THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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ENOCH PRATT BALTO.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the resolution authorizing the President to assign the command of troops in any field or department to any officer he may think proper to select, without regard to seniority, was taken up and passed—the clause authorizing the President to dismiss, at his discretion, any officer from the service, being first stricken out. The House bill to facilitate judicial proceedings and adjudications on captured property was taken up, amended and passed. The bill for the manumission of slaves in the District of Columbia, but granting compensation to loyal owners, was called up and debated until the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives no business worth noting was transacted.

The most important intelligence which is made public this morning, is the capture of Newbern, North Carolina, by a combined naval and military expedition under General Burnside. The fight which, even from the meagre account we have of the affair, appears to have been hotly contested, took place on Friday morning last, and was continued for the space of five hours. The gunboats there, as elsewhere, were found of essential service in shelling the Confederate entrenchments, and under cover of this fire Burnside landed his troops and carried the works. The Federal loss is estimated at one hundred killed and four hundred wounded; whilst that of the Confederates is set down at about two hundred killed and wounded. Some three hundred however, are said to have been taken prisoners subsequently by the pursuing parties. Among the killed were several prominent Federal officers, and it is supposed that some officers of high grade in the Confederate service also lost their lives in the engagement. The capture of Newbern cuts off railway communication with Fort Macon, twenty miles south of Newbern, and endangers the safety of Beaufort. The Senate yesterday confirmed the nomination of Gen. Burnside as Major-General of Volunteers.

The prisoners taken by General Curtis, at the recent battle in Arkansas, are said to be *en route* for St. Louis. The statement that Curtis is in a dangerous position is pronounced to be false. Generals Price and Van Dorn are reported to be moving southward.

From Fortress Monroe the only intelligence worth noting is that a reconnoissance in force was made yesterday from Newport News, in the direction of Great Bethel, where it was discovered that the Confederates were posted, in number some two thousand strong, and supported by six pieces of artillery. As an order had been issued to the Federal officers in command to avoid a fight, they immediately fell back to Newport News.

A telegram from Cairo states that the bombardment of Tenth Island, on the Mississippi river, was continued until nightfall. At that time the Confederate works had been badly damaged, and one of their guns silenced. Some injury had been inflicted on the Federal gunboats, but not sufficient to disable any of them. The bombardment was to have been resumed yesterday morning, when it was expected that additional mortar boats would be brought into action.

The Washington *Star* of yesterday announces the arrival at Manassas of a portion of the division under General Banks. On Monday last General Banks was in Washington receiving, it is said, the congratulations of his friends; but more probably for the purpose of obtaining fresh instructions from the War Department in consequence of the changes that had become necessary in the plan of the campaign, from the sudden abandonment of their old positions by the Confederates.

A correspondent of the Norfolk *Day Book*, writing on the 5th inst., from Beaufort, North Carolina, states that the steamer Nashville was then lying at Morehead City, under cover of the guns of Fort Macon, and that the blockading squadron had recently been increased at that point.

The Richmond *Dispatch*, in its editorial strictures on General Burnside's proclamation, meets, with an indignant denial, the statement made by General Burnside, that the Southern leaders had imposed upon the credulity of the Southern people; and that the war was brought about by a few bad men who were "influenced infinitely more by the worst passions of human nature than by any share of elevated reason"—whatever that may mean. The *Dispatch* asserts that the only distinction between the Southern people and their leaders is, that the latter are for carrying on a defensive war, whilst the former are for aggression—"the leaders for independence only; the people for liberty and for vengeance."

Notwithstanding the reported discovery of so small a number of Confederates, the Washington correspondent of the New York *World* asserts that there can be no doubt that the Confederate force at Little and Great Bethel, and in the vicinity of those places, is but little short of fifteen thousand men. About ten thousand of them are said to have been drawn up in order of battle not far from Newport News, on Sunday last, whilst the contest was going on between the Merrimac and the Monitor. We are told, moreover, by the Washington *Star*, that no fear is now felt as to the result of another contest with the Merrimac when she again leaves Norfolk harbor. "If the Monitor," says the *Star*, "fails to sink her, other measures have been taken to insure a victory." This last expression sounds significant, and by some persons will be held to mean much which is at present kept secret.

The commissionres to investigate the cases of the political prisoners have changed their place of meeting from the State to the War Department.—Orders have been issued to release Mrs. W. H. Norris and Col. Zarvona, on condition that they consent to take the oath of allegiance.

The Snow Hill (Md.) *Shield* publishes a statement to the effect that a bill has passed the Assembly of Virginia ordering a vote, on the 15th of this month, to be taken in Accomac and Northampton counties, on the question of annexing those counties to the State of Maryland.

General Sherman has been superseded by General Hunter in the command of the Department comprising the States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The nominations of Daniel E. Sickles, of New York, and Paul R. George, of New Hampshire, have been rejected by the Senate of the United States, in Executive session—that of General Lockwood was suspended.

FROM CHARLESTOWN, VA.

A correspondent of the New York *World*, in giving a long description of the doings of the Federal army in and about Charlestown, Va., says:

An affair in which the Maryland regiment were taken prisoners must be mentioned. They were advancing, and came upon what they supposed to be two companies of Confederate cavalry. They opened fire upon them, doing some damage, when the cavalry charged upon them and took the greater part of them prisoners. The Confederate cavalry proved to have been the "Michigan Wolverines!"

Some of our soldiers evidently think they are in the enemy's country, and have a perfect right to replenish their homely fare with such luxuries as the rich farms in the vicinity afford. I can't say that such depredations have been by any means general, but one man at whose residence I spent half an hour, and who keeps about a dozen negroes and a well stocked farm, informed me that a descent was made by —— (I will not name the regiment), and twenty-five hogs, ten sheep, several cattle, a hundred chickens, and lots of turkeys, &c., were appropriated without ceremony, in spite of the protests which were made by their unfortunate owner. It is but just to say that a guard was afterwards placed to protect him from farther losses of the kind. The old gentleman was, without doubt, of Southern sympathies, and some members of his family without any doubt.

The daughter, an animated sparkling Southern lass, of whom I very innocently inquired if all the young men in the country had not been impressed into the Confederate service (I then understood that to have been the case), answered with a slight flavor of indignation, "No, indeed, they have not, for they all volunteered."

I passed a printing office in Charlestown, where the *Virginia Free Press* had been published until the recent approach of our army, and found a quantity of type scattered in the street and on the sidewalks. On inquiry I ascertained that the publisher had been strongly in favor of the Union as long as his personal safety would allow of such a course, and since then his position has been as near that of neutrality as could possibly be maintained. He has been injured to the amount of about $1,000.

The churches were all occupied by the Federal forces, which is a source of the greatest annoyance to disloyal Charlestown. When Sabbath came the churches were very carefully cleaned and prepared for worship; but no congregation assembled.

A very serious accident, caused by the breaking of a rail, occurred on the Hudson River Railroad, on Saturday, by which five volunteers, belonging to the Ninety-fourth New York regiment, on their way to the seat of war, were killed, and several others severely injured. The bodies of the killed were immediately returned home, and the wounded sent to New York and placed in the hospital, where they will be tenderly cared for until fully recovered.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATEST FROM ISLAND NUMBER TEN. Hard Fighting—The Damage Sustained by the Federal Vessels, &c.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—At 2 P. M. to-day, the following despatch reached the Navy Department:

CAIRO, March 18.—News received this 9 A. M., from flag-ship Benton, dated near Island No. 10, 17th:

"We had hard work this afternoon with the upper battery of all at this point. Four shots struck us only, out of the fire of five forts. One shot, after striking the upper deck twice, and the lower deck once, breaking some half-a-dozen beams, finally lodged in the Flag-Officer's desk, depositing itself in the drawer as quietly as possible.

"We have battered the forts all to pieces, dismounting one gun, but night came upon us, and we had to leave without finishing the work, but will to-morrow go at him again. A rifled gun burst on board the St. Louis and killed two men outright, wounded mortally two more, and wounded ten others. These are the only casualties. The mortars are doing well.

"A. M. PENNOCK, Senior Officer."

The fleet of mortar boats was doubtless well-nigh doubled in number to-day.

The Battle at Island No. 10.

CHICAGO, March 18.—It would seem that the announcement of the capture of Island No. 10 received last night was premature.

A despatch received here to day from Cairo says:

A messenger just from Island No. 10 reports that our boats kept up an incessant fire all yesterday.

The rebels have six distinct batteries on the Tennessee shore.

One of the enemy's shot struck the Benton, killing one and wounding seven. One of our rifled guns on the St. Louis burst, wounding several.

The St. Louis was struck several times. The enemy are very strongly fortified. They have a large number of troops on the mainland.

The shells from the Mortars fell on the enemy's entrenchments every time. All the mortars at Cairo leave immediately.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE SOUTHWEST. The Last Victory in Arkansas—The Position of Gen. Curtis.

ROLLA, Mo., March 18.—Anticipating some rebel movements in Texas Co., Mo., General Halleck ordered five companies and a battery of the light steel 6-pounders, under Col. Wood, to repair to that vicinity. Finding no enemy Col. Wood pushed on to Salem, Fulton county, Arkansas, and encountered a largely superior force of rebels, but after a sharp fight routed them, killing about one hundred and taking many prisoners. Among the latter were three Colonels. Our loss was about fifty.

The prisoners taken by Gen. Curtis at Pea Ridge are now *en route* for St. Louis, under a proper guard.

The report that Gen. Curtis is in a dangerous position is false. Forage for his cavalry is scarce, but in other respects the situation of his troops is cheering.

The demoralized and crippled forces of Price and Van Dorn are roaming Southward.

General Halleck's Official Despatch.

ST. LOUIS, March 18.—The following is General Halleck's despatch to the War Department in reference to the victory in Arkansas:

ST. LOUIS, March 18.

To Secretary Stanton:

A scouting party under Lieutenant-Colonel Wood and Major Drake, consisting of about 250 men of the 6th Missouri and 3d Iowa Cavalry, encountered near Salem, Arkansas, about 1,000 of the enemy, under Cols. Coleman, Woodsides and McFarland. After a severe fight the enemy were defeated, with the loss of Col. Woodsides, and about 100 killed and wounded, and a considerable number of prisoners. Our loss is 25 killed and wounded.

(Signed) H. W. HALLECK, Major-General.

A Bold Movement of Some Rebel Cavalry.

LOUISVILLE, March 18.—Yesterday morning the train for Bowling Green to Nashville was intercepted at Gallatin by a party of rebel cavalry under Capt. John Morgan, who run the train off the track and took those on the train prisoners, about 30 bridge built *en route* to Nashville to rebuild the bridge over the Cumberland River. The only remaining locomotive on the Memphis branch of the Louisville and Nashville road near Russellville exploded yesterday, killing the engineer, conductor and brakeman. This suspends railroad communication on that branch for the present.

FROM WASHINGTON. General Orders of General McClellan, Dividing the Army into Army Corps.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The following order has been issued by General McClellan:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, VA., March 13, 1862.

General Orders No. 101.

In compliance with the President's War Order No. 2, of March 8th, 1862, the active portion of the Army of the Potomac is formed into army corps as follows:

1st Corps—Major-General Irvine McDowell, to consist, for the present, of the Divisions of Generals Franklin, McCall and King.

2d Corps—Brigadier-General E. V. Sumner, to consist of the Divisions of Generals Richardson, Blenker and Sedgwick.

3d Corps—Brigadier-General S. P. Heintzelman, to consist of the Divisions of Generals F. J. Porter, Hooker and Hamilton.

4th Corps—Brigadier General E. D. Keyes, to consist of the Divisions of Generals Couch, Smith and Casey.

5th Corps—Major-General N. P. Banks, to consist of the Divisions of Generals Williams and Shields.

The Cavalry regiments attached to the Divisions will for the present remain so. Subsequent orders will provide for these regiments, as well as for the Reserve Artillery, Regular Infantry, and Regular Cavalry.

Arrangements will be made to unite the Divisions of each army corps as promptly as possible.

The Commanders of Divisions will at once report in person, or, where that is impossible, by letter to the Commander of their Army Corps.

By command of

Major-General McCLELLAN,
A. V. COLBURN, Assistant Adjutant General.

The Commission Relative to State Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Commission, composed of Major Gen. Dix and Judge Pierpont, have changed their place of meeting from the State to the War Department.

Among the prisoners ordered to be released today is Mrs. Norris, of Baltimore, whose crime was corresponding in cypher with Zarvona, a prisoner in Fort Warren, known as having personated a French lady, and superintending the seizure of the steamer St. Nicholas, on the Potomac River. Mrs. Norris, like others, will be set at liberty on taking the oath of allegiance. W. H. Masbury, of Alexandria was also released.

No personal interviews can be had with the Commission, and all statements with regard to prisoners must be reduced to writing, and addressed either to the Commissioners or to their Secretary, E. D. Webster, Esq.

Rejoicing over the Capture of Newbern.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The intelligence received here of the capture of Newbern, N. C., after a hard-fought battle, has added to the general joy, especially as it is considered we have thereby secured great military advantages, and places the safety of General Burnside beyond question.

Deaths in the Army.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Many exaggerated statements having been made as to the mortality in the army, it is ascertained from official sources that the number of deaths among the regulars stationed here for the quarter ending with March, 1861, was 28; the quarter ending with June, 33 regulars and 46 volunteers; for the quarter ending with September, 56 regulars and 749 volunteers; for the quarter ending December, 108 regulars and 2,970 volunteers. Total, 4,990, of which one hundred were from various causes received.

The above deaths were in two hundred and fifty-seven regiments, including those of the army of the Potomac.

The Allied Movement Against Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Diplomatic circles are sensibly disturbed by authentic news received here from Cuba, indicating a serious misunderstanding between the allied Powers in Mexico—the probable departure of the British forces from that country, and the return of several Spanish regiments from Vera Cruz to Havana, and the augmentation of the French forces in Mexico. A rupture between the Spanish and the French Legations in Mexico is supposed to have occurred.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Information received at the State Department from New Granada, indicates a very vigorous reaction against Gen. Mosquera. Neither the Government of the United States nor that of Great Britain has ever recognized his Government.

Hon. Martin F. Conway, of Kansas, has been absent from the House for a week past in consequence of a severe attack of gastric fever.

General Burnside.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Brigadier General Burnside was this afternoon confirmed by the Senate as Major General of volunteers.

Railroad Companies Seeking Government Aid.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—It is reported that there are various railroad representatives here preparing applications to Congress for pecuniary assistance to complete their present lines, and open new routes, to an amount exceeding, in the aggregate, $15,000,000.

A strenuous effort will be made to induce Congress to aid their plans, either by the Government endorsing their bonds, or in the shape of a donation upon the ground of a national necessity.

Settlement of Claims of Army Contracts.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Messrs. Holt and Owen, the commissioners to adjust and settle claims under contracts for arms and munitions, have commenced their labors. The high reputation of these gentlemen for business capacity and integrity, affords a guarantee to both claimants and the public, that justice and speedy settlements will be obtained.

The Commission was appointed, not as some interested parties pretended, to delay the settlement of claims, but to bring it about at the earliest possible moment. The Commissioners are located in the suit of rooms formerly occupied by Mr. Stanton, as a law office. They give their entire attention to claimants, and will be able to expedite work which, if had to come under the examination of the Secretary of War, could not be reached before the rebellion is suppressed and the war closed.

The Government at present is paying yearly certificates to claimants whose accounts have been adjusted, and requisitions issued therefor by the different Departments. As soon as requisitions issue in favor of the different disbursing officers, yearly certificates will be placed to their credit with the Treasurer here, and directions given them to draw against it in favor of those of whom purchases have been or may be made, in compliance with the law which passed Congress yesterday.

United States Supreme Court Decision.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The United States Supreme Court have decided, after elaborate argument, two cases, namely: United States against Lysander Babbitt, and the United States against Robert Coles, in favor of the United States—setting therein that Registers and Receivers of Public Lands cannot retain the fees on military bounty land-warrants beyond the compensation of $3,000 per annum, and that they were limited by the Act of 1818. This decision of a long contested question saves to the Government nearly a million of dollars. The argument in behalf of the Government was prepared and conducted by Assistant Attorney-General Coffey.

Arrival of Cotton Vessels at Nassau.

NEW YORK, March 18.—A Nassau letter of the 9th inst., states that the steamers Ella and Wanly, with one thousand bales of cotton, and the Kate, from Ferrandina, (which escaped before the capture of that place), had arrived there. The cargo of the former was being transferred to the ship Eliza Bonsall.

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION

Capture of Newbern, North Carolina—Federal Loss Nearly Five Hundred Killed and Wounded.

The steamer Commander arrived here yesterday morning direct from Hatteras Inlet, bringing the intelligence of the capture of Newbern, N. C., by General Burnside, after a hotly-contested fight.—Capt. Hazzard, bearer of despatches from General Burnside, arrived by the Commander, and proceeded direct to Washington by special train.—We take the following account from the Baltimore *American*:

As far as we can ascertain, the attack on Newbern was made on last Friday morning by the Federal gunboats, the enemy being strongly entrenched and having a force of not less than four thousand infantry in reserve. Under the protection of the gunboats the land forces of General Burnside were landed, and after a sharp conflict, which lasted five hours, stormed the enemy's batteries and drove them out. It was the first regular battle that has yet occurred on the sea coast, and some idea of the manner in which the works were defended may be judged from the fact that the Federal loss is estimated at 100 killed and 400 wounded. The loss of the enemy, they fighting behind breastworks, and running as soon as deprived of their shelter, was of course not so great, and is supposed not to exceed 200 killed and wounded.

The rout is represented to have been complete, our troops having captured all their cannon, field guns, ammunition, stores, camp equipage, barracks, &c.

The enemy were put to the most perfect rout, and were pursued for some distance, having thrown away their arms and destroyed the bridges on the railroad behind them. About three hundred of the enemy were taken prisoners, having been brought in by the pursuing parties.

Among the killed several prominent Federal officers are reported, but we have not heard their names. The enemy are also reported to have lost some prominent officers.

The capture of Newbern, it will be seen by an examination of the map, is most important, cutting off Fort Macon, under whose guns the Rebel steamer Nashville now lies, from all railroad communication with the interior of the State. The distance from Newbern to Fort Macon, which is located near the mouth of Roanoke Inlet, is not over twenty miles by railroad.

At the latest accounts General Burnside had full possession of the town of Newbern, and had his pickets posted for many miles around. A number of the inhabitants had fled, but were rapidly returning on the assurance given that they would be amply protected in private property and rights.

Newbern is the capital of Craven county, North Carolina, and is situated at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, about one hundred and twenty miles southeast from Raleigh, and fifty miles from Pamlico Sound. It was for many years the capital of the State. The Neuse river, which is more than a mile wide at this place, is navigated by steamboats about eight months of the year. The entrance from the sea is through Ocracoke Inlet. Newbern, before the rebellion, had considerable trade. Its chief articles of export were grain, lumber, turpentine, tar and naval stores. The population is about 5,500, and besides the county buildings, Newbern contains several churches, two banks, a theatre, and three newspaper offices.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

We learn from a passenger on board the Commander, that the rebels, when they first passed through Newbern, set fire to a number of buildings in the town, but were in too much of a hurry to wait and see the flames well under headway. The people resisted this vandalism as well as they were able, and immediately set to work to extinguish the flames, in which they succeeded.

There were large quantities of naval stores in the town, all of which was claimed as private property, and will be so respected.

The Federal troops engaged in the fight were principally from Massachusetts and the New England States, and they exhibited indomitable bravery and pluck, as their heavy losses indicate.—They went into the fight determined to settle the point that one Southerner was not equal to three Yankees, even behind formidable breastworks.

A movement was to be immediately made towards Fort Macon, with the view of cutting it off entirely, and compelling its surrender. It is quite a formidable work, and is one of the old forts which President Lincoln proclaimed "must be restored to Federal authority."

THE MEXICAN EXPEDITION.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ALLIANCE—THE UNITED STATES TO ASSUME THE INTEREST ON THE DEBT OF MEXICO.

The steamer Roanoke, from Havana on the 12th, arrived at New York on Monday. She brings dates from Vera Cruz to the 4th instant. The news from Mexico is important.

The English contingent of the allied forces had been withdrawn, leaving the French and Spanish to carry on operations against the Mexicans.—England, however, agrees to sanction the proceedings of their forces. The English troops will return in the Bermuda to England. Their mules, harness, &c., were sold to the French, who started for Tehuacan on the 27th.

The Government of Juarez has ratified the Convention agreed to at Solidad between the Marquis of Castellejos and Sr. Doblado; the troops had commenced their march to Cordova, Tehuacan, and Orizaba, and everything announced that the pending disagreements would have a pacific solution, and that ample guarantees would be obtained for the future. A portion of the Spanish troops had returned to Cuba, and the expected French reinforcements were to return without landing.

The discussion of the diplomats will begin the 1st of April, at Orizaba. *It is stated that the American Minister, Mr. Corwin, has undertaken, on the part of the United States, that his Government will pay or secure the payment of the interest on the debts of Mexico to France, England and Spain.*

It is not anticipated that any difficulty will be found in coming to an amicable arrangement, by which Mexico will arrange for indemnity for the past, and provide for prompt payment of her debts in the future, and for entire protection to foreign residents.

The Mexican Government distinctly informed General Prim that no attempt to institute a new government would be listened to for a moment. Therefore it is probable that any attempt that was intended to institute a monarchy, with Prince Maximilian at its head, will have to be abandoned. There is every prospect of a restoration of peaceable relations.

The following is the text of the Convention of Soliedad, ratified by President Juarez:

[illegible] has actual jurisdiction in the Mexican republic has informed the commissioners of the allied powers that it does not need the assistance that they have so benevolently offered to the Mexican people, because that people contains in itself sufficient elements of strength and opinion to preserve itself from any internal revolt, the allies will resort to treaties to present in form all the reclamations that they are charged to make in the name of their respective nations.

2. To this end, and protesting, as ——, the representatives of the allied nations, do protest, that they have no intent to injure the sovereignty or integrity of the Mexican Republic, negotiations shall be opened at Orizaba, to which city the commissioners of the allied Powers and the ministers of the Republic shall repair, unless by common consent delegates shall be named by both parties.

3. During the negotiations the forces of the allied Powers shall occupy the cities of Cordova, Orizaba and Tehuacan.

4. In order that there may be not the remotest supposition that the allies have signed these preliminaries in order to procure admission to the fortified positions now garrisoned by the Mexican army, it is stipulated that in the unhappy event of the rupture of negotiations, the allied forces shall retire from the aforesaid positions, and shall take up position in a line before said fortifications, on the road to Vera Cruz, the extreme points being the Paso Ancho on the Cordova road and the Paso de Ovejo on the Jalapa road.

5. In case the negotiations shall be unhappily discontinued, and the allies retire to the prescribed lines, the hospitals of the allies shall remain under the safeguard of the Mexican nation.

6. Upon the day that the allied troops commence their march to occupy the points mentioned in Art. 3, the Mexican flag shall be hoisted in the city of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan de Ulos.

La Soliedad, Feb. 19, 1862.

The CONDE DE REUS,
MANUEL DOBLADO,
CHAS. LENNOX WYKE,
HUGH DUNLOP,
A. DESALIGNY,
E. JURIEN.

I approve these preliminaries in exercise of the full powers with which I am vested.

BENITO JUAREZ,
President of the Republic.

JESUS TERAN, Secretary.

GREAT REDUCTION OF RENTS IN BOSTON.—It was stated, in a case on trial in the Supreme Court at Boston, that the reduction of rents upon State street, recently, had in some instances amounted to two-thirds of the amount.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Reinforcements For General Burnside.

From the Norfolk Day Book, March 11.

BEAUFORT, N. C., March 5, 1862.

As this is an important point in a military view, and as public attention has been directed here by the recent arrival in this harbor of the Confederate steamer Nashville, I spin that a line or two from this quarter will not be unacceptable to your readers.

The Nashville is now quietly lying at her moorings near Morehead City, and the blockaders are in full view of the prey they have been so eager to clutch. The gallant Pegram was fully equal to his task, and will doubtless see the war shall close, teach the Yankees that they do not carry a broom at their masthead to sweep the seas. Although the blockading squadron has been increased since the arrival of the Nashville, yet none of them dare venture within range of the guns of Fort Macon.

A gentleman, in whom the most implicit reliance can be placed, arrived here yesterday from Portsmouth, the extreme eastern limit of this county, and reports that there are at least one hundred vessels at Hatteras, supposed to be reinforcements for General Burnside. Our forces at Suffolk, I trust, are ready to give him a warm reception—aye, to send him back to the codfish and onions of his native New England, as a more congenial clime for his patriotism and military prowess.

In reading the various papers that claim to contain the current news of the day, I have seen no mention of the fact that the Yankees have burned several stout vessels at Ocracoke Inlet, in this State. Since committing such a crime against humanity at the said Inlet, no blockading vessel has been stationed there, as they doubtless consider that they have effectually and permanently closed it against all comers.

If anything of marked importance should occur in this vicinity, I will promptly advise the readers of the *Day Book* of the fact.

Burnside and Goldsborough's Proclamation.

From the Richmond Dispatch, March 12.

As soon as the Yankees get a foothold on Southern soil, their leaders issue a proclamation, in which they entertain us with a description of their character and purposes. According to their own account of themselves, they are the most humane and honest people in the world, and have no intention of interfering with the property or rights of anybody, not even with their lives, if they will get out of their way. Burnside and Goldsborough say of themselves and the murderous and marauding crew, whose hands are steeped in Southern blood: "We are Christians as well as yourselves, and we profess to know full well, and to feel profoundly, the same obligations of the character." If they had not said this, we should certainly never have discovered it from their conduct.

We have it from an eye-witness that they committed all sorts of depredations on Roanoke Island, as they have everywhere else where they have obtained a footing. They says:—"The Southern leaders have imposed upon your credulity by telling you of wicked and even diabolical intentions on our part; of our desire to destroy your freedom, demolish your property, liberate your slaves, injure your women, and such enormities—all of which, we assure you, is not only ridiculous, but utterly and wilfully false." Perhaps the veracious Burnside company would have us believe that the war did not begin with a proclamation of "Beauty and Booty" in New York; that the women, when the soldiers left that city, did not invoke each of them to bring back the head of a Southern man, and that the New York *Tribune* did not declare that the war should not end till Southern men were driven from their homes, and were compelled to look upon their wives and children famished and in rage. If he says all this is falsehood he must charge it upon the New York papers, which contained these statements, and not upon the Southern leaders.

Perhaps he will also deny that Northern soldiers, on their way to Washington, declared that they did not intend to leave an unpolluted household in all Virginia, and that the letter-bags seized by our army at Manassas were full of letters invoking them to this hellish treatment of women. Whether he denies it or not, the fact can be proved by better men than himself and by the letters them selves, which still remain in Southern hands; or, when he denounces as falsehood their intention to kidnap Southern slaves, he is not aware of the fact that the slaves of every secessionist have been taken from him by Lincoln's orders whenever the Northern army have been able to do it. When he denies that our property is to be demolished, he has never heard of Southern houses and barns set on fire, nor of wholesale Confiscation acts. When he says that it is a "ridiculous falsehood" that the Yankees desire to destroy our freedom, he is ignorant of Fort Lafayette, Fort Warren and other Yankee bastiles, and knows nothing of the thirty respectable citizens of Alexandria, who have been lately torn from their homes to join the long procession of exiles from their native land to Yankee prisons.

Burnside avers that "the desolating war has been brought upon your State (North Carolina) by comparatively a few bad men in your midst. Influenced infinitely more by the worst passions of human nature than by any share of elevated reason, they have succeeded in deceiving many of you to their unholy passions." The man that wrote this knew full that North Carolina, like Virginia, never dreamed of leaving the old Union till she was driven out by Lincoln's proclamation, calling for an army of 75,000 men, and that the war began by the squadron sent by the same tyrant to reinforce Fort Sumter. He might also know, if he knew anything of Southern sentiment, that the leaders are far behind the people in the energy and fire of their resistance to Northern invasion. Who is it that has filled these armies, which the Northern journals pretend are larger than their own? Is it not an army of volunteers, composed of the people, in which every Southern family has a representative, and some as many as twenty; mothers giving up their darling children, and wives their husbands, and urging them to die rather than permit the subjugation of their native land?

If the South had an abundance of arms there would to-day be a million of volunteers in the field. Who has clothed this army, and provided them with all the comforts they have enjoyed? Who has taken them into private houses and nursed them when sick as if they were their own children? The people! Never was there a movement so profoundly and universally a popular movement as the Southern war of defence. Let us tell Mr. Burnside that if the people whom he considers the dupes of wicked leaders had had their way after the battle of Manassas, in which he and other Yankee generals made such excellent time, he would not now be vaporing on the coast of North Carolina. The battle would have been followed up, Washington seized, Lincoln and his Cabinet either caught or caged, Maryland emancipated, and the North invaded. If he does not know he ought to know, that it is because the "wicked Southern leaders" have marked out a rigid defensive policy that the North has not been made to taste the secrets of that war which they have brought upon the South, and that if the universal sentiment of the Southern people had been carried out by their Government the wretches who have invaded us would have been made before this time to pay compound interest, with fire and sword, for every insult to Southern soil, for every Southern roof-tree destroyed, and every drop of Southern blood which has been shed.

Burnside and Goldsborough consider men to be "influenced by the worst passions of human nature," who revolt at the political and commercial domination of the North, and who do not consider Yankeeism the most pure, benign and unselfish of human institutions. But from that opinion the Southern people differ. They hate from their heart of hearts the whole festering mass of hypocritical, cruel and bloody invaders. The only distinction between them and their leaders is, that the leaders are for mere defence; the people for aggression; the leaders for independence only; the people from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, for liberty and for vengeance.

Military Orders.

From the Norfolk Day Book, March 11.

GENERALS ORDERS—NO. 1.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF NORFOLK, NORFOLK, VA., March 6, 1862.

1. In obedience to instructions from Division Headquarters, teamsters, employees of the military departments within this district and laborers at the Navy Yard will be exempted from ordinary militia duty during such service only, and [illegible] &c., upon their producing to the captain of the precinct in which they are severally enrolled a proper certificate of such employment. When discharged they will be immediately reported to such captain for duty.

2. Applications for exemption from military duty on account of physical inability will hereafter be made in writing to the captain of the precinct to which the applicant belongs, and by him be referred to the Board of Exempts, before being forwarded to this department. All persons who claim exemption for physical debility will be required to appear and undergo a personal examination before this Board, the result of which will be endorsed upon such application and transmitted to this office.

3. Applications for leave of absence from militia drill for more than one day will also be in writing addressed to the captain of the party's company or precinct, and forwarded to the regimental commander for his approval before being transmitted to this department.

4. Clergymen, actually holding the pastoral function, will be excused from drill on Sunday by the captains of their respective precincts.

Fire wardens of the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth are exempted from military duty after being enrolled, and the captains will detach them accordingly.

5. Two surgeons and one chaplain, to be appointed from the enrolled militia of the district upon the recommendation of the field officers, will be allowed each regiment in the district.

6. Regimental rendezvous are hereby appointed as follows:

Norfolk regiment (Colonel Robinson's), the Custom House; Portsmouth regiment (Colonel Butt's), County Court House; St. Bride's regiment (Colonel Johnson's), Ferry Point.

In the event of a landing by the enemy or the invasion of this district, the enrolled militia, including all "detached" on special duty, excused or on leave of absence under the above orders, will immediately assemble at their respective company rendezvous, and thence be marched to the rendezvous of the regiment, with such arms as they then have, or can procure, and they will remain there, in closed ranks, until further orders.

The Home Guard, of Norfolk, will meet at the same time, in front of the City Hall.

By order of the Civil and Military Governor.

S. S. DAWES, Secretary.

Death of the Confederate Midshipman Wm. C. Hutter.

From the Norfolk Day Book, March 12.

It is no less a painful than imperative duty to chronicle the death of this gallant and accomplished young officer. He was born in the neighborhood of Lynchburg, Va., where his parents and family now reside, and had attained only his eighteenth year. He entered the naval school at Annapolis in the fall of 1859, and was progressing rapidly in the studies of his profession when, by the Virginia act of secession, superinduced by the aggressive policy of the Lincoln Government at Washington, he was called to the service of his native South. He paused not a moment; chivalrous by nature, and happily endowed with talents adapted to his aspirations, he entered the service of the Confederate navy, and eagerly sought that distinction and glory to which his courage and patriotism prompted him. He was on board the Confederate gunboat Raleigh, at the battle of Roanoke Island, where he behaved most gallantly, and had a narrow escape with that vessel through the canal to Norfolk.

On Saturday last, in the same vessel, he accompanied the Virginia (Merrimac), with other steamers, in the attack on the Federal fleet near Hampton Roads, and which resulted in one of the most brilliant naval victories on record, sustaining himself through the action with that noble bearing which makes the hero.

After the surrender of the Federal frigate Congress, and while the white flag was floating at her masthead, his vessel was ordered to that ship, doubtless for the relief of the wounded. In the performance of this humane mission, the Raleigh was fired into by a regiment of the enemy on shore, and he was shot by a Minie ball; the deadly missile entering the left side and passing out at the right shoulder.

He was seen to advance suddenly a few steps, and then tottering backwards, to fall and expire without a word or a struggle. His remains were brought up to the Naval Hospital and decently encoffined, and on Monday last forwarded to his friends by the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad.

The Heat of Battle.

From the Memphis Avalanche, March 7.

Independently of errors in strategy and in the general conduct of the war, the South has been guilty of some grave sins of omission. Until within the last two months her people were feeble and pusillanimous, and as if every engagement must necessarily terminate in the defeat of the enemy. Our victory at Manassas, followed by the triumphs at Oak Hills, Greenbrier, Belmont and Lexington, seemed to carry to every heart a conviction of our invincibility, and of the weakness of the foe. We became careless and over-confident. We thought we had merely to let him strive to dash himself against us, and, whatever might be his force, we were sure to repel him. His reported enormous operations found us indifferent. The bruit of his grand armies and formidable navy left us undisturbed. We were in a state of blissful security, from which nothing less sullied to awake us than the shock of unexpected and repeated disaster. First came Somerset, which rudely jarred upon our nerves, made us open our eyes, and harassed us with grave doubts of the superiority of one Southerner to three Yankees. Then swiftly followed the loss of Roanoke Island, the capture of Fort Henry, and the desperate fight and surrender of Fort Donelson—these various successes giving vast advantages of position to the Federals, driving us from our lines of defence, compelling us to select new ones, inspiring the adversary, enabling him to obtain reinforcements, almost *ad libitum*, and for a while fairly stunning the Southern people with mingled astonishment and grief.

A reaction, however, was certain. The Confederates, recovering from the stupor and sorrow occasioned by calamity, began to understand the necessity of a policy diametrically opposite to that which had previously prevailed. We now perceive how redoubtable is the antagonist with whom we must contend; how rich in the material of war! We see, too, that encouraged by brilliant triumphs, he is determined to make a bold and desperate effort to carry his arms from one end of the South to the other. We understand at length that the war we are engaged in is one of privations and sacrifices; that we have to immolate much, if not all, upon the altar of our country; that we have to place our whole strength in the field; that we must out-number if not surpass the enemy in the vigor and celerity of our blows, and that we must not only seek to defend, but aim to attack; that we must go into the campaign with the distinct idea of perilling all, and of doing what may be achieved by unshrinking courage, irrepressible audacity and indomitable resolve. We must repudiate the dull and lagging system of the past; the hanging on to intrenchments; the waiting for assault, and, above all, *the idle conceit of Southern invulnerability and Yankee cowardice.* When we have done this, we shall have made a beginning that promises substantial results.

We do not believe that it is within the limits of possibility to subjugate the South if the people are true to themselves; if they remain undismayed by disaster, and preserve the stern tenacity of purpose with which they commenced this great revolution. As the Richmond *Examiner* says: "They have only to persist, and they are sure to win." Even on the policy of defence, pure and simple, the end to this war can be demonstrated with the precision of mathematics. The United States bleeds at the rate of four millions a day. But, at the worst, it will take years to overrun and subjugate all the Confederacy. Admit the loss of the coast, the border States, [illegible] armies can withdraw to interior lines, defend one after another, and protract the war, even if perpetually beaten, till the antagonist is destroyed by bankruptcy and exhaustion.

But it is not necessary to look at the question in so gloomy a spirit. Surely action, rapid accessions to the endangered positions, a general system of enlistments, a settled purpose to beat back the Yankees to their own dominions, will enable us to avert the terrible necessity of yielding all our exterior lines of defence, and withdrawing to our interior lines. But time presses. Swift action is now most urgent. Days, even hours, are precious.—The sooner we confront the Federals with imposing forces, the sooner will we force them to try the issue of the combat. There is nothing desperate in our condition, nothing permanently to discourage us, if we will but resolve unflinchingly to be men and patriots.

Confederate Naval Appropriations.

From the Norfolk Day Book.

Congress has appropriated for the use of the Navy Department $4,275,000. This sum does not include $2,020,000 more, which have been specifically appropriated for floating defences in the Mississippi river and for the Merrimac. Of the former sum $2,000,000 are for the purpose of equipment and repair of vessels, for ordnance and ordnance stores, and for the purchase and building of steamers and gunboats for coast defences of the Confederate States. For this latter object $500,000