THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the bill authorizing the President to assign the command in the same field or division, without regard to seniority, and to dismiss army officers at his discretion, was called up, and after a brief debate, was referred to the Military Committee. The bill making appropriations for the Post Office Department was taken up and passed. The bill emancipating the slaves in the District of Columbia was made the order of the day for Tuesday—to-day.

In the House of Representatives the debate on the Tax bill was resumed in Committee of the Whole and was continued until the hour of adjournment.

A telegram from Cairo as late as 4 o'clock P. M., yesterday, announces that Commodore Foote with a combined flotilla of gunboats and mortar batteries, attacked Tenth Island on Sunday last. The Confederate fortifications at that point are said to be mounted with forty-six guns, and the supporting force is estimated at from fifteen to twenty-five thousand men. Heavy firing was heard at New Madrid, ten miles below Tenth Island, and the supposition is that the Confederate gunboats have either been attempting to effect a passage down the river, or are engaging General Pope's batteries for the purpose of opening a free passage to Confederate steamers either to or from Tenth Island.

At a late hour last night we received a despatch by the Associated Press from St. Louis stating that Gen. Halleck, in response to a serenade, announced from the balcony of the Planters' House that Island No. 10 had been captured by the Federal forces, together with all the stores, ammunition, &c.

The news from Fortress Monroe is singularly meagre. The steamer Suwanee, which was sent to Pamlico Sound for the purpose of ascertaining what Burnside was doing, has returned to the Roads, and all that we are told is, that "she brings no news that can be made public at present."

From Tennessee a telegram announces two comparatively insignificant facts. A gunboat expedition had ascended the Tennessee river to the little village of Savannah, and was going further; and the Division of General Halleck had succeeded in bursing a railroad bridge in McNary county.

The New York *Herald* professes to give the outlines of the new position taken up by the Confederates who fell back from Manassas recently. The line of defence is said to follow the course of the Rapidan river from near Gordonsville to the village of Tappahannock on the Rappahannock river, the Rapidan being one of the principal tributaries of the Rappahannock. The banks of both these rivers are said to be rugged and defensible by nature, and to have been strongly fortified. The *Herald* remarks:—"As a region fit for defensive operations, no better could have been selected, and this the Confederates appear to know full well. A glance at any map will show that the points indicated constitute Richmond the centre of a half-circle extending from Fredericksburg on the North and the Potomac river on the East, with corresponding points on the West and South; all the available points within the limits of this circle have been seized and fortified."

An article from the Liverpool *Times*, an English journal which has heretofore leaned very strongly towards the Northern States, takes for its text the speech which was delivered in London by Mr. Adams on Washington's birthday. The speech itself is described as breathing "the same determination to hunt down and suppress the revolt of the South which is reflected in every movement of Mr. Lincoln's Government." But the passage in the article in question which will arrest attention is this:—"The struggle is about to commence in earnest, *and must terminate between March and May.* * * * If the North cannot subjugate the South in this brief time, which is very unlikely, *it is almost morally certain that the European Powers will step in and propose terms* of peace, in mercy to the famishing operatives of England and and France, and as an act of real humanity to the combatants themselves."

From Southern papers we learn that Major-General Braxton Bragg is in command at Memphis, and has put that city under martial law.—The prisoners of war at Memphis were to be transferred to Mobile.

At Washington, we are told, the resident physicians are discussing the probable effects, upon the health of the citizens, of the decaying carcases of horses and other offensive matter around the camps. The Sanitary Commission is to be called upon to devise some means of avoiding the evil.

The Confederates on the Lower Potomac appear to be still active. They succeeded in capturing last week an ordnance officer of General Hooker's staff and a telegraph operator, both of whom had ventured beyond the line of the Federal pickets.

It is now stated that Major General Dix and Judge Peirrepont, who were recently appointed, under the orders of Secretary Stanton, to act as commissioners to examine into the cases of the political prisoners now at Fort Warren and elsewhere, were to meet at Washington yesterday, for the purpose, it is presumed, of receiving instructions preparatory to entering upon the duties assigned to them.

The New York *Times* defends General McClellan from the attacks of the Radical Republican journals, and predicts that within twenty days Richmond and Norfolk will be in possession of the Federal troops, and President Davis either a prisoner or a fugitive.

With regard to the movements of the column commanded by General Banks, but very little is known beyond the fact that it is in possession of Winchester. A special correspondent of the New York *Times* furnishes some particulars of the order of march, as the troops entered the town, and announces, somewhat oracularly, that "Gen. Banks will not stop there." He makes, moreover, the significant remark that the women of Charlestown "still remain bitter and intense foes of the Union; whilst nearly all the men of the place are in the Confederate States army."

THE JAPANESE.—A correspondent of the New York *World*, writing from Japan, under date of Dec 16, says:

The Japanese government has lately purchased a beautiful American bark at Hakodadi, which they propose to load for some foreign port. The government is also desiring to build, or cause to be built, in the United States, two war steamers, of about the size of the sloop-of-war Hartford, and it need not surprise our people at home, should six or eight Japanese naval officers arrive at New York before many months on this errand. It is possible, too, that instead of sending all the money for the purpose, they may put a cargo of Japanese merchandise into one of the vessels they have recently bought, and send it to New York under their own flag, as the best way to transmit at least a part of the funds necessary to buy the steamer. If they do so, it will be an early realization of results from the late treaty, and one far more valuable to both this country and our own, than the visit of the late embassy. The Stars and Stripes will then have received a salute from the "rising sun," more than complimentary, and I trust it may be the beginning of a reciprocal commercial intercourse between the two countries, never to be interrupted.

WHY GENERAL HARNEY WAS SUPERSEDED.—Gen. Harney's removal from the command of the Department of Missouri has just been explained by the publication of the following letter from Postmaster General Blair to the General:

WASHINGTON, May 17, 1861.

General: I did not intend that you should be restored to the command at St. Louis till I heard the wishes of the Union men at St. Louis on the subject, and was waiting for the effect of your letter to Col. O'Fallon, when you went off, without my having decided the question, by an order from the War Department. I have stated this to Gen. Cameron, and have had to say, also, that I find that our people at St. Louis are not satisfied that you should command them at this juncture. This arises chiefly from the position taken in the present contest by your relations at St. Louis. It is impossible for men whose lives are at stake, they say, to be satisfied with the command of one whose intimates are openly against them. Upon this ground I have urged that you should be relieved of the command at St. Louis, and the administration could not take the responsibility of refusing to grant this request, and the order should not, therefore, be deemed by you or by others to reflect upon your loyalty, but as simply a decision upon the safe side under embarrassing circumstances.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) M. BLAIR.

RECRUITING FALLING OFF AT NEW YORK.—Very few men were recruited for the regular army last week, but twelve boys were sworn in and sent to Governor's Island on Saturday evening. They had been on trial learning music, and being found competant, were sent to the recruiting offices to be enlisted.

The marine corps enlisted several men, both in the city and at the Flushing avenue Barracks, but recruiting is not quite so brisk as could be desired.

Naval recruiting has fallen off suddenly and very considerably, whatever may be the cause of it. Only seventy men were shipped last week at the two offices in this city, against two hundred the week previous. There are now about five hundred disposable blue jackets on board the receiving-ship North Carolina.—*N. Y. Times.*

The salt works in Onondaga county, N. Y., manufactured last year 7,200,391 bushels of salt—1,884,697 bushels of which was the product of solar evaporation, and the balance of artificial heat. The State duties for the year was $72,000, and the expenses incurred by the State was $45,000

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Attack of Commodore Foote's Naval Expedition on Island No. 10.

A FIERCE BOMBARDMENT IN PROGRESS.

LARGE FORCE OF CONFEDERATES AT THE ISLAND.

CAIRO, March 16th, P. M.—The reporter of the Associated Press sends the following:

ON BOARD FLAG-SHIP, 2 miles above Island No. 10, March 17.—The flotilla got under way at 5.30 this morning and dropped down the river slowly till about 7 o'clock; when the flag-ship being about twenty miles ahead of the flotilla and six miles above the Island, discovered a stern-wheel steamer run out from the shelter of a point on the Kentucky side of the river and steam down the river. Four shells were thrown after her, but the distance was too great for the shots to take effect.

At 9 o'clock the fleet rounded to about three miles above the Island, when the Commodore ordered three of the mortar-boats into position.

At this hour, 2P. P., we are within range, but as yet have heard nothing from the enemy. There appears to be a large force on the Kentucky shore.

We can count thirteen guns in position on the bluff. A large fleet of transports can be seen across a low point on the Missouri shore busily engaged around the island, but what they are doing we can't determine. Our mortars are momentarily expected to open fire.

We can discern the much-talked of floating battery at the Island.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

CAIRO, March 16.—The Rebels at Island No. 10 are in a very strong position—46 guns have been counted. Eight of our mortars shelled the battery above the Island to-day. The Rebels left it several times, but returned again. They only fired with two guns There is no difficulty whatever in our shells reaching the Island. General Pope sent a despatch to Commodore Foote, saying that his heavy guns command the river so that neither steamer nor gunboat of the enemy could pass.

Firing has been heard in the direction of New Madrid all day, and it is supposed the Rebel gunboats are trying to force a passage.

Seven transports near Island No. 10 are hemmed in. The encampments of the enemy are supposed to be large enough for from fifteen to twenty-five thousand men.

THE LATEST FROM ISLAND NO. 10.
Progress of the Bombardment—The Enemy Thought to be Retreating.

CAIRO, March 17.—There is nothing later from Island No. 10. The accuracy of the firing of the mortars yesterday was fully equal to previous expectations. They threw 240 shell during the day, and the gunboat Benton 41 shell.

It was expected that one or more of the enemy's works would be reduced to-day, and the place more closely invested.

It is thought by some that the rebels are marching across the neck of land to Merriweather's Landing, on the Mississippi, distant only five miles, over a practicable road, and below the point where Gen. Pope has his batteries at New Madrid; that they had embarked in boats, the smoke of which was plainly seen all yesterday at or near Merriweather's Landing, from the gunboat Benton.

We shall doubtless find this rebel nest empty, and the river clear, and the Rebels fled to Randolph or Fort Pillow.

Still Later—Another Splendid Victory, Island No. 10 Captured, with all the Enemy's Transports, Ammunition, etc.—Another Victory in Arkansas.

ST. LOUIS, March 17-P. M.—Major General Halleck was serenaded here to-night, and in reply to the compliment announced from the balcony of the Planters House:—"Island No. 10 is ours, with all the ammunition, transports, etc., which the enemy had there; and we also have another victory gained in Arkansas, in which three rebel colonels have been captured." The particulars of this latter victory have not yet transpired.

FROM WASHINGTON
Arrest of an Editor for the Publication of Army Movements.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—An order was issued this morning for the seizure of the printing office and the arrest of the publishers and printers of the Washington *Sunday Chronicle*, and their trial by a court-martial, that paper having yesterday published news of military operations and movements, thereby disregarding the order of the Secretary of War, and making itself liable to be proceeded against under the 57th Article of War. The order of arrest was placed in the hands of the Military Governor of the District of Columbia, and the editor of the paper was brought before him. The editor stated that the news was handed in at a very late hour, and the paper went to press without his personal supervision. He expressed his regret at the violation of the order, and promised to guard carefully against a recurrence of similar publications; whereupon, at the request of the Military Governor, he being satisfied that the offence would not be repeated, the execution of the order was suspended.

In connection with this matter, attention is called to the following order issued last August, which still continues in full force:

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 67.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Aug. 26, 1861.

By the fifty-seventh article of the act of Congress entitled "an act for establishing rules and articles for the Government of the armies of the United States," approved April 10, 1806, *holding correspondence with or giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, is made punishable by death or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court martial.*

Public safety requires strict enforcement of this article. It is, therefore, ordered that all correspondence and communications verbaly or by writing, printing or telegraphing, respecting the operations of the army, or military movements on land or water, or respecting the troops, camps, arsenals, entrenchments or military affairs within the several military districts, by which intelligence shall be directly or indirectly given to the enemy without the authority or sanction of the General in command be and the same are, absolutely prohibited; and from and after the date of this order persons violating the same will be proceeded against, under the 57th article of the War.

By order,

[Signed.] L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

It is presumed that the action taken with the *Sunday Chronicle* will stop the publication of improper news in this capital, the headquarters of the enemy's spies. It has been hard to convince the correspondents of the Philadelphia and New York papers that it was of real service to the Government to prohibit the transmission of intelligence in a direction opposite from the enemy; while newspapers here, almost under the eyes of the rebels, filled their columns with matter which would be declared contraband at the telegraph office. The Government appears to have been of the same opinion, and only waiting for a clear case to make an example.

Army Appointments.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—A large number of applications have been made by volunteer officers to be appointed in the regular army, but these have been unsuccessful—among other reasons, owing to the difficulty of discriminating as to the relative merits of the applicants.

The Senate were four hours in executive session to-day, and confirmed the following nominations for Brigadier-General of Volunteers:

Major Wm. F. Barry, Chief of Artillery, attached to Gen. McClellan's staff; Willis A. Gorman, of Minnesota; Col. Schuyler, Hamilton Thomas, L. Price, a member of Congress from Missouri; Major James N. Palmer, 5th cavalry; Lieut-Col. W. H. Emery, of the 6th cavalry; Major Andrew J. Smith, of the 5th cavalry; Marcens L. Patrick, of New York; Isaac T. Quimby, of New York; Orris S. Ferry, of Connecticut; Hiram G. Berry, of Maine.

The following Brigadier-Surgeons, all of Pennsylvania, were confirmed:—James D. Strawbridge, R. B. McCoy, George S. Kemble, J. H. Taylor, George L. Pancoast, C. F. H. Campbell, F. H. Gross and Washington J. Duffee.

All Quiet.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Inquiry at several official sources up to noon to-day discloses nothing of an important character from any source.

From Havana and Vera Cruz—Movements of the Allies.

NEW YORK, March 17.—The steamer Roanoke, from Havana on the 12th, has arrived with Vera Cruz dates of the 4th instant. The Spanish troops were returning from the interior.

The English forces were to leave the country.—The French reinforcements had not arrived.

The French forces were en route for Tepucana, and the Spaniards started on the 1st for Orizaba. General Marques with 5,000 troops holds the road between Vera Cruz and Mexico.

An American citizen belonging to Lowell, Massachusetts, bearer of despatches from Washington to the United States Minister, Mr. Corwin, was murdered on the 21th, whilst going from Vera Cruz to Mexico.

The negotiations between the Mexicans and the allies are to commence at Orizaba, April 1st.

Honduras dates to the 27th ult., show that a favorable reaction had occurred, and that order was being restored by Medina, the President *pro tem.*

From Havana it is stated that the Spanish bark Teresa, captured by one of our squadrons, has been declared an illegal prize.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

NEW YORK, March 17.—Further advices per steamer Roanoke confirm the statement that the English troops are about to leave Mexico. A portion of the Spaniards are returning to Cuba, and the rest had gone to Orizaba.

General Prim commands the allied forces.

It appears that one of the stipulations made at the Conference between Gens. Prim and Doblado, was that no more troops be landed. Under this agreement, some of the Spanish troops returned to Cuba, and the expected French reinforcements, under General Lorence, were to return without landing. The English forces will return via Bermuda to England. Their mules, harness, &c, have been sold to the French, who started for Tehuacan on the 27th of February.

Several rebel schooners have been brought into Key West, including the William Mallory.

A number of rebel schooners, with small quantities of cotton, have reached Havana.

Two slave dealers have been murdered at Havana. The assassins were four in number; one of them, a mulatto, confessed the crime and was under trial.

The name of the American bearer of despatches, murdered in Mexico, is Addison T. Arden.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 16.—The gunboat Suwanee arrived to-day from Roanoke Island, having left there on Friday, and Hatteras on Saturday. She brings no news that can be made public at present.

The steamer Hugh Jenkins arrived here to-day from Washington with one of Professor Lowe's balloons.

The rough weather delays the repairs on the telegraphic cable.

There has been no boat from the Eastern Shore of Virginia to-day, and consequently there is no news as to the result of the Congressional election there.

The Congressional Committee on Naval Affairs, and the Assistant Secretaries of the Post Office and Treasury, came down from Washington to-day and returned to-night after inspecting the Monitor and other objects of interest here.

From Fortress Monroe via Cape Charles—All Quiet.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—By a telegraphic despatch from Cape Charles this afternoon, we learn that all was quiet at Fortress Monroe at noon today when the steamer left there for the Cape.

FROM MISSOURI.
The Loss of the Rebels in the Battle of Pea Ridge Mountain.

ROLLA, Mo., March 16.—The remains of Colonel Hendricks, of the Twenty-ninth Indiana regiment, who was killed at Pea Ridge, have arrived here. The Rebel surgeons captured acknowledge their loss to have been one thousand killed and from twenty-five hundred to three thousand wounded. Thirteen Rebel guns were captured and 1,000 prisoners. Among the Rebel officers killed was Gen. Frost of Camp Jackson notoriety. The defeat of the Rebels was most complete, Price flying in one direction and Van Dorn in another.

The Department of the Mississippi.

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—General Halleck commands that all jurors, whether in the civil or Criminal Courts, will hereafter be required to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by the State Convention on the 16th of October, 1861. Those who refuse to take such oath will be rejected as aliens.

Any neglect on the part of the army or volunteer Surgeons in their duties to the sick and wounded will be reported to headquarters. It is said that some of the medical officers who are prisoners of war have failed to give the proper attention to their own sick and wounded. In cases of this kind such medical officers will be deprived of their parole and placed in close confinement, and the facts be reported to headquarters.

IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE RIVER.
A Rebel Troop Train Cut Off from Memphis by Gen. Wallace's Division.

ST. LOUIS, March 16.—The expedition up the Tennessee river when last heard from was at Savannah, and about going further up.

General Wallace's division have burnt the railroad bridge in McNary county, between Humboldt, Tennessee, and Corinth, Mississippi, thus cutting off a Rebel train of soldiers who arrived while the bridge was burning.

[McNary county is the most southerly county in Tennessee, immediately west of the Tennessee river.]

News from San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—Arrived ship Blandana, Boston; Orpheus, New York; bark Catherine, Australia; bark Pride, of the Sea, thirty six days from Foo Chow, China; brought no papers or letters.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.—Arrived ship Gov. Morton, New York. Sailed ship Sword Fish, for Foo Chow, B. F. Hoxie, New York.

The Retreat of Jackson from Winchester.

WINCHESTER, March 17.—Contrabands arriving here confirm the report of the destruction of the bridge over Cedar creek, and also the report that Jackson retreated up the valley towards Harrisonburg, the capital of Rockingham county.

All is quiet on our outposts.

Parson Brownlow's Book.

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—The well-known publisher of Dr. Kane's works has offered Parson Brownlow ten thousand dollars for the copy-right of his proposed book giving an account of his sufferings and experiences among the Rebels.

Pontoon Bridge Carried Away.

LOUISVILLE, March 17.—The heavy rains have carried off the pontoon bridge over Barren river, at Bowling Green, and communication with Nashville is thus temporarily suspended. The Ohio river is rapidly rising.

Foundered at Sea.

NEW YORK, March 17.—The British gunboat Landale, from Bermuda, brings the crew of the British ship Mohawk, which foundered at sea. This was the vessel that supplied the Rebel steamer Nashville with coals.

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST THE CONFEDERATES ON THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI.

THE PENDING OPERATION OF THE GUNBOATS.

Correspondence of the Missouri Republican.

GUNBOAT CONESTOGA, CAIRO, March 23.

The future of the Western navy is now bright with promise, and it seems almost an impossibility that any reverse should occur to dim ever so slightly its yet honorable record. There may be batteries on the Mississippi banks far below, where the iron missiles will be hurled more fiercely and numerously than at Donelson, and fortune for a moment might favor the Confederates, but of the final success that will attend Flag-Officer Foote's splendid fleet, there is but one opinion, and that is, when starting, the obstructions between here and Memphis will prove unavailing, and the great Benton be in a month at their levee. Although forts Pillow and Randolph are stronger than those of the Cumberland, or Tennessee, the force against them will be three times as formidable as any yet used. Nine gunboats and thirty mortar-boats will make each attack, and any action heretofore will be insignificant when compared to those now approaching. The floats have never yet been used. The Benton, equal to three other boats, has been in no action, and if Fort Henry fell in an hour, ten times the number of guns should be able to reduce much stronger places.

It is the opinion of cautious military men, that with the improvements in position, throwing their immense shell from a safe distance, and the gunboats engaging at short range, no fort, open as those of the Confederates all are, can be held half a day without the slaughter of almost its whole garrison. While the Union gunners work behind iron shields, their foe will be exposed to a terrible storm of shell showered upon them, and which can be continued, if necessary, for days. Port Royal and Roanoke will be tame compared to scenes on the Mississippi, now near. But as the enemy are driven closer home, their resistance will become more desperate, and each victory be gained at a larger sacrifice of life. A parade and preparation have passed, and war, every desperate struggle of which will make the Old World wonder, is upon the land. It is useless to say the rebellion is crushed, and the Davis dynasty two-thirds buried. In the Southern States, where the Secession hosts are gathering, battles bloody, probably, as the modern times have seen, are approaching.

As the Confederate line of defence narrows, their forces can act more in unison, and formidable bodies be gathered instantly at threatened points. Although large armies are sometimes gathered together, it is seldom more than a few thousand can engage in action at a time; and even though able to bring superior numbers at each point to bear upon the foe, Government will find it some time yet before the Confederates are conquered. Last year many of our officers were going to eat Fourth of July dinners in Memphis, and since then every success has set a certain class mad with prophecy. The military men, who, by caution and perseverance, have assisted in winning the victories, do not consider the rebellion crushed by any means, but increase their vigilance and preparation. So, although the fleet will pass down the Mississippi, and in a few weeks be at Memphis and New Orleans, it is not a triumphant entry into a subdued country, but a route whose passage will be stubbornly disputed, and where one defence will lead to others equally as strong. Flag Officer Foote saw this, and although pressed to do so, refused to move until entirely ready, which he now is. The mortar floats are all manned, the men drilled, and every gunboat strengthened in those places where late actions have shown it necessary.

On Island No. 10 they have formidable defences, and the great floating battery mounting twelve guns is there. This battery is so made that it can be sunk at pleasure, leaving only a foot or less above the surface. Three or four steamers, carrying light guns, are also at that place.

AN ACCOUNT OF COMMODORE FOOTE'S FLOTILLA.

Cairo Correspondence New York Tribune.

The flotilla for this expedition will consist of seven iron-clad gunboats, the wooden Conestogas, and ten mortar rafts. These rafts have never been tested thoroughly, and great interest is felt to learn how they will work. If they prove successful as anticipated, they will be the most efficient branch of the service here, and will do great execution almost without incurring any hazard of life or property.

The iron-clad Henson goes as the Commodore's flag-ship, and will be used for the first time. She carries 16 guns (three more than either of the others), and her plating is the most extensive and complete in the flotilla. Unfortunately, however, she lacks power, and though she goes down-stream rapidly enough, is barely able to make her way against the strong current of the Mississippi. But for this defect (which will be remedied whenever there is time to put in new engines), she would be the most effective, as she is the largest, gunboat ever constructed.

In attacking Forts Henry and Donelson, the gunboats were all headed up stream. In any fight which occurs down the Mississippi they will be put to the severe test of engaging in battle with the current driving them toward the enemy's batteries. On the former occasion, whenever one of them became disabled she soon floated down out of the enemy's range. Hereafter, in such a contingency, they can only be anchored, and exposed to the fire until they are towed away. Moreover, they are so constructed that they hold their position in the stream more firmly, and insure more accuracy of aim when headed against the current.

Our information in regard to the strength of the Confederates at Island No. 10, is not very full; but it is known they took many of their heavy guns from Columbus there, and are rapidly placing them in position. It is believed that they design to make a strong stand; but if they are attacked soon, they will not, probably, have time to mount them all. If driven out they will fall back to Randolph, which is a strong position. A glance at the map will show you the only three points where they are likely to contest the passage of the gunboats between Columbus and Memphis. Island No. 10, just below Hickman, Kentucky; Randolph, Tennessee, and Fort Pillow, seventy miles above Memphis.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Major-General Braxton Bragg Declares Martial Law in Memphis.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2.

Headquarters Second Grand Division,
Army Mississippi Valley,
Jackson, Tenn., March 5, 1862.

1. All troops coming within the limits of this division from Louisiana and Mississippi will rendezvous at Grand Junction, Tenn.; and those from Alabama, at Corinth, Miss.; and rendezvous at Henderson and Bethel Stations, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

2. Lee's and Browder's regiments Tennessee volunteers, and stragglers and unattached men, will proceed from Henderson Station to Corinth, and report to Brigadier-General Ruggles. The 7th regiment Mississippi volunteers will proceed from Jackson to Henderson.

3. Chiefs of staffs will see that the necessary supplies and transportation are furnished, to effect these movements.

4. Railroads within the limits of this command being absolutely necessary for military purposes at this time, are, to the extent necessary, placed under the control of the Quartermaster's department. To suppress disorders, arrest all persons traveling without proper authority, and prevent undue interference by unauthorized persons on the Memphis, and Charleston, and Mobile, and Ohio Railroads, Brig. Gen. Ruggles will make the necessary details from his command to set a guard of one commissioned officer and five men with each passenger train on these roads.

5. The sale or supplying, in any manner of intoxicating liquors within five miles of any station occupied by troops, or within one mile of any public highway used for military purposes, except for medicinal purposes, on the written prescription of a regular physician, is prohibited. All groceries and drinking saloons within such limits will be closed, and the supplies packed, subject to military inspection. Any violation of this order will be followed by prompt arrest of the offender and destruction of all his stores of liquor.

6. Martial law is declared at the city of Memphis. A firm and discreet officer, of proper qualifications, will be detailed by Brig. Gen. Ruggles, to assume the duties of Provost Marshal at that place, who will publish his orders, and call on the commanding officer at that city for the necessary guards to enforce them.

7. The prisoners of war at Memphis will be transferred to Mobile under a guard of 50 men, to be detailed by Brig. Gen. Ruggles from his command at Corinth. The commanding officer at Mobile will forward them, under a proper guard, to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for confinement.

By command of Major General BRAGG.

H. W. WALTER, A. A. A. Gen.

Preaching to the Union Prisoners in Memphis.

From the Memphis Argus, March 6.

Our esteemed contrere, the Rev. Dr. Watson, of *The Memphis Christian Advocate*, having been invited to deliver a sermon to the Union prisoners confined in the Medical College on Beal street, thus speaks of his visit. It is certainly time something were done to relieve Memphis of the trouble and expense of these prisoners by means of an exchange:

"Having been invited by the Provost Marshal to preach to the Union prisoners, on Sabbath morning, we gladly embraced the opportunity. It rained in torrents, but knowing our congregation was certain to be on hand, we were there in time. The Belmont prisoners had been brought from the Medical College the night previous. There was much confusion among them, as they partook of their first meal together. After this was served, and the regulating process was over, we commenced service, near the centre of the large hall, in which they were confined. Soon most of them gathered around, united in singing, and behaved with great decorum during the whole service. There are, we learn, 235 of them. Those taken at Fort Donelson have a large proportion of boys among them.—Very few foreigners are among them. Most of them, we think, are from Illinois and the adjoining States. There are some fine-looking and intelligent men among them. Why have not these prisoners been exchanged? The Belmont prisoners have been here now four months, at an enormous expense. Prisoners have been exchanged at other places. It has been the Federal Government, as we have understood it, to direct such exchange everywhere. We do hope the powers that be will room take steps to send these men back, and thus relieve a like number of our own soldiers, who are confined perhaps even in a worse place than these, far from home and friends. We distributed our satchel full of Testaments and *Advocates* to them. We have never seen more gratitude manifested by any people than we found among these unfortunate men."

Proclamation from Gov. Brown of Georgia.

Governor Brown has issued a proclamation upon the subject of the distillation of liquors. He commands the people of Georgia to cease the manufacture of ardent spirits after the 15th of March, on pain of having their stills seized for the use of the Government. He also forbids its importation by the State road. The proclamation concludes as follows:

"We need more cannon with which to meet the enemy. Gun-metal, used in the manufacture of field-pieces, is composed of ninety parts of copper and ten of tin. The copper stills in Georgia, which are now heavy columbiads of destruction aimed against our own people, would, if manufactured into cannon, make many a battery of 6-pounders, to be turned against the enemy. Upon this material thus employed in our holy cause, we could invoke God's blessing. Upon it as now employed we can only expect His curse."

England, the Blockade, and Cotton

From the Richmond Dispatch, March 12.

Frenchmen fight for glory, Englishmen for gain. England will not recognize our independence or raise the blockade until it is her interest to do so.—At present there are several strong reasons why she does not intervene. Her citizens own Northern stocks and securities for debt to the amount of eight hundred millions of dollars. All this would be lost if she interfered in American affairs and declared the blockade inefficient. Although she does not fear the North, and in full consciousness of strength listens with contemptuous silence to Yankee insults, threats and braggadocios, yet she knows that Northern prevaricators would, in the event of war, seriously disturb her trade, and that is too great and valuable an interest to be impaired or jeoparded if it can be honorably avoided.

She wishes to encourage the production of cotton in India and her other southerly dependencies. The blockade will effect this object far better than any other measure. There is abundant cotton grown in India and other parts of southern Asia to supply her demand. She has only to give more for it than the Asiatics will give at home, and she is sure to procure it. The advancement of price occasioned by the decreased demand would not probably enhance the cost of her annual supply a hundred millions of dollars. At this rate, by supplying herself from India and avoiding war with the North, she might possibly in a twelve-month save seven hundred millions of dollars, stimulate the growth of cotton in her provinces and become partially (save a modicum of our long staple to blend with the Asiatic) independent of the South for her annual supply. Besides, from the Queen downwards, the abolition feeling, prejudice and influence in the present ruling party combinations in England, is very powerful, and the Government hesitates to take part with slave-holders, however just their cause.

Of course England is too sagacious not to see that she has a vast interest in the common carrying trade of the South; and she will so shape her policy, doubtless, as to prevent if possible, any other nation from getting the advantage of her in the participation of that trade and commerce. But just at this time such is the magnitude of the existing alliances with the North that she pauses to coquet for a time with her own interest, in order to get the benefit she may derive from delay, and the developments that are rapidly taking place. Should she even desire the permanent separation of the old Union, as she no doubt does most heartily, she may yet conceive that the situation of affairs favorable to her interests will be much improved by the exhaustion and bankruptcy of the Federal Government. But this view opens an extensive line of reflection for the mind, for which we have no space in this article.

Of late years France and England act in most singular and suspicious concert; and it is to be presumed that France will not intervene in our behalf until England is ready to follow her lead.—Notwithstanding that it is very evident Louis Napoleon is our friend, and desires to inaugurate an active policy affecting our relations and interests very promptly, it is the undoubted policy of France to co-operate with England, and not to act without her concurrence.

Let us dismiss, then, all expectation of foreign aid, and calmly inquire what injury, if any, we have sustained, or may hereafter sustain, from the blockade.

It is at once obvious that this measure of the North compels her to diffuse her naval force along a coast of several thousand miles and prevents a concentration of that force in an attack against any of our seaboard cities. But for the blockade, it is quite possible that by combining her whole naval strength, and directing it against a single point, she might take, one after another, all of our seaboard towns. We think that Norfolk, Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans owe their security thus far to this very blockade. Besides, it enormously increases the war expenses of the North, and it is the rapidly increasing and intolerable burden of those expenses alone that can exhaust her strength and so end the war.

Again, the blockade is fast making us a manufacturing people, so far as the implements of war and necessaries of life are concerned; and to that extent only do we care about becoming a manufacturing people. Independence of foreign nations for the supplies necessary in time of war should be attained in some way; and nothing will so effectually teach us what is needed for this purpose and how we shall manufacture and produce it, as this blockade.

Confederate money or notes and Confederate bonds are now, as a currency, as good as gold and silver. Gold and silver have ceased to be a currency and become a marketable commodity, but Confederate notes pass as freely and purchase as much agreeably to their denomination, as would a metallic currency. This is evidenced by the price of grain, which is selling at ordinary prices. The higher price of other things is owing to their scarcity, not to the depreciation of our paper currency.

GENERAL BANKS' ADVANCE.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS OF THE MARCH TO AND THE OCCUPATION OF WINCHESTER.

From the New York Times' Special Correspondent.

THE ARMY OF THE ADVANCE, GEN. BANKS' DIVISION, March 14, 1862.

First came a squadron of Michigan cavalry, followed by two batteries, Capts. Mather's and Hampton's, Parrott and field guns. These were followed by our New York 9th, Col. Stiles, and the 3d Wisconsin, Col. Rutger, who acted as skirmishers on the right, along the Winchester hills. To the left, on the other side of the railroad and turnpike, were the 13th Massachusetts, while the 12th Indiana and the 29th Pennsylvania acted in the open field on either side, being drawn up in companies. This was the regular order of the immediate advance, and after them followed the rest of the vast army, who now throng the Winchester streets almost as thick as ants.

We found that the most infamous stories had been circulated here, as elsewhere all along the route, of the "Lincoln horde," of their intention "to ravish women, murder children, and arm the slaves against their masters," etc. General Banks will not stop here. Strasburg is only eighteen miles off, and that place will succumb ere many days. At Charlestown the women still remain bitter and intense foes of the Union, while nearly all the men are off, enrolled in the Confederate States army. To show the enmity of the fair there, I will mention that one of the Press Brigade craved a room at the house of a lady on Main street. She met him at the door with flashing eyes, said that if he was hungry she would give him something to eat, but that she would sooner die than allow one of the vile mercenaries of the North to pollute her hearth-stone for the night. She pointed to her boy of fourteen: "This is the last that is left at home; six of his brothers are with our army, and every one of my male relatives who is capable; and I live in the hope that when this last one is old enough, he too will go forth, and I hope that he will plunge his sword deep into your hearts." With a grand air this tragedy queen slammed the door. Such is the madness of our Southern brethren fearfully deluded by their infamous leaders. A strong instance of this occurred just before General Banks entered Charlestown. Several members of his staff rode up to R. M. T. Hunter's house, and stated that the General had requested them to state that he wished to make the mansion his headquarters. The ladies, refined and intelligent, burst into tears, and sobbed forth that they hoped "they would not be injured, that their sex would be respected," &c., yet all along the route the most rigid care has been taken of property, and excesses of all kinds severely punished.

The table before which John Brown's judges sat is now used by the Army Telegraph Corps, while the famous jail is occupied by Col. Maulsby, the Provost Marshal. Here I saw a most touching picture. A female contraband had just been brought in; she was almost white. With her were two little children, both under three years. She stood awaiting her fate in an attitude of exquisite grace, her heart wildly throbbing, yet with an air of deep dejection, filled with sorrow and the memories perchance of repeated degradation. One could see by her unstudied grace of attitude and statuesque air that her blood coursed some of the best white blood in the State, yet she was only a slave, a mere "chattel."

At Harper's Ferry, the once-famous engine-house is which the old man defied all Virginia, there are now some thirty secession prisoners—a curious change to those who crowded at the Union, because one old man made a vital stroke for the freedom of the slaves. There are now only thirty families left, where there were, a year ago, 5,000 people. The day before our troops crossed the Potomac, a messenger came to town in hot haste, demanding that all the citizens should shoulder a musket, and join the militia, for active service against the "Yankees." The next day, in six hours the pontoon bridge of forty strong boats was built, and we then saw set, 8,000 men, horse, foot and artillery—had passed over in perfect safety. The old bridge will be finished next week, and by the 1st of April the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will be running again.

The numerous graves on the crest of the hill at Harper's Ferry show how busy death has been in the Confederate ranks during the winter. Around are seen the lofty ridges of the Blue Mountains, pierced at one bold point by the Potomac and Shenandoah; nature has lavished a wild beauty over the whole scene, and man has degraded it by the basest treason. As our thick ranks passed the lonely cemetery a meadow-lark, perched on an oak, sent forth her lute-like notes, which whispered to many a one of the homes they had left behind. It was a trifling incident, but it was noticed that many were affected by the melody.

When our troops passed through Berryville, they found one side of the Berryville *Conservator* all ready for the forms, stuffed, of course, with secession. Some types of the First Minnesota immediately went to work and printed the other side strong Union, of course. I enclose a copy.

A very funny incident happened near Martinsburg. As a general rule, the army has found that many Virginians have deserted, or voluntarily thrown down their arms, alleging that they had no heart in the fight, but were forced into it. This is not the case with many of the Gulf troops, however; they are dogged and obstinate, and very bitter. A son of Erin captured one of the "Mississippi Tigers," and while bringing him to camp, the "Tiger," an immense fellow, managed to free himself and run. The Hibernian disdained to use his musket, but chased him. At last seizing him, it they went, rough-and-tumble. The "Tiger," maddened by the heavy blows, bared his bit, nearly severing his thumb. The Celt dropped the soldier then, and retaliated in the same style; finally he conquered him after a tremendous punishment, which dislocated his shoulder. The next day he visited the son of the "Repudiation State" in the hospital, went up to him, and shaking his well arm with a hearty grip, observed, "I haven't a bit of a grudge against ye; by jabers, ye