THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 148. BALTIMORE, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In consequence of the appearance of an article in the *American* and *Sun* newspapers several days ago, to the effect that a charge had been made against my sons and myself by Richard France, I place the following facts before the public:—

In the year 1855 we formed a verbal copartnership with R. France, in the supplementary business in this city, and during a period of three years we paid to him for his share of the profits over *three hundred thousand dollars*. We furnished all the capital; he never put up one dollar; he had no knowledge whatever of the business, and had we been so disposed, we could have paid him only one-third of that amount as his share of the profits, and he would have been none the wiser. But we did all fairly and honestly. In the year 1859 we entered into copartnership with France in the management of the Delaware and Kentucky Lotteries, he having 33 per cent. only in the business, and the following is one of the articles, which I quote, as it will have considerable bearing on this matter:—

"The accounts of the partnership hereby created shall be "made up, and settlements take place monthly, as far "as practicable."

No fund was created by the firm, nor was any Bank account kept. My sons and myself verbally agreeing to furnish the capital requisite as monthly settlements were to be made. The firm had several book-keepers, Mr. Thomas Hinds being the principal one, he receiving all the funds from the various agents and paying over monthly. The business progressed, and settlements were made monthly, in accordance with the article quoted above, and when such settlements took place the vouchers of receipts and payments were carefully examined, the balance struck, and a certificate of such examination and settlement entered in the book and signed by the members of the firm. *The books were kept open for daily inspection by all and were never locked up.* All transactions that took place were constantly pointed out to R. France, as he and myself were the parties who transacted the business, my sons attending to the practical part. He was consulted upon every occasion, *and upon all and every matter*, and when from home, his son attended to his interests. About the 1st of September, 1860, R. France wished to retire from business, and offered me his 30 per cent. upon certain terms, which I declined, and on the 8th of that month (when I was confined in bed by sickness), he, without notice, at night, in the city of Wilmington, Delaware, took forcible possession of the books, papers, printing material, &c., of the firm, and removed them from the buildings there owned by my sons, (who had rented to the firm,) and raised the cry of fraud, on me alone, to a fabulous amount. My counsel advised proceedings at law for this violation of rights, but *I knew that France had taken hold of what he could not manage*, and had made a BLUNDER, a few months would tell; and so it did!

In regard to the cry of fraud charged upon me, my counsel was authorized, and did offer to pay five dollars for every dollar that could be proven, and also I would release all claim on the business in such an event. A few days elapsed, and propositions were made to my counsel by the counsel of R. France for the settlement of the difficulties; certain terms were proposed, and finally agreed to by me. On the 25th of September, 1860, the settlement took place under agreement drawn by J. Mason Campbell and Thomas M. Lanahan, Esqs., and executed by all parties. In that agreement R. France covenanted to pay all the obligations of the firm, all bonds, and all contracts with agents, &c., and also covenanted to pay S. Broadbent, Jr., J. S. Broadbent and myself $90,000 (ninety thousand dollars) in monthly instalments of $500 for fifteen years, in consideration of our releasing of our interest in the Grants, and the next day he caused to be inserted in the various papers of this city and in the State of Delaware the following.

NOTICE.

"The recent difficulties between the undersigned *having "grown out of a misunderstanding, have been amicably "adjusted*, and the subscribers, Stephen Broadbent "Sr., Stephen Broadbent, Jr., and John Scotti Broad-"bent, having disposed of their interest, and retired "from all further management and control of the lot-"tery privileges granted recently by the Legislature of "Delaware, the same will hereafter be carried on by "Richard France for his own account, and the public "and agents of the late firm are requested to take no-"tice accordingly. All claims against the late firm will "be presented to R. France.

"R. FRANCE,
"S. BROADBENT, SR.,
"S. BROADBENT, JR.,
"J. S BROADBENT,
"W. C. FRANCE."

This was in September, 1860, and read the following certificate from one of our most respectable merchants of what France stated two months afterwards:

"I hereby certify that some time in the month of Novem-"ber, 1860, R. France called on me about the renewal "of a note of his endorsed by S. Broadbent, Sen., S. "Broadbent, Jr., and J. S. Broadbent, for $5,000. He, "Mr. France, proposed to settle the above note and two "other notes for $1,500 each, drawn by W. C. France, "and endorsed by S. Broadbent and others, which set-"tlement was effected through Wm. Pinkney Whyte, "Esq. Mr. France admitted that Mr. Broadbent had "acted honorably towards him, and in fact, spoke in "such a way as led me to believe that he regretted that "any difficulty had occurred between them.

"CHARLES HOFFMAN.

"Baltimore, 3d March, 1862."

"The undersigned was present at the conversa-"tion named above, and heard Mr. R. France say that "Mr. S. Broadbent, Sen., had acted in an honorable way "towards him."

"ALFRED BENNETT,
"Clerk of Mr. Charles Hoffman.

"March 3, 1862."

After the settlement R. France continued to pay the monthly instalment of $500 for a few months, when he suddenly *defaulted*, and in July following (1861) he also defaulted to the State of Delaware in the payment of the semi-annual instalment, and he consequently ceased to draw the Lottery there.

The blunder had culminated.

I immediately made application to the State of Delaware for the Grant, with a certainty of success, but my counsel advised that an act of the Legislature would be necessary in order to make the transfer legal. An extra session of the Delaware Legislature having been called by the Governor of that State, I had intended to apply for the Grant, but other proposals were made to me, through counsel, by the counsel of R. France, of the following nature: That the bond of $90,000 should be paid to us and secured by an agreement to be entered into by Mr. Morris, of New York, (who had obtained an assignment of the Grant,) and France, they covenanting to pay the same to us. I again accepted the proposals, and on the 5th day of November last the following articles of agreement were prepared and executed by all parties thereto.

"Articles of agreement between Francis Morris, New "York city, of the first, John A. Morris, of Wilming-"ton, Delaware, of the second part, Richard France, of "the city of Baltimore, on the third part, and S. Broad-"bent, Sr., S. Broadbent, Jr., and John Scotti Broad-"bent, of Baltimore county, of the fourth part."

(This agreement goes on to recite the agreement between us of the 26th of September, 1860, and France, again covenants to perform all contained therein, and the following are the covenants by the parties in this:)

"And whereas the said lottery privileges have been as-"signed by the said R. France to the said F. Morris, "and the said F. Morris hath agreed in consideration "thereof, that he or his assigns shall account for and "pay over to the said R. France or his assigns, a certain "share or portion of the profits of the business, to be "conducted under the same, and such accounting to be "half yearly. And whereas the said F. Morris hath "assigned the said lottery privileges to the said John A. "Morris, but the said F. Morris still remaining liable to "the performance of his said agreement with the said "R. France. Now these presents witnesseth, that for "certain good and valuable considerations, the receipt "and satisfaction whereof by each of the said parties "hereto being hereby acknowledged, it is hereby co-"venanted and agreed as follows:

"1st. That the said R. France doth hereby charge the "said charge of the profits of the said business with "the payments to the parties hereto of the fourth part "(Broadbents) of the said sum of $6,000 per annum in "half yearly payments for and during the remainder of "said period of fifteen years, on the 1st day of January, "and the 1st day of August in each year, (except during "the first year, during which the payments are to be "monthly, the first payment to be made on the first day "of November next.

"The arrears now due under the said agreement "amounting to $5,000, to be paid on the 1st day of "January, 1862, and the said R. France doth hereby "assign to the said parties hereto of the 4th part "(Broadbents) a sufficient part or share of the said "profits to satisfy the said charge, and doth hereby "declare that this is the first and only charge upon, "and the first and only assignment by him of any part "or share of said profits. 2d. The said F. Morris and "John A. Morris do hereby jointly and severally cove-"nant, promise and agree to and with the said parties "hereto of the 4th part (Broadbents) that they, the "said F. Morris and John A. Morris, or one of them "shall and will pay or cause to be paid to the said par-"ties hereto of the 4th part (Broadbents) the said sum "of $6,000 per annum, in half yearly payments, as "aforesaid (except the first year, during which the pay-"ments are to be monthly), and the said arrears as "aforesaid, out of the said share of the said R. France "in said profits of said business, and that before pay-"ing over any part thereof to the said R. France or "any person claiming through him. 3d. It is here-"by declared that nothing herein contained shall "discharge the said R. France from his said obligations "as contained in the said recited agreement, if the said "parties hereto of the 4th part (Broadbents) shall fail "to receive full payment of the said sum of $6,000 per "annum, from the said F. Morris and John A. Morris, "or one of them, under the provisions of this agree-"ment." (The agreement goes on with the usual covenants to perform, &c., and ends thus.) As witness the hands and seals of the parties, this 5th day of November, 1861:

F. MORRIS,
JOHN A. MORRIS,
RICHARD FRANCE,
S. BROADBENT, Sen'r.
S. BROADBENT, Jun.
J. S. BROADBENT.

WM. PINKNEY WHYTE,
R. W. RUSSELL,
T. M. LANAHAN,
} Witnesses.

It will be perceived that this settlement took place but four months ago Not one word about this cry of fraud, not a dollar asked to be remitted; but France again covenants to pay all obligations, and charges his interest, first, to the payment of this $90,000.

I observe in the *Sun* that one of the charges made by him was the obtaining his endorsement on $50,000 of the firm's paper in July or August, 1860. I will plainly relate the facts in the case. I had a claim against the firm of that amount, for money paid out by me for its benefit and advantage, extending over a period of several months.

I made application for it, and it was agreed by R. France to submit the matter to the arbitration of J. Mason Campbell and Thomas M. Lanahan, Esqs. It was done, and I proved the facts within a few thousand dollars, and could have got the witnesses to prove that also, but R. France was fully satisfied of the justness of that claim, and the award was made by the arbitrators in accordance with the proof only. It was sent to France, and I offered to prove the balance of the few thousand dollars if he was not fully satisfied, but he answered that he was, that he knew I had paid out the money for the firm's benefit. The same day the notes of the firm bearing interest, and running from a period of two to four years, were executed and endorsed by R. France in the usual manner of all settlement, and an entry was made in the books, of the matter with a full explanation.

Let all review the following facts:

The *small* interest of France—30 per cent. in the business.

The *daily* inspection of the books.

The *monthly* settlements and certificates thereof.

The *refusal* on my part to purchase his interest.

The *seizing* by him of the property at night, the cry of fraud being raised as a cover.

This *same* cry having been raised by him with all his former partners, as I will prove ere long.

The *offer* of my counsel to pay five for one if any fraud.

The *settlement* of the 25th of September, 1860, agreeing to pay all the obligations (this very $50,000 being part thereof) and also the $90,000 to be paid to us in monthly settlements.

The *certificate* of Mr. Hoffman of the declaration made by France, two months afterwards, that I had always acted honorably, and he regretted the difficulties.

The *settlement* again made in November last, 1861, wherein France charges his interest in the business with Mr. Morris, with the payment to us of this $90,000, to be paid first and before he can receive any money.

And with the fact of his long experience as a lottery manager.

Comment is unnecessary.

In conclusion I am a large creditor of R. France, and with all the facts I have above stated and the various settlements quoted, I challenge acceptance of the following proposition:

Let all the books, vouchers and accounts be placed in the hands of competent parties for strict investigation, and if on that investigation it is proven that I acted unfairly, or had any advantage over France, (even a dollar,) I will release him from every dollar of the indebtedness. I will place the vouchers in the hands of responsible parties, he placing the like amount of money or securities in the same parties' hands. If I had any advantage or acted unfairly I lose all my claim; if on the contrary, my claim to be paid me out of the money or securities.

Nay, I will go further than this: if I do not prove that *I exercised toward this man and his son the most unbounded liberality and generosity in all my dealings with them*, I will forfeit every dollar of my claim.

S. BROADBENT, SR.

Baltimore, March 12, 1862.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Capt. Buchanan, Commander of the Confederate Steamer Merrimac, Reported Seriously Wounded.

NEW YORK, March 12.—A despatch received here about 3 o'clock this morning from Fortress Monroe, dated yesterday, gives a partial list of the killed, wounded and missing from the Congress. The latest account makes the number killed or drowned on the Cumberland 116, which will probably be reduced to 100.

Lieut. Selfridge, of the Cumberland, was ordered to the command of the Monitor.

The Rebels represent that four were killed and several wounded on the Merrimac, and that Capt. Buchanan was seriously wounded.

The Yorktown is said to have a shot in her boiler.

Twenty-three prisoners from the frigate Congress had arrived at Norfolk. One died on the passage.

The Southern papers say that every member of the Tennessee Legislature has signed a petition for the removal of General A. Sidney Johnston.

The Rebel steamer Nashville, which managed to run the blockade of Beaufort, North Carolina, recently, is said to be lying at Morehead city, which is the terminus of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad.

Virginia has been called on for 40,000 troops.

Early yesterday morning a small sailboat arrived at the Newport News wharf, containing two men and a woman, who represent that they supposed the place to be in the possession of the Confederate forces, and wanted to sell some produce and establish a store. They were soon informed of their mistake, much to their chagrin, and were conveyed to the headquarters of Gen. Mansfield. They were brought here by the Express this afternoon, and taken before Gen. Wool. After the party had discovered their mistake, they represented that they were Unionists, who had, for some time past, been endeavoring to escape, but their first story is, of course, more probable.

A flag of truce was sent to Craney Island, to-day, with dispatches. The officers of the Confederate boat represented that the Merrimac, or, as it is called by them, the "Virginia," had received damage, but nothing that was serious. They admit the loss of four killed and several wounded on board.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of yesterday gives a glowing account of the opening of the James River blockade, and the destruction of the Congress and Cumberland.

It is stated that the Virginia, Flag-Officer Buchanan, commanding, with the steam-tugs Beaufort, Lieutenant-Commanding Parker, and Raleigh, Lieutenant-Commanding Alexander, left the Navy Yard at 11¼ o'clock. The commander of the Cumberland is spoken of as fighting his ship with a gallantry worthy a better cause. The total Confederate loss is said to be nine killed and twelve wounded.

The Ericsson is said to have been seriously injured by the Virginia. Some of our gunboats are said to have been sunk, both of which statements are of course entirely incorrect. Our loss is said to have been between six and twelve hundred.—The *Day Book* says: "Having completely riddled the Minnesota, and disabled the St. Lawrence and Monitor besides, as stated above, and destroyed several of the enemy's gunboats; in a word, having accomplished all that they designed, and having no more material to work upon, our noble vessels left the scene of their triumphs and returned to the Yard, where they await another opportunity of displaying their prowess."

In the Confederate Congress yesterday, the operations of Gen. A. S. Johnston in Tennessee were discussed.

Mr. Adkins said that nearly every member of the Tennessee Legislature had signed a petition for his removal from that Department.

The Beaufort correspondent of the *Day Book* says that the Nashville is now lying at Morehead city.

One hundred vessels are reported at Hatteras, supposed to contain reinforcements for General Burnside.

Ocracoke Inlet is said to be blocked up with stone vessels.

Latest from Norfolk.

Passengers by the Georgeanna this morning state that the Norfolk *Day Book* of yesterday was received at Old Point, and has an article glorying over the feats performed by the Merrimac, and highly complimenting the bravery exhibited by the crews of the Congress and Cumberland.

The effect of the Cumberland's broadside is admitted, and also that one of her shells entered a port of the Merrimac, bursting and killing six men and wounding eleven. Commodore Buchanan, who was in command, was among the seriously wounded. It also admits that six were killed on board the Yorktown.

The *Day Book* says nothing with regard to the Merrimac's condition, except that she will require some repairs. The Monitor is described as looking like a "black Yankee cheese-box on a raft," and she is admitted to have been formidable, but no statement is made as to her effectiveness further than that she is formidable.

On Commander Buchanan being wounded, the command of the Merrimac is said to have been devolved upon Com. Ap. Catesby Jones, who had charge of her during the fight on Sunday with the Monitor.

The reason given for the quick movements of the Merrimac is that she was endeavoring to keep the Monitor from getting on the side that had been weakened by the broadside of the Cumberland.

The Monitor's Movements.

Passengers by the Georgeanna report the Monitor as cruising about, and to have gone up last evening towards the mouth of James River. Whether she went up that river is unknown.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED ON BOARD THE CONGRESS.—Paymaster McKean Buchanan, of the Union frigate Congress, which was engaged and burned in the recent naval action, arrived at the Astor House last night direct from Fortress Monroe. The following is the numerical list of the number of souls on board the Congress at the time of the action. The regular sailors numbered 277. There was one company of Coast Guard men, numbering 88; marines 41, officers 22; total 431.

After the frigate was destroyed and all the survivors had collected on shore at Fortress Monroe, they numbered as follows:—

Sailors and Coast Guard	196
Marines	35
Passengers from the frigate from Fortress Monroe to Newport News	40
Seamen taken from the frigate on board the Confederate tug as prisoners	40
Total	311

Twenty-nine men were wounded and ninety-four killed in the action.

Twenty-thousand dollars in gold and Treasury notes were destroyed by the burning, together with all the stores.—*New York Herald, March 12.*

The Judges of the several Courts in Richmond have suspended all judicial proceedings, in compliance with the usage of martial law, proclaimed by President Davis.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the Committee on the Judiciary reported adverse to the resolution to expel Senator Powell, of Kentucky. Notice was given that the case would be called up to-day.

A bill was introduced and referred, to provide for administering the oath of allegiance to citizens of the United States in foreign countries. The House bill providing for the emancipation of slaves by consent of the States in which slavery exists, and granting pecuniary aid, was referred. The bill to provide for a reduction during the war of ten per cent. upon all salaried officers in the army, navy and civil service of the Government, was debated and passed. The bill for the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia was then called up and debated until the close of the session, Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, making a most vehement speech in opposition to the bill.

In the House of Representatives, a bill was introduced for the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia. A minority report to the bill was also introduced, and both bills were ordered to be printed. Majority and minority reports on the bill to establish temporary provisional governments over the seceded States were introduced. A third report, adverse to the bill, was presented by Mr. Harding, of Kentucky. The bill was ordered to be laid upon the table. The tax bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and a debate ensued, which was continued up to the hour that the House adjourned.

The series of war orders, signed by President Lincoln, which are published to-day by authority under the special head of War Gazette, constitute one of the most extraordinary innovations upon previously established customs that has yet taken place. The right of the President to assume the chief command of the army and navy is indisputable. He is clothed with that authority by the Constitution itself, but the assumption of that right in the form in which it now exhibits itself is entirely new to our history. In all other respects, however, no change has been introduced. At all times commanders of military departments have had full and complete control of everything that appertains to the conduct of the war within the limits of their respective commands, subordinate to the President, as Commander-in-Chief by virtue of his office, and responsible to him for their acts. Mr. Lincoln does not take the field in person, but simply orders his generals to do so. In these various orders, therefore, the only real departure from the old routine is in bringing the President prominently forward as the chief authority for an advance movement, leaving the plan of campaign as already agreed upon to be carried out by the Generals in command, subject to such modifications as a change of circumstances may render necessary. General McClellan the senior Major-General, being now in the field, those duties which it is incumbent upon him to perform at other times are now rightfully devolved upon the President and the Secretary of War. It will thus be seen that beyond the new features of a War Gazette, and of military orders emanating directly from the President, and in his name, whereby the responsibility is made to rest more directly upon the latter, the difference between the old usage and the new is merely nominal. The orders published are nevertheless important. The first directs that a general movement of the land and naval forces of the United States against the enemy shall commence from the 22d of February. The second, orders the organization of the army of the Potomac into "Army Corps" of three and four divisions each, and names their respective commanders.—The third relieves General McClellan, whilst in the field, from the command of the other Military departments, and limits him to the command of the department of the Potomac. The two departments of the west and southwest are consolidated and placed under command of General Halleck.

A telegram, which was sent to New York yesterday from Fortress Monroe, places the number of killed and wounded of the officers and crew of the Cumberland at one hundred and sixteen. There is only a partial list of the killed, wounded and missing from the Congress. The number of prisoners taken from the Cumberland is not given. Lieut. Selfridge of the Cumberland has been appointed to the command of the Monitor. It is stated, on what is reported to be good authority, that four men were killed and several wounded on board the Merrimac, and that among the latter was Captain Buchanan, seriously.

By the steamer from Fortress Monroe, which reached here yesterday, we learn that there was great exultation at Norfolk over the exploits of the Merrimac. The only remark made by the Norfolk *Day Book* as to her condition is, that she will require some repairs. Six men are said to have been killed and eleven wounded on board of her by the bursting of a shell, Captain Buchanan being wounded seriously. Six men are also said to have been killed on board the Yorktown. Captain Ap Catesby Jones had command of the Merrimac during her engagement with the Monitor.

The only news we have from Manassas is further confirmation that it has been abandoned, and that the Confederates are believed to have retired towards Gordonsville, their advance resting on the Rapidan river, and their camps extending back to Gordonsville, twelve miles distant.

We have nothing from Southern Missouri, except that General Pope is reported to be at Point Pleasant, ten miles below Cairo; that the Confederates are strongly fortifying Island No. 10, and that the gunboats and mortar boats at Cairo are now in readiness to transport troops.

On the Potomac all is said to be quiet. The batteries at Acquia Creek were evacuated on Tuesday morning, but whether permanently or not, appears to be unknown.

The steamer Nashville, which recently ran the blockade of Beaufort, North Carolina, is said to be now lying at Morehead City, the terminus of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. Virginia has been called upon to furnish forty thousand additional troops.

THE GOTTSCHALK OPERA NIGHT.—The last opportunity of hearing the world-renowned pianist, Gottschalk, will be given to-night. The furore of applause which greeted his efforts at the concerts prove how highly this gifted son of genius is appreciated. His compositions are beyond anything which it has been our fortune to hear, while his execution is as far beyond any of his predecessors, as his compositions excel those of others. This evening he will introduce several exquisite pieces, rendered as he only can give them—and we doubt if a greater musical treat has ever before been offered. Donizetti's comic opera of *Don Pasquale* will be performed, with Brignoli, Mancusi, Susini, and the charming Miss Hinkley in the cast. No opera could have been better selected to illustrate the brilliant talent of these renowned artister.—The beauty and fashion of our city will be out in full force; and from the number of seats already secured, a crowded house may be anticipated.—Seats can still be secured at McCaffrey's music store; and we advise our citizens not to miss this last opportunity of hearing the wonderful skill of Gottschalk.

THE PEOPLE'S GAS COMPANY.—An error inadvertently crept into our report of the proceedings of the Legislature of this State a few days since, in which it was stated that the bill to repeal the charter of the People's Gas Company was passed. The bill to repeal received but two affirmative votes in the Senate, Mr. Denison, of Baltimore, and Mr. Lankford, of Somerset, and it was consequently defeated. We learn that books for subscription to the stock of the new company will be opened in a few days.

A FATAL MISTAKE.—An unfortunate affair occurred at an outpost beyond Charlestown, Va., on last Thursday night, by which private Whitney, of the First Michigan Cavalry, was wounded, and two horses killed. It appears that in anticipation of an attack from the enemy, Col. Maulsby, of the First regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade, stationed at the outpost, had sent to the rear for reinforcements. The Michigan cavalry was at once sent forward, but taking a circuitous route, the cavalry made their appearance at a point where the enemy was looked for. Col. Maulsby immediately formed his men in line, and fired a volley on the supposed enemy with the result above mentioned; at the same time, ordering his men to retreat to the woods near by and fire at will. The mistake, however, was speedily discovered, and regrets and explanations made. Private Whitney, we hear, died of his wound at Charlestown on Saturday.—*Frederick (Md.) Examiner.*

THE MERRIMAC MENACING THE CAPITAL.—The nervous people who could not sleep on Sunday night, in anticipation of the advent of the Merrimac in our harbor to bombard New York, now turn their fears in the direction of Washington, and are troubled lest the marine monster should go up and smash Congress as badly as it did the vessel of that name at Hampton Roads. There is one hydrographic fact that should allay their fears. The Merrimac draws *twenty-three* feet of water. At Alexandria—below Washington—the channel of the Potomac affords but *twenty* feet. This would perhaps be an obstacle.—*N. Y. Times.*

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN IN COMMAND.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

WAR GAZETTE.

[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, January 27, 1862.

PRESIDENT'S GENERAL WAR ORDER No. 1.

Ordered, That the 22d day of February, 1862, be the day for a general movement of the land and naval forces of the United States against the insurgent forces.

That, especially,

The Army at and about Fortress Monroe,
The Army of the Potomac,
The Army of Western Virginia,
The Army near Munfordsville, Kentucky,
The Army and Flotilla at Cairo,
And a Naval Force in the Gulf of Mexico,

be ready for a movement on that day.

That all other forces, both land and naval, with their respective commanders, obey existing orders for the time, and be ready to obey additional orders when duly given.

That the Heads of Departments, and especially the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, with all their subordinates, and the General-in-Chief with all other commanders and subordinates, of land and naval forces, will severally be held to their strict and full responsibilities for the prompt execution of this order

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, March 2, 1862.

PRESIDENT'S GENERAL WAR ORDER NO. 2.

Ordered, I. That the Major-General commanding the Army of the Potomac proceed forthwith to organize that part of said army destined to enter upon active operations, (including the reserve, but excluding the troops to be left in the fortifications about Washington,) in four army corps, to be commanded according to seniority of rank, as follows:

1st Corps, to consist of four divisions, and to be commanded by Major-General I. McDowell.

2d Corps, to consist of three divisions, and to be commanded by Brigadier General E. V. Sumner.

3d Corps, to consist of three divisions, and to be commanded by Brigadier-General S. P. Heintzelman.

4th Corps, to consist of three divisions, and to be commanded by Brigadier-General E. L. Keyes.

II. That the divisions now commanded by the officers above assigned to the commands of corps shall be embraced in and form a part of their respective corps.

III. The forces left for the defence of Washington will be placed in command of Brigadier-General James Wadsworth, who shall also be Military Governor of the District of Columbia.

IV. That this order be executed with such promptness and despatch as not to delay the commencement of the operations already directed to be undertaken by the Army of the Potomac.

V. A Fifth Army Corps, to be commanded by Major-General N. P. Banks, will be formed from his own and General Shields', late General Lander's, division.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, March 11, 1862.

PRESIDENT'S WAR ORDER No. 3.

Major General McClellan having personally taken the field at the head of the Army of the Potomac until otherwise ordered, he is relieved from the command of the other military departments, by retaining command of the Department of the Potomac.

Ordered, further, That the two departments now under the respective commands of Generals Halleck and Hunter, together with so much of that under General Buell as lies west of a north and south line indefinitely drawn through Knoxville, Tennessee, be consolidated and designated the Department of the Mississippi, and that until otherwise ordered Major General Halleck have command of said department.

Ordered, also, That the country west of the Department of the Potomac and east of the Department of the Mississippi be a military department, to be called the Mountain Department, and that the same be commanded by Major General Fremont.

That all the Commanders of Departments, after the receipt of this order by them respectively, report severally and directly to the Secretary of War, and that prompt, full, and frequent reports will be expected of all and each of them.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Official Report of the Commander of the Frigate Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1862.—The official report of Commander Marston, has been forwarded to the Navy Department.

Lieutenant Pendergast states that owing to the death of the late Commanding Officer, Joseph B. Smith, it becomes my painful duty to make a report to you of the part which the United States frigate Congress took in the efforts of our vessels at Newport News to repel the attack of the Rebel flotilla on the 8th instant.

The report states that when the Merrimac, with three small gunboats, were seen steaming down from Norfolk, and had approached near enough to discover her character, the ship was cleared for action. At ten minutes after two the Merrimac opened with her bow gun with grape, passing us on the starboard side at a distance of about 300 yards, receiving our broadside and giving one in return.

After passing the Congress, she ran into and sank the sloop-of-war Cumberland. The smaller vessels then attacked us, killing and wounding many of our crew. Seeing the fate of the Cumberland, we set the fore and topsail, and, with the assistance of the tugboat Zouave, drew the vessel ashore. At half-past two the Merrimac took a position astern of us at a distance of about one hundred and fifty yards, and raked us fore and aft with shells, while one of the smaller steamers kept up a fire on our starboard quarter.

In the meantime the Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, Rebel steamers, approached us from up the James river, firing with precision and doing us great damage. Our two stern guns were our only means of defence. These were soon disabled, one being dismounted and the other having its muzzle knocked away. The men were knocked away from them with great rapidity, and slaughtered by the terrible fire of the enemy.

Lieutenant Pendergast first learned of the death of Lieutenant Smith at half-past four. The death happened ten minutes previous. Seeing that our men were being killed without the prospect of any relief from the Minnesota, which vessel had run ashore in attempting to get up to us from Hampton Roads, not being able to get a single gun to bear upon the enemy, and the ship being on fire in several places, upon consultation with Commander Wm. Smith we deemed it proper to haul down our colors without any further loss of life on our part. We were soon boarded by an officer of the Merrimac, who said he would take charge of the ship. He left shortly afterwards, and a small tug came alongside, whose captain demanded that we should surrender and get out of the ship, as he intended to burn her immediately. A sharp fire with muskets and artillery was maintained from our troops ashore upon the tug, having the effect of driving her off.

The Merrimac again opened on us, although we had a peak to show that we were out of action.

After having fired several shells into us she left us and engaged the Minnesota and the shore batteries, after which, Lieutenant Pendergast states, the wounded were taken ashore in small boats, the ship having been on fire from the beginning of the action from hot shot fired by the Merrimac.

He reports the death of the following officers:—Lieut. Joseph B. Smith, Acting Master Thomas Moore, and Pilot Wm. Rhodes.

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

The following extract from the report of Commander Purviance, of the United States frigate St. Lawrence, in regard to the action with the Rebel flotilla at Hampton Roads will prove interesting:

At half-past 8 o'clock we got under way in tow of the Cambridge, and when abreast of the Rebel battery at Sewall's Point the battery opened fire, one of the shells exploding under the fore foot of the St. Lawrence, doing, however, no material injury. The fire was returned, and it is believed with some effect. The Cumberland had at this time gone down, having been run into by the Merrimac, and the Congress had surrendered after a terrible slaughter of her men, and when rendered perfectly powerless by the fire of the Rebels.

The Minnesota was aground and was engaging the enemy, whose fire consisted of the Rebel steamram and four or five side-wheel gunboats.

When near the Minnesota, the St. Lawrence grounded, and at that time opened fire, but her shot did no execution. The armor of the Merrimac proved invulnerable to her comparatively feeble projectiles. Taking advantage of these portentous circumstances, the Merrimac directed her attention to firing several projectiles of formidable dimensions, one of which, in eighty-pound shell, penetrated the starboard quarter about four inches above the water line, passed through the pantry of the ward-room, and into the state-room of the Assistant Surgeon on the port side, completely demolishing the bulkhead, and then struck against a strong iron bar which secured the bull's eye of the port. It returned into the ward-room, expended.

It fortunately did not explode, and no person was injured. The damage done by this shot proved the power of the projectiles which she employed, and readily explained the quick destruction of our wooden and antiquated frigates. Our position at this time was one of some anxiety. Being aground, the tug Young America came alongside and got us off, after which a powerful broadside from the spar and gun-decks of the St. Lawrence, then distant about half a mile, thrown into the Merrimac, induced her to withdraw, whether from necessity or discretion is not known.

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER OF THE MINNESOTA.

The report of Captain T. J. Van Brent, in command of the Minnesota, has been received at the Navy Department, and states that the Monitor came alongside the Minnesota at 2 o'clock, P. M., and on the afternoon of the 9th of March, having arrived the night previous and reported for duty, all on board at her appearance rejoiced that they had found a friend that would stand by them in the hour of trial. At six on that day the enemy again appeared, when the crews were beat to quarters, but they ran past the Minnesota and the tugs.

At this time, being aground, Captain Van Brent ordered some of the spar deck guns thrown overboard, and sent half of the crew on board a tug to lighten the ship, after which superhuman efforts were made to get her off; and when succeeding in getting her a half mile she stuck again, for the tide had fallen so much that there was not water to float her in the channel. At length, however, she was towed out of the mud into deep water, and at the time of writing the report the Minnesota was at anchor opposite Fortress Monroe.

Fleet Surgeon Wood, of the Minnesota, reports the following list of killed and wounded:

Killed.—Allen Winslow, captain of maintop; Henry Smith, coxswain; Dennis Harrington, captain of mizzentop.

Wounded.—John Green, second master, seriously; Henry Leeland, second gunner, seriously; Chas. Dunlap, ordinary seaman, mortally; Samuel H. Hillen, ordinary seaman, slightly; Christopher Sewall, coal-heaver, mortally; Charles Thompson, seaman, seriously; Joseph Augustus, musician seriously; S. W. Thomas, musician, slightly; Al well Keen, landsman, slightly; John Clark, seaman slightly; Patrick Joyce, ordinary seaman, slightly; Julius Bartlett, second master, slightly; Joyce Moore, colored, slightly; Eli Parris, colored, slightly; Ansel Richchurch, seaman, slightly.

The Very Latest from Fortress Monroe--All Quiet.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Telegraphic intelligence from Fortress Monroe this evening reports all quiet there. The flag of truce from Norfolk brought but little news back to-day. Parties accompanying the rebel flag jocosely admitted that our "cheese box" had severely wounded the Merrimac. It is thought that she cannot venture out until she is repaired.

The telegraph line works admirably, and Washington converses with Fortress Monroe as readily as it does with Alexandria and the camps of the Potomac.

Major Robinson, of the 5th Infantry, who for some time has commanded the railroad brigade at Annapolis Junction, has returned to the command of his regiment at Fortress Monroe, preferring active service.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

FORTRESS MONROE, March 12, P. M.—A flag of truce was sent down from Craney Island to-day, with an officer of the French Corvette Garrendi, who went to Norfolk a few days since. We find the following in the Southern papers:

In the House of Representatives on Monday a resolution was passed advising planters to withdraw from the cultivation of cotton and tobacco, and devote their energies to raising provisions, cattle, hogs, sheep, etc.

On Tuesday a vote of thanks was passed to Captain Buchanan, and the officers and crew of the Merrimac, for their gallantry in the late action in Hampton Roads.

The rebel Senate has passed a bill to organize the Supreme Court.

Jeff. Davis sent a message to Congress yesterday, stating that he had suspended Generals Floyd and Pillow from their command until they could give a more satisfactory account of the action at Fort Donelson. He is dissatisfied with their reports.

The message states that neither of them say that reinforcements were asked for; nor do they show that the position could not have been evacuated, and the whole army saved as well as a part of it. It is also not shown by what authority two senior Generals abandoned their responsibility, by transferring their command to junior officers.

Petersburg, and the surrounding ten miles, have been placed under martial law, as well as Richmond and Norfolk.

The Richmond *Examiner* of yesterday says considerable uneasiness is manifested by the public on account of the report of our forces falling back from Manassas and the Upper Potomac. Positive assurance is given that these movements have not been made on account of the presence of the enemy, but are purely strategic. General Johnston has the confidence of the Administration, and it is certain that a new line of defence will be organized. The points have not yet been selected, but it is thought probable that the line of defence will extend from Staunton to Gordonsville. A depot of provisions is now being established at the latter place.

The Richmond *Examiner* contains a severe article against Governor Letcher for his recent proclamation calling upon the whole body of the militia to turn out, designating it as fraudulent, mischievous, and calculated to breed disloyalty. The proclamation is declared to have been entirely unnecessary in view of all the facts.

It is reported that the nomination of Gen. Lee, as commanding General of the army, was sent to the Senate on Monday.

Charles Williams, of Fredericksburg, and Samuel P. Carret, of Washington city, were arrested for disloyalty, in Richmond, on Monday.

A new theatre is to be built in Richmond four stories high, in place of the one recently burnt. It is to be finished by July.

An extract is given from the Mesilla *Times*, of the 20th ult., which gives the report of a revolution in New Mexico against the Federal authority. It states that M. A. Otero is at the head of the movement, and that Brigadier-General Sibley has been applied to for assistance.

Colonel Y. Bernford, Major 6th United States Infantry, ordered to Major-General Van Dorn, in Texas, last summer, have been paroled to return home, arrived in Richmond on Sunday night.

The steamer T. R. Spaulding returned from Hatteras this morning. Com. Goldsborough is a passenger.

Capt. Sprague has resigned his position as Provost Marshal, and Major Jones of Gen. Wool's staff has been appointed to fill the vacancy. All is quiet here this evening.

General Fremont—The Union Forces Repairing the Desolation of the Rebels.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—General Fremont will return to Washington either this evening or to-morrow morning.

Repairs have already been commenced on the bridges injured by the Rebels at Bull Run, and the probability is that the railroad to Manassas will be in running order this week.

The Latest from Manassas.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Information received from a gentleman direct from Manassas, who left there at 10 o'clock this morning, represents the condition of the army as about the same. The report prevalent here, that the rebels were again concentrating in that vicinity, is without foundation. On the contrary there is little, if any doubt that the rebels have retreated toward Gordonsville, and that they rest with their advance at the Rapidan river, their camps extending back to Gordonsville, a distance of twelve miles.

Evacuation of Aquia Creek.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—By an arrival at the Navy Yard to-day it was ascertained that the Rebel batteries were evacuated at Aquia Creek yesterday morning, whether permanently or not there is no means of ascertaining.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

POOLESVILLE, Md., March 12.—The inhabitants here are constantly applying for