THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 146. BALTIMORE, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the bill to encourage enlistments and also to reorganize the cavalry, the latter bill being engrafted on the former, was taken up and debated. An amendment to reduce the cavalry force to thirty regiments of twelve hundred men each, was adopted, as was also another authorizing enlistments from the volunteer to the regular service, and giving to such twenty-five dollars bounty. The bill was then passed.—The debate on the confiscation bill was resumed, but no conclusion was reached. An additional article of war was adopted prohibiting any officer from employing the forces under his command for the return of fugitive slaves under penalty of dismissal from the service. After considerable discussion the resolution was passed.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was introduced declaring that the United States ought to co-operate with any State which might declare the gradual abolishment of slavery, and grant to such State pecuniary aid. An endeavor was made to pass it under the operation of the previous question, but after a long debate and pending the question to postpone, the House adjourned.

In the State Senate, yesterday, the bill incorporating the North Branch Railway was rejected. The bill authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to assess and collect taxes on all property in said city except such as is otherwise exempt, was taken up and passed. The Stay-Law bill was passed by a vote of 14 to 8.

In the House of Delegates, the bill relating to specie payments by the banks was passed. The bill empowering the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to extend the water-works was passed. The bill to incorporate the Union Gas Light Company of Baltimore was passed.

The excitement in regard to the operations of the Merrimac off Newport-News was not lessened yesterday by the tenor of the latest despatch sent over the wires from Fortress Monroe by Mr. Fox, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, nor by the additional details brought up by the steamer which left Old Point the previous evening. Lieutenant Worden, the commander of the Monitor, who was severely injured across the eyes, by cement, by a splinter of iron, or by the fragment of a shell, came up in the boat and proceeded to Washington. The damage inflicted by the Merrimac appears to have been infinitely greater than was at first stated. In addition to sinking the Cumberland, capturing and burning the Congress, and disabling the Minnesota, it is stated by passengers who came up in the steamer that she either sank or disabled several transport vessels, killed a number of the soldiers at Newport News, and destroyed an immense quantity of sutlers stores at that point. There was intense excitement at Fortress Monroe during the whole of the engagement, and crowds of fugitives came pouring into Old Point Comfort from Newport News, all anxious to escape the danger that seemed so imminent. We publish this morning the account furnished by the Associated Press, which adds to the list of casualties the loss of the Federal gunboat Oregon—struck and blown up by the Merrimac—and reports that the gunboat Zouave, was also seriously injured. It is likewise stated that one of the Confederate gunboats was cut in two by the sloop of war Cumberland, and that the Monitor in her encounter with the Merrimac, battered a large hole in the side of the latter—which may possibly be true, but which is certainly not confirmed by Lieutenant Worden, who stated whilst here that he was not conscious that the Merrimac had received any injury at all. Secretary Fox telegraphed to Washington to the same effect, and passengers by the boat assert that she fired the last shot and steamed away as easily as if she had been wholly untouched, notwithstanding the severe struggle through which she had passed. The loss in killed and drowned of the Federal marines and seamen is variously estimated at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty—the number taken prisoners is not stated. The general opinion is, but whether true or not we cannot say, that the Merrimac ran short of ammunition and retired to take in a fresh supply.

The next battle at the South-West, it is supposed, will take place at New Madrid, a small town of South-Eastern Missouri, situated on the Mississippi river. Some eight or ten thousand Confederates are said to be surrounded at that point by the forces under General Pope, but are protected on the river front by four Confederate gunboats. The Confederate force stationed at New Madrid is not believed to be any part of that which evacuated Columbus, but to have been drawn wholly from Arkansas and South-Eastern Missouri. A telegram from Cairo, dated yesterday, states that heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of New Madrid, and exciting news is hourly expected from that point. The Confederates are actively engaged in strengthening the works at Forts Pillow and Randolph, on the Mississippi; the latter, it is said, already mounts one hundred guns. It is reported that great alarm exists at Memphis.

General Halleck telegraphs from St. Louis a brief account of a most desperate battle between the Federal forces under General Curtis, and the combined forces of the Confederates under Van Dorn, Price and McIntosh, in which the latter after three days hard fighting were signally defeated.—The Federal loss is estimated at not less than one thousand killed and wounded, that of the Confederates being still greater. The Federal cavalry were in pursuit of the fugitives.

From the Upper Potomac we learn that the engines and cars burnt by the Confederates on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway are being taken to Cumberland and Piedmont for repairs. It is predicted very confidently that the road will be thrown open to travel, through to Wheeling, by about the 20th of March.

There is a rumor at Washington which is very generally credited, to the effect that the Confederates are abandoning Manassas and falling back to Gordonsville. A later telegram states that the Confederates have evacuated Winchester and Centreville and other important points, indicating a general falling back of their forces.

According to the New York *Tribune* the propositions made by Messrs. Mason and Slidell to the Governments of England and France, to secure the recognition of the Confederate States, are as follows:—1st, The protection of marriage relation among slaves. 2d, The removal of all statutory impediments to manumission. 3d, Prospective emancipation. 4th, Free trade. It is probable that the last proposition has been really made; but it is doubtful whether any of the others have been proposed at all.

GOTTSCHALK'S FIRST CONCERT takes place at the New Assembly Rooms this evening, and we hazard nothing in saying that it will be attended by one of the most crowded and fashionable audiences seen in this city for a long time. Of the merits of *artistes* so well known as Miss Hinkley, Signor Brignoli, Mancusi and Susini, it is unnecessary to speak. We may remark, however, that the choicest musical gems in the *repertoire* of each, have been selected for this evening, and we have no doubt that all will sustain their well-merited reputation. Of the lion of the evening, however, (Mr. Gottschalk, who delighted our citizens some five years since,) the critics say that hard study and practice have made a wonderful improvement in his execution, and that he has attained a marvelous power in giving expression to the creations of a fancy cultivated to a point of which there have been few examples in his profession. A New York critic speaks of him as follows:

Mr. Gottschalk has just given two brilliant concerts. In these he displayed a prodigious power of execution which places him beyond being surpassed. In exactitude, clearness, rapidity, sonority, power of sweeping over the keys, trilling and iterating notes, human fingers cannot surpass his. He has exhausted the dazzling qualities of the instrument. In heroic delineation he outreached all we have heard here; not necessary to name Thalberg on the list, who was deficient in fervor. * * * Mr. Gottschalk's reputation is now as firmly established in Europe as that of any other living pianist, both in performance and piano "transcription."

Reserved seats for the concert can be secured without extra charge at McCaffrey's music store; but we would advise an early application, as the sheet is rapidly filling up.

ANOTHER WARNING.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* says:

"The journals had another warning from Secretary Stanton to-day, occasioned by the indiscreet publication of the arrival and departure of Eastern regiments. One or two papers have paid so little attention to the War Department order of March 1st, that the Secretary is understood to express himself quite warmly on the subject, and to declare that all such offences in the future shall be visited with the severest penalties. It certainly is strange that journals which scarcely permit a day to pass without advertising their patriotism, in some way or other, should thus expose themselves to the charge of playing into the hands of the enemy, in spite of all the Government can say or do."

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER CITY OF WASHINGTON.

MR. ADAMS' SPEECH ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

NEW YORK, March 10.—The steamer City of Washington has arrived with Liverpool advices to the 26th ult.

Gibraltar advices of the 28th say the Sumter was still there, with no signs of departure. The Turcarora was still in Spanish waters off Algesiras.

A Madrid despatch of the 25th says that the Captain of the Sumter had been arrested at Tangiers at the instance of the American Consul at Gibraltar and the Commander of the Tuscarora, who went to Tangiers for the purpose.

It had been reported that the Sumter had appeared off Hyeres, in the south of France, on the 16th of February.

The patriotic speech of Minister Adams at the American celebration of Washington's birthday has been published. Referring to the memory of Washington, he said it was well for Americans to think on his course at this time. The country was in the midst of a crisis long foreseen and feared, but by imitating Washington's great virtues they would conquer and subdue the malign power which sought to rule or ruin. The struggle is fearful, but there is no alternative. An assault upon the Government carries with it aggressive principles, which, if not defeated, must in the end be fatal to freedom. It involves the acknowledgment of the prescriptive right of some men to rule over their fellows, and the Government must, therefore, fully re-establish its fundamental doctrine at every hazard. He eulogized President Lincoln's Administration, and expresses his full confidence that he would be equal to the task.

Mr. George Thompson asserted that the efforts to create in England a feeling of hostility to the North had totally failed.

Consul Morse denounced the curse of slavery as the sole cause of the present troubles.

Cyrus W. Field proposed the toast "England and America," and spoke strongly in favor of the maintainance of friendly relations. He explained away many irritating subjects, and asserted that it was the most earnest desire of the Washington Government to maintain amicable relations.

Parliamentary proceedings had been enlivened by a challenge from The O'Donoghue to Sir Robert Peel for expressions which the former considered personally offensive. Lord Palmerston got scent of the affair, and warned Sir Robert Peel against making himself a party to a breach of privilege, and brought the affair to the notice of the House. The O'Donoghue apologized to the House, but made some sarcastic remarks relative to Sir Robert Peel.

Mr. Horsefall gave notice in Parliament that on the 11th of March he will move that the present state of the national maritime law, as it concerns belligerents and neutrals, is undefined, unsatisfactory and calls for the early attention of the Government.

The army estimates show a total of over fifteen and a quarter millions sterling, slightly in excess of last year.

The French Senate continued to debate the address to the Emperor. Prince Napoleon's strong remarks attracted considerable attention. Some members gave utterance to strong anti-English sentiments, but were rebuked by the Ministers.

THE LATEST—VIA QUEENSTOWN.

MADRID, Feb. 26.—The *Correspondencia* confirms officially that Spain insists upon a special Mexican Ambassador coming to Madrid to give satisfaction.

TOULON, Feb. 26.—The French squadron at Cochin China still continues there.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, March 27.—Cotton closed firm and unchanged. Sales to-day of 10,000 bales, including 3,000 bales to speculators and exporters.

Breadstuffs closed quiet and steady. Provisions dull.

Consols 93½ for money.

The steamer Bermuda was about to sail for Bermuda from Liverpool with an assorted cargo for the South.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

IMPORTANT FROM COMMODORE DUPONT'S EXPEDITION.

Capture of Fernandina, Florida, and Brunswick, Georgia.—The Old Flag Flying Over Fort Clinch—The Whole Coast of Georgia in Possession of the Government.

The United States steamer Alabama, Captain Lanier, arrived here this morning direct from Fernandina, Florida, bringing Captain Davis, late Flag-Officer of the South Atlantic Squadron, as bearer of despatches from Commodore Dupont to the Navy Department, announcing the capture of Fernandina and Brunswick by the fleet under his command.

We are indebted to Captain Davis for an outline of the operations of the fleet since it left Port Royal, about the 1st of March, on what was announced as an important expedition, the place of destination having been withheld at the request of the Government.

The first point of the coast approached by the fleet was the town of Brunswick, Georgia, the enemy abandoning their works and precipitately flying at the approach of the gunboats. It was taken possession of and gunboats left in charge.—This gives the Government the control of the whole coast of Georgia, from South Carolina to Florida.

Brunswick being disposed of, the fleet moved twenty miles further to Cumberland Sound, the entrance to the harbor of Fernandina, Florida.

The fleet entered Cumberland Sound in the following order:

The Mohican, flag-ship of Commodore Dupont, the Ottowa, the Seminole, the Pawnee, the Flag, the Bienville, the Alabama, the James Adger, the Florida, the Seneca, the Huron and the Pembina. They were followed by the small armed steamers Potowska, Penguin and Ellen. Next came the armed revenue cutter Henrietta and the armed transport McClellan, followed by the transports Empire City, Boston, Belvidere, Star of the South, George's Creek and the brig General Wright, all loaded with troops under the command of General Wright.

When the expedition came in sight of Fort Clinch the Rebels were discovered making a hasty flight, and fired two or three random shots from the barbette guns of the fort. The shells of the fleet, however, caused a hasty evacuation, and Fort Clinch was immediately taken possession of, and the flag of the Union raised on the old staff which has been so long disgraced by the traitors' colors. This is the first of the old Southern forts of the Union that has been recovered since the proclamation of the President declaring that they must all be restored to the Union.

As the fleet approached the fort a train of cars was observed leaving Fernandina, and as the track runs some three miles along the shore of the Sound, Commodore Dupont sent one of the gunboats in pursuit of her.

An exciting race took place, the steamer throwing shells at the flying train, some of them falling in such close proximity that some of the fleeing Rebels jumped from it and took to the bush.—Among the latter is said to have been the late Senator Yulee, of Florida, accompanied by his servant. The train, of course, outran the gunboat and escaped.

The old casemated Fort Clinch having been taken possession of, the flag was also speedily raised from the eight Rebel earthworks abandoned by the enemy. Twelve large guns fell into our possession, including one immense rifled gun of 120-pound calibre. Five of them were found in Fort Clinch, and the others were in the earthwork.

They had hastily removed a portion of their guns, which were said to be at St. Johns, farther up the Sound. An expedition was preparing to go up to capture them when the Alabama sailed.

Considerable ammunition was also captured, and the same evening the Rebel steamer Darlington, loaded with wagons, ammunition and camp equipage, was also captured whilst endeavoring to escape.

The expedition accomplished its mission on the 4th of March, the anniversary of the inauguration of President Lincoln. The troops of General Wright were landed, and Commodore Dupont works, which were quickly garrisoned with marines and earthworks.

Most of the male inhabitants of Fernandina had fled, and the city was also taken possession of.

This has been one of the most useful ports to the Rebels, a large number of vessels having run the blockade here.

Official Report of the Capture of Fernandina, Florida, and Brunswick Georgia.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Captain Davis, late Fleet Captain of South Atlantic Squadron, arrived here to-night, bringing an official despatch from Commodore Dupont, of which the following is a copy:

FLAG SHIP MOHICAN,
HARBOR OF FERNANDINA, March 4, 1862.

SIR: I had the honor to inform you in my last despatch that the expedition to Fernandina was equipped and waiting only for suitable weather to sail from Port Royal. I have now the pleasure to inform you that I am in full possession of Cumberland Island and Sound of Fernandina, and Amelia Island, and of the river and town of St. Mary's. I sailed from Port Royal on the last day of February in the Wabash, and on the 2d instant entered Cumberland Sound by St. Andrew's Inlet, in the Mohican, Commander S. W. Godon, on board of which ship I have hoisted my flag.

The fleet comprised the following vessels, sailing in the order in which they are named:—Ottowa, Mohican, accompanied by Ellen, Seminole, Pawnee, Pocahontas, Flag, Florida, James Adger, Bienville, Alabama, Keystone State, Seneca, Huron, Pembina, Isaac Smith, Penguin, Potomska, armed cutter Henrietta, armed transport McClellan, the latter having on board the battalion of marines under the command of Major Reynolds, and the transport Empire City, Marcon, Star of the South, Belvidere, Boston, George's Creek, containing a brigade under the command of Brigadier General Wright.

We came to anchor in Cumberland Sound at half-past ten on the morning of the 2d, to make an examination of channel and wait for the tide. Here I learned from a contraband, who had been picked up at sea by Commander Lainer, and from the neighboring residents on Cumberland Island, that the rebels had abandoned in haste the whole of the defences of Fernandina, and were even at that moment retreating from Amelia Island, carrying with them such of their munitions as their precipitate flight would allow.

The object of conveying the whole fleet through Cumberland Sound was to turn the heavy works on the south end of Cumberland and the north end of Amelia Islands, but on receiving this intelligence I directed the gunboats and armed steamers of light draught from the main line, and placing them under the command of Commander P. Drayton, of the steam sloop Pawnee, I ordered him to push through the Sound with the utmost speed to save public and private property from threatened destruction, to prevent poisoning the well and to put a stop to all those outrages by the perpetration of which the leaders of this nefarious war hope to deceive and exasperate the Southern people.

In the meantime I went out of the Sound and came by sea to the main entrance of this harbor.—In consequence of bad weather I was unable to cross the bar till this morning. Commander Drayton, accompanied by Commander C. R. P. Rodgers with the armed launches and cutters and the small-armed companies from the Wabash, had arrived several hours before me.

Immediately on his entering the harbor Commander Drayton sent Lieut. White, of the Ottawa, to hoist the flag on Fort Clinch, the first of the National forts on which the ensign of the Union has resumed its proper place since the first proclamation of the President of the United States was issued.

A few scattering musket shots were fired from the town by the flying enemy, when it was discovered that a railroad train was about to start. Commander Drayton, on board the Ottowa, Lieut. Commanding Stevens, chased this train two miles, and fired several shells at it, aiming at the locomotive, some of which took effect. It was reported that the Hon. David Yulee, late Senator of the United States from the State of Florida, escaped from this train and took to the bush. Commander C. R. P. Rodgers, pushing ahead with the launches, captured the rebel steamer Darlington, containing military stores, army wagons, mules, forage, &c., and fortunately secured the drawbridge, which was held during the night by the second launch of the Wabash.

There were passengers, women and children, in the Darlington, and the brutal Captain suffered her to be fired upon and refused to hoist a white flag, notwithstanding the entreaties of the women. No one was injured. I send the Captain of the steamer home a prisoner. His name is Jacob Brock. He is a native of Vermont, but has been a resident of Florida for twenty three years.

The same night Commander C. R. P. Rodgers ascended the St. Mary's with the Ottowa and took possession of the town, driving out a picket of the enemy's cavalry.

Early in the morning the town of Fernandina was also occupied by a party of seamen and marines from Commander Drayton's command. In both places most of the inhabitants had fled, by order, it is said, of the rebel authorities. A company of seamen and marines, under Lieutenant Miller, was sent from the Mohican to hold Fort Clinch. It is reported to me by Lieutenant-Commanding Downes, of the Huron, that the whole structure of the railroad on the Fernandina side, including the swinging drawbridge, is quite uninjured. The rebels have done some damage, by fire, to the tresselwork on the other side of the river, but I am not yet informed of its extent. Several locomotives, baggage cars, tenders, freight cars, and some other property besides that found in the steamer Darlington, have been recovered.

The whole number of guns discovered up to this time is thirteen, embracing heavy 32-pounders, 8-inch guns, and one 80 and one 120-pounder rifled guns.

The towns of St. Mary's and Fernandina are uninjured.

I visited the town, Fort Clinch and the earth works on the sea face of the island. It is impossible to look at these preparations for a vigorous defence without being surprised that they should have been voluntarily deserted. The batteries on the north and northeast shores are as complete as art can make them. Six are well concealed and protected by ranges of sand hills in front, containing a perfect shelter for the men, and are so small and thoroughly covered by the natural growth and by the varied contours of the land, that to strike them from the water would be the mere result of chance.

A battery of six guns, though larger, and affording therefore a better mark, is equally well sheltered and masked. These batteries and the heavy guns mounted on Fort Clinch command all the turnings of the main ship channel, and rake an approaching enemy. Besides these, there was another battery of four guns on the south side of Cumberland Island, the fire of which would cross the channel inside of the bar. The difficulties arising—the indirectness of the channel, and from the shoalness of the bar—would have added to the defences, by keeping the approaching vessels a long time exposed to fire, under great disadvantage; and when the ships of an enemy had passed all these defences, they would have to encounter a well-constructed and naturally masked battery at the town which commands the access to the inner anchorage.

We are told that General Lee pronounced the place perfectly defensible. We are not surprised at this, if the information is true. We captured Port Royal, but Fernandina and Fort Clinch have been given to us.

We had in the expedition Mr. W. H. Dennis, an assistant in the Coast Survey, who possessed accurate local knowledge of a part of the ground passed over, of which, indeed he had made the topographical map under the directions of the superintendent. He was zealous and active, and it gives me pleasure to mention him.

The Empire City, on board of which was Gen. Wright, grounded on the bar. As soon as he arrived in another steamer, immediate steps were taken to transfer to him the forts and all authority and possession on the land.

I desire to speak here of the harmonious counsels and cordial co-operation which I have marked throughout my intercourse with this able officer. Our plans of action have been matured by mutual consultation and have been carried into execution by mutual help.

I take great pleasure in reminding the Department that one principal and ultimate object of the naval expedition, which I have the honor to command, was in its first conception to take and keep under control the whole line of the sea coast of Georgia, knowing, to use the language of the original paper: "That the naval power that controls the sea coast of Georgia, controls the State of Georgia."

The report that the fortifications at St. Simons, armed with heavy columbiads, had been abandoned, which first reached me at Port Royal, is confirmed. This being the case, the entire sea coast of Georgia is now either actually in my possession or under my control, and thus the views of the Government have been accomplished.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
(Signed) S. F. DUPONT,
Flag Officer Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

To the Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Lieutenant Gwin's Late Visit to the Tennessee River.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Lieutenant Gwin, in command of the United States gunboat Taylor, writes to Flag Officer Foote, from Cairo, Illinois, under date of March 5th, which is forwarded to the Navy Department by that officer, that he has just returned from up the Tennessee, having left Pittsburg, the place of the late engagement, on the night of the 4th instant. He reports that the enemy had not renewed his attempt to fortify; he also states that on the morning after the engagement (Sunday) nine dead bodies and one hundred wounded, many of them mortally, were found in their camp, which had been removed on the evening of the engagement three miles back from the river, to some tents, where they were carrying badly wounded men, they would not allow any one to visit. Lieutenant Gwin says that the loss of the rebels can safely be put down at twenty killed and one hundred wounded, and that their force on that day was one thousand infantry from Louisiana, and five hundred cavalry from Mississippi. Besides a battery of field pieces, two guns, (32-pounders), were on the ground but not mounted.

Lieutenant Gwin states that the recent elections in Hardin and McNary counties, South Tennessee, will prove that the Union sentiment is very strong throughout the State. The former gave five hundred majority for the Union candidate out of a poll of one thousand votes. The latter gave two hundred Union majority out of a poll of eighteen hundred votes. He also stated that their constant cry is, "give us arms and send a sufficient force to protect us in organizing, and we will drive the Secessionists out of Tennessee ourselves."

Tennessee for the Unionists alone! A few more men in

The Abandonment of the Rebel Batteries on the Lower Potomac.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Lieutenant Wise, commanding the Potomac flotilla, in his official report to the Navy Department, confirms the rumor of the abandonment of the Rebel batteries at Cockpit, Shipping, and other points along the line of the Potomac, and also the burning of the steamer George Page and other Rebel craft.

Despatches from Flag-Officer Goldsborough.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Despatches from Flag-Officer Goldsborough, received at the Navy Department to-day, include the report of Commander Roane, commanding the steamer Delaware, who furnishes an interesting account of his reconnoissance. On the 16th ult., he moved his forces and reaching Winton was in the act of letting go the anchor when suddenly a force of North Carolina volunteers opened a terrific fire of musketry and artillery on his vessel. Volley succeeded volley in rapid succession, striking her one hundred and twenty-five times with musketry ball. The enemy's artillery overshot her.

Fire was opened upon the rebels from the ship's shell-gun. The Perry being in position promptly threw a shrapnel among the forces, which was followed by the ship as soon as Captain Quackenbush could extricate her from her position and turn the ship in the narrow river. Commander Roane ran down past the enemy and anchored his force about seven miles below Winton. Our troops subsequently entered the town and destroyed a quantity of military stores, tents, arms, knapsacks, etc., and the quarters occupied by the troops of the enemy.

The official report of the casualties in the Navy, on the taking of Roanoke Island, gives 6 killed, 17 wounded, 2 missing. Lieut. J. C. Chapin, commanding United States steamer Valley City, off Roanoke Island, writes to Commodore Goldsborough, under date of February 25, noticing a magnanimous act of bravery displayed by John Davis, Gunner's Mate, on board his vessel, at the taking of Elizabeth City.

He says John Davis did, while at his station during action, in the magazine issuing powder, when a shell from the enemy's battery penetrated into the magazine and exploded outside of it, throw himself over a barrel of powder, protecting it with his own body from the fire, while at the same time passing out powder for the guns.

Commodore Goldsborough, in transmitting this letter to the Navy Department, says:—It affords me infinite pleasure to forward this communication to the Navy Department, to whose especial consideration I beg leave to recommend the gallant and noble sailor alluded to, and adds, in a postscript:—"Davis actually seated himself on the barrel, the top being out, and in this position he remained until the flames were extinguished."

FROM MISSOURI.

A Battle Supposed to be Going on at New Madrid.

CAIRO, March 10.—A despatch from Gen. Pope's column says his forces have reached New Madrid. Heavy cannonading has been heard in that direction. The enemy are said to be in strong force there.

The total number of torpedoes found in the river thus far is four hundred.

Exciting news from New Madrid is expected hourly.

Large gangs of negroes have been working in Forts Randolph and Pillow, on the Mississippi river. The former mounts 100 guns.

A GREAT BATTLE IN THE SOUTH WEST. The Combined Rebel Army of Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh Totally Routed—Great Slaughter on Both Sides—Guns, Flags, Provisions, etc., Captured.

ST. LOUIS, March 10.—The following is an official despatch to Gen. McClellan:

The army of the Southwest, under Gen. Curtis, after three days' hard fighting, has gained a most glorious victory over the combined forces of Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh.

Our loss is estimated at one thousand killed and wounded. That of the enemy is still larger.

Guns, provisions, &c., have been captured in large quantities.

Our cavalry are in pursuit of the flying enemy.

[Signed] H. W. HALLECK,
Major General.

THE LATEST FROM VIRGINIA. The Rebels Falling Back—Evacuation of Centreville, Winchester and other Important Points.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—There is no longer any doubt that the Rebels have evacuated Centreville, Winchester and other important points, indicating a general falling back of their forces.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 10.—It is currently rumored here, and believed, that Winchester was fully evacuated yesterday. A reconnoissance was sent out this morning to ascertain the facts. Intelligence from other quarters greatly encourages all the friends of the Union to look for a speedy crippling of the rebellion.

Later.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 10, P. M.—It is now ascertained, beyond doubt, that Winchester has been evacuated by the Rebels. Prominent places between this and Winchester are now occupied by our troops.

THE LATEST FROM MEMPHIS.

LOUISVILLE, March 10.—An intelligent gentleman from Memphis, on Wednesday, reports that the citizens there were greatly alarmed at the aspect of affairs, but were relying on Fort Pillow, near Fort Randolph, for the defence of the city. Very few troops were at Memphis.

The Legislature had scattered after several ineffectual attempts to transact business.

Governor Harris was greatly excited, and was flying about from one Southern point of the State to another, with but little prospect of succeeding in his efforts to rally the people to his aid.

The Latest from Fort Craig, New Mexico.

KANSAS CITY, March 10.—A letter from Santa Fe, dated February 24th, from a reliable source, makes no mention of the reported battle at Valverde. On the 16th, the enemy appeared within a mile and a half of Fort Craig, showing a front of 1,500 Cavalry, with 500 men in reserve and six pieces of artillery. Several shots were fired and the enemy retired in good order.

An express arrived in the evening of the 23d, in 24 hours from Fort Craig, bringing a letter from Governor Connolly, which stated that fighting was going on. The enemy was moving towards Valverde, where two thousand of our men were stationed. No reliance is placed in the report received via Denver City, several days since.

A Brisk Skirmish in Tennessee.

LOUISVILLE, March 10.—On Friday night last a squad of cavalry under the rebel Col. John Morgan, attacked the Federal pickets fifteen miles south of Nashville, taking two prisoners and six Government wagons. A party of Ohio cavalry went out in pursuit on Saturday, attacked the rebels, killing four and capturing eight, also recovering six wagons. They are now in hot pursuit of Morgan's gang, and are confident of catching them.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CRIMINAL COURT—JUDGE BOND.

John Carson, Esq., prosecuting for the State.

The Court was partially engaged with the following business:

Solomon Rozefield, indicted for the larceny of $27, the property of Samuel Kenney, private in the 17th Massachusetts regiment, was tried and found "not guilty."

In the case of Elizabeth Hoffnyder, some time since convicted of larceny, a new trial was granted and a plea of "not guilty" entered by the Court. The Court then adjourned till Thursday next.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

State of Maryland vs. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Before reported. Jury out. Assignment No. 927 to 994 inclusive.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH.—The Branch met at 5 o'clock.—Present WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President, *pro tem.*, and all the members.

Mr. LAMDEN presented the petition of W. Abraham for permission to erect a frame bathing-house on the corner of Broadway and Lombard street. Referred to the Committee on the Fire Department.

The petition and claim of John W. Maxwell & Co. for $440.91 was referred to the Committee on Claims.

The CHAIR presented a communication from the City Commissioner, stating that the cost of grading the remainder of the Ferry Bar road would be about $200, which was referred to the Committee on Highways.

The resolution referring the petition of James W. Isaac, for the return of taxes paid in error, to the Appeal Tax Court, was adopted.

The resolution adverse to the petition of Dorothy Gist was adopted.

The ordinance requiring gutters and down-spouts to be placed on awnings was passed.

Mr. BARNO offered a resolution requesting the City Commissioners to inform the Branch how many persons are employed in the city yards, and whether such persons are from the different wards of the city; which was adopted.

The resolution to authorize Mr. Westerman to sink a well, &c., was adopted.

Mr. DUKEART offered a resolution authorizing the Comptroller to obtain certified copies of the acts of Assembly lately passed relating to the city of Baltimore.

Also, a resolution that the City Commissioners be authorized to have the bricks, sheed and stone moved from the corner of Fayette and North streets to the lot adjoining; which was referred to the Committee on Highways.

The Branch adjourned until Tuesday, at five o'clock.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met. CHAS. J. BAKER Esq., Predent, in the chair, and all the members present.

A comrttee from the First Branch appeared and invite the members of this Branch into Convention. The invitation was accepted, and after an absence of a few minutes the members returned. Adjoned.

NEWSPER STATISTICS OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The *Newspar Directory* for 1862 gives the following statistic

"The are now published in the United Kingdom 135 newspapers, distributed as follows:—England 845; Wales, 33; Scotland, 139; Ireland, 134, Bish Isles, 14. Of these there are 43 daily papers published in England, 1 in Wales, 9 in Scotlnd, 16 in Ireland, and 2 in the British Isles. On rerence to previous issues of the working facts, *Directy*, we find the following viz: tat in 1821 there were published in the United Kingdm 267 journals; in 1831, 295; in 1841, 472; and coulated in 1862 there are now established ordinary impulse has been showing that an extraordinary impulse has been showing that an extraordinary impulse has been shown in the every description of newspaper enterprise. The in course of publication, including the 135 now revews, number 516, of which no less than 213 are of decidedly religious character. Among these the Church of England has its special organs, and the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Baptists, Independents, and other Christian communities, are fuly represented in this branch of literature."

NANA SAHIB.—Absurd stories regarding the apprehension of Nana Sahib, at Kurrachee, which have been for some time current in India, must have reached England. The Nana is alive, and believed by government to be at this moment somewhere on the Nepaulese or Thibetan frontier. All the papers referring to him are with the Secretary of State for India. Even when he dies it will be long till the natives are convinced of the fact.—For some years we may expect a Nana from time to time to turn up in half a dozen places at once.—But this uncertainty is not favorable to political quiet.—*Calcutta Correspondent of the Times.*

The Canada papers have worked themselves into another big fright over a report that our Government is building at Ogdensburg, in New York, and at other points on the St. Lawrence river, twelve or fourteen gunboats for lake service.

Richard Oilphant, the oldest printer in the State of New York, and one of our most esteemed citizens, fell dead in the street, at Oswego, Saturday afternoon. His death cast a gloom over the entire city.

Capt. Wilson, formerly of the Minnie Schiffer, who rescued the passengers of the steamer Connaught, and afterward turned Confederate, has been taken prisoner in attempting to run the blockade, and is at Key West.

The Toronto (Canada) *Leader* (secession) says that "the Hercules of the War Department has handcuffed the American press and plucked the life out of it." It recommends the papers to revolt.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

PARTICULARS OF THE ATTACK OF THE CONFEDERATE IRON-CLAD STEAMER MERRIMAC ON THE FLEET.

TERRIBLE BATTLE—SEVERE LOSS OF LIFE.

CAPTURE OF THE SLOOP-OF-WAR CONGRESS—SHE IS BURNT TO THE WATER'S EDGE.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION OF HER MAGAZINE.

ONE OF THE CONFEDERATE STEAMERS DISABLED.

THE MINNESOTA GOES TO THE ATTACK BUT GETS AGROUND.

OPPORTUNE ARRIVAL OF THE MONITOR.

NO DAMAGE TO THE MONITOR.

SHELLING OF NEWPORT NEWS.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

MONTRESS MONROE, March 9, P. M.—The long-expected and talked-of Rebel steamer Merrimac has at length made her appearance in these waters. Yesterday afternoon, with the assistance of two wooden gunboats which came out with her from Norfolk, and the Jamestown and Yorktown, which came down the James river, she made an attack upon Newport-News and the naval vessels stationed at that place.

The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fortress Monroe, on her way to Newport News, at about a quarter to 1 o'clock. Two gunboats followed, all carrying the Confederate flag at their stern. The gunboats had a French flag at their mast-head by way, as is supposed, of complimenting the French men-of-war in the Roads.

The Merrimac had a flag at her bows, which was thought by some to be a Commander's blue flag, and by others it was set down to be a black flag, but most likely the first opinion was correct. She appeared to be very low in the water. Her sides, bow and stern were covered with a sloping iron roof, extending about two feet below the water line, and meeting above like the roof of a house. At her bows, on the water line, were two sharp iron points, about six or seven feet apart. Her number of guns has been stated at twelve, but she might not have had so many. At her bow two guns were seen projecting from a long, elliptical port hole.

The precise design of the enemy did not become apparent until between one and two o'clock, and by that time the Minnesota had got under way for the scene of action.

The Roanoke (flagship), having been disabled by the breaking of her shaft some time since, was taken up in tow by the tugboats Dragon and Young America.

At about the same time the alarm signal-gun of the Fortress was fired, and the whole garrison promptly turned out under arms, eager for the anticipated fight.

The Tenth regiment of New York Volunteers were drawn up and briefly addressed by Colonel Benedix, and all testified the greatest delight at the prospect of getting into action. After being under order for some time the garrison was dismissed until they should be wanted.

The Rebel boats steadily pursued their way to Newport-News, and the Merrimac soon turned the point and was lost to the view of the eager spectators at the fortress.

The first shot was fired from the frigate Cumberland at a little past two o'clock. The Sewall's Point battery then opened upon the Minnesota, which was passing up, and the Sawyer gun from the Rip Raps replied with a few shots at the Sewall's Point Rebels.

A thick cloud of smoke was soon seen to arise above and hang over Newport-News, indicating that our batteries there, as well as the sloop-of-war Cumberland and the frigate Congress, were engaging the enemy.

The progress of the action could not be seen from the fortress, but the telegraphic line thither kept Gen. Wool advised of the progress of events.

A despatch was after a time received announcing that the Cumberland and Merrimac were in close quarters. As the latter approached the Cumberland she did not pay any attention to the Congress, but after firing two guns struck the Cumberland with her sharp bows, making a jagged hole in her side, at the water line, about seven feet in extent. The Cumberland immediately commenced to sink, when the Merrimac, backing a short distance, ran into her a second time, making another terrible hole, which admitted the water at a furious rate.—She continued firing, however, her brave crew her port-holes. Soon after the water began to enter her port-holes. Soon after the water began to enter her port-holes, and finding herself about to sink, with her colors still flying, she struck her battery, and the guns of the Cumberland fired continually upon the Merrimac, but no apparent effect was produced.

The Minnesota unfortunately got aground on the way up and could offer but little assistance.

Shortly before three o'clock the Jamestown and Yorktown arrived from up the James river, but the latter was disabled by the Cumberland shortly after her arrival, and had to put in shore for repairs.

After sinking the Cumberland the Merrimac turned her attention to the Congress, and in less than an hour afterwards a white flag was hoisted on board the latter. A Rebel gunboat immediately went alongside and the officers and marines being taken prisoners, the seamen were allowed to escape to the shore.

The United States frigate St. Lawrence arrived here during the afternoon, and without dropping anchor proceeded up the river. She followed the example of the Minnesota and Roanoke in firing upon Sewall's Point, but, like theirs, her shot fell short.

The gunboat Mystic was also towed up in the afternoon. At sundown the Roanoke, St. Lawrence and Mystic all returned.

After 4 o'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shell into the camp at Newport-News, while the Jamestown and other Rebel gunboats commenced firing upon the Minnesota. The latter replied as vigorously as possible, and the conflict was continued without any apparent effect until dark.

During the evening the frigate Congress was set on fire and made a brilliant spectacle. At midnight she blew up with a tremendous explosion.

During Saturday evening the Monitor (Ericsson Battery) arrived very opportunely, and at once proceeded up the river, although not prepared for immediate action, having just arrived from her first sea trip. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. Both sides seemed to be willing to wait for daylight.

Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent to