THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States a bill was introduced to provide for the public defence, and authorizing the acceptance of loans from the several States for that purpose. It was referred. The bill for the manumission of slaves in the District of Columbia was again taken up, and debated until the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives the debate on the Tax bill occupied nearly the whole of the session.

The official despatch of General Burnside, announcing the capture of Newbern, will undoubtedly be read with more than ordinary interest. It is evident that although the gunboats, by shelling the Confederate batteries, cleared the way most effectually for the advance of the troops, the resistance which was offered by the Confederates was of a most determined character. The Federal troops, who are acknowledged to have fought with great gallantry, numbered, as estimated by regiments, from sixteen to eighteen thousand men. The force of the Confederates, according to General Burnside's despatch, did not exceed eight regiments of infantry and five hundred cavalry. If the Southern regiments were composed of the usual number of men—six hundred—the entire Confederate force did not exceed five thousand three hundred men. Assuming that the batteries were equivalent to the gunboats, the numerical superiority of the attacking force was as sixteen to five, according to the data furnished by the official despatch and the number of Federal regiments engaged, as given in the Northern papers—which publish a list of the killed and wounded, as far as heard from. General Burnside puts the Federal loss at ninety-one killed and four hundred and sixty-six wounded—the aggregate being five hundred and fifty-seven killed and wounded—"many of the latter," he says, "mortally." This estimate, however, does not include the killed and wounded in the Third Brigade, which General Burnside states was so far distant as to prevent his communicating with it in time for the mail. The Confederate loss, though severe, is said to have been less than that sustained by the Federal troops—from the fact that the former were effectually covered by their breastworks.

According to the Washington *Star*, despatches have been received at the Navy Department from Commodore Dupont, announcing that the city of St. Augustine had quietly surrendered to the Federal arms, and that the flag of the United States floats over Fort Macon at that place. There must, however, be some mistake in this. There is only one Fort Macon, and that commands the harbor of Beaufort, North Carolina. The despatches alluded to have since been received and will be found elsewhere.

The Havana papers are complaining of the blockade of the Rio Grande by the Portsmouth. The New York *Times* admits that the right to close the river to commerce may be questionable, but argues that it will scarcely be objected to by Mexico, or by any other State holding friendly relations with the United States. "Moreover," says the *Times*, "the blockade will be raised in a few weeks."

A notable extract from a military work, written by General Halleck, has been furnished by a correspondent. In this book the General argues that "a good general will never admit a defeat, and will ever *make* a victory when circumstances require it." The question now asked is, whether General Halleck practices his own precept.

A telegram from Washington states that, according to a report which has reached that city by a vessel from the Lower Potomac, the Confederates have abandoned Aquia Creek.

An article from a late number of the London *Saturday Review*, discusses, with marked ability, the relative resources of the North and South.—The conclusion reached is, that "an army fighting on its own territories, for its own cities and plantations, its own families, its own institutions, and its own passions and prejudices, if you will, is scarcely susceptible of defeat *in a war*, whatever may be its fate in a single campaign.

By the arrival at Portland of the steamer Anglo-Saxon, we have advices from Europe to the 7th inst. On the reception of the news of the capture of Fort Donelson, American Securities advanced. The London *Times*, however, expresses the opinion that the recent Federal victories brought the Government no nearer a reconstruction of the Union than before. The London *Post* has published an article advocating a compromise between the North and South. The price of cotton had declined.

The steamers Ella Warley and Kate Lockwood, laden with cotton, ran the blockade of Charleston harbor on the 27th of February, and reached the port of Nassau, New Providence, in safety. The Ella Warley is to be sold at Havana, her owners being about to purchase the steamer Ocean Bird, which is said to be a much faster vessel. The British steamer Gladiator was at Nassau waiting for a cargo.

GENERAL HALLECK'S DESPATCHES.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In a book published some time ago by General Halleck he expresses his opinion as to what is the duty of a military commander, in the following words:

"*A good general will never admit a defeat, and he will even make a victory when circumstances require it.*"

Is not this the key-note of General Halleck's official despatches to the War Department? X.

From the New York Times, March 19.

IMPORTANT FROM NASSAU, N. P.

ARRIVAL THERE OF A NUMBER OF VESSELS FROM CHARLESTON, HAVING RUN THE BLOCKADE.

By the arrival at this port of the British schooner Levi Rowe, Capt. Keller, from Nassau, N. P., 10th inst., we learn that the Confederate steamers Ella Warley, Sweezy and Kate Lockwood had succeeded in running the blockade at Charleston on the night of Feb. 27.

The British schooner Sir Robert Peel, had also arrived from Charleston. The steamer Cecelia had arrived from Dungeon Creek, Georgia. The Ella Warley had on board 1,100 bales of cotton.—She arrived at Nassau on the 24 inst., and while lying there four of her crew deserted her and came on as passengers in the Levi Rowe to this port.—Their names are Stephen McGrath, John McGrath, Thomas Dempsey, and Hugh McCarrow.

They state that the Ella Warley left Charleston on the night of Friday, 27th, run across Rattlesnake Shoal, where there was but 2½ fathoms of water, and the ship was drawing 13 feet of water; saw some lights at a distance off, supposed to belong to one of the blockading fleet. There were lying at Charleston, when they left, the bark Etiwan, for Liverpool, with 1,800 bales of cotton; brig Mary Wright, (formerly the Betsey Ames,) Sibby, (formerly Captain of the privateer Sally,) and brig John Welsh, laden with cotton, and all waiting an opportunity to get out. The Mary Wright has on board 1,500 bales of cotton. Provisions at Charleston were very high. Butter and coffee were selling at $1 per pound.

The Ella Warley, after discharging her cargo at Nassau, would be taken to Havana, to be sold, and the owners were going to purchase the Spanish steamer Ocean Bird, which vessel is said to be much faster than the Ella Warley.

The British steamer Gladiator was at Nassau, supposed waiting for a cargo.

EFFECT OF SHOT ON THE MONITOR.

The *Scientific American* publishes the following letter from Paymaster Keeler, describing the effect of the Merrimac's shot upon the Monitor:

UNITED STATES STEAMER MONITOR, Hampton Roads, March 11, 1862.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As it may be some time before the official report of Chief-Engineer Stimers is made public, I have thought that the effects of the shot on our vessel in the late engagement with the Merrimac might be interesting to you. The details of the fight, which lasted three hours and a half, have already been made public, so that I will confine myself to the effect of the shot upon us.

"The Merrimac's projectiles were mostly percussion shells, fired from 10 or 11-inch rifled pieces. Twenty-three shot struck us, including two from the Minnesota, which, during the engagement, fired over our heads. The deepest indentation on our turret was two and one-half inches, produced by a 150-pound percussion shell fired at a distance of twenty feet perpendicular with the side. Our deck received four shot, making slight depressions. One shot struck us on the angle formed by the deck and side, tearing up the iron plating about one-third the width of a sheet, starting the bolts and splintering the wood a little. Three or four others struck us just above the water-line, with no other effect than making indentations of two inches. The pilot house received one shot on one of the upper corners, nearly battering it down. A little later in the action however, a heavy shell was thrown from a distance of about fifteen feet, against the front, at an angle of about thirty degrees, striking the two upper bars just at the lookout crack, the main force being on the lower of the two, forcing it in about an inch, and opening a crack of one fourth of an inch on the opposite side. She twice attempted to open a hole in our side with her ram, as she did the Cumberland, once striking us squarely on our beam, nearly abreast of the turret, jarring us somewhat, and leaving a small dent on our iron side. Our hull remains perfectly tight, and the turret, notwithstanding the severe hammering, revolves as accurately and easily as when we left New York.

"We experienced a severe gale on our way down, coming through it safely. That, and our trial with the Merrimac, proves the Monitor, we think, a success.

"W. F. KEELER, A. A. Paymaster."

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Anglo-Saxon.

EFFECT OF THE FEDERAL VICTORIES IN ENGLAND.

PORTLAND, March 19.—The steamer Anglo-Saxon has arrived with dates via Londonderry to the 7th instant.

The news of the great victory of the Federal arms in the capture of Fort Donelson had reached England and was regarded as very important.—American securities had advanced in consequence.

The Emperor Napoleon has withdrawn his pension bill in favor of General Montambau.

Insurance rates on the steamer City of Baltimore had advanced to eight guineas, she having been out twenty-two days.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

The London *Times*, in noticing the recent Federal victories, expresses the opinion that these victories bring the Government no nearer than before to the re-construction of the Union.

The London *Post* now advocates a compromise between the North and the South.

Satisfactory and encouraging interviews are being held with Earl Russell by Cyrus W. Field on the subject of the Atlantic cable.

Henry and Edward Muggeridge, corn-dealers, London, have failed, with liabilities amounting to £200,000.

It is stated that the chiefs of the barricades in the former revolution had all been arrested in Paris, and an uneasy feeling prevailed. The Emperor had donated a quarter of a million francs to the suffering workmen.

Ratazzi has been made Foreign Minister to Italy.

Victor Emmanuel was enthusiastically received at Milan. An engagement between the insurrectionists and the Royal troops at Nanpalia had taken place.

Myers and Thompson, of the Sumter, who were arrested at Cadiz, have been released.

It is reported that Smith O'Brien has challenged Sir Robert Peel.

The treaty between Turkey and the United States has been signed.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, March 6.—Sales of cotton for the week 31,500 bales, the market closing dull and irregular at a decline.

Breadstuffs closed easier.

Provisions dull.

Consols closed at 93⅞ for money.

American securities buoyant. United States Fives 72¾; Illinois Central Railroad 45¾; Erie Railroad 32⅝@32¾, New York Central 71.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Important Despatches from Flag-Officer Dupont—Acknowledgment of the Authority of the Government by the People of St Augustine, Florida—More Forts Re-Possessed by the Government.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The following highly interesting and important despatches have been received from Flag-Officer Dupont by the Navy Department:

FLAG-SHIP WABASH, Off St. Augustine, Fla, March 13, 1862.

SIR:—Having on the 7th instant dispatched a division of my force to hold Brunswick, Ga., consisting of the Mohican, Pocahontas and Potowska, under Commander Gordon, I shifted my flag from the first named vessel to the Pawnee, and organized another squadron of light vessels, embracing the four regular gunboats, Ottawa, Seneca, Pembina and Huron, with the Isaac Smith and Ellen, under Lieutenant-Commanding Stevens, to proceed without delay to the mouth of the St. Johns river—cross, if possible, its difficult and shallow bar, feel the forts, if still held, and push on to Jacksonville. Indeed, to go as far as Pilatka, eighty miles beyond, to reconnoitre and capture river steamers. This expedition was to be accompanied by the armed launches and cutters of the Wabash, under Lieutenants Train and Barnes, and by a light draft transport with the Seventh New Hampshire regiment.

After arranging with Brig. Gen. Wright our joint occupation of the Florida and Georgia coasts, including protection from injury of the mansion and grounds of Mr. Dungeness, on Cumberland Island, originally the property of the Revolutionary hero and patriot Gen. Greene, and still owned by his descendants, and leaving Commander Percival Drayton in charge of the naval force, I rejoined this ship, waiting for me off Fernandina, and proceeded with her off St. Johns, arriving there on the 8th.

The gunboats had not yet been able to cross the bar, but as expected to do so the next day, the Ellen only getting in that evening. As at Nassau, which was visited by Lieut. Commanding Stevens on his way down, the forts seemed abandoned.

There being no probability that the Huron could enter, I despatched her off to St. Augustine, where I followed her, arriving on the 11th.

I immediately sent on shore Commander C. P. P. Rodgers with a flag of truce, having reason to believe that if there were any people on this coast likely to remain in their homes, it would be at St. Augustine.

I endorse Commander Rodgers' most interesting report, which, I am sure, the Department will read with satisfaction. The American flag is flying once more over that old city, raised by the hands of its own people, who resisted the appeals, threats, and falsehoods of their leaders, though compelled to witness the carrying off of their sons in the ranks of the flying enemy. This gives us possession of a second national fort of strength and importance.

Since writing the above, I have received by the Isaac Smith a report from Lieut.-Commanding Stevens of his operations on the St. Johns river, giving details of great interest.

From Lieutenant-Commanding Nicholson I learn with regret of acts of vandalism on the part of the Rebel commanders (not the people), in setting fire to vast quantities of lumber, and the saw-mills in that region owned by Northern men supposed to have Union sympathies.

In all this varied and difficult service, having to contend with surf shores, dangerous bars and inland navigation in an enemy's country, I think it due to the officers and men under my command to say that they have on all occasions displayed great spirit and ability, fully coming up to my requirements and expectations.

Very respectfully, &c.

[Signed] S. J. DUPONT, Flag Officer.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Rodgers.

U. S. FLAG-SHIP WABASH, Off St. Augustine, Fla., March 12, 1862.

Sir: Having crossed the bar with some difficulty, in obedience to your orders, I approached St. Augustine under a flag of truce, and as I drew near the city a white flag was hoisted upon one of the bastions of Fort Marion.

Landing at the wharf and inquiring for the chief authority, I was soon joined by the Mayor and conducted to the City Hall, where the municipal authorities were assembled. I informed them that, having come to restore the authority of the United States, you had deemed it more kind to send an unarmed boat to inform the citizens of your determination, than to occupy the town at once by force of arms; that you were desirous to calm any apprehensions of harsh treatment that might exist in their minds; and that you should carefully respect the persons and property of all citizens who submitted to the authority of the United States; that you had a single purpose—to restore the state of affairs that existed before the rebellion.

I informed the municipal authorities that, so long as they respected the authority of the Government we serve, and acted in good faith, municipal affairs would be left in their hands, so far as might be consistent with the exigencies of the time.

The Mayor and Council then informed me that the place had been evacuated the preceding night by two companies of Florida troops, and that they gladly received the assurance I gave them, and placed the city in my hands. I recommended them to hoist the flag of the Union at once; and in prompt accordance with the advice, by order of the Mayor, the national ensign was displayed from the flag-staff of the fort.

The Mayor proposed to turn over to me the five cannon mounted at the fort, which are in good condition and not spiked; and also the few munitions of war left by the retreating enemy. I desired him to take charge of them for the present, to make careful inventories and establish a patrol and guard, informing him that he would be held responsible for the place until force should enter the harbor.

I called upon clergymen of the city, requesting them to reassure their people and to confide in our kind intentions towards them. About 1,500 persons remain in St. Augustine, about one-fifth of the inhabitants having fled.

I believe that there are many citizens who are earnestly attached to the Union, a large number who are silently opposed to it, and a still larger number who care very little about the matter. I think that nearly all the men acquiesce in the condition of affairs we are now establishing. There is much violent and persistent feeling among the women. They seem to mistake treason for courage, and have a theatrical desire to figure as heroines. Their minds have doubtless been filled with the falsehoods so industriously circulated in regard to the lust and hatred of our troops.

On the night before our arrival, a party of women assembled in front of the barracks and cut down the flag-staff, in order that it might not be used to support the old flag.

The men seemed anxious to conciliate us in every way. There is a great scarcity of provisions in the place. There seems to be no money except the wretched paper currency of the rebellion, and much poverty exists.

In the water battery at the fort are three fine army 32-pounders of 7,000 pounds, and two eight-inch sea coast howitzers of 5,600 pounds, with shot and some powder. There is a number of very old guns in the fort useless and not mounted. Several good guns were taken away some months ago to arm batteries at other harbors.

The garrison of the place went from St. Augustine at midnight on the 10th for Smyrna, where are said to be about 800 troops, a battery, the steamer Carolina and a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition.

It is very positively stated that the Governor has ordered the abandonment of East Florida, and proposes to make a stand near Apalachicola. Mr. Dennis, of the Coast Survey, who accompanied me, rendered me much valuable aid.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

C. R. R. RODGERS, Commanding.

To Flag Officer S. F. Dupont, Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Lieutenant Stevens' Report.

U. S. GUNBOAT OTTOWA, OFF JACKSONVILLE, March 13, 1862.

To Flag Officer S. F. Dupont, Commanding, etc.

SIR:—I succeeded in crossing the bar with this vessel, the Seneca and Pembina, the day before yesterday about 4 o'clock—having no water to spare under our keels. The Smith arrived half an hour afterward and crossed without a pilot.

As it was necessary to make arrangements to land a company of soldiers for the protection of the guns before leaving the entrance of the river, I found it too late to move up to this place that evening.

Near 10 o'clock, I discovered large fires, bearing W.N.W. from the anchorage, which proved to be, on my arrival here, the burning of mills and houses, and other property belonging to Northern men, with suspected Union proclivities, burnt by order of the Rebel commander.

I left Mayport yesterday with the vessels named, for this point, ordering the Ellen to stop at St. John's Bluff, and take on board the guns and munitions of war at that point, and afterwards to rejoin me here, which mission was successfully accomplished.

We succeeded in reaching Jacksonville without difficulty, and at every house saving one found evidences of peaceful demonstrations and returning reason. On our arrival at this place the corporate authorities, through S. S. Burnitt, Esq., came off with a flag of truce, and gave up the town.

From conversations with intelligent citizens, I find that the inhabitants are seeking and waiting for the protection of our flag; that they do not fear us, but their own people. From the occupation of this important point, I am satisfied, if our opportunities are improved, great results will follow. Many of the citizens have fled, but many remain; and there is reason to believe most of them will return. I have just heard that the municipal government has been restored.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. H. STEVENS,

Lieut. Commanding and Senior Officer present.

A despatch from Flag-Officer S. F. Dupont, dated March 15th, off St. Augustine, contains the following:

"Further information from the St. Johns river is satisfactory. The burning of the valuable mills and lumber, with the fine hotel at Jacksonville, and the house of Mr. Robinson, a Union man, was by order of the Rebel General Trapier, who, after ingloriously flying with his forces from the town, with very considerable means of defence at hand, sent a large detachment back for this incendiary purpose, on his hearing that our gunboats had not been able on their first arrival to cross the bar.

Report of Commander Rowan of Operations in Neuse River.

UNITED STATES FLAG-STEAMER PHILADELPHIA, OFF NEWBERN, N. C., March 16, 1862.

To Flag Officer L. M. Goldsborough, Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Hampton Roads, Va.

Sir—I have the honor to report the capture of all the Rebel batteries upon the Neuse river, the complete defeat and rout of the enemy's forces in this vicinity, and the occupation of the city of Newbern by the combined forces of the army and navy of the United States on yesterday (Friday) at noon. The incidents of the expedition, briefly stated, are these:

The fleet under my command and that of the army left Hatteras Inlet at half-past seven o'clock on Wednesday morning on the 12th instant, and arrived without accident or delay at the point which had been selected for disembarking the troops, and within sight of the city of Newbern, at sunset on the evening of the same day, where we anchored for the night. On Thursday morning I hoisted my pennant on board the steamer Delaware.

At 8.30 A. M. our gunboats commenced shelling the works in the vicinity of the proposed place of landing, taking stations at intervals along the shore to protect the advance of the troops. At 9.30 A. M. the troops commenced landing, and at the same time six naval boat howitzers with their crews, under the command of Lieutenant R. S. McCook, of the Stars and Stripes, were put on shore to assist the attack. The army commenced to move up the beach at about 11.30 A. M. The debarkation of troops still continuing, in the meantime our vessels were slowly moving up, throwing shells in the woods beyond. At 4 15 P. M. the first of the enemy's batteries opened fire on the foremost of our gunboats, which was returned by them at long range. The troops were now all disembarked and steadily advancing without resistance. At sundown the firing was discontinued, and the fleet came to anchor in position to cover the troops on shore.

At 6.30, A. M., Friday 14th, we heard a continuous firing of heavy guns and musketry inland, and immediately commenced throwing our shells in advance of the position of our troops. The fleet steadily moved up and gradually closed in towards the batteries. The lower fortifications were discovered to have been abandoned by the enemy; a boat was dispatched to it and the Stars and Stripes planted on the ramparts.

As we advanced, the upper batteries opened fire upon us. The fire was returned with effect, the magazine of one exploding. Having proceeded in an extended line as far as the obstructions in the river would permit, the signal was made to follow the movements of the flag-ship, and the whole fleet advanced in order, concentrating our force on Fort Thompson, mounting 13 guns, on which rested the enemy's land defences; the army having with great gallantry driven them out of those defences, the forts were abandoned.

Several of our vessels were slightly injured in passing the barricades of piles and torpedoes which had been placed in the river. The upper battery having been evacuated on the approach of the combined forces, it was abandoned and subsequently blow up. We now steamed rapidly up to the city; the enemy had fled, and the place remained in our possession. Upon our approach several points of the city were fired by the enemy, where stores had been accumulated. Two small batteries constructed of cotton bales and mounting two guns each, were also fired by them.

Two small steamers were captured, another having been burned. A large raft, composed of barrels of pitch and bales of cotton, which had been prepared to send down upon the fleet, was fired, and floating against the railroad bridge, set it on fire, destroying it. In addition to the prizes, a quantity of cotton, pitch, tar, and a gunboat and another vessel on the stocks, several schooners afloat, and an immense quantity of arms and munitions of war fell into our hands.

At about 4 P. M., I sent several of our vessels to the right bank of the Trent river, to carry General Foster's brigade to occupy the city of Newbern.

I am respectfully, &c., S. C. ROWAN,

Commanding United States naval forces in Pamlico Sound.

Interesting from the Gulf Squadron—Capture of Rebel Vessels in the Gulf.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The United States supply steamer Rhode Island, with mails and despatches from the Gulf, arrived at Hampton Roads on the 18th inst. During her trip she supplied ninety-eight vessels with fresh provisions.

The following items are taken from despatches brought by her and received at the Navy Department:

Charles E. Hammond, of Pennsylvania, Assistant Paymaster on the United States steamer Sciota, accidentally shot himself on the 27th of February. Wishing to look at the condition of his revolver, which was placed under his berth, he leaned over and was in the act of drawing it out by the muzzle when the hammer struck something and the pistol went off, the ball striking him just below the heart, passing down and coming out of his back a little above the hip. He lived about 48 hours after the accident, and his remains were brought home in the Rhode Island.

On February 19th the United States steamer New London captured twelve small schooners and sloops, with their crews of about thirty fishermen and oystermen, who had been engaged in piloting small vessels and steamboats to run the blockade, and in reporting to the Rebels the movements of our squadron. The majority of the prisoners were released on signing a parole, but some of them, though expressing no objection to take the oath, refused to return to New Orleans, and remained on board the Sachem.

On March 5th the United States steamer Waterwitch captured off St. Andrew's Bay on the west coast of Florida, the Rebel schooner William Mallory, of Mobile, from Havana Feb. 28th, and bound wherever she could make a port. She is a schooner of 108 tuns burthen, and is a remarkably fast sailer, having been chased five hours and fired at several times before she would heave to. Her cargo is an assorted one. She has been sent to Key West for adjudication.

On the 28th of February the United States bark King Fisher boarded, on the Gulf, about 200 miles south of the coast of Louisiana, a schooner under British colors, after chasing her 420 miles during three days and nights, and thrice losing sight of her. She had refused to heave to or show any flag, after having four shots fired at her the afternoon previous; and only did so at last on sending a shell so close to her as to show that escape was no longer possible. She proved to be the Lion, formerly the Alexander, of Parkersville, Texas, and sailed from Havana, February 20th, for Matamoras, with a cargo consisting of 250 bags coffee, 30 boxes soap, 50 boxes sheet tin, 1 barrel nitre, 100 boxes, of one quintal each, of gunpowder, and a variety of other articles. A "Confederate" flag was found in her cabin.

Probable Evacuation of Aquia Creek by the Rebels.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The tug Leslie, which arrived here late last night, reports that when she passed Aquia Creek the building and wharf there were on fire, the supposition being that the Rebels there have evacuated and burnt them.

Confirmations by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Senate confirmed to-day Capt. D. G. Farragut, to be Flag-Officer, to command the Western Gulf blockading squadron. Also the following Assistant Paymasters, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the promotion of Messrs. Eldridge, Thompson, Plunkett and Lawrence; namely: Albert S. Kenny, Jno. A. Bates, Forbes Parker, John S. Woolson, Alex. McC. Bishop.—Lieut. Colonel Daniel P. Woodbury, of the Corps of Engineers, was confirmed as Brigadier-General of Volunteers; and also the following nominations: Floris Van Renth, of Maryland, Register of the Land Office in Dacotah; Jas. R. Muller, of Baltimore, Inspector of Steamboats; Caroline E. Belighaus, Postmistress at Lebanon, Pa.; Geo. Gerard, of Pennsylvania, Consul at St. Helena; Convers O. Leach, Consul at St. Johns, N. F. It is understood that Jas. Lesley, Jr., of Philadelphia, was rejected as Consul to Nice.

Commission Relative to Prisoners of State.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Commission continued its session at General Wadsworth's headquarters to-day. A number of cases were considered and the following persons were discharged upon taking a parole to render no aid or comfort to the insurgents:—John A. Field, W. W. Harper, Wesley Avery, Stephen A. Grier and James Green, all of Alexandria. Summerfield Hall, J. J. Jarboe and John D. Dangerfield were sent back to prison for further consideration.

Ex-Governor Morehead, of Kentucky, was to-day released, by order of the Secretary of War, from the conditions of the parole which he was required to take at the time of his discharge from Fort Warren.

FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

Important Military Operations in Progress.

CHICAGO, March 19.—A special despatch to the Chicago *Tribune*, dated Cairo 19th, says:—The steamer Gladiator, from Paducah, brings a large quantity of ordnance stores captured at Fort Donelson, consisting in part of 38 pieces of artillery and a large quantity of ammunition.

The steamer McGill has also arrived from Pittsburg, on the Tennessee river. She left there yesterday afternoon, but reports no movement of importance. Skirmishes had occurred between pickets, and two or three had been killed on each side. Four rebels were taken prisoners. The rebels were concentrating at Corinth, Mississippi, and Decatur, Alabama—at the latter place in large numbers.—The officers of the McGill report that not a particle of Unionism was manifested thereabouts.

A gentleman just arrived from Pittsburg Landing says that on Friday last the Rebels burned the bridges and destroyed the track of the Charleston and Memphis Railroad between Florence and Eastport. The country in that vicinity is covered with water, the Tennessee having overflowed its banks. Military operations there were consequently necessarily restricted.

The Rebels evidently avoid the River keeping out of the range of our gunboats.

The Rebel force at Decatur and Corinth are estimated to number 40,000.

None of our gunboats had ascended higher than Savannah since the engagement of the gunboat Lexington with the rebel batteries at Pittsburg.

The collection of eighty transports at Savannah, in connection with circumstances known here, not considered proper for publication, indicate that the country about the Tennessee river, at the Alabama line, will be the theatre of extensive military operations.

CAIRO, March 19, P. M.—The latest intelligence received from below is contained in a despatch from General Pope dated 7, A. M., this morning, and stating that up to a little before that time the firing had been heard heavy and continuous. At 7 o'clock it had materially slackened.

The latest accounts from Columbus are to eleven o'clock yesterday morning, at which time heavy cannonading was distinctly heard in the direction of Island No. 10.

Information from Columbus received last evening, states that a small body of Rebels had reappeared on the banks of the river, six miles below Columbus. No trouble was anticipated from them.

IMPORTANT FROM WINCHESTER.

Advance of Gen. Shields' Division on Strasburg—Skirmishing with Jackson's Rear Guard.

WINCHESTER, March 19.—A messenger from Strasburg reports that the rear guard of Jackson's Rebel army disputed General Shields' approach to that place, foot by foot, with his infantry and artillery. It is reported that our cavalry occupied the town late in the afternoon rise last night. One of our soldiers was severely wounded.

The official report says that General Shields encountered the rear guard of Jackson just beyond Middletown with four field pieces and small bodies of infantry and cavalry. They disputed Shields' progress, stopping at all the strongest points, and then retiring. They crossed Cedar Creek and destroyed the bridge. General Shields this morning built a temporary bridge, and after a skirmish entered the town and threw out his pickets two miles beyond the town. The loss of the enemy is not stated.

The cavalry man wounded yesterday in the skirmish suffered the amputation of his leg to-day.

Heavy firing has been heard in the direction of Strasburg since the above information was received.

The railroad bridge at Harper's Ferry was completed last night. The rail is also completed from Cumberland to Martinsburg, but it will take several days to finish Martinsburg bridge.

THE WAR ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

Latest from Island No. 10.

CHICAGO, March 18.—The *Times'* special despatch from Cairo to-day says:

In the engagement yesterday the gunboat Cincinnati received a shot which is said to have damaged her machinery.

The bursting of the gun on the St. Louis killed two, mortally wounded two, and severely wounded ten persons.

No damage was done to any of the other vessels of the fleet.

Nothing has yet been heard of the land forces at New Madrid.

LATER FROM NEW MADRID.

Repulse of the Rebel Gunboat Fleet by Gen. Pope's Land Batteries—One Sunk, Others Damaged—Nothing Later Yet From Island No. 10.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—A despatch received from Cairo, dated nine o'clock to-night, says nothing has been received yet from Island No. 10 to-day.

General Pope repulsed the Rebel gunboat fleet at New Madrid, sinking one and damaging the others more or less. Not a man was lost on our side.

The Latest from Gen. Curtis—The Rebels Still Retreating.

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—Telegrams from General Curtis, state his loss in killed and wounded in the battle of Pea Ridge, at about 1,400.

The enemy have retreated entirely south of Boston Mountains. No Rebel troops are now in northern Arkansas except marauders and Pike's Indians, who will plunder friends and foes indiscriminately.

All Quiet at Fortress Monroe.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—A despatch received here states that the steamer reached Cherry Stone, Northampton county, Va., at half-past seven o'clock to-night from Fortress Monroe. All was quiet there at three o'clock this afternoon.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CITY CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE KREBS.

E. B. Graff *vs.* Elizabeth Jackson. Exceptions to ratification of sale. Not concluded.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Elias Poole, use of John A. Grammar, *vs.* John Milbourne. Claim for mechanics' lien. *Non pros.*

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

Hildebrand & Koenig *vs.* Robert Krauss and Louis Krauss. Appeal from Hiss. Judgment reversed and judgment for appellee for $8.75. Appellee to pay costs.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PRICE.

Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.

TOWSONTOWN, March 19, 1862.—Richard J. Gittings, Esq., Attorney for the State.

The jury in the case of the State *vs.* Jas. Woolf, tried yesterday for assaulting with intent to kill his wife, returned a verdict of guilty. Not sentenced.

Mary Shrine, indicted for assault and battery on Elizabeth Brown, was held to bail in the sum of $200 for her appearance.

Samuel and Augustus Stevens *vs.* George Louis Staley. Verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for $104.55.

State *vs.* Thomas Johnson, *alias* Thomas Beach, also Tom Tit, indicted for the larceny of a box of table knives, butter knives, spoons, castors, ladies' dresses, a shawl, cloth coat, pantaloons, bed spread, towels, &c., the property of James C. Nelson, alleged to have been stolen from his residence on St. Paul street, Baltimore, on the night of the 4th of July last, by effecting an entrance through one of the rear outbuildings. Verdict not guilty, the prisoner at the bar being his own counsel.

Patrick Keenan, convicted some days since for rioting in Baltimore on the 19th of April last, was this morning sentenced to confinement in the Baltimore city jail for eight months.

Hartman *vs.* Sheriff. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $1,267.57.

A jury of inquisition was sworn to assess the damages and costs in the case of John McCubbin *vs.* Lewis Morrison and Edward Withers, who rendered a verdict of $84 in favor of the plaintiff.

The civil case of Gefroer *vs.* Taylor was referred to Geo. Yellott, Esq., and the Court adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1861.

ANNAPOLIS, March 19.—No. 35. Horatio McPherson and others *vs.* Charles A. Snowden and others. Appeal from the Equity side of the Superior Court of Baltimore city. The argument in this case was continued by John P. Poe, J. N. Steele and Wm. Schley for the appellants and by F. H. Stockett for the appellees.

THE LABORING CLASSES OF LIVERPOOL.—The laboring poor of Liverpool, especially the corn and cotton porters, are now in a state of pitiable distress in consequence of the prevalence of easterly winds and the long-continued absence of cotton ships from that port. So great is the distress that the parochial authorities are giving employment to thousands in the breaking of stones, and a communication to the dock board was made yesterday by his Worship, the Mayor, who stated that the distress among the working classes of the town had very considerably increased, and that the parochial authorities, as a means of providing employment for those persons, had proposed to give them work in breaking stones.

The Marquis de Boissy, the latest sensation speaker in the French Chambers, lately complained that the money spent in the Italian war would have enabled the Emperor to take London, and was nothing abashed when the President told him that the *Moniteur* would record the unanimous laughter provoked by his eccentric sallies. He afterwards accused the English Government of practising torture in India. He has also insinuated that Prince Napoleon is a pretender to the throne, and intends to subvert his little cousin.

The Richmond *Dispatch* intimates that the Virginia, *alias* the Merrimac, since her recent contest with the Monitor, has changed her forward and aft pivot guns, for two of the celebrated Armstrong guns, of heavy calibre.

FROM EUROPE.

From the London Saturday Review, Feb. 22.

A SWARM OF PAMPHLETS ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The contest which rages on the other side of the Atlantic has given rise to a swarm of pamphlets.—Lord Robert Montague sees in the struggle a picture of the destiny which awaits England, and endeavors to make his countrymen perceive "A Mirror in America." It is not slavery, he asserts, that has disunited the States, nor have commercial interests led to the rupture. It is party spirit which has produced all the evil, causing men to destroy the constitution in order to strengthen their own faction. Russia, he thinks, has assisted in bringing about the conflict, being actuated by commercial jealousy and a desire to abolish the right of search. In this view, as well as in his distrust of Lord Palmerston, Lord Robert is supported by Mr. Urquhart, who must be delighted to find he has still an admirer, and one who has produced a book which, if not very wise, at least contains a certain number of undisputed truths, and the information that "events are not the fortuitous footfalls of chance." Mr. Story, a son of the celebrated jurist, writes a couple of letters on "The American Question," to explain how greatly the behavior of England has hurt his feelings, and how different ought to have been her conduct. He denounces the men and measures of the Confederate States, enters into a long explanation of the Morrill tariff, and tries to prove that "slavery is the hissing head of Southern rebellion." On the other hand, Mr. Beresford Hope abuses the Federal States with the energy of a good hater. In "England, the North and the South," he declares that the policy of the North is opposed to the interests of the slaves; that the causes of secession and emancipation go hand in hand, and that the sympathies of England ought to be enlisted in favor of the South. We do not know whether he has found a wise judgment, but at least he has produced a vigorous pamphlet.

From the London Saturday Review, Feb. 22.

RELATIVE RESOURCES OF NORTH AND SOUTH.

We pointed out a few weeks since, when treating of this subject, that the superiority of the North in warlike resources was rather apparent than real; that superior wealth was only available if its owners were willing to spend it, or could be forced to contribute it; that superior numbers were only valuable if they could be organized, disciplined, paid, and moved; that strength for defensive warfare was often the reverse of strength for aggressive enterprises; and that the undertaking in which the Federalists are engaged was essentially aggressive. We showed that 100,000 good men would be really more serviceable than the 500,000 motley troops they have summoned to the field, both because they would exhaust the Treasury less, and would harass the enemy more. We concluded that an army of half a million could not by any contrivance be kept on foot by a Government that is spending £120,000,000 a year, when it only possesses £12,000,000, and can only borrow £45,000,000; and that, therefore, the failure of the North, and a disastrous and discreditable collapse, were absolutely certain ultimately, and might surprise us any day. In spite of the new plan of Mr. Chase, of paying in incontrovertible paper—in spite of the reported successes of the North and their various menaced expeditions—and in spite of the unquestioned embarrassment and privation of the Southerners, we are not in the least degree shaken as to the correctness of our anticipations.

For, as we showed only recently, the limits of really available paper money are soon reached; and unless large sums are raised by direct taxation—of which we see no appearance, and in which we place no belief—no currency contrivances can long enable the Federal Government to meet its daily expenses. And as soon as the soldiers cease to be paid regularly, and to be fed well, we have little confidence in their zeal or steadiness. The three months' volunteers marched home "to the sound of the enemy's cannon" on the morning of the battle, because their term was out; the three years' troops will probably do the same, because their contract has been broken. In the second place, we place very little reliance on the statements either of the formidable expeditions which we are assured are on the point of setting out to invade the South, or of the successes achieved by those that have already sailed. These accounts come to us through Federalist sources, and most of them have already proved either wholly false or greatly exaggerated. The vast quantities of cotton said to have been seized and carried into New York have dwindled to an amount equal to about a week's consumption. Indeed, as was well known to all acquainted with the trade, the entire crop grown in the district occupied by the Northerners only consists of about 40,000 bags, and is not of a kind fit for ordinary consumption, being Sea Islands, and wanted chiefly for the finest muslins. The expedition down the Mississippi is still talked of, but we cannot conceive its being seriously undertaken by people in their senses. If really ventured upon, on a scale likely to produce any effect, it can only terminate in disasters similar to those which overtook ourselves at