THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the Committee on Foreign Relations reported favorably on the bill requiring American citizens in foreign countries to take the oath of allegiance. A joint resolution was adopted transferring the superintendence of the Capitol extension from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, but limiting the amount of work to be done at this time to the appropriations already made. The debate on the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia was then resumed, and continued until the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives, the Senate bill providing for the payment of the officers and crew of the frigate *Congress*, was passed. The debate on the Tax bill was resumed, and was continued until the hour of adjournment.

Full particulars of the skirmish which occurred near Winchester on Saturday last are given by the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*; but of the more imposing and important battle of Sunday, nothing has been chronicled beyond the bare announcement that it was a glorious Federal victory, and that although the loss cannot accurately be ascertained, a rough estimate puts it at from eighty to one hundred killed, and two hundred wounded. Fortunate as Gen. Shields has thus been in signalizing his reappearance in the service by a victory of some magnitude, in other respects the same mishaps which befell him in Mexico, continue to attend him on battle-fields nearer home. During the Saturday's skirmish he was struck on the upper part of the left arm by a shell. The wound was not at first supposed to be very serious; but we now learn, from the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, that the shell shattered the bone, producing a compound fracture, and that it was feared amputation would become necessary. Under such circumstances it was scarcely to be expected that he could keep the field, and we are therefore not surprised to learn, from an official dispatch, that General Banks was at Cedar Creek, two miles from Strasburg, which place he intended to take yesterday.

Later official advices from Washington state that the Federal forces under General Banks were at Strasburg yesterday but moved subsequently five miles beyond that village in pursuit of Jackson. The Confederates are said to be in full retreat. No details have been received concerning the battle near Winchester on Sunday last, but the Confederate loss is declared to have been enormous.

At a late hour last night, we received further despatches from Winchester, relative to the fight on Sunday last, for the particulars of which we refer our readers to the telegraphic column.

General Burnside is said to have taken possession of Kingston, North Carolina, but the report is not credited.

The Episcopalians of Georgetown who were averse from hearing Bishop Whittingham's prayer of thanksgiving read in their Churches are to be reported to General Wadsworth, the Military Commandant of the District, and a hope is expressed that the Provost Marshal will administer the oath of allegiance to the Pastor of Christ Church, the Vestry, the Choir, and the leading parishioners.

That the Federal scouts and spies on the line of the Potomac have been in the habit of sadly deceiving the Generals in command, there does not now appear to be any doubt. As late as the Saturday before the army commenced its second march upon Manassas, "one of our best spies" positively declared that both Manassas and Centreville were so strongly fortified that it would cost twenty thousand lives to capture them. Mr. Lincoln, as the story goes, ordered, nevertheless, the troops to go on; and the result was, that they did not find the enemy, but captured, without loss, "the famous Quaker guns" at Centreville.

We give, from the Cincinnati *Commercial*, some further details in regard to the bombardment of Tenth Island. From this source we learn that of the five Confederate gunboats, four of them succeeded in running the blockade established by General Pope, below New Madrid, and that the fifth was sunk by his batteries.

An expedition which left Commodore Foote's flotilla for the purpose of exploring what was supposed to be a channel across the sloughs to New Madrid, brought up in two and a half feet water, and returned.

The Confederates, three thousand strong, have reappeared in the neighborhood of Hickman.

We have nothing to report from Fortress Monroe. The Norfolk *Day Book* of Tuesday last announces that fourteen steamers laden with troops, arrived at Old Point Comfort on Sunday, and supposes that they are reinforcements for Burnside's expedition. On the same day, six or seven new Confederate regiments reached Richmond by rail. The Lynchburg *Virginian* publishes an account of a skirmish on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, between Stuart's cavalry and the Federal cavalry under General Stoneman, in which forty of the latter are said to have been killed, and one hundred taken prisoners. The number of wounded is not stated. The Confederates acknowledge a loss of six killed and one hundred and eighty wounded.

By the arrival at Portland of the steamer Nova Scotian, we have advices from Europe to the 14th inst. In consequence of the Federal victories in the Southwest, the price of cotton had declined one cent per pound. The Paris *Patrie* states that a member of the British Cabinet recently assured a deputation from the manufacturing districts that a separation between the Northern and Southern States would take place about June next, on the basis of the retention, by the North, of the border slave States, and on the further condition that slavery shall be extinguished within thirty years. The story is wholly unworthy of belief. The London *Times* considers that the recent successes of the Federal arms afford a favorable opportunity for negotiation between the North and the South. The Sumter was still at Gibraltar watched by the Tuscarora.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—We see by an official circular of the agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Cincinnati, that he is "instructed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to contract freights via Little Miami, Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton, and Central Ohio Railroads, at 73 cents per 100 pounds, and $1.45 per barrel for flour from Cincinnati to Baltimore, and to Philadelphia and New York at the present current rates." The freight trains commenced running regularly from Belle Air on Monday. The above rates are a reduction on freight between Cincinnati and Baltimore of 14 cents per 100 pounds on fourth-class freights, and 29 cents per barrel on flour.—The Cincinnati *Commercial* of Monday, in publishing the above reduction, remarks: "Whether the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will make a similar reduction, is not yet known. It is generally believed, however, that spring rates will take effect about the 1st of April, and rule at or near 60 cts. to Baltimore, 65 cts. to Philadelphia, and 70 cts. to New York—all rail."

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* William Blauvelt, indicted for issuing counterfeit coin. Jury out.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

Belt, Bowie & Co., *vs.* W. G. Price. Appeal from McKinley. Judgment affirmed.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARVIN.

Henry J. Baker, &c., *vs.* Henrietta R. Glenn, &c., executors of John Glenn, deceased. Mechanics' lien. Before reported. Verdict for plaintiffs.—Damages $291.60.

[Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.]

HOWARD COUNTY COURT—JUDGE BREWER.

CONVICTION OF A HORSE THIEF—THE CASE OF JOHN HINSLEY, &c.

ELLICOTT'S MILLS, March 25.

The March term of the Circuit Court for Howard county, before Judge Brewer, was continued here on Monday, the 17th instant, and up to to-day was engaged in the trial of cases originating in the county.

The removed case of Solomon Tarlton, from Baltimore county, charged with the larceny of a valuable horse, the property of Mr. Gilmore, alleged to have been stolen from the said owner's stable in September, 1861, was disposed of.

The evidence in this case was in substance that the accused, a resident of Baltimore city, came out in the country, some eleven miles on the old York road, and at a late hour of night entered the stable of Mr. Gilmore and took the horse, together with a bridle and saddle, and repaired to Lancaster, Pa., where he was pursued and arrested, the horse at the time being in his custody. The case was tried before the Court, who adjudged the accused guilty. Not sentenced.

The case of the State *vs.* John Hinsley, of Baltimore, charged with kidnapping certain negroes, was continued until the next term. Cause, the non-attendance of witnesses.

The remaining removed criminal cases will be disposed of this week.

The crew of the Confederate schooner Beauregard have been taken from Philadelphia to Boston, where they are now confined in Fort Warren.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Nova Scotian.

SPECULATIONS IN EUROPE AS TO THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT FEDERAL VICTORIES.

PORTLAND, March 25.—The steamer Nova Scotian, from Liverpool on the 13th, and Londonderry on the 14th, has arrived.

The London *Times* has another article on American affairs; speaks of the present as a favorable opportunity for negotiation between the North and the South.

Under the influence of the recent successes of the Federal arms cotton has declined ½d.

In the French Corps Legislatif Jules Favre denounced the Mexican expedition, but the paragraph in the address to the Emperor in reference to the matter was adopted.

SILLY STORY.

LONDON, March 14.—The Paris *Patrie* asserts that a member of the English Cabinet recently declared to a deputation from the manufacturing districts that, according to information from Washington, an amicable separation of the North and South will take place about June on the basis of a treaty that Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky return to the Union. The two republics to have no land customs line. Search for slaves to be prohibited in all the States; and that slavery must disappear within thirty years.

THE PRIVATEER SUMTER.

The Rebel steamer Sumter still remained at Gibraltar on the 7th, and the United States gunboat Tuscarora still watching her.

MARITIME LAW.

The London *Times* has an article against any revision of the maritime law, and argues that if England gives up her right to capture merchant ships, she would surrender the only arm which gained all she has gained, and defends all she has gained.

The *Times* thinks the Federal victories will lead to separation and peace!

FRANCE.

The ordinary expenses of the year are estimated at seventeen hundred and twenty-nine million francs. The receipts are estimated at nearly sixteen millions in excess of this. The Bourse closed heavy and drooping at 69f 90c.

It was rumored that the English Government had notified the French Government of the sudden departure from London of three men implicated in the Orsini plot, and who were suspected of harboring designs against the Emperor. The police were on the alert.

ITALY.

A majority of the members of the Chamber of Deputies resolved to support the new Ministry.

The details of the first sitting of the General Assembly Providentotti at Genoa are published.—Garibaldi was enthusiastically received. In a speech he strongly favored the holy idea of the Central Committee forming one society from all liberal Italian societies. The Assembly rose and loudly applauded this sentiment. He hoped the Italians would also hold out their hands to all enslaved nations. Government had named the Providemento Committee at Genoa to assume a certain tone, otherwise it will be compelled to dissolve the association.

GREECE.

All the ports on the coast of Greece in the Gulf of Argolis, have been placed under strict blockade in consequence of the insurrection at Naupalia.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia has declined to accept the resignation of his Ministry, and dissolved the Chamber of Deputies.

SPAIN.

The Rebel Commissioner Post had arrived at Madrid, but the Government refused to receive him.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, March 14.—Cotton has declined ¼d. Sales of the week 32,000 bales.

Flour is still declining for Friday's rates. Wheat is heavy at Tuesday's decline of 1a2d. Corn has declined and is 6d. to 1s. lower than on Tuesday, when the decline was 6d. to 1s.

Provisions closed quiet and prices steady.

Consols closed steady at 93⅝ a93¾.

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION.

A Force Sent Against Washington, N. C.—Reported Capture of the Rebel Steamer Nashville.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The steamer George Peabody, from Newbern, North Carolina, on the 22d instant, via Hatteras Inlet on Sunday, has arrived. She left at the Inlet the steamer Port Royal, from New York—all well; also the steamers New Brunswick and Louisiana, with many of the wounded in the recent battle at Newbern. The Peabody touched at Hampton Roads.

Among the passengers by the Peabody are Lieutenant Colonel Potter, of the Fifty-First Massachusetts regiment, who was seriously wounded at Newbern. Among the remains of the killed, which are brought by this steamer, are Chaplain Barton, Captain Johnson, and Lieutenant Allen, of the Fifty-First New York, and Lieutenant Mallory, of the Ninth New Jersey.

An expedition had been sent against Washington, a small town on Pamlico river. It consisted of several gunboats and the Massachusetts Twenty-Fourth regiment.

The expedition to Beaufort had not reported back when the steamer left, except the capture of the steamer Nashville, by our blockading squadron, as she was attempting to leave the place on the appearance of our troops. This is the account brought by the Peabody, but probably the first report of the destruction of the Nashville is correct.

The Peabody returns immediately with stores.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

Reported Advance of Our Troops to Kingston—The Steamer Nashville.

Advices by the officers who came by the Peabody, state that, according to information received from contrabands, our forces took Kingston, N. C., on Saturday without sustaining any loss, but the Rebels had seven killed and one wounded. This statement, however, is not fully credited. Kingston is on the railroad to Goldsboro', about 35 miles west of Newbern.

Our troops found at Newbern five hundred of the finest Enfield rifles, part of the cargo of the steamer Nashville, which brought three thousand.

Further intelligence by this arrival seems to confirm the capture of the Nashville, which was but slightly damaged, and says Fort Macon is very little injured. The news is said to be one day later than that brought by the steamer Chancellor Livingston at Fortress Monroe.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Contrabands at Fortress Monroe.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The commission appointed by General Wool to inquire into the condition of vagrants or contrabands, say in their official report that they started with the general proposition that the military power has not only the right, but it is among its highest duties to avail itself of any and all means within its control to perfect its discipline, render its position secure, or make it effective for an advance against an enemy, and for these ends it has the right to compel service or use from anything animate or inanimate, which a military necessity may demand. At the same time they consider that necessity as the only proper measure of the extent to which such power can be exercised.

The commission state that a considerable amount of clothing has been sent by charitable persons, which has been distributed among the contrabands, while with the funds derived from their labor through masters, there has been issued clothing up to March 1st, to the amount of $835. For the five months ending on the 1st of January, rations were drawn to the extent of 383 per day, which were issued to about 650 women and children, and old and infirm men.

The number of contrabands as shown in above, distributed: At Fortress Monroe, 691; Camp Hamilton, 743; Camp Butler and Newport News, 74.

Some of the contrabands are employed trading and oystering, and about 100 are employed by our officers and sutlers. Some have accompanied, as servants, officers going South, while others have unceremoniously disappeared. Little inclination is manifested to go North, and comparatively few contrabands now come to our camps. The navy is decidedly popular with them, as therein they are rated as boys, and receive $10 per month. The commission point out various abuses, and suggest remedies. It further appears from the report that General Wool has issued an order that hereafter all wages earned by them will be paid to the contrabands for their own use and support, under such regulations as may be deemed proper.

Restoring Mails.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The Post Office Department continues its preparations for restoring at the earliest practicable period the mail service at the points decisively secured by our troops.

Refugee Indians.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Now that the way has been opened, the Indian refugees in Kansas are making preparations to return to their homes in the Cherokee country from which they were recently driven by the Rebels. There are six or eight thousand of them—men, women and children.

Military Review.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The corps of General McDowell was reviewed this afternoon by General McClellan. The troops never looked better. It surpassed anything of the kind since the grand review of seventy thousand men last summer.—Among the distinguished spectator was the Adjutant-General of Canada.

Prisoners Released.

WASHINGTON, March 25th.—The following State prisoners were discharged to-day on taking the oath of allegiance—Warren Custis, John T. De Beel and R. H. Grinnell. Two others, Alfred Netterton and Tench Schley, were released on their written parole.

Later from Fort Pickens.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The brig Yankee Blade arrived here to-day from Fort Pickens, which place she left on the 11th, and Key West on the 17th inst. The steam frigate Mississippi has left Fort Pickens for Ship Island. The gunboat New London arrived at Pickens on the 9th, with the mails. The sloop-of-war Vincennes had also arrived.

The impression was that General Bragg had left Pensacola; and parties with glasses say the Confederate guns were turned inland, probably in expectation of a visit from General Butler. Four contrabands who escaped say there are but 3,000 troops at Pensacola, and they are poorly armed.

The steamer R. R. Cuyler arrived at Key West on the 17th, with the mails from New York to the 4th of March. The Niagara, Cuyler, Grey Feather and six or eight gunboats were in port. A transport screw steamer, filled with troops, passed Key West on the 17th, bound west.

The Battle of Winchester—The Retreat of the Rebels a Disastrous Rout—Their Loss Very Heavy—The Federal Army in Hot Pursuit Beyond Strasburg.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Information received here to-day shows that our army was at Strasburg this morning, and that the retreat of the enemy is a flight.

No details of the battle near Winchester on Sunday have yet been received. Our officers and the correspondents of the press were too busy yesterday pursuing the Rebels to find time to give information to the public, and our army camped last night several miles distant from any telegraphic station.

THE BATTLE OF WINCHESTER.

A Severe Fight—Bold Charge of the Union Troops.

WINCHESTER, March 25.—The following are the main points relative to the battle fought near this place on Sunday.

On Saturday, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy showed themselves about a mile and a half from Winchester. The enemy's force consisted of 500 of Ashby's cavalry, with two guns. They drove in our pickets, and then skirmished with the Michigan cavalry and a portion of the First Maryland Regiment.

General Shields brought up his forces and fired several rounds of shell, and drove them back and took several prisoners. General Shields was, as before stated, wounded in the left arm by the first fire of the enemy.

It appeared that Jackson had been informed by some of the inhabitants that the town was deserted by the Union troops, and he advanced to retake it.

General Shields' forces slept on their arms on Saturday night, and on Sunday morning at sunrise, Jackson, being reinforced, attacked our army near Reamstown, three miles from Winchester.

The enemy's force, as near as can be ascertained, was 500 of Ashby's cavalry, 5,000 infantry and nine pieces of artillery, with a reserve of 18 pieces of artillery. The fight was kept up till noon, when a charge was made by the Ohio Infantry, 1st Michigan and 1st Virginia cavalry on the enemy's right and drove them back half a mile, when the enemy got his guns again in position in a dense wood, flanked by his infantry and drove us back. A short artillery engagement ensued, when Gen. Shield's through Col. Kimball ordered Col. Tyler to turn their left flank, which was executed by our troops, but with terrible loss, the enemy being protected by a stone ledge.

The 84th Pennsylvania and 13th Indiana charged their centre, and the fight now became general, with a terrible slaughter on both sides.

Col. Murray, of the 84th Pennsylvania, was among the killed in this charge.

The enemy retired slowly, bringing their guns to bear at every opportunity. Our men rushed upon the fire with yells, when the enemy broke and fled panic-stricken. Our troops followed and drove them till dark, capturing three guns and three caissons, and muskets, equipments, etc., almost innumerable.

Our troops bivouacked on the ground they had won for the night, complete victors.

Our dead and wounded were sent here yesterday at noon.

Gen. Williams' 1st Brigade, Col Donnelly, of the 28th New York, commanding, reinforced Gen. Shields' forces. Gen. Banks has assumed command.

Meantime, Gen. Shield's Division, commanded by Colonel Kimball, pursued the enemy beyond Newtown, shelling them the whole way. Jackson's men appeared for the most part perfectly demoralized, and beyond control. They threw their dead and wounded out of their wagons to lighten them. It is noticeable that nearly all the rebels wounded are wounded in the head or breast, attesting the superiority of our marksmen.

Those of our troops principally engaged were the 84th and 11th Pennsylvania; 4th, 7th and 8th Ohio; 7th, 13th and 14th Indiana; 1st Virginia, and Michigan cavalry, and Daum's battery of Parrott guns.

It was evidently known to many of the Secessionists in Winchester that Jackson was approaching, from the evident buoyancy of spirits among some of the men and women.

Gen. Shield's command being screened from observation on the east side of the town, no doubt lead Jackson's informant to believe all our troops were evacuating the place, and that Jackson would enter unobstructed. This evidence by the statements of the prisoners.

Competent judges say the enemy's loss in killed is over 200 and 500 wounded and 300 prisoners, including an aid to General Jackson.

Our loss is killed 65; wounded about 125.

[THE LATEST.]

WINCHESTER, March 25, P. M.—Our column is now five miles beyond Strasburg, and we are still in pursuit.

Latest from General Banks.

WINCHESTER, March 25.—General Shields has received a despatch from Major General Banks, dated five miles beyond Strasburg. The enemy are still in pursuit and our forces are in hot pursuit.

The loss of the Rebels must have been enormous. They have abandoned wagons along the road filled with dead and dying, and the houses on the route of their retreat are found crowded with the wounded and dead, whilst the dwellings in the towns adjacent to the battle-field of Sunday are also found filled with the enemy's wounded. The inhabitants aided the Rebel soldiers in carrying off their wounded during the day, and in burying them quickly as soon as dead.

Our artillery makes terrible havoc among the enemy in their flight, and the rout bids fair to be one of the most dreadful of the war.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

Capture of Rebel Army Wagons.

WINCHESTER, March 25th.—It is currently reported here tonight that Gen. Banks overtook and destroyed 200 of Jackson's army wagons.

From the Army of the South West.

ST. LOUIS, March 25.—Special advices to the St. Louis *Democrat*, dated Cross Timber, Arkansas, March 20th, says: The supplies of forage and provisions having become exhausted in the region about Sugar Creek, our army made a retrograde march of thirteen miles yesterday to this place.

The enemy are recuperating, and are probably being reinforced by fresh troops. We have information that a large body has recrossed Boston Mountains, with the intention of attacking us again; but this may be only a strong reconnoitering party. Our troops are in fine spirits, and anxious again to grapple with the foe.

Our wounded have mostly been removed to Cassville, and are doing well. Colonel Clay Taylor has arrived from the rebel camp, bringing Lieutenants Allen, Herron and Sands, with proposals for an exchange.

Two rebel captains and seventeen privates were captured yesterday on Indian Creek.

Affairs at Nashville—Proclamation of Governor Johnson.

NASHVILLE, March 25.—Governor Johnson has put the newspapers under the military rules of the War Department, and has suppressed one or two. He has issued a proclamation of a conciliatory character, saying that he desired to win the people back to the Union, but should deal vigorously with treason.

Mr. Etheridge made a speech recently, in which he said slavery would be abolished, if the Government could not conquer in any other way.

The new Government will go into operation this week. Warning has been given that any one uttering treason will be arrested.

The Union feeling is gaining ground, and business is pretty much resumed. All the stores are again open, and prices are much reduced.

Later from Memphis—The Rebel Fortifications—Reported Capture of Fort Pike, near New Orleans.

CHICAGO, March 25.—The *Tribune's* Cairo correspondent says that an arrival from Memphis brings intelligence that two hundred Federal prisoners there have been made victims of much abuse at the hands of their guards. One was shot for looking out of the window [illegible] There are boats are on the ways at Memphis, but will take some time to finish them.

At Fort Randolph there are only four guns mounted. Fort Pillow is strongly fortified, mounting twenty-five 64 and 32-pounders.

Fort Pike, near New Orleans, is reported to be in our hands. It is only a temporary structure, mounting three or four guns.

Arrival of the Steamer Champion---Later from South America.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The steamer Champion, with $486,000 in treasure, has arrived. She brings later dates from South America. A part of the revolutionary party have been arrested in Bolivia, and others have fled the country. The army has been reduced to the peace footing.

The attempted revolt at Arequita, Peru, has been suppressed.

The ill feeling at Lima against the Spaniards is said to be dying out.

H. McChase, telegraphic operator at Aspinwall, died on the 12th inst.

From New Mexico.

KANSAS CITY, March 25.—Passengers by the Santa Fe stage have furnished the following information. Col Slough, of Colorado, had arrived at Fort Union with 550 men, marching 160 miles in four days. They intended forming a junction with Col. Canby, who was at Fort Craig on the 7th.—The advance guard of the Texan Rebels was at Alquedez, 45 miles from Santa Fe, on the 4th. Another battle was expected before the 1st of April. The stage started from Fort Union, and there are no mails or papers from Santa Fe. The stock and coaches have been taken off between Fort Union and Santa Fe.

The United States Frigate Vermont.

BOSTON, March 24.—Lieutenant Spicer, United States Navy, who went out as a representative of the Navy Department, on board of the steamer Saxon, reports that the Vermont will undoubtedly make for Port Royal, and not the slightest fears need be entertained for her ultimate safety. She is as tight as any vessel afloat, has a year's provisions aboard, and unbounded water facilities, and all on board are in good spirits.

From the Pacific Coast.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17.—Advices from Arizona state that the country is almost depopulated, owing to the Secession troubles and the hostility of the Indians. Rebel troops, some nine hundred strong, design attacking Fort Yuma, California, but the volunteer regiments of that State would be glad to meet the enemy.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Southern Newspaper Items—President Davis' Cabinet.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 24.—A flag of truce went to Norfolk to-day but brought no news.

Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Scott, leaves this evening for Washington.

The following items are from the Norfolk *Book* of this morning:

RICHMOND, March 23.—The House of Representatives have adopted a resolution to apply a portion of the moneys of the contingent fund to the relief of Confederate troops now in the hands of the enemy as prisoners.

Heavy Reinforcements to Old Point.

We learn that fourteen steamers arrived at Old Point Sunday, loaded with troops, supposed to be for Burnside's Expedition.

The New Rebel Cabinet.

RICHMOND, March 23.—President Davis' Cabinet has been formed, and the Senate has confirmed the appointments, as follows:

Secretary of State—J. P. Benjamin, of Louisiana.

Secretary of War—George W. Randolph, of Virginia.

Secretary of the Navy—S. R. Mallory, of Florida.

Secretary of the Treasury—C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina.

Attorney-General—Thomas H. Watts.

Postmaster-General—Regan, of Texas.

More Troops Pouring In.

Six or seven of the new regiments arrived in this neighborhood on Sunday via our railroads.

President Davis has declared martial law over the counties of Elizabeth City, York, Warwick, Gloucester and Matthews.

An account is given in the *Day Book*, copied from the Lynchburg *Virginian*, of an engagement near Warrington station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, on Saturday of last week, in which, according to the Confederate version, 300 Confederate cavalry under command of General Stuart, were attacked by 500 Yankee cavalry. Forty of the latter were reported killed and one hundred taken prisoners. The Confederates are said to have lost six killed and one hundred and eighty wounded.

Seventy-seven citizens of Loudoun county, accused of loyalty to the Federal Government, were sent to Richmond on the Central cars on Thursday night, and committed to one of the military prisons.

LETTER FROM ISLAND NO. 10.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial.

U. S. FLAG-SHIP BENTON,
MISS. RIVER, 3 MILES ABOVE ISLAND NO. 10,
Thursday, March 20, 12 M., 1862.

Our Flag-ship has not changed position during the past forty-eight hours. The Cincinnati and St. Louis, after coaling yesterday, came out in the stream alongside the Benton, ready for any emergency. The Benton and Mound City—the latter the lowest down and lying on the Missouri side, at the point—shelled the enemy's upper battery all day, at long range—2¾ miles—while the attention of the mortars was likewise directed to the same locality. With the aid of the glass it has been ascertained that the enemy have six batteries in sight along the Kentucky shore, above the head of Island No. 10, mounting a large number of heavy guns—forty-nine of which have been counted.

At 11.45 A. M., yesterday, the enemy opened on us from their upper battery, without effect. From 1.30 to 3 P. M. they likewise engaged us from the big guns on the head of the Island, which is out of sight from where we lay—being hidden by the growth of young cotton wood on the Missouri river shore points. Their shots from the Island battery reaching us, several fell close, all around the gunboats Mound City, Carondolet and Pittsburg. We were on the Missouri shore at the time, on the transport "Wilson," lying just above, and observed that the shot from this battery reached around and beyond us, coming close enough to cause the speedy removal to a point higher up. The expedition, consisting of two steam tugs, with stores and fuel for six days, which left yesterday morning, to explore a channel across through the sloughs and overflowed bottoms on the Missouri shore to New Madrid, after working all day, and only finding 2½ feet water, (the tugs drawing 5½ and 6 feet,) returned to the Benton,—the expedition being a failure, of course. A canoe or skiff can make it, but it is out of the question with a steamboat, or tug. There is a fair land route—distance 5 miles—across to New Madrid, where the Mississippi is within its natural banks, one which Gen. Pope could march his army across.

The country on both shores is overflowed for miles, except in the rear of the enemy's batteries in front of us. This is the only high land, the strip being from five to eleven miles in width, and only five miles across from the head of Island 10 to Tiptonville, which is twenty six miles by water. The enemy's force on this strip of dry land is represented to be 11,000. A messenger just arrived from General Pope to Colonel Buford, reports that notwithstanding a severe fire from our batteries at Point Pleasant, large flatboats, gunboats, and mounted rebels had succeeded in running the blockade. On Tuesday one of the number, the fifth boat, was sunk. The enemy's gunboats, three in number, have also been trying to fight their way up past our Point Pleasant battery.

Last night, between 9 and 10 o'clock, several volleys of musketry were heard in the vicinity of the ordnance boats, Judge Torrence and Great Western, on the Missouri shore, two miles above us. The Conestoga soon opened out and shelled the woods in that vicinity. From the noise in the immediate cotton wood, it was supposed the enemy designed an attack on our ammunition boats, hence the alarm, which proved to be stray horses and mules wading through the timber, hunting dry land.

Bright, glaring lights, indicating the movements of Confederate transports, were visible from 10 to 12 P. M., on the Kentucky shore, from the head of the Island up to the upper battery. The Benton shelled the shores, but with what effect we have not learned. We have it from a reliable source that our mortars have scattered their camps, and knocked down several houses—one reported to be General Polk's headquarters—on the head of the Island. Doubtless many lives were lost, as the shells were seen by our pickets to burst in and directly over their camp. A messenger, who left Hickman yesterday, reports the enemy 3,000 strong, three miles back of that point and nine miles this side of Union City. Their cavalry scouts have also appeared on the heights back of town, awaiting an opportunity to erect a battery on the bluffs just back of Hickman, and commanding the river.—From some unknown cause, Colonel Buford did not leave any force what ever at Hickman, as we came down on Saturday last. The loyal citizens have asked Flag-Officer Foote and Colonel Buford for protection. One of the gunboats will probably return and lay off in the river at Hickman, in order to prevent the erection of batteries.

A Lieutenant and several men from Buford's 27th Illinois regiment, yesterday, in a skiff, worked through the swamp, (being hidden in the cotton-wood,) to a point within two hundred yards of the upper fort. They only reported one gun—a whopper—left there. This morning we can see three mounted at the same place, indicating that the Lieutenant was mistaken. Capt. Steiner, the aeronaut from the Army of the Potomac, has been sent for by the Flag-Officer, to make an ascension and reconnoissance of the enemy's force and fortifications at Island No. 10 and vicinity. The country being very low and flat, he can impart valuable information from an elevation of one thousand feet. There is no impropriety in starting from the deck of the gunboat Benton, anchored out in the stream. Mr. Henrique, Secretary of Flag-Officer Foote, is ill with a severe attack of typhoid pneumonia, at the St. Charles Hotel in Cairo. Our gunboats and mortars have been shelling the enemy all day at intervals, planting their shots apparently better than during the previous day. Weather mild, cloudy and damp.

GENERAL SCHENCK'S SERVICES AT CUMBERLAND.

Correspondence of the Ohio State Journal.

CUMBERLAND, March 15, 1862.

This cleanly, beautiful little town is a great relief to one from Wheeling, at which last place I have been talking hoarse for two weeks. I do not wonder certain citizens of Wheeling are opposed to emancipation of the slaves. A few days' residence in that smoke stack would change their opinions in some one's countenance that nothing but law preserves the distinction between the races. After the death of General Lander, General Schenck, of your State, was sent to this post of the command, to straighten up and regulate matters. He found affairs in a terrible state of confusion, with sixteen hundred sick soldiers in the hospital. General Lander's heroic work cost him his life, and the Government considerable in the way of money and life. The last few days of poor Lander's life, although well known here, are not patent to the world. He was enthusiastic, full of energy, and as simple in character as a child. He must have been considerably astonished on reading, in another and a better world, General McClellan's complimentary order, calling him his friend. Well, well, we won't cut away the scenery and let everybody see the ugly ropes and slides so adroitly hid behind. General Schenck's fine business talent and indomitable energy soon brought order out of confusion. He run up barracks for the sick; turned a deserted Secesh church into a hospital; infused a new military spirit into the weary and worn-out regiments, and in ten days had given Cumberland the appearance of an orderly city under charge of the military. He accomplished much of this by breaking up the grog-shops and removing the loafers out of town. He first issued an order prohibiting the sale of liquor to the men, and finding this not obeyed, he sent a guard out under command of an officer to pour out and destroy all the liquor to be found on sale. The order was faithfully obeyed. Grog-shops went down and discipline was restored. One of his first decisions was very characteristic. A Secesh Colonel had sold his negro to the Confederate Government, taking pay, of course, in scrip. The negro, employed in fortifications, managed to escape to Cumberland, where he spread himself considerably. A constable, knowing the circumstances, and wishing to turn a penny, had the negro thrown into jail as an escaped slave. General Schenck hearing the facts, sent for the parties. "By what right," he asked the constable, "do you hold this man in prison?" "As a fugitive from service." "Don't you know that he escaped from the service of the rebels?" "Yes, but we have a law in Maryland that covers the case, General." "And I have a law upon which it can be decided. Colonel Porter, set that negro at large, and put this constable in his place." The astonished snapper-up of trifles was marched off to the cell lately occupied by his proposed victim. After being retained there precisely the same number of days he had imprisoned the poor darkey, he was set at large, fully impressed with the belief that your grim-visaged General was not to be trifled with.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Some Details of the Series of Skirmishes Near Winchester.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

SKIRMISHES CAPTURED.

WINCHESTER, March 23, 7 A. M.—Ashby's cavalry came within a few miles of this town again on the 21st instant, and captured a few [illegible] who, as soon as caught, were impressed into Confederate army.

SKIRMISH AT WINCHESTER—GEN. SHIELDS' INJURY.

Saturday, 22d inst., about one o'clock, small [illegible] of Ashby's cavalry came within sight of the Federal pickets, and a series of desultory firing took place between them. This continued for some time without effect on either side, until about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy made their appearance in large numbers and commenced driving in the pickets. A messenger was then despatched to General Shields, but before reinforcements arrived the Confederates were within a mile and a half of the town, having advanced as far as the Stone House Mill, on the Strasburg Pike, and within full sight of the town. From this point they fled into some baggage wagons and tents stationed on the outskirts of the town, but without usage.

Not knowing the precise nature of the attack the whole of General Shields' division were called to arms, and held in readiness. Three batteries of artillery were sent at once to the scene of action, and a sharp skirmish ensued. The Confederates had four pieces placed at different points on the road and hills, supported by Ashby's cavalry and some companies of infantry. Some eight or ten shots were fired by them, mostly shells, the majority of which burst in the air over the Federal troops.—Soon after our batteries opened fire the Confederate troops scattered like sheep, and were pursued until dark put an end to the affair. During the fight, Gen. Shields, who commanded in person, was struck by a fragment of a shell on the upper part of the left arm, shattering the bone, producing a compound fracture, and it was feared amputation would become necessary. The General remained on the field after being wounded, giving his orders until the close of the fight, when he was conveyed to the residence of Mr. George Severs, formerly connected with the Farmers' Bank of Winchester. On Sunday morning the General was in cheerful spirits, though suffering some pain; up to that time it was not known whether or not amputation would be necessary.

Our loss consisted of one man killed, belonging to the First Michigan cavalry; one wounded, and one or two horses killed or wounded. Up to Sunday morning twenty-nine bodies of the Confederates had been discovered in different parts of the scene of action, and a number of wounded were carried off by them in their retreat. The Confederate force in the affair is estimated at from twelve to fifteen thousand. The rapidity of the firing of our artillery gave rise to the belief in town that a general action was taking place, and that Jackson had returned in force. It is generally accredited here that information had been carried to the Confederates that the Union forces had left the town, with the exception of a guard for police duty. It was not generally known among the inhabitants that Gen. Shields' division was lying some three or four miles north of the town. Acting on information conveyed to them, an easy re-capture of the place was anticipated. It was currently reported that two or three of Ashby's cavalry were in the town on Saturday morning, in the disguise of farmers, peddling butter, eggs, &c., and, seeing a movement of troops from that place, conveyed information that led to the above skirmish.

EXTRAORDINARY LOSS OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—THE CONFEDERATE LOSS.

WINCHESTER, March 24—11 o'clock, P. M.—In consequence of the forward movement of our forces the reports of the killed, wounded and missing cannot be accurately ascertained, but it is estimated that our loss was from eighty to one hundred killed, among whom were one Colonel and fourteen Captains and Lieutenants. Two hundred were wounded, among whom were ten officers. The enemy lost nearly five hundred killed and wounded and eight hundred [illegible]

NO DETAILS OF THE FIGHT ON SUNDAY—THE WINCHESTER BATTLE.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, (Editorial,) March 25.

No details of the battle near Winchester, on Sunday last, have been received as yet, save the fact that our loss was from seventy-five to one hundred killed, among them one Colonel (Murray) and fourteen line officers, and two hundred wounded. The loss upon the other side was four times as great, and their forces were driven back to Strasburg.—Considerable anxiety is naturally evinced among the friends of the troops in General Banks' command, and it is to be fervently hoped that the full particulars, with the list of killed and wounded, will be made known at an early hour.

The frequent and rapid movements of our troops renders it impossible to obtain, immediately after the close of a struggle, a correct list of the casualties, but so systematic have arrangements of the Government become, that a delay, although temporarily fraught with anxiety, will result in the results exhibiting a full and [illegible] statement. The retreat of the Confederates to Strasburg is proof conclusive that the battle was disastrous in its results to their combined force.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

SECESSION SYMPATHIZERS.

Georgetown contains a large number of those who openly sympathize with secession, and let no opportunity pass for expressing their hostility to the Government of the United States, although many of them have relatives in civil or military service, while others derive large profits from their business transactions with Uncle Samuel. Bishop Whittingham, a week ago last Saturday, sent "a prayer of thanksgi