THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

MARRIED,

On the 31st ultimo, by Rev. Fletcher Merryman, SAMUEL B. GLENN to miss SARAH LENORA YERKES, all of this city.

DIED,

On the 10th of March, after a protracted illness, which he bore with Christian fortitude and resignation, in the hope of a blissful immortality beyond the grave, SEWELL A. GASKINS, of Accomac county, Va., in the 25th year of his age.

On Tuesday morning, April 1st, Mrs. BARBARA, wife of John Rosenberry, in the 66 h year of her age.

On the 1st instant, EDWARD CAMPBELL, aged 62 years and 8 months.

On Monday, the 31st ultimo, LYDIA ANN, aged 2 years, only daughter of Donald and Martha Mac e d.

On the morning of the 31st ultimo, JOHN HENRY, aged 7 months and 3 weeks, only son of Elias and Elizabeth Cruse.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the House resolution declaring that the United States ought to aid such States as adopt the policy of emancipation was called up and adopted by a vote of 42 to 10. The debate on the bill to emancipate the slaves in the District of Columbia with compensation to loyal owners was continued until the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives a bill was passed, authorizing the President, whenever the services of two or more officers of equal rank are required in the same field or department, to assign the command in such field or department to such officer as he may thing proper to select, without regard to seniority as to rank. The consideration of the Tax bill was resumed, and occupied the attention of the House until the hour of adjournment.

The correspondent of the New York *Tribune* gives a very lugubrious account of Winchester and its inhabitants. When the Federal soldiers first entered that city, we are told that "they were given the articles they wanted without money." More recently, however, they have had to pay for whatever they require—are scowled at or sneered at by some of the boldest spirits, and, "as a general thing, the natives shun the invaders—those who do not do it on principle, making it their policy." If this statement be true, Winchester, like Nashville, must be a very unpleasant place of sojourn for Federal troops and Federal officers and employees.

A telegram from the Upper Potomac states that General Banks advanced from Strasburg on Tuesday in the direction of Woodstock, Ashby's Cavalry disputing the passage of the troops, but falling back slowly before them. The pursuit was continued as far as Edinburg yesterday, where the Confederates are said to have formed in line of battle within range of the Federal guns. The sentence, however, which follows this announcement, shows that this so-called line of battle was but a fancy sketch on the part of the imaginative telegrapher, for he adds—"probably there were none but Ashby's command." The only casualty recorded on the Federal side is one man killed. A Massachusetts soldier has, however, the honor of being also mentioned in the despatch. He was wounded, we are told, in his belt plate. "But," says the sagacious telegrapher—"it proved harmless."

The Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, and the City Council of Nashville have refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States. The form of the oath was sent to them by order of the new provisional Governor Johnson, and they were required to take and subscribe to it on or before the Friday following. The result of their deliberations was that the proposition was unprecedented and unconstitutional, and that an address should be drawn up declaratory of their purpose not to take the oath—which was done.

The women of Nashville still continue to behave very naughtily. They have devised all manner of ingenious insults, greatly to the annoyance of the Federal officers, who cannot walk the streets without being subjected to the mortification of seeing these fair but cruel dames and damsels turn their backs upon them and draw their skirts aside from contact with them. In retaliation of these most uncomplimentary proceedings, General Negley has ordered a guard to be stationed at the door of the residence of two ladies, who were discourteous to General Crittenden, and who are not to be permitted to leave the house until they promise—not to do so again.

Henceforth, in consequence of a new "war order" issued yesterday, no newspaper correspondent will be permitted to accompany any of the respective divisions of the Army of the Potomac. All correspondents now with the forces in the field are to be sent away forthwith. If they refuse to obey the order, they are to be arrested and placed in confinement. Hereafter only the telegraph and the official reports of military commanders will chronicle the achievements of the Federal arms.

The report of the Commissioners to examine into the affairs of the Western Department testifies warmly to the integrity displayed by those merchants, manufacturers and mechanics, who were permitted to deal directly with the Government; but denounces in strong language the demoralization in official circles, and among the dependants and favorites, by whom the most startling frauds are alleged to have been attempted and consummated.

From Fortress Monroe we have news from almost all parts of the South, except from Fortress Monroe. Fort Pulaski is said to have been thoroughly invested for the last thirty days, and was hourly expected to surrender. All the guns on the coast of Georgia have been withdrawn and transferred to Savannah. There was a rumor in Richmond that a severe fight had taken place on the peninsula. The Federal despatch refers to it as simply a strong reconnaissance.

Vice-President Hamlin, with a party of ladies, have been down to Fortress Monroe on a sort of pleasure excursion. As the steamer on which they were approached Newport News, two Confederate tugs ran out and threw several shells in close proximity to the "illustrious visitors," as they are politely styled in the special despatch to the Philadelphia *Inquirer*.

A special despatch from Washington to the New York *Times*, announces the return from Fortress Monroe of Vice President Hamlin with several Senators and Representatives and their families—sixty persons in all. They were delighted with their trip and "found the Union cause in the ascendant—in Hampton Roads."

In the advance of General Thomas to the town of Columbia, Tennessee, whilst McCook's division was engaged in repairing the bridge at that place, they were fired upon by the Confederates, when McCook ordered the town to be shelled. The shelling was continued for two or three hours without intermission.

According to the Indianapolis *State Sentinel*, the Hon. Henry S. Lane and Hon. C. B. Smith have written to their friends in Indiana, predicting that the war will be terminated in ten weeks.

The London *Morning Herald* has an exceedingly laudatory article on the message of Mr. Davis to the Confederate Congress.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MACKALL.

Among the Brigadier-Generals recently confirmed by the Senate of the Confederate States, we find the name of William W. Mackall, a native of Maryland. Gen. Mackall is a graduate of West Point, and served with distinction during the Florida and Mexican wars. When last heard from he was with Gen. A. S. Johnston as Adjutant General Inspector General of the Western Department. In the Army List Gen. Mackall is thus referred to:

Brigadier-General William W. Mackall, of Maryland, graduated No. 8 in the class of 1837; brevetted Captain for gallant and meritorious conduct in several conflicts at Monterey, Mexico; brevetted Major for gallant and meritorious conduct in battles of Contreras and Cherubusco; wounded in battle of Chapultepec.

THE STEAMSHIP BERMUDA.

The Hamilton, Bermuda, correspondent of the New York *Herald*, under date of March 21st, writes as follows:

The steamer Bermuda arrived yesterday at St. Georges, from Liverpool, England, bringing dates thence to the 1st inst. The report is that she has on board fifty tons of gunpowder. Everything in regard to her is kept quite secret by those on board. She has brought some passengers, and it was rumored last evening that Mr. Slidell was one of them. She will, I presume, leave again as soon as she obtains a supply of coal.

The Newbern (N. C.) *Progress* states that on the 24th, Postmaster Reed received a monster mail from the North, containing some fifteen thousand letters, besides some fifty bushels of newspapers. The letters were distributed by him, with the aid of half a dozen assistants, in two hours and ten minutes.

Two hundred and twenty-six deaths from all causes—wounds, accidents, and diseases—have occurred in the force under Gen. Sherman in the period of four months and a half since it left Annapolis for Port Royal.

The marine statistics show that in five months ending January 31, about thirty-six vessels laden with flour and grain from America for England, were lost. The total cargoes exceeded 700,000 barrels.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM GEN. BANKS' CORPS.

Advance From Strasburg up the Valley of the Shenandoah—The Rebels Retreat as we Advance after Making Feeble Resistance.

WOODSTOCK, Va., April 1.—General Banks advanced from Strasburg this morning towards this point. When approaching the town, Ashby, with a force of Rebel cavalry, infantry and battery, disputed the passage of the Federal troops. We, however, passed on through the town, the Rebels frequently stopping in their retreat and throwing shells, to which we responded with effect.

Gen. Banks pursued the enemy to Edinburg, five miles south of Woodstock, Ashby burning two turnpike and one railroad bridge in his retreat. All the railroad bridges between here and Strasburg had been previously destroyed.

The only casualty on our side was one man killed in the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania regiment, and one of the Second Massachusetts regiment received a rifle ball in his belt plate, but it proved harmless.

Later.

WOODSTOCK, April 2, 8 A. M.—Our guns and musketry drove the enemy from Stoney Creek, near Edinburg, this morning at 7 o'clock. They were in line of battle within range of our guns. Probably there were none but Ashby's command.

Our forces will rebuild the bridge over the creek to-day.

All was quiet during the night. It is not known if Jackson's main body were engaged in the skirmish yesterday.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

Further from Woodstock—The Enemy are Driven Before Us—The Rebel Estimate of the Relative Loss at the Battle of Winchester.

WOODSTOCK, April 2.—We have driven the enemy to-day from Strasburg to Woodstock, a distance of twelve miles, and then to Edinburg, seven miles beyond. He contested the march most of the way, and at a strong position at which he contemplated making a stand, as at Edinburg, quite a sharp contest occurred. He burned the bridges in his flight, except that at a narrow passage which we were enabled to reach in time to extinguish the flames. We lost but one man, and had but one wounded. The enemy suffered more, but I cannot state the extent.

Colonel Ashby received a shot through his cap, which he exhibited with some satisfaction to the people of Woodstock. Others suffered more severely.

Our men behaved admirably during the advance of yest-rday. Our skirmishers were frequently fired upon by the rear guard of Jackson's retreating force. We shelled them through the town as often as they appeared in range.

After passing the bridge over Stoney Creek they set fire to it, but our troops arrived in time to save it. Also another pike bridge and the railroad bridge, all two miles this side of Edinburg. Our artillerists endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to prevent the destruction, by pouring into the enemy showers of shell.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 27th places our loss at the Winchester battle at 1,200 to 1,500, and theirs at 350 to 400. Among their casualties, Col. L. T. Moore, of Winchester, and T. H. Towner, of the General Assembly, were killed, and Col. Eckels, of the 27th Virginia regiment, was wounded. The Second Virginia regiment lost 100 men.

INTERESTING FROM OUR FLEET OFF SAVANNAH.

Attack on a Rebel Battery on Wilmington River—The Chivalry Ingloriously Retreat and Leave Everything Behind Them.

PHILADELPHIA, April 2.—A private letter received here, dated on board the United States gunboat Seminole, says that the Seminole, Wyandotte and Norwich, under command of Capt. Gillis, senior officer, proceeded up the Wilmington river, and, arriving within a mile of the Rebel batteries, dispersed the Rebel cavalry by throwing shell, after which the batteries were shelled.

The Rebel force then fled ingloriously, leaving everything behind, even their dinners. Captain Gillis landed and hoisted the old flag on the ramparts, and another was hoisted on the Rebel headquarters by Acting Master Steele. The batteries were then all destroyed, but the dwellings in the neighborhood were spared; but they were afterwards burnt by the Rebels.

The batteries mounted ten guns, and were well built. The squadron returned to Warsaw Inlet.

Fort Pulaski had not surrendered at the date of this letter, but it will be compelled to do so shortly.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Report of the Commissioners to Examine Into the Affairs of the Western Military Department—Corruption in Official Circles—the Honesty and Loyalty of the People.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The Commissioners to examine into the affairs of the Western, or Missouri Military Department, have made a voluminous report, in which they state they examined twelve hundred witnesses, and had claims presented them amounting to eight millions of dollars. They remark that they have devoted the principal part of their report to an exposure of the abuses which characterized the late administration of that Department, and testify to the integrity which generally has been displayed by merchants, mechanics and manufacturers, when permitted to deal directly with the Government. Wide-spread as has been the demoralization in official circles and among their dependants and favorites, and startling as are the frauds which have been attempted and consummated, a large majority of the claimants have presented themselves before the Commission unimpeached either in their loyalty or their honesty.

Official Despatches from Com. Dupont.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Official despatches received at the Navy Department to-day from Commodore Dupont, under date of Port Royal, March 27th, say the formidable batteries on Skiddaway and Green Islands, have been abandoned by the Rebels, the guns having been withdrawn in order to be placed near Savannah. This abandonment, he adds, gives us complete control of Warsaw and Ossabaw Sounds, and the mouths of Vernon and Wilmington rivers, which forms important approaches to that river.

All Quiet at Fortress Monroe.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—A despatch received here to-night from Cherry Stone, Virginia, says that all was quiet at Fortress Monroe up to 3 o'clock, P. M., of to day.

Our Army in Southern Tennessee.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Letters received here from near Corinth, say that our troops in that vicinity continue in a healthful condition, and are eager for battle. A good report of them is confidently expected.

The Rebels Removing the Tobacco from Richmond to the Interior.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Intelligence has been received here from Richmond via Baltimore, that the Rebels are sending their tobacco to the interior, towards Danville and Farmville, and beyond Petersburg.

It is added that private citizens have no control over the cotton and tobacco, the military having assumed charge of them.

News from Rebel Papers.

CHICAGO, April 1.—The *Tribune's* special despatch, dated Cairo, to-day, says: Memphis papers of the 27th, and the Charleston *Mercury*, of the 22d ult., have been received.

President Davis, in secret session, has advised the Confederate Congress that the prisoners released by the Yankee Government on parole be absolved from the oaths, and be allowed to take part in the struggle for independence. He urged it as a retaliation for the infamous and reckless breach of faith exhibited by Lincoln in the exchange of prisoners.

Attempts are being made to raise troops by conscription. Editors and compositors are not to be enrolled except for local duty.

The New Orleans *Delta* of the 26th, referring to the gallantry exhibited by Capt. Resker, in defence of the battery at Island No. 10, says: One single battery has thus far sustained the brunt of the bombardment, repulsing the Federal gunboats and sending one of them back to Cairo, crippled, for repairs.

The Memphis *Appeal* says the recent reverses of the Confederate army are nerving them with new faith, confidence and hope, and it entertains no doubt of the ultimate success of the cause.

Van Dorn and Jeff. Thompson are concentrating a large force at Pocahontas, Arkansas, preparatory to an attack upon the Union troops at New Madrid, and General Polk will be compelled to evacuate.

No damage had been done at Island No. 10 up to Wednesday last, but the Confederates have sunk two Federal gunboats.

The works at Fort Pillow have been completed.

General Pope is building flatboats at New Madrid, to transport his troops across the river to the Tennessee shore.

In Mississippi the planters are piling their cotton ready for firing.

General Pillow has gone to Richmond.

A despatch, dated New Orleans, March 26, says the Confederate steamer Vanderbilt has foundered at sea, with all on board.

The Memphis *Appeal* is published on a half-sheet.

In view of the scarcity of lead, the papers suggest that the lining of tea-chests be run into bullets.

The ladies of Charleston are contributing their jewels, silver spoons, watches and money, towards a gunboat.

The *Mercury* and *Appeal* contain extensive extracts from Northern papers, but no important military news.

From the Associated Press Agent.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 1.—A flag of truce from Norfolk to-day brought down letters from the Federal prisoners and despatches from General Huger to Gen. Wool.

Several Norfolk and Richmond papers were received.

A despatch from Charleston says that Gen. Evans advanced on Saturday on North Edisto Island with two thousand Confederate troop, but finding the Federals at least 6,000 strong, retired in a masterly manner. The despatch does not say whether there was a fight or not.

The United States gunboat Seminole arrived here this afternoon from Port Royal, with dates to Saturday last. Fort Pulaski had been thoroughly invested for thirty days and was hourly expected to surrender.

It was said that about 500 Rebels were in Pulaski, and that they had offered to go out with the honors of war, but Gen. Sherman demanded an unconditional surrender, and would on the 1st of April open on the fort if they still refused.

The Rebels had withdrawn all their forces from the coast of Georgia, and had abandoned their works at Thunderbolt, taking all their guns to Savannah. The Seminole landed a force and destroyed the fort there entirely. It is within five miles of Savannah, over a good shell road.

A refugee from Savannah says that the friends of the troops in Fort Pulaski had offered $30,000 to any one who would rescue them.

Refugees from Charleston represent a great panic as prevailing there since the capture of Newbern; women and children were leaving, and there was a general expectation that a terrible blow would be struck soon.

A despatch from Norfolk in this morning's Richmond papers mentions the arrival of Vice President Hamlin and a large party of ladies and gentlemen here, and the salutes on the occasion, and in the same paragraph says there has been no communication by flags of truce for several days.

There appears to be little doubt that all movements here are faithfully reported to the Rebel authorities.

The Norfolk papers also state that nearly one hundred transports, steamers and other vessels are in Hampton Roads, and that a large number of Federal troops have recently landed here.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of this morning says:—"The Grand Army of the Federals seem to have been transferred from the neighborhood of Washington to the Peninsula, which they have probably concluded is shorter and easier road to Richmond than that via Manassas, which we have courteously placed at their disposal."

The *Dispatch* says the roads here are as bad as those on the Potomac, and refers to General Magruder as a man not likely to be caught napping.

The New Orleans papers of the 27th ult. report the loss of the Confederate steamer Vanderbilt.—The captain, crew and eight passengers arrived safe on the Florida coast. One boat with 17 men had not been heard from.

The Rebel Ordnance Bureau has issued an order calling for all the bells that can be obtained to be recast into light artillery.

There was a rumor in Richmond yesterday that a severe fight had taken place on the Peninsula—probably caused by the fact that a strong reconnoissance towards Yorktown was made on Saturday.

A despatch from Augusta, Georgia, of the 31st, says the Charleston papers of that day contained a despatch dated New Orleans, March 29, stating that two Federal gunboats on the 28th commenced an attack on Fort Jackson, at the mouth of the Mississippi, but up to that time nobody had been hurt.

Rebel troops were gathering in large numbers at Jacksonport and Pocahontas in Arkansas, and Generals Van-Dorn and Jeff. Thompson were preparing for an early movement on some point on the Mississippi river. With this force it is considered the Mississippi Valley is safe from the enemy.

MEMPHIS, March 29.—The *Avalanche* says the forces of the enemy attempting to take Island No. 10 have been throwing shot and shell for 240 hours without doing any damage to the works or guns up to this time; only one Confederate soldier has been killed.

A small tug came down James river yesterday afternoon, and at long range threw some half dozen shells into Newport-News camp. No damage was done. The distance was so great that it was useless to waste ammunition in making a reply.

The rumor current here that Yorktown has been abandoned by the enemy is not believed by the highest authorities here.

Notwithstanding the great delay in the re-appearance of the Merrimac, she is hourly expected, and our naval and military commanders feel fully prepared to receive her at any moment.

The Case of Jackalow.

TRENTON, April 1.—The United States Circuit Court has decided not to pass sentence of death on Jackalow, but directed the Marshal to take him back to Mount Holly jail, there to remain until further orders. He will probably be discharged before long.

News from California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—Arrived 25th, ships Sierra Nevada, New York; S. Gildersleeve, Shields; bark Morse, Havre; 26th, steamer Golden Age, Panama; ship Elvira, Cardiff; 27th, ships Camden, Bordeaux; Syron, Boston; 28th, ship Virginia, Liverpool.

Sailed 25th, ship Skylark, Hongkong; 27th, ship Mancart, Callao.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, April 2.—Cotton is quiet, but firm—sales of 700 bales at 27½@28 cts. Flour has an upward tendency—sales of 15,000 bbls. at an advance of 5@10 cts.; state $5.20@5.25, Ohio $5.70@5.80, Southern $5.15@5.90. Wheat is firm—sales of 4,500 bushels: Chicago Spring at $1.26, white Western $1.41. Corn is firm—sales of 62,000 bushels. Pork is heavy. Lard is firm. Whiskey closed firm. Sugar steady at 6⅝@6⅞ cts. Coffee is firm. Molasses unchanged. Spirits Turpentine closed firm at $1.02⅞@1.05. Rosin is firm at $6@6.25. Freights dull.

AN BEST SHOT FOR PENETRATING IRON PLATES.

The relative values of spherical shot and flat-headed bolts to penetrate iron plates, is discussed in the British papers, and recent events in this country have given a greater degree of significance to those discussions. Whitworth, in his rifle Cannon, has used a flat-headed bolt, a conical long bolt, and a spherical shot. The *Scientific American* says:

The flat headed bolt is that which Whitworth has used in his hexagonal rifled gun, and with regard to it he says:—"If it be required to fire through plates of iron, a flat fronted projectile of steel of this form will be employed." With respect to range it was found, by experiment, that the pointed long bolt, fired from the same gun with the same charge of powder, had a very insignificant advantage. Mr. Whitworth says further respecting the flat-headed shot, "It has many advantages. Besides being the form best adapted for firing against iron plates, it may be used for penetrating through water." For firing against elastic materials and into masonry, such as stone forts, tubular bolts, (long shot with a hole through the centre,) slightly flattened in front, were found most effective.

In October, 1861, experiments were made at Shoeburyness, England, which seems to afford contradictory evidence to Whitworth's opinions regarding the efficacy of flat-headed bolts fired against iron plates. A target 20 feet by 10, representing a section of the hull of the Warrior, was set up against a bank of solid masonry. The iron plates were 4½ inches thick, the backing of teak behind was 18 inches thick, and behind this was the inner iron plating five-eighths of an inch, making 5⅛ inches in thickness of iron, and 18 inches of wood—a total of 23¼ inches in thickness. The battery was situated at 200 yards distant, and consisted of three 100-pounder Armstrong guns, and two 68-pounders smooth-bored guns.

The first operations were with shells filled with sand, and to the astonishment of all present the 68-pounders did more execution than the three great Armstrong guns. This was accounted for by the greater velocity of the round shot at short ranges when fired from the smooth-bored guns. After firing with shells, solid shot was then tried with all the guns, and 200lb. bolts were used in the 100-pounders with charges of 16 lbs. of powder. Even with such heavy missiles, the effect upon the target was no greater than with the shells fired from the 68-pounders. A salvo from the whole five guns fired against the target failed to penetrate through it, but a gap, six inches deep and 15 inches long, with three large cracks around it, was made, three of the five solid shot having struck in the same place. Since these experiments were made, round shot has been considered in England the most effective against iron plates.

Experiments have also been made with an Armstrong gun firing against Jones' system of angled plates. The gun used fired cast iron balls 110 lbs. solid bolts 7 inches in diameter and 12 inches in length. The charges used were 14 lbs. of powder. The angled plates were 4½ inches thick. Six of such bolts struck the target within a space of 21 inches by 12, and three within one inch of one another. The plate was driven in 3½ inches, upon a backing of pine, and was fractured, but not pierced. Such is all the practical information which we really have upon this subject. We think it is a matter for further attention. The best form of shot for penetrating iron plates, when set aside particularly on wall-sided vessels, in horizontal curves as in round towers, or angled to deflect the shot upward or downward, can only be determined by experiments. The experiments which have already been made with shot fired against iron plates have been too few in number to settle this important question.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN FIFTIETH STREET, NEAR BROADWAY.—Shortly after 11 o'clock on Monday night a terrific explosion occurred in a chemical laboratory situated in Fiftieth street, near Broadway. The building was brick, a story and a half high. The explosion shook the houses for several blocks in that vicinity, and the concussion alarmed the inhabitants so that they ran from their dwellings, believing an earthquake was at hand. We learn from those who saw it that a volume of red and blue flame, intermingled with sparks, ascended in the air at least one hundred and fifty feet. At the same time the walls were demolished, and the bricks and timbers scattered in all directions. A large three-story frame house adjoining, occupied by a colored family named Gardner, was set fire to, and the roof and upper story burned off before the flames were extinguished by the firemen. The ruins of the laboratory were also fired. Mr. Gardner is a dealer in dogs, and kept most of them in the garret. The firing was so sudden that fifteen of the dogs perished in the flames.

As far as we could learn, the chemical laboratory was owned by Louis H. Dornbach, who was manufacturing gun-cartridge paper and gun cotton. By some accident, as yet unexplained, fire came in contact with the cartridge paper, and the explosion instantly occurred. We ascertained from the neighbors that a man and woman lived on the premises, and as no one was seen to leave the place it is believed they are under the ruins. Others again stated that no person lived in the place.—Captain Slott, with a platoon of men, was quickly at the building and kept excellent order. Chief Engineer Decker and Engineer Brice were early on the ground. The firemen removed a good portion of the timbers, but no sign of human bodies could be found. As the information was of a conflicting character, all further search was deferred until daylight. The buildings belonged to Daniel Ball. They are damaged about $1,500. Mr. Dornbach's loss will amount to about $500; no insurance. We have since learned from the Fire Marshal that the explosion was caused by the ignition of about two hundred pounds of gun cotton.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The United States steamer Sebago, recently completed at Portsmouth Navy-Yard, has just made her trial trip. She performed very satisfactorily.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.....FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The VICE-PRESIDENT submitted a report of the Secretary of the Navy, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the 27th instant, information relative to expenditures upon the hull and machinery of the Stevens floating battery, and the correspondence relating thereto between the Secretary of the Navy and the said Stevens. Laid on the table.

Mr. LATHAM, of California, called attention to the correspondence between Hon. Wm. H. Seward and ex-President Pierce, communicated yesterday, in regard to the alleged secret conspiracy to overthrow the Government, and stated that one of the letters from ex President Pierce had been omitted, in which, it appears, he dilated pungently on the manner of the apparent assumptions relative to him, based, as it all turned out to be, on an anonymous manuscript. Mr. Seward, in response, explains that the role was written by the Chief of the Department, because of the great pressure of Mr. S's. duties upon him, and "begs pardon" for its manner and style.

In reply, Mr. Pierce indicates that it is not the manner, but the spirit of imputation, and the lack of confidence in not giving him the facts, to which he objects.

Before closing, Mr. LATHAM said that a large number of distinguished gentlemen in Michigan had written to him to offer a resolution of inquiry on the general subject, but this he should decline to do, as he believed the whole matter of the Knights of the Golden Circle, and a secret league thus to overthrow the Government, was a creation of the fancy, and had no foundation except in the minds of a very few unimportant persons.

On motion of Mr. TEN EYCK, of New Jersey, a resolution was adopted inquiring of the Secretary of War what drafts were drawn by Russell, Majors & Waddell, or other parties in the War Department, and accepted by John B. Floyd, when Secretary, and for their accounts for transportation, and what money was thereafter to become due, and what is the amount of such acceptances now outstanding, and the circumstances under which the same were issued.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, the bill to indemnify the owners and crew of the Danish bark Jorgen Lorentzen, improperly detained by a blockading vessel, was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, the resolution from the House declaring that the United States ought to aid such States as adopt the policy of emancipation, was taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, had the floor.

Mr. SAULSBURY, of Delaware, desired to amend by adding: "It being hereby declared that the Constitution of the United States gives to the United States no power to render such aid."

The Chair stated that the proposition was not then in order.

Mr. SHERMAN said this subject was the bane of American politics, and the war had rendered necessary here the introduction of various important measures connected with slavery. All these measures were so nearly allied to each other, that he proceeded to give his views—representing, as he did, two millions of people in Ohio—on them all at once. In regard to the abolition of slavery in the District, he did not regard it of such consequence as to authorize the exercise of doubtful powers.

The number of slaves here was insignificant, and he was assured on credible authority that the 3,000 here, as shown by the census of 1860, had now diminished to less than 1,500, while the 11,000 free negroes shown by that census had increased to 15,000. The view taken by Mr. Davis, of Ky., that Congress had no power to abolish slavery in this District would render it impossible that slavery should ever be got rid of here, even though each State for itself should wipe out the institution. Congress had the sole power of legislation here, "exclusive jurisdiction," and if it could not constitutionally abolish slavery, there was no other agency that could. As a measure of political economy, beneficial to property, the increase of trade and population, etc., he considered the measure most desirable for the people here. It was true that this District was the Paradise of free negroes, as it now stands—and this state of things could not be changed by the passage of this bill. But in his State, where he lived, they did not like negroes—that he freely admitted. Southern Ohio had been settled mainly by Marylanders and Virginians, who acknowledged that their lands are worth three times as much as they would have been with slavery—and now the people of this District are in the chrysalis state, passing to the same conviction and experience.

Mr. S. went on at length to defend the Republican party from the imputations of a design and purpose to interfere with slavery in the States, since it came into power, and declare resolutions by designing misrepresentation that the South was deceived in regard to it. He thought it unjust in Senators from the border States to array his party as intending to accomplish all the extreme measures introduced, and in this connection again declared himself opposed to the resolutions of Mr. Sumner for reducing the seceded States to territories as revolutionary and as destructive of the Union as secession itself.

He held that the Republican party had been most liberal to its opponents since it came into power, the Administration conferring dignity and position in the army, especially upon Democrats; and as proof of the disposition in regard to the rights of the Slave States, referred to the proclamations of the generals disclaiming intention to interfere with the institution, and read from a report made recently by a committee of inquiry to the Ohio Legislature, stating that among the 1,300 Confederate prisoners from Fort Donelson, brought to Camp Chase, in that State, were seventy or more negro servants, mostly the slaves of the officers, who had been allowed by General Halleck to remain in the position in which they were found, no desire being manifested by colored or white to change the relationship—the negroes only being employed in menial services, not having borne arms.

Referring to the alleged indications of a rising reactionary element for the overthrow of the Republican party because of its measures, he read an account from a Philadelphia paper of a political consultation said to have been lately held in Washington, in which his colleague in the other House (Mr. Vallandigham) had introduced resolutions for a reorganization of the old Democratic party, and which was attended by Senators from Virginia and others.

Mr. CARLILE, of Virginia, said he had been handed a call to attend at the house of a member [who was a Democrat, and thought little of it, but attended. It was no organized matter, and no party was mentioned. There was free conversation, but no results attempted, and if anything at all was done, it was a general agreement that the administration was to be supported in crushing the rebellion.

Mr. LATHAM, of California, said that himself and colleague had also been invited to attend on the occasion in question, and nothing had been said of parties.

Mr. SHERMAN was glad these gentlemen had made this explanations, and continued the defence of his party, declaring he did not fear the judgment of the people for himself or party in their determination to do right.

Mr. SAULSBURY's amendment was then rejected.

Mr. S. said he should offer no further amendments, and the question being about to be taken on the resolution, he called for the yeas and nays, and the resolution was adopted—yeas 32, nays 10—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Anthony, Browning, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Henderson, Howard, Howe, King, Lane of Indiana, Lane of Kansas, Morrill, Pomeroy, Sherman, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Thompson, Trumbull, Wade, Wilkinson, Willey, Wilmot, Wilson of Massachusetts—32.

Nays—Messrs. Bayard, Carlile, Kennedy, Latham, Nesmith, Powell, Saulsbury, Stark, Wilson of Missouri, Wright—10.

Absent or not voting—Messrs. Cowan, Harris, Johnson, McDougall, Pearce, Rice and Simmons.

The resolution, which was suggested by the President and had previously passed the House, is as follows:

RESOLVED, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State, in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

The special order, the "bill for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," came up.

The question was on the amendment of Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, to the original bill, requiring that owners shall make oath that they have never borne arms against the Government, &c., to be indemnified for slaves.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, who reported the original bill from the committee, renewed his objection to the amendment on the score that the language of the bill was sufficient.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Indiana, here presented the memorial of the City Councils of Washington, declaring that the sentiment of a large majority of the people of the District is against the abolition of slavery here at this time, and also suggesting respectfully that as the District is situated between two slave States, it would become the resort of all absconders in the cause of abolition, and entail evils upon the community.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, took the floor, and putting several queries to Messrs. Morrill and Clark, in regard to the right of property in slaves, and the right of the Government to take property, a considerable colloquy ensued between them—Mr. Davis holding that if the United States had the right to deprive the owners of their slave property, it also had the right to deprive them of their real estate and other property.

Mr. MORRILL said slavery had no legal existence here, and, finally—Mr. Davis declaring his queries not answered—said he did not believe that man could have property in man. It was against natural law and right.

Mr. CLARK made a like declaration, and both held slavery to be a municipal regulation.

Mr. DAVIS subsequently argued the abstract question involved in this subject at length, tracing historically the origin of slavery and the slave trade among nations, and decisions of courts, ancient and modern, showing that slavery had never originated in positive enactments and statutes, but grew out of custom, all civilized nations formerly engaging in the slave trade, and recognizing and protecting it as a legitimate trade. Thus slavery is rights of national, and its abolition was local. Nations or States for themselves can by law abolish it, but where this is not done the right of property in the slave exists. As to natural law, this is one thing in one place and another thing in another place.—The right of property in the slave is derived from force, as Mr. D. contended was all other rights of property. The horse had to be tamed by force, and other material things and elements subdued.

Mr. D. finally came to the more practical points, and declared that if the people of England and of France had had the same interest in the lands of the Islands of St. Domingo and Martinique as the inhabitants there had, emancipation would never have taken place. And had the Senators here ownership in a thousand-acre plantation for sugar and cotton, with one hundred hands on each, they would not be advocating these measures. No one was green enough to believe that they would. They were merely the creatures of circumstances. Before closing Mr. D. gave his attention to the action of Massachusetts in the past in first proposing secession, and to the representatives here of certain of the free States, (Mr. Wilkinson, of Minnesota, especially,) who had taunted the border State Senators with what had been done for them by the soldiers of the North in this rebellion. When it was remembered what part had been taken by these border slave States in the contest of the revolution and of the last war with Great Britain in marching troops to the defence of the sister States of the North and of the whole country, he thought these things were in very bad grace, at the least. In the present contest, what had Minnesota done for Kentucky? Other States—Ohio, Illinois, and especially Indiana—had given her the aid needed. The constitutional question was also considered by Mr. Davis before concluding.

Mr. MORRILL denied that any constitutional question was involved in this measure, as slavery had only existed here by extending the statute of Maryland, through the law of Congress of 1801, which they could by this act repeal so far as it applied to slavery.

Mr. DAVIS responded, that slavery existed here prior to that date, as a portion of the territory of Maryland, and Congress had done nothing more than to deal with them as they found them.

Mr. MONNETT further responded, and was followed by Mr. McDOUGALL, of California, in support of the origin and rights of property, and as a consequence against the bill.

Without coming to any conclusion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. DIXON, of New York, introduced a bill to provide for the sale of annuities for life, and fixing the value thereof. Referred.

Mr. OLIN, of New York, called up a bill authorizing the President, whenever military operations may require the services of two or more officers of the same rank in the same field or department, to assign the command of such force in such field or department without regard to seniority or rank.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM demanded the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill.

The bill was then passed by a vote of 81 yeas to 40 nays.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Government Contracts, offered a resolution asking for an attachment to compel the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest A. Higgins and bring him before the bar of the House for refusing to answer the summons for him to testify before the said committee. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole and resumed the consideration of the Tax bill.

Mr. HORTON, of Ohio, offered an amendment that promissory notes, or inland bills of exchange, shall be exempt from taxation. Adopted.

Mr. SHEFFIELD, of Rhode Island, moved to strike out the word "check" in section 104, schedule B. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS the section relative to income tax was passed over, in order to allow the committee further time to examine it.

Mr. HORTON, of Ohio, submitted the following amendment:—Entry of all goods, wares or merchandise at any Custom House, either for companies or warehousing, not exceeding one hundred dollars, 25 cts.; exceeding one hundred dollars and not exceeding five hundred dollars, 50 cts.; exceeding five hundred dollars, $1.

The committee, without disposing of schedule B, rose.

The House adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON:

From the Washington Star of yesterday.

SET BACK.

We hear that an order was issued this forenoon forbidding newspaper correspondents, as well as all others not actually connected in some way or other with the service, from accompanying any of the corps d'armees of the army of the Potomac. As more or less war correspondents are now actually with the troops in the field, it is said to have been ordered that they be sent back under the penalty of immediate arrest and confinement for refusing to obey the order. Up to this time the movements of no other army of half its size were ever so well kept secret. Their success is owing to this commendable reticence with reference to them.

THE NEW ORDER OF THINGS.

We learn, on inquiry, that the order of the Provost Marshal General, which we published yesterday, passes from Cabin Creek, up the Potomac, is designed to admit their free passage within the lines of our troops on both sides of the river; in fact, to restore matters, as far as possible in this section of country, to the condition in which they existed before the war began. It is to be presumed that the Union commanders of our advanced lines will make regulations in this connection applicable to the situation in their own immediate vicinity which may abridge the liberty of the citizen to pass and repass, unquestioned, near their camps and pickets.

SICKNESS OF A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE.

The sickness of Representative Conway is much more serious than was at first supposed. His disease has assumed the form of pleurisy.

Special Despatches to the New York Times.

RETURNED FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Vice President Hamlin, Senators Sher