THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET!

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States, among the petitions presented was one praying for the freedom of the press in this country. A singular document was presented by Mr. Latham, of California, the purport of which was that a league had been established in Michigan for the purpose of overthrowing the Federal Government. It stated, further, that the league was doing noble work in Maryland and at Fortress Monroe, among the soldiers; and, that ex-President Pierce was among its most influential members. The latter had, however, denied it, and had corresponded with the Secretary of State upon the subject. A resolution was offered calling upon the Secretary of State for copies of the correspondence. In the debate that ensued, other evidence of the existence of the league was elicited. A Dr. Hopkins, a Surgeon of the army, had been arrested and sent to Fort Lafayette, on the charge of being connected with the conspiracy. The resolution was adopted. The debate on the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia was resumed, and was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was offered, instructing the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the cause of the exposure of large bodies of troops on the Potomac, for days and weeks, without adequate food, shelter, or protection. It was ordered to lie over under the rule. The remainder of the session was occupied with the consideration of the Tax bill.

Nearly all the Democratic members of Congress held a conference on Tuesday night, to take into consideration certain resolutions which had been drawn up by a committee, of which Mr. Vallandigham was chairman. These resolutions, it is said, declare in substance that the restoration of the Union and the maintenance of the Constitution require that the Democratic organization shall be faithfully adhered to, and invite all citizens, without regard to section or previous political affinities, to co-operate with the Democratic party in supporting the Constitution and restoring the old Union. A committee of one from each State represented by Democrats was appointed, to report at a future conference. Several members from the border Slave States were present. The meeting passed off harmoniously.

The latest telegram from Winchester gives, at last, some of the details in regard to the series of engagements which have taken place near that city. The loss of the Confederates is estimated at seven hundred killed and wounded, besides prisoners—the whole number of the latter being now put at three hundred. At the last accounts all was quiet in the neighborhood of Strasburg. The heaviest loss of the Confederates is said to have fallen upon the 4th and 5th Virginia regiments.

It appears now to be certain that the steamer Nashville was neither burned nor captured. From information brought by the steamer Cambridge, direct from the blockade of Beaufort harbor, we learn that the Nashville, laden with cotton and naval stores, ran the blockade on Tuesday night and was pursued, but escaped. Fort Macon and the town of Beaufort were still in possession of the Confederates.

The mortar boats on the Mississippi still continue to bombard Tenth Island, but at long intervals. The Confederate batteries do not reply, and as there are fewer tents visible upon the Island, it was supposed that the fortifications were in the act of being abandoned. This, however, is scarcely probable. The most serious difficulty encountered by Commodore Foote is his inability, in the strong current of the Mississippi, to hold his gunboats w th their sterns against the current, "so that the boats can fight bow on, and thus present their least vulnerable points to the solid shot of the enemy." In point of fact, the gunboats have been comparatively useless on the Mississippi, whilst the practice of the mortar-boats has been found to be far less efficient than was anticipated. After candidly stating the disadvantages under which Commodore Foote is laboring, a writer from on board the flotilla adds that "there is scarcely a probability of our accomplishing anything here without we are aided by a land force which must come up in the rear of the enemy below." Perhaps this is what Commodore Foote is now waiting for, and the cause that only shots are now fired from the mortar-boats at intervals of an hour apart.

A telegram from Cairo *via* Washington received at a late hour last evening states that the chief works of the Confederates on the mainland, opposite the Island, are overflowed by the recent sudden rise in the Mississippi, and that the whole of the Mississippi valley in that vicinity is in the same condition. From this cause, we are informed, effective operations by the Federal forces will be delayed for the present.

From Southern papers we learn that Pensacola has not been evacuated, but that men enough are left there to resist any attack which may be made upon the place. General Johnston is said to have his headquarters at a point not far from Rappahannock Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, whilst General Holmes has command of the department which includes Aquia Creek.

The town of Newbern, North Carolina, is still occupied by the Federal troops, a portion of General Burnside's command being encamped along the line of the Confederate batteries. The Confederate troops are said to have fallen back to Kingston and Goldsboro', their pickets extending southward to within twenty miles of Newbern. Brigadier General Foster has been appointed military Governor of Newbern. Some naval stores and seventy-five bales of cotton were captured.

Lieutenant Worden, who commanded the Monitor in her memorable battle with the Merrimac, has been so seriously ill that for some days that his life was despaired of. He is said to have rallied since, and hopes are entertained that he will recover, "though he will be awfully scarred" we are told.

The steamer China arrived yesterday at New York, with advices from Liverpool to the 15th.—The news she brings, so far as received by telegraph, is not of special importance. The English journals continue to discuss American affairs. The London *Herald* is of opinion that the Federal Government should seize the present auspicious opportunity to conclude a peace with the Southerners. The *Daily News* takes up the slavery question, and argues that by declining to have anything to do with slavery, the Federal Government will practically doom slavery to extinction. The London *Times* points to the public debt, taxation, tariff, and the slave laws, as obstacles to a settlement of existing difficulties between the two opposing sections.

Further advices from New Mexico represent that the battle of Valverde was a very bloody one, and that the loss was heavy on both sides. Since the battle the victorious Texans have penetrated the country as far as Albuquerque. The merchants at Santa Fe are said to be in great trepidation for their property, but it was not believed that the Texans would attack the city. Reinforcements from Colorado were daily expected.

AFFAIRS AT NEWBERN, N. C.—Brigadier-General John G. Foster has been appointed Military Governor of the city of Newbern and its suburbs. Corporal John B. Reed, of Company C, 25th Massachusetts regiment, has been appointed postmaster at Newbern. The mail leaves twice a week.

Captain Messinger has been appointed Provost Marshal.

On Saturday morning, Captain Hobbs, 23d Massachusetts regiment, seized 500 barrels of rosin, 100 barrels of turpentine and 75 bales of cotton.

On Sunday, Captain Brewster, same regiment, captured a large iron gun, a 24-pound howitzer, several muskets and six prisoners.

On Monday, Lieutenant Hart, same regiment, captured two heavy guns.

The members of Company A, 48th Pennsylvania regiment, Col. James Nagle, have presented a costly sword, sash and belt, to their commander, Capt. D. B. Kauffman.—*Newbern Progress, March 22.*

RESIGNATION OF DR. HAWKS.—We learn that the Rev. Dr. Hawks has resigned the pastoral charge of Calvary Church in this city. Dr. Hawks is a native of North Carolina, a ripe scholar and eloquent preacher, and personally popular with most of his congregation, but those who are aware of his secession sympathies will not be surprised at his resignation. A few persons of the same sentiment, who have been driven from their usual places of worship by the fervid and outspoken loyalty of their own ministers, having found a congenial atmosphere under his ministry, may regret his departure; but Dr. Hawks himself has doubtless discerned that his position on the great topic of the day is inconsistent with the proper relations of pastor and people, and is ready to make the personal sacrifice which consistency demands. The Vestry, in accepting his resignation, will of course be influenced by the same considerations. Painful as the severing of old associations may be at the moment, we feel that, under the circumstances, both pastor and people are to be congratulated upon thus being released from relations of constantly increasing embarrassment.—*New York Post.*

The New York papers announce the death of Horace Holden, Esq., long known as an eminent lawyer of that city.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER CHINA.

DISCUSSION OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS BY THE BRITISH PRESS.

NEW YORK, March 26.—The steamer China has arrived with Liverpool advices of the 15th. The steamer Bohemian arrived out on the 14th.

The proposed amendments of the liberals in the French Legislature to the paragraphs relative to America in the address to the Emperor had been withdrawn.

The proceedings of Parliament were unimportant. The reduction of the mail subsidies was advocated.

The London *Morning Herald* thinks that it is a pity the United States don't make use of the first auspicious occasion presented by the recent successes to conclude a peace. They have it now in their power to retire from the desperate strife with something like honor.

The *Daily News* argues that by simply refusing any participation in the slavery question, the United States Government will practically doom slavery to extinction.

The *Times* speculates on the difficulties of a settlement, and points at the public debt, tariff, taxation and slave laws, as rocks ahead when it looks for a day which is to give us two friendly Unions.

France is reported to have urgently called on Spain to at once put an end to the misunderstanding between the Spanish and French commanders at Vera Cruz.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, March 14.—Flour has declined 6d. Wheat is dull and 1@2d. lower. Corn has declined 6d. Beef is steady. Pork is steady. Lard is active and steady. Produce.—Ashes declining. Pots 32s. Pearls 32s. 6d. Rosin easier. Spirits Turpentine dull. Sugar dull. Coffee firm. Rice firm. Linseed Oil 36@37s.

American Securities active and advancing.

LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—Cotton closed firm, but unchanged. Sales to-day, 7,000 bales to speculators and 2,000 bales to exporters.

Breadstuffs very dull but unchanged.

Provisions quiet and steady. Bacon firm.

LONDON, Saturday.—Consols 93⅜@93¾. Illinois Central shares 43¾@42¾ discount; Erie shares 32@33.

BATTLE OF WINCHESTER.

Further Details—Deeds of Daring and Heroism

WINCHESTER, March 25, Midnight.—The details of Sunday's fight as received embrace many deeds of personal daring and courage on the part of our troops, some of which are probably unsurpassed by any battle in history.

Captain Shriber, an aid and inspector of General Shields' division, while riding to the crest of the hill to the left of the Stone bridge, with two orderlies, was confronted by Rebel cavalry, who discharged their revolvers, killing the two orderlies. Nothing daunted, Captain Shriber charged the enemy, running one through the body to the hilt of his sword, receiving as he did so a ball through his cap just sufficiently clear of his head to pass him unharmed, after which he escaped safely from the Rebels.

Captain Perkins, Chief of General Banks' staff, was mainly instrumental in planning the attack on the enemy, and performed deeds of skill and valor.

There were twelve Rebel regiments engaged, all Virginians, among which were the First, Second, Fourth, Thirteenth, Twenty-third, Forty-second and Thirty second, and one Irish regiment. They had Ashby's cavalry and two batteries of rifled guns, one six-gun battery and one four-gun battery, making in all twenty-six guns, among which were some of those captured from our troops at Bull Run.

All the color-bearers of the Fifth Ohio regiment were killed, and when Captain Whitcomb seized the standard, sword in hand, he was shot through the head.

Out of three hundred men of the Eighty-fourth Pennsylvania regiment engaged, 26 were killed and 83 wounded. Lieutenant Colonel Thoburn, of the Third loyal Virginia regiment, was wounded severely.

On the Rebel side the Fourth and Fifth Virginia regiments suffered most.

The Irish battalion of 150 men it is said were ordered to fire upon the Federals, but refused, and were driven forward by a Rebel regiment, but they could not compel them to fire upon the Union troops. Forty corpses of this battalion afterwards strewed the field.

The Rebels finally gave way before the indomitable courage of our troops. Their loss is estimated at as high as 700 killed and wounded, besides prisoners.

A youthful Rebel soldier who had received two wounds in the breast, when approached by one of our officers inquired if the officer knew General Banks, and receiving an affirmative reply, he said, "Tell him I want to take the oath of allegiance for I have three brothers in the Federal service, and I want them to know I die true to the Union."

General Shields' arm is badly shattered, and owing to the imperfect setting must be re-set to-morrow.

This morning many of the bodies of the Rebel and Union soldiers still remained on the field, but have since been interred.

Many of the wounded died since they were brought to this city. The ladies of the town are busy furnishing aid to the wounded.

The ladies of the theatre, which is now occupied as a hospital, are assiduous in their attendance to the sufferers.

The Latest from Strasburg.

WINCHESTER, March 25, Midnight.—The latest information received to-night shows that all is quiet in the neighborhood of Strasburg.

It is reported that two sons of the late John Washington were in Sunday's fight and both wounded. Also that one has been taken prisoner.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad have taken formal charge of the Winchester and Potomac Road, and persons can now purchase tickets at Baltimore for this place.

Your correspondent leaves for Strasburg at 4 o'clock in the morning. There is no telegraph line to that point yet, but efforts will be made to express important news to the nearest telegraphic station.

Despatch from General Shields.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The following despatch from General Shields to Senator Rice, dated to-day, was read in the Senate this afternoon:

"On the morning of the 23d my command, some seven or eight thousand strong, was attacked near this place by General Jackson, with eleven regiments of infantry and an Irish battalion, about 1,500 cavalry and 28 pieces of artillery. After a severe fight the enemy was put in complete rout, leaving behind two pieces of cannon, four caissons and a large number of small arms, and about three hundred prisoners. Our loss is 150 killed and 300 wounded. The enemy's loss is 500 killed and 1,000 wounded."

Burial of the Dead—The Designs of the Enemy—General Shields.

WINCHESTER, March 26, P. M.—Your correspondent hopes to have a complete list of the killed and wounded on both sides to-night, so far as ascertained. Captain A. H. Brown, of the 4th Ohio regiment, is Deputy Provost Marshal.

A committee of citizens, with the Mayor and Provost Marshal, have buried all the dead of the enemy which have been brought in to town. Eighty-five were buried on the battle field and 123 were buried on the roadside, between here and Strasburg.

Two hundred and thirty-five prisoners have been sent to Baltimore, and a number are still here, whilst others are on the way here.

A messenger from Strasburg states that Johnston was to have joined Jackson at Strasburg, but subsequently sent him word that he could not join him till Monday night. Their combined forces would have been from twenty-five to thirty thousand men. It is also understood that they were arranging a plan by which they intended to keep Banks from moving to another point; but Banks being impressed that our troops had nearly all left, hazarded his fatal advance alone.

Thousands of persons are visiting the battle-ground and bringing off mementoes of the terrible fight.

Our pickets are six miles beyond Strasburg. Johnston is not in sight.

All the fences and trees and the ground along the route of the retreat show evidences of the terrible effect of our artillery on the retreating enemy.

General Shields' arm has been reset, and he is now comfortable, and will probably be able to resume active duties in two weeks.

FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

A Great Battle Anticipated Soon—The Latest from Island No. 10.

ST. LOUIS, March 26.—The *Republican's* Cairo despatch says that persons who left Memphis recently report that Generals Beauregard, Polk, Cheatham and Clark were at or near Corinth, Mississippi, where it is expected a great battle would soon be fought.

The rebels at Island No. 10 have not burned their transports and barges, as previously reported, but were transporting cannon and ammunition from the Island to the mainland. They communicated by signal lights with their forces at Union city, night before last.

The Bombardment of Island No. 10.

CAIRO, March 25.—Affairs at Island No. 10 are unchanged. The mortar-boats are firing regularly, but very moderately, about once an hour.

The Rebels do not reply.

There are not so many tents visible. Some reports say they are leaving.

No balloon reconnoissance has yet been made, on account of the high winds.

Later from California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17.—Ship Ringleader sailed to-day for Japan with United States Minister Pruyn and suite.

Steamer Panama arrived from Mazatlan on the 6th. The latest news received there from Arizona represents that the country is almost depopulated on account of the secession sentiment and the hostilities of the Indians. The rebel (Davis') troops, numbering 900, were awaiting reinforcements at Tubac, with the avowed purpose of taking Fort Yuma, in California; but most of the five regiments of California volunteers were in that portion of the State, and would be glad to meet an invading enemy.

Arrived at San Francisco 17th, ship Geo. Washington, Honolulu; barks Mary, New York; Egypt, Bordeaux; Fruiterer, Malaga; Wilhelm Kircker, Rio Janeiro. Sailed, ship Elizabeth Cushing, Valparaiso.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Secret Political Conclave at Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—A Democratic Conference was held here last night, continuing in session until a late hour. The call was signed by all excepting four or five of the members of Congress, who were elected as Democrats. Representative Corning presided, and Representative Pendleton Shiel acted as Secretary. An injunction was placed on all present not to reveal the proceedings. It is, however, ascertained from private conversations to-day, that the Conference was principally confined to the consideration of the resolutions reported from a Committee, of which Mr. Vallandigham was chairman, declaring, in substance, that the restoration of the Union and maintenance of the Constitution require that the organization and principles of the Democratic party of the United States should be fully and faithfully adhered to, and inviting all citizens, without distinction of section or party, to co-operate with the Democratic party in supporting the Constitution and restoring the old Union. A committee of one from each State represented by Democrats, either in the Senate or House, was appointed, to report at a future conference. The names of the members are not yet known. It is understood that several members from the border Slave States were present and participated in the proceedings. The entire number at the meeting was about forty. The proceedings are represented as having been harmonious.

The Release of Rebel Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The Secretary of War issued an order yesterday stopping the release or parole of prisoners taken at Fort Donelson. It is known that an agreement for the exchange of prisoners was made some weeks ago, under the direction of the Secretary of War, by General Wool with General Cobb, by which all of our prisoners were to be delivered the next day under a flag of truce. A boat was sent to receive them, but no prisoners were brought down. The same was repeated for two days without success. Explanations were demanded by General Wool, but none were furnished. Pending this breach of faith by the rebels, all release or exchange will be refused by our Government.

Release of Political Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The following prisoners were to-day released on parole: O. Allen Scanland, Jackson Benneman, James Conner, John Burson and George M. Gonnley. Two others, R. W. Jackson and F. W. Ellis, were recommitted for further consideration.

It is not probable that any more of the prisoners from Alexandria will be released, as those now in custody have refused to comply with the conditions required.

The Tax Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The amendments thus far made to the tax bill are not decisive, but merely the action of the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, the House having finally to act upon them. It is believed Congress will, in conformity with the bill proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury, increase the tax on tobacco, whiskey and other luxuries.

The hasty clause taxing the stock of whiskey now in the hands of dealers will probably be reconsidered, as it is deemed by many prominent gentlemen to be *ex-post facto*, and as with this clause stricken out the bill will be uniform and more acceptable.

From Island No. 10—The Main Works of the Enemy Overflowed.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—A despatch received to-night from Cairo, bringing the latest intelligence from Island No. 10, says the main works of the enemy on the mainland are overflowed, and also the whole of the Mississippi valley in that vicinity. This delays effective operations by our forces at present.

Official Reports.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The official report of the battle of Pea Ridge has not yet been received here. Neither has the report concerning the recent action near Winchester.

Military Changes.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—General Davies, of New York, has been assigned to duty in General Halleck's Department. General Hunter is on his way to take command of his Department of the South.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

Antoine Miller *vs.* Baltimore Cemetery Company. Action to recover damages arising out of a sale of hay. On trial.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

C. D. Hinks, Samuel Hinks and Francis F. Montell *vs.* John Stellman, Christopher Hinrichs and Henry J. Faber. Ejectment. On trial.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* Ezekiel Cade, indicted for passing counterfeit coin. On trial.

LAND IMPROVEMENT IN IRELAND.

The half-yearly meeting of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, held on the 3d, in Waterford, elicited statements and advice from Mr. William Malcolmson, chairman of the company, the which, Irish landlords and tenants, as well as the Irish people generally, will do well to ponder over. At the meeting in question he said: "I must state my belief that much of our future success depends on the improvement of the agriculture of the country through which your line passes—I regret so far to believe that this is not at all improving in the proportion that it ought. Intimately connected as I am with its carrying trade by sea and land, and watching closely its imports as well as its exports, it is disappointing to see the limited use of artificial manures and of artificial food for stock which the quantities of both imported indicate; there is no reason why the use of them should not be as remunerative to the farmer in Ireland as they are in England; and while they are considered essential in England, their use would yet seem to be almost the exception in our localities, and very much confined to the gentry alone; there is, however, no traffic so remunerative to a railway—every ton of artificial manure imported is, I may say, the seed of so many tons of exports. There is another subject of deep interest connected with these considerations to which I would also refer. In travelling over our railway, as in looking after your interests I require to do, I have regretted to see the quantity of agricultural produce destroyed by the floods in the parts of the counties of Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, through which our lines run. I do not allude so much to the localities contiguous to our larger rivers, but to those parts of the country where the arterial drainage is so defective. I would hope that the facilitating of agricultural products reaching their destination quickly from localities distant from our railways, would press on the owners of land that the counties would be willing before long to tax themselves for the support of short lines of tramways, worked by small traction engines, which could not fail to be valuable feeders of our main line. It may seem strange to you my alluding to these matters at this time, and from this chair; but, gentlemen, the shareholders and the interests which I represent here, having provided facilities for transporting the cattle and produce of such a large area of the country to the best markets, have, I conceive, a right to demand why the progressively increasing trade which they were led to expect, is not more largely forthcoming, and respectfully to draw the attention of the landed interests of the country to the necessity for more combined and concentrated efforts to remove the drawbacks to the resources of the country being more fully developed. We have an intelligent nobility and gentry, who if they were, as grand juries or otherwise, more frequently assembled to discuss the interests, and legislate for the expending of the local taxation of their different counties, would, I am sure, take an increasing interest in their improvement; and, while our cities and commercial communities have long reaped benefits from associations for mutual interests, it is desirable that the landed interests, on whose advancement we so largely depend, should feel that they could imitate some of these associations with advantage to themselves and the community. Just at present much attention is turned towards India, in the hope of the British nation obtaining beneficial results from the large field for the employment of additional capital there, and the British manufacturer from an increased market for his produce, and an increased supply of the raw material which surprise is expressed at the apathy of the Government there in not carrying out extensive systems of irrigation, and at the slowness of the native cultivators in not using improved qualities of cotton seeds. In one case 15 to 20 per cent. is looked for from irrigation, in the other the quantity and value of the crop would be doubled. Might not we look for equally successful results in Ireland, if, in localities where drainage is required, it were efficiently and economically carried out, and that the crops of the tenant farmers would be almost doubled were their exertions encouraged by the certainty of being secured in their improvements by beneficial leaseholders?

FROM PORTO RICO.—We learn from Captain Atwood, of the British brig Alice, arrived yesterday from Mayaguez, P. R., that on Monday night, 10th inst., a fire broke out in Mayaguez which consumed a great portion of the town, and the loss was estimated at two millions of dollars. The crops were good, but business of all kinds was very dull.—Freights for foreign vessels for Europe, to a port direct, £3 5s.; to a port for orders, £3 7s. 6d. and £3 10s. No freights were offering for the United States.—*N. Y. Herald.*

SERIOUS CONDITION OF LIEUTENANT WORDEN.—A letter from one of Lieut. Worden's friends, dated at Washington, March 24th, says:

"Erysipelas has broken out, and for two or three days we feared for his life. He is rallying a little now, and with my wife and his wife, and three surgeons, we hope to bring him round, though he will be awfully scarred. But he will have the consolation of knowing that he is the first man who ever had a score of ten-inch shells burst within ten inches of his head and live to tell of it."

The schooner Joseph Crandall, Captain Gage, from Cadiz, has arrived at New York, having on board as passengers the crew of the schooner Arcades, taken by the privateer Sumter and landed at Cadiz.

The maple sugar crop is in process of gathering down East, but the unusual depth of snow impedes the collection of sap.

SPRING STYLE OF HATS FOR GENTLEMEN.

JOSHUA VANSANT & SON,

SUN IRON BUILDING,

Have introduced their style of HATS for Gentlemen for the Spring of 1862, and commend it to their friends and the public, for its artistic proportions and its adaptation to the season. They have also on hand an excellent assortment of Men's and Boys' Soft HATS and CAPS of the most recent patterns. They solicit a continuance of the liberal patronage which the public has hitherto extended to their establishment. mh25-eodtr

EXTRACTS FROM SOUTHERN PAPERS.

[Selected from New York and Philadelphia Papers.]

From the Mississippi and Island No. 10.

MEMPHIS, March 20.—On Saturday, the 15th, at Island No. 10, the enemy commenced shelling the works at a long distance. It was renewed on Sunday morning. On Monday, the Union troops brought down eight gunboats, and six mortar-boats, and commenced firing again. Three gunboats, lashed together, made a desperate attack on Captain Rucker's battery; it was really terrific—Lieutenant Clarke, of Capt. R.'s battery, was the only person killed.

The battery sustained considerable injury during the bombardment, which lasted four days. One of the enemy's gunboats was disabled on Monday, and turned back. Other boats were struck, but the extent of the damage done is not known. Our troops conducted themselves with great spirit and resolution.

MEMPHIS, March 21.—A steamer from up the river brings the intelligence that the Yankees are moving down the West bank slowly.

From information received here this morning from Corinth, Miss., we learn the Yankees are retreating to Tennessee river.

Foreigners Exempt from Duty.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF NORFOLK, March 18, 1862.—*Special Order No.* 18.—In obedience to instructions from headquarters, residents of Norfolk, on producing satisfactory evidence of their being subjects of foreign powers, at peace with the Confederate States, will be exempted from militia duty.

By order of the civil and military Governor.

S. S. DAWES, 1st Lieut. and Secretary.

Miscellaneous.

A meeting of citizens was held in Raleigh, last Monday, to consider the propriety of asking the President to establish martial law in that city.—After debate the proposition was voted down by a large majority, it being the sense of the meeting that there is no necessity for martial law at this time.

A number of the wooden and other structures forming the village of Yorktown, have been removed lately, in order to facilitate military operations, offensive and defensive.

The Westham Iron Works, near Richmond, have commenced operations with a heavy Government contract for shot and shell.

Captain Thomas Skinner, late of the Jamestown, died at his residence, on Church Hill, on Thursday, the 20th inst.

Three men, who are believed to be natives of Virginia, were arrested at Richmond on Friday, by order of the Provost Marshal, for very decided manifestations of disloyalty.

The Evacuation of the Batteries—Capture of a Philadelphian.

From the Norfolk Day Book, March 19.

That part of the army on the Potomac in the vicinity of Dumfries, the Evansport batteries, &c., are understood to have evacuated their various positions on Friday last, and since then have fallen back.

The present location of the several brigades need not be named, but it would appear that we still have some soldiers near enough to capture adventurous Federals who roam too far from camp.

On Wednesday last Sergeant Wade, with a squad of the Caroline Light Dragoons, captured two of the enemy, about one mile from the Evansport batteries.

The prisoners proved to be St. Wm. T. Baum, of Philadelphia, belonging to Gen. Hooker's staff, and Mr. Gregg, telegraph operator, of the same division of the Federal army. * * * *

The army of Manassas having also fallen back, there is an impression abroad that the Rappahannock river is to be the base line of operation, for both that and the Aquia Department under Gen. Holmes.

We have reports that Gen. Jos. E. Johnston is at a point not far from Rappahannock Station, on the Alexandria and Orange Railroad, and between the Rapid Ann and Rappahannock rivers. And another that he is falling back to Gordonsville, which we do not credit. The point occupied by General Holmes not being a matter of rumor, but of knowledge, we will leave the enemy to discover.

Removal of Cotton and Tobacco.

Brig. Gen. Gatlin, of the Department of North Carolina, has just issued an order, by direction of the Secretary of War, requiring that all cotton, tobacco and naval stores within that department shall be removed west of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad; or, if distant from any railroad or navigable stream, put in such places of security that they cannot be reached by the enemy.

Such of the above mentioned products as are in exposed positions, must be removed at once, and those less exposed, removed or secured by the 25th instant; otherwise they will be destroyed by the military authorities. The General expresses a hope that the owners themselves will apply the torch rather than see the enemy gain possession of much-coveted products.

Another "Turtle."

The merchants of Charleston opened a subscription for a turtle or ram on Friday, and the subscription soon reached $11,000.

Mobile and Pensacola.

The Huntsville (Ala.) *Sentinel*, of the 13th, says: "Pensacola has not been evacuated, but troops enough are left there to man the batteries, which can resist Fort Pickens and the fleet.

"Mobile is not to be abandoned as reported. Its means of defence are considered ample, and were arranged by General Bragg, who knows what he is about."

The following extracts are made from the Norfolk *Day Book* of March 24th:

The *Day Book* urges the construction of car ridges, whereby large cannon can be rapidly transferred from point to point on the coast. It this be done, the *Day Book* thinks that aggressive operations can be carried on against our river craft.

General Johnston has shot out the army of the Potomac from all intercourse with the public. New levies are said to be pouring in, and a thorough system of defence is being inaugurated.

The Confederate House of Representatives adopted a resolution on March 23d, applying a portion of the moneys of the contingent fund to the aid and relief of the Confederate troops now in the hands of the enemy as prisoners.

A despatch from Memphis, under date of March 23d, is as follows:

"The steamer Mears reports that the enemy shelled Island No. 10 yesterday.

"No damage was done to our works.

"The enemy kept at long range.

"They are preparing rafts with a view to slip by our works on foggy nights."

The Confederate Secretary of War has allowed recruiting volunteers to choose the regiment and company to which they will attach themselves. Cavalry companies will be received for the war without arms.

Twenty-nine ladies of the Macon Wesleyan Institute transferred the blankets from their own beds to the soldiers.

Shad are selling in the Fredericksburg market at $2.50 each, and at Petersburg at $1.25 each.

The "Crescent" regiment, composed of youths from school, is from Louisiana, and was at Jackson, Tennessee on the 7th inst.

The Tatters, from England, are advertised to be at the Norfolk *Day Book* office, and parties to whom they are addressed are requested to call for them.

The Richmond *Whig* says of President Lincoln's recommendations to Congress, in reference to slaves in the Border States:—"The Emperor Abraham I. suggests to his liege that, instead of spending their money in making war on the South, they shall propose to buy the Southern negroes. Very sensible advice of his majesty. The war will ruin him, and then he will have nothing with which to go into the slave trade."

Government of the Confederate States.

Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, President; salary $25,000

Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, Vice President; salary $8,000.

Cabinet—Secretary of State, R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia; Secretary of Treasury, C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina; Secretary of War, J. P. Benjamin, of Louisiana; Secretary of Navy, S. R. Mallory, of Florida; Postmaster-General, John H. Reagan, of Texas; Attorney-General, Thomas Bragg, of North Carolina.

Department of State—R. M. T. Hunter, Secretary of State; Wm. M. Browne, Assistant Secretary of State; P. P. Dandridge, Chief Clerk; Wm. W. Bromwell, Clerk and Disbursing Agent.

Department of Justice—Thomas Bragg, Attorney-General, N. C.; Wade Keyes, Assistant Attorney-General, Ala.

Patent Office—Rufus R. Rhodes, Commissioner; Owen McGarr, Chief Clerk.

Treasury Department—C. G. Memminger, Secretary of the Treasury; P. Clayton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; H. D. Capers, Chief Clerk and Disbursing Agent.

Treasurer's Office—E. C. Elmore, Treasurer; T. T. Green, Chief Clerk or Teller, Treasurer's Office.

Comptroller's Office—Lewis Cruger, Comptroller; A. J. Clark, Chief Clerk Comptroller.

Register's Office—Robert Tyler, Register and Chief Clerk.

Produce Loan Office—J. D. B. DeBow, Commissioner.

First Auditor's Office—B. Baker, First Auditor; W. W. Lester, Chief Clerk First Auditor.

Second Auditor's Office—W. H. S. Taylor, Second Auditor; S. H. Nash, Chief Clerk Second Auditor.

Light-House Bureau—Com. S. Farrand, Chief of Light-House Bureau; T. E. Martin, Chief Clerk.

War Department.—J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of War; A. T. Bledsoe, Chief of Bureau of War.

Quartermaster-General's Office—Colonel A. C. Myers, Quartermaster-General; Captain H. H. Selden, Assistant Quartermaster-General; John F. Whitfield, Acting Assistant Quartermaster; C. Bull, Assistant Quartermaster, Department Forage and Lumber; W. L. Bailey, Chief Clerk Quartermaster-General.

Commissary-General's Office—Lieutenant Colonel Northrop, Commissary-General; S. B. Brower, Clerk Commissary-General.

Adjutant and Inspector-General's Office—S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector-General; Lieutenant Colonel B. H. Chilton, First Assistant Adjutant and Inspector-General; Captain John Withers, Second Assistant Adjutant and Inspector-General.

Ordnance Office—Major J. Gorgas, Ordnance Officer; Captain S. Strasburg, Captain of Artillery and Paymaster; Lieutenant R. Tilley, Lieutenant of Artillery and Draughtsman; G. S. Sawyer, Storekeeper; L. Gibbon, Captain of Artillery.

Surgeon-General's Office—Dr. Samuel Preston Moore, Surgeon-General; C. H. Smith, M. D., Assistant Surgeon-General.

Office of Indian Affairs—David Hubbard, Commissioner.

Navy Department—S. R. Mallory, Secretary of Navy; E. M. Tidball, Chief Clerk.

Office of Ordnance and Hydrography, Construction and Repairs, and Yards and Docks—Com. D. N. Ingraham, in charge of office; George Minor, Assistant Inspector of Ordnance.

Office of Orders and Detail, Equipment of Vessels, Recruiting, Courts-Martial and Courts of Inquiry—L. Rousseau, in charge of office.

Office of Medicine and Surgery—W. A. Spotswood, M. D., in charge of office.

Office of Provisions and Clothing, &c.—John de Bree, in charge of office.

Post Office Department—John H. Reagan, Postmaster-General; H. St. George Offut, Chief of Contract Bureau; B. N. Clemens, Chief of Appointment Bureau; John L. Harrell, Chief of Finance Bureau; W. D. Miller, Chief Clerk; Joseph F. Lewis, Disbursing Clerk.

Military Movements.

The military movements, of course, I am prevented, by the strict Government regulations, from referring to at this time.

The Enemy's Raid into Alabama.

Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

FLORENCE, Ala., Feb. 22.—I see in your paper of the 18th an extract from a Northern one, headed an "Expedition up the Tennessee river."

As concerns the account of the joy of the people of Florence at the visit of the gunboats, and upon seeing the old rag, the stars and stripes, it is a point blank, jet black, abolition lie. Not a lady of Florence went to see them, or desired to go, or had any communication with them. They were held in utter detestation by every soul, except one man and his wife, a tailor from Vermont, named Hyde, who had been living here many years. They went down to see them and were glad, but nobody else. A flag of truce was sent to the enemy by the citizens of Florence, to know what they wanted. This was all the intercourse the people of Florence had with them. The invaders professed to want nothing but Government stores; and I believe they did respect private property in the warehouses at the river; they did not come up in the town, which is about a fourth of a mile from the river. It was my opinion they came on a reconnoitering expedition, and were not in force. To kill, steal, and destroy, and therefore their virtue was of necessity, and not of good-will. All the violence they did was to break open the warehouses at the river, and steal what they could. This Vermont friend of theirs was caught that night (the night they left) coming up from a warehouse at the river, with a cart load of bacon, and is now confined in jail on the charge of stealing it.

The Border States and the Federal Government.

From the Nashville Republican Banner, March 15

The unexpected and sudden events that have lately crowded around us, deeply affecting, as they surely do, the interests, perhaps the destiny, of the Border Slaveholding States, must engage the serious attention of the patriotic people of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. These States have been well-nigh surrendered to the Federal armies within the past twenty days.

The military authority of the United States has been extended over them, and their inhabitants, however prompted, must commit themselves, irresistibly, to that authority. We do not express a conviction which future events may not remove, when we say that, looking at the present aspect of affairs, it would seem that the Confederate Government, in the language of the last message of its President, "has undertaken more than it can successfully accomplish."

The line of Southern defences has been almost entirely withdrawn from their advance positions on the Northern border of the Confederacy to the immediate protection of the original seceded States. It may be, amid the varied and uncertain fortunes of war, that the States under our immediate consideration are to be permanently held under Federal authority. In view, then, of such a possibility, and as one who feels a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of these States, we can but look to a future political relation which circumstances beyond our control may bring about.

Are we, then, to have peace? Is the shield of the Constitution, as our fathers made it, to be thrown about us, securing our rightful heritage in all that ennobles American citizenship? Are we to be held as equals amid a brotherhood of sovereign States, whose domestic affairs shall remain unmolested by those whom, heretofore, we have feared to trust as friends? Or, are we to be tossed again upon the ceaseless waves of slavery agitation?

Is the Constitution to be made the guise of oppression, our State equality merged in a great consolidated power, and we its helpless victims? These questions are full of importance to us. We can support the Constitution of our fathers in future, as we have sought to do in the past. We can sustain a Union of equality, such as Webster and Jackson aimed to preserve. To such a Constitution and such a Union, we have been ever ready to pledge the ardent vows of a patriot.

It is natural, indeed, that the Border Slave States should look with deep anxiety upon the prospect now before them. They have been conservative in the past. They deserve, therefore, a better reward for the wise counsels they have given the country, than to be made the victims of a policy now sought to be inaugurated by the radical men of the North. Will Mr. Lincoln yield to the insane clamor of such politicians? The opportunity, perhaps, is near at hand when he may exhibit himself to the American people in the attitude of a broad-minded, magnanimous statesman. The policy of the Government toward these States will prove to the world "what manner of man he is."

[NOTE.—The Nashville *Banner* is not now edited by the former propriet