THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

VOL. II---NO. 183. BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

DIED,

Of consumption, at the dwelling of his mother, 199 Biddle street, near Ross, Dr. CHARLES WALTER, aged 28 years, 9 months and 2 days

His friends and acquaintances and those of the family are invited to attend the funeral, on this (Wednesday) afternoon, at three o'clock, without further notice.

On Tuesday morning, 22d April, GEORGE WATCHMAN, aged 18 years.

His friends and acquaintances and those of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Thursday morning, 24th instant, at ten o'clock, from the residence of his son-in-law, Emanuel Cohen, No. 89 Williams st. *

At Fort Delaware, April 18th, private EDWARD H. HANKINS, of Company K, 2d Regiment Va. Volunteers.

Also, on the 19th instant, private B. L. HORNE, of Company F, 37th Regiment Va. Volunteers.

The deceased were both Virginians, and, at the time of their death, were prisoners of war, having been captured in the late battle at Winchester. The exposure incident to army life in the winter, had implanted in the physical constitutions of these young men the seeds of disease, which, in both cases, rapidly assumed symptoms of a typhoid nature, baffling the efforts of medical skill and attention.

On the 21st instant, of typhoid fever, CAROLINE C. BAYNER, aged 25 years.

On the 21st instant, MARY FENDRICH, aged 18 years and 5 months.

On Monday, 21st instant, BENJAMIN F. STANTON, in the 37th year of his age.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the special committee appointed to investigate the charges of disloyalty which had been brought against Senator Starke reported, from the facts before them, that the Senator from Oregon is disloyal to the Government of the United States. The report was ordered to be printed. A resolution was introduced requesting President Lincoln, if not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish copies of all orders, despatches and communications made by the War Department to Major General Commanding the armies of the United States, to Brigadier General Sherman whilst in command of the Southern Department. The object of this call is to show that General Sherman has been circumscribed in his operations by the orders under which he acted. The debate on the confiscation bill was resumed and was continued until the Senate went into Executive session.

In the House of Representatives a message was received from President Lincoln, covering a correspondence between Mr. Brewster, of Philadelphia, and Secretary Seward, in regard to the arrest of Ex Secretary Cameron, at the suit of Pierce Butler, Esq. Mr. Lincoln assumes the responsibility of the arrest as having been made under his direction, and deemed necessary for the prompt suppression of the existing insurrection.

A resolution was adopted requesting the President to strike from the rolls the name of any officer who has been known to be habitually intoxicated while in service. In support of this resolution, Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, stated that during the recent engagement at Lee's mill, near Yorktown, it was reported that the Commanding General was so grossly drunk that he fell from his horse, one side of his face being covered with mud. The consideration of Mr. Bingham's substitute for the confiscation bill was then resumed, and, after a brief discussion the previous question was called on the passage of the bill which was still pending when the report of the proceedings closed.

We have nothing new to report from Fortress Monroe. So far as the information imparted by the Associated Press is concerned. Fortress Monroe itself reposes in solemn silence like the famous Burmese Idol on the banks of the Irawaddy, which is styled by the Orientals "The Great Stagnant Calm."

From Petersburg, however, via Fortress Monroe, we have intelligence to the effect that five thousand troops composing a part of Burnside's Division, whilst attempting to land at Elizabeth City, were repulsed by the Confederates with a loss of five hundred men.

A later despatch from Washington informs us that the Richmond papers, of Monday last, report the landing of the Federal troops near Elizabeth city, and that an engagement ensued in which the Confederates lost thirty eight in killed and wounded, but claim that the Federal loss was "very heavy." The Confederates subsequently retired to the Dismal Swamp Canal. Their entire force, according to the Petersburg paper, numbered one thousand men.

From before Yorktown we are assured that "matters are progressing satisfactorily."

The Richmond *Dispatch* of April 19th has an article on M. Mercier's visit to that city, which, if true, is of singular importance. The Richmond *Examiner* of the previous day having stated that "the object of the French Minister's visit had not transpired," the *Dispatch* replies that, "outside of his official communication, he has expressed a great desire to ascertain what commercial treaties the Confederate Government was disposed to make with France." In a letter addressed to the *Dispatch*, Dr. Lemoine, who is said to represent some thirty thousand of the French population of Louisiana, announces that "Count Mercier has opened negotiations with the Secretary of State," and that Congress, which was to have adjourned, "had determined to remain in session during the important mission of the Minister of the Emperor." Dr. Lemoine then goes on to say, rather cloudily; "any kind of arrangement will be made with the President of the Confederacy, and this," he adds, "is a perfect acknowledgment by France of our independence from the old United States." We give these speculations for what they are worth. They will at least serve to stimulate public curiosity still further as to the object of M. Mercier's visit.

With reference to the presence of McDowell's Division on the Rappahannock river, the *Dispatch* remarks that "the enemy can easily occupy the town of Fredericksburg, if he has not already done so, but an advance to Richmond from that direction is probably not contemplated. The obstructions" its readers are assured "would not be easily overcome." And again: "Little importance is attached to the occupation of Fredericksburg, as it was an event anticipated when the army of the Potomac was withdrawn."

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Post* states, on the authority of private letters and despatches, that Beauregard has a very large army at Corinth, and is being reinforced with great rapidity. The writer also settles the question as to whether Beauregard captured any cannon at the battle of Shiloh, by remarking that "the field artillery taken at the battle of Pittsburg is of great value to the Confederates, as they were poorly provided with that kind of artillery."

By a special dispatch to the Chicago *Journal* we learn that the bombardment of Fort Wright still continues. The Confederates have cut the levee in several places on the Arkansas shore, opposite the Fort. The residents are said to be greatly exasperated at this outrage. From General Halleck's army encouraging news continues to be received. "By the explosion of a Parrott shell four men were killed and six wounded at Fort Pulaski, since its surrender to the Federal troops. The fort itself was so much injured by the bombardment that it is now declared to be worthless as a work of defence.

In a skirmish on Wilmington Island a surveying party, composed of two hundred of the 8th Michigan regiment, was surprised by a body of Confederates numbering, it is said, eight hundred men.—Some fourteen of the Federal troops were killed, including the Adjutant, and some twenty-five or thirty wounded. The fire of the Confederates was returned, when, as usual, they retreated, but—"in order."

The Mayor of an English town once excused himself for not welcoming Charles II. with a salute. He pleaded three reasons: First, there were no guns; second, there was no powder—"Stop!" said the merry monarch, "the first reason will suffice." A telegram from Washington, which we publish elsewhere, suggests a similar remark. We are told that the statement that Secretary Chase was in Philadelphia consulting with ex-Secretary Cameron in regard to a defalcation in the War Department, is erroneous in three particulars. Secretary Chase has not been in Philadelphia—he has not consulted with General Cameron on the subject—and "there has not been any defalcation." Would not the thirdly and lastly answer every purpose?

DEATHS OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.—We learn that during the past few days there have been two deaths among the Confederate prisoners now confined in Fort Delaware. On the 18th instant, private Edward H. Hankins, of company K, Twenty-third regiment Virginia volunteers, and on the 19th, private B. L. Horne, of company F, Thirty-seventh regiment Virginia volunteers, departed this life. Both of these young men were native Virginians, and were captured at the late battle of Winchester. The exposure incident to camp life during the winter implanted in their constitutions the seeds of the disease which, in each case, rapidly assumed symptoms of a typhoid nature. Although attended by the best medical skill, all efforts to prolong their lives were unavailing.

FURTHER SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—An Englishman, Mr. Parker Snow, will soon arrive in New York, on his way to the North in search of traces of Sir John Franklin and his party. The sister of one of the lost officers and her friends furnish most of the means for the expedition.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, April 22.—The steamer City of New York has arrived from Liverpool with dates to the 10th inst.

The steamer Africa arrived out on the 6th instant.

The new iron steamer Orieto, built for war purposes, had left Liverpool for Palermo, and it is believed goes to Bermuda for her armament and then to take the Atlantic as a Southern privateer.

The schooner Sophia, which ran the Charleston blockade, had arrived at Liverpool with 900 bales of cotton.

The question of iron ships and floating batteries continues to occupy the attention of the Government, and shipwrights are all being transferred from wooden to the iron vessels in the course of construction.

A proposition is before the Common Council of London to confer the "freedom of the city," encased in a gold box, on Mr. Peabody, for his munificent charity.

The crops of England and France are reported as most favorable.

French manufacturing accounts also show more animation.

[illegible] not to be received from Rome that Gen. Guyon is [illegible]

The Paris Bourse closed firm at 69f.

The Italian Ministry have ordered an increase in the construction of iron-plated ships.

The question of brigandage and the removal of the ex-king of Naples from Rome is debated in the Italian Chamber. Ratazzi said the accounts of brigandage were exaggerated, and no additional force was necessary. The Italian Government, he said, persisted in pointing out that the presence of Francis II. at Rome is a source of disorder, and he believed that Napoleon also shares the conviction and perceives the necessity of providing against its continuance, but the difficulties cannot all be vanquished at a single blow.

The Spanish Government has again reiterated its firm determination to abstain from any demonstration prejudicial to the independence of Mexico.

The Danish Government has voted the extraordinary credit of one million rix dollars for the construction of iron-plated vessels.

THE LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

LONDON, April 10.—The Government has contracted with Messrs. Saunda for an iron cupola ship to be constructed according to Captain Coles' invention, to be ready for sea by the 1st of June, 1863.

The *Times* says no weapon of offence or defence seems left us now so effective as large armor-clad and very swift steam rams.

Experiments with a gun of large size recently made in England, showed that the best and hitherto considered invulnerable forms of iron sides were, so to speak, almost as easily penetrated by a shot as if the targets had been made of timber. Sir William Armstrong says that a gun of twelve tons weight fired with a charge of fifty pounds of powder will break through the side of the steamer or the strongest iron ship afloat. A target made like the Warrior's side was shattered into crumbs at the trial.

The steamer Orieto, which was built at Liverpool nominally as a war vessel for the Italian Government, left on the 22d of March in ballast for Palermo with a crew of fifty men, but it is believed she would go to Bermuda, where her armament has preceded her. She is built to carry guns of the heaviest calibre, and measures 750 tons, and is reported to be very fast. There are various contradictory conjectures in regard to her.

It is said that the French army is to be reduced. Ninety-four regiments of infantry are to be retained, and five regiments of cavalry are to be struck off.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Military Orders.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—General Wadsworth, the Military Governor, has issued an order requiring all farm stock in Prince William, Loudoun, Alexandria and Fairfax counties, Virginia, to be confined and carefully herded, the destruction of the fences rendering this measure necessary for the cultivation of the land.

The following general orders have been issued from the War Department:

1st—Agents appointed by the Governor of a State, under its laws, to obtain from its volunteer soldiers assignments of pay for the benefit of their families, will be recognized as such by the Paymaster, who will afford them all necessary facilities for that purpose so far as is consistent with the public service.

2d—Transportation to soldiers on sick leave may be furnished, and the cost stopped from their pay in the same manner as other stoppages are made. Necessary transportation furnished to soldiers on sick leave by the authorities of any State to which such soldiers belong, will be deducted from their pay, and refunded to the State by the Paymaster, whose warrant for making the stoppage will be the certificate of the proper agent of the State accompanied by the receipt of the soldier for the transportation.

Where several soldiers of the different companies are concerned, separate accounts will be made for each company.

Government Finances—The New York Volunteer Engineers.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—In accordance with the notice heretofore given, the Secretary of the Treasury is now paying, and prepared to pay, all the November indebtedness in cash.

Lieut. C. L. James F. Hall, of the New York Volunteer Engineers, is now in Washington. It appears that this regiment was accepted by the Secretary of War, in September last, as one of the Engineer Corps, and as such was mustered into service. The Pay Department, however, refuses to recognize them without a special Act of Congress. Thus since that time they have been without pay. The high commendations of this regiment by Generals Sherman, Hunter, Benham and Gilmore, at Port Royal, and before Pulaski, where they erected batteries under the greatest difficulties, fully demonstrates their efficiency.

Erroneous Statement.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The published statement that Secretary Chase was in Philadelphia consulting with ex-Secretary Cameron in relation to defalcation in the War Department, is erroneous in three particulars, namely—Secretary Chase has not been in Philadelphia recently; he has not consulted with General Cameron upon the subject; nor is there any defalcation.

The Latest from Fortress Monroe.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Despatches received from Fortress Monroe and Yorktown per telegraph up to 1 o'clock P. M. of to-day, represent all quiet. The weather was pleasant, and our army before Yorktown was in high heart and operations there progressing favorably.

Temporary Deposits.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the different sub-Treasurers and Depositaries to receive no more temporary deposits at rates of interest exceeding four per cent.

Beauregard's Intercepted Despatch Calling for Reinforcements

CINCINNATI, April 22.—The *Gazette's* Huntsville, Alabama, correspondent says that Beauregard's despatch to General Cooper, calling for reinforcements (as already published) was found in the telegraph office, having passed over the wires before Mitchell's Division reached Huntsville, and about one-third of the reinforcements called for had already passed down to Corinth. The remainder are collected at Chattanooga, and other points on the Upper Tennessee river, being unable to move forward on account of Gen. Mitchell's obstruction of the road.

Beauregard's despatch was partially written in cipher, but was easily translated by Gen. Mitchell. The rolling stock captured by Gen. Mitchell has been sent to Nashville.

The Bombardment of Fort Wright—From Gen. Halleck's Army.

CHICAGO, April 22.—A special despatch to the *Journal* from Cairo says: The news from the fleet before Fort Wright is unimportant. The bombardment still continues.

The Rebels have cut the levees on the Arkansas shore opposite the fort, and the fine farming lands there are now covered with a lake of water for miles around. The residents are greatly exasperated at this outrage.

Most encouraging news continues to be received from Gen. Halleck's army.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE

Reported Engagement at Elizabeth City, North Carolina—The Rebels Claim to Have Repulsed Five Thousand Federal Troops.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 21.—The weather continues still unpleasant with heavy rain.

By flag of truce to-day a copy of a Petersburg paper of this morning was received. The Rebel Senate had refused to concur in the House resolution for an adjournment.

The same paper contains a report of what is called a repulse of a force of General Burnside's troops, at Elizabeth City, N. C. It is stated that the Federal troops, five thousand strong, attempted to land there but were repulsed, with a loss of five hundred, by a force of one thousand "Confederate" troops, including a Georgia regiment.

The "Confederate" loss in killed is stated at fifteen, including Captain McCowns and Lieutenant Wilson, both of the Georgia regiment. A report to the same effect was current at Norfolk last night.

There is nothing new from the army before Yorktown, but matters there are progressing satisfactorily.

From the Department of the Shenandoah—Gen. Banks Pushing Rapidly Forward—Jackson still Retreating.

Hon. E. M. Stanton Secretary of War:

NEW MARKET, April 22.—Our advance is near Harrisonburg. We have troops across the mountain protecting the bridges on the Shenandoah at Alma and on the Suray road. To-day we pushed a force forward to Suray. [The capital of Page county.]

The people were greatly alarmed at first on account of the reports circulated by the Rebels as to the treatment they would receive from us, but in the course of a few hours they became quite reconciled to the presence of the troops.

There is a good road to Warrenton, 25 miles, and a turnpike to Culpepper Court House—the same distance.

In several recent sharp skirmishes with the enemy we lost three men. Jackson has abandoned the Valley of Virginia permanently, and is en route for Gordonsville, by the way of the mountains.—Every day brings its prisoners and numerous deserters from the Rebels.

(Signed.) N. P. BANKS,
Major General.

FROM FORT PULASKI.

A Skirmish at Wilmington Island—Fort Pulaski Rendered Nearly Useless from the Effects of the Bombardment

NEW YORK, April 22.—The advices per steamer Marion from Fort Pulaski state that on the 4th instant, a Parrott shell exploded in Fort Pulaski, killing four men and wounding several others.

A surveying party of 200 of the 8th Michigan regiment landing at Wilmington Island, below Savannah, were surprised by from six to eight hundred Rebels, who poured on them an incessant fire, killing and wounding several. The Federals returned the fire and went gallantly into the fight, when the Rebels, after a short stand, retreated in order.

The Adjutant of the 8th Maine was killed with twelve or thirteen others, and some twenty-five or thirty wounded. The dead were taken to Pulaski, and the wounded were carried to the hospital at Hilton Head. The Rebel loss is unknown. One account says it was the Adjutant of the 8th Michigan regiment that was killed.

Fort Pulaski is so much injured by the effects of the bombardment as to be wholly undergoing a work of defence.

The steamer Oriental has arrived with the remaining prisoners taken at Pulaski.

Landing of Gen Burnside at Elizabeth City, N. C.—The Rebels fall back to the Dismal Swamp Canal.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Richmond papers of yesterday (Monday) morning contain a telegraph from Elizabeth city, N. C. the landing of our forces near that point. They admit that their forces retired to the Dismal Swamp Canal with a loss of 38 killed and wounded, and say the Federal loss is heavy.

The same papers also notice the occupation of Fredericksburg, and complain of the withdrawal of their troops (which were there in force) without a contest.

The High Water at St. Louis—A Sad Affair—The Provost Guard Make a Bayonet Charge on a Party of Citizens—Three Wounded.

ST. LOUIS, April 22.—A riot occurred in East St. Louis on Saturday night, in which three men were injured. In consequence of the high water in the river the inhabitants stopped up the culvert on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, in order to prevent the town from being submerged. The Roadmaster, fearing that the culvert would be washed away, proceeded with the track hands to remove the obstructions. They were met by a crowd, who ordered them off. The matter was referred to the Provost Marshal, who sent over a guard of sixty men to quell the disturbance and protect the railroad. They found seventy-five or one hundred men assembled to prevent the obstructions from being removed. The crowd was ordered away, but refused to go, when the guard advanced upon them. Several shots were fired at them, but no one was injured. The guard then charged bayonets on the crowd, and three men were wounded—one seriously.

Yesterday Col. Parson and Mr. Bacon, President of the road, went over to examine into the matter, and they decided to allow the obstructions to remain, as their removal involved the destruction of a vast amount of property.

It is doubtful whether the embankment of the road will prevent the town from being submerged, as the road is nearly overflowed in several places.

Interruption of the Overland Mail by the Indians.

CHICAGO, April 22.—A despatch from the operator at Salt Lake, dated to-day, says the Indians have stopped all communication by the Overland Mail. No particulars are given, and it is feared that the telegraph line will be destroyed.

GOLD COUNTS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—The steamer Orizaba has sailed for Panama with $470,000 in gold for New York.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star, of Yesterday.

THE MURDER OF WHARTON.

The continuation of the investigation into the circumstances of the shooting of Wharton, the political prisoner confined in the Old Capitol building, by Private Baker, of the 21st Pennsylvania regiment, on the night before last, developed no feature not stated in our military budget yesterday. The parties implicated in the act are still held under arrest, or due punishment; the Military Governor, General Wadsworth, not regarding the provocation on the part of the deceased (disobedience of orders and the use of taunting language) as by any means justifying the slow trig. Baker, himself, will doubtless be cleared, as he but carried out the orders of the corporal of the guard, who, in turn, alleges that in giving the order he but obeyed the positive command of his lieutenant.

DEAD.

A telegram from Gen. McClellan's army, dated last night, announces the death, on the night before, of Lieut. Warner, of the Topographical Engineers, who was killed by a shell while making a topographical map of the country before the enemy's lines.

Special Despatches to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

GEN. STONE'S CASE.

Nearly the entire session of the Senate this morning was given up to the consideration of Senator McDougall's resolution inquiring into the reasons of Gen. Stone's imprisonment. The debate on the question was very general, and at times, warm and almost personal. A strong personal antagonism between the Senator from California and the Secretary of War was developed, but which, it is believed that Secretary Stanton will survive.

MOVEMENTS OF THE CONFEDERATES.

There is no doubt that the Confederate Jackson has retired to a point twelve miles from Harrisburg, on the turnpike (crossing the Blue Ridge) from that point to Orange Court-house. The impression is that he will next be heard of at or about Charlottesville, twenty-two miles north of Gordonsville and twenty-five miles south of Staunton, with all the troops now or very recently at Gordonsville—two or three regiments at most—joined to his command and endeavoring to dispute the march of our forces down to that point—the so very important junction of the railroad from Richmond to Lynchburg and the main Virginia Central Railroad.

THE ARREST OF PIERCE BUTLER.

The President, in a message to-day to the House of Representatives, stated that it was by his authority that Ex-Secretary Cameron issued the order for the arrest of Pierce Butler.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Post.

BEAUREGARD'S FORCES AT CORINTH—THE FIELD ARTILLERY CAPTURED AT PITTSBURG LANDING.

Private letters and despatches received here to day from the vicinity of Corinth state that General Beauregard has got a very large army together at that point, and that he is being reinforced with great rapidity. The government troops near Pittsburg, have the utmost confidence in General Halleck's ability to out-general, as well as out-fight Beauregard; but there is every indication that the Confederates will contest the next battle with ferocious determination. The field-artillery taken by the enemy at the battle of Pittsburg, is of great value to them as they were poorly provided with that kind of artillery. It is supposed that at the next battle the forces will be about equal, though a vast number of Beauregard's army must be raw troops, poorly armed.

A son of Senator Fessenden was in the Pittsburg battle, and was severely wounded in the arm. He has arrived in Washington, and is now under the care of good surgeons, who expect to save the injured member, and, indeed, to make it as good as it ever was.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

Despatches from Mr. Corwin just received at the State Department, give accounts of the condition of affairs in Mexico. Mr. Corwin dwells upon the operations of the Allied Expedition, and gives the opinion that Spain intends to establish a monarchy in Mexico, regardless of the wishes of the people of the country.

OUR TROOPS AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The President, accompanied by Secretaries Stanton and Chase, went to Acquia Creek on Saturday, to confer with General McDowell in reference to further military movements. It is reported that McDowell is to transfer his headquarters immediately to Fredericksburg, which is now held by our forces.

Correspondence of the New York Times.

THE PRESIDENT AND MR. CAMERON'S ARREST.

The President sent a message to the House to-day covering a copy of correspondence between the Secretary of State and Benjamin H. Brewster, of Philadelphia, relative to the arrest in that city of Simon Cameron, late Secretary of War, at the suit of Pierce Butler, for trespass *vi et armis*, assault and battery, and false imprisonment. Secretary Seward addressed a letter to the counsel of Mr. Cameron, announcing that the President justifies the act of Mr. Cameron, as it was done by his authority and for the public defence. The message was laid on the Speaker's table, and had not been read or ordered to be printed at adjournment.

THE MUTILATION OF TREASURY NOTES.

Evidence has been received at the Treasury Department that the work of mutilating Treasury notes has become quite a business, and not an unprofitable one. For instance, the mutilator takes one ten-dollar note, and tears off a tenth part on one corner, and passes off the nine for ten dollars—nobody questioning that it is perfectly good. He takes another note of same denomination, and tears off a tenth part on another corner, and so on, until he has secured four corners. Then he takes another note and tears out a piece from the upper side right; from another note a piece from the upper side left, next to the corners; from two more notes a piece is extracted from the lower side right of one, and a piece from the lower side left of the other. From the ninth note he removes a piece from the right of the middle, and from the tenth and last note a piece from the left middle. Then he has ten parts of what appears to be a single ten-dollar Treasury note, which he ingeniously pastes together, and passes off under the pleasing idea that the note was accidentally torn to pieces, but is, nevertheless, just as good as if it was whole. Singular as it may seem, this business has become so extensive that the attention of the Government has been called to it; and it is decided, as the only effectual way of checking the evil, not to redeem any note at par unless it is whole, and to deduct one dollar for every tenth part of a note torn off, and in that proportion for larger amounts removed. I make the above statement on the authority of the Treasurer of the United States.

The State Department has despatched a special agent to Boston to investigate the cases of Tunstall and Myers, arrested at Tangiers, on charge of treason, and brought to that port for trial.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

[FROM THE NEW YORK HERALD.]

The Visit of the French Minister to Richmond

WHAT THE CONFEDERATES SAY OF THE FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT.

From the Richmond Dispatch, April 19.

M. MERCIER.

The *Examiner* of yesterday says "the object of the French Minister's visit have not definitely transpired," but it is said that, outside of his official communication, he has expressed great interest to ascertain what commercial treaties the Confederate Government was disposed to make with France.

Now, we know not what treaties the Government may be disposed to make, but we do know what the people would applaud to the very echo, namely, a treaty securing to France for a given number of years an equal right to our enormous carrying trade with our own vessels, provided she will raise the blockade, and give us the same access to her arsenals and foundries that our enemy enjoys. We want arms and we want ammunition. Had we possessed a sufficient supply of these two indispensable requisites to the successful prosecution of modern warfare, in the beginning of the war, we should have put an end to it long ago.

Let France raise the blockade, and we will soon do it now, and, in order to effect that desirable object, nothing more is necessary than a simple declaration on the part of France that she will no longer respect it. It is, after all, the merest of shams in the world. It is nothing more or less than a paper blockade, such as England imposed against France by her famous Orders in Council. Already five hundred vessels have successfully eluded it, and thereby established the fact that it is a paper blockade, and nothing else. France has an opportunity now which will never be offered her again. She may secure our coasting trade—if our Government should not unwisely prevent it—for we have no ships worth speaking of.

To the Editor of the Richmond Dispatch.

Count Mercier has opened negotiations with the Secretary of State, and Congress have determined to remain at their post during the important mission of the Minister of the Emperor. Any kind of arrangement will be made with the President of the Confederacy, and this is a perfect acknowledgment by France of our independence from the old United States. I am happy that my article in the *Enquirer* of yesterday has produced the desired effect to prolong the Congress while negotiations with Count Mercier are going on.

DR. LEMOINE.

Correspondence of the Petersburg Express.

RICHMOND, April 18.—M. de Comte Henri Mercier, the French Minister to the United States, who arrived in this city on Wednesday from Washington, had a long interview yesterday with the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State. The nature of this interview has not transpired.

The Evacuation of Fredericksburg Necessitated by McClellan's Strategy

From the Richmond Dispatch, April 19.

THE ENEMY IN STAFFORD—PROBABLE OCCUPATION OF THE TOWN OF FREDERICKSBURG.

Information was received by the citizens of Fredericksburg, Va., at four o'clock on Thursday afternoon, that the enemy was approaching through Stafford county, and the fact was at once communicated to our pickets and to Colonel Ewell's cavalry; but it seems that the latter previously had an intimation of the advance, and at once fell back, burning the three bridges across the Rappahannock connecting Fredericksburg with Stafford as they came into town. These bridges, as many of our readers are aware, were the Railroad, Collier's, and Falmouth bridges. Yesterday morning, at an early hour, the Yankees reached Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg. One of our informants says that they threw a few shells across the river, but there being no response the firing soon ceased. Of this, however, we are not positive. Meanwhile the three steamers, the St. Nicholas, the Virginia, and the Eureka, and some thirty sail vessels lying at the wharf loaded with grain, with a considerable quantity of cotton piled near the depot, were set on fire by our men and destroyed. The troops that were in and near the place, very few in number and utterly inadequate to make a defence against a considerable force, evacuated Fredericksburg after having performed the duties required of them.—Many of the citizens also fled, abandoning their property to the "tender mercies" of the enemy.

On the night previous some small skirmishes took place above Falmouth, in which the enemy were repulsed, but our men afterwards fell back. Mr. Charles Tacket, of Stafford, was taken prisoner, and we hear that one or two were killed. A wounded Yankee was captured by our pickets and sent down by the train yesterday morning, but he died before reaching Ashland. This man stated that the Federal force amounted to six thousand, and that they approached Fredericksburg from Fauquier county.

Our late advices inform us that the Common Council of Fredericksburg held a meeting yesterday, and agreed to surrender the place, there being no possible means of defence. The telegraph operator packed up his apparatus and left the place.

The train that left Richmond yesterday morning was stopped this side of Fredericksburg by a railroad agent. A regiment of troops was stationed some seven miles from the place, and the sick in camp were placed on board the train. All the men retired in safety.

The enemy can easily occupy the town of Fredericksburg, if he has not already done so, but an advance to Richmond from that direction is probably not contemplated. The obstructions would not be easily overcome.

Most of the rolling stock of the railroad was removed. Nothing was left behind but a few cars, and measures were progressing to have them taken to a place of security.

Little importance is attached to the occupation of Fredericksburg, as it was an event anticipated when the army of the Potomac was withdrawn.—There is nothing in the fact of the occupation to excite any alarm, or to create the expectation that the enemy will advance any great distance into the interior. He will, perhaps, remain where he has found a lodgment for some time to come, unless our forces concentrate at an early day in driving him back beyond the Potomac.

Odds and Ends from Late Southern Papers.

THE PROVOST-MARSHAL OF RICHMOND AND HIS POLICE.

The Richmond correspondent, "Timon," of the Charleston *Mercury*, in a recent letter to that journal, says:

On Broad, corner of Ninth street, is the spacious building where Provost-Marshal, Captain A. C. Godwin, holds his office. He is a Virginian by birth; a gentleman of fine culture, gentle manners, affable address, and quick perspicacity. He stands about six feet two inches in height, is of sandy complexion, wears a moustache and long, graceful goatee, has prominent cheek bones, penetrating but benevolent eyes, a well shaped mouth and regular teeth; with a figure denoting vigor and elasticity. His voice is pleasant, his manner firm and resolved, his reason always clear, unclouded and discriminating, and his disposition seemingly unbiased by either favor or prejudice. To aid him in the discharge of his arduous duties, he has Samuel McCubbin, formerly of Baltimore, Maryland, holding the office of Chief of Confederate States Military Police. He is a gentleman of about thirty-six, stout and squarely built, about five feet eight inches in height, dark complexion and open countenance, and a warm Secessionist—one who signalized his zeal for our liberties in the very twilight of this contest. Under his direction are several other officers, as follows: Colonel Charles C. Hicks, a native of Georgia, a Nicaraguan soldier under General Wm. Walker, a Colonel in the Italian army under Garibaldi, and more recently an officer in a Georgia volunteer regiment. He is about thirty-five years of age, very handsome, very athletic, and to my knowledge, a Secessionist since 1856. George W. Clackner is a Baltimorean. Like Hicks, he bears upon him at once the stamp of Mars and Venus. He was, during the administration of the memorable but inglorious Buchanan, one of Marshal Isaiah Rynders' deputies, in the city of New York. But immediately after the inauguration of Lincoln, cast his lot with the South.—Edward J. Costello, Theodore Woodall, Bernard Shaw and Philip Cuthmeyer, are all Marylanders, young, intelligent, and fine-looking men, each of whom distinguished himself in the fight of April the 19th, 1861, when the Massachusetts regiment were greeted with a foretaste of Southern welcome, in the streets of Baltimore.

RESIDENCE OF SIMMS, THE NOVELIST, DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The private residence of W. Gilmore Simms, Esq., near Midway, South Carolina, was totally consumed by fire on Saturday morning last, about 3 o'clock. The fire was so rapid in its progress that the inmates had hardly time to escape. Mr. Simms, we learn, fortunately saved his library, but nothing else. The origin of the fire is unknown.

LIEUT. PEGRAM.

Walker's battery has elected Lieut. Pegram, Captain, vice Walker, promoted to a Majority.

GEN. LEE CONFIDENT.

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston *Courier* mentions the following conversation between our Commander-in-Chief and himself: "I said, 'General, are you hopeful?' 'No, sir,' he replied, 'I am confident.' 'That is cheering,' I observed, 'in the face of our disasters and defeats.' 'These,' he said, 'have been the Bunker Hill victories of our enemy, and the providential mystery is how they have been so few. But the day of terrible retribution is nigh; he will be ruined; the North will be beggared and bankrupt, and the South will pass out of the ordeal respected by the nations of the world, and with an imperishable name in history.'"

A CONTRABAND IN WALL STREET.—Yesterday afternoon a very black individual, belonging to that class of beings commonly designated "contrabands," made his appearance at an office in Wall street, and told a woful tale about his troubles. He confessed that he was from Wilmington, N. C., which place he had been induced to leave, and subsequently was induced, by plausible stories, to visit the North, as a paradise of freedom, where work was to be had in abundance, and fabulous sums would be given for labor. He made his way to this city in a Government vessel or otherwise; but instead of finding plenty and freedom, he was encountered with cool indifference wherever he applied for assistance. He professed to be a cooper by trade, and said that he could find no employment here, and was weary seeking for aid and comfort. The "bosses" told him that they dare not give him work, because all their white hands would instantly leave them in disgust. Coming to the conclusion that Northern freedom and equality were all gammon, he only asked for a little assistance to get back to Wilmington once more, where he expected at least to get enough to eat and drink.—*New York Herald.*

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Various petitions were presented, one from citizens of Philadelphia in favor of the recognition of the republic of Liberia, and that it may be treated as an independent nation by the United States; and several from different parts of the country in favor of a general bankrupt law.

Mr. ASHMUN, of Rhode Island, from the Committee on Printing, recommended the printing of five thousand copies of the report of the special committee relative to the surrender of the Norfolk and Pensacola navy yards, and the destruction of property there and at the Harper's Ferry armory, without the evidence, which was agreed to.

Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, from the special committee to which it had been referred, made a voluminous report on the case of Mr. Starke, Senator from Oregon by appointment of the Governor of that State, relative to the charges of disloyalty made against him, reaching the following conclusions:

1. That for many months prior to November 21, 1861, and up to that date, the said Starke was an advocate of the course of the rebellious States.

2. That after the formation of the Constitution of the Confederate States (so called) he openly declared his admiration for it, and advocated the adoption of the loyal States of the Union into the Southern Confederacy under that Constitution, as the only means of peace, warmly avowing his sympathy with the South.

3. That the Senator from Oregon is disloyal to the Government of the United States.

The report was ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANTHONY introduced a resolution of inquiry relative to the operations of General T. W. Sherman, late commander at Port Royal. He indicated that Savannah and other important points of the Southern coast might have fallen before this, but that Gen. S. had been circumscribed in his operations by the orders under which he acted. The resolution was adopted, as follows:

RESOLVED, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, copies of all orders, despatches and communications made by the War Department to or by the Major General commanding the armies of the United States, to Brigadier General Thomas W. Sherman, while in command of the military expedition to the South Atlantic coast, and all communications made by General Sherman during the same period to the War Department and to the commanding General.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, called up the bill providing for the recognition of Liberia as an independent government, and on his motion it was made the special order for twelve and a half o'clock to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. SIMMONS, of Rhode Island, the House bill to establish a Department of Agriculture was taken up, the question pending being on the amendment of Mr. Wright, of Indiana, as a substitute enlarging the scope for such a department, and establishing four bureaus therein.

On motion of Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, the amendment was amended by striking out the provision for a bureau of agricultural chemistry, and the clause providing for essays upon agriculture and rural science.

Mr. Wright's amendment was then lost by a vote of 12 yeas, 23 nays.

Mr. FOSTER, of Connecticut, proposed to amend by substituting the bill which he introduced some time ago for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture and statistics under the Department of the Interior, and transferring the census work thereto.

This proposition was discussed by several, and it being suggested by Mr. Fessenden that as the census was taken only once in ten years, and its direction was committed to some one specially adapted to it, Mr. Foster modified his proposition so as not to disturb the census bureau—and urged the importance of legislating for the agricultural interest, as the basis of all our wealth.

Mr. HALE, of Indiana, suggested that it was an improper time for legislation on this subject.

Mr. HALE took the same view, and the morning hour expiring, the subject went over.

The Confiscation bill was taken up as the special order, Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, having the floor. Promising that arms were the legitimate means for putting down the rebellion, that our armies were equal to it, and that he repelled with contempt any charges of disloyalty on account of his views, he proceeded at length to oppose the bill. He admitted that in great exigencies unusual powers might be assumed; but he held that the present party had prevailed here in connection with the war, in which thousands of lives of our brave soldiers, in camp and in the field, and hundreds of millions of dollars had been sacrificed.

Mr. D. condemned that the bill (Mr. Trumbull's) in the wide extent to which it affected, was a great revolutionary and insurrectionary measure, like the rebellion itself. He assumed that there are as many disloyal persons in the loyal States, as there are loyal persons in the seceded States and the bill effects at the least upwards of 6,000,000 of the white population. There are the seceded States, with 3,500,000 slaves, and five thousand millions of dollars of property, would be subject to a confiscation which was so inhuman and unjust, and so great an act of usurpation on the part of Congress, that every citizen would be justified in resisting it by all means in his power, subject, of course, to the decision of the judicial tribunals in sustaining these rights subsequently.

In further illustration of the impropriety of the measure, Mr. D. showed the mutual dependence of the agricultural and manufacturing industry of the loyal States, and the slave labor of the disloyal States in the trade relations of the two sections, which it was necessary to encourage and re-establish. The free States had found a market in the South to the extent of $150,000,000 annually, and he asked is this to be permanently destroyed? If this bill becomes a law, a voice will be heard coming up from the country which would have to be obeyed in this Cham