From the London Saturday Review, February 22.

BRUMMAGEM STATESMANSHIP.

Mr. Bright's exhibition on the Vote for the Transport of Troops for Canada is an additional example of that pertinacity with which some men not only knock their heads against ready-built stone walls, but are at the pains to build walls for the express purpose of knocking their heads against them. It really is difficult to discover what the metaphysicians call the final cause of Mr. Bright's existence, unless it be to serve as a foil to Lord Palmerston's success. This mighty agitator, who was once the most dreaded adversary of the Treasury Bench, is now (unconsciously and involuntarily, it must be admitted) its most serviceable and constant ally. If a government is a little shaky and insecure there is nothing that gives it such a fillip as a fierce and foolish attack upon its strongest point. The wiles of Mr. Disraeli, who is constantly plotting a nucleus of opposition, are incessantly defeated by the clumsy hostility of Mr. Bright, which is for ever rallying round the Administration the sympathies of both sides of the House. The heartiness with which the Tories cheer Lord Palmerston's retorts on his assailant must be gall and wormwood to the leaders of opposition.

Lord Palmerston, on Monday night, had a winning horse to ride, and like an old and experienced jockey he rode it well. The good-humored barter with which he held up his "Honorable Friend" to ridicule showed how much satisfaction he derived from the security of triumph. Indeed, the position assumed by Mr. Bright was absurd to the point of being contemptible. He asserted, what it is needless to say he did not even attempt to prove, that all warlike preparations were wholly unnecessary, because it was and must have been obvious to any one that the American Government never would hesitate about a compliance with the English demand. It is a little amusing, in the face of such a theory, to remember the way in which the daily organ which is supposed faithfully to reflect the sentiments of the Brighttes labored for weeks to demonstrate that Messrs. Mason and Slidell ought not, could not, would not, should not be delivered up, and how indignantly the very idea that their surrender had been demanded was denounced as a malicious and fraudulent fabrication. For what purpose, we should like to know, where the H. Lawrens and the Lucien Bonaparte precedents forged and uttered, if it was not for the purpose of justifying by anticipation the expected refusal?

If it was so abundantly self-evident, as Mr. Bright avers, that the Cabinet at Washington must at once acknowledge that the seizure of the Commissioners was a violation of their own cherished principles, why, in the name of logic and common sense, as Lord Palmerston pertinently asks, was their surrender delayed till the last moment allowed by the English ultimatum? If it was always intended to deliver up the men, why were they ever put in prison; and, having been put there, why were they kept in durance vile for six weeks? Why was Mr. Seward to wait for any demand at all, in a case which, according to Mr. Bright, was so clear, that no man could doubt about it for an instant? When the famous "Suppressed Despatch"—as the Philo Americans delight to call the evasive document more worthy of a provincial attorney than a Secretary of State—was sent to Mr. Adams, why did not Mr. Seward add to the explanation, that the act of Captain Wilkes had not been authorized by the Government, the very simple act, as Mr. Bright would tell us, quite incontrovertible assurance, that the men would be instantly released?

Nothing could be more easy, nothing could be more obvious. Why did not Mr. Seward do it, then? We should like to hear Mr. Bright's theory of this singular omission. Mr. Seward was not deterred by the fear of the mob,—not he, says Mr. Bright. Where every man has a vote, there is no such thing as a mob. The Irishman remarked much to the same effect,—"In this country one man is as good as another, faith, and a great deal better too." Was it, then, any inward conviction of the legality of the capture? Not so, says Mr. Bright; for it was a matter on which no American statesman could entertain a moment's doubt. But if there is no fear of the mob in America, and if every one is so admirably "posted up" in the "cherished principles" of American international law, we should like to ask how it came to pass that not a single orator, politician, lawyer or journalist, until the day on which the prisoners were released, ventured to hint a doubt as to the illegality of their capture. The matter was canvassed from one end of the Northern States to the other; we had opinions and speeches *ad nauseam* to prove that Captain Wilkes had acted strictly in accordance with the law; but not a single individual, we believe, had the courage to state that the act was one which could not be supported, and which must be disavowed. How is this to be explained? Was it the cowardice of politicians habitually servile to the mob? or was it the ignorance of lawyers who are incapable of understanding that which is now asserted to be self-evident? We give Mr. Bright the choice of these alternatives. Who in his senses can doubt that the real meaning of the despatch of November 30th was neither more nor less than this: "Let us wait to see if the English mean fighting, or not. If they mean fighting we have always a loophole to escape; if they do not we will stick to the men." Lord Palmerston happily solved the question by making it very clear what England did in an, and Mr. Seward thereupon saw the propriety of regulating his own course accordingly.

Mr. Bright is a great admirer of Mr. Charles Sumner's celebrated oration. He thinks that the arguments and the precedents it contains show most unanswerably that the English demand could never have been demurred to by American statesmen. Perhaps it is a day too late for the fair. Mr. Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations seems liable to the same weakness as the wit whose brilliant idea always flashed upon his mind at the bottom of the staircase just as he had taken leave of the company. We return to the question, why was not this convincing oration delivered at a period which might have superseded the necessity for the British armament? By a timely step of this sort a man of the position and influence of Mr. Sumner might have saved us much trouble and expense, and his own country much useless humiliation. Mr. C. Sumner is a native of Boston; why did he not deliver this speech at the dinner to Captain Wilkes, when Judges and Governors were glorifying the sea captain's law? Why did he not publish his "unanswerable authorities" as a reply to his brother's fabricated precedent and worthless opinion?

Why, even at a still later date, was he silent, when the vote of thanks of Congress gave the deliberate sanction of the American Legislature to an act which, according to Mr. Bright, should have been, and always was to have been, unconditionally disavowed? We will give the reason why, in the language of an authority to which even Mr. Bright will find it difficult to demur. We have had the opportunity of reading a most interesting and instructive opinion on the case of the Trent, which has been published in the Boston *Courier*, and which is signed with the initials of Mr. George Ticknor Curtis, one of the most eminent lawyers in the United States, son-in-law to Judge Story, and brother of Judge Curtis of the Supreme Court. The opinion commences by an expression of regret that "there is a disposition prevalent in some quarters to represent the British demand as a taking advantage of our present situation, which we are to resent hereafter. In my view," says the writer, "England has done no more than her duty to her own flag required; and so far from having done or demanded anything inconsistent with the decisions of her great authority on matters of this kind (Lord Stowell), it seems to me very plain that any competent lawyer, with these decisions in his hand, could have successfully maintained in our own country Earl Russell's position that the Trent was pursuing 'a lawful and innocent voyage.'" Having developed this statement at considerable length, in an argument full of knowledge and ability, Mr. Curtis thus proceeds:

"There are, however, on the other hand, many persons among us who are disposed to blame our own Government for not having restored or offered to restore these prisoners before they heard from England. But let us be just to our own rulers likewise. Let us remember that from the instant of the capture, through the space of five weeks, the Administration was bound fast by a state of public feeling that could not have permitted the smallest concession while it lasted. Nine men out of every ten pronounced it a perfectly clear case on the law, and whether clear or not, it was to be maintained at all hazards. The very few who thought otherwise could scarcely get a hearing, and even that was conceded with doubt of their patriotism.—Men of high consideration led the overwhelming majority, and the majority were resolved. All at once this mighty edifice of public opinion collapsed in the dust, and then it was seen that our Government had to deal with a very delicate case, involving the national honor and the national safety, without any means at all of saving either, but by a frank and manly admission that a well-meaning naval officer had made a mistake, and that consequently we could not make a case."

We will back Mr. Curtis' account of the motives and actions of the American Government against the absurd and utterly untenable theory of Mr. Bright. The "mighty edifice of public opinion" all at once collapsed!" but before what we should like to know did it collapse? Did it yield to argument or to conviction? According to Mr. Curtis' account no man dared even argue the question for fear of being branded as a traitor. It collapsed, indeed, under the pressure of imminent danger, which was near enough and strong enough to overpower even the passions of ignorance and hatred.

The speech of Mr. Bright has filled with confusion and consternation even those who were most disposed to lend him confidence and support. The damage he has done himself in the House of Commons and the country is incalculable. It is possible to respect the earnestness and courage of a man who sustains an unpopular cause, however much you may differ from his opinions. But it is impossible for any one to act with and hardly even to tolerate a man who is anti-national to the point of paradox, and who is wrong-headed to a degree that passes all comprehension.

THE VICTORY AT FORT DONELSON.

From the London Times, March 6.

After nine months of helpless inaction or inglorious campaigning, the Federal armies have at length achieved a genuine victory. The success of General Grant and his colleagues at Fort Donelson appears, in a military point of view, to have been decisive, and it will probably be attended by political consequences of material importance. It is but the capture of a fort, no doubt, but that fort contained an army, it was the key of a position, it opens the road to further advances, and the obstinacy of the contest shows the value which both parties had set upon the possession of the place.—The Confederate garrison must at least have exceeded 20,000 men, for it is stated that no fewer than 15,000 surrendered with the fort as prisoners of war, and five thousand are said to have escaped in the night preceding the capitulation. The Federals, however, had a superiority over even this powerful force. The besieging army was 40,000 strong, and it was assisted in its operations by a flotilla of gunboats on the river. Three days were spent in hard fighting before the fort could be reduced, and the proceedings reported show both the difficulties of the attack and the stubbornness of the defence. * * * *

The Federals can now advance from the west towards the east, and establish themselves in the rear of the force by which General McClellan, with the main army of the Unionists, has so long been kept at bay. There is much, indeed, to be done before the Northern Generals, coming from Kentucky and Tennessee, can unite their troops with those of Burnside advancing from the coast of Carolina; nor is it very probable that combinations so extensive will ever be successfully accomplished. But there is no doubt that the victory at Fort Donelson opens up to the Federal arms a most important territory, and it may prove impossible under such circumstances for the Confederate Government to maintain so large a force on the borders of Virginia.—If this force, however, is materially weakened, Gen. McClellan can at length advance, and then all the armies of the North will be poured at once into the States of the South.

It is needless to say that, in despite of all this, the Confederates can, if they please, prolong the war till their enemies are exhausted, and so defeat the designs of the North. It is one thing to capture a fort and another to occupy a territory. Even the proper territory of the Southerners, indeed, is yet untouched. The recent successes of the North have been gained in countries where the allegiance of the population was divided, and where one cause could claim as many sympathizers as the other. If the Confederates, recoiling from the blows which their antagonist has at length contrived to inflict, should take refuge in their own swamps and strongholds, and leave time and distance to fight their battles for them, the North can do nothing. The Federals may overrun the South, but in doing so their difficulties will but commence. The trial will come when their armies advance from their own soil into hostile territories too vast to be occupied or penetrated. The question, in fact, is not whether the South can resist, but whether it will determine to resist. It can defy the power of the North in the end; but the effort would be painful, and the sacrifices required enormous. Hitherto, either from their own strength or the weakness of their opponents, the Confederates have enjoyed advantages which they could never have anticipated.

Though inferior in numbers and resources, they have not only held their own, but have even inflicted serious reverses on their adversary, and for some time indeed it seemed as if the fortune of war was invariably theirs. The judgments affected on their coasts were of little importance, and were followed by no consequences, while in Virginia they succeeded in repelling their enemies as often as they attempted to advance. Behind the lines of Beauregard and Johnston the Confederate territories were secure, and the great object of the war, the independence of the South, was attained, at any rate for the time. These favorable circumstances contributed, we cannot doubt, to the resolution with which the Southerners, under the pressure of a blockade and with very insufficient resources, maintained an equal contest. They had succeeded, by some means or other, in paralyzing the force of their powerful enemy, and they suffered only from an intercepted commerce and straitened means. But if the Federals should now be able to pursue the advantages which were inaugurated at the defeat of Zollicoffer, the Southern spirit will be more severely tried. If the large border States are definitely detached from the seceders, their inferiority in the struggle will become more manifest than it is already.

They commenced the war with a population of nine millions against twenty; but these nine millions may thus, by the abridgement of their resources, be reduced to six. These six, it is true, may resist still; infact, no mere numerical superiority of force could ever enable the North to hold the South. But will the Southerners preserve their constancy under difficulties, and maintain the strife? That is the question now to be decided

It cannot be denied that the Northerners have shown great tenacity of purpose in continuing their preparations and renewing their efforts in the face of discouraging failures. We attach little weight to their maritime expeditions. Except for the mere diversion or distraction which they may create, the operations on the coast of North Carolina will probably be of no avail. It is in Kentucky and Tennessee that the important blows have been dealt, and a new direction given to the campaign, and here the Federal forces are taking the field on a gigantic scale. Besides the forty thousand under General Grant, eighty thousand are said to be in arms under General Buell, and a third army is spoken of besides. The operations, too, of these commanders appear to have been well conceived and skilfully combined, and if they should succeed in their advances, it is clear that a new aspect will be given to the war. We do not suppose that the Confederates consider the day lost as yet even in those parts which are now the scene of action.

They fought desperately at Fort Donelson and exacted conditions before they surrendered. They are preparing, we are told, for fresh resistance in a new position, and if they have evacuated one district after another, they may well find their account in so doing. A defeat would tell more severely against their enemies than against them.—The Southern Generals are falling back upon a country more entirely their own, whereas the Federals as they proceed will be leaving their supports behind. What the strength of the Confederates may be we cannot say. Perhaps they may be powerful enough to make, somewhere or other, a more successful stand than they made at Fort Donelson; but the Northerners will be now elated with victory; they will believe themselves on the high road to success, and the Seceders will be naturally depressed by reverses which have followed each other so rapidly. It is but reasonable to presume that under such conditions the successes of the North are likely to be continued, and yet a minute's reflection will show that the position of the Southerners and their cause, even at the present time, is far more favorable than could have been expected when the struggle first commenced.

The immense strength of the South in the way of resources has yet to be felt. Up to this time the country has been in a state in which Europe, a protracted war in so immense a country, they boldly met their enemy at his own gates, confronted the great Northern army with an army of their own, and threatened the safety of the Federal Capital itself. All the losses they have as yet experienced do not suffice to bring them to that position which everybody imagined they must occupy when they began the struggle. They are still a match for their antagonists on the Potomac, and if they have suffered two great defeats in the West, they have won two battles in Virginia. Fight on, they have had their fair share of victory, and the effect now produced by the success in the North is due in some degree to the surprise which such a novelty occasions. These recent triumphs, in short, though they have undoubtedly improved the position of the North as regards any possible negotiation for a division of territory, have scarcely brought the Federal Government any nearer than before to a reconstruction of the Union.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

DEATH OF MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.—Late advices from Spain inform us of the death of one of the most distinguished of modern Spanish statesmen and poets, Martinez de la Rosa, who was born in Granada in March, 1789. He was early connected with the political affairs of his country, and in 1814 was imprisoned for his political opinions on the west coast of Morocco, but restored to liberty by the revolution of 1820, and appointed Secretary of State. In the subsequent wars with which France had so much to do, he left Spain, and went to Paris, where he passed his time in purely literary pursuits. In 1830 he returned to Spain, and was appointed Prime Minister to Queen Maria Christina, promulgating, in 1834, a new constitution, which virtually abrogated that of 1812. He was subsequently Spanish Minister to Paris and afterwards to Rome, and at the time of his death was President of the Council of State at Madrid. It will be seen from this brief sketch of his career, that as a statesman he was acceptable to various ruling factions, and successful in maintaining a high position in most of the various governments which ruled during his life. As an author La Rosa was known by a ten volume history of the French Revolution, published in Madrid in 1835-41. In poetry his lyrics, and a drama called the "Conspiracy of Venice," are popular among his countrymen. He also wrote several novels, which enjoyed a fair share of popularity. His lyrical poems are, however, more valued than any of his other writings, and are generally in an easy and graceful vein.

TAXATION IN FRANCE.—The ingenuity of France in finding subjects for taxation, is recommended to us for imitation. It is proposed to levy, in Paris, an annual tax upon carriages of four wheels of fifty francs; upon those of two wheels, thirty francs; and twenty-five francs upon each saddle and carriage horse; and in the country this tax is to be reduced to forty, twenty-five and twenty. It is said there are 12,000 carriages in Paris, and that though the country the estimate which M. Fould makes of the result of this impost of 5,500,000 francs would be surpassed. Dogs are taxed now at the rate of five francs per annum, and it is said also to be the intention of the Government to levy a tax upon cats. Among other projects for increasing the revenue is said to be one for a tax of a centime a hundred upon matches, which it is estimated would yield half a million of dollars a year.

The oldest sovereign in Europe is at present Wilhelm I., King of Wurtemberg, born in September, 1781. Two first Williams are now reigning in Germany, Wilhelm I., of Prussia, and the just named Wilhelm I., of Wurtemberg. In respect to length of reign, the German Prince, Duke Bernhard, of Saxe-Meiningen, who has reigned since 1803, carries the field. The Prince most recently come to his throne is King Louis I., of Portugal. In Germany there are four reigning families who have no hereditary male issue.

The Emperor Napoleon seems to have placed no limit upon his desire to ornament and beautify the city of Paris. He has recently given commissions to the sculptors of France for statues of celebrated Frenchmen, which are to be placed on either side of the banks of the Seine, commencing near the Champ de Mars. This procession will include civilians only, such as Fenelon, Montesque, Pradier, Arago, and many others. Not an epaulette will be erected.

The Great Eastern has met with another accident. On the 15th, while they were placing her on the gridiron at Milford, a boat belonging to the British ship Blenheim got entangled with the screw just at the time it was set in motion, and was cut in two. One man was killed, and several others were severely injured. There were twenty-two men in the boat at the time of the accident.

PRINCESS ANNA MURAT.

From a late Paris letter, kindly furnished us by a lady, we make the following interesting extracts, descriptive of Princess Anna Murat as "Diane Chasseusse."

"The great *bal costume* of the Ministre d'Etat and Countess Walewska took place on the 26th.—The Empress expressed her wish that the Princess Anna Murat should appear as "Diane Chasseuse," offering the use of the ornaments which had been prepared for herself on a former occasion, but which had never been used. So the Princess dined and dressed at the Tuileries, the Empress herself superintending her toilette. Do not imagine it was according to mythological correctness; no, it was the Diane of Louis XV., powdered and curled in the taste of that day. The voluminous folds of the silver tissue skirts, descending to the top of the *cothurne*, the corsage *decollete*, but, with all decorum, though, allowing space for her Majesty's celebrated six-million diamond necklace; for she was literally loaded with the contents of the Empress' jewel case, to which were, perhaps, added some belonging to the crown, which had shone on the dress of the ancient queens of the legitimate line. On her head she wore a crescent of immense value, and interspersed in the hair seven or eight stars; earrings, armlets, rosettes to the cothurnes—nothing was omitted. The imitation tiger-skin was attached to the shoulder by a chain of larger and smaller diamonds, reaching across the bust to the waist and around, where it met the quiver, which is of gold set with precious stones, and an *objet d'art* worthy of admiration. The small *stomacher* of the white satin corsage, covered with silver gauze and embroidered with silver stars, was formed *entirely* of precious stones. A net work and fringe of the same encircling the waist and falling over the fulness of the skirts. I need not say she excited universal attention, and my excuse for filling so large a part of my letter with this minute detail is that I am certain the account of the ball will reach you through the English prints, and I wish you to know the benevolent fairy who equipped the young Princess in so magnificent a style."

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of yesterday.

LATH FROM SHIPPING POINT—PROCLAMATION BY JEFF. DAVIS—VIRGINIA MILITIA CALLED OUT—CONFEDERATE BATTERIES.

SHIPPING POINT, March 19.—An intelligent contraband, who has just come in, reports that Jeff. Davis issued a proclamation on the 10th, calling out all the militia from sixteen to sixty years of age, and orders them to report to headquarters by companies. Virginia, he says, demands every sacrifice, to maintain the dignity of her soil.

He says everybody has quit work and a thorough panic extends all over the country. Nothing is done in Fredericksburg but talking and raving about the Yankees.

STATEMENT OF A FUGITIVE.

Judas Primmer, a fugitive, says he was in Fredericksburg ten days ago, and that there were no fortifications there then, but preparations were being made to build a battery on the river, five miles below Fredericksburg. At that time, there was not a full regiment there, but the troops at the Potomac batteries have since marched in, and from ten to fifteen thousand are now there. Some of the troops marched there from Warrenton Junction.

PARTICULARS OF THE EVACUATION OF AQUIA CREEK—COLLISION.

The tug Leslie went to the lower flotilla yesterday afternoon and returned about two o'clock this morning, bringing three deserters, who had escaped from the Confederates at Aquia Creek when they evacuated the place last Tuesday. They report that the Confederates numbered about two thousand men, and previous to their leaving they tore up the railroad for a considerable distance, and set fire to cars as well as the building, wharf, and a large schooner, which was totally destroyed. The country about the creek had been entirely devastated of everything that could be made use of by them.

On Tuesday morning the Yankee ran up near the batteries and threw among them a few shell, which had the effect to hasten their departure which had already been commenced.

The steamer T. F. Secar came up yesterday afternoon for repairs, having had a collision with the L. D. Collins, about 3 o'clock yesterday morning, near Indian Head, by which her paddle-box was torn away.

ILLNESS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

It will be a source of regret to the nation to learn that Mrs. Lincoln has been so ill for some time past as to confine her to her room. But few persons have been allowed to see her, and these her most intimate friends. We are glad to say that to-day she is somewhat better and it is hoped that she will soon be in the enjoyment of her usual health. Since the loss of Willie Lincoln, both the President and his lady have been sorely afflicted in mind and body. Added to this, the onerous duties of the Executive have so heavily weighed upon his mind as to bring about an indisposition, from which he is slowly recovering. In consequence of the ill health of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, it is probable that no more receptions will be held during the present session of Congress.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

THE CASE OF AYERS AND WAIT.

It is probable that when the House Committee on the District of Columbia reports on the resolution referred to it on the motion of Mr. Lovejoy, it will appear that Louis Ayers and Washington Wait, whom Mrs. Briscoe of Georgetown sent to Baltimore for sale, were not free men, as supposed, but had been held as slaves, one by her and one by her daughter, and were sold for being unruly, and absolutely refusing to give their mistresses any part of their wages. Mrs Briscoe would have been satisfied with half, it is said; but that they should take the whole of their own earnings to themselves, was too much, and disturbed the peace of the household.

It is rumored that high-born ladies of Georgetown, some of whom own forty and fifty slaves, blame Congress without stint for meddling with what they call their private affairs, meaning their human chattels.

THE CONFEDERATE STEAM RAMS.

Government has information from several sources that the four steam rams now building by the Confederates, two at Mobile and two at New Orleans, are similar in construction, though undoubtedly more formidable, than the Hollins turtle. They will, however, it is believed, bear no comparison with the Merrimac.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

The news from Mexico, received in official circles, simply confirms that already published. The prospect is that the result of pending negotiations will be the withdrawal of the Allies from the soil of Mexico. The next mail from France will, it is believed, take to Mexico the assurance that Maximilian cannot be crowned. Meantime, however, while the French commanders are acting under [illegible] their own and not the Emperor's, so will his ultimate scheme is utterly distasteful.

Correspondence of the Phila. Enquirer.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

The State Department has received advices by the last mail from Minister in Mexico which disclose a strange entanglement of affairs that will require the nicest management on the part of our Government. We are so much engrossed with our domestic troubles that the remarkable drama which is being enacted in our sister Republic has received comparatively little attention. Further advices are looked for with much anxiety at the State Department.

BLOCKADE DEMANDS.

The illegal detention of foreign vessels by our blockading squadron will lead to a great number of demands from their respective powers. Congress has already remunerated the owners of the British ship Perthshire and the Spanish bark Providentia. Now comes a claim for $1,850 for the detention of the Danish bark Jorgen Lorentzen, seized while on her way from Rio Janeiro to Havana with a load of coffee.

TELEGRAPH TO FORTRESS MONROE.

The telegraph line to Fortress Monroe will be put in repair to-day or to-morrow, and we will again be in constant communication with the fort. It is thought that the cable which gave out can be so secured as to prevent a repetition in the future.

THE FLOYD ACCEPTANCES.

Holders of about six millions of these acceptances, which in some cases were purchased on the personal recommendation of President Buchanan and Secretaries Floyd and Toucey, are here, urging relief, but Congress does not seem disposed to listen to them just now.

IMPORTANT FROM FREDERICKSBURG—THIRTY THOUSAND TROOPS PASSED THROUGH THAT PLACE.

Joseph Halstead, from Orange county, New York, who has lived below here thirteen years, on his own farm, came in to-night, and says he left because he would not take up arms against his country. He was in Fredericksburg day before yesterday. Troops were being there in from towards Manassas rapidly. Some 20,000 or 30,000 had passed through, but not over 12,000 or 15,000 remained.

THE NEW LINE OF OPERATIONS.

An officer told him that they intended defending the line formed by Aquia Creek, Beaver Dam, the Rappahannock, and the gap in the mountains.

THE MANASSAS GAP RAILROAD—DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, ETC.

For more than ten days past there has been no travel upon the Manassas Gap railroad. Upon this line of railway there were formerly about a dozen locomotives, one hundred horse cars, and two passenger trains of four cars each. Of this stock has now been sent to Richmond, with the exception of one engine and half-a-dozen old freight cars, running, until Saturday last, between Strasburg and Mount Jackson. Several of the bridges have been burned and the road otherwise destroyed.

THE APPOINTMENTS BY THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CONFERENCE.—Several material errors having occurred in the list of appointments published yesterday, we republish them this morning, in a revised and corrected form:

President—Rev. J. K. Nichols.
Kent Circuit—J. T. Murray, S. H. Hobiltzel.
Queen Anne's—J. Roberts, B. F. Benson.
Talbot—R. S. Norris, J. L. Mills, J. B. Jones.
West Baltimore—J. F. Whiteside, G. W. Weills.
Belair—P. E. Stewart.
Pipe Creek—P. L. Wilson.
Georgetown, D. C.—D. E. Rogers.
East Washington Mission—W. W. Recro.
Anne Arundel—Daniel W. Bater.
Alexandria—John W. Everest.
Caroline Circuit—T. E. Derdice, G. S. Batersby.
Concord—C. Eversole.
Prince William—A. D. Dick.
Williamsport—(To be supplied.)
East Baltimore Station—H. C. Cushing.
Ninth Street, Washington—Washington Roby.
Newtown—D. Bowers, W. M. Poisal.
Snow Hill—W. M. Strayer.
Trough Creek—G. W. Simpson.
Dorchester Circuit—W. G. Holmes.
Sussex—J. K. Nickols, T. H. Moore.
New Market—H. S. Eversole, T. H. Ellegood.
Harmony—J. E. Malay.
Harper's Ferry—(To be supplied.)
Cumberland Mission—J. W. Charlton.
Cecil—J. E. T. Ewell, W. S. Livingston.
Howard—Wm. T. Wright, Wm. H. Hopkins.
Cambridge—James Thompson.
West Baltimore—L. W. Bates.
Bedford Circuit—Thomas Lee.
Carlisle Mission and Circuit—J. W. Elderdice.
Warwick—Hamilton T. Day.
Delaware Mission—Dr. D. F. Ewell.
Jefferson Circuit—D. A. Shermer.
Potomac—(To be supplied.)
Union—J. A. McFaden, J. A. Gray.
Frederick—D. Wilson, M. E. Hesore.
Charleston, S. C.—S. B. Southerland.
Salem Station, Phila.—W. T. Dumm.
1st Church, Phila.—E. J. Drinkhouse.
South Baltimore Station—H. Nice, under the superintendency of D. W. Bates.
Washington street, Baltimore—H. P. Jordan.
Baltimore Circuit—C. H. Littleton.
Frederick City Mission—C. T. Cochel, under the superintendency of D. A. Shermer.
Berkeley Circuit—(To be supplied.)
Liberty—J. T. Ward.
Worcester—G. W. Burns, J. M. Dennis, sup. asst.
Newark Mission, New Jersey—Dr. J. J. Murray.
Broadway Mission, Baltimore—J. Shreeve.
Union Circuit, Pennsylvania—G. D. Hamilton.
Susquehanna—R. Whinna.
West Washington Mission—T. Renwick.
West Baltimore Mission—T. D. Valiant.
Montgomery Mission—(To be supplied.)
Superannuated—E. Henkle, J. Varden, R. T. Boyd, A. Baker, T. L. McLean, T. M. Bryan, T. M. Wilson, John Morgan, and T. C. Ewell.

Left without appointment at their own request—J. Clay, W. S. Hammond and T. W. Burgess.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

POLICE BOARD.—On yesterday the United States authorities handed over to the Board of Police Commissioners the police force, which, since July last, have been under military control. The force at present consists of four hundred men, but it will be reduced to three hundred. The Board of Commissioners have taken the apartments formerly occupied by the Metropolitan Board, at the corner of Fayette and Holliday streets. Much anxiety is manifested by the members of the present force in regard to their places, and yesterday the vicinity of the headquarters of the Board was thronged with applicants, many of whom wore the uniform of the force. The Board convened at 11 o'clock, and were in session several hours, but as yet have made no appointments, other than that of Secretary, L. D. Barton being the fortunate one for that position. Provost Marshal Dodge has taken rooms in the building on Holliday street, known as the McKim property. He will still have the control of a small force, which will be devoted exclusively to the service of the Federal Government.

RIOTOUS SOLDIERS.—About eleven o'clock on Wednesday night a fight took place in a drinking-house kept by Thomas McDonald, on Lombard street near Centre Market Space, between several sailors belonging to one of the gunboats, and as many soldiers. Policeman Young was called, and on endeavoring to quell it, he was assailed by the party, who beat him very severely; so much so that he is confined to his room. Other policemen were attracted to the scene, and succeeded in arresting four of the party, named R. Worthington, A. F. Austin, Peter Gaynor and —Sullivan. They were taken to the Central police station where Justice Nalls committed them to jail.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN CITIZEN.—We record with regret, this morning, the death of a highly respectable citizen, Mr. George Gibson, of the well-known auction firm of Gibson & Co. For a number of years previous to the establishment of the present firm, Mr. Gibson was extensively engaged in the cloth business in this city. His disease was consumption, from which he has been suffering for a long time past.

ALTERED BANK NOTE.—Some adroit counterfeiters have been exercising their skill in altering one-dollar bills to the denomination of $10. Some of the one-dollar bills on the Chesapeake Bank of this city have been changed in this manner, and the work is done so skillfully that the bills well calculated to circulate. A little care, however, will readily detect the imposition.

ASSAULTING WITH A BRICK.—Yesterday a fight took place between two women on East street, named Elizabeth Price and Henrietta Smallwood, in which the former struck the latter with a brick, inflicting a very severe wound on the side of the head. The girl Price was arrested and taken to the Central police station, when Justice Nalls committed her to jail to answer.

THE BALTIMORE PRESBYTERY.—The regular spring session of this body will convene in this city on Tuesday, the 8th of April, in the Second Presbyterian church, corner of Lloyd and Baltimore streets. The opening sermon will be preached on the previous evening, by Rev. W. R. Marshall, Moderator. It is not probable that there will be any discussion in this body having reference to the present condition of the country.

J. S. CLARKE.—This celebrated comedian and native of Baltimore is playing a truly successful engagement at Bland's Theatre in Washington.—We are sure there are thousands in this city who would be glad to see the great *American Cousin, Toodles, Wellington de Boots*, &c., and believe that one of our managers would be amply repaid for securing his services, for a few nights at least.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Wednesday morning, about ten o'clock, three boys, two of whom were brothers, named Sevier, and the other named Mathers, were in a row-boat opposite Locust Point, when their boat was struck by a fishing craft and capsized. It was with difficulty that the boys were rescued, and one of the Seviers was in a most exhausted condition.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE JAIL.—The Board of Trustees of the Jail have made the following appointments:—Clerk, David Cowen; Engineer, Hugh Hughes; Baker, John Schroots; Deputy Wardens, Jas. Pusey, Wesley Woodward, J. Ellicott, James Allison, William Crone, James Wright and —— Swindel.

COMMITTED TO JAIL AS VAGRANTS.—Yesterday the police hustled themselves in arresting persons not having visible means of support, and the following were picked up. Justice Nalls committed them to jail for 90 days, under the vagrant act:—Mary Coonan, John Glass, Mary Moore, Wm. Joyce, and James Smith.

HELD BY ORDER OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL.—Yesterday two men, named J. W. Grinnell and W. J. Clawson, were arrested and confined in the Central police station, to await the orders of the Provost Marshal.

DESTROYING PROPERTY.—On yesterday a man named Conradt Wilson was arrested on the charge of tearing down fences around Patterson's Park. He was taken to the Eastern police station, where he was held to answer.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CITY CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE KREBS.

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

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Annie M. Wilson vs. Northern Central Railway Company. Verdict for the plaintiff, $1,000.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PRICE.

TOWSONTOWN, March 20.—Richard J. Gittings, Esq., Attorney for the State.

Thomas James, a Justice of the Peace for this county, was held to bail in the sum of $1,000 for his appearance, to answer a charge of misdemeanor, by falsely imprisoning Antoine Hannimon.

Thomas, James and Joshua Bond, trading in Baltimore under the firm of Bond & Co., vs. John Kelley. An action brought to recover $243 75 for lumber furnished. Jury out, with instructions for return a sealed verdict. White and Barroll for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Grason for defendant.

No other business being ready, the Court at an early hour adjourned for the day.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(Regular Sessions)

FIRST BRANCH.—The Branch met at 5 o'clock.—Present WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President *pro tem.*, and all the members.

Mr. EVANS presented a petition from Charles Hill and others, asking to have a new pump-stock placed in the well on the corner of Hampden and Dallas streets. Referred to the Water Board.

Mr. STRASZER presented a remonstrance from Matthew Smith and others, against granting permission to C. F. Munder & Co. to erect a steam engine on their premises, on Liberty street.

Mr. KIMBERLY moved to lay the memorial on the table. Carried.

Mr. DUKEHART rose to a personal explanation. He said that in the proceedings of the Second Branch of the City Council on Wednesday, as published in the papers of the city, an unjust and ungenerous attack on him was made by a member of that branch. On Wednesday evening he was approached by a person whom he supposed to be a gentleman, who asked him what was meant by the resolution passed in the First Branch appropriating $120 to pay the expenses of members of the Council to Annapolis. He stated to that party that the money was necessary to bear the expenses of the committee appointed to visit Annapolis to secure certain amendments to the Code, and also to pay the expenses of five members of the First Branch who were there for the same purpose. After the committee had performed its functions, he had asked each member of it, and also the five members referred to, what their expenses were, and on the return which was made to him he estimated the sum appropriated by the resolution to defray the expenses of those engaged in securing the passage of the amendments. Mr. Dukehart then explained the importance of the work accomplished by the committee, and said that he was willing to meet his constituents on the issue involved in the expenditure.

Mr. EVANS called up the resolution directing the Committee on Highways to examine into the condition of the Parks on Broadway, between Baltimore street and Belair avenue, and report what was necessary to put them into proper condition. Adopted.

The PRESIDENT announced a sealed communication from the Mayor, and a committee was appointed to invite the Second Branch into Convention, who, on waiting on that body, found that it had adjourned.

A communication was received from the City Commissioners stating that the probable cost of removing the filth from Patterson's Park will be fifty dollars. Referred.

A communication was received from the Commissioner of Health stating that the condition of Chatsworth Run will be detrimental to health during the summer months. Referred.

Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met. CHAS. J. BAKER, Esq., President, in the chair, and all the members present.

A proposition to appoint a Joint Select Committee, to whom shall be referred the message of the Mayor in relation to the Druid Hill Park Railway, was received from the First Branch and concurred in; and Messrs. Dean, Robb and Alricks, were appointed on the part of this Branch.

A resolution appropriating $30 for the purchase of a national flag for the Marine Hospital, was received from the First Branch.

Mr. GEORGE thought there must be some mistake about the resolution. He was at the Marine Hospital on Wednesday, and when leaving the Hospital wharf he heard Dr. Clendenin say he would like to have "a flag," as the old one had been blown away; evidently meaning a *yellow* flag, which it had been usual to float from the top of the hospital building to give warning to pilots of the beginning and close of the season during which the quarantine regulations were enforced. It might require $20 or $30 to procure a national flag, but he did not think so much would be necessary for the purchase of a yellow flag. He moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on City Property.

Mr. MILLER was glad to hear the remarks of the gentleman from the 5th and 6th wards, and suggested that the resolution be so amended as to appropriate $15 for the purchase of a hospital flag, instead of a "national" one.

Mr. DEAN was at the hospital on Wednesday, and remarked to Dr. Clendenin that the flag—meaning the yellow one—was not flying. The Dr. replied that the old flag had blown away, and he would like to have a new one.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The resolution providing for the purchase of a national flag for the Almshouse was then taken up.

Mr. MILLER thought the "flag fever" had overtaken the City Council, and it became the body to put a stop to it. Liberal appropriations had already been made for flags. If the evils and disorders of the country could be cured by such action, he would gladly vote for all such appropriations. If this was kept up, applications would be made for flags for all the police stations, and for every mud machine. Indeed, the matter might be carried to an indefinite extent. He might some day himself come here, pleading poverty, and ask for a flag for his own house. He thought the matter was assuming a *flag-titious* character. He therefore moved that it be referred to the Visitors to the Almshouse. Carried.

The Branch then adjourned.

CHARLES G. KERR,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

OFFICE—No. 31 ST. PAUL STREET,
(BETWEEN LEXINGTON AND SARATOGA STREETS,)
Baltimore, Md.

#30-tf

Amusements.

FRONT STREET THEATRE.—To-night Mr. Davenport takes a benefit at Front Street Theatre. Seldom, indeed, has the Baltimore public had offered to it such a dramatic treat as that presented nightly at this Theatre