigan Democratic State Convention, which met at Detroit, on Wednesday, was largely attended. It was deemed inexpedient to nominate candidates for State officers at this time.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.....REGULAR SESSION

SENATE.

EVENING SESSION.

ANNAPOLIS, March 7.—The Senate met at half-past seven, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

The bill relating to the paving and grading of North avenue, in the city of Baltimore, was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the catching of oysters was read a second time, amended and passed.

The bill incorporating the Chesapeake Marine Produce Company was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill to allow W. Parker, late collector, further time to complete his collections was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Peabody Fire Insurance Company was read a third time and passed.

The bill providing for the settlement of disputes growing out of division fences, in Calvert county, was read a third time and passed.

The bill for the relief of Thomas B. Gaither, late Clerk of the Circuit Court of Baltimore city, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to allow A. Barker, late collector, further time to complete his collections, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to allow the sureties on the bond of D. Barry, late collector, further time to complete his collections, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to change the name of F. J. Ridgway to F. J. Cahill, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to refund a sum of money to R. T. Weill, was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing a sale of a school-house in Frederick county was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the insurance of a school-house in Frederick county was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the Superintendent of the National road was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Commissioners of Allegany county to levy a sum of money for the benefit of H. R. Atkinson for jail fees, was read a third time and passed.

The bill extending the charter of the Washington County Bank was read a first, second and third time, under a suspension of the rules, and passed.

The bill to change the name of W. C. Funk to George Smith, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to compensate the owners of the steamer Pioneer and others, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to authorize the publication of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Tax of the Poor, &c., of Worcester county, was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to estray vessels, boats, &c., was read a third time and passed.

The bill for the relief of the sureties of W. H. Crawford, late Collector of Taxes, was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Trustees of the Methodist Church on Kent Circuit was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Commissioners of Kent county to sell a portion of a public landing on Morgan's Creek was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill to compensate Dr. Dennis Claude for filling the office of Comptroller was read a third time and passed.

The bill to change the name of W. E. P. Ward to W. E. P. Gover was read three times and passed.

Mr. PEARSON, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the bill authorizing the Circuit Court of Baltimore county to pass a decree empowering the guardian of the heirs of Joseph Pearson to execute a mortgage, which was read a second and third time and passed.

The bill supplementary to an act incorporating the Baltimore City Passenger Railway Company was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Circuit Court of Worcester county to confirm a sale made by W. P. Snow, trustee, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to protect fish in Pokomoke river was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Commissioners of Howard county to levy a sum to build an addition to the jail, was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the pay and duty of the Sheriff of Howard county was read a third time and passed.

The bill repealing an act authorizing the appointment of a bailiff by the Orphans' Court of Howard county, was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the making of a road in Howard and Montgomery counties was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the duties of the trustees of schools in Howard county was read a third time and passed.

The bill to change the name of W. McKeon to W. Crockett was read a first, second and third time and passed.

Mr. LICHTENBERGER, from the Committee on Corporations, reported the bill to incorporate the Social Democratic Turner Society of Baltimore.

Also, the bill to incorporate the Baltimore Gymnasium.

At 11 o'clock the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House met at four o'clock and was called to order by the SPEAKER.

Mr. PURNELL, from a select committee, reported a bill to allow All Hallows Parish to receive a bequest.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles, from the Committee on Corporations, reported the bill incorporating the Maryland and Pennsylvania Turnpike Company.

Mr. ENSOR reported a bill authorizing the trustees of Union Academy, Baltimore county, to sell their property.

Mr. DENT offered an order directing that the session of this evening be devoted exclusively to private and local bills, which, after some debate, was adopted.

Mr. FISDLAY, from the Committee on Militia, reported a bill respecting the oaths of militia officers.

The bill changing the number of a district in Anne Arundel county was read a third time and passed.

The bill to change the name of William Edward Plummer Ward to W. E. P. Gover was read a third time and passed.

The bill for the relief of Joseph R. Long was read a third time and re-committed to the Washington delegation.

The bill relating to appeals from decisions of County Commissioners in relation to opening public roads was read a third time and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Baltimore Gymnasium was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to runaway slaves was read a third time and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Social Democratic Turner Society of Baltimore was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the limitation of action was read a third time and passed.

The bill prohibiting the sale of liquors to minors was read a third time