THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

By the arrival at Halifax of the steamer America, we have European advices to the 9th inst. In the House of Commons, two days previously, Mr. Gregory, pursuant to notice, called for all the correspondence, in regard to the blockade, which had taken place subsequent to that furnished by the papers already before Parliament. He expressed a strong sympathy for the Confederate States; denied that the blockade was efficient and contended that its recognition by England had exposed her to severe criticism on the part of foreign jurists.—His call for the correspondence was seconded by Mr. George Bentinck, who sustained the views taken by Mr. Gregory, in respect to the inefficiency of the blockade and declared further, that he regarded the re-union of the Northern and Southern States to be an utter impossibility. He was, therefore, in favor of recognizing the latter. Mr. Foster denied that the blockade was inefficient, and asserted that the list of three hundred vessels handed in by Mr. Mason dwindled down to nineteen on examination. He eulogised in strong terms the neutral position which had been assumed by the British Ministry. Sir James Ferguson and Mr. Lindsay both denounced the blockade as illegal. Mr. Milner, on the other hand, deprecated any active interference by the Government in the struggle now taking place; whilst the Solicitor General defended the position assumed by the Government, and declared that it had been proven on the floor of the House that only in one or two instances had the blockade been successfully run. The motion of Mr. Gregory was negatived without a division.

The arrest at Tangier of one of the Sumter's officers, and his companion, Mr. Thompson, lately Vice Consul of the United States at Cadiz; their confinement in the United States Consulate, and their subsequent removal to the coast under a Moorish guard, and embarkation on board of the United States ship-of-war Ino, created intense excitement among the European residents at Tangier, who closed the port gates, and demanded the release of the prisoners, but without success. The latest intelligence, however, from Tangier is to the effect that they were subsequently set at liberty.

We have nothing to chronicle concerning matters at Fortress Monroe. The office of newspaper reporter at that point has suddenly become pretty much of a sinecure. General Wool has issued strict orders that nothing shall pass thence in the shape of news which does not receive his special sanction. The very effort to keep secret whatever operations may be going on in that quarter gives rise to a thousand rumors, and to presages of events that are speedily to occur for which no responsible authority can be found. By the steamer which reached here on Saturday we learn that a number of canal boats and transports, which broke loose in Hampton Roads during the recent gale, were driven ashore, near the mouth of the bay, and that many of them will prove a total loss. Troops continued to arrive at the Fortress. Magruder is supposed to have some seventeen thousand troops under him, near Great Bethel, and the Merrimac, which was anchored off the Hospital below Norfolk, has suddenly disappeared.

The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, writing from Fortress Monroe, places the number of Federal troops engaged in the attack on Newbern at nine thousand, and that of the Confederates at thirteen hundred. Five hundred of the latter are said to have been taken prisoners. The statement is alleged to be made on the authority of a letter written on board the United States gunboat Chasseur, but it is evidently erroneous. In classifying the wounded, the names of seventeen Federal regiments were given in the Northern papers, and the number of Confederate prisoners is estimated by General Burnside himself at about two hundred.

From the Upper Potomac we have nothing except in relation to events that have already transpired, and to incidents which from the want of other matter have been thought by correspondents to be worth chronicling. Of the latter, in treating of Winchester and its defences, it astonished that so weakly fortified a place should so long have been a bugbear to the Federal troops, or rather, to their commanders. The writer pronounces the fort "a weak sort of affair," its earthen walls having partially crumbled down, and its rear corners being left in an unfinished state. The "boasted fortifications," that he alleges, "frightened Patterson, and have been a terror to the whole division ever since," consisted only of "a simple earthwork with a ditch half caved in." And he wants to know "where were our spies?" According to the correspondent General Jackson appears to have taken his departure quite as leisurely as did Ashby's cavalry, though, perhaps less sullenly and reluctantly. The Federal soldiers at Winchester have invented a new set of loyalty which is quite creditable to their ingenuity.

Nashville is unfortunately, winning for itself a most unenviable character, in the judgment of the correspondents of Northern journals. We have already given the opinion entertained by the correspondent of the New York *Tribune* in regard to the women of Nashville, and now the Nashville writer of the New York *Post* declares that "a viler secession domain I never beheld." Then follows a remarkably complimentary allusion to a city much nearer home. "Baltimore," we are told, "in its worst days, was a paradise to Nashville."

The latest news from Tenth Island is that the firing on both sides had partially ceased, and that the Confederates on the mainland were actively engaged in repairing and strengthening their works. From the Cincinnati *Commercial* we reproduce an account of the bombardment during the first three days. No very serious impression seems to have been made upon the Confederate batteries, the gunboats under Commodore Foote having been kept, for the greater part of the time, at long range.

By the arrival of the steamer Karnak at New York we learn that all the British troops—they consisted only of marines—which were landed at Vera Cruz have re-embarked for England, with the exception of about one hundred men. A portion of the French Contingent had, however, arrived and the remainder were expected in the course of a few days. As the idea of making Maximilian, of Austria, King of Mexico had been abandoned, it was believed that the negotiations already commenced would end in an amicable adjustment of the claims of the allies.

The New York *World* consoles the people of that city with the declaration that "if the Confederate iron-clad vessels keep away from New York for another three weeks, we can bid them defiance forever." The Vanderbilt and Ocean Queen are to be converted into formidable steam rams, iron-clad; and the sloop-of-war Adirondack is also to be clad in iron armor.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Messrs. Editors of the News Sheet:

I am greatly in hopes a sort of "set back" has been given to "official travelling committees" by the recent proceedings of our City Council. Everybody recollects how ubiquitous were a noted City Council a few years ago; being here and there in the shape of "travelling committees."

The late flying trips to Annapolis, to attend to almost every thing but the "extension of a street railroad to the Park," by members of our City Council, have brought before the public the manner in which the people's money has been spent heretofore.

The attempted appropriation of "one hundred and twenty dollars" to pay the expenses of members of the City Council to Annapolis, introduced in the First Branch, has created quite a feeling of curiosity on the part of the public, to ascertain how many of the members went to Annapolis, who they were, and by what authority some of them reported to have been there on several occasions, and for several days at a time. Let us have the vouchers in the further proceedings on that subject. All parties interested owe it to themselves that the public should understand thoroughly the merits of the *one hundred and twenty dollars transaction for "travelling expenses to Annapolis."* Let us have the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and the public will have reason to thank somebody for any light shed on this interesting subject. A TAX PAYER.

DEATH OF AN EMINENT PRIEST.—Rev. John O'Reilly, an eminent clergyman of the Catholic Church, died at St. Louis on the 4th instant, in the 65th year of his age. He was educated at St. Mary's, Emmittsburg, and ordained in 1827. The deceased, for many years, in early life, officiated at Pittsburg. In 1840 he visited Rome, made his Novitiate in Italy, and on his return to the United States was placed in St. Louis. He was subsequently transferred to La Salle, Ill., where he founded a religious house and built a splendid church. The last years of his life he spent at the Seminary of the Holy Angels, Niagara Falls, New York, of which he was made Superior after the promotion of Father Lynch to the See of Toronto, Canada.

The New Albany (Indiana) *Ledger* says:—"The population of the African persuasion known as free niggers, seems to be rapidly on the increase in this city. Some of them will allow a white man to walk on the opposite side of the street from them if he behaves himself."

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

The Latest from Island No. 10—The Attack Still Progressing.

CAIRO, March 22.—The latest advices from Island No. 10 were brought by a despatch boat which arrived here at 6 o'clock this morning. The position of our gunboats and mortars is not changed. Firing is kept up at intervals to prevent the enemy strengthening or repairing the works.

The Ohio river is rapidly rising at this point.—In the last twenty-four hours it has risen a foot, and the streets are now covered to the depth of four feet in some places. A balloon was sent to Commodore Foote yesterday, for the purpose of making a reconnoissance of the works of the enemy. Steamers are continually arriving here with troops from St. Louis and elsewhere.

A messenger just returned from Cape Girardeau reports that the rumored attack on that point by Jeff. Thompson is without foundation.

A special despatch to the Chicago *Post* says that only four shots were received from the rebel batteries at Island No. 10 yesterday. Our fleet fired thirty.

There are numerous reports that the rebels are evacuating the island and marching across the peninsula to Merriweather's Landing; but it is impossible to ascertain the truth of the reports. Existing circumstances favor such a belief.

FROM GEN. BANKS' CORPS.

A Skirmish Near Winchester—Gen. Shields' Troops Defeats the Enemy.

WINCHESTER, March 23.—Telegraphic despatches received here from Winchester, dated last night at half-past 10 o'clock, say a slight skirmish occurred this (Saturday) afternoon, about a mile and a half from Winchester, on the Strasburg road, between a portion of Gen. Shields' troops and the Rebel cavalry with four pieces of artillery.

The enemy retreated with loss as soon as our guns opened fire upon them. One man was killed on our side, and General Shields suffered a slight injury in the left arm above the elbow, from the fragment of a shell which burst near him. A prisoner brought in to-night says that the enemy were under the impression that our troops had left Winchester, and Jackson's forces were on the road from Strasburg, under the same impression.

Still Later and Highly Important---Battle Near Winchester—The Rebel Army Under General Jackson Totally Defeated—A Complete Route of the Rebels.

WINCHESTER, March 23, 10 P. M.—We have this day achieved a glorious victory over the combined forces of the Rebels Jackson, Smith and Longstreet. The battle was fought to-day, within four miles of this place. It raged from half past 10 this (Sunday) morning until dark. The enemy's strength was about 15,000, whilst our troops did not number above 8,000. Our loss in killed and wounded is not as yet ascertained, but is quite heavy.

The enemy's loss is at least double that of ours.

We have captured a large number of prisoners, some of their field pieces, and the ground is strewn in every direction with the arms they have thrown away in their flight.

Our cavalry are still in pursuit of the retreating enemy.

Full particulars cannot be ascertained until daylight.

The Latest from the Battle-Field.

WINCHESTER, March 23.—I have just come in from the very front of the battle-field, three miles out. We have had a complete victory over the combined forces of the enemy. We have captured two guns and caissons. The loss of the enemy is at least one hundred killed and two hundred wounded. Our loss is large, but does not exceed one hundred and fifty killed and wounded.

Our men fought well, and have brought in a large number of muskets.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Cannon in Possession of the Rebels.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—We are assured, from a perfectly reliable source, that there is not an Armstrong gun in this country—nor has Sir William Armstrong ever made a gun for any other service than that of the English Government. The large rifled ordnance procured from England by the rebels were made at the Lowman works, after the designs of Captain Blakely, formerly of the Royal Artillery. About twenty of these Blakely 100-pounder rifled cannon have been delivered to the rebels, which, with thirty smooth siege cannon, constitute all the heavy ordnance of the enemy obtained from abroad which has escaped capture.—Most of the rifled cannon used by the rebels have been smooth navy guns rifled, and many of them have burst from the enormous strain which they have not been designed to bear.

Health of Lieut. Worden.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Lieutenant Worden is improving. He slept well last night for the first time since his injury, and his friends are now confident that he will completely recover his eyesight.

Meeting of Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—A Union meeting was held at Fairfax Court House yesterday. Speeches were made by Charles H. Upton, F. C. Underwood, and others. Resolutions were adopted expressing thanks to President Lincoln, and Secretary Seward, for their sagacity and wisdom in managing our domestic and foreign affairs, and approbation of Governor Pierpont to order an early county officers.

Rifled and Coast Defences.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The propositions for building gunboats for the Western waters, which have thus far been submitted to the War Department, are all of them found to require too great a draft of water to meet the contingencies of the service, and the Secretary of War invites plans and estimates for gunboats of as shallow a draft of water as the mechanical ingenuity of the West can devise. Quartermaster General Meigs has special charge of the subject, and may be corresponded with accordingly.

Senator Morrill, of Maine, recently introduced a bill designed to carry out the policy of the Government in reference to the defences of the coasts and frontiers, submitting at the same time three several acts and resolutions of the Legislature of Maine—the first, authorizing a loan of money to the United States for the public defence, to be reimbursed in bonds of the United States; the second, setting forth the plans of the defence proposed for the State of Maine; and the third, authorizing the taking of lands for forts and other purposes, which were printed and referred. The Governor of Maine has also given official information to the Secretary of the Treasury that the means are provided by the State of Maine to carry into execution the system of defence proposed in accordance with the requirements of the official rate of the Secretary of War, dated November last, in which the President proposed to undertake the duty of having the ports and harbors on the seas and lakes put in a condition of complete defence.

The bill to carry these arrangements into effect, introduced by Senator Morrill, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to accept loans from the several States, and provided that in case the President shall deem it advisable to accept a loan for this purpose from Maine, he may cause to be erected certain works of defence in that State, and places all the military forces called out for local defence under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. Other States adopting this policy, can readily add such additional sections to the bill as their respective cases may require. Massachusetts and other States, it is said, propose to do this. Governor Andrews, of Massachusetts, concurred in the provisions of the bill, and it is supposed it also has the approbation of Governor Sprague. From the peculiar exposed condition of the State of Maine, her legislature has been the first to act, but only in obedience to the advice and wishes of the administration.

Bodies Recovered.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The bodies of Colonel Slocum, Major Ballou, and Capt. Tower, all of Pawtucket, have been recovered from the battle field near Manassas, and were placed on the cars this afternoon for transportation to Rhode Island.

All Quietat Fortress Monroe.

WASHINGTON, March 23, P. M.—A despatch received here to-night from Chorrstone, Va., says a boat came over from Fortress Monroe this afternoon, and reports all quiet at the latter point.

FROM SOUTHERN TENNESSEE.

ST. LOUIS, March 22.—The correspondent of the *Democrat*, under date Savannah, Tenn., March 17, says: "No move has yet been made by our army here. A second flood in the Tennessee and its tributaries is prevailing. Our information in regard to the enemy is still quite meagre. His main force is supposed to be at Corinth, Miss., where it is probable he will be able to concentrate fifty thousand troops. Our force mostly remains on board our transports. Gen. Grant, who has been reinstated in the command of this expedition, arrived here to-day. It is not likely that any active operations will take place hereabout for several days."

Important from the Tennessee River—The Federal Troops in Possession of the Charleston and Memphis Railroad.

CAIRO, March 22.—The gunboat Lexington, from the Tennessee river, has arrived, and reports our forces concentrating in the country about Savannah, Tennessee, but are accomplishing nothing of importance besides the occasional capture of the scouts of the enemy, bringing in prominent rebels. Our forces have entire possession of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, in the vicinity of Savannah, Tennessee.

A skirmish occurred on Sunday last, between a battalion of the 4th Illinois regiment, and a squadron of Rebel cavalry, near Pittsburg Landing, resulting in the defeat of the Rebels with some loss. Four of our men were wounded.

The Search for the Vermont.

BOSTON, March 22.—The steamer Saxon, sent in search of the United States frigate Vermont, put into Holmes' Hole to-day short of coal. She fell in with the United States frigate Vermont on the 15th inst. in lat. 36° 57′, lon. 65° 30′, and left her on the 18th in lat 37° 50′, lon. 63° 45′. The Vermont was in a better condition than before reported. The rudder taken out by the Saxon was lost in attempting to hang it to the Vesmont. The Saxon will return to tow the Vermont in.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

BOSTON, March 23.—The steamer Saxon has arrived here. She reports that she supplied the Vermont with sails, rudder, and two ship carpenters; also, that the rudder was lost whilst attempting to hang it. After towing the Vermont a short time the haws r parted, and during a heavy gale lost sight of her, but saw her next day, the 17th—but the sea was so high, could not get within hail. On the 18th succeeded in throwing a letter on board, informing them that the Saxon had only four days coal on board and would return for assistance. Parted company at 4 o'clock P. M. on the 18th, in lat. 38° 37′, long. 63° 24′.

The Capture of Yancey—Another Statement.

EASTON, March 22.—B. S. Kelley, of Scranton, has received a letter from an officer of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, dated Key West, March 10, saying: "A prize arrived here last evening, captured in attempting to run the blockade. The sailors were taken to jail, and one of them, to whom the attention of the officers was directed by the whiteness of his hands, was examined and identified by several of the officers as the famous Yancey. A newspaper correspondent also recognized him.—He is confined in the calabooso here."

Arrest of Secession Abettors.

CHICAGO, March 21.—Six citizens of Sangamon county were arrested yesterday by order of Gen. Halleck, and sent to Alton, to be placed in close confinement, for aiding the escape of the Rebel prisoners from Camp Butler.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamer Georgeanna arrived at her wharf about nine o'clock on Saturday morning. She reports that a number of canal boats and transports had been driven ashore near the mouth of the bay. They were loaded with Government wagons, mules, and horses. Most of them will prove a total loss.—When off the mouth of York river she met the steamer Eureka, with a large cargo of Government stores, in a distressed condition. Her rudder was gone and she was otherwise disabled. The Georgeanna towed her to Hampton Roads. There was a flag of truce on Friday, but not a word of information from the South. Three deserters from General Magruder's command came into Newport-News, and report that he has 17,000 well-equipped and well disciplined troops under him. His force was at one time within five miles of Newport-News, but were ordered back to a point near Great Bethel, where they now remain. There was nothing to be seen of the Merrimac, and it is supposed that she has returned to the Navy Yard.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 21.—All is quiet here and there is no news to communicate.

A flag of truce was sent out this morning for the accommodation of an officer of the French Navy desiring to go South. The Rebel officer and crew were very uncommunicative, and we learn nothing from this source. No newspapers were received.

Among the passengers who came down from Baltimore this morning were the Prince de Joinville and Miss Dix, of Washington.

Hopes were entertained this morning that the telegraph cable would be repaired to-day or to-morrow.

The following general order has been issued:

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF VIRGINIA,
FORTRESS MONROE, VA., March 19, 1862.

General Orders No. 23.

With grateful acknowledgments for the honor conferred on the Major-General Commanding the Department of Virginia, the following order is announced:

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1862.

Ordered, That in recognition of faithful services by a distinguished and gallant officer, the name of the fort on the Rip Raps be changed from Fort Calhoun to Fort Wool, by which latter name it shall henceforth be known and distinguished.

[Signed] EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

By command of Major-General Wool.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

The following order explains itself:

HEADQUARTERS, DEP'T OF VIRGINIA,
FORTRESS MONROE, VA., March 24, 1862.

General Orders No. —.

In order to prevent the publication of information relating to military movements within this department, all reporters and correspondents for newspapers now present or who may hereafter be allowed to come into it, are prohibited from transmitting for publication any matter relating to military operations without the approval of the Commanding General.

Should any articles contrary to the tenor of this order appear in print, it will be the signal for sending away the reporters.

Lieut-nant DeWitt Clinton, Aid-de-Camp, is appointed Censor, to whom all matter intended by the reporters for publication, will be submitted for examination.

The attention of all officers writing for newspapers is directed to the 57th article of war.

By command of Major General Wool.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assitant Adjutant General.

The Merrimac Still Making Repairs.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 22.—The steamer Arago arrived here last night from New York.

A flag of truce to-day brought back a French officer from Norfolk. No news or newspapers were received, except the fact that the Merrimac is still undergoing repairs at the Navy Yard, Norfolk.

Fifteen miles of the telegraph cable under run this morning.—*Corr. of the Phila. Enquirer.*

Fortress

AT NEWBERN—THE NUMBER OF CONFEDERATES IN THE FIELD.

I have been shown a letter from the United States gunboat Chasseur, dated March 15th, off Newbern, N. C., and make the following interesting extracts:

"The day before yesterday (March 13th) we landed all our troops (about nine thousand) fifteen miles below Newbern, and, as they marched up, we sailed up, and shelled the woods as we went. Now and then we came across a stubborn fort, when we would have to stop and give them a few extra 'pills.'

"The fight did not commence in real earnest until yesterday morning about daylight. *The enemy had one thousand three hundred in the field.* It has been the hardest fight we have had. Our troops have suffered severely, and we have lost some of our best officers. We have taken about five hundred prisoners, over fifty pieces of cannon, and large quantities of arms and ammunition. A large part of our troops are at Newbern, in good quarters. The Confederates, upon leaving the town, set fire to the splendid railroad bridge, which was soon destroyed. They then set fire to the city in three different places and retired. This all took place before we reached the town.

"The negroes extinguished two of the fires, but they were unable to suppress the third, which burned one or two hotels and a lot of restaurants."

Amusements.

EDWIN FORREST.—The simple announcement that this great American tragedian will appear to-night at the Old Drury is, we are sure, sufficient to crowd that beautiful edifice from parquette to ceiling. The character he has selected for appearing again before his Baltimore friends is Richelieu, in which he is universally acknowledged to be without a rival. Our citizens have long been anxious to witness the works of the great masters faithfully rendered, and we feel convinced that Mr. Forrest's reception to-night will be alike gratifying to him and profitable to the manager. As his engagement extends to four nights only, an early application for seats is necessary.

FRONT STREET THEATRE.—Mr. J. S. Clarke, our noted comedian and distinguished fellow-citizen, will make his first appearance. Mr. Clarke plays but four nights, then bidding farewell to America. He appears to night in the *School of Reform* and the *Spectre Bridegroom*. We may expect our citizens to rally in large numbers to hear him bid adieu.

BALTIMORE MUSEUM.—Kunkel's opera troupe will remain in Baltimore only this week. To-night they make their 200th appearance, when a totally new entertainment will be offered. On Wednesday afternoon next they will give a gala farewell *matinee* at the Museum.

From the Indianapolis (Ind.) State Sentinel, March 21.

THE NEW WAR ARTICLE—ABOLITIONISM IN THE SENATE.

We extract from the *Congressional Globe* the proceedings in the Senate upon the passage of the bill which, by attaching penalties and punishments to a soldier or officer who should return a fugitive slave to a loyal master, even in those States where the Federal authority is recognized, virtually repealing the fugitive slave law. Heretofore, enforcing the provisions of that act, the military power has been called in to aid the former. This was done in Boston under the administration of President Fillmore. The new article of war is intended to evade the provisions of the Constitution in regard to the return of fugitives from labor to those to whom said labor or service is due. We call attention to the amendments proposed by the conservative Senators and which were voted down by the Republicans and Abolitionists. It was proposed by Senator Davis of Kentucky that all officers and persons in the military and naval service of the United States should be prohibited from detaining, harboring or concealing any such fugitives. This was voted down, 10 to 29. Another amendment was offered that the article should not apply to the States of Delaware, Maryland Missouri and Kentucky, nor elsewhere where the Federal authority is recognized or can be enforced, but it met a similar fate.

An amendment prohibiting any forces of the United States being employed "for the purpose of enticing or decoying such persons held to service or labor from the service of their loyal masters," was likewise lost by a vote of 10 to 29. It will be noticed that Governor Wright, with the Republican and Abolition Senators, voted against all these amendments. His professions and practice will not square. Since his appointment to the Senate he has professed to be as good a Democrat as he ever was, and that he would as zealously maintain the constitutional rights of the people of the Southern States as he ever had done. The President called to his aid the military power of the nation to enforce the laws. But Governor Wright is found cheek by jowl with the Abolition Senators, voting against the employment of the military forces, if their services should be necessary to aid in the execution of a law upon the statute book—with the very men who oppose the President's emancipation resolution, because they are in favor of the unconditional abolition of slavery, without compensation to the master. This is a singular position for one to occupy who professes to tread in the footsteps of Douglas. He had no sympathy with such a crew, and in his last speech took ground against them in declaring that "*we* must not invade constitutional rights."

The Toronto *Leader* is indignant because a newsdealer in St. Louis, who received one hundred and twenty-five copies of that paper, has been arrested and lodged in jail "for reasons best known to the Federal authorities."

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER AMERICA.

Two Days Later from Europe.

HALIFAX, March 22.—The R. M. steamship America, from Liverpool at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, via Queenstown on the 9th inst, arrived at Halifax at 2 o'clock this morning.

The America has thirty passengers for Boston.

Her dates are two days later than those per the Anglo-Saxon at Portland.

The steamship Edinburgh arrived at Queenstown, and the steamship Jura at Londonderry, on the night of the 6th inst., and both reached Liverpool on the night of the 7th inst.

The new Cunard steamer Scotia had arrived at Liverpool from the Clyde, to take her place in the Cunard line. The report of her is highly satisfactory. Her maximum speed on her trial trip was nineteen miles, and her average speed seventeen miles an hour.

The screw steamer Spartan, bound to Halifax with military stores, etc., was lost on the passage. Seven persons were drowned, including Captan Hand, of the Sixty-third regiment, wife and child.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The proceedings of the British Parliament on the 6th inst. were of slight importance.

The House of Commons passed a number of important votes on the army estimates.

Among the fortification votes was on of £6,000 for the defence of the river Mersey.

A vote of £10,000 for the enlargement of the Sandhurst Military College was rejected by 28 majority against the Government.

Sir G. C. Lewis during the debate gave a complete denial to the reports of the failure of the Armstrong gun. He said that 2,400 guns of this description had thus far been manufactured, and with very slight exceptions they had answered every expectation entertained of them. He also showed that the Government stores of war materials, etc., were equal to any emergency.

In the House of Commons on the 7th inst., Mr. Gregory, pursuant to notice, called the attention of the House to the blockade of the Southern ports, and moved for a copy of any correspondence on the subject subsequent to the papers already before the House. He expressed his strong sympathy for the struggle now going forward in the Confederate States, and declared that a separation of the South from the North and a re-construction of the Union were the only means by which they could hope to see slavery abolished in America.

He contended that the efficiency of the blokade of the Southern ports was a question of great importance to England and to Europe, and he asserted that our recognition of it, in its present state, had exposed us to severe criticism on the part of foreign jurists. Among others, M. De Hautevile, one of the most eminent of modern French writers, had charged us with conniving at an illegal blockade; and that we did so, not from any friendly feeling towards the United States, but in order that we might make it the basis for enforcing our own arrogant pretensions, when, having become belligerent ourselves, it might be to our interet to set aside the principles of international law. Our justice and impartiality, in fact, were involved in this matter.

If the blockade is ineffectual we are conniving at the use of a weapon of warfare by one belligerent which it is not in the power of the other to employ, and we are thus acting unjustly to fair traders by making commerce a matter of smuggling gambling and speculation. We are also depriving the manufacturers of the country of that raw material by the manufacture of which so many have hitherto obtained a livelihood. The privations which have resulted in consequence of this have so far been borne patiently, but no one could say how much longer they would be endured, who the impression was daily gaining ground that they were forced upon the country by illegal acts. He (Gregory) had no desire to attack the Government for the course they had taken. They had a difficult part to play and they had play it well. Though resolved to vindicate to the utmost extent the honor of the country, they had been actuated throughout by a spirit of forbearance an conciliation, but still they might go too far.

The opinions of the neutral Powers are almost unanimously against the legality of th blockade. Hitherto the blockade had not fulfillcamy of the conditions which could constitute it legal and efficient. On the contrary, steamers of light draught have continually run it, and were dail plying between the various ports of the Southern States. In conclusion, he urged that if the country continued to connive at an illegal and inefficient blockade, in order to conciliate the United States, he Declaration of Paris would be, so far as it garded the Confederate States, a mockery—as regded international law, a dolusion—and with rpect to the trade and commerce of the world, a sare.

Mr. George Bentinck seconded the motion. He thought the honorable friend had established a clear case as to the inefficiency of te blockade. The only prospect of bringing abouta conclusion of the war was the recognition on the part of the great European Powers of the independence of the Southern States. The re-union of the Northern States was regarded as an utter impossibility. The Northern States could not compel the secession states to return. Their origin from a successful secession derived from the Government of this country.

Mr. W. E. Foster denied that the blockade was ineffectual, and stated that the list of upwards of three hundred vessels which had been handed in by Mr. Mason was a list of the vessels which had broken the blockade, had, on examination, dwindled down to nineteen, and most of these had escaped on dark and stormy nights, thus evincing the stringency rather than the inefficiency of the blockade. He also reminded the House that during the war between Great Britain and her revolted colonies in America, no less than five hundred privateers succeeded in getting out of American ports. He warmly eulogized the conduct of her Majesty's Government in reference to America, and said their forbearance and firmness had been the means of preserving us from one of the most deplorable wars in which it was possible we could be engaged.

He trusted that no temptation, not even the sufferings of a portion of the population, would induce the Government to depart from the strict neutrality hitherto observed.

Sir James Ferguson contended that without a declaration of war there could be no legal blockade, and called on her Majesty's Government to interfere in the matter. By sanctioning the continuance of an illegal blockade, they were virtually parting from the professions of neutrality and assisting the stronger Power.

Mr. Milner could not believe in the final dissolution of the great American Union, and so long as it existed he deprecated any active interference by the British Government in the struggle now taking place.

Mr. Linsday quoted from several letters he had received from America in proof of his assertion that the blockade was a null paper blockade, and that it had been broken nearly one hundred times by vessels trading regularly between the Southern States and Cuba.

The Solicitor-General was of the opinion that it was the duty of the Government to maintain, as they had hitherto done, strict and impartial neutrality between the contending parties with regard to the blockade. Its efficiency must be judged by Great Britain by those principles of international law which had been laid down by the most distinguished jurists, and which had invariably been acted on when questions of blockade had arisen. England had as strong an interest as any country in the world in maintaining the rights of blockade by a belligerent Power, and she was bound to exercise the greatest caution before she took any course which might ultimately destroy the value of maritime supremacy, that great arm on which independence and strength had been established.

The Hon. gentleman entered into a lengthy argument, in the course of which he quoted numerous precedents to show that the present blockade was as efficient as other block ades had been in former years, and that it would be a violation, both of international law, and of the principles of neutrality, to break it. In 1798 public notification was issued by the British Government that there would be a rigorous blockade of Havre. A force was sent out to establish the blockade, but the Commander was so remiss in the execution of his duty, that he habitually allowed ships to run in, so that practically it might be said there was no blockade at all.

[illegible] as a force remained, and the notification was not ignored, the blockade was considered to be in existence, and any neutral vessel breaking it was liable to capture. That was, he considered, a case strictly analogous to that of the blockade of the Southern ports, with this exception, that the duties of the blockade in force in the latter instance had been more rigorously executed. He complimented the speech of Mr. Trasher, asserting that the facts the honorable member had laid before the House were wholly unanswerable. The returns received by the Government fully established the accuracy of his statistics. He proved convincingly that there had only been one or two instances, and these, too, under cover of night, in which the blockade had been successfully run.

He had failed to gather from the Hon. member from Galway what was the precise end he wished to attain. Did he wish this country to dictate to the United States the manner in which belligerent operations, so far as the blockade was concerned, ought to be carried on, and if their offer was not accepted, to establish an armed neutrality and by force break through and destroy the obstacles which the United States had placed to the access of our merchant vessels to particular ports? Such a course on our part would have been actual war, and was not more honorable because unavowed. In conclusion, he spoke in the highest terms of the patient forbearance the manufacturing population of this country had exhibited under the privations this unfortunate struggle had entailed on them, and urged that a deprecating voice, even more powerful than that of Governments, would have been heard from one end of the country to the other if Ministers had listened for a moment to any proposition for breaking the blockade. He resumed his seat amidst loud cheers from all parts of the House.

After some further remarks from Lord R. Cecil and Admiral Wolcot, the motion was negatived without a division.

Mr. Layard, in reply to Mr. D. Griffith, repeated the statement made on the previous evening, that the officers of the Confederate steamer Sumter, arrested at Tangier at the instance of the United States Consul, had been released.

The London *Times* has an editorial to show that the present phase of the American war exhibits simply a contest for the Border States, and says that the Federals will simply have succeeded, in the tenth month of the war, in placing themselves where everybody expected to see them at its very beginning. They will stand on a frontier of States which rejected their alliance and will be called upon to commence the work of subjugating an enormous territory inhabited by an hostile and exasperated population. It can hardly even be presumed that they have gained a secure base for those operations, for Tennessee, though not purely Secessionist in sentiment, is certainly not purely Unionist, and the probability is the Northerners, if they do overrun the State, will have to hold it as they hold Maryland, by the sword, at a cost proportioned to the extent of territory. That in the position to which the Northerners on the most favorable supposition will be brought, whereas, if the reverse should befall their arms, the result may be most serious to them. They have undoubtedly asserted, what had been so long and so accountably observed, the military strength, but in such a work as the re-establishment of the Union, mere military superiority will be of very little avail.

The *Daily News* regards the successes in Tennessee as of immense importance, and predicts now that the North is organized and on the move, it will continue to show its superiority over the South, and dispel the illusion that the Southerners are invincible. It has not the slightest doubt that the next three months will show many more capitulations.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* suspects the strength of the Southern armies in Virginia, when it finds them so easily dispersed in Tennessee.

The *Herald* complains of the fate of Mr. Gregory's resolution in the Commons as showing that England has no rule of conduct, no principle of policy, beyond the dictates of self-interest.

The *Daily News* eulogises Mr. Foster's speech as a masterly reply to Gregory on the whole question.

Duncan Dunbar, an eminent shipowner of London, has died suddenly. His property is estimated at £2,000,000 sterling.

A slight accident occurred to the Great Eastern on the gridiron, at Milford. One of the shoes of the gridiron caused an indentation in one of the ship's plates, which would require to be replaced.

The annual meeting of the Galway Steamship Company is called for the 21th.

The *Morning Post* urges that the time is now ripe for the solution of the Atlantic Telegraph question.

Gibraltar advices report the Sumter still there, and the Tuscarora was laying off Algesiras.

Details are also given of the arrest at Tangier of one of the Sumter's officers, and Mr. Thompson, who lately filled the office of United States Vice Consul at Cadiz. Their landing at Tangier was accidental, and they were seized by soldiers. Letters from Tangier of the 26th say the prisoners, who were confined in the United States Consulate, on that day embarked in the United States ship-of-war Ino, which was sent from Algiers for the purpose of receiving them. The Moorish Minister it appears had demanded their release, but the United States Consul in reply threatened to strike his flag and leave the country if he was interfered with in the disposal of his prisoners. The Moorish Minister thereupon allowed the prisoners to be embarked. The affair occasioned great excitement among the Europeans; they armed themselves, closed the port gates, vainly asked the interference of the European representatives, and then went in a body to the United States Consul to demand the release of the men. The riot was finally quelled through the interference of the British Minister. The Moorish authorities sent an escort of Moorish guards with the armed American party who conveyed the prisoners to the beach, in order to prevent a collision with the populace.

As the British Ministers have stated in the House of Commons their belief that the prisoners have been released, it is presumed that they have later telegraphic information than the above.

Official notice has been issued at Gibraltar that no signals are to be made, communicating to one belligerent the proceedings of the other.

The Continental news is of slight importance.

THE DERBY OPPOSITION DISAPPOINTED WITH THE POLICY OF THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

From the London Herald, (Derby Organ.) March 1.

The necessity for taking the very peculiar line of argument that has been adopted was obvious from the moment when Lord Russell made up his mind to take, at all hazards, the view of the case favorable to the interests of the North and injurious to those of England. It was essential that, in defiance of usage and common sense, he should set aside all evidence against the validity of a blockade derived from the escape of "various ships," for he had documents in his hands which showed that hundreds of vessels have, over and over again, broken the blockade with perfect impunity; and if any number of such escapes would prove its validity, the Northern case was hopeless.

One would think that it were a stretch of courtesy to recognize a blockade where the number of escapes was equal to that of capture; that where two vessels escaped for one seized no power whatever would venture to claim efficiency for the operations of its squadron; but when, as we believe to be now the case, the captures are not to the evasions in as high a ratio as that of one to four, to tell us that the blockade is effective is little less than ridiculous, and to talk of "various ships" having broken it is somewhat more than disingenuous. The evidence laid before our Government conclusively established that the blockade did not fulfil—did not approach the fulfillment—of the condition declared, not enacted, by the Treaty of Paris, namely, that it should be effective enough really to prevent access to the enemy's ports. Even that treaty works adversely to the interests of the traders, we see that, however indignant they may be at any whisper of disrespect from the other side, our Whig statesmen have no hesitation whatever in disregarding its provisions.

Finally, we would ask Lord Russell whether his own condition requisite to the disregard of a blockade—the consent of neutral nations—does not substantially exist in this case? He has received no official communications; he was not likely to receive them if he was averse to do so. But has he or has he not been made aware that all the most eminent European jurists have pronounced the pretended blockade of the Southern ports to be ineffective and illegal, and that the sinking of the stone fleet an act of hostility to mankind, a gross violation of neutral rights and international law? And if so, what further proof of the "consent of neutrals" does he require? Two nations—France and England—are chiefly interested in the matter; and we believe that among well-informed men in both countries there is hardly a difference of opinion on the subject. Everywhere the blockade is pronounced to be null, and our toleration of it a neglect of our duty as neutrals. Do we wait till Russia, which has no interest in the Southern trade, is willing, for the sake of her Crimean antagonists, to take a part in asserting the law of nations, and break up thereby a good understanding with the United States, cemented by a common covetousness of a neighbor's territory? Is Lancashire to starve till the Czar's consent is won to the interruption of a blockade by which his subjects suffer nothing, and by which we suffer more than we should by war? It is notorious that what is really wanting to insure the termination of the nuisance is the consent of the English Government, and Lord John Russell fails to show why that consent should be longer withheld.

FRANCE.

The debate on the Address had commenced in the Legislatif Corps.

The Senate had presented their Address, and the Emperor's plan of a large fund being placed at his disposal to reward military services instead of the dotation to Gen. Montambau, is represented as generally more distasteful even than