THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States a resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire if any General of the army of the United States before Yorktown has exhibited himself drunk on duty in the face of the enemy. The bill for the recognition of Hayti and Liberia was again called up, but no vote was taken upon it. The debate on the Confiscation bill was again resumed, and was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Bingham's substitute for the Confiscation bill was laid on the table by a vote of 54 to 48. The Confiscation bill, as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, was then taken up, and was under consideration when the House adjourned.

By the arrival at New York of the steamer City of New York, we have European advices to the 16th instant. The subject of iron-clad ships, and the utter inutility of wooden war vessels and the ordinary sea coast fortifications when opposed to them, continued to occupy the attention of the English public. A new steamer, called the Orieto, which was built ostensibly for the Italian Government, but which is supposed to be for the service of the Southern Confederacy, has sailed for Palermo—some say in ballast, whilst others declare that she had arms and ammunition on board. There are still other rumors to the effect that the Orieto will proceed to Palermo, and from thence to Bermuda, where she will take on board her armament and ammunition. She left Liverpool under sealed orders. The Secretary at Lloyd's has addressed a circular to the underwriters notifying them that it is generally believed that a vessel has been recently fitted out by the Confederates to cruise in the Atlantic, for the express purpose of capturing and destroying all vessels bearing the Federal flag. A telegram, sent in reply to the above circular, states that the ship Yorktown had been captured by a Confederate vessel. The name of the steamer which left Liverpool is said to be the Opeto, and not the Orieto, as originally styled. She had an English register, and sailed from Liverpool on the 22d ult. with a crew of fifty men. The Sumter was still at Gibraltar, and the Tuscarora at Algesiras. The experiments made at Shoeburyness, in England, by Sir William Armstrong, have proven that no form of iron-plated ship hitherto devised is invulnerable to guns of large size and great calibre. A target, representing a section of the Monitor, "proved to be as vulnerable almost as timber;" and it was supposed that shot aimed at a target made of railway bars, dovetailed and riveted together in the same ingenious manner as the Merrimac—would produce similar results. A target, representing a section of the English mail coated frigate Warrior, was penetrated at a distance of two hundred yards, "the iron mass being shattered into crumbs of metal, and the teak splintered into fibres literally as small as pins."

The New York *Post* characterizes the recent repulse of the Vermont troops at Lee's mills on the Peninsula, as a brilliant but stupid affair. "They were sent" says the *Post*, "for what purpose it is impossible from the account to tell, to ford a stream whose water was up to their breasts, and take a small battery or large rifle-pit." The personal daring of the troops thus engaged is highly praised; but the *Post*, nevertheless, confesses that "it seems to have been another Ball's Bluff butchery on a smaller scale," and adds, that though the General in command ought to be satisfied with the courage of men under his command, "we know that the public and those whose sons, husbands or brothers were killed in this seemingly objectless butchery are not content."

A despatch from New York, received last evening, states that the *Post* has recanted its strictures on the conduct of General Smith at Lee's Mills, who is now declared to be one of the most temperate men in the army, and whom General McClellan praises for his gallantry and skill on the occasion referred to.

It is asserted by the New York *Times* that the reason why the Merrimac was not attacked by the Monitor and other vessels in Hampton Roads, when she left come out from Norfolk, was in consequence of strict orders from the Secretary of the Navy, to the officers of the squadron, directing them not to move or discharge a gun unless the Merrimac attacked them. The *Times* does not doubt the Secretary's loyalty, but asks, "Is he mad?"

A telegram from Houston, Texas county, Missouri, professes to give exact information concerning the position of the Confederate forces under Price and Van Dorn. "Last Monday," we are told, "their respective commands were at Des Arc, ninety miles below Jacksonport, on White river." Price himself is reported to have gone to Corinth. Albert Pike, with three thousand Indians and Texans, is said to be on the border watching Curtis.

A correspondent of the Richmond *Dispatch* reports that General Fremont was at Raleigh Court House on the 10th inst. The writer thinks that "bad roads, mire and rain will not stop Fremont long," but intimates, somewhat significantly—"If he don't look sharp, he'll strike a snag."

According to the Savannah *Republican*, the fall of Fort Pulaski does not give the enemy any particular advantage that he did not possess before, as he has had control of much of the river above that point for months past. The *Republican* calls upon the people of Georgia never to abandon their river defences so long as reinforcements can be supplied to man the guns. The opinion is expressed that "if the batteries are fought as Georgians should fight them, the enemy will never be able to obtain a point with his ships within shelling range of the town."

The Albany *Evening Journal*—Thurlow Weed's paper—is constrained to confess that the slaves in the South, who were expected to assist in their own liberation, have not manifested the alacrity to embrace the opportunities for freedom which the Republicans anticipated at an earlier stage of the war. "We counted," says the *Journal*, "upon insurrections—terrible and wide-spread insurrections—among the servile population;" but the result, it admits, has not come to pass. The *Journal* regrets to say that experience has shown that "the negro has become half enamored of his chains;" and adds, gloomily: "This is not a pleasant truth to learn; but we cannot know it too soon."

A telegram from Cairo of Tuesday last states that in consequence of the incessant rains which have fallen since the battle of Shiloh, it is now an utter impossibility for the Federal army to move. We also learn that Beauregard was constantly being reinforced.

From Fortress Monroe we have nothing of importance. Another version is given of the recent engagement between a detachment of Burnside's troops and a party of Confederates on the Dismal Swamp Canal. The Merrimac is said to be in the dry dock at Gosport, where she is having iron shutters placed over her port-holes. It is reported that four additional gunboats have been launched at the navy yard, and that four others were in course of construction. It is supposed that the Merrimac will be out again in the course of a few days. M. Mercier has reached Fortress Monroe on his return from Richmond. His despatches proceed immediately by sea to New York, where a steamer is waiting to convey them to France. According to a telegram from Washington, the visit of M. Mercier to Richmond has no political significance. If this be so, it is certainly remarkable that he should take such pains to transmit his despatches to his Government with such haste and by special steamer.

BALTIMORE AND THE WEST.—By an arrangement entered into by the Baltimore and Ohio and Marietta and Cincinnati Railroads, goods are now shipped and passengers forwarded with great expedition between Baltimore and the West. The route by the these two roads is fifty-three miles shorter than any other route from the Atlantic to Cincinnati, and cannot fail to attract the attention of all who may have business transactions with Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Louisville, Evansville, and in fact with all points of importance in the West, Northwest and Southwest.—Both roads are represented to be in excellent working order, and fully able to carry all the passengers and freight that may offer. The Baltimore and Ohio road has long had the reputation of being the great National highway to the West, and the new arrangement will doubtless cause an immense amount of Western produce to seek a market through this channel. The agent of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroads in Baltimore is Mr. Samuel Shaffner, a gentleman long connected with the Central Ohio Railroad, in which employ he gained the respect of all having business transactions with him.

The recent order of the Treasury Department forbidding the shipment of coal to foreign ports, and to home ports south of the Delaware, has been so far modified as to confine it to the ports north of Cape St. Roque, South America, and west of that longitude.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Bohemian.

PORTLAND April 23.—The steamer Bohemian, from Londonderry on the 11th instant, has arrived.

Rumor says the relations existing between England, France and Spain relative to Mexico are unsatisfactory.

The Augsburg *Gazette* asserts on reliable information that England has succeeded in bringing Spain to her side in the Mexican question, by a promise not to object should Spain take Hayti.

From Copenhagen it is reported that Prussia has proposed to Denmark the petition of Schleswig, as a solution of the present difficulty.

Advices from Constantinople of the 10th state that the Pope had informed the Great Powers that he had sent orders to Omar Pasha to address an ultimatum to the Prince of Montenegro, demanding the immediate release of the Turkish prisoner, and a formal engagement on the part of the Prince to henceforth prevent any invasions of Turkish territory. The statement that the Turkish troops had entered Montenegro is incorrect.

Garibaldi had been received with much enthusiasm at Paris.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

LIVERPOOL, April 11—Cotton closed buoyant at ⅛ higher—sales of the week 62,000 bales. Flour closed firm at 6d. advance. Wheat steady and firm. Corn quiet but steady. Provisions dull and unchanged. Consols closed on Friday at 93⅝@94. United States 5's quoted at 77@78.

ARRIVAL OF THE PERSIA.

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.

THE QUESTION OF FORTIFICATIONS AND IRON-CLAD VESSELS STILL AGITATING ENGLAND.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The steamer Persia, from Liverpool, via Queenstown, on the 13th, has arrived

The privateer Sumter still remains at Gibraltar, and the Tuscarora at Algesiras.

The schooner W. C. Alexander, of Savannah, at Palermo, was boarded by an armed boat's crew from the United States corvette Ino and the master and crew taken prisoners on board the Ino, but they were subsequently released under representations from the officers of the port.

The subject of fortifications and the recent important experiments with a 300-pounder Armstrong gun at Shoeburyness has been further debated in Parliament. It is predicted that Armstrong will soon produce a 600 pounder to do the same damage at 2,200 yards as his 300-pounder has just done at 200 yards.

The House of Commons has also debated Italian affairs. Lord Palmerston believed that sooner or later the unity of Italy would be completed by the possession of Rome. Both Houses had resolved to adjourn as usual for the Easter holidays until the 28th of April. It was believed the session would not extend much beyond the end of June.

It is rumored at Paris that Count Walewski will make a special mission to England with subject of the differences between France and England in reference to Mexican affairs.

The Paris Bourse closed firmer at 70f. 10c.

Continental news is unimportant.

Consols closed at London on Saturday at 93¾@93⅞.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Arrival of Refugees from Norfolk—The Merrimac at Gosport Navy Yard Making Alterations—Rebel Gunboats Getting Ready for Service—Return of the French Minister from Richmond.

Fortress Monroe, April 23.—A small row-boat arrived here this morning from Norfolk, containing three men, one woman and two children. The refugees report the Merrimac still at Gosport Navy Yard. Workmen were engaged in placing iron shields over the port-holes. It was supposed that this improvement would be completed and the Merrimac would be out again in two or three days. The Merrimac, they say, was aground on the last day that she came out, as was generally supposed here, but whether injured or not was not stated. Nothing was said, however, about the bursting of any of her guns, and that supposition was undoubtedly incorrect.

The steamer Jamestown and the steam tug Beaufort went up James river on Friday, and the Yorktown on Sunday, to obtain coal at Richmond.—They took in tow a number of schooners loaded with iron to be rolled into plates at the Iron Works in Richmond. Four new gunboats have been launched at the Navy Yard, and four more are in course of construction at Norfolk. A portion of these will, it is supposed, be covered with the iron plates above mentioned.

The previously reported engagement between the troops of General Burnside and a Georgia regiment took place on Saturday. The Union troops are said to have numbered 500, (not 5,000.)

The Rebel troops consisted of the 31 Georgia regiment, Colonel Wright, and the engagement took place, not as first stated at Elizabeth City, but on the canal above that place. The Rebel loss was 15 killed and 35 wounded. They were only partly equipped and many lacked muskets and ammunition, and they are said to have run on being attacked. The Union troops held their ground until they had buried their dead and carried away their wounded, when they retired. Eleven graves of Union soldiers were subsequently counted on the battle-field.

One of the refugees visited Richmond last week. He states that there were very few troops either there or at Norfolk, they mostly having been sent to Yorktown.

Fourteen thousand troops are said to have passed through Richmond one day last week, bound for Yorktown.

The whole party of refugees come from Savannah. One of the men, who is accompanied by his wife and children, belongs to Halifax. Another is a native of New York, and is a carpenter. The third is one of the crew of the Fingal, which ran the blockade some time since at Savannah, and who were sent here, as will be remembered, from Norfolk by a flag of truce some weeks since, but were immediately returned by General Wool. The rest of the crew are still in Norfolk. Up to last Saturday they were supported by the British Consul, but a recent despatch from Lord Lyons has thrown them upon their own resources, and it is supposed they will be forced to enlist in the Rebel navy.

One of the men who left Savannah on the 1st of April confirms the reports of the great consternation there incident upon the expected attack on Pulaski and the city. The steamer Fingal and other vessels in the harbor were ready to be sunk or burnt. Considerable mortality prevailed among the Rebel troops in the vicinity of Savannah. Our informant says they have been dying in large numbers from sickness, induced on account of the dirty condition in which they keep themselves.

As heretofore frequently stated, the city might have been easily taken by our troops at the time of their first landing at Port Royal. An attack was then confidently expected, and the whole city was in a state of intense excitement and alarm.

These refugees arrived at Old Point about 2½ o'clock this morning, after passing very close to the Rebel pickets and batteries, and were hailed for the first time by the steamer Baltimore, lying in the harbor.

The English steamer Rinaldo left her anchorage in the upper part of the Roads this forenoon, and is now anchored below the Minnesota.

The French steamer Gassendi returned from Norfolk with M. Mercier, the French Minister, this afternoon. His despatches proceed immediately to New York by sea, where a steamer is in waiting to convey them to France.

LATEST FROM PITTSBURG LANDING. The Army Unable to Move in Consequence of Bad Roads.

CAIRO, April 22.—An arrival from Pittsburg Landing furnishes the following intelligence from the seat of war in that section:

The weather has been excessively unfavorable for the movements of the army. During the last three days the rain has fallen incessantly, and it is now an utter impossibility for the army to move, on account of the great depth of the mud in the roads.

The preparations are, however, going on steadily, so that when the roads improve the army will be in readiness for battle.

Beauregard was being constantly reinforced.

The citizens of Memphis and New Orleans are throwing up their occupations and flocking to his standard, believing that on the engaging battle depends the fate of the Valley of the Mississippi.

It is thought, by those who ought to know, that a majority of the Southern people are ready to lay down their arms and return to the Union if defeated at Corinth, while the leaders are as desperate as ever.

Five of the Rebel miscreants who fired on the steamer Minnehaha, on her recent trip up the river, have been captured, and will be shot. A quantity of ammunition and a number of United States horses have been captured with them.

The river at this point (Cairo) is at a stand—but experienced river men say that an overflow is inevitable.

At Pittsburg Landing the Tennessee river was fifteen feet on Sunday night, and the country opposite the landing was covered with water to the depth of four feet. The rise has not yet reached Cairo.

The steamer Eastport, which was captured from the Rebels, is being transformed into a first-class gunboat. She is nearly completed, and will be the largest boat of the flotilla, and carry 10-inch Dahlgren guns.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

HOUSTON, Texas county, Mo., April 19.—We have been amused at the reports concerning the whereabouts of Price and Van Dorn—one day they are reported at Pittsburg, Tennessee, and the next day at Pittman's Ferry, on Black river, whilst we know positively that they are at neither place. Last Monday Price and Van Dorn's commands were at Des Arc, ninety miles below Jacksonport, on White river. So far from the Rebels being at Pittman's Ferry, they have actually reached Pocahontas.—The town is now deserted, even the merchants having removed their goods. Jacksonport is also nearly deserted, the Rebels having been removed to Des Arc, where they seem to be concentrating a large force. Price is reported to have gone to Corinth.

Albert Pike, with twenty-five hundred Indians and six hundred Texan Rangers, were left on the border to harass Curtis and engage the Kansas troops if possible, while upon our south Coleman is in close proximity, and Edgar Ashbury is also trying to raise a regiment for guerilla warfare on the border.

Col. Schnabel is in Velville, Arkansas, with one hundred and fifty men. McBride has gone to headquarters to raise an independent command to operate in Northern Arkansas and Southern Missouri. Col. McFarland, with his command, has gone to Des Arc.

Lieutenant Colonel Wood, the Commandant at this post, has been absent nearly a week. He returned last evening, and already we are under marching orders; we look out for something in this district soon.

FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER.

Visit of the Gunboat Yankee to Fredericksburg—Seven Rebel Vessels Captured

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The King Philip arrived at the Navy Yard this morning, and reports that the steamer Yankee went up the Rappahannock river to Fredericksburg yesterday, having cautiously passed through the sunken obstructions seven miles below that town. Our flotilla have captured seven Rebel schooners—one with a valuable cargo of dry goods, medicines and saltpetre—and also two small steamers. It is further stated that the Rebel pickets are occasionally seen on the south side of the river. Our troops still command the position of Fredericksburg, the residents of which are entirely free in their usual business pursuits.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Particulars of the Occupation of Harrisonburg.

HARRISONBURG, April 22.—Col. Donnelly made a reconnoissance to-day towards this town, and when approaching it we were fired on by a Rebel cavalry scout. Two companies of the Ohio Cavalry were deployed on the left towards the Gordonsville turnpike, and the same number of Vermont Cavalry on the right, whilst the Michigan cavalry were in the centre with Hampton's battery and the Connecticut 5th formed the reserve.

The Rebel cavalry, after a brisk fire, retreated to the town, where they joined their command, and when crossing by the Gordonsville road were met by the Ohio cavalry, and seven men and eleven horses were captured. The rest escaped. The town was then entered and occupied by Colonel Donnelly and his cavalry. We found in the town eight of Jackson's Winchester hostages, whom he released yesterday near the Shenandoah on their parole of honor. Two of the original number had died of fatigue and want of attention. The rest are now on their way home. Large amounts of forage and grain are being secured in the valley.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Visit of the French Minister to Richmond

WASHINGTON, April 23.—No political importance is attached to the visit of the French Minister to Richmond. It is said, in quarters usually well-informed upon diplomatic subjects, that although the Southern authorities may seek to take advantage of it, his going thither was on business in close connection with the Consulates.

Undue importance has also been attached to the presence of ex-Senator Gwin in Richmond. It is believed his business is of domestic rather than of political character, and it can be safely stated that the visit of the same gentleman to Richmond is not in the remotest degree connected with the United States Government, as has been without reason surmised.

Republican Caucus

WASHINGTON, April 23.—A Republican caucus was held to-night at the capitol, continuing in session until nearly eleven o'clock. About fifty members were present, Mr. Colfax, in the Chair, and Mr. McPherson, acting as Secretary.

A general debate ensued upon the several Confiscation bills before [illegible] Messrs. Stevens, Blair of Missouri, Cox, Hickman of Ohio and others participated. The discussion was somewhat of a character of that which has recently taken place in the House upon that subject.

The sense of the caucus seemed to be in favor of discriminating against the leading Rebels in the confiscation of all kinds of property. It was unanimously agreed to refer all the bills pending in the House to a select committee of seven members, as moved to-day by Representative Olin.

News from San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Four steamers from Oregon and British Columbia have arrived within three days. The Northern mining regions were now being accessible again, and the steamers will, doubtless, return crowded with passengers.

Ship Lotus arrived to-day from Hong Kong March 8, with 250 passengers.

Steamer Orizaba sailed to-day for Panama, taking 140 passengers, $170,000 in treasure for New York, and $240,000 for England. Hon. Edward Stanley, the newly appointed military Governor of North Carolina, was among the passengers.

Sailed ship Uncowah, for Callao.

Affairs in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, April 22.—Henry L. Rust, one of the parties indicted by the grand jury of the United States Circuit Court, in this city, for conspiracy and treason, has been released from custody by order of the President.

The difficulty at the entwent of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, at East St. Louis, has terminated. No effort was made to interfere with the military guard left there. It is believed the opening of the culvert would inflict less injury than was at first supposed.

From Commodore Foote's Fleet.

CAIRO, April 23.—Advices from the fleet yesterday, say there has been no firing for the last three days. It is reported that the Rebels have fourteen gunboats, of which seven are off Fort Walker, including the famous Manassas ram which arrived up on Sunday. Hollins was also there having came in the McRae.

From Pittsburg Landing—Another Rebel Steamer Captured.

CAIRO, April 23.—A steamer from Pittsburg Landing has arrived with dates to yesterday.

The gunboat Tyler, while reconnoitering up the Tennessee river, captured the Rebel steamer J. Robb near the mouth of Crane Creek, one of the boats which eluded our first expedition up this river after the fall of Fort Henry. Her name has been changed to Lady Teler. The weather is rather more pleasant. The water is subsiding.

The Rumors in Regard to General Smith.

NEW YORK, April 23.—The *Post* says that the rumors against General Smith appear to have no foundation in fact. Not only is he one of the most temperate men in the army, but a private despatch from General McClellan says he gallantly and skilfully gained a great advantage for our arms, silencing the fire of a battery splendidly, with little loss on our side. Letters from General Smith state that his horse, a spirited animal, fell with him during the action, which suggests the probable cause of the unjust rumors.

The Relief Voted by Maryland for the Families of the Killed and Disabled Men of the Massachusetts Sixth Regiment.

BOSTON, April 22.—The resolution adopted by the Maryland Legislature, signed by Governor Bradford, appropriating $7,000 for the relief of the families of the killed and disabled men of the Massachusetts 6th regiment, by the secession mob in Baltimore, on the 19th of April, 1861, were read this afternoon in the House, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. The resolution caused a marked sensation, and its reading was followed by hearty applause.

Railroad Accident.

CINCINNATI, April 22.—The Central Ohio express train, bound west from Bellaire, this morning ran off the track near Spencer's Station, instantly killing S. Corbin, the conductor, and severely injuring several other persons.

Cotton and Tobacco from Tennessee River.

PITTSBURG, April 22.—The first boat load of cotton and tobacco from the Tennessee river left Nashville last week, and arrived here last evening. It will be sent East over the Pennsylvania railroad today.

Arrival of the Teutonia

NEW YORK, April 23.—The steamer Teutonia has arrived, from Liverpool on the 9th instant. Her advices are anticipated.

From the N. Y. Post.

BOTH BRILLIANT AND STUPID.

On Wednesday last the Third Vermont regiment, before Yorktown, performed a very brilliant service. They were sent, for what purpose it is impossible from the accounts to tell, to ford a stream whose water was up to their breasts, and take a small battery or large rifle-pit. They were exposed to the enemy's fire from the moment they entered the stream; charged and carried the rifle-pit, dripping as they came out of the water; held it till the enemy came up in such force as to expel them; then had to wade back again under a still heavier fire. They returned with a loss of thirty-five killed and one hundred and twenty-nine wounded and missing. Those who witnessed the affair relate numerous instances of personal daring and devotion which will make the Green Mountain State proud of her boys.

It does not seem to have occurred to any one to throw over a pontoon bridge for the brave fellows to get back over; and, accordingly, in the retreat we read that "many were shot in the water and drowned." And if those who were unhurt had not been uncommonly brave, the wounded would all have fallen into the enemy's hands. Our soldiers will do all that men can do, we may be sure of that.—They saved the day by hard fighting at Pittsburg Landing; they are brave, cool, determined, obedient. The best evidence of their bravery is, perhaps, that they fight resolutely even under such officers as the General Smith who sent these Vermont boys across a stream to attack a battery, and when they were forced to fall back, for lack of the reinforcements which he did not send them, had no bridge ready for them—though there was plenty of time—and let them wade back under a murderous fire.

It seems to have been another Ball's Bluff butchery on a small scale; and, after all, it does not seem that the battery the Vermonters charged was needed by our side; for after thirty-five men were killed and one hundred and twenty-nine wounded, the place was left in possession of the enemy. Did the General want to test the courage of his soldiers? He ought to be satisfied. We doubt if they are; but we know that the public, and those whose sons, husbands or brothers were killed in this seemingly objectless butchery, are not content. It is reported that General Smith is under arrest. So is General Stone. Let them be tried, and let the men who devise Ball's Bluff affairs be known and punished.

FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

MORE CONFEDERATE PRIVATEERS.

THE CONFEDERACY IN PARLIAMENT.

Continental Matters.

The screw steamer City of New York, Captain Petrie, which sailed from Liverpool on the afternoon of the 9th, and from Queenstown on the 10th inst., arrived at New York on Tuesday morning. Her news is four days later than previous advices.

CONFEDERATE PRIVATEERING.

A new steamer, called the Orieto, sailed from Liverpool on the 22d March, and according to rumor, she is intended for the service of the Confederates in destroying Northern commerce on the Atlantic. The Orieto was built at Liverpool, ostensibly for the Italian Government, and is, consequently, adapted for warlike purposes. She measures seven hundred and fifty tons, is capable of carrying several guns of the largest calibre on a draft of about twelve feet, and is represented as one of the finest and fastest vessels of her class afloat. The vessel was regularly cleared at Liverpool for Palermo, in ballast, and had a crew of about fifty men on board. Very contradictory statements were current as to the real destination of the vessel, her armament, &c.

According to some reports the vessel had arms and ammunition on board when she left the Mersey, but this is positively denied, and the denial is accompanied by the assertion that she had not an ounce of powder nor a single gun on board, and that her *bona fide* destination was Palermo. Other reports are that the vessel will doubtless go to Palermo, and that she will thence proceed to Bermuda, where she will take on board the armament and ammunition specially sent there for her. She is then (says rumor) to take the sea either as a privateer or as a war vessel commissioned by the Confederates. The Orieto left Liverpool under sealed orders.

A PRIVATEER FITTED OUT IN ENGLAND.

The following correspondence has passed between Lloyd's and the Underderwriters' room of Liverpool, respecting the fitting out of a Confederate vessel for the capture and destruction of Federal vessels:

"Lloyd's, April 5.—The Yorkshire captured by the Confederates.

"Sir:—I am directed to acquaint you that a report is current at Lloyd's, which, from the confident manner in which it is put forward, is believed, of a vessel having been recently fitted out at an expense of £20,000, (at what port is not known,) to cruise in the Atlantic for the express purpose of capturing and destroying all vessels bearing the Federal flag. The Committee, considering it a matter of the greatest importance to all persons engaged in the trade with America, instruct me to give you notice of the fact, and to state that they will feel obliged by your instituting any inquiry in your power into the matter, and telegraphing the result, and also by your afterwards communicating by letter any information bearing on the subject.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"G. A. HALSTED, Captain, R. N.,
"Secretary, Lloyd's.

"Thomas Court, Esq.,
"Underwriters' Rooms, Liverpool."

The following is a copy of a telegram received in reply to the above:

"The Yorkshire captured by Confederates, should be Yorktown. The Orieto, which left this port on the 19th, is supposed to be the vessel alluded to in your letter. She left in ballast. I will write you fully."

Copy of telegram received on the 5th of April:—

"Urgent information you wanted was not sent end last night, and a letter will be sent this evening. Steamer mentioned is understood to be for Confederates. She has English register. Left this port, manned with a crew of fifty men. She sailed on the 22d (not 19th), under sealed orders, I believe."

Gibraltar advices of the 31 instant state that the Sumter was still at that port, and the Federal ship Tuscarora remained at Algesiras. The sloop Kearsarge crossed over to Gibraltar on the 30th of March and remained there two days, after which she proceeded to Algesiras and sailed for the West.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the House of Commons, on the 7th instant, Mr. D'Israeli made a general attack upon the financial policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Gladstone replied, and with considerable bitterness refuted the arguments of Mr. D'Israeli.

During the general debate which ensued Mr. Bentinck condemned the policy of the Government, and attributed the decline of the country to its inconsistent and changeable policy in refusing to recognize the Confederate States.

The question of shield-ships and floating batteries [illegible] was current numerous vessels were building in England, some of them iron-plated ships. The whole of the hands had been removed from the wooden ships building at the several dock-yards, and were employed on the iron cased frigates under construction.

The cruisers in England are represented as most promising and efficient.

[illegible] has been made in the Commons [illegible] don.

"That [illegible] freedom of this city, in a gold box [illegible] sum of one hundred guineas, be presented to George Peabody, Esq., an American citizen, in grateful recognition of the princely munificence displayed by him in devoting the sum of £150,000 toward the relief of the poor and deserving poor of this metropolis, and as the Christian liberality of sentiment which dictated this gift fund thus created should be administered irrespective of the distinctions of nationality, party or religious belief."

THE CONFEDERACY IN PARLIAMENT.

Bell's Life says:—"We hail we it is Hennan's intention at once to throw down the gauntlet to Mace and have another shy for the original belt. Mace, who seems to have expected the arrival of a fresh candidate with some anxiety, writes to us from Norwich that Mr. Moss Phillips has full authority to treat with Heenan, and to sign articles for any amount up to £500 a side. It is rumored that Sayers has issued a cartel calling on Heenan to once more try conclusions with him; but as Sayers is under a bond never to fight again, and as his friends are determined to prevent his doing so, we are inclined to believe this is mere gossip. At any rate, it is certain that if Sayers gave up his present profitable speculation and sporting circles, the matter would go no further, as his friends would take steps to prevent it. We know not whether Heenan's brother has come over on the same business; but if he has, Mace has clearly his work cut out, seeing that should one brother be unsuccessful, the other would doubtless spring up to avenge his fall. In addition to his pugilistic practice, the Benicia Boy has, we hear, undertaken an engagement with a troupe of equestrians during the Exhibition."

THE SAFETY OF THE UNION STILL DOUBTFUL.

From the London Post (Government organ), April 9.

Fortune continues to smile on the Federal arms. Both in Virginia and North Carolina the Southern forces have been compelled to retire with loss. If victories such as these which have been announced to us could, even in conjunction with those which have preceded them, lead us to anticipate a speedy termination of the civil war, or could raise hopes of that happy consummation looked forward to by the citizens of the North, of once more seeing united in the same Republic the divided portions, we should hail with satisfaction the intelligence we have received. The experience of the past, as disclosed to us in the pages of history, forbids us entertaining such hopes.

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We therefore, whilst acknowledging the prowess of the Northern arms, cannot but deplore as objectless the successes which have been gained. Are the Southern States to be held by armed force in the event of the Federal troops reducing them to subjection, or will they once more willingly coalesce with their conquerors to form single a nation? If these victories are to be followed up, it must be in the hopes of securing this much wished-for subjection; but, subsequently, let us ask, how are the fruits to be retained? We doubt if, even at New York or Washington, there are any to be found who seriously imagine that the millions, both white and black, free men and slaves, who compose the population of the Southern States, could be held in submission for any length of time. And if not, to what end the projected conquest of the country? But if the Southern States are not to be held by pure military force, will they, when they find the tide of fortune decidedly adverse, capitulate and return once more to that Government from which they have seceded? We are told by the supporters of the Union that they will. But if such a contingency is probable, will the probability be much increased by the defeats which they are now so frequently made to suffer? Are the feelings engendered by the destruction of their towns, their forts and their ships, such as will the more readily induce them to join hands in friendship with their former brethren? We are inclined to think not; and in each additional battle which we record we only see another proof added that the severance between the North and South is final and irrevocable.

THE FAMINE IN IRELAND.

THE COUNT DE PARIS ON THE LOYALTY OF THE IRISH TO THE UNION.

To the Editor of the London Times:

SIR: Will you have the kindness to insert in your next publication the following letter, addressed to me, as the Treasurer of the Gowla Angling Club Relief Fund for this district, by his Royal Highness the Count de Paris? His Royal Highness was a member of the club for two seasons. I therefore took the liberty of bringing under his notice the deep distress at present existing in this locality. I feel assured that his letter will be perused with much interest by those who sympathize with the wants of the suffering poor.

ROBERT MECREDY.

Recess, Galway, April 7.

LETTER OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.

MANASSAS JUNCTION, VA., March 21, 1862.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter, and I thank you for not having doubted of the interest I should take in the sufferings of the poor neighbors of Gowla. After having witnessed more than once the misfortunes of the Irish race on its own soil, I admire daily here on the continent of America its energies and devotion to the country of its adoption. I have sent an order to Messrs. Coutts & Co., in London, to hold at your disposal the sum of £20, which you may get through their correspondent in Dublin, and add to the subscription list of the members of the Gowla Club.

LOUIS PHILIPPE D'ORLEANS.

To ROBERT MECREDY, Esq.

DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT EASTERN.

The Great Eastern, after undergoing a thorough overhaul at Milford Haven, where her rudder and stern post have been strengthened, will leave that port on Tuesday, the 6th of May, for New York, and will return from that port for Liverpool about the middle of the following month. The vessel has had a thorough overhaul, and everything promises well for a more successful future. As the new Cunard steamer Scotia leaves on the Saturday following the departure of the Great Eastern, much interest will necessarily be attached to this voyage of the big ship.

ARRIVAL OF THE CONFEDERATE SHIP SOPHIA AT LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL, Tuesday.—Last night another Confederate vessel entered the Mersey. The name of this new arrival is the Sophia, and she comes direct from Charleston, having successfully run the blockade of that port. Her cargo, which is a very valuable one, consists of 312 bales of cotton, 105 boxes and 92 casks of tobacco, and 222 barrels of rosin. Captain Stevenson, of the Sophia, states that a large number of vessels have lately run the blockade at Charleston, while several were getting ready to follow. The vessels recently sunk at the mouth of Charleston harbor with stones, were found breaking up, as the harbor was covered with large quantities of the wrecks of these vessels.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS.

A despatch from Marseilles announces the landing at that port of the Japanese Ambassadors.

They were received by the Marquis de Treviso, Senator, and by Count de Maupas, with military honors.

THE FUTURE IRON NAVY OF ENGLAND.

By the City of New York we have news of an important experiment at Shoeburyness, looking to the establishment of an iron navy for England. The Admiralty have contracted with Messrs. Samuda for the construction of one of the cupola iron ships of war under the invention of Captain Coles. The price is to be £4,150 per ton, including everything, and the vessel is to be ready for launching on the 25th of February next, and to be delivered, fit for sea, on the first of June following.

The *Times* contains an account of experiments at Shoeburyness, on Tuesday, with a gun of large size and great calibre, which (says the *Times*) "showed at every discharge that our best and hitherto considered invulnerable forms of iron sides were, so far at least, not at all easily penetrated by a shot as if the targets had been of timber." The *Times* adds:

"After all our labor and all our expense, after having made beyond comparison the finest and strongest iron frigates in the world, we now find that opposite a large muzzle-loading gun the best of our iron side-cards is as easily riddled and sunk as wooden sailing vessels.

"This discovery, only made on Tuesday after noon last, is due to the keen and wholesome rivalry between the War Department and the Admiralty, the former striving to devise irresistible artillery, and the latter to build invulnerable ships.

"There has been an immense variety of experiments on every conceivable form of target and upon every possible combination of iron and wood, iron and india-rubber, iron and wire, iron and hemp, and every section of the American Monitor has been erected and fired at at Shoeburyness, and proved to be as vulnerable almost as timber; and that no chance may be neglected, a target is being made of railway bars, dovetailed and riveted together in the same ingenious manner as the coating of the Merrimac, and this, also, will be tried in a few days, and beyond a doubt will produce much the same results that attended the Monitor target.

"During a recent experiment, a target, exactly of the same material and strength as the Warrior's broadside, was subjected, during the whole of one day, and part of a second, to a most tremendous fire, but the concentrated volleys flew off in a hail of iron splinters. The target grew almost red-hot in parts, but no missile passed beyond its iron armor.

"The Warrior, therefore, and iron ships were justly deemed invulnerable. Sir W. Armstrong has a letter on to-day's *Times* explaining the principle which has rendered the last experiment successful in penetrating and smashing iron plates.

"The new 300-pounder gun has a velocity exceeding that of the rifle gun by more than a quarter. A smoothbore gun has been made by Sir W. Armstrong, length fourteen feet, weight twelve tons, and it was tried against the Warrior target on Tuesday, in presence of the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Somerset, and other high officials of the Admiralty and War Office.

"The shot was one hundred and fifty-six pounds, and was fired at distances of two hundred yards with a charge of forty pounds of powder. This solved all doubts; the iron mass was shattered into crumbs of metal and the teak splintered into fibres literally as small as pins.

"An increased charge was next tried, and the shot passed not only through the plates, teak, and through the inner skin, but buried itself in the massive timbers that supported the target. These two shots were quite conclusive as to the power of the gun."

Sir W. Armstrong says that a gun of twelve tons weight, firing with a charge of fifty pounds of powder, will pass through the side of the Warrior, or the Gloire, or any other ship afloat, and that no weapon of offence or defence seems left to us now so effective as a large armor-clad and very swift steam-ram.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes a circular addressed by Count Persigny to the Prefects, which states that seven hundred and sixty-six conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have each declared in favor of acting independently of one another, and that eighty-eight conferences have accepted the general conclusion, that the presidency of a high dignitary of the Church.

Statements and counter-statements had been made relative to Gen. Goyon's recall from Rome, but according to the latest rumors he was not to be disturbed.

A proposition of the Archbishop of Toulouse to celebrate as a glorious event a massacre of Protestants three centuries ago, is severely condemned by the principal French journals.

Accounts from the manufacturing districts state that more animation prevailed among them, and that the operatives were better employed than for some time past.

ITALY.

The Ministry had given orders to increase the number of iron-plated ships.

A conspiracy of great extent is said to have been discovered among the clergy of Bologna.

It is confirmed that an engagement had taken place between the royal troops and the brigands under Crocco; and it was reported that Crocco himself was killed.

Rumors were current that Austria intended to incorporate with the army the best troops of the ex-Dukes of Modena, sending the remainder to invest the Neapolitan provinces. Discontent prevailed upon this account among the Modenese troops.

RUSSIA.

The St. Petersburg *Gazette de l'Academie* states that, according to a communication addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the Committee of the Press law, it was the intention of the Government to maintain the system of censorship upon all periodical publications, but to replace it gradually by judicial proceedings.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* announces that the Emperor had authorized the issue of