MARYLAND LEGISLATURE——REGULAR SESSION

SENATE.

ANNAPOLIS, March 10.—The Senate met at ten o'clock and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH submitted the report of the Committee on Printing.

Mr. BLACKISTON, from a select committee, reported unfavorably on the bill relating to Justices of the Peace and Constables in Kent county, and the bill was rejected.

The bill relating to the taking of oysters in Calvert county was read a third time and rejected.

The bill incorporating the North Branch Railroad Company was read a third time and rejected.

The bill authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to levy an additional license tax on liquor dealers was read a third time and rejected.

The bill to pay the claims of C. Reeder and others was read a third time and passed.

The bill to compensate Milton Whitney for legal services was read a third time and passed.

The bill amending the wild fowl law was read a third time and 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 exempted, was read a third time and passed.

The Stay law bill was received from the House, and after an ineffectual motion to refer it to a select committee, the rules were suspended, and the bill read a second and third time.

After a little discussion the vote was then taken and the bill was passed.

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough of Talbot, Bayne, Billingsley, Briscoe, Everett, Harrison, Heckert, Jenkins, Lynch, Sellman, Townsend, Waters, Watkins and Whitaker—14.

Nays—Messrs. Blackiston, Denison, Eichelberger, Fiery, Goldsborough of Dorchester, Lankford, Smith and Willis—8.

The bill empowering the Governor to employ a Private Secretary and Messenger was read three times under a suspension of the rules and passed.

The bill to compensate Randall and Hagner and William Price was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to sentences of absconding slaves was read a third time and passed.

The bill repealing an act making valid the qualification of Tench Tilghman, Major General of the Second Division Maryland Militia, was read a third time and passed.

The Senate was still in session when our report closed.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at ten o'clock, was called to order by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. DAVENPORT. The rolled was called and the proceedings of Saturday read and approved.

Mr. SMITH, from the Joint Committee on Printing, submitted the report of the committee, which was read and adopted.

A message was received from the Senate declining to recede from their amendment to the bill relating to specie payments by the banks. The House then concurred in the amendment, and the bill as amended was passed.

The bill prohibiting clerks of Courts and registers of wills from practising in the Courts, was recalled from the Senate, with an amendment, which was adopted.

Mr. JOHNSON, from a special committee, reported the bill relating to the town of Easton, in Talbot county.

Mr. WARNER, from a special committee, reported the Senate bill to protect J. R. Kenly and Geo. R. Dodge, Provost Marshals of Baltimore, and the police force, from prosecution for acts committed in the discharge of their duties.

The bill for the purchase of Fort Frederick was read a third time and rejected. Yeas 26, nays 30.

Mr. DUVALL, from a special committee, reported a bill empowering the Commissioners of Prince George's county to levy and appropriate a sum of money to witnesses for the defence.

Mr. PRICE, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to refund a sum of money to Rebecca T. Neal.

The bill relating to the shooting of wild fowl on the Choptank river was taken up, read a third time and rejected.

The bill empowering the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to extend the water works was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the punishment of nuisances in Baltimore city was read a third time and passed.

The bill to provide for the custody and preservation of Washington Monument, in Baltimore, was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to horses and carriages kept at [illegible] in Baltimore was read a third time and passed.

The bill to compensate William Sigatoose, Sheriff of Carroll county, for services rendered by order of the Governor, was read a third time and passed.

The bill regulating the sale of articles made at Frederick by Edward M. Shipley, State Librarian, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to define the boundary line between Montgomery and Prince George's counties was read a third time and passed.

The bill regulating the terms of the Circuit Courts of Allegany and Washington counties was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the laying out of a new school district in Prince George's county was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the sale of real estate by executors was read a third time and passed.

The bill amending the act incorporating the Curtis Creek Wharf and Railroad Company was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to officers whose fees amount to over three thousand dollars per annum was laid on the table.

The bill allowing Calvin W. Simmons, late Collector, further time to complete his collections was read a third time and passed.

The bill allowing William Ireland, late Collector, further time to complete his collections was read a third time and passed.

The bill to refund Benjamin Fawcett, former Collector of Taxes, a sum of money erroneously paid into the treasury, was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the inspection of guano was taken up, and after some discussion was laid over informally.

The bill amending the local laws of Prince George's county, relating to negroes and slaves, was read a third time and rejected.

The bill to incorporate the Union Gas Light Company of Baltimore city was read a third time and passed.

The bill amending the local laws respecting the inspection of guano was again taken up, read a third time and passed.

The bill to protect persons and property passing over the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike road, by punishing the officers of the road for neglecting to keep the road in repair, was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Commissioners of Emmittsburg to levy an additional tax to make a road was read a third time and passed.

The bill relating to the charges by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for freight was indefinitely postponed.

The bill relating to the catching and taking of oysters was taken up, read a third time and discussed by Messrs. TURNER, DOUGHERTY and CARROLL and rejected. Yeas 27, nays 18; but the vote was reconsidered.

[This bill provides that where a creek or stream separates two counties, the citizens of each county can take oysters in common therefrom.]

The House then adjourned.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS——FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Among several petitions presented was one from citizens of New York, praying that the *Caucasian* and other Democratic papers be allowed to circulate through the mails the same as Republican and abolition papers.

Also, from citizens of California, for provision for the carrying of the mails by steamers via the Isthmus route, and also for an overland route via New Mexico.

Also, a petition from German citizens of Michigan, praying Congress to allow no restriction of the freedom of the press.

Also, one from citizens of New Jersey, for the abolition of slavery throughout the country.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the bill for the indemnification of the owners of a Spanish bark seized by a steamer of the blockading squadron *en route* from Havana to New York.

Mr. SUMNER also reported from the same committee the House bill to fulfil treaty stipulations with Hanover, of the 6th November, 1861. It appropriates $14,000 therefor, and was passed.

Mr. COLLAMER, from the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads, reported the bill for carrying mails to foreign ports, with amendments.

[This is in accordance with the petitions for mails to the Western coast of South America and California.]

Mr. LANE, of Indiana, from the Military Committee, reported back a House bill to allow the troops employed in Missouri their pay and bounty, and to give pensions to the wounded and the heirs of the killed, with amendments.

Mr. CARLILE, of Virginia, moved to amend by including troops in Western Virginia, so as to provide for some 500 men captured at Wyandotte by the rebels, some of whom were from Ohio, and are now at Richmond.

Mr. LANE objected, as the Virginia case had not undergone the scrutiny of the committee.

Mr. POMEROY, of Kansas, said there were troops in his State similarly situated with those in Missouri, and he did not see why the latter should thus be singled out.

After further discussion the subject was laid aside, and Mr. KING, of New York, endeavored to get up the bill for the re-organization of the cavalry forces, desiring to postpone all prior orders therefor.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, submitted a resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Com. Foote, and the officers and men under his command, for their splendid victories on the Western waters.

Mr. KING objected.

Mr. GRIMES said he hoped it would be recorded that the gentleman from New York had resisted this tribute to gallant men.

Mr. KING presumed it was the duty of the clerk to make the record.

Mr. GRIMES submitted a resolution that in the opinion of the Senate no person shall be commissioned as Generals of divisions or brigades except such as shall exhibit superior competency in the handling of men and gallantry in action. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The CHAIR stated that the resolution submitted by Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, on Tuesday last, and to which Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, objected, for compensating slave-owners in Delaware and Maryland, if those States adopt emancipation, was now in order.

Mr. SAULSBURY hoping that it would not be called up except when he were present—

Mr. W. promised that it should not be.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, called up the bill to encourage enlistments in the regular army, upon which had been engrafted the bill for the re-organization of the cavalry. Various amendments were proposed and discussed, and finally one proposed by Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, reducing the number of cavalry regiments from fifty, as proposed by the House, to thirty of 1,200 men each, was adopted; also another, proposed by Mr. Chandler, of Michigan, striking out the first section of the bill which authorized enlistments from the volunteer forces for the regular service and giving twenty-five dollars bounty to such, to be deducted from the $100 to be paid to soldiers at the end of the war. It was urged that the section would tend to disorganize the volunteer force, by allowing regular officers to go among them and induce the soldiers to leave.

The bill as amended was passed.

The Confiscation bill, as the special order, was then taken up. Mr. BROWNING, of Illinois, having the floor, spoke at length against the bill as it stood; denying its constitutionality, though declaring that slavery must give way to the preservation of the Union, if indispensably necessary.

Mr. B. having concluded, Mr. CARLILE got the floor, and the subject was postponed until 2 o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. KING, of New York, now called up the resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Com. A. H. Foote, and officers and men, for their victories in the West, and it was referred to the Naval Committee.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, the bill from the House making an additional article of war, was taken up. The bill prohibits any officer from employing the forces under his command for the return of fugitive slaves, imposing the penalty of dismissal, &c., for so doing.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, moved to amend by adding that the officers shall neither harbor, detain nor conceal any slave. Rejected by yeas 10, nays 29.

Mr. SAULSBURY moved to amend by declaring that the article shall not apply in Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky or Missouri, or wherever the Federal authority shall be recognized. Rejected—yeas 7, nays 30.

Mr. CARLILE said that under the proclamation of April last the President called for troops to aid in the execution of the laws. The fugitive slave law is one of our statutes, and he wanted to know—should this bill pass—whether it would interfere with the President in the discharge of his duty?

Mr WILSON, of Massachusetts, said the delivering up of fugitive slaves was a matter of the civil law, to go through the courts, and therefore this act did not interfere.

Mr. McDOUGAL, of California, moved to strike out the last section, declaring that the act shall take effect from and after its passage, and opposed the bill.

Mr. CARLILE urged that the bill would prevent Brigadier General Andrew Johnson, who was just now going into Tennessee to set up a Provisional Government, from returning a fugitive to a loyal citizen.

Mr. McDougal's amendment was rejected.

Mr. SAULSBURY moved to amend by adding to the prohibition for which commands should not be used, "or for the purpose of enticing persons held to service or labor from the service of their loyal masters."

This was also rejected, and the bill then passed. Yeas 29, nays 9.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion, Mr. KALEBY, of the 1st Congressional district of the State of Kentucky, was sworn in.

The SPEAKER stated that the special order for to-day was the consideration of the Senate bill authorizing the appointment of sutlers in the volunteer service, and defining their duties.

The principal amendment offered by the Committee on Military Affairs to the bill, is to give the sutler a lien on the soldier's pay, which passed.

Mr. BLAKE, of Ohio, offered a substitute for the bill, that the sutlership be abolished from and after the first day of May next. Lost.

The bill then passed.

Mr. R. CONKLING, of New York, offered the following:

RESOLVED, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public or private, produced by such change of system.

Mr. WOOD, of New York, objected.

Mr. CONKLING moved to suspend the rules to enable him to offer the resolution.

The rules of the House were then suspended by a vote of—yeas 86, nays 38.

Mr. CONKLING demanded the previous question.

Mr. RIDDLE, of Kentucky, said he had had the resolution under consideration, and had come to no conclusion whether he should adopt it or reject it. He saw no necessity for the re-introduction of the resolution this morning.

Mr. MALLORY, of Kentucky, desired a postponement of this question, because his delegation were now in consultation as to what course they should pursue.

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, was struck with surprise at the re-introduction of this resolution and gravest questions, that ought to be a subject entire of the American Congress. He moved to postpone the consideration until Monday next.

Mr. BINGHAM, of Ohio, thought it was necessary to have immediate action on this subject.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, desired to inquire of the gentleman in what clause of the Constitution of the United States he would find power to appropriate money out of the Treasury to buy negroes, in order to set them free?

Mr. BINGHAM said that question had been settled long ago.

Mr. VOORHEES, of Indiana, was in favor of immediate action. If the people of Indiana, whom he represented, were to be subjected to an additional taxation for the purpose of buying slaves, it is time they knew it.

Mr. WADSWORTH, of Kentucky, said, while he should vote for the postponement of the question, he would now, and once for all, say that he was not in favor of the resolution; and he would not lend his support to any such doctrine for the purpose of abolishing slavery in the State of Kentucky.

Mr. CRISFIELD, of Maryland, thought it was due to the subject to receive at his hands the calmest and most careful consideration of which he was capable. He trusted that gentlemen upon this floor, who had less interest in this subject than he had, would allow a postponement, in order that it might be fully considered.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, was in favor of the postponement. He thought it very unfortunate to present the resolution and urge the previous question at this time.

Mr. THOMAS, of Massachusetts, advocated a postponement. He thought that all gentlemen interested should give it the fullest and most careful consideration. He was not in favor of the doctrine advanced by the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Conkling,) namely, to vote and then deliberate, decide and discuss.

Mr. R. CONKLING, of New York, briefly stated that in his judgment no gentleman had presented any good reason why this subject should be postponed.

Pending the question to postpone—

Mr. STEVENS moved that the House adjourn, which motion was agreed to.

FROM THE SOUTH.

A Southern Review of the Situation of Affairs.

From the Richmond Examiner, March 7.

That misfortunes are often blessings in disguise is a proverb of many languages. Those lately suffered by the Southern Confederacy, in one essential point, certainly illustrate its truth. At the end of this war we may look back on Fishing Creek, Drainesville, Roanoke, Henry and Donelson as the true causes of our salvation.

Had not the Northern army made these general movements in midwinter, the people and the government would have lounged through the spring as they did through the winter and autumn, and the opening of the true campaign would have found us with half an army. Had not the impatience of the Northern people and the pressure of the European cabinets forced the hand of McClellan, and had he been able to assemble and arrange his troops and stores in the position he desired, without a conflict to arouse the attention of the Southern people to what was going on, our condition in April and May would have been tenfold more dangerous than it now is. The disasters we have suffered are mortifying to us and exhilarate our enemies; but they have startled without crippling the Confederacy. Had it lain still two months more, with the army dwindling daily under the furlough system, disgusted with the inaction of stationary camps, while the government was squabbling with the generals, and the people sinking into indifference, we would have been overrun between the 15th of April and the 1st of May. Fortunately for us, the Northern Government was unable to wait. Fortunately, its first movements secured success on the frontiers, while the season incapacitated their armies from attaining great results in consequence of these victories. The facts that have put the United States beside themselves with frantic joy have had an effect equally powerful, though of a different description, on the people of the Confederacy. Never has a resurrection been more complete. Every man, in and out of place, was satisfied by these events that he must take part in the common defence, if he desired to escape ruin. The army is no longer diminished by furloughs. Its ranks are rapidly filling. The volunteers of twelve months have nearly all re-enlisted, and those who have not done so will be forced to it. New regiments and companies arise like the harvest that Cadmus sowed. Drafts are decreed, without hesitation, by all the States, and the advocate of conscription no longer preaches in the desert. If the Government has the capacity to wield the force of the country, there is at least no longer a doubt but that it will have that force under its command before the Northern troops can make any considerable advance towards the heart of the Southern territory.

Cotton and Tobacco.

From the Day Book, March 6.

A firm, unwavering and unalterable determination on the part of the Government and people of the Confederate States to consign to the devouring element every pound of cotton or tobacco which may be in danger of falling into the hands of the thieving Yankees, is calculated to produce a moral effect upon the world, which at this time can hardly be appreciated. A people resolved to be free, and to maintain their national integrity at all hazards, whether they involve the loss of life or of property, have already struck a blow at the enemy which subsequent disasters can never counteract. No better evidence of the spirit of resistance which animates the hearts of the Southern people in this contest can be afforded than the destruction, when necessary, of those staples, upon which, to a great extent, the prosperity of the most powerful nations of the earth depends. Let the kingdoms of Europe be convinced that even in the improbable event of Southern subjugation by the Lincoln despotism, their commercial and manufacturing interests are to be prostrated, and all hopes of relief to their starving millions, based upon the reconstruction of the American Union, will vanish for ever. No statesman has ever yet imagined that any considerations but those of interest would move the sovereigns of Europe to the recognition of the Confederate States. We have reason to believe that the Lincoln Government has thus far succeeded in inducing the manufacturing countries of Europe to abstain from active interference in American affairs, by promises of an early supply of the raw material. Deluded by false representation of the ability of Federal armies to seize cotton and tobacco, and open Southern ports to the commerce of the world, inefficient and irregular blockades have been unwillingly tolerated by the maritime Powers. The tone of the Northern press indicates the earnest desire of that Government to foster such an impression, and an intense anxiety to realize the expectations thus created. To this end, gigantic and desperate efforts are being made, and the recent disasters to Southern arms have flattered the sanguine Yankees into a minute calculation of the extent of their expected success. But their jubilant shouts will be turned to wails of despair, by the fierce determination of an indomitable people.

By frightful effusion of blood, it is within the range of possibility that some of the ports of the South will be in the temporary possession of the enemy, but not one bale of cotton, or one hogshead of tobacco, will ever leave those ports under Yankee auspices. By a criminal neglect on the part of the planters at Port Royal, a small quantity of cotton was suffered to fall into the hands of the vandals. It is probably the last they will get, for such folly will not be repeated. In future a heap of ashes will mark the scenes of their intended plunder. A few conflagrations of Southern staples in the face of the enemy would be more than equal to as many Confederate victories. The opening of cotton ports will not feed the starving operatives of Great Britain and France. But the burning of cotton and tobacco, which might otherwise fall into the hands of the enemy, may perhaps remind the dynasties of Europe of the true relations in which they stand to the new Republic.

The New Military Governor of Norfolk.

SPECIAL ORDERS—NO. 47.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORFOLK,
NORFOLK, VA., March 5, 1862.

I. Lieut. Colonel Edward Cantwell, Twelfth regiment North Carolina troops, is hereby appointed Civil and Military Governor of the District composed of the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and the surrounding country to the distance of ten miles from said cities.

II. First Lieut. W. A. Parham, Forty-first regiment Virginia Volunteers, is hereby appointed Provost Marshal, and Lieut. H. I. Egan, Third battalion Louisiana Volunteers, Deputy Provost Marshal of the same District.

These officers will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By command of Major General HUGER.

S. S. ANDERSON, Assistant Adjutant General.

Arms for the Southern Confederacy—The Blockade Run.

From the Richmond Enquirer, March 5.

In consequence of the interruption of the mails from New Orleans we have not laid before our readers some late proofs of the entire inefficiency of the Lincoln blockade. Within one week two steamers laden with munitions of war, coffee, merchandise, &c., entered Confederate ports in that vicinity, and four more have passed out.

The steamers which ran in were the Victoria and the Miramon, both from Havana—both ineffectually pursued by the blockaders—each of which brought 25,000 pounds of powder and a number of rifles.

The trip of the Victoria was a very eventful one, as she encountered a severe norther which almost foundered her, damaging her machinery so badly that her final escape seemed almost providential. Escaping this danger, she ran in the track of some Federal cruisers, but, burning hard coal, making no smoke, she managed to elude them, though finally discovered, as after events proved. She sailed on the 7th of February, and on the night of the 12th approached her destination, which was Fort Livingston, below New Orleans. The water being very shoal, and the boat heavily laden, she struck on the bar, about two or three miles distant from the fort. Here she remained until next morning at eight o'clock, when a Yankee armed vessel bore down rapidly upon her, until about one mile distant, where she struck, and commenced firing shot and shell at the Victoria, which diversion she indulged in from eight o'clock A. M. until half past five P. M., firing in all 283 shots from rifled guns, at that short range, only three of which struck.

One shell penetrated a bag of coffee, above the powder stowed in the hold, to within two inches of the kegs, but did not burst. Had it done so, that powder would never have served to entertain the Yankee invaders, as it now will. The passengers and crew took to the boats and escaped to the fort, two miles distant, where they were kindly received by the officers of the fort.

At 6½ P. M. the enemy's boat suddenly retired, but returned at daylight with two others of lighter draught; but during the night, by the use of lighters, the Victoria was taken in with her cargo under the guns of the fort.

The Record was saved from an attack by launches by the action of the officers of the fort, who sent seventy-five men with a forty-two pounder to the beach opposite to prevent it. The gun used was a Revolutionary brass piece, with the thirteen stars upon it.

The Miramon was also chased but not fired upon, escaping in the fog from her pursuer.

We derive this information from Edwin De Leon, Esq., former editor of the *Southern Press*, who came as bearer of despatches from Europe, where he has been actively co-operating with the Commissioners since the commencement of the war, who has thus braved the hazards of the Yankee blockade, accompanied by his wife, [illegible]

Attention Called to Weldon.

From the Richmond Examiner, March 7.

We call upon our authorities to have a strict eye to Weldon. A large steamer left Newport's News yesterday afternoon, loaded with troops, supposed to be destined for Hatteras, to reinforce Burnside. Burnside may make a diversion towards Suffolk, or some other point, but he no doubt designs to march a large force against Weldon, and get possession of that great railroad centre. At all events, it will bear close watching. Should the vandals appear at that point, let us be ready to give them a warm reception.

News From the West and South-West.

Telegrams to the New York Day Book.

NEW ORLEANS, March 3.—A despatch dated Memphis, March 3, says that Jonas Leibbitts, who furnished a Union flag to the Federals at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and pointed out leading secessionists and their property at that place, had been arrested by our troops and brought to Van Buren in irons last Friday.

Late advices from Clarksville state that the week before there was a fight at Boston Mountain.

Latest advices from New Madrid represent the Federal army, twenty thousand strong, within two days' march of that place. There was a skirmishing on Saturday between the advanced guard of the enemy, consisting of one thousand cavalry, and two hundred men under Gen. Thompson.—Thompson was driven in. The Federal loss was twenty-five.

The Confederates are in large force at New Madrid, and expect to whip the Federals when they attack them there.

Captain Morgan captured ninety Federals on Thursday night. The Federal pickets are killed or captured. Federal pickets have now extended their operations to Franklin, twenty miles south of Nashville.

There was a skirmish at Savannah, near Eastport, on Friday. Eighteen Federals from the gunboats were killed, and only four killed on our side.

General Johnston is falling back to a convenient supporting distance from Charleston road.

A battle is expected with the Federals at Boston Mountain every day.

MEMPHIS, March 4.—A report from New Madrid on Saturday states that the Federal army was only thirty miles off, and advancing their guard only five miles. No fight yet.

The Federals at Nashville are conducting themselves with marked propriety. All Confederate soldiers on furlough are being arrested.

A company belonging to Colonel Bath's regiment was arrested on Thursday while crossing the river, making their way home. This company was forty strong.

But few stores are open.

There were two Federal flags flying—one from the Capitol and the other from the Court House.

No arrests have been made of private citizens.

Reinforcements are rapidly coming forward for the defence of the Mississippi Valley.

General Johnston has fallen back to Decatur.

The Tennessee Legislature.

On the 26th ult. this body had not been able to obtain a quorum at Memphis.

General Washington Barrow, of Nashville, a member of the Tennessee Legislature, and a prominent leader in the southern cause, was arrested by the Yankees, at his residence in Edgefield, immediately after their arrival there. We presume he has been forwarded to Fort Lafayette, the Yankee Bastile for political prisoners.

News from Tennessee.

The Memphis *Avalanche*, of the 27th ult., says the Confederate cavalry force, which had been stationed at Paris ever since the Fort Henry affair, left there on the 26th, and it was reported and believed the Federals were advancing upon the town.

The Confederate Army in Tennessee Falling Back.

The army under General A. Sidney Johnston, says the Georgia *Confederacy* of March 4th, is falling back from Murfreesboro', Tennessee, to Decatur, Alabama, as we intimated day before yesterday.—We do not look upon this with any degree of alarm or special concern whatever. It is not because we are unable to hold Murfreesboro', or many other places between there and Decatur, but of choice, and we predict the fruits of this judicious movement will be manifest to every one in due season, when all will acknowledge and approve it. If the enemy will only attempt to follow, it is all we ask.

Destruction of Cotton and Tobacco Crops by the Government.

From the Richmond Examiner, March 7.

Congress passed yesterday a substitute for the original bill offered by Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, to authorize the destruction of cotton, tobacco, and other property, in military emergencies. We have obtained the following copy of the bill as finally passed:

A BILL to Provide for the Destruction of Cotton, Tobacco, and Other Property, when the same shall be about to Fall into the Hands of the Enemy:

Be it enacted by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That it shall be the duty of all military commanders in the services of the Confederate States to destroy all cotton, tobacco, or other property, that may be useful to the enemy, if the same cannot be safely removed, whenever, in their judgment, the said cotton, tobacco, and other property, is about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

The following clause was struck out of the original bill on a motion to amend:

"The owners thereof shall receive just compensation therefor from the Confederate Government, under such laws and regulations as may hereafter be established by Congress."

It will be seen that the question of the compensation of owners of the property destroyed is cut off; but it is understood that it is not positively determined by this special act, and may, of course, be the subject of future legislation.

The amount of cotton liable to destruction, it is said, cannot amount to much more than five per cent. of the entire crop. The great bulk of it is still on the plantations, or at distant villages and depots, far removed from the enemy's armies or gunboats. The same may be said of tobacco.—Removal of the crops is, of course, in all cases, preferable to burning, and at all exposed points arrangements should be set on foot to remove the produce at the first intimation of danger.

Miscellaneous.

The Lynchburg *Virginian* has the following in relation to Parson Brownlow:—

We learn through a gentleman just from Knoxville, Tenn., that Parson Brownlow is still lying very ill at his home, and is not expected to recover. His house is guarded constantly by a detachment of soldiers.

The Columbian Hotel in Richmond was sold last Tuesday for $159,000.

Rev. A. Bosserman, of the Mayo street Universalist Church, in Richmond, has been arrested on a charge of treason.

The Lynchburg *Virginian* is thus indignant:—

Some of the extortioners here have put the article of rye up to $3 a bushel. What next? Poor people will have to abandon the substitute and fall back on coffee.

Among the parties recently arrested in Richmond on a charge of treason, we also notice the name of a Mr. John Bennett, hailing from Norfolk.

The *East Tennessean*, published at Knoxville, Tenn., has been suspended.

The latest advices from Nashville represent that only three Union flags are flying in that city.—The Lincoln soldiers are surprised and chagrined on account of the little sympathy exhibited by the people.

[Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

FIFTH DAY.

Conference met at nine o'clock at Light Street Church, Bishop Janes presiding. Religious services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Hoyt, of the New York Conference.

The minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read and approved.

Mr. Sewall made an explanation in relation to the character of Henry Matthews, colored, a candidate for Deacon's orders, who was rejected on Saturday.

Mr. Ball also made some remarks in reference to him, after which the vote by which he was rejected was reconsidered, and he was closed to Deacon's orders.

The committee appointed to estimate what amount would be necessary for the support of the widows of Bishops Waugh and Emory, submitted a report, which was adopted.

Mr. Monroe made a statement in relation to the debts of the late Baltimore *Christian Advocate*, which, he said, could be paid with $200, excepting his claim for services as agent. He offered to be one of forty persons to contribute $5 each, to be applied to the liquidation of the claims, and suggested call of the roll of the Conference, to ascertain if the amount could be raised.

At the suggestion of Mr. Sewall, the matter was referred to a later hour of the day.

On motion of N. J. B. Morgan, the Conference proceeded to determine the place for holding the next annual session of the Conference. He nominated Georgetown, D. C.

Mr. McCauley nominated Wesley Chapel, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Hirst said that Baltimore City Station had a standing invitation for the meeting of the Conference at Light street.

After the respective claims of the places named had been presented by those persons making the nominations, Georgetown was selected, having received 25 votes, against 11 for Wesley Chapel, Washington.

The examination of the character of effective Elders was then proceeded with, pending which the order of the day—the vote upon the question of Lay Representation in the General Conference—was taken up, and resulted as follows:—For Lay Delegates 22; against Lay Delegates 31.

As the vote on the latter upon this question had not been taken during the past year, in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the General Conference, the Bishop gave it as his opinion that the vote could be taken during the ensuing year; and the Conference decided that the question should be presented to the people, and their vote taken prior to the 1st of November, 1862.

At eleven o'clock, Rev. John Lanahan, by previous appointment, delivered the annual missionary sermon. At its conclusion Rev. Thomas Sewall moved that the vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Lanahan, and a copy of his address requested for publication. Carried.

The call was then resumed for money to liquidate the debts of the Baltimore *Christian Advocate*.

On motion of Mr. Hirst, the East Baltimore Conference was invited to attend Light Street Church, at 3½ o'clock Tuesday afternoon, to hear a sermon from Rev. Dr. Hamilton, upon the life, character and death of Rev. Joshua Wells.

In reply to an inquiry, the Chairman of the Committee of Seven, to which was referred the papers presented on Wednesday last by Messrs. Blake and Morgan, stated that he thought the committee would report this morning.

The Conference then adjourned till this morning at 9 o'clock.

[Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.]

MEETING OF THE EAST BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

FIFTH DAY.

The Conference assembled at nine o'clock. Religious services were conducted by Rev. Henry Slicer.

James A. Coleman was appointed to receive the characters of effective [illegible]

[illegible] Fund.

[illegible] was resumed, and the following, of the Northumberland District, passed: A. E. Gibson, B. Hinkle, G. Warren, J. W. Hedges, A. W. Gibson, J. A. Price, E. Butler, John Floyd, A. W. Hester, B. B. Hamlin, A. W. Crighton, R. E. Wilson, S. I. Bowman, J. W. Haughawout, Thomas Mitchell and J. H. Torrence.

Carlisle District—J. A. Ross, W. A. Snively, N. S. Buckingham, R. W. Block, J. C. Stevens, G. W. Brown, Daniel Hartman, H. S. Mendenhall, Thomas Carr, John Stine, T. F. McClure, J. S. McMurray, S. H. C. Sifflit, J. Morehead, John Anderson, Wm. Earnshaw, Wm. Harden, W. H. Leidig, A. G. Marlott, R. S. Maclay, Thomas Dougherty, E. G. Jamison.

Rev. F. Gearhardt, G. H. Day and W. Howe were granted supernumerary relations.

On the call of the name of Robert D. Chambers, a Professor in Irving Female College, at Carlisle, that gentleman rose and said that it was asserted that he was the author of a certain letter which had appeared in the Carlisle *Herald*, charging that certain ministers in the Church were disloyal. He frankly admitted the authorship, and in the letter had stated that it was his belief that all the members of the Conference were loyal except some one or twelve, and among the latter he mentioned the names of Dr. Slicer and Dr Sargent. In stating that these gentlemen were secessionists, he did not lay the charge himself, but spoke of the fact that rumor placed them in that position.

Mr. Slicer said that the most offensive parts of the letter had not been printed, but suppressed, and as it had been referred to, he now demanded that the letter of "Trebor" should be read.

Dr. Sargent said the contents of the letter had been published through Carlisle, and it had thus affected the public mind. When it was known that he, as one of the Trustees of Dickinson College, was about to visit that place, it was seriously debated by the residents as to whether he should be allowed to get from the cars. He would say that Brother Ross acted fairly in the matter, and was not willing to condemn a man unheard.

Mr. Ross said that he had defended his good brother Sargent, and opposed condemning him without first giving him an opportunity to defend himself; and so long as Dr. Sargent stood by the Union and its flag, he would stand by him, but no longer.

Mr. Chenowith said that he had a letter in his pocket from Dr. Sargent relative to the matter in discussion, and would produce it. He asked that it might be read.

Mr. Slicer opposed the reading of the letter presented by Mr. Chenowith, until the letter of "Trebor" was produced and read. If that letter contained the charges which he understood it did contain, he would brand the author of it as a liar and slanderer.

Mr. Chambers said that if time was granted him he would take the cars, proceed to Carlisle, and secure the letter, if the editor of the *Herald* had preserved it.

Dr. Sargent said that on to-morrow he would produce a letter from the editor of the *Herald* relative to the subject.

Mr. Chambers said he was prepared to meet Mr. Slicer on the Conference floor in defence of the course which he had pursued. He had written the letter, and in it had stated, as a rumor, that those gentlemen were secessionists, and from what had transpired in the proceedings of the Conference, he was now more than satisfied that he was correct.

Rev. John Lloyd said that the Conference had better imitate the action of the Missouri Conference, and afford all an opportunity to take the oath of allegiance.

Mr. Slicer said he entered his protest against the passage of Mr. Chambers as an effective Minister in good standing. If the letter which was written to the editor of the Carlisle *Herald* contained sentiments such as he had a right to believe it did contain, he would prefer charges against him as being a liar and a slanderer.

Mr. Chambers said he was ready for his defence. He referred to the vote on the resolutions of loyalty introduced and passed by the Conference on the first day of its session, and remarked that while Dr. Sargent had placed himself on the record by voting "yea," Mr. Slicer had failed to vote, which satisfied his mind that he was in sympathy with disunion.

Mr. Kinsey said he voted in the negative on the passage of those resolutions, yet he was loyal to the Government. He referred to the fact that he was a native of Virginia, and remarked that it made his heart bleed when that State seceded from the Union.

J. H. Dashiells said it was understood that those who voted "nay" on the passage of the resolutions, did not intend that it should be an evidence of their loyalty or disloyalty. They voted "nay" because the resolutions contained foreign matter not the duty of the Conference nor its province to discuss or act on.

The subject here rested for a while and the examination of effective Ministers was resumed. Dr. Sargent was called on to report for the Baltimore district, and the following members were passed: W. M. Showalter, J. McK. Reily, A. Wilson, D. Shiffler, A. A. Reese, S. Barnes, A. W. Guyer, R. S. Vinson, D. C. John, John Guyer, J. H. C. Dosh, J. McCartney, J. N. Spangler, J. F. Ever, W. H. Keitle, A. Brittain, W. W. Hicks, E. Welty, A. Hartman, A. E. Taylor, John Williams, H. Furlong.

The Bishop here requested Dr. Durbin to make some remarks to the Conference relative to the missionary cause, and the Doctor addressed the Conference for some minutes on the importance of the missionary field, and urged increased efforts on the part of the ministry in securing the means for the successful conduct of the missionary work.

The examination of effective Ministers was resumed, and the Bishop called on Mr. Slicer for the report of the West Baltimore Conference. Mr. Slicer rose, but before the Bishop had time to ask the ministers of the district in regard to the manner in which Mr. Slicer had performed his labors during the Conference year, Mr. Chambers sprang upon a chair, which, with the platform on which he stood, elevated him about three feet above the floor, and, "bearded like the pard," he announced that he had charges to prefer against Mr. Slicer.—In a moment "quiet reigned in Warsaw," and Mr. Slicer, with his head slightly bowed, and the audience, with manifest anxiety awaited the reading of the charges and specifications. Mr. Chambers, still elevated on the stool, stood with a piece of paper in his hand, and in "bold voice and clear," proclaimed:

"I charge Henry Slicer with being disloyal to the Government of the United States."

He then quietly got from the stool.

A smile passed over Mr. Slicer's face, as he remarked, "I'll answer to that," and then turned to the Bishop and said: "Bishop, shall I go on with my district?" to which there was an affirmative response; but before Mr. Slicer could proceed, Mr. Hildt addressed the Bishop by asking him if he could inform him on what part of the Discipline or Church canon such a charge could be founded?

The Bishop replied "that was a matter for a Court of Trial to decide."

John Bowen next attempted to get the floor, but the Bishop reminded him that Mr. Slicer was waiting to report his district.

Mr. Slicer—Bishop, if they will just allow me to go on with the report of my district they may do what they please with my character afterwards.—I am pretty well known in the State of Maryland, and perhaps slightly known out of it, and I will answer all charges preferred.

The name of J. H. Dashiels was called, and when he reported his missionary collection, he said he took occasion to refer to the matter which was up before the Conference on the second day of the session, relative to the missionary fund of the Strawbridge church. He desired to exonerate the Stewards of the church in the matter. He then assured the Conference that when the money was expended it was done with the full belief that at the moment it was necessary to pay over the money to the missionary fund it would be forthcoming. The financial difficulties which ensued were unexpected, and embarrassments followed, over which, for the time, they could exercise no control. When the attention of the Stewards was called to the payment of the money it was immediately raised and paid over. The Board of Stewards of Strawbridge church were all honorable, high-toned gentlemen, whose characters needed no man's endorsement; and on the former discussion of this matter Mr. Slicer bore testimony to their honor and honesty.

Mr. Slicer—I did. They are honorable men—above imputation.

Dr. Reese asked Mr. Dashiells to refer to the matter of his giving advice relative to retaining the missionary fund.

Mr. Dashiells said that he had singled Dr. Reese out as one of the advisers, because that gentleman had constituted himself a watch-dog over the Conference. He was determined to bring out anything which would tend to exhibit him in his proper colors, which