THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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WAR AND OTHER NEWS

In the Senate of the United States the debate on the Confiscation bill was resumed, at the close of the morning hour, and was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives a bill was passed amending the act passed March 1st, 1862, so as to authorize, in the issue of certificates of indebtedness to public creditors, that the said certificates shall bear date from the time that the claims are audited and passed. The Committee on the Judiciary reported back fourteen bills and a joint resolution in relation to forfeiting the property and slaves of persons aiding and abetting the rebellion, and also making it a penal offence for any officer or private in the army or navy to capture or return fugitive slaves—with a recommendation that they do not pass. Before any action was taken, the House resolved into Committee of the Whole to take up the bill appropriating an additional thirty millions of dollars to enable the Government to pay the two and three years' volunteers. After an exciting debate, in which Mr. Vallandigham charged that this additional sum was needed to cover up a defalcation in the War Department, the bill was passed. A message from President Lincoln was received, announcing that he had signed the bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

General Grant's official report of the battle of Pittsburg Landing, has at length been given to the public. It is very brief, and enters into but few details. The substance of what we are told is, that after sustaining "the most continuous fire of musketry and artillery ever heard on this continent, the entire line fell back nearly half way from their camps to the Landing." Subsequent to this, however, General Grant claims that by the arrival of Buell's forces, which did not reach the field of battle until night—the enemy was repulsed. The following day, Monday, at dawn the engagement was renewed, and the result was "the gradual repulse of the enemy at all points of the line, from 9 o'clock till probably 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when it became evident that he was retreating. No pursuit was made that night, in consequence of the exhaustion of the men and the impracticable nature of the road;" but the next morning, Tuesday, General Sherman followed the enemy and found that his main army had retreated in good order. The exact loss in killed and wounded, General Grant says, cannot be known for a day or two. He, however, places it approximately at fifteen hundred killed, and thirty-five hundred wounded. He is entirely silent as to the number of prisoners captured by the Confederates. He states, further, that the loss of artillery was great. The loss of the enemy in killed and left on the field is stated to be "greater than their own." The report of Gen. Sherman is also appended, but it furnishes no additional information. It is stated in the Washington correspondence of the New York *Post* that the Committee on the Conduct of the War "are about to inquire into the causes of the late surprise of our troops at Pittsburg Landing."

On the authority of the Washington Correspondent of the New York *Times*, we are enabled to state that Secretary Stanton "sees daylight for our arms in Yorktown," that "everything is going on finely and that the result will be speedy and glorious to our arms." That General McClellan is confident of his ability to drive the Confederates not only out of Yorktown, but also out of Virginia, and that when a certain officer left camp the Confederates were actually burning their barracks on "an evidence of a preparation to evacuate, or an expectation to be speedily driven out. On the other hand, the New York *Express*—whose Editor assumes to know a good deal more than Secretary Stanton and General McClellan put together, declares that "there is no use in disguising it; General McClellan is in a tight place," and unless the Navy can open either the York or the James river, "the must return and changing his tactics, capture Norfolk before he attempts Richmond.

Notwithstanding the reported fall of Fort Pulaski, there is no confirmation from official sources of the fact so confidently stated, and so arrogantly reasserted by the *American*. Indeed, there is good reason for believing that the surrender, at so early a stage of the bombardment, is doubted by high military officers who are cognizant of the strength of that important fortification, and its powers of resistance. A telegram from Washington published this morning, states that in a report to the Secretary of War, dated the 7th of April; it was announced that fire would be opened on Pulaski on the 11th inst. The telegram further states—but without distinctly asserting the fact—"it now appears that the Fort was captured on that day." We may safely conclude, therefore, that no official report of the capture has been received at either of the Departments.

The latest intelligence from the Division of General Burnside states that Fort Macon was still in possession of the Confederates, but it is expected that the garrison would soon surrender. Extensive preparations were making for the reduction of the fort.

We have no news of special interest from Fortress Monroe beyond the fact that Mr. Mercier, the French Minister, has arrived at that post, and left there in the afternoon for Norfolk, on board the French steamer Gassendi. A report was current at Norfolk that General Buell had been killed, but as there is no confirmation in the rumor from any other source we presume that it is untrue.

The New York *Times* states that ex-Governor Hicks has been urging upon the Government the re-establishment of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, but he "is requested to wait until treason ceases to exist in Maryland."

The bombardment of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi river, commenced on Tuesday evening last. The Confederate gunboats escaped below the fort. General Pope appears to have re-crossed the river, as his command is now reported to be on the Arkansas side.

The New York *Herald* states that the Cabinet at Washington held a stormy session on Tuesday last, when new phases and slumbering prejudices are said to have been developed.

A telegram from Washington to the New York *Express* alludes to startling rumors in that city about the Government indebtedness and some old contracts made by the War Department. It is also stated that no payment will be made to the troops at present.

A correspondent of the Mobile *Register* under date of March 20th announces the arrival at a Southern port of the screw steamer Economist with thirty-five thousand stand of arms, about sixty tons of gunpowder, blankets, shoes, medicines, &c.

By the arrival of the steamer Canada at Halifax we have Liverpool advices to the 6th inst. The news is unimportant, however. The relative value of fortifications and floating batteries was still under discussion in the British Parliament. The ship Yorktown, from London, bound to New York, had been captured and burned by a Confederate privateer.

According to the St. Louis *Republican* of the 12th instant, Commander Hollins, whom it styles the "Great Gun" of the Confederate navy, was taken prisoner during the retreat of the Confederates from Island No. 10. If this be true it is most remarkable that the official reports of Commodore Foote and General Pope, respectively, have omitted to announce so important a capture.

President Lincoln has signed the bill emancipating the slaves in the District of Columbia, and it is therefore now a law.

Donald McKay, the well known ship builder claims that the Confederate steamer Merrimac is built on his plans as laid before the Navy Department at Washington last spring. It is said that a copy of the plan, was taken South by the chief clerk of the Department.

THE DEATH OF CHARLES BRADENBAUGH, ESQ.—It is our painful duty to announce the death of Charles Bradenbaugh, Esq., in the 43d year of his age. Mr. Bradenbaugh occupied for many years the responsible position of President of the Mercantile Library Association, and was also appointed by the munificent donor one of the Trustees of the Peabody Institute. As a merchant, his character was unimpeachable; and as a man, he was beloved by all who knew him. To a modest and inobtrusive deportment he united a quiet energy, which was the more admirable inasmuch as it was combined with all the manlier virtues. By his friends—and who is there, within the large circle of his acquaintance, that was not his friend?—his loss will be profoundly regretted; for he was endeared to them, not only by his genial qualities, but also by the honesty and integrity of his character, and by the faithful manner in which he performed the various duties that were devolved upon him.

The steamer Plantagenet, at New York from Kingston, Jam., reports that a disastrous fire occurred in the latter city on the 31st ult. The entire property bounded by Church, King and Harbor streets was destroyed. The loss was estimated at $300,000.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLE OF PITTSBURG LANDING.

Official Report.

HEADQUARTERS, PITTSBURG, TENN., April 9.

Captain N. H. McLean, Adjutant General, Department of the Mississippi, St. Louis:

CAPTAIN—It becomes my duty again to report another battle fought between two great armies, one contending for the maintenance of the best Government ever devised, and the other for its destruction. It is pleasant to record the success of the army contending for the former principles.

On Sunday morning our pickets were attacked and driven in by the enemy. Immediately the five divisions stationed at this place were drawn up in line of battle to meet them. The battle soon waxed warm on the left and centre, varying at times to all parts of the line. It was the most continuous firing of musketry and artillery ever heard on this continent, and was kept up until night, when, the enemy having forced the entire line to fall back nearly half-way from their camps to the landing at a late hour in the afternoon, a desperate effort was made by the enemy to turn our left and get possession of the landing, transports, &c. This point was guarded by the gunboats Tyler and Lexington, Captains Gwyn and Shirk, U. S. N., commanding, with four 20-pounders Parrott guns, and a battery of rifled guns.

As there is a deep and impassable ravine for artillery or cavalry, and very difficult for infantry at this point, no troops were stationed here except the necessary artillerists and a small infantry force for their support. Just at this moment the advance of Major-Gen. Buell's column, a part of the Division of Gen. Nelson, arrived, and the two Generals named, both being present, an advance was immediately made upon the front of attack, and the enemy were soon driven back. In this repulse much is due to the presence of the gunboats Tyler and Lexington and their able commanders, Captains Gwyn and Shirk, United States Navy.

During the night the divisions under Generals Crittenden and McCook arrived.

General Lew. Wallace, at Crump Landing, six miles below, was ordered at an early hour in the morning to hold his division in readiness to be moved in any direction to which it might be ordered. At about eleven o'clock an order was delivered to move it up to Pittsburg, but owing to its being led by a circuitous route, did not arrive in time to take part in Sunday's action.

During the night all was quiet, and feeling that a great moral advantage would be gained by becoming the attacking party, an advance was ordered soon as day dawned, and the result was the gradual repulse of the enemy at all points of the line from 9 till probably 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when it became evident that the enemy were retreating.

Before the close of the action the advance of Gen. J. J. Wood's division arrived in time to take part in it.

My force was too much atigued from two days' hard fighting and exposure in the open air to drenching rain, during the intervening night, to pursue immediately, and the night closed in cloudy and with heavy rain, making the roads impracticable for artillery.

Next morning General Sherman, however, followed the enemy, finding that the main part of the army had retreated in good order. Hospitals of the enemy's wounded were found all along the road as far as the pursuit was made. Dead bodies of the enemy and many graves were also found.

I enclose herewith the report of General Sherman, which will explain more fully the result of the pursuit and the part taken by each separate command. I cannot take special notice in this report, but will do so more fully when the reports of the division commanders are handed in.

General Buell, commanding in the field with a district army larg under his command, and which did such efficient service, commanded by himself in person on the field, will be much better able to notice those of his command who particularly distinguished themselves than I possibly can.

I feel it a duty, however, to a gallant and able officer, Brigadier-General W. T. Sherman, to make special mention that he not only was with his command during the entire of the two days' action, but displayed great judgment and skill and management of his men. Although severely wounded in the hand on the first day, his place was never vacant.

He was again wounded, and had three horses killed under him. In making this mention of a gallant officer, no disparagement is intended to other division commanders.

In making this mention of the gallant officer no disparagement is intended to the other division commanders—Major-Generals John A. McClernand and Lew. Wallace, and Brigadier-Generals S. A. Hurlbut, B. M. Prentiss and W. H. L. Wallace, all of whom maintained their places with credit to themselves and the cause. General Prentiss was taken prisoner in the first day's action, and General W. H. L. Wallace was severely and probably mortally wounded. His Assistant Adjutant-General, Captain William McMichael, is missing, probably taken prisoner.

My personal staff are all deserving of particular mention, they having been sent to every part of fire two days in carrying. J. D. Webster, Chief of the field. Lieut. Col. McPherson, Chief of Engineers; Lieut. Col. W. L. B. Jeremy and Capt. Rashness, 2d J. A. Rawlings, Adjt. Gen. W. S. Hilyard, J. S. Rawl, and C. B. Lagow, Aids-de-camp; Col. G. Bride, Volunteer Aid; and Capt. J. P. Hawkins, Chief of the Commissary, who accompanied me upon the field.

The Medical Department, under the direction of Surgeon Hewitt, Medical Director, showed great energy in providing for the wounded and in getting them from the field, regardless of danger.

Colonel Webster was placed in special charge of all the artillery, and was constantly upon the field. He displayed, as he always has heretofore, both skill and bravery, and at least in one instance he was the means of placing an entire regiment in a position for doing the most valuable service, and where it could not have been but for his exertions.

Lieutenant-Colonel McPherson, attached to my staff as Chief of Engineers, deserves more than a passing notice for his activity and courage. All the grounds beyond our camps for miles have been reconnoitered by him, and plans carefully prepared under his supervision, giving accurate information of the nature of the approaches to our lines. During the two days' battle he was constantly in the saddle, leading the troops as they arrived to points where their services were required. During the engagement, he had one horse shot under him.

The country will have to mourn the loss of many brave men who fell at the battle of Pittsburg, or Shiloah, more properly.

The exact loss in killed and wounded will be known in a day or two; at present I can only give it approximately at 1,500 killed and 3,500 wounded.

The loss of artillery was great—many pieces being disabled by the enemy's shot, and some losing all their horses and many men. There were probably not less than 200 horses killed.

The loss of the enemy in killed and left upon the field was greater than ours. In wounded an estimate cannot be made, as many of them must have been sent to Corinth and other points. The enemy suffered terribly from demoralization and desolation.

A flag of truce was sent in to day from General Beauregard. I enclose herewith a copy of correspondence.

I am, respectfully, your obed't serv't,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General Commanding.

General Sherman's Report of the Pursuit of the Enemy After their Retreat.

With the cavalry placed at my command and two brigades of my fatigued troops, I went this morning out the Corinth road. One or another of the abandoned camps of the enemy lined the roads, with hospital flags for protection. At all we found more or less wounded and dead. At the forks of the road I found the head of General Wood's division. At that point I ordered the cavalry to examine both roads, and found the enemy's cavalry, Col. Dickey, of the Illinois cavalry, asked for reinforcements. I ordered Gen. Wood to advance to the head of his column cautiously on the left, whilst I conducted the head of the Third Brigade of the Fifth Division up the right hand road, about half a mile from the forks. There was a clear field through which the road passed and immediately beyond a space of two hundred yards of fallen timber, and beyond an extensive camp. The enemy's cavalry could be seen in this camp, and after a reconnoissance I ordered two advance companies of the Ohio Seventy-seventh, Colonel Heldenbrand, to deploy as skirmishers, and the regiment itself forward into line with an interval of one hundred yards.

In this order I advanced cautiously until the skirmishers were engaged. Taking it for granted that this disposition would clear the camp, I held Col. Dickey's 4th Illinois cavalry ready to charge. The enemy's cavalry came down boldly to charge, breaking through the line of skirmishers, when the infantry without cause broke, threw away their guns, and fled. As the regiment of infantry broke, Dickey's cavalry began to charge their carbines, and fell into disorder. Instantly I sent orders to the rear for the brigade to form in line of battle, which was promptly executed. The broken infantry and cavalry rallied on the line, and as the enemy's cavalry came to it, our cavalry in turn charged and drove them from the field. I advanced with the entire brigade upon the same ground, and sent Col. Dickey's cavalry a mile further on the road. On examining the ground which had been occupied by the 77th Ohio, we found 15 dead and about 25 wounded. I sent for wagons and had all the wounded carried back to camp, and the dead buried. I also caused the whole camp to be destroyed. Here we found much ammunition for field pieces, which we destroyed. Also, two caissons and a general hospital with about 280 Confederate wounded, and about fifty of our own. Not having the means of bringing them off, Col. Dickey, by my order, took a surrender, signed by Medical Director Lyle and all the attending Surgeons, and a pledge to report themselves to you as prisoners of war. Also, a pledge that our wounded would be carefully attended to and surrendered to us to-morrow as soon as ambulances could go out. I enclose the within document and request you to send out wagons and ambulances for the wounded of ours, to-morrow. Also, that wagons be sent out to bring in many tents belonging to us which are pitched all along the road for miles. I did not destroy them, as I knew the enemy could not move them. The roads are very bad and are strewn with abandoned wagons, ambulances, and limber boxes. The enemy has succeeded in carrying off his guns, but has crippled his batteries by abandoning the hind limber boxes of at least twenty guns.

I am satisfied that the enemy's infantry and cavalry passed Hick Creek this morning, travelling all last night; and that he left behind all his cavalry which has protected his retreat, but signs of confusion and disorder mark the whole road. The check sustained by us at the Fallen Timbers delayed our advance, so that night came on before the wound d were provided for, and the dead buried. The troops being fagged out by three days of hard fighting, exposure and privations, I ordered them back to camp, where all now are.

[Signed,] W. T. SHERMAN,
Brigadier-General Commanding Division.

Correspondence Between Gens. Beauregard and Grant.

The following is the correspondence referred to in the foregoing report between General Beauregard and General Grant:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT MISSISSIPPI,
MONTEREY, April 8th.

SIR: At the close of the conflict yesterday my forces being exhausted by the extraordinary length of time during which they were engaged with yours on that and the preceding day, and it being apparent that you had received, and were still receiving, reinforcements, I felt it my duty to withdraw my troops from the immediate scene of conflict. Under these circumstances, in accordance with the usages of war, I shall transmit this under a flag of truce to ask permission to send a mounted party to the battle-field of Shiloh, for the purpose of giving decent interment to my dead. Certain gentlemen wishing to avail themselves of that opportunity to remove the remains of sons and friends, I must request for them the privilege of accompanying the burial party; and in this connection I deem it proper to say that I am asking only what I have extended to your own countrymen under similar circumstances.

Respectfully, General, your obed't serv't,

[Signed] P. T. BEAUREGARD.

General Grant's Reply.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY IN THE FIELD,
PITTSBURG, April 9th.

General P. T. Beauregard, Commanding "Confederate" Army, Department Mississippi, Monterey, Tenn:

Your despatch of yesterday is just received. Owing to the warmth of the weather I deemed it advisable to have all the dead of both parties buried immediately, and my details were made for this purpose and it is now accomplished. There cannot, therefore, be any necessity of admitting within our lines the parties you designed to send on the grounds asked. I shall always be glad to extend any courtesy consistent with duty, and especially one which dictated by humanity. I am General, respectfully, your obed't servant.

[Signed] U. S. GRANT,
Major-General Commanding.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Thanks for Gallant Services.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The following letter of thanks has been issued from the Navy Department, addressed to Flag-Officer Foote:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 12, 1862.

SIR:—The Department desires you to convey to Commander Thomas Walker and the officers and men of the Carondelet, also to Acting First Master Hall of the Cincinnati, who volunteered for the occasion, its thanks for the gallant and successful service rendered in the running of the Carondelet past the Rebel batteries on the night of the 4th instant. It was a daring and heroic act, well executed, and deserving of special recognition. The commendation is also to be extended to the officers and crew of the Pittsburg, who, in like manner, on the night of the 7th instant, performed a similar service. These fearless acts dismayed the enemy, and enabled the army under General Pope to cross the Mississippi, and eventuated in the surrender to yourself of Island No. 10, and finally to the capture, by General Pope, of the forts on the Tennessee shore, and the retreating Rebels under General Mackall.

I would also, in this connection, render the acknowledgments which are justly due to the officers and crews of the several boats who, in conjunction with a detachment of the 42d Illinois regiment, under Colonel Roberts, captured the first Rebel battery and spiked the guns on Island No. 10, on the night of the 1st. Such services are duly appreciated by the Department, which awards to all who participated in the achievement.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Postal Affairs—Officers and Soldiers on Parole.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Postoffice now supplies the mails to Waterford and Leesburg, Virginia, from the Point of Rocks, Maryland, and has re-established postoffices at both those towns. The soldiers in Banks' division are supplied with mails by military messengers.

As Utah is not, under the official construction, on the Pacific coast, letters from the east to and from that Territory are chargeable with only the three cent rate of postage.

According to a late army order, all officers and enlisted men of no unlisted, to be considered on leave serve against the Rebels of their exchange or discharge, unless required immediately to report charges, to the Governors of their States, who are duly informed from the Adjutant-General's office, Washington, as to their exchange or discharge.

Proposals for Iron Gunboats for the Mississippi and Gulf Service.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Navy Department has invited proposals, by mail or telegraph, to the 30th instant, at noon, with general specifications and plans for the construction of one or more, up to four, iron gunboats for the Mississippi river and Gulf service, with two turrets on the plan of the Ericsson turret, for two 11-inch guns, the thickness of the iron of which is to be eight inches, the sides to be plated with iron of three inches thickness, in one or two layers, to extend 2½ feet below the load-line. The vessels not to be less than 220 feet in length and 56 feet breadth, and not to draw over sixteen feet of water, loaded and ready for service; to be propelled by screws to insure a speed of nine knots per hour, to be tested over a mile, through the water per hour. The proposals are to state the time in which the vessels can be completed, and the price.

The Late Operations on the Western Shore of Virginia.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The credit of the late naval operations on the Western Shore of Virginia belongs to the Revenue Cutter Service, under the controls of Secretary Chase. During the last summer the steamers Reliance, Hercules and Tiger were purchased by Mr. Chase, with which, and the sailing cutters under his direction, the Rebel mails and communication have been materially interfered with. These vessels have also rendered most efficient service in the capture of the two Eastern counties of Virginia, and have given other evidences of the growing expediency of an important arm of the public service heretofore greatly neglected.

Energy of Our Forces at Pulaski.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—It appears by an official report to the Secretary of War that the large guns for the batteries to be used against Fort Pulaski were hauled by the men, with their own hands, a considerable distance through a deep swamp, that being the only mode by which they could be transported and placed in position. A report of the 7th of April stated that the fire would be opened on the 11th, and is now appears that the fort was captured on that day.

The Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The President to-day nominated to the Senate, James G. Berret, Esq., Mayor of Washington, Hon. Samuel P. Vinten, of Ohio, and Daniel R. Goodloe, formerly of North Carolina, Commissioners, under the act for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, whose duty it will be to investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims presented.

The Reported Capture of Fort Craig by the Rebels Untrue.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The report copied from Southern papers that Col. Canby had surrendered Fort Craig and his entire force is untrue. Later advices from that vicinity have been received at the War Department that Col. Canby has obtained a success over the enemy, and has been reinforced and is now in pursuit of the Rebels.

The Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Secretary of the Treasury, it is said, has decided to redeem 20 per cent. in cash of the Certificates of Indebtedness issued before the 7th inst. It is thought he will receive 40 per c nt. additional of these Certificates in payment of the bonds he may hereafter sell.

Major LeCompte.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Major Lecomte, of the Swiss army, who was attached to General McClellan's staff, has been called home by his Government to the regret of the latter gentleman, as expressed in a complementary letter.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 15.—The French Minister, M. Mercier, arrived here from Washington via Annapolis this morning. He was saluted by the French steamer Gassendi, and subsequently, on landing to pay a visit to General Wool, received a salute from the water-battery of the Fortress.

This afternoon the Gassendi steamed up to Norfolk with the French Minister on board.

The steamboat Nelly Barker, Captain Calden, formerly plying between Boston and Nahant harbor, has been placed upon the line between this place and Ship Point. She will make a daily trip each way with the mails and passengers.

The Union and Sinclair guns were each fired today to try their range. The shot from the former fell a short distance off Sewall's Point.

A flag of truce from Norfolk to-day brought down two ladies, and also the sword of the Captain of the French war steamer Proney, which it will be recollected was wrecked on the North Carolina coast some time since.

A rumor was brought from Norfolk, which was current there, that Gen. Buell had been killed.

STILL ANOTHER BATTLE.

Commodore Foote Commences the Siege of Fort Pillow—A Battle in Progress There.

The following despatch reached the Navy Department last night:

CAIRO, ILL., April 15.—The flotilla has been within three-quarters of a mile of Fort Pillow, and then, returning, took up a position two miles further up. The Rebel gunboats escaped below the fort.

Ten mortar-boats were in position, and had opened fire. This is up to 6 o'clock last evening. Gen. Pope's command occupy the Arkansas side of the river.

Simon Cameron Arrested.

PHILADELPHIA, April 16.—Simon Cameron, ex-Secretary of War, arrived here last night at the suit of Pierce Butler, charged with false imprisonment in August last, while Secretary of War. The writ is made returnable to the Superior Court on the 2d of May. During last night Mr. Butler was annoyed by a calathumpian serenade.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

PER STEAMER CANADA AT HALIFAX.

The British Parliament Discussing the Relative Value of Fortifications and Floating Batteries.

SUSPENSION OF THE WORKS AT SPITHEAD ORDERED.

HALIFAX, April 16.—The steamship Canada has arrived with Liverpool advices to the 6th inst.

The subject of iron clad vessels and batteries is still an absorbing topic in England.

In the House of Commons on the 4th instant, the question of the relative value of fortifications and floating batteries was debated, and resolutions were adopted providing for the suspension of works at Spithead.

Parliament will shortly consider the expediency of empowering the Government to use the money already voted for forts, in the construction of iron-sheathed vessels.

The ship Yorktown, from London for New York, has been burnt at sea by a Rebel pirate vessel.

The continental news is generally unimportant.

Arrived from Baltimore, ships Admiral and Gorilla, at Liverpool.

Consols closed at London on Friday at 93¾@93⅞ for money. American securities were firm.

The Liverpool Breadstuffs market closed quiet. Flour is declining. Provisions are quiet. American securities firm.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Sixty-one of Ashby's Rebel Cavalry Surprised and Made Prisoners.

WINCHESTER, April 16.—Sixty-one of Ashby's Rebel cavalry, including three officers, were captured this morning and brought into Woodstock by our troops. They were surprised whilst at their breakfast just at day-break in a church, and were surrounded by a body of Ringgold's cavalry and four companies of infantry of the 46th Pennsylvania volunteers of Gen. Williams' Division. They surrendered without a show of resistance.

A severe skirmish occurred several miles beyond Columbia Furnace, and within seven miles of Fort Jackson.

Confirmation of the Battle at Apache Pass.

KANSAS CITY, April 14—*Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:* The Fort Union mail brings confirmation of the battle of Apache Pass. Our loss is 150 killed, wounded and missing. The enemy acknowledge their loss to be from three to four hundred killed and wounded. Ninety-three Rebels were taken prisoners, thirteen of whom were officers. Our forces captured and burned sixty-four wagons laden with provisions and ammunition, killing two hundred mules.

The Texans attacked our battery four times, the last time coming within forty feet of our guns, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Col. Slough is encamped at Bernal Springs, forty miles from Fort Union. The Texans fell back to Santa Fe. Col. Canby, with 1,000 regulars and Kit Carson's regiment, are reported within three days' march of Col. Slough; and Col. Slate is on the Jornada with reinforcements for the enemy.

Municipal Election.

CHICAGO, April 16.—The Democrats at the municipal election yesterday, elected their entire city ticket by a majority of 1,000 votes. Also, seven out of ten of the Aldermen.

Treasure En-Route from California.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.—The steamer St. Louis sailed for Panama to day, with a few passengers and $615,000 in treasure for New York, and $209,000 for England.

LETTER OF A MARYLAND PRESBYTER ON BISHOP WHITINGHAM'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER.

[The following article was prepared for the Baltimore *American*, but its publication in that paper has been refused, and it is accordingly offered to the NEWS SHEET.]

Messrs. Editors: In your paper of this morning you have stated very strongly the grievances which the loyal citizens of Maryland are threatened with, from a portion of those with whom they have acted in sustaining the Federal Government in the present crisis. Will you not do a like act of justice towards the loyal Clergy of Maryland, in admitting a word of remonstrance against the unjust aspersions cast upon them for their recent course with regard to the prayer of thanksgiving for the victories of the national arms? I allude to two articles in the *American* of this morning—one a short paragraph in the *resume* of news, which reads thus:

"Some of the occasionist Rebels of Washington still persist in their refusal to pray at the Sunday-morning Service the special prayer and thanksgiving for the success of the national arms. One, however, the Rector of Trinity church, has at last obeyed the order."

My only object in noticing this statement is to represent Trinity church—(Episcopal, I presume, regularly elected)—the Rev. Dr. Pyne officiating Rector—a man of many years a faithful and distinguished missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church to Shanghai, China, and is avowedly a loyal man and a Union man. I ask just, is it honorable, thus to stigmatize one who has ever been a friend and not an enemy to the Government?

The other article to which allusion is made, is a communication copied from the Washington *Star*, headed, "The Rebel Clergy of Washington and Bishop Whittingham." This communication charges that all the Episcopal Clergy who have declined to use the Thanksgiving for the late victories are guilty of a flagrant violation of their solemn ordination vow, and are in "*sympathy with traitors.*" If you, Messrs. Editors, have felt aggrieved by the efforts of those whom you call "the Massachusetts extremists in Congress," to turn the present war into a war for emancipation, surely you can understand how deeply we feel the injustice and injury of such false charges.

Have we, then, violated our ordination vow in declining to offer thanksgiving as recommended by the Bishop? I pass over the fact, distinctly stated by the Bishop, that, not having time to prepare a form of thanksgiving, he left it to the *discretion* of the Clergy to use any prayer or collect in the Prayer-book which might, in the judgment of each, be suitable, thus leaving a very wide scope for the exercise of the *discretion* of each Clergyman. But, without laying too much stress upon this fact, I earnestly and firmly protest against the heinous charge of the writer in the *Star*, that, in refusing to use the prayer of thanksgiving, as recommended by the Bishop, I, and others of my brethren in the Ministry, are guilty of the sin of perjury to the King of kings, and Lord of lords." The ordination vow quoted by the writer is in these words—"Will you reverently obey your Bishop and other chief Ministers, who, according to the canons of the Church, may have the charge and government over you, following with glad mind and will their godly admonitions, and submitting yourself to their godly judgments?" And the reply of each candidate is—"I will do so, the Lord being my helper." But does this vow leave no liberty of conscience to a Minister of Christ? Is he to render a way and ever an unquestioning obedience? No! The admonition which he must follow, and the judgment to which he must submit, must be *godly*. Now, if a Union Clergyman in Virginia had been required by the Bishop of Virginia to offer a form of thanksgiving for the victory at Bull Run, (as was actually required,) would the writer in the *Star* call it a *godly* judgment and admonition, and say that to disobey it was "*an act of perjury to the King of kings and Lord of lords!*" But look closely at this vow, and it reads—"Will you reverently obey your Bishop and *other chief Ministers who*," &c. Then it implies that the Bishop of each diocese has advisers and counsellors, and that their judgment is to go along with his in the guidance of his Clergy. These advisers are called *other chief Ministers;* and who are they but the standing committee of each diocese, made, by the canons of the Church, the council of advice to the Bishop? and with these the elder Clergy—men of age and wisdom. To make the vow complete, their judgment ought to coincide, in matters of such importance and weighty moment, with the judgment of the Bishop. Has it been so in this case? Is Bishop W. sustained by the chief Ministers of his diocese? Has he advised with them, or consulted them? Has he ever asked the opinion of the Standing Committee of Maryland? Not so. But that committee have, at their own instance, *proffered* him their advice, unasked, and *deprecated* the course he has seen fit to adopt. Then, in declining to follow the Bishop's judgment, we are supported by the judgment of all "the other chief Ministers" of the diocese. Is this a violation of our ordination vow?

But there is another vow, assumed by every Minister of the Episcopal Church on the day of his ordination, equally solemn and binding as the vow of obedience to the Bishop and other chief Ministers. It is in these words:

"Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are, or shall be, committed to your charge?"

Answer.—"I will so do, the Lord being my helper."

This vow, in the conscientious judgment of many loyal Clergymen, forbade the use, in their congregations, of the form of Thanksgiving. They were assured, on the best of evidence, that the use of such a prayer would only create discord and dissension, and disturb the peace and the quietness of its orderly devotions.—Had they a right, while holding their positions as pastors of flocks so sadly divided in political opinions, to introduce a prayer the use of which, they were well convinced, would produce such disastrous effects?

The Clergy of Maryland, in the Providence of God, have been placed in a position peculiarly painful and trying. They are appointed to minister to congregations lamentably distracted by the present calamitous civil war. They *tend* the devotions of those whose opinions and sympathies concerning the war are diametrically opposite to each other. The Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church is a service of *Common Prayer*. Can the Minister honestly and conscientiously presume to offer a prayer to God, in behalf of His people, which he knows is abhorrent and offensive to a large portion of them? He may not indeed coincide with their views and feelings, but he is bound, at the same time, to offer no prayer to God, in their name, in which they cannot join.

But, it may be asked, is not the Minister bound to consult the feelings and views of that portion of his congregation which is in sympathy with the Government? Undoubtedly; and this is just what the loyal Episcopal Clergymen of Maryland did in declining to follow the recommendation of the Bishop. The Union men of their congregations did not desire that any form of thanksgiving for victory should be offered in their churches. About a fortnight since, when the form of thanksgiving was put forth by the Bishop for use in the District of Columbia alone, a number of gentlemen of distinction and influence, representing the Union sentiment of each prominent Episcopal congregation in Baltimore, addressed to the Bishop a respectful and earnest letter, deprecating the setting forth of any form of thanksgiving for victory for use in the diocese at large. They did this solely for the sake of preserving peace and quietness in the Church. If they regarded such forms of thanksgiving as just and proper in themselves and under other circumstances, they were willing to surrender their own views of fitness and propriety for the sake of the general good of the Church.

With all these facts before him, knowing that the Standing Committee of the diocese, comprising "the other chief Ministers of the Church," had remonstrated with the Bishop on this very subject; knowing that to a large portion of his congregation such a thanksgiving would be most offensive, and that its use would only lead to the disturbance of the peace of the Church, and the quietness of the House of God; and knowing that the Union men of his congregation did not desire the setting forth of such a prayer, as their views had been declared in their letter to the Bishop; your correspondent felt, in common with other loyal Clergymen, that the way to "*promote quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among those committed to his charge,*" was to conduct the service of the Church in the prescribed order of the Liturgy.

A MARYLAND PRESBYTER.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to the New York Post.

INQUIRY INTO THE LATE BATTLE.

It is understood that the Committee on the Conduct of the War are about to inquire into the causes of the late surprise of our forces at Pittsburgh Landing. Not a little indignation is expressed at the extraordinary delay in the official reports of that affair. Halleck's being on his way to Pittsburgh will not entirely account for withholding them. Secretary Stanton, who is himself one of the prompt men in the world, does not easily forgive any breach of duty of this kind.

COTTON CULTURE IN TEXAS.

A Western farmer is in town after cotton seed, who planted thirteen acres in cotton in Illinois last season, and the produce was thirteen bales, which sold for $80 per bale. He says one of his neighbors will plant two thousand acres this spring, and he will go heavily into the business himself.

Special Despatches to the New York Herald.

SEMI-MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

The resolution recently introduced requiring semi-monthly official publications of the receipts and disbursements of the Treasury, is approved by the Secretary of the Treasury as sound in principle; but it is represented to be quite impracticable at a time when it is deemed necessary to keep secret the military and naval operations of the Government. Even if all the data for a correct statement so would be satisfactory and intelligible were always within reach of the Treasury Department, instead of having to be groped after in all the ramifications of the other departments, they could not now be published without disclosing projected military operations. In times of peace such bulletins may be published with much nearer approximation to accuracy, and without detriment to the public service.

REORGANIZATION OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

The reorganization of the Court of Claims, and the reference of all claims against the Government to it, as a court of final adjudication, is regarded as one of the most beneficial measures of the present Congress. It will relieve Congress and all the departments of a character of business that has greatly obstructed attention to current and necessary operations.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—WHAT THE NEGROES THINK OF IT.

The ardent expectations of the freedom shrieks, in reference to the District of Columbia Emancipation bill, have not yet been realized. The President still has the bill under consideration. What he will do with it, is still matter of speculation. It is known only that, while he favors the abstract proposition of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, the details of this bill are not altogether satisfactory, and it is gravely doubted if they are constitutional. The most intelligent of the negroes, whom it is extensively intended to benefit, deprecate its approval. They contend that, instead of enlarging, it actually curtails their freedom, and deprives them of privileges they have hitherto enjoyed. They fear that as free negroes they will be debarred from passing out of the District, or from one State into another, and that they will be entirely excluded from nearly all the States in the Union. They fail to appreciate this nominal freedom, which in reality abridges their privileges.

SECRET SESSION OF THE CABINET.

The Cabinet meeting to-day was stormy, and new phases and slumbering prejudices are said to have been develop d; but the firmness of the President for what he believes to be the best interests of the country, prevailed. The Secretary of State and

DEFENCE OF THE RED MEN.

At the Indian Department to-day, Shoboman, the head chief of the prairie band of Pottawatomies, made a most eloquent speech in defence of the rights of their tribe. He was dressed in the highest style of Indian art—in furs, feathers and skins; and a more noble specimen of human nature has been seldom seen. His arguments were forcible, his metaphors brilliant, and the whole characterized by a dignity of manner vainly looked for either in the American Senate or the British House of Lords. He was accompanied by a delegation of some thirteen hallbreeds, and Mr. Ross, the agent, of Topeka.

Special Despatches to the New York Times.

PROGRESS AT YORKTOWN—WHAT MR. STANTON SAYS.

A gentleman accosted Secretary Stanton to-day, thus: "Well, Mr. Secretary, do you think you see daylight for our army at Yorktown?" "Certainly, Sir, certainly," replied the Secretary; "everything is going on finely, and I have no doubt that the result will be speedy and glorious to our arms." An officer from the army before Yorktown, reports that he left Gen. McClellan in the best of spirits and sanguine of his ability to drive the Confederates out of Yorktown and Virginia. The same officer says