THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

VOL. II---NO. 185. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

MARRIED.

On the 22d instant, by Rev. M. Slattery, WILLIAM J. A. BEATTY to Miss CHARLOT JANE SANGSTON, both of this city.

DIED.

On the 23d instant, THOMAS, youngest son of John and Mary O'Kane.

On the 22d instant, SOPHIA MARTIN, in the 50th year of her age.

On the 21st instant, ANN, wife of the late Capt. James Simpson, aged 84 years.

In San Francisco, on the 19th February, Capt. WM. P. ROGERS, a native of this city, but for some years a resident of the former place.

In Bloomingtown, Queens county, New York on Tuesday, April 15, MARY LOUISE, the beloved wife of Hiram S. Hollins, and eldest daughter of the late William Murray and niece of Professor Gozan, of Baltimore city, aged 21 years, 1 month and 4 days.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States, a brief, but sharp discussion took place between Senators Powell and Sumner, on the resolution of the former concerning the arrest and imprisonment of citizens of Kentucky by order of the Secretary of State. The angry colloquy was brought to a close by the expiration of the morning hour. The bill for the recognition of Hayti and Liberia, by the appointment of Ambassadors to those Republics, was then taken up as the special order of the day. After a spirited debate, the bill was passed by a vote of 32 yeas to 7 nays. The debate on the Confiscation bill was again resumed.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution calling for the correspondence, during the last two months, between the French Government and the Government of the United States relative to the present troubles in this country, was introduced. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The bill to facilitate the putting down of the rebellion, and to prevent its return, was taken up and debated. The whole subject in regard to confiscation was finally referred to a select committee of seven, with instructions to report at an early day.

We have to chronicle this morning another change in the Cabinet at Washington. Not long since General Simon Cameron surrendered his portfolio as Secretary of War, and was forthwith appointed by Mr. Lincoln, Minister to Russia. Mr. Secretary Welles now takes his leave of the Navy Department to accept the mission to Spain. It is not known as yet who is succeed Mr. Welles in the Cabinet, but among the names that have been mentioned we find those of Senators Hale and Wilson, Generals Banks and Wadsworth, and Governor Sprague. It turns out, after all, that Secretary Welles has neither resigned nor been removed. The truth of the report, to which the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* first gave currency, is authoritatively denied by the Washington *Star* of last evening.

Additional particulars concerning the affair at Lee's Mills have been furnished by various correspondents of the Northern journals. Notwithstanding the official report of General McClellan would lead us to believe that the results obtained were worth the loss incurred, the letter writers who profess to describe the fight rather insinuate than assert that the number of killed and wounded was very large; and that whilst the courage and persistence of the men were worthy of all praise, they failed wholly in accomplishing what they were sent to perform, in consequence of the want of efficient support. "The men all behaved splendidly," says the correspondent of the New York *Express*; but after making the attempt to storm the battery of the enemy, "the support not coming forward, they had to return, after losing a great number." Out of one company of fifty-three men, thirty-two were either killed or wounded. Then follows the painful statement—"A number of our wounded are supposed to be lying between the lines, where they are doubtless dying of hunger or their wounds." Three days later the Confederates sent a letter to General Smith, by flag of truce, suggesting an armistice for two hours, for the purpose of collecting the Federal dead that were lying between the two armies, and of transferring them across the line for burial. The proposition was of course accepted, and the bodies were accordingly sent to the middle of the dam, where they were taken in charge by the Federal soldiers appointed to receive them.

We have still another account—the fourth—of the late affair at Elizabeth City. This time it is accompanied with the assurance that the statement is authentic. Assuming such to be the case, we now learn that the Federal force numbered some two thousand men, under General Reno. As soon as the troops made their appearance they were attacked by the Confederates, who were totally routed, with a loss of about sixty men. The Federal loss, strange to say, is estimated at exactly the same number. After remaining in the town for a few hours, General Reno returned with his command to Roanoke Island.

For the last three days, says a telegram from Cairo, dated the 23d inst., not a gun has been fired either by Commodore Foote's flotilla or from Fort Wright. Fourteen Confederate gunboats, together with the ram Manassas, are said to be lying off the Fort, and it is also reported that Commodore Hollins has returned from New Orleans with the steamer McCrea.

The Division of General Pope which, since the capture of Tenth Island and the adjacent batteries on the mainland, had recrossed the Mississippi into Arkansas, for the purpose of co-operating with Commodore Foote, has been ordered to join General Halleck at Pittsburg Landing, and was on its way up the river on the 19th inst.

A special telegram from Pittsburg Landing to the Chicago *Times* states that General Mitchell's division has entered Tuscumbia, Alabama, and that large reinforcements of Federal troops—probably Pope's division—arrived at Pittsburg on the 22d inst.

The latest intelligence from New Orleans is derived from the Havana *Diario*, which reports, on the authority of persons from New Orleans, that the strength of the Confederate defences on the lower Mississippi has been greatly exaggerated; that Forts Jackson and St. Philip have been abandoned, and that there is nothing to prevent the Federal fleet from sailing directly up to "the Crescent City." The *Diario*, however, takes the very proper precaution to state that it does not vouch for the correctness of these reports.

An unofficial telegram from the "Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, near Yorktown," announces pleasant weather and improving roads. Two deserters—natives of Pennsylvania—report that the Confederates, one hundred thousand strong, are actively engaged in constructing works in the rear of their present lines. We have also the horrible story of the killing of a Federal picket on Tuesday last, in front of Lee's Mills. After he was dead, it is stated, that "about thirty Confederates fired their pieces into his head, riddling it with bullets." A skirmish, it is said, immediately ensued, in which "several" of the enemy were killed and one was taken prisoner. On the Federal side two were killed and two mortally wounded.

Amusements.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—*Adrienne, the Actress*, one of the most attractive of French dramas, and the merry farce of *Antony and Cleopatra* will be given here to-night for the benefit of Miss Lucile Weston, whose recognized claims upon the admiration of our play-goers, will assuredly be fully endorsed on the occasion, and a flattering testimony of her popularity afforded. Miss Western is one of the most accomplished and versatile of American actresses, and has achieved in this city a popular distinction which should reflect the highest lustre upon her reputation as an *artiste*. To-morrow night the excellent play of *East Lynne, or the Elopement*, in which Miss Western's personation of Lady Isabel affords a fine exhibition of her rare powers, will be repeated. Its success has, thus far, being brilliantly marked.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

U. S. CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

Dubois and Lowe *vs.* Johnson. Before reported. On trial.

CITY CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE KREBS.

H. R. Glenn and others *vs.* Samuel Black *et al.*—Exceptions to ratification of sale. Opinion filed, sustaining the fourth exception, and overruling first, second and third exceptions.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1861.

ANNAPOLIS, April 24.—No. 3. Samuel N. Hyde *et al. vs.* George H. Ellery and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore city. The argument in this case was further continued and concluded by I. N. Steele for the appellees and by P. McLaughlin for the appellants.

No. 7. George W. Weems *vs.* George Weems and Margaret Jones. Appeal from the Orphans' Court for Baltimore city. The argument in this case was commenced by George W. Dobbin for the appellant.

No. 9. Continued.

The *Venango Spectator* says an agent of the Japanese Government has contracted with a Buffalo Oil Company for 400,000 gallons of petroleum, and that the Van Slyck well on the Buchanan farm was sold last week for $30,000.

The Government are in the market buying cars for the carless railroads of Virginia. They have purchased forty of the Boston and Worcester, and fifty of the Providence and Worcester, at $600 for the covered, and $500 for the platform.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM FORT WRIGHT.

A Pause in the Bombardment—Fourteen Rebel Gunboats in the River.

CAIRO, April 23.—A despatch from the fleet, dated yesterday, says that for three days not a gun has been fired, the combatants being seemingly satisfied to save their powder until something can be accomplished by its discharge.

The Rebels are reported to have fourteen gunboats off the Fort, together with the ram Manassas, the latter said seven of the former arriving on Sunday. Commodore Hollins has returned from New Orleans with the McRae.

The steamer De Soto left the fleet yesterday, with one hundred bales of cotton for Cairo, being the first shipment North since the commencement of hostilities.

It is reported that the hospital at Mound City will be suspended until the water subsides. The sick and wounded there will be transferred to other hospitals.

The steamer Tigress arrived this afternoon from Pittsburg Landing. The officers of the Twelfth Iowa regiment are on board. They report the water falling. Their regiment has but twelve effective men left.

THE WAR IN NORTH CAROLINA

Authentic Account of the Late Affair at Elizabeth City.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Capt. Cutting, of Gen. Burnside's Staff, arrived here to day with despatches to the Government. He states that Gen. Reno commanded the National forces at the late reconnoissance to Elizabeth City. Capt. Cutting saw Gen. Reno just before leaving the Sound, and I learn from him the following particulars of the affair:

On Thursday, the 17th inst., Gen. Reno left Newbern and proceeded to Roanoke Island, from which place he took about two thousand men and proceeded to Elizabeth City, where a strong Rebel force was reported to be intrenching themselves. On Saturday, an advance was made upon the Rebels. The enemy opened fire with their artillery as soon as our troops made their appearance, and from all appearances thought they had us in a trap of our own making. Our troops immediately formed in line of battle, and charged on the enemy, who ran at the first fire. Our troops then immediately took possession of the town, and after remaining there for a few hours, retired to the main army.

Our force was about two thousand men, under General Reno, and three boat howitzers, under Colonel Howard. The force of the Rebels consisted of a Georgia regiment, numbering eleven hundred men, a portion of Wise's Legion, and two batteries of artillery. The enemy was totally routed, with a loss of about sixty men. Our loss is about twelve killed and forty-eight wounded.—Colonel Hawkins, of the New York Zouaves, received a slight flesh-wound in the arm. The Adjutant of Colonel Hawkins' regiment was reported killed.

Captain Cutting reports the general health of the troops to be good, and says the weather is very fine, but of course much warmer than in more Northern climates. The men have taken a strong fancy to the Southern climate, and enjoy themselves finely while off duty.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Letting of the Mail Contracts.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Autumn to-day was commenced the announcement of the decisions on the proposals for conveying the mails to the Pacific Coast and to the West and Northwest, &c. A large number of bidders are in attendance at the Post Office Department. The proposals for the Pacific are very much higher than formerly. Those for Kentucky and Missouri considerably advanced, owing, doubtless, to military disturbances in those States; while in Illinois, Indiana and other States the rates are lower. In all the number of routes is about 2,500, averaging ten bids for each. The sum total of the offers for the entire letting is about equal to those made four years ago for similar services.

Rebel Prisoners Removed to Sandusky—Their Servants, &c.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The Confederate officers who are prisoners at Columbus have been ordered by the Secretary of War to Sandusky—the former place being regarded as unreasonably near to Rebel precincts and Rebel sympathizers. Moreover, the servants which they have been allowed to have with them are not to accompany them to Sandusky. They are, in respect to attendance, to be required hereafter to do as is required by the Confederate authorities of the Union prisoners they hold—that is, to attend or wait upon themselves.—In respect to the adoption of this rule, there was some hesitancy for a while on the part of the Secretary of War, but his conclusion finally is that to do as we are done by should be the rule,—except, indeed, that our treatment of Confederate prisoners is to be distinguished in contrast by being always humane.

Return of the French Minister to Washington.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—A French war steamer arrived off the Navy Yard this morning, having on board M. Mercier, the French Minister, who has returned from Richmond.

Visit of the French Minister to Secretary Seward.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The French Minister, M. Henri Mercier, returned here to-day on the train from Richmond via Norfolk. Soon after his arrival he visited the State Department, and had a long and doubtless interesting interview with Secretary Seward.

Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The Senate to-day, by a unanimous vote, ratified the Seward Lyons treaty recently negotiated here for the suppression of the African slave trade. This is deemed a most important treaty, which will probably sweep the last vestige of the piratical traffic from the face of the seas.

Confirmations by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The Senate in Executive session to-day confirmed the nomination of Martin Metcalf, of Michigan, as Consul at Aguas Calientes, Mexico; and of Hiram King, ex-Postmaster-General, as one of the Commissioners under the act for the abolishment of slavery in the District of Columbia. The Board will be at once organized.

FROM THE ARMY BEFORE YORKTOWN.

The Roads Improving—The Preparations for the Siege Rapidly Progressing.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, NEAR YORKTOWN, April 24.

The weather is again pleasant and the roads are beginning to improve. The preparations for carrying out the plans of the Commander-in-Chief are being rapidly pushed forward to completion.

Two deserters from the 6th Alabama regiment came within our lines yesterday. They were originally from Pennsylvania. They represent the Rebel forces at 100,000, and say they are busily constructing works in the rear of their present lines. They had no knowledge of the arrival of Jeff. Davis as reported.

On Tuesday the Rebels came out from their rifle-pits in front of Lee's Mills, killing one of our pickets. After he was dead, about thirty of them fired their pieces into his head, completely riddling it with bullets. The officers commanding our reserve then ordered his men to charge on the Rebels, which was willingly responded to, resulting in several of the enemy being killed and one taken prisoner. Two men were killed on our side, and two mortally wounded.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Outrages by Indians on the Plains.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—News has been received here from British Columbia to the 16th inst. Spring had opened. The miners, in crowds, were leaving Victoria for the gold fields.

Colonel Carleton, with about three thousand California volunteers and a battery, have left the southeastern border of this State, on a secret expedition. Some say for Arizona and New Mexico, and others for Salt Lake.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The United States steamer Massachusetts has sailed on a cruise.

The ship Devonshire has been chartered to carry a load of spars from Puget Sound to Spain.

The Indians are again showing symptoms of hostility on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada.—A party of whites were killed by them on the 13th, on Owens river, in Esmeralda district of Salt Lake. It is reported that they have destroyed several mail stations, stolen much property, and killed several employees of the Overland Mail Company.—The mails are temporarily stopped, and the telegraph is liable to be destroyed at any moment.

A regiment of California volunteers, now in this State, should be ordered to the Plains at once.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 22.—The Indians have stolen the stock from nearly every station between Laramie and Bridger, and killed several men, burned one station, and threaten the entire destruction of the Overland Mail Company's property. The company has in consequence concentrated all their employees and property at a few stations for protection, and have abandoned all attempts to carry the mail for the present.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 23.—There is nothing of special interest to report from this quarter.

Passengers from Ship Point this afternoon report that occasional firing is heard, and some skirmishing has taken place along our front, but nothing of much moment.

The weather continues favorable.

General Mitchell Advanced to Tuscumbia, Alabama.

CHICAGO, April 24.—A special despatch to the Chicago *Times* from Pittsburg Landing says that General Mitchell's division has arrived at Tuscumbia, Alabama, and that he has now possession of 200 miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

Large reinforcements of Federal troops arrived at Pittsburg on the 22d.

The Fight Near Elizabeth City.

NEW YORK, April 24.—The *Times* has a special despatch giving an account of the fight at or near Elizabeth City, North Carolina, already published. The fight according to this account took place on Thursday, the 17th instant. The loss of the Rebels was estimated at sixty.

Gen. Pope Gone to Reinforce Gen Halleck.

CHICAGO, April 23.—The *Times'* correspondent, from Fort Wright, says that Gen. Pope's Division has been ordered to reinforce Gen. Halleck. The whole force left the fort for up the river on the 18th.

British Troops Returning to England.

HALIFAX, April 23.—The steamer Adriatic has sailed for St. John, N. B., to embark British troops for England.

From the Mountain Department.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The following despatch has been received at the War Department:

WHEELING, April 24.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

A telegram from Gen. Schenck states that a squad of 25 infantry, sent from Romney by Lieut. Col. Denney to look after the guerillas, was attacked yesterday morning on Grass Lick, between Lisbon and Carapino by the Rebels, forty strong.—Our forces lost three killed, but drove the Rebels who took refuge in the house of one Pallaud. Col. Denney went with a reinforcement of cavalry, but the Rebels fled at his approach, carrying off several dead and wounded, among the latter Col. Parsons, their leader, and Pallaud, the owner of the house.

Col. Denney reports that the interior of the house was covered with blood. He burnt the house and pursued the flying enemy, taking five prisoners.—Gen. Schenck sent a reinforcement of one hundred and sixty cavalry and one piece of Dubeck's artillery to come on the enemy in the rear. They must have reached the place about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Our messengers passing to and fro, between Grass Lick and Romney were fired on for six and seven miles from Romney by the guerillas.

(Signed) J. C. FREMONT,
Major General.

The Rebel Defences on the Lower Mississippi.

NEW YORK, April 24.—The Havana *Diario* states that persons from New Orleans reports the Rebel defence is to have been much exaggerated—and that Forts Jackson and St. Philip had been abandoned, and the cannon taken away. Also that there is nothing to prevent the Federal fleet sailing directly to New Orleans. The *Diario*, however, does not vouch for the correctness of these reports.

The French Minister's Visit to Richmond—A Rebel Secretaria Story Spoiled.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The French Minister, M. Mercier, who reached Washington to-day from his visit to Richmond, states that he never heard until his arrival there of Dr. Lemoine, who is said by the Richmond papers to have had an interview with the Minister, and to have represented 30,000 Frenchmen.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE MARYLAND STATE BIBLE SOCIETY.—The twenty-eighth annual business meeting of the Maryland State Bible Society was held last evening at the Society's rooms, Fayette street, Rev. Isaac P. Cook, President, in the chair. From the annual report it appears that the past financial year has closed in a manner little anticipated at the beginning of it, when the active operations of the Society were threatened with suspension in consequence of the embarrassments occasioned by the national troubles. The total issue of books for the year amounts to 18,816 volumes, mostly cheap editions. The auxiliary supply was in excess of that of 1860, being 2,214 volumes, against 1,852 volumes in 1860. The total gratuitous supply was 7,447 volumes.—The absorbing item of this account has been distribution to soldiers. With that good feeling and harmony which have always characterized the operations of the Board, they early resolved to ignore the exciting issues of the day, and afford the fullest circulation of the Scriptures to the occupants of the "tented field." The distribution has been applied to Marylanders in the field without reference to the political differences of the day, the Federal Government exception in favor of religious matter enabling the Managers to direct a large supply to Maryland soldiers in the Southern service. The number of colporteurs has been reduced from seven to three. The auxiliary societies are actively supporting the parent society. Financial affairs are in a cheering condition, the receipts for the year being $8,160.81. The Depositor's cash sales were $1,528 16; the city agent's collections, $3,198 38; and the general agent's collections, $3,482.82. The [illegible] enabled the Managers to remit to the [illegible] and $2,000 on book account, and a donation of $1,000, besides refunding $600 which had been advanced on account of need. There remains on hand, after paying salaries and other expenses, $970.76. An appropriate tribute is paid to the memory of the late Robt. G. Armstrong, long an efficient member of the Board. The following officers were re-elected:

President—R. West Wilson.

First Vice President—Francis T. King, *Second Vice President*—Wm. B. Cash [illegible].

Vice Presidents—Hons. J. Blackistone, St. Mary's county; Wm. B. Stone, Esq., Charles county; Judge Wilkinson, Calvert county; Col. Wm. D. Bowie, Prince George's county; John Ridout, Esq., Anne Arundel county; John Ridgely, Esq., Hampton, Baltimore county; Rev. Wm. Finney, Harford county; J. K. Longsdorf, Esq., Cecil county; J. Stapleton Bonsal, Esq., Frederick county; Matthew Barber, Esq., Washington county; Thomas J. McKaig, Esq., Allegany county; Hons. John Vickers, Esq., Kent county; Madison Brown, Queen Anne's county; Wm. Tingle, Worcester county; Wm. A. Fitzhugh, M. D., Caroline county; A. B. Davis, Montgomery county; Wm. Baker Dorsey, Esq., Howard county; Rev. James McIntire, Cecil county; W. H. Groome, Esq., Balt[illegible]; Wm. Billing, Esq., Dorchester county; Hon. Isaac N. Jones, Somerset county.

Treasurer—Patrick Gibson; *Recording Secretary*—J. Asbury Morgan; *Corresponding Secretary*—Joseph R. Snyder; *General Agent*—Rev. Th mas Myers; *City Agent*—Rev. Thomas H. Quinan.

Managers—Revs. John G. Morris, D. D.; John C. Backus, D. D.; Hilary Dunning, Cyrus Dickson, D. D.; George D. Cummins, D. D.; James M. Wilson, M. D.; Noah H. Schenck, A. M.; Fielder Israel, Messrs. William L. Gill, E. J. Richardson, George W. Kyle, Galloway Cruson, William Bridges, George Morrison, M. D.; Charles Cochran, William Woodward, William McKim, C. D. Hinks, R. Hopkins Harris, Wm. S. Hopkins, Charles J. Baker, T. D. Anderson, Job Smith, George W. Corner, William H. Graham, Joseph Cushing, Jr.; J. Herman Brown, Sterling Thomas, Josiah H. Perkins' M. D.; George H. Pagels, Aaron Fort, Reverdy Johnson, Jr, Esq.; John Carter, Esq.; Hon. Wm. F. Giles, Messrs. Thomas J. Wilson and Thomas H. Coulson.

BUSINESS IN THE FIRST BRANCH OF THE CITY COUNCIL.—On Tuesday morning last there appeared in the paper a copy of a preamble and resolution offered in the First Branch of the City Council, on the previous evening, by Mr. Barron. The substance of the resolution was a proposition to refund to the United States Government the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, which had been expended by the Government in this city for public purposes, and directing the Committee of Ways and Means, to provide for the payment of that sum out of the levy for 1863. The resolution last evening came up before the Second Branch for action, when Mr. Miller said that if there was a Joint Standing Committee on *Buncombe*, he should move the reference of this resolution to that committee; but as no such committee was in existence, he proposed to dispose of it in the shortest manner practicable. Before going further, he would report what he had previously said, that the Coordinate Branch was apparently acting in this manner with a view of courting popularity of some kind, or else there was a determination to cast some kind of odium upon the Second Branch.—He was satisfied that if the Second Branch would pass this resolution no class of citizens in Baltimore would be more surprised than the members of the First Branch, for they knew, when they sent it here, that it was an act of derision, and would not meet with favor in the Second Branch. He thought it time enough to make provision for the payment of this money when the United States Government called on them for it; and any anticipation of that call, or any action of the kind proposed here, would not go to strengthen the love between the United States Government and the citizens of Baltimore. It looked like buying the favor of the Government, and he didn't approve of it. Besides, the Committee of Ways and Means had closed its business for the session and presented its budget, and he moved that the resolution be non-concurred in. Mr. Robb thought the Council had no right to make such an appropriation. Whatever was done was said to be done for the safety of the United States Government, and we might as well propose to pay for the erection of Fort Federal Hill, and all other expenses incurred here by the Government. The police were under a Provost Marshal, a person whom he understood to be a United States military officer. He should vote against the resolution. The motion to non-concur was unanimously carried.

ROBBED ON THE CARS.—A. H. Canfield, hailing from Elmira, New York, arrived by the early train from Washington yesterday morning, and states that whilst on his way to the city he was robbed on the train of a wallet containing $74 in Treasury notes and gold. He was of opinion that the thief left the train at Annapolis Junction, as a party who was seated beside him alighted at that point.

CHARGED WITH STEALING.—Thomas Kane, William E. Osborne and W. E. Sadler, were yesterday taken into custody upon the charge of stealing from No. 3 tobacco warehouse a lot of old canvass, valued at $5. They were arraigned before Justice Showacre, who sent them to jail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

DISHONEST DOMESTIC.—Yesterday a negress named Rachel Johnson was arrested on the charge of stealing a quantity of clothing, the property of Mrs. Sharp, who lives at the corner of Baltimore and Exeter streets. She was taken before Justice Hiss, who committed her to jail for Court.

ASSAULTING AN OFFICER.—Dominick Connolly was arrested on Wednesday night upon the charge of assaulting officer Kray and resisting him in the discharge of his duty. Justice Logan committed him to jail in default of bail to answer the charge at Court.

BEATING A WOMAN.—John Pendergast was yesterday before Justice Showacre on the charge of assaulting Elizabeth Meaking. He was committed for Court.

OPERATIONS BELOW NEW ORLEANS.—A private letter which came by the Philadelphia from Key West to Capt. Porter's son, states that seven of the bomb schooners and three steamers had passed Fort Jackson in one night. The same letter also states that one whole plantation of negroes, numbering 150, came down in boats, batteaux, &c., to the fleet. They say that their master had abandoned their place and gone to New Orleans. They are very glad to get away, but protest strongly against the fleet attempting to go further up the river, declaring that they will all be blown to pieces.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The prize-fight in England between Dan Thomas and Joe Noan, of the "light weights," for one thousand dollars aside, took place on the 8th inst. The men were interrupted twice by the police. They fought twenty-two rounds in an hour and as half, but were finally forced to adjourn the battle. Thomas had scarcely a mark; but Nolan presented evidence of having sustained some severe hitting.

From the Hartford (Conn.) Times, April 19.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN WASHINGTON.

The President has signed the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia.

We look upon this measure as one of the most important ever passed by Congress. It involves vital principles in the Union. Under the Compromise act of 1850, it was fairly understood that slavery in the District of Columbia, surrounded by slave States, should not be abolished.

It was here that the abolitionists began their work, years ago, which has culminated in our present grievous troubles. Here the Southern mind became resolute under the abolition attack; and the final consummation of the act so long and persistently pressed by the abolitionists, will add a very great obstacle to the difficulties which must necessarily attend the efforts to secure a final settlement after the Southern armies are defeated. It will strengthen the disunion sentiment at the South, at a time when the general measures of Government should be so directed as to weaken secession and add to the moral power of the Unionists.

If the President really anticipates a settlement, bringing back the old Union as it was, so that the laws may be executed all over the South on the strength of the public sentiment, and without the presence of a standing army, we are surprised that he should have sanctioned this measure of Abolition. Practically it frees no slaves except those who are a burthen to their masters. The valuable slaves will be sent away. Indeed, they have already been sent into neighboring slave States, leaving the Government to pay $250 each for 10,000 useless and worthless negroes, who might have been purchased upon a good bond that they would be well-cared for during life. But the payment from the United States Treasury of $2,500,000 make them free, and each of them will eventually become a tax upon the District.

Maryland and Virginia have always been sensitive upon this question of Abolition in the District of Columbia. It makes an area of 10 miles square for their runaway negroes, and is a blow upon their institution of slavery. It will engender bitter feelings in those States, and give every ranting secessionist of the South one of the strongest arguments to prop up his cause. Swiftly this news will spread over the South, and it will be seized upon to inflame the public mind upon the great issue which they have proved, that the party in power has one object, and that is abolition. The claim that this charge is untrue will not greatly weaken its force at the South, where it will be claimed that all parties heretofore have stood pledged against the abolition of slavery in the District, and that the Republican party at Chicago did not dare to put such an issue into its platform of measures. Had it done so, divided as it unfortunately was and the Democracy were, in that campaign, Mr. Lincoln would have been defeated.

But it will be said the rebellion is so wicked that the South have forfeited all claims upon the Compromises of 1850, and they have no right to ask that such legislation as shall not be passed. It is true, we are men at the South—dissolutionists at heart, and compromising souls—whose feelings are not to be regarded. But still, it is important, if our Union is really to be preserved, to impress upon the minds of the people of the South—those who are not uncompromisingly dissolutionists—the fact, if it is a fact, that this is not an abolition war. The majority of the Southern people must act with us or against us—they must protect the execution of the laws, as we do at the North. Otherwise a vast standing army must be kept in all the Southern States to protect the mails, the custom houses, and the United States Courts. It is no settlement of difficulties to defeat the secession armies. Unless a majority of the people at the South are willing to come back to the Union—to elect members to the Federal Congress—to sustain the Federal courts, we shall have no Union.

And how long can the North support an army at the South, large enough to keep an unfriendly people in subjection to Constitutional laws? Not long, in this view of the case, we look upon the anti-Abolition act as fraught with consequences of vast evil. Indeed, we hope and trust that the Administration does not already contemplate a separation of every the cotton States from the old Union. Let us sustain the Union as it was—all parts are essential to the great prosperity we have witnessed in past years—essential to, for the glory and power of the Republic.

From the Springfield Republican.

TREMENDOUS FRESHET IN CONNECTICUT RIVER.

The present flood in the Connecticut river bids fair to be one of the most memorable ever known, both as regards the extreme height of the water, and the singular circumstance attending it. During the second night of Saturday the flood increased rapidly, and at noon Sunday the river reached a height never before or since exceeded in 1851. In this city it fell short one inch upon high water at that year, but at West Springfield, and other places near, it exceeded it by several inches. At the Springfield bridge, 9 o'clock Sunday night, it stood 22 feet 2 inches above low-water mark, and was at about a standstill. The following are the remarkable floods during the present century: 1801, 21 feet 6 inches; 1842, 20 feet 9 inches; 1843, 20 feet 8 inches; 1846, 19 feet 9 inches; 1850, 20 feet 7 inches. During Saturday night the water over stopped the Western Railroad at Chicopee Park, and on Sunday it was one broad expanse of water, broken only by the submerged portions of the buildings. A slight ripple near the south side alone showed the position of the dyke at that place. A small shanty from the northern part of the inclosure was upset and floated down to the south gate, where it was secured.

The damage to property cannot yet be estimated. The southern street leading to the river was completely deluged, York street being under water from one to two feet, and houses on the bank have suffered severely. Hibernian pigs were deluged out of their styes, and had to be transferred to the front yard and upper stories of their owners' domicils.—Harris & Colton's saw and planing mill was inundated, the cellar was flooded, machinery was idle and operations suspended. South Main street was flooded from the ferry nearly up to Central street and milkmen from Agawam were obliged to come by way of Long Hill. An enterprising boatman has done a good business in ferrying people across Main street. The trains from this city south took the east train on Saturday, the west one being down that way. In the part of West Springfield near the "dry bridge," known as "Shad Lane," the lower stories of all the houses, and in one or two instances, on sides of the house have settled several inches. Nearly all of the outbuildings and fences are all on, or partially so, and are thrown into various fantastic attitudes.

Thousands of spectators were out on Sunday, viewing the extraordinary scene. The railroad track was thronged as far as Mittineague, and numerous boats filled with people were plying about, recovering goods from the upper floors of the houses. The road between the two bridges was several feet deep with water, and passage over the toll-bridge was entirely stopped. Several cattle were drowned on Saturday night, and barns and hog pens were cleaned after the style adopted by Hercules in the case of the Augean stables. Up the river the flood is prodigious. Chicopee street, at Chicopee, is nearly six feet under water. The Hadley meadows are again swept across by a rapid current, causing the lower stories of many houses to be suddenly evacuated. A similar calamity has befallen Northampton. The dyke which was built some years ago, for the protection of Maple and other streets, has "caved in" before the force of the torrent, and scores of families are driven out.

A special train on the Connecticut river road was run from this city Sunday afternoon, with a party of invited guests, as far as Holyoke, and the spectacle was one of unrivalled sublimity. A sheet of water, 12 feet 4 inches in depth, pours over the dam, being 9 inches deeper than in 1854. Clouds of spray are raised and the thunder of the mighty torrent is heard at a great distance. Five trains are to be run to day from this city and Springfield to Holyoke and return, at reduced fares, giving all an opportunity to see this wonder of a lifetime. Travel on the road above Holyoke is suspended, the track being some 18 inches under water at the bend of the river. A temporary dam has been built across the track to prevent flooding the village. A brick building on the South Hadley side was undermined and overturned Sunday afternoon, and an empty building, formerly a carriage shop, was carried bodily down the stream.

The absence of ice in this great flood is a most providential circumstance, and to it must be attributed the comparatively slight damage to bridges and dams. No railroad bridge is known to have gone, and only one small travelled bridge from the island nearly opposite Leathleboro' to the west bank. A house standing on this island has also been swept off. An immense body of snow and ice existed in the northern part of this State and throughout Vermont and New Hampshire, and in many places sleighing over the tops of fences was the style of travelling most in vogue. Trains on the southern road, between this city and Hartford, are much impeded by the flooding of the track. The night express from New York, due here at two o'clock Sunday morning, did not arrive till 4. The regular Sunday night mail train from Boston was unable to proceed beyond this city, and no train came through from the South. At Hartford and other places down the river the damage is immense, many families having free water works brought almost all over their houses. At Hartford, on Sunday, at 10 A. M., the river had risen 28 feet above low-water mark, and was rising at the rate of an inch per hour. The whole lower part of the city is flooded, causing great damage and much suffering. The train to this city will probably be delayed two or three days.

FROM BERMUDA—THE NASHVILLE.

Correspondence of the Evening Post.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA, April 10.—The British war steamers Donegal and Sanspareil have arrived here from Vera Cruz, bringing the sick marines and others of the British Expedition to Mexico, some of whom have died since arriving, but the rest are now convalescent. The crews of the war vessels have now liberty ashore, but say less than former by about thrashing the Yankees.

The news of the battle of Newbern and the taking of Beaufort was received here with very long visages by the "secesh," and great was their rejoicing when the latter was contradicted, as also that the Nashville was not burnt, but that she had run the blockade. They now say concerning the Nashville, that as she has taken a load of cotton, &c., she cannot be called a privateer, so that in this way she eludes obedience to the last British neutrality proclamation, and that after discharging her cargo she will be taken to some ship yard in England, cut down, iron-plated, and armed. This is asserted by some of her Majesty's naval officers here, who seem generally thoroughly informed of all that concerns secession, and who, to a man, are thoroughly "secesh."

The illness of Mr. George Wilkes, contracted before Yorktown, is not typhus fever, as reported, but small-pox. He is now out of danger.

From the New York Times, April 23.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE PRESS.

Our Washington correspondent gives a fresh and highly characteristic illustration of the mode in which the Secretary of War exercises his functions as military censor. On Sunday last, the President, accompanied by Secretaries Chase and Stanton, visited Aquia Creek, with a view to acquainting themselves with the state of things at that important point, possibly, so as to decide upon the propriety of General McDowell prosecuting his advance. Our correspondent, thinking no evil of this necessary journey, carried his statement of the fact, as in duty bound, to the telegraph office, and left it for transmission to the *Times*. The despatch was never sent; but through another agency there was sent a brief report, in which, regardless of truth, the visit was transferred to Saturday, and the supposed return of Sunday travel escaped at the cost of an official lie.

For the public to understand the vexatious despotism exercised by the War Department since Mr. Stanton became its chief, and the patience with which the press has submitted to its caprice, whether still unwritten, but the materials of which are preserved, will have to be printed one of these days. The entire machinery of the code invented for French journalism under the Imperial *regime*, has been imported and applied to the American press. Warnings are given in the solemn phraseology of a police officer. Superintendents of police appear in the rooms of the editor to read him a formal notice that any announcement of a military character, discovered in his paper, will come upon him at once to Fort Lafayette, and expose his establishment to confiscation. The most trivial reference to a patent projectile, the sailing of a gunboat, or the departure of a fire-engine from the city on mission of military importance, are strictly prohibited. To attract the notice of the person exercising editorial supervision—never fails to attract that of the inquisitive Secretary and to incur his censure and menace.

Correspondents sent with the several divisions of the army are subjected to a similar rule of terror. They are caught, and, as if they were traitors, compelled to take the oath of allegiance, and to sign a parole, obliging them to refrain from sending in their letters anticipations of movements, or in describing past transactions; from giving the names of officers, the regiments, the divisions, or *corps d'armee* engaged in any action, or the comparative numbers upon either side—restrictions which, the reader will observe, renders correspondence utterly worthless. But even this is not enough. The letters, public and private, of these reporters, are taken from the Post-office, and after perusal, are destroyed or despatched, at the option of persons wholly devoid of discretion, and of course free from responsibility.

An establishment like the New York *Times* is obliged to maintain an army of mounted and picked men to attend and report the movements of the National forces. It can only do so at an enormous pecuniary cost, and the exaction of much endurance and courage from the correspondent. These sacrifices it has been the business—apparently the principal business—of the Secretary of War, since his accession to a power which he exercises with such fiendish relish and so little delicacy, to render nugatory; and to make, by an exaggeration of constitutional license, the efforts of an enterprising Press to furnish the people with news of their sons and brothers, whom they have sent, with anguish of anxiety, to save the country. No regard to law, no consideration of justice to the Press, no sentiment of pity for the people, can prevail with the Secretary to forego the enjoyment he realizes in the exercise of this despotic and quite irresponsible authority.

The damage and annoyance the Press has sustained from this cause it has, we have said, suffered with exemplary patience. Its motive has been to serve and aid the Government. The Secretary of War, assuming office with bustling demonstrations of efficiency, exacted the enforcement of a censorship; and, while satisfied that it was not from loyal newspapers the Confederates obtained notice of our military plans, the journals were willing to acquiesce in the wishes of a new-comer, from whom so much was anticipated. The experiment has been tried. The censorship has had full swing, and it is in evidence that no movement of the Union army has been made, of which the Confederates were beforehand apprised.

The insurgents at Yorktown were informed minutely of the intended departure of Gen. McClellan for the Peninsula, and before the arrival of his