FROM EUROPE.

THE MAILS OF THE ASIA.

THE MERRIMAC AND THE MONITOR.

The London *Times* of the 29th rehearses the story of the naval battle in Hampton Roads, and thus moralizes thereupon:

"It is clear, however, that neither the Merrimac nor the Monitor can be exactly measured against our own productions. It does not appear, for instance, that either of these vessels could put to sea, or venture far from land; whereas, our own Warrior, as will have been seen from Capt Cochrane's report in our impression of yesterday, is fit for active service in any part of the world. Still there are points of great interest involved in the comparison. Both the American vessels have sloping sides, or if the Monitor's sides are not set at an angle they are so low as to offer little mark for shot. The Americans, therefore, seem to rely upon the protection obtained by this expedient, whereas we have not yet adopted it, and indeed the 'Iron Plate Committee' of the Institution of Naval Architects have just declared their conclusion that 'angulated sides possess no real advantage as compared with the usual upright sides.' Yet one objection which was urged against sloping sides has been supported by the experience of the battle.

"It was plausibly said that these low vessels with a ram might run over or [illegible] the Merrimac did strike the Monitor without any such result. Another notable point is suggested by the armaments of the two vessels. The Monitor had two guns only, but each of these guns was nearly twice as large as one of the Merrimac's, and they were worked from a 'turret.' If, therefore, two guns proved a match for twelve, it must have been owing either to their calibre, or to the new method of working them. One conclusion, however, admits of no doubt whatever, and it happens to be the most important of all. There is an end of wooden ships forever, and the Americans are now recognizing the fact to some purpose. In addition to what they have lavished on iron-clad vessels during the last twelve months they are now preparing to vote $26,000,000, or upwards of £5,000,000, more, for structures of the same class, and will probably spend on this object, without stint or scruple, in the course of a year or two, a sum which no British Minister would venture to demand. Let us hope that we may turn their teaching to good account, and match them in the efficiency, if not in the expensiveness, of our proceedings."

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

Correspondence of the London Times.

PARIS, March 29.—I have some reason to believe that the French Government is far from satisfied with the manner in which matters have been conducted by their own people in Mexico. Much was expected of Admiral Jurien de la Graviere—but the Admiral, perhaps from no fault of his, has not quite fulfilled their expectations. It was understood that the French force would proceed at once to the capital and occupy it. This was not done, and it is now provoking to find the Spanish Gen. Prim negotiating on his own account with the Mexicans. Should these negotiations be successful, and should the Mexicans satisfy the demands of the Powers, there would be little pretext for a French occupation, and the Archduke Maximilian's pretensions would be interfered with. It is thought that Admiral Jurien de la Graviere will be recalled.

There certainly appears a sore feeling on the part of the French against the Spaniards, if we may judge from the articles which appear in some of the "devoted" Paris papers. They remark with severe bitterness on the conduct pursued in this affair by the Spanish Government, as well as the comments in the Madrid Press.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

HIGHLY INTERESTING MEETING OF ITS PROMOTERS IN LONDON—CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CHIEF CITIES OF THE OLD WORLD—IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT—THE NEW CABLE.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field has returned home in the Asia. His mission to Europe, as is well known, had reference to the resuscitation of the Atlantic telegraph. We understand that Mr. Field, after having been in intimate communication with many of the leading men of England, including not only the members of the present Government, but prominent men of all parties, and having also had interviews with some influential parties in Paris, draws the most favorable conclusions for the ultimate success of the enterprise, and is satisfied that it is in a fair way for early solution. The confidence of Messrs. Glass, Elliott & Co., the well-known contractors, is exemplified in the following letter to the Secretary of the Atlantic Telegraph Company:—

LONDON, March 26, 1862.

DEAR SIR—We have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 25th instant, on the subject of laying a submarine telegraph cable between Ireland and America. We should be willing to undertake this important work, and would contract to manufacture and lay an efficient cable of the kind stated by Mr. Varley, to be capable of working, at the least, twelve words a minute, between Ireland and Newfoundland. We will agree that in case of failure the cost price only of the manufacture of said cable and laying shall be paid to us. We further agree that even in the case of success, our profit shall be payable in shares of the company, such shares to be made deliverable to us in equal monthly portions, at the end of each successive month whereat the cable shall be found in good working order, the whole payment of profit to be completed at the end of twelve months from the opening of the line. In case any difference should arise as to the actual cost of such cable, we engage to provide in the agreement with the Atlantic Company such machinery as shall enable the same to be ascertained to their satisfaction, either by arbitration or otherwise. We remain, dear sir, yours, faithfully,

GLASS, ELLIOTT & CO.

On the evening of the 26th a *conversazione* on the subject of uniting America and England by means of a telegraph between Ireland and Newfoundland, took place at the residence of Mr. Samuel Gurney, M. P. A numerous attendance testified to the interest with which the question is regarded in political, commercial and scientific circles, and amongst the company were the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir Emerson Tennant, Mr. Adams, United States Minister; the Duke of Somerset, the Right Hon. Stuart Wortley (chairman of the Atlantic Company), Mr. Cyrus W. Field, Dr. McIlvaine, Bishop of Ohio; Professor Wheatstone, and a large number of members of Parliament and other eminent men. A telegraphic communication having been completed in the saloon with the principle cities of the Continent, messages were interchanged with Tonningen, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Paris, Berlin, Turin, and Odessa, literally with lightning speed. An inquiry addressed by Lord Shaftesbury to St. Petersburg, with regard to the health of the Emperor of the Russias, was responded to and the answer read off to the audience in the brief space of eight minutes. The correspondence continued for several hours, and during its progress the company were addressed on the importance of opening the proposed communication with America and the prospects of its successful accomplishment.

Speeches were made upon the subject by Hon James Stuart Wortley, Mr. Field, Mr. Varley and others. In response to an inquiry Mr. Wortley stated that a most remarkable overture had been made to her Majesty's Government by the President of the United States, who had requested their cooperation, assistance and encouragement in laying down the cable. [Loud applause.] That overture was still before her Majesty's Government; he was, therefore, not at liberty to enter into any details; but he saw no reason why the despatch from Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, the United States Minister in this country, directing him to make the overture, should not be laid before the public. In the despatch in question, Mr. Seward uses the following language:

You may say to Earl Russell that the President entertains the most favorable views of the great enterprise in question, and would be happy to cooperate with the British Government in securing its successful execution; and such arrangements as would guarantee to both nations reciprocal benefits from the use of the telegraph, not only in times of peace, but even in times of war, if, contrary to our desire and expectation and to the great detriment of both nations, war should ever arise between them.

Mr. Adams, Minister from the United States, entirely reciprocated the spirit in which Mr. Wortley had spoken. The proposed telegraphic communication was interesting to both England and America; but for many reasons it was obviously proper that Great Britain should take the initiative. All that he was then authorized to say on the part of his Government was that, having the greatest confidence in the judgment and integrity of the British Government, and being satisfied that they would not agree to any plan without mature consideration, the United States Government were ready to cooperate with them in any manner they might determine to adopt. [Much applause.]

All the speakers were most hopeful in their remarks, and a very general conviction was expressed that the British Government would come forward in aid of the enterprise.

THE NEW CABLE.

The following is the description of the cable just submitted by Messrs. Glass, Elliott & Co., as the one they would propose to lay:

The electrical conductor is composed of seven copper wires, each one-sixteenth of an in inch in diameter, and laid into a strand rendered perfectly solid by the six outer wires being imbedded in Chatterton's compound upon the centre wire. The conductor weighs five hundred and ten pounds per nautical mile, and is calculated to transmit, under the old system of working, twenty-two letters equal to four and a half words, per minute; but is certified by Mr. O. F. Varley to be capable of being worked by means of recent improvements, at the rate of sixty letters, or twelve words per minute, between Ireland and Newfoundland.

The conductor is insulated by eight coatings, four of the purest gutta percha, and four of Chatterton's compound, laid on in alternate layers, forming together a thickness of three-sixteenths of an inch from the centre, the external diameter of the whole core being nine sixteenths of an inch, weighing, with conductor, one thousand and sixty pounds per nautical mile.

It is proposed to do away with the tarred hemp hitherto surrounding telegraph cores, and as a protection to the core to use strands, consisting each of three best charcoal iron wires, guage 0.55, each strand being separately covered with Chatterton's compound and gutta percha to prevent decay. These coated strands, thirteen in number, are then laid around the core spirally by the usual machinery, and the finished cable passes out of the covering machine into tanks filled with water, thereto wait till the whole length is ready for shipment. Water tanks will also be provided on board ship, so that from the very infancy of the cable to its final submersion, it will be continuously every moment under tests of the most certain and delicate description.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CRIMINAL COURT—Judge Bond.

Archibald Sterling, Jr., State's Attorney, prosecuting.

Mary Tucker, charged with assaulting Marla Winder with a skillet. Dismissed.

Philip Olden, charged with assaulting officer Davis. Ordered to pay costs.

Lieshart Cous, charged with assaulting Anbe Watson. Sent to jail for three days.

John Hales, charged with assaulting officer Stouffer. Sent to jail for three days.

Samuel McClintock, charged with acting disorderly in the house of G. W. Moore and breaking the furniture. Ordered to pay costs.

Jacob Anderson, charged with assaulting his wife. Ordered to pay costs and sent to jail for ten days.

The grand jury then adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

CIRCUIT COURT—Judge Martin.

In the matter of the trust estate of W. Robinson, bankrupt. Petition of William Mackintosh, trustee. Exceptions to claim of Hartzog. Under *curia*.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

BISHOP WHITTINGHAM'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER.—There was considerable speculation on Saturday and yesterday morning in reference to the action that would be taken by Episcopalian Clergymen in regard to the prayer of thanksgiving recommended by Bishop Whittingham, and the manner of its reception by the Episcopalian congregations. At an early hour on Sunday it became known that the pastor of one of the churches had declined to comply with the recommendation, being unwilling, he said, to stir up any ill feeling among his congregation, especially on a day—Palm Sunday—which was particularly holy, and at the beginning of a week during which their minds should be turned exclusively to devotion. Another pastor notified the Bishop that he was unwilling to act as a firebrand among his people. In another church where the prayer was thronged, it was also well filled. In one of the churches where it had been publicly announced that the prayer would be read at 11 o'clock, there were present at that hour just twenty-three persons. The usual congregation attended, however, at 12 o'clock—the hour named for the Divine service. In another of the churches, in which there was a service at 10 o'clock for the Sunday School children, the pastor announced, at the conclusion of the service, that prayer would then be read, and that all those who did not desire to remain could leave with the children. The entire body of school teachers left with the children, leaving but eight or ten citizens, and some few others in military dress. The prayer was then read by the pastor, who, with commendable consideration for the great body of his congregation who were strongly opposed to the course of the Bishop, omitted the objectionable word "sedition." At the usual hour a portion only of the congregation—smaller than had assembled for many years past—entered the church. At another of the churches where no announcement had been made, the congregation was exceedingly meagre, and many of those present came in at a late hour. The prayer, however, was not read.

A BOY KILLED ON THE CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY.—Henry Oberlinden, a lad of nine years, was accidentally killed on Saturday morning last, about eight o'clock, by falling beneath the wheels of city passenger railway car, No. 5, Mr. H. McFadden, conductor. The deceased, in company with a younger brother, was riding upon the front platform of the car, and when about the intersection of Baltimore and Stricker streets, he attempted to snatch some hay from a loaded wagon which was passing at the time. In so doing he fell beneath the front of the car, and before it could be stopped the wheels had passed over his body, killing him almost instantly. He was picked up and carried to the Franklin Gardens, corner of Baltimore and Stricker streets, where Dr. Greentree, coroner, was summoned to hold an inquest. The jury rendered a verdict which exonerated from all blame in the affair both the conductor and driver; the latter—William Blood—had cautioned the boy in relation to the danger of his action. The body was subsequently removed to the residence of his parents, No. 261 South Paca street. Although so young, the deceased had been, for the past winter, almost the sole support of the family, as his father, who is a cabinet maker, had been out of employment during that time. He had been in the habit of selling cakes, pies, and fancy articles to the soldiers in the various camps. Mr. Cathcart, the superintendent of the road, on learning of the occurrence, at once visited the scene of it, and in view of the indigent circumstances of the family made arrangements for the interment of the body at the expense of the railway company.

RELEASED FROM FORT MCHENRY.—The following named gentlemen, who have for some time past been in confinement at Fort McHenry, by order of the Government authorities, were on Saturday last released from that stronghold by direction of the Commission appointed to examine the cases of all prisoners confined by order of the Department, and ascertain who of them could, consistent with the interests of the Government, be discharged: Gen. A. W. Habersham, of Georgia, formerly of the U. S. Navy; Col. B. Gunther, of Accomac county, Virginia; Mr. John Mills, of the *South* newspaper of this city; Dr. Hopkins, of Winchester, Va.; and Dr. Septimus Brown, of this city. Lieut. Habersham and Dr. Brown are released on their parole not to give aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States until they are regularly exchanged as prisoners of war; Col. Gunther's parole is to the effect that he shall not give aid and comfort to the enemy, and in case Accomac county, Virginia, ever falls into the hands of the Confederates, his parole ceases. The others gave a parole similar to that of Col. Gunther, without a proviso. Col. S. S. Mills and T. S. Piggott, of the *South* newspaper, it is said, will not be released at present.

SHOOTING AFFRAY.—On Sunday morning, about four o'clock, Lieut. Walker, of the Second Maryland regiment, was passing along Baltimore street, near High, when he was stopped by John English and two companions. English asked him if he had ever heard of John English, to which the Lieutenant replied that he had, and that the person had been pointed out to him. English asked him if he would know English if he should meet him. The Lieutenant replied that he did not pay sufficient attention at the time to the party pointed out, and as he had no particular desire to know English, he did not think he would be able to recognize him. English then remarked that he was John English, and at the same time struck at Lieut. Walker. The latter then drew a revolver and fired at English. The shot took effect in the abdomen, inflicting a severe wound. The report of the shot brought the police to the scene, and Lieut. Walkes handed himself over to their charge. He was taken to the Central police station, where he was confined. On yesterday, English sent word to the station house that he had no charge to prefer, and the Lieutenant was discharged.

BALTIMORE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION—A PRIZE CONTEST.—A meeting of the Baltimore Base Ball Association was held on Thursday evening last, at which a committee composed of the following named persons, was appointed for the purpose of procuring a silver ball as a prize to be contended for by the different Clubs connected with the Association: James Whitehouse, of the Druid; James B. McNell, of the Chesapeake; M. P. Caughey, of the Maryland; H. Griffith, of the Exeter; and M. Shamburg, of the Atlantic. The Committee is charged with the safe-keeping of the prize until the contest is decided, and will make rules to govern the Clubs entering for the prize. The day on which the contest will take place has not yet been fixed. There will no doubt be some good playing on the occasion. The Clubs connected with the Association are the Atlantic, Chesapeake, Druid, Empire, Exeter, Maryland, Olympic, Peabody, and Potomac.

INQUESTS.—The body of a soldier was taken from the water at Locust Point on Saturday. Coroner Sparklin held an inquest over the body, and the jury rendered a verdict of accidental drowning. On the remains was found a likeness, two cents in money, and military equipments. The body was not recognized.

The body of a colored man, named Wm. Richardson, who has been missing from his home, No. 13 Cider alley, since March last, was taken from the water at the foot of Cross street, on Saturday. Dr. Battee, coroner, held an inquest. A verdict of accidental drowning was rendered.

PAINFULLY INJURED.—Shortly after seven o'clock on Saturday morning, a German named James Ranhan, about sixty years of age, was accidentally run over by a heavy wagon, on the Frederick turnpike road, near Seager's lager beer brewery, by which both his arms were broken. He was removed to a house in the vicinity, where Dr. Maund was called to attend him. After his injuries were dressed he was sent to the Almshouse, in consequence of no one being able to recognize him. He presented the appearance of being very poor.

THE SUNDAY LAW.—The officers of the police force were yesterday quite busy in making reconnoissances for the purpose of ascertaining who were violating the Sunday law by keeping open places of business for the sale of liquors, cigars, etc., the Commissioners having issued very strict orders in relation to the matter. A number of places were found open, and the guilty parties will to-day have to answer the charge.

DROWNED.—On Saturday morning the body of a soldier was found floating in the harbor near Locust Point. A boat was secured and the body taken ashore. Coroner Sparklin held an inquest over it. It was identified as that of a member of the New York Third regiment, named ——. A verdict was rendered of "accidental drowning."

CHARGE OF TREASON.—John Fitzgerald was on Saturday before United States Commissioner Hanan for a further examination, upon the charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the Federal Government. After examining some witnesses in the case, the party was held to bail in the sum of $2,500 to appear at a further examination.

ARRIVAL OF A NEW STEAMER.—Yesterday morning at seven o'clock, the new steamer Thomas Morgan, recently purchased by the Bay Line, arrived at the wharf of the company. She is not so large or a handsome a boat as either of the steamers owned by the company.

GONE TO EUROPE.—Among the passengers in the steamship Etna, which sailed from New York on Saturday for Liverpool, was Mr. J. T. Pendergast, of Baltimore.

Amusements.

THE ORIGINAL HERRMANN.—Our readers will doubtless be gratified to learn that Monsieur Herrmann, the great original Prestigiateur, from the principal theatres in Europe, and who has been delighting crowded audiences in the chief American cities, is at length announced to appear in Baltimore. His first performance will be given on Monday evening next, and no expense will be spared by Messrs. Ullman & Palmer, under whose management the entertainment is gotten up, to make it one of the most attractive performances ever witnessed in our city. Mr. Herrmann is said to be decidedly the most perfect artist in his line, having turned the ancient wizardry into modern sorcery. His entertainments are entirely original and novel, the most distinguishing feature being the entire absence of any apparatus whatever, all his grand effects being the result of manual skill and thorough study.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—Miss Western's second engagement has proved as great a success as her first appearance in this city was. Nightly the theatre is crowded to its utmost capacity, and a degree of enthusiasm manifested which seldom is awarded to an actress. It is immaterial what peculiar line of characters she assays, they are given with a freshness and spirit which mark her an actress. Her rendition of her characters on Saturday night were master-pieces of acting, and she received the most flattering evidences of approbation. To-night she appears in the play of *Victorine, or I'll Sleep on It.*" This play was given on Friday night last, and the theatre was so crowded that many were turned away.

Two friends met yesterday, while Gov. Andrew's salute was coming off. One said to the other—"The Romans did not celebrate triumph over fellow-citizens in their civil wars." "But," said the second, "we are not Romans." "No," replied his friend, "but now-a-days we are rum 'uns."—*Boston Courier.*

Two hundred and sixty-three new boats are building along the lines of the canals of the State of New York.

FROM THE SOUTH.

We take the following extracts from Southern papers from the Baltimore *American* of Saturday afternoon:

Confederate Accounts of the Great Battle on the Tennessee.

From the Richmond Whig of Tuesday, April 8th.

The following despatch, received at the Adjutant-General's office, yesterday, gives glorious confirmation of our victory on the Tennessee river, Sunday last:

BATTLE OF SHILOH, April 6th,
Via Corinth, Miss., and Chattanooga, 7th,

To General S. Cooper, Adjutant-General:

We this morning attacked the enemy in a strong position in front of Pittsburg, and after a severe battle of ten hours, thanks to the Almighty, gained a complete victory, driving the enemy from every position. The loss on both sides is heavy, including our Commander-in-Chief, General Albert Sidney Johnston, who fell gallantly leading his troops into the thickest of the fight.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General Commanding.

The *Whig*, in an editorial article, pays the following tribute to the memory of General Johnston, whose death on the field of battle was announced in the above despatch:

The fall of a military chieftain on the field of honor and victory, at the head of his rushing columns, fighting for liberty, is the death the soldier most covets, and the country most laments. Such has been the fate of General Albert Sidney Johnston. A despatch from General Beauregard says he fell "gallantly leading his troops into the thickest of the fight." Better information in regard to his recent retirement from Bowling Green, and his presumed responsibility for the disasters at Forts Henry and Donelson, had already cleared him of the hasty and unjust censure visited upon him for these occurrences, and now his splendid victory and glorious death come to canonize his name for history. His countrymen, in their rejoicings, will not withhold the tribute of their tears, and coming generations will keep his memory fresh.

This battle, the importance of which cannot well be over-estimated, was fought in Southwest Tennessee, in Hardin county, on or near the Tennessee river. We are without information as to the forces engaged, though they are known to have been large on both sides, or particulars as to casualties, which must have been heavy. It may safely be concluded that after the lesson of Manassas (for which we do not charge him with the responsibilities), General Beauregard will push the victory to all attainable consequences of profit and advantage. It will be some days before we get full details. In the meantime we furnish such as we have.

The following is the telegram for the newspapers, received last night.

FIRST DESPATCH.

MOBILE, April 7th.—Special despatches to the *Advertiser* and *Register*, dated Corinth, yesterday afternoon, say that the battle continues fierce and furious, the enemy stubbornly resisting their fate, while the Southerners continue to press upon them with resistless determination, slowly but surely forcing them back. Our loss is heavy, but our men are in good spirits, and are thoroughly warmed up to the work in hand. All fight well, but the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana troops display splendid gallantry. The 21st Alabama covered themselves with glory. This regiment captured two batteries. The 1st Louisiana regiment of regulars took a battery. General Bushrod Johnson, one of the Donelson prisoners who subsequently escaped, is wounded.

NIGHT.—The enemy are in full retreat and the Confederates in hot pursuit. A write from the enemy's camp and on Federal paper. Large numbers of Federal prisoners have already been taken, and we expect to capture the greater portion of the Federal army. We are driving them back on their gun-boats and shall kill or capture the entire army. The battle is still raging with terrible fury. We have captured General Prentiss and a large number of officers. General Albert Sidney Johnston fell at half-past two. One of his legs was torn by a shell, and a Minnie ball struck him in the body. He died while gallantly and steadily leading our victorious troops. General Beauregard now commands the army. He says this is a second Manassas fight.—General Buell was not in time to take part in the action. General Grant was in command of the Federal forces.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

MEMPHIS, April 7.—A despatch from Corinth, dated yesterday, says: The great battle commenced at daylight this morning. The Yankees were driven back two miles. Our victorious columns are still advancing. The 1st Louisiana regiment has taken one Federal battery, and several others have been captured. Colonel Williams, of Memphis, was killed. General Prentiss was captured. He says they had thirty-five thousand men in the field and eighteen batteries, nearly all of which have been captured. General Buell had a portion of his force at Duck river.

We have the enemy's camp and all their ammunition, stores, &c. The battle was a very severe one; loss on both sides heavy. The fighting is still going on. General Polk is in the advance. Gens. Prentiss, Grant, Stuart, McClernand, Wallace and Smith, commanded the Federals. Gen. Smith was sick. Two thousand prisoners have been taken and sent to our rear. It is reported here that our forces are fighting Buell to-day. Gen. Clark and Col. Brown, of Mississippi, and Col. Richards, of Missouri, were wounded. The Federals have been driven to the river and are attempting to cross on transports. Many prisoners are still being brought in.

The Confederate Congress—Announcement of the Death of General Albert Sidney Johnston.

In the Confederate Senate, at Richmond, on Monday last, the great victory was announced, and the following resolutions introduced:

Resolved, That Congress have learned, with feelings of deep joy and gratitude to the Divine Ruler of nations, the news of the recent glorious victory of our arms in Tennessee.

Resolved, That the death of General Albert Sidney Johnston, the commander of our forces, while leading his troops to victory, cannot but temper our exultation with a shade of sadness at the loss of so able, skilful and gallant an officer.

Resolved, That, in respect to the memory of Gen. Johnston—the Senate concurring—Congress do now adjourn until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

The Senate, however, thought there might be some error in the announcement, and refused to act upon the resolution, and it was afterwards adopted as a House resolution.

In the course of the debate Mr Darksdale, of Mississippi, said:

I hold in my hand an unofficial letter, probably the last written by the lamented deceased, to the Chief Executive of the Confederacy, to whom he had long been united by the ties of friendship, and with whom he had enlisted at an early day under the flag of a Government which, together, they abandoned when it became the symbol of a monstrous despotism. This letter has been given to be used as I might think proper for the vindication of recent acts of Gen. Johnston, not fully understood by the public. I will, therefore, by the indulgence of the House, read this letter, that they may see the facts in the light by which his course was shaped previous and subsequent to the fall of Donelson. These facts triumphantly vindicate his fame as a true patriot and an able and skillful military leader. This letter, written under most trying circumstances, shows that no trace of passion was visible in the awful severity of the pure, brave and undaunted spirit in which it originat d. It is a simple recital of facts in justification or his actions before which the calumnies of the ignorant or the wicked will die like mist before the brow of day. He has left a noble example of magnanimity in the midst of unjust complaint, and of courage and fortitude amid disaster. His fame rises bright from the severe ordeal through which he has passed, and his name will live green and fresh forever in the hearts of a grateful people. Mr. Speaker, I will close by reading the letter to which I have referred.

The Causes which Led to the Fall of Fort Donelson.

UNOFFICIAL LETTER OF GENERAL A. S. JOHNSTON TO PRESIDENT DAVIS.

DECATUR, ALA., March 18, 1862.

My Dear General:

I received the despatches from Richmond, with your private letter by Captain Wickliffe, three days since; but the pressure of affairs and the necessity of getting my command across the Tennessee prevented me from sending you an earlier reply.

I anticipated all that you have told me as to the censure which the fall of Fort Donelson drew upon me, and the attacks to which you might be subjected, but it was impossible for me to gather the facts for a detailed report, or to spare time which was required to extricate the remainder of my troops, and save the large accumulation of stores and provisions after that disheartening disaster. I transmitted the reports of Generals Floyd and Pillow without examining or analyzing the facts, and scarcely with time to read them. When about to assume command of this Department, the Government charged me with the duty of deciding the question of occupying Bowling Green, Kentucky, which involved not only military but political consideration. At the time of my arrival at Nashville, the action of the Legislature of Kentucky had put an end to the latter by sanctioning the formation of companies menacing Tennessee, by assuming the cause of the Government at Washington, and by abandoning the neutrality it professed, and in consequence of their action the occupation of Bowling Green became necessary as an act of self-defence, at least in the first step.

About the middle of September General Buckner advanced with a small force of about 4,000 men, which was increased by the 15th October to 12,000, and though accessions of force were received, it continued at about the same strength until the end of November, measles and other diseases keeping down the effective force. The enemy's force was then reported to the War Department 50,000, and an advance was impossible. * * *

Believing it to be of the greatest moment to protract the campaign, as the dearth of cotton might bring strength from abroad and discourage the North, and to gain time to strengthen myself by new troops from Tennessee and other States, I magnified my force to the enemy, but made known my true true strength to the Departments and the Governors of States. The aid given was small.—At length, when General Beauregard came out in February, he expressed his surprise at the smallness of my force, and was impressed with the danger of my position. I admitted what was so manifest, and laid before him my views for the future, in which he entirely concurred, and sent me a memorandum of our conference, a copy of which I send to you. I determined to fight for Nashville at Donelson and have the best part of my army to do it, retaining only 14,000 men to cover my front, and giving 16,000 to defend Donelson.

The force at Donelson is stated in General Pillow's report at much less, and I do not doubt the correctness of his statement, for the force at Bowling Green, which I supposed to be 14,000 effective men (the medical report showing only a little over 500 sick in the hospital), was diminished more than 5,000 by those who were unable to stand the fatigue of a march, and made my force on reaching Nashville less than 10,000 men. I enclose Medical Director's report.

I anticipated all that you have told me as to the censure which the fall of Fort Donelson drew upon me, and the attacks to which you might be subjected, but it was impossible for me to gather the facts for a detailed report, or to spare time which was required to extricate the remainder of my troops, and save the large accumulation of stores and provisions after that disheartening disaster. I transmitted the reports of Generals Floyd and Pillow without examining or analyzing the facts, and scarcely with time to read them. When about to assume command of this Department, the Government charged me with the duty of deciding the question of occupying Bowling Green, Kentucky, which involved not only military but political consideration. At the time of my arrival at Nashville, the action of the Legislature of Kentucky had put an end to the latter by sanctioning the formation of companies menacing Tennessee, by assuming the cause of the Government at Washington, and by abandoning the neutrality it professed, and in consequence of their action the occupation of Bowling Green became necessary as an act of self-defence, at least in the first step.

About the middle of September General Buckner advanced with a small force of about 4,000 men, which was increased by the 15th October to 12,000, and though accessions of force were received, it continued at about the same strength until the end of November, measles and other diseases keeping down the effective force. The enemy's force was then reported to the War Department 50,000, and an advance was impossible. * * *

Believing it to be of the greatest moment to protract the campaign, as the dearth of cotton might bring strength from abroad and discourage the North, and to gain time to strengthen myself by new troops from Tennessee and other States, I magnified my force to the enemy, but made known my true true strength to the Departments and the Governors of States. The aid given was small.—At length, when General Beauregard came out in February, he expressed his surprise at the smallness of my force, and was impressed with the danger of my position. I admitted what was so manifest, and laid before him my views for the future, in which he entirely concurred, and sent me a memorandum of our conference, a copy of which I send to you. I determined to fight for Nashville at Donelson and have the best part of my army to do it, retaining only 14,000 men to cover my front, and giving 16,000 to defend Donelson.

The force at Donelson is stated in General Pillow's report at much less, and I do not doubt the correctness of his statement, for the force at Bowling Green, which I supposed to be 14,000 effective men (the medical report showing only a little over 500 sick in the hospital), was diminished more than 5,000 by those who were unable to stand the fatigue of a march, and made my force on reaching Nashville less than 10,000 men. I enclose Medical Director's report.

Had I wholly uncovered my front to defend Donelson, Buell would have known it, and marched directly on Nashville. There were only ten small steamers in the Cumberland, in imperfect condition—only three of which were available at Nashville, while the transportation of the enemy was great.

The evacuation of Bowling Green was imperatively necessary, and was ordered before, and executed while the battle was being fought at Donelson. I had made every disposition for the defence of the fort my means allowed, and the troops were among the best of my force. The Gens. Floyd, Pillow and Buckner, were high in the opinion of officers and men for skill and courage, and among the best of officers of my command. They were popular with the volunteers, and all had seen much service. No reinforcements were asked. I awaited the event opposite Nashville. The result of the conflict each day was favorable. At midnight on the 15th I received news of a glorious victory—at dawn of a defeat.

My column during the day and night was thrown over the river—(a battery had been established below, the city to secure the passage.) Nashville was incapable of defence from its position, and from the forces advancing from Bowling Green and up the Cumberland. A rear guard, was left under Gen. Floyd to secure the stores, and provisions, but did not completely effect the object. The people were terrified, and some of the troops were disheartened. The discouragement was spreading, and I ordered the command to Murfreesboro', where I managed, by assembling Crittenden's division and the fugitives from Donelson, to collect an army able to offer battle.

The weather was inclement, the floods excessive, and the bridges were washed away, but most of the stores and provisions were saved and conveyed to new depots. This having been accomplished, though with serious loss, in conformity with my original design, I marched southward and crossed the Tennessee at this point, so as to cooperate or unite with General Beauregard, for the defence of the Valley of the Mississippi. The passage is almost completed, and the head of my column is already with General Bragg at Corinth. The movement was deemed too hazardous by the most experienced members of my staff, but the object warranted the risk. The difficulty of effecting a junction is not wholly overcome, but it approaches completion. Day after to-morrow, unless the enemy intercepts me, my force will be with Bragg and my army nearly —— thousand strong. This must be destroyed before the enemy can attain his object.

I have given this sketch, so that you may appreciate the embarrassment which surrounded me in my attempts to avert or remedy the disaster of Fort Donelson, before alluding to the conduct of the Generals.

When the force was detached, I was in hopes that such disposition would have been made as would have enabled the forces to defend the fort, or withdraw without sacrificing the army. On the 14th, I ordered General Floyd, by telegraph, "if we hold the fort to get his troops to Nashville." It is possible this might have been done, but justice requires to look at events as they appeared at the time, and not alone by the light of subsequent information. All blame in relation to the surrender will be transmitted to the Secretary of War, as soon as they can be collected, in obedience to his order. It appears from the information received that General Buckner, being the junior officer, took the lead in advising the surrender, and that General Floyd acquiesced, and they all concurred in the belief that their force could not maintain its position—all concurred that it would require a great sacrifice of life to extricate the command.

Subsequent events show that the investment was not so complete as their information from their scouts led them to believe. The conference resulted in the surrender. The command was irregularly transferred, and devolved on the junior General, but not apparently to avoid any just responsibility, or from any want of personal or moral intrepidity. The blow was most disastrous, and almost without a remedy. I, therefore, in my first report, remained silent. This silence you will kind enough to attribute to my generosity. I will not lay claim to that motive to excuse my course. I observed silence, as it seemed to be the best way to serve the cause and the country. The facts were not fully known—discontent prevailed, and criticism or condemnation were more likely to augment than to cure the evil. I refrained, well knowing that heavy censures would fall upon me, but convinced that it was better to endure them for the present, and defer to a more propitious time an investigation of the conduct of the Generals, for, in the meantime, their services were required and their influence useful. For these reasons, Generals Floyd and Pillow were assigned to duty, for I still felt confidence in their gallantry, their energy and their devotion to the Confederacy.

I have thus recurred to the motives by which I have been governed, from a deep personal sense of the friendship and confidence you h ve always shown me, and from the conviction that they have not been withdrawn from me in adversity.

All the reports requisite for a full official investigation have been ordered. Generals Floyd and Pillow have been suspended from command.

[Here followed some allusions not necessary to an understanding of the main objects of the letter, and a statement of the disposition of the forces in command, which is not deemed necessary to publish.] The letter closes as follows:

I have troubled you with these details, as I cannot properly communicate them by telegraph.

The test of merit in my profession, with the people, is success. It is a hard rule, but I think it right. If I join this corps to the forces of General Beauregard (I confess a hazardous experiment), then those who are now declaiming against me will be without an argument. Your friend,

A. S. JOHNSTON.

Federal Attack on Pass Christian.

MOBILE, April 5.—The operator at Bay of —— has telegraphed as follows: "The enemy shelled Pass Christian yesterday. They landed 2,400 troops, and attacked us with two thousand men and twelve rifled 4-pounder howitzers. Our force was three hundred men and two 6 pounder howitzers. I wassin the party and had a narrow escape."

Jeff. Davis to Take the Field.

The Richmond *Whig* says that on Monday last Jeff. Davis visited some sick soldiers, expressing warm sympathy for the unfortunate sufferers. The *Whig* adds:

Addressing the other soldiers, he said he intended to share their fate on the next battle field. Come weal or woe, he would be with them, come whatever might betide, whether victory or defeat ensued, of one thing he assured them—"the cause is safe; we will conquer in the end." The address was very brief, but the effect was magical—putting the soldiers in glorious spirits.

We chronicle the incidents with inexplicable pleasure. Heretofore the President has not exhibited that warm humane sympathy which so becomes the leader of a great cause in a dark hour, and which wins the heart and inspires the courage of the soldier as nothing else does. One touch of nature makes the whole world kin. Let the President show himself a man of feeling; let him visit the hospitals; let him, on all proper occasions, encourage the men who are fighting our battles, and he will quickly become what he ought all along to have been, the loved and honored chief of a glorious cause and a great people.

Fall of Fort Craig.

A letter has been received in New Orleans from San Antonio, in which it is stated that authentic intelligence of the surrender of Fort Craig had been received there. The capitulation was unconditional. Colonel Canby, the Federal Commander, proposed that himself and command be permitted to depart on condition that they pledge themselves not to serve again during the war; but General Sibley insisted upon an unconditional surrender.—With the fall of Fort Craig, the last vestige of Federal rule vanishes from New Mexico.

We are now master of that vast and wealthy region, have taken all the enemy's strongholds, captured some four thousand of his men, besides an immense amount of provisions for man and horse, and large stores of ammunition and arms.—The quantities of provisions and ammunition must be large, as Fort Craig was said to be in condition for a six months' siege. All honor to the Texan Rangers!

The "Merrimac" Out.

The Richmond *Whig* of Tuesday says:

It would not be practicable, even if it were desirable, to keep secret the important fact that the Virginia (Merrimac) has again sailed forth. She left Norfolk yesterday, half an hour after noon, on what special errand bent we know no more than the reader. A gentleman who was at Sewall's Point on Sunday informs us that there was at that time abundant game in the Roads. It is not impossible, however, as we have received no tidings of any of the monster's freaks among the Yankee small fry, that rough weather may have prevented her attempting anything to this time. Commodore Tatnall is in command, and nobody will doubt that if nothing is done it will not be for lack of will nor daring.

We received nothing additional yesterday from the Peninsula. Expectation is still on tiptoe of a great event there.

AFFAIRS IN THE PENINSULA

Confederate Account of the Federal Attack on Yorktown.

The Richmond *Whig* of Tuesday last says:

Matters grow interesting. After an interval of nearly ten months, another battle is impending on the Peninsula. A heavy force of the enemy landed on Friday at Ship Point, a few miles below Yorktown. The Point had been occupied by a small Confederate force for observation, but had been evacuated. Nevertheless it was duly cannonaded before the landing. Gen. Magruder, with his Staff, was at the time at the Lee House, below the point of landing, and had to run a gauntlet not entirely free from danger, in getting back to Yorktown, as was proven by the fact that one of his staff, Major J. B. Cary, had his horse shot. From 10 to 12 o'clock Saturday, there was heavy skirmishing, with very inconsiderable damage to us. To the enemy, it is believed to have been somewhat serious. Cannonading was resumed yesterday and continued till 4 P. M., but we have no information as to the results further than two gunboats that attacked the battery at Yorktown were driven off damaged. The impression prevails that a general engagement will come on to-day, to-morrow, or during the week. We have every confidence that the gallant Magruder will give the invaders another Bethel.

The Steamer Nashville.

PATTONSBURG, N. C., March 29, 1862.

To the Editor of the Whig:

In your issue of the 26th of this month I see a notice in which you make a slight mistake as regards the person