THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

VOL. II---NO. 201. BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

MARRIED.

On the morning of the 12th instant, at the First English Lutheran Church, by Rev. J. G. McCron, PHILIP C. HORN to EMMA CORTELLO, both of this city.

On the 4th instant, by Rev. A. A. Reese, JOSHUA THOMAS ROBERTS to Miss SARAH LINDA TAYLOR, all of this city.

On the 11th day of April, by Rev. William Bruce, ROBT. BRUCE, of this city, and Miss MARIA KASTMOND, of Bradford county, Pa.

DIED.

On the morning of the 13th instant, Mrs. CATHERINE KING, aged 80 years.

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, on this (Wednesday) afternoon, at half-past four o'clock, from the residence, of her daughter, Mrs. Martin Smith, No. 198 Biddle street, near Rose street, without further notice.

On the 12th instant, WILLIAM LONG, youngest son of Oliver P. and Mary A. B. Sterrman, in the 8th year of his age.

On the 10th instant, Mrs. MARY HOLMES, in the 28th year of her age, daughter of Thos. and Honora Higgins, a native of County Galway, Ireland, Parish of Dunmore, but for the last twelve years a resident of Baltimore.

AN EXTRA EDITION.

In consequence of the intense desire to hear the latest intelligence from the seat of war, we propose issuing daily, at 2 o'clock, an EXTRA EDITION, containing all the despatches furnished by the Associated Press up to that hour, together with all other news of interest that may come to hand during the morning.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States, a resolution of inquiry relative to Kentucky State prisoners arrested by order of Secretary Seward, was made the order of the day for Wednesday—to day. The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred for investigation the charge of drunkenness that had been brought against General Smith, made a report fully and unequivocally acquitting him of the charge named in the Senate's resolution.

In the House of Representatives no business of any special importance was transacted.

General McClellan writing from headquarters on Monday last, reports that Commander Rogers had ascended the James river with the gunboats beyond Little Brandon, a well-known plantation, which is situated, we believe, some sixty miles below Richmond. Commander Rogers discovered two batteries on the south side of the river, one of which was opposite the mouth of the Warwick and the other near Mulberry Point. He is said to have run the blockade of one battery and to have silenced the other. The Jamestown and Yorktown were between the two batteries, but pushed off up the river as the gunboats approached.

A singular story reaches us from Washington.—During a naval reconnoissance up the Piankatank river, it is reported that the steamer Island Belle discovered some five hundred Confederate deserters from the Gloucester Point batteries, who politely informed the Captain of the Belle of their willingness to take the oath of allegiance—which oath was accordingly duly administered to all of them.

If we may credit the Memphis *Avalanche*, Gen. Butler, since his arrival at New Orleans, has improved the opportunity to distinguish himself by causing Mayor Munroe and the Board of Aldermen to be arrested and sent to prison for refusing to take the oath of allegiance. The General, moreover, has fixed his headquarters at the St. Charles Hotel; has thrown out his pickets to the crossing of the Jackson and Jefferson Railroads; has established a censorship of the Press, and has issued a proclamation declaring martial law and prescribing rules and regulations for the government of the city.

At Norfolk, since its occupation, matters have been very quiet. Most of the stores are closed, but it is supposed that some of them will be opened soon by parties from Old Point and Baltimore. It is acknowledged that very little Union sentiment has been discovered as yet in the city, but the belief is expressed that the "free talk" between the citizens and the Federal officers and privates will produce a good effect. The Norfolk *Day Book* is to be published as an afternoon paper, but only on condition "that its tone shall be respectful to the Government." Postal communication is about to be re-established with Norfolk.

There is nothing later from Gen. McClellan by way of Fortress Monroe. Two Confederate steamers came down James river on Monday under a flag of truce, having on board more than eight hundred Federal prisoners, who had been released by the Confederate authorities. The steamers are reported to have passed the Monitor, Naugatuck, and other gunboats below City Point on their way up the James river. As Gen. McClellan makes no mention of the fact, in his report of the movements of Commander Rogers, the truth of the statement may be reasonably doubted.

By a special telegram from Cairo, under date of the 12th instant, (Monday), we learn—strange to say—that the steamer Skylark, which had just arrived from the fleet before Fort Wright "brought nothing but rumors concerning the naval battle which took place there on Saturday; yet the particulars of that battle, as published yesterday, purport to have come from Cairo on the same day that the Skylark reached there. Cairo has been famous heretofore for its *Canards*. Can it be possible that details of the engagement as already given is one of them?

The Chicago *Times* has also a special telegram announcing the latest news from Pittsburg Landing. There had been no *general* engagement—the disastrous affair at Farmington not coming under that head; but the two armies were said to be threatening each other much more than at any previous time. The Confederates were strengthening their defences at Corinth, and Beauregard who was preparing for a desperate struggle had been further reinforced by the troops from New Orleans, under General Lovell, numbering, so the telegram states, some thirty thousand men. General Halleck, following the example set him by Beauregard, was also strengthening the Federal position on a grand scale. If both armies are acting on the defensive, as this intelligence would imply, a battle in this quarter is by no means so imminent as we have been led to suppose.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation throwing open to the commercial vessels of all nations, the ports of Beaufort, North Carolina, of Port Royal, South Carolina, and of New Orleans. As the first is utterly insignificant, and the second is a port only in name, the only port of real value to commerce is the third. But if the Southern planters refuse to send forward their staples for export—as it is most likely they will do—the benefit to be derived by foreign vessels from the removal of the blockade, will, after all, be merely nominal. The true temper of the South is now about to be brought to the only test by which it can fairly and accurately be ascertained.

The mails of the Etna bring news of more than ordinary interest from Europe. Mr. Gladstone's speech at Stockton, upon Tees, is regarded by the English journals as an official exposition of the views of the English Cabinet on American affairs, and is not only favorably commented upon by the leading papers but has been made the subject of comment by the Paris *Constitutionnel* who praises Mr. Gladstone and the *Morning Post*. The official or semi-official French journals, the *Constitutionnel* the *Patrie* and the *Pays*, have all of them, simultaneously with the Gladstone speech and the articles in the London *Morning Post*—Lord Palmerston's organ—made a demonstration in favor of the South. We learn, moreover, that in well-informed circles it is generally believed that the English and French Cabinets are actively moving in the matter of the blockade of the Southern ports which has had even a more serious effect upon the industrial population of Lyons than on that of Manchester. A hundred thousand workmen are said to be dependent, in Lyons alone, upon public and private charity; and one of the largest cotton spinners in France has been compelled to reduce the hours of labor in his manufactory by two-thirds.

According to the Paris correspondent of the Brussels *Nord*, usually a good authority in regard to diplomatic matters, the visit of M. Mercier to Richmond "had a political bearing which cannot be overlooked. I may be mistaken in my opinion," adds the writer, "but I believe that the end of the war will be the result of that trip; or at least the beginning of the end."

The Paris *Opinion Nationale* states that the language of the official journals leads one to suppose that a new attempt to reconcile the North and the South was the object of M. Mercier's sudden departure for Richmond. By the arrival of the steamer Jura we have still later advices from Europe. The *Independence Belge* declares that the rumoured intervention of England is confirmed in the most absolute manner. In accordance with the above, a telegram comes to us from Washington, which claims that the new secession plot to induce intervention by the powers of Western Europe, on the ground of the exhaustion of cotton, has been cleverly met by the proclamation of President Lincoln, announcing the opening of New Orleans and other cotton ports by the first of June. The measure of President Lincoln would be an admirable one if the Great Powers were assured that the opening of the ports would bring to them an adequate supply of cotton.

HERMANN, THE PRESTIDIGITATEUR.

Of all the Wizards, Magicians, Conjurers, or by whatever name professional artists of their class have been styled, Hermann certainly bears off the palm. He is the very Prince of Prestidigitateurs, and not even Robert Houdin, in all his glory, could have excelled him in dexterous manipulation, and in the art of deceiving the senses by the marvellous quickness of his nimble fingers. The eyes of the curious, however stimulated to keeness and sharp watchfulness by a desire to detect the secret of this adroitness, are so completely hood-winked by Hermann's skillful jugglery, that astonishment, not unmingled with a vague sense of fear, becomes gradually, in his presence, the predominating feeling. It is not mere conjuring; it approaches close on the verge of *diablerie*. There sits the man—we speak of his private exhibitions, for these are the most wonderful of all—There sits the man right before you and close to you. He has none of the paraphernalia, none of the ingenious mechanical appliances which assist so largely in perfecting the ocular deceptions practiced by the generality of men in his profession. With his coat-sleeves up, and only nimble fingers at his command, he causes substances to appear and disappear with the quickness of thought, and with so mysterious an adroitness, that the senses are cheated as never were senses cheated before. He grasps a claret glass; you see him do so; clearly, perfectly; you see its bulk within his partially closed hand; you see the broad foot of it protruding beyond the clasping fingers; whilst you are still looking he opens his hand, and lo! it is gone. Whither you know not. He takes an orange, and causes it to vanish with the same magical dexterity. His tricks with cards are innumerable, and all are perfect, equally marvellous, and equally inexplicable. He adopts every conceivable variety of device, from the decapitation of a fowl and the putting on of its head again, to the changing of the ace of hearts in your own hand, or under the pressure of your own finger, into the queen of clubs. Whatever he does is performed with the most consummate ease, and however closely you watch his movements, and however much you may pride yourself on your quickness of discernment, he will deceive you in spite of yourself, and in no one instance will you be able to discover the process by which your eyesight, keen as it may be, has been beguiled. We have seen many men who have performed extraordinary feats of legerdemain before public audiences, but we have never met with one so thoroughly original, or so perfect in his art, as Hermann. He stands alone, unapproachable, and without a parallel.

THE OPERA TO-NIGHT.

We are promised to-night—which is most positively the last one in which the *artistes* announced can appear—the Opera *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* of Rossini; a work which, as much as any other, displays the peculiar qualities of that great composer. It is fortunate for the fame of the latter, and for the enjoyment of the audience, that its representation has been entrusted to such able hands. We are satisfied that no persons could do better justice to the leading parts than Madame D'Angri, whose powerful contralto must tell most effectively in the *role* of Rosina, and Brignoli, who will prove the most acceptable Almaviva ever heard here. It has been the custom heretofore to entrust this charming part to inferior singers, and we thank the Management for their change in this respect. The other leading *roles* will be well performed by Amodio, Susini, and Mancusi, to whom they have been respectively assigned. To sum up, we can only say, that those who wish to hear this fine composition properly given will miss their best opportunity if they are not present at Front Street Theatre to-night. Of the Concert last night, we need only say that it was fully up to public expectation. Madame D'Angri was in capital voice and gave complete satisfaction. Brignoli's clear and bell-like tones have suffered no abridgement since we last heard him, and he was as usual the subject of marked approbation. The other *artistes* created an equally favorable impression; whilst M. Gottschalk's extraordinary manipulations upon the piano excited alike the admiration and wonderment of his audience.

The sale of reserved seats for to-night's Opera will continue at McCaffrey's music store to-day.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Gunboat Expedition up James River. They Silence One Battery and Run by Another—The Rebel Steamers Jamestown and Yorktown Refuse to Fight, and Retreat.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Camp at Roper's Church, May 12.

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

Commander Rogers writes here to-day that he went with his gunboats yesterday past little Brandon. Everything was quiet, and there were no signs of troops crossing the river.

He found two batteries, of ten or twelve guns each, on the south side of James River, one opposite the mouth of the Warwick and the other about southwest from Mulberry Point. The upper battery, on Harden's or Mother Lince's Bluff, has heavy rifled pieces. Between these batteries lay the Jamestown and Yorktown. Commander Rogers offered battle, but these gunboats moved off. He silenced one battery and ran past the other.

[Signed] G. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major-General Commanding.

THE OCCUPATION OF NORFOLK.

Official Report of Gen. Wool.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The following was received at the War Department to-day:

FORTRESS MONROE, May 12, 1862.

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

On the 9th of May (Friday afternoon) I organized a force to march against Norfolk. On the 10th of May (Saturday morning) the troops were landed under the direction of Colonel Crane, at Ocean View, and commanded to march towards Mansfield and Weber, who proceeded on the direct route, by way of Tanner's Creek bridge; but finding it on fire, they returned to the Cross Roads, where I joined them, and took the direction of the column. I arrived by the old road, and entered the entrenchments in front of the city at twenty minutes before 5 P. M.

I immediately proceeded towards Norfolk, accompanied by the Hon. Secretary Chase, and met the Mayor and a select committee of the Common Council of Norfolk at the limits of the city, when they surrendered the city agreeably to the terms set forth in the resolutions of the Common Council, presented by the Mayor, W. W. Lamb, which were accepted by me so far as related to the civil rights of the citizens. A copy of the resolutions has been already furnished you. I immediately took possession of the city, and appointed Brigadier General Egbert Viele Military Governor of Norfolk, with directions to see that the citizens were protected in all their civil rights. Soon after, I took possession of Gosport and Portsmouth.

The taking of Norfolk caused the destruction of the iron-clad steamer Merrimac, which was blown up by the Rebels about 5 o'clock on the morning of the 11th of May, which fact was soon after communicated to you and the President of the United States.

On the 11th I visited the navy yard, and found all the workshops, storehouses and other buildings in ruins, having been set on fire by the Rebels, who at the same time partially blew up the dry dock.

I also visited Craney Island, and found thirty-nine guns of large calibre, most of which were spiked; also, a large number of shot and shells, with about 5,000 pounds of powder, which, with the buildings, were in good order.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, we have taken about 200 cannon, including three at the Sewall's Point batteries, with a large number of shot and shells, as well as many other articles of value stationed at the navy yard, Craney Island, Sewalls Point, and other places.

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major-General Commanding.

Affairs at Norfolk—The City Quiet—Preparations for Business—High Prices—Gold and Silver Received with Enthusiasm—The Rebels to Make a Stand at Richmond.

Per Telegraph via Fortress Monroe and Cherrystone.

NORFOLK, May 12.—The city continues very quiet. Most of the stores are closed, but it is expected they will be open in a day or two, except in cases where the occupants have left the city with the army.

Some excitement still prevails, but it is supposed that in a few days, when communication is fully open with the Northern points, confidence will be completely restored.

The prices of almost everything are astonishingly high. Candles, for instance, of miserable quality, sell at 60 cents per pound; common brown wrapping paper envelopes, 50 cents the package; brown sugar, 29 cents per pound.

A number of stores will be opened, however, in a few days, by parties from Old Point and Baltimore, who will bring supplies of articles much wanted here.

The Postoffice and Custom House will doubtless be re-opened very shortly.

Very little Union sentiment is as yet openly expressed, but all over the city our soldiers, both privates and officers, freely talk with the citizens, which must produce a good effect.

All the fortifications in this vicinity are now occupied by Union troops, and all public property is in possession of the Federal authorities.

The policy of the Rebels appears to be to concentrate troops at Richmond; and some even say that all the Gulf States will be given up before Virginia, and that Richmond will be held to the very last. All secessionists here insist that a desperate resistance will be made there, if nowhere else.

Several negroes who arrived here from Suffolk this morning, report there are no troops or guns or fortifications there, or on the road this side of that place.

Among most of the citizens here there appears to be but little confidence in the officers of the "Confederate Government." The Confederate notes are refused in many places and gold and silver are welcomed with enthusiasm by all classes of the population, many of whom have not seen either for many months.

Elizabeth river, between Norfolk and Portsmouth, is of a deep copper color, on account of the large amount of tobacco thrown overboard. Large quantities were recovered to-day in a damaged condition.

Gen. Viele, Military Governor, pursues a course calculated to produce the impression of the superiority of the Federal Government, and shows an intention to throw no obstacle in the way of private business, or the enforcement of the ordinances of the city government.

The *Day Book* newspaper will be continued in the afternoon, instead of the morning edition, on condition that it shall be respectful in its tone to the Government. The first number was printed to-day. It contains nothing except extracts from Northern papers and an editorial statement of the bare facts of the evacuation and occupation of the city.

IMPORTANT FROM NEW ORLEANS AND THE SOUTH.

General Butler's Doings at New Orleans—The Mayor and Aldermen Arrested—More Troops Landed—The River Full of War Vessels and Transports.

CINCINNATI, May 13.—The Memphis *Avalanche* of the 6th and 7th contains interesting intelligence of affairs at New Orleans, and from other points.

The issue of the 6th says: Telegraphic news from Richmond is painfully significant. Gen. McClellan seems to be preparing the same fate for Richmond that Butler and Porter prepared for New Orleans.

Speaking of New Orleans affairs, the same paper says that Mayor Monroe and all the Aldermen of New Orleans have been arrested, on refusing to take the oath, and sent to prison.

Great distress prevails among the people. Food is extremely scarce, and flour is not to be had at any price. More Federal forces are to be landed, and the river is full of Federal gunboats, mortars and transports.

The *Avalanche* says that 33 per cent. of General Polk's army were killed or wounded at Shiloh.

The same paper of the 7th has advices from New Orleans to Saturday morning previous (3d inst.) Gen. Butler had taken the St. Charles Hotel for his headquarters. The Federal pickets have been extended as far as the crossing of the Jefferson and Jackson railroads. Four gunboats and one transport started for Baton Rouge on Saturday morning. Seven Federal regiments had been landed at New Orleans.

All the newspapers were still published. A Federal censor was placed over every office to examine all matter and exclude whatever may prove injurious to the Federal cause.

The Proclamation was sent to all the offices; and having refused to publish it, the guard took possession of the *True Delta* office, and sent for Northern printers and worked it off in the edition.

The General's proclamation declares martial law, and prescribes rules and regulations for the government of the city. The Rebels are required to lay down their arms and take the oath of allegiance. The European Legion are to aid in preserving the peace of the city.

FROM TENNESSEE.

CAIRO, May 12.—[Special to the Chicago *Tribune*.]—The steamer Skylark has just arrived from the fleet. She brings nothing but rumors regarding the naval battle on Saturday.

When the Skylark left, furious cannonading was heard in the direction of Fort Wright, which was plainly distinguishable until the steamer passed Tiptonville.

It is expected that the next news will be the occupation of the bluffs by the United States forces, and the evacuation of the forts.

[Special to the Chicago *Times*.]—The steamer Metora has arrived from Pittsburg Landing, which place she left on Sunday morning.

There had been no general engagement, although the two armies threaten each other more than at any previous time.

The enemy is strengthening his defences for the defeat of our armies. An immense force of negroes are at work felling the trees, and strengthening the earthworks.

It is now known that General Lovell has reached Corinth, bringing with him his army of 30,000 men from New Orleans.

Beauregard was preparing his army for a desperate struggle. Our reconnoitering parties invariably meet the enemy, go where they will, and in the woods along the roads the rebels seem present in overpowering numbers.

Our forces are, at the same time, strengthening their position on a grand scale. Roads are being cut through the woods to facilitate the movements of the different divisions, guns are being mounted in great numbers, and nothing is being left wanting on our part to win the contest.

Capture of Rebel Schooners—Five Hundred Rebels Desert and Take the Oath of Allegiance.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The Rappahannock, arrived this morning from the Rappahannock. Her officers report that the Steamer Freeborn and Island Belle went up the Piankatank river on Saturday, and cut out two Rebel schooners, one with a valuable cargo of whiskey and other stores.

The Belle proceeded up the latter river some distance and discovered a body of about five hundred rebel deserters from Gloucester Point batteries who stated that when the order was given to evacuate they, being disgusted with the service, determined to march to the Federal lines and surrender. They belonged to a Virginia regiment. They offered to lay down their arms and expressed a willingness to take the oath of allegiance which Capt. Harris, of the Belle, administered to all of them.

From California.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10.—The steamer Sonora sailed to day for Panama, with 120 passengers and $220,000 in treasure for New York, and $170,000 for England.

The Hong Kong *Press*, of March 31st, received per the Phantom, yesterday, contains the following summary of China news:

There are three great and simultaneously independent rebellions in progress in China. The Taepings; the rebellion of the canal men at Sang-ting, north of Yang-tse-Kiang river—(the same who murdered the missionaries, Park and Inglmes;) and the rebellion near Thibet; from which it is urged that the Tartar dynasty is being driven to the wall.

The Taepings who took Ning-Po, maintained their agreement with the foreign consul to respect private property, and so much confidence has been instilled thereby, that the foreign trade has doubled in importance.

An Imperial expedition is talked of at Chusan, for an attempt at the retaking of the Ning-Po. The Imperialists have been attacking Nankin and holding possession of the river, except the fort, cutting off supplies at Shanghai.

Up to the 23d of March, the Taepings had been driven back, but are desolating the surrounding country.

Private correspondence received per the Phantom from Hong Kong, dated the 31st of March, says:

The Reconnoissance arrived on the 20th instant from San Francisco, bringing dates from the Atlantic States to February 5th. Our last advices, per mail via Suez, were to January 30th. In future we shall depend on the vessels from your port for the latest news from home. By the last steamer from Shanghai we were advised of the organization of a Steam Navigation Company in Yang-tse-Kiang, with a capital of $1,600,000.

From Oregon and British Columbia.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10.—The steamers Brother Jonathan and Panama have arrived from Oregon and British Columbia, within two days, bringing $220,000 in treasure and advices of the 5th and 7th.

Portland and Victoria were crowded with strangers, who had just arrived from California, on their way to the mines. The best informed men believe that half the adult population of Oregon would spend the summer in Salmon, which is contiguous to the mining regions. Twenty-five hundred men had already reached these diggings. Flour and all kinds of provisions were worth enormous prices. Gold was believed to be abundant over a great extent of country.

The British Columbia mining season is opening unusually early, and sanguine people were anticipating for that country a repetition of the times of '49. Miners were rushing to Cariboo faster than the needed supplies could be sent them. Seven hundred and fifty people have left San Francisco this week, by the steamers that sailed for Oregon and British Columbia. The emigration in that direction fully equals the means of transportation, and will doubtless increase for weeks to come.

Re-opening of the Manassas Railroad.

STRASBURG, May 13.—The cars on the Manassas road reach the bridge, north fork of the Shenandoah this morning for the first time. A large number of hands are engaged in re-building the bridge over that stream, which when completed will make rail connection to this point.

There is a rumor in circulation through the army that Ashby has been captured by Gen. Hatch's cavalry yesterday, but it is discredited in official quarters.

Attack on Mobile—Commodore Porter's Mortar Fleet off Fort Morgan.

NEW YORK, May 13.—By an arrival here from Port Royal, we learn, through Southern sources, that Commodore Porter's mortar fleet was off Fort Morgan on Thursday last, and an attack on that city was hourly expected.

Our gunboats were also reconnoitering the Savannah river on the morning of the same day.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Postal Communication with Norfolk.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The Post-office Department has despatched an agent to Portsmouth and Norfolk, to investigate the affairs of the post-offices there, and to re-establish postal communication.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, MAY 13.—T. P. Trott, of the Contract office, Postoffice Department, left Washington to-day for Norfolk to open the post-office at that place. The mails will be sent by the old route via Fortress Monroe.

A Mine Skillfully Countermined.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The new secession plot to induce intervention by the powers of Western Europe, on the ground of the exhaustion of cotton, which comes to light in this country to-day by the arrival of the Etna, is felicitously met by the President's proclamation, announcing the opening of New Orleans and other cotton ports on the first of June. Thus fails the second grand conspiracy abroad.

Agricultural Department.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Representative Lovejoy's bill, which has passed both Houses, establishes a Department of Agriculture, with a Commissioner at a salary of $3,000 per annum as chief executive officer. It is separate and distinct from any other department, and exclusively devoted to the interests of agriculture. The Commissioner is required to report to the President and Congress.

Meeting of the Conservatives in Congress.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—An adjourned meeting was held to-night in the Hall of the House of Representatives, under the call of the conservative members from all the States, to defeat the schemes of the abolitionists and secessionists. Hon. Mr. Crittenden was in the chair, and Mr. Cox acted as Secretary.

Mr. Richardson, to test the sense of the meeting, moved that the chairman have power to call them together when ever it shall again become necessary, in order that they might make arrangements for defeating objectionable measures. There was no legislation pending of which they know enough to determine what course to take. They were in the midst of shifting scenes. What would be prudent to-day would not be prudent to-morrow. He, therefore, suggested that the report prepared be not submitted, for when a report was adopted there was no recalling it. They should hold themselves in readiness to act on all measures as policy might dictate.

Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, concurred in the suggestion. He thought the result of the meeting of Saturday was highly beneficial. This nobody could doubt. The gentleman referred to the important modification and curtailment of the bill entitled "to secure freedom to persons within the Territories of the United States"—it having been stripped of its other features. If, he said, we continue the same course when mischievous legislation is presented, and consult, and if we shall be as successful as we were yesterday, we can accomplish much good for the country. Thus we shall continue to gather strength. Our cause stands a hundred per cent. better to-day than before our former meeting.

Mr. Biddle stated that he was not then present because of his absence from the city.

Mr. Crittenden suggested that instead of conferring on him, as chairman, the power of calling future meetings and of ascertaining and anticipating, as far as possible, the business to be presented to Congress, there be appointed a committee for that purpose. He too thought the action of the former meeting had a beneficial effect yesterday in relation to the measure to which the gentleman from Illinois referred.

Mr. Cox said they had not killed the abolition bantam yet. By an arrangement between the Speaker and one of his party friends, an objectionable measure might be introduced at any time. Therefore, all conservative men ought to consult upon what action should be pursued at all times. The committee to be appointed ought to see that their friends are in their seats in order to defeat mischievous legislation. Some plan ought to be adopted for concerting and combining at any time when necessary.

Mr. Mallory concurred in the views just expressed. They wanted a committee to arrange for the maintenance of sound principles, civil liberty and the perpetuity of the Union, when a member was compelled to leave the House one of the committee should know where he could be found in order to concentrate all conservative men against mischievous measures.

It was finally concluded to appoint a committee of seven members, for the purposes suggested, whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs. Richardson, Kellogg of Illinois, Biddle, Mallory, Cox, Steele of New Jersey, and Sheffield.

Mr. Crittenden suggested that it was desirable Congress should adjourn at an early day.

Mr. Wickliffe said that it appeared that the Senate were determined not to adjourn, and had rejected the House resolution fixing the time. The President, however, has the constitutional right to adjourn Congress when the two Houses could not agree on that point.

Senator Davis said he had moved to substitute the 7th of June for the time fixed by the House, but this was rejected. There was no purpose manifested by the Senate to fix any day at all.

Mr. Mallory remarked that he had a conversation with Senator Fessenden, who has charge of important business in that body, and was informed by him that they would be ready to adjourn by the middle of June.

Senator Davis repeated that the extreme men would not fix any day. He believed that their purpose was to continue in session indefinitely.

Senator Powell said he had heard some extreme Senators remark that they would not adjourn during the war.

The meeting then adjourned.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamer Jura.

MORE ABSURD RUMORS OF INTERVENTION.

FATHER POINT, May 13.—The steamer Jura, via Derry, has arrived with dates to the 3d instant.

The sales of Cotton at Liverpool for the week amounted to 40,000 bales, the market closed dull at prices ¼ lower, owing to the revival of intervention rumors.

Breadstuffs closed dull, and prices barely maintained.

Provisions heavy.

Consols closed at 93¾@93⅞.

American Securities dull and unchanged.

The Paris correspondent of the *Independence Belge* asserts that the projected intervention of France and England in America is confirmed in the most absolute manner, and the South will be required to guarantee the emancipation of her slaves.

The same authority says the treaty between France and Spain provides for the early abolition of slavery in Cuba.

The opening of the Great Exhibition has been a perfect success.

THE LATEST FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Flag of Truce with 800 Released Union Prisoners—The Monitor and Naugatuck Passed on their Way to Richmond.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 13.—The flag of truce which went up James River yesterday morning returned a half-past 4 o'clock.

This morning 305 prisoners of war were sent up to be released on parole, but 85 of them refused to give their parole, and will be sent to Washington. The flag of truce brought back 885 Union prisoners, including a large number taken at Williamsburg. Generally, they were those taken at Bull Run, who have been waiting release in Richmond for some months, and those captured on board the Congress at the time of her surrender. They are all still here, and will be sent North immediately. The muster rolls have already been sent to Washington. There are no officers among them.

Obstructions are being placed in James River twelve miles below Richmond.

The Monitor and Naugatuck were seen seventy-five miles below Richmond.

Defence of the Lakes.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The recent act of the Legislature of New York in placing its canals at the service of the Government, so far as to allow the enlargement of its canal locks to a size adapted to the passage of vessels able to defend the Lakes from hostile attack, was placed on the tables of Congressmen this morning accompanied by letter from Capt. Ericsson, and also by evidence furnished by extracts from the London *Times*, showing the defenceless condition of American commerce on the lakes, and the ability of England any time to take immediate and complete control of them.

Governor Morgan acting under joint resolution of the State Legislature, has specially appointed Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles, late Canal Commissioner, to attend at Washington and invite attention of the general Government to great importance of the national interests involved in the measure.

The Damage Sustained by our Fleet in the Fight Near Fort Wright.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The following has been received at the Navy Department, relative to damages sustained by the Mississippi fleet in the recent brilliant fight near Fort Wright:

CAIRO, May 12.—News from the fleet is just received. The Mound City which was injured on her starboard bow by a ram, is on her way to Cairo for repairs. The Cincinnati was injured aft of her starboard beam, and sunk in twelve feet water, but will be raised and sent here for repairs, which will be done with all possible dispatch. Commander Stemble is here at the Naval Depot with me, doing well. Fourth Master Reynold, of the Cincinnati, was mortally wounded. There were no other casualties. Stemble fought his ship splendidly.

[Signed] A. W. PENNOCK,
Commanding and Fleet Captain.

OFFICIAL.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, By my proclamation of the nineteenth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, it was declared that the ports of certain States, including those of Beaufort, in the State of North Carolina; Port Royal, in the State of South Carolina; and New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, were, for reasons therein set forth, intended to be placed under blockade; and, whereas, the said ports of Beaufort, Port Royal and New Orleans have since been blockaded; but as the blockade of the same ports may now be safely relaxed with advantage to the interests of commerce:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, pursuant to the authority in me vested by the fifth section of the act of Congress, approved on the 13th of July last, entitled "An act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and for other purposes," do hereby declare that the blockade of the said ports of Beaufort; Port Royal, and New Orleans shall so far cease and determine, from and after the first day of June next, that commercial intercourse with those ports, except as to persons and things and information contraband of war, may, from that time, be carried on, subject to the laws of the United States, and to the limitations and in pursuance of the regulations which are prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury in his order of this date, which is appended to this Proclamation.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

[L. S.] Done at the City of Washington, this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

[The regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, alluded to in the proclamation, have not been received. They will be published to-morrow.]

EUROPE.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN FRANCE—INTERVENTION AGAIN PROPOSED.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Herald.

PARIS, April 29.—It is a fact which should not be lost sight of, in appreciating the articles of the Paris newspapers upon American affairs, that all the journals which pass for possessing a semi-official character have taken up the cudgels in favor of the South, while all those which have been earnest in our behalf are known as "opposition journals."—The former are the *Constitutionnel*, the *Patrie* and the *Pays*. The *Constitutionnel* is supposed to derive its inspirations from Count Walewski, Minister of State, and the Count de Persigny, Minister of the Interior; while the *Patrie* obtains its from the Viscount de la Guerroniere, formerly director of the department of the press, and now a Senator and an intimate personal friend and adviser of the Emperor. The *Patrie* and *Pays*, it is well known, were subsidized in behalf of the Confederacy about the time that Judge Rost made his appearance in Paris, and since then have been made the medium for publication of all the lies which have been sent over from America and manufactured here, for the purpose of prejudicing our cause in the eyes of Europe.

For a short time after the arrival of Mr. Slidell the *Patrie* seemed to have cooled down in its enthusiasm; but within a few weeks past it has become as rabid and as unscrupulous as ever, and it is well known that the managing editor is a constant visitor at Mr. Slidell's, and that much of the matter published in it is furnished by the Confederate ambassador himself.

So much for the journals opposed to us. Those upon our side are, as I have already mentioned, the *Debats*, the organ of the Orleanists; the *Presse*, liberal and opposition, of slightly republican tendencies; the *Siecle*, liberal and strongly republican, the journal of the largest circulation (60,000) of any in France, and the organ of the industrial classes, and the *Opinion Nationale*, our staunchest and most earnest friend.

This latter journal was established two years ago last August, and it was well understood at the time that a considerable portion of the capital to found it was furnished by the late Prince Jerome, and that upon his death his interest in it was transferred to his son, Prince Napoleon, whose organ, indeed, it is now supposed to be. Its principal characteristics are generally liberal views upon all political subjects, an intense hatred of England and a strong love for our country, in the manifestation of which it has never wavered—even during the exciting discussions upon the Trent affair, when the *Presse* refused to receive any more articles from M. Duff, who had been writing in our behalf, and published others which were conceived in a bitter spirit of opposition. The *Opinion* was urging upon France the necessity of avoiding any coalition which would have a tendency to crush the growing power of our country and to strengthen that of *perfide Albion*.

The *Patrie* of Saturday gives the *Journal des Debats* a blast, and quite unexpectedly the whole of the recent article of the London *Times*. The *Siecle* inquires if the presence of the "two aide-de-camp" in question has not had some influence upon the course which the *Patrie* has recently pursued; and the *Constitutionnel* of yesterday contains number two of the "War in America," in which, after maintaining the right of secession, praising Mr. Gladstone and the *Morning Post*, and damning the *Journal des Debats*, it closes as follows:—"The people of America fight, but the people of France suffer; the American battle-fields are covered with dead, but the industrial battle-fields of Europe are covered with wounded. And, unfortunately, so long as the war continues in America, so long will the suffering last in France and England. We have then the right to say to the *Journal des Debats*, 'You mislead public opinion in pretending that the war between the South and the North is nearly finished.' We enlighten it in saying that such is not the case, and that even if the armies of the South should be vanquished, the South would not be subjugated."

The sudden and unanimous demonstration in behalf of the South made by the government journals, coming simultaneously with the article in Lord Palmerston's organ and the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, accompanied with the news which reached us yesterday by telegraph, that M. Mercier had gone to Richmond, revives the hope of the Confederates and rather alarms loyal men here, who fear that France and England are again thinking of interfering. That noises have been passing between the two governments within the past week in relation to this matter there is no doubt, and it is generally believed in well-informed circles that distinct propositions have been again made by the English Cabinet that France should join her in breaking the blockade, and opening a trade with the South. Thouvenel and Rouher, the Minister of Commerce (who was converted to secessionism by Butler King), have, it is said, urged the Emperor to assent to the English propositions; but the Emperor, advised by our staunch friend, the Prince Napoleon, still says "No." In the meantime Mr. Slidell is working like a beaver with Senators and other men in position, and on Saturday last had a prolonged interview with M. Thouvenel.

THE AMERICAN REBELLION AND THE TRADE OF FRANCE.

The accounts concerning the state of employment in the manufacturing districts reach in these documents to the 5th of February, and indicate that the course of affairs in America was felt more seriously in Lyons than in Manchester. At that date one-half the operatives at Lyons were out of work, one-quarter were working only half-time, and only the remaining quarter full time. A hundred thousand workmen were then said to be dependent in Lyons on public and private charity. "This standstill," it is remarked, "is not caused by the commercial treaty with England, of whom the Lyons manufacturer has no reason to be afraid. It is caused alone by the want of orders from abroad. North America and Mexico have ordered nothing. South America orders less by one-half than in former years. The East and Constantinople hardly take anything, and even England, which used always to buy the richest stuffs, has greatly curtailed its orders this year, which is attributed to the mourning for the Prince Consort.

Paris (April 28) Correspondence of London Times.

The *Feuille de Thann*, of the 5th instant, states that M. Jourdain, one of the principal spinners of that town, has informed his workmen that after the present week he will find himself under the cruel necessity of reducing their hours of labor in his manufactory by two-thirds, in order that his stock of cotton may last the longer. He added, however, that he would reduce their wages by only one-third. The sacrifice M. Jourdain is resolved to make in order to give bread to his numerous operatives is estimated at 1,000f. a week.

A deputation from the lace manufacturers of Nance lately waited on the Empress to solicit her patronage. The Empress replied to the deputies by showing them several boxes filled with lace, the produce of their manufactories. She told them further that she would not only not lose any opportunity of serving their interest, but she would by her example procure them as many customers as possible.

THE OBJECT OF M. MERCIER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND.

From the Paris (April 29) Correspondence of the Nord, of Brussels.

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The question of who won the last battle is not, however, of most importance for the present; it is in the excursion to Richmond of M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington. This excursion has a political bearing which cannot be overlooked, and, if any final settlement does not issue therefrom