THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

VOL. II---NO. 204. BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

MARRIED.

On the 14th instant, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. M. Gobrecht, WM. R. GROSS, of Baltimore county, to Miss EMMA V. MILES, of Baltimore city.

On the 14th May, by Rev. Father McVanus, SAMUEL T. HOOPER to Miss MARY C. KOHNEHART, all of this city.

On the 15th instant, by Rev. L. F. Zimmerman, WM. HENRY HOFFMANN to Miss ROSINA WITTLER, both of this city.

On the 15th May, at the Broadway Baptist Church, by Rev. Mr. Thomas, NATHANIEL A. FALES, of Massachusetts, to LAURA JANE ELY, of this city.

DIED.

On the 15th instant, DANIEL P. GIBBONS, in the 32d year of his age, son of Klinx and the late Thomas Gibbons.

His male friends are requested to attend his funeral from his late residence, No. 256 Madison avenue, on this (Saturday) morning at ten o'clock, without further notice.

On Thursday morning, the 15th instant, JOSEPH OREM, fourth son of Wm. S. and Sophia D. Hopkins, in the 21st year of his age.

The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, from his father's residence, this (Saturday) morning, at ten o'clock.

On the 14th instant, of consumption, CATHERINE, wife of George Houlton, in the 41st year of her age.

On the 14th instant, WILSON JACOB, son of John L. and Catharine B. Oettier, aged 1 year, 6 months and 28 days.

Went home to Heaven, on the morning of the 15th May, MARY LAURA, beloved child of Oliver B. and Maria Louisa Wight, aged 11 months.

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 the debate on the bill to suppress insurrection and punish treason was resumed.

In the House of Representatives nearly the whole day was occupied with the consideration of bills of a private nature.

In addition to the order recently issued by the Superintendent of the Military Telegraph, directing that no account of the pending battle near Corinth shall be permitted to pass over the wires without the permission of the War Department, we have now what is called a special field-order from General Halleck, by which commanders of army corps and divisions are "to see that their camps are cleared of all unauthorized hangers-on, and any one attempting to evade this order will be compelled to work intrenchments, or batteries, or in the construction of roads." Then follows, by itself, the significant paragraph—"This Order is understood to apply to all persons—correspondents included."

General Wool has prohibited the sale or distribution of newspapers at Norfolk and throughout the surrounding country. The transportation there of supplies or merchandise is also forbidden, and neither soldiers nor civilians will be permitted to visit that city except on business connected with the Department of Virginia.

We are informed by a telegram from Washington that the Fugitive slave law is now being quietly enforced in the District, judicial process not being interfered with by the military authorities. We infer, however, from the language used in making this announcement, that the owners of slaves and their agents are only permitted to claim the intervention of the civil authorities on sufferance, and that they receive no assistance from the United States Marshal for the District.

The text of General Hunter's proclamation freeing the slaves in his Department, emancipates at one sweep of the pen all the slaves in the three States of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, on the plea that those States are under martial law, and that martial law and slavery are altogether incompatible. The logic may not be good, but no one can doubt that the act itself will be hailed with unbounded commendation by the Abolitionists of the North. The proclamation was received with great surprise by the troops at Port Royal, but its full effect had not been developed when the steamer left.

The citizens of Parkersburg appear to have been recently thrown into a considerable state of excitement in consequence of the movements of parties of guerillas on the Kanawha. The town of Burning Springs, in West county, is said to have been destroyed a week ago from yesterday by the Morgan Rangers, and the same fate is alleged to have befallen the little village of Palestine. Parkersburg is reported to be full of fugitives, and as but one company of Federal troops is stationed there, some of the citizens considered the place to be in imminent danger of attack.

From Kentucky we learn that bands of Confederates are still organized even in the central portion of the State, four hundred being encamped at McCormick's, about twenty-two miles east of Mount Sterling. A party of thirty men also passed through Mount Sterling recently. It is supposed that they had constituted McCormick's a place of rendezvous, with the ultimate intention of moving Southward.

The London *Times* in commenting upon Mr. Mercier's departure for Richmond, of which a brief announcement had reached London, remarks that if he has really gone there "it may well effect the Northern World with strong emotion." The *Times* then explains why such a visit at this time would have a grand political significance by adding: "The minister of France is a gentleman who has never for a moment concealed his belief, that the North cannot succeed in the object it proposes to itself, and who very naturally regards the loss and inconvenience caused to France by the prolongation of the struggle, as very useless concessions to the pride and lust of power of the people of the Northern States." The story of the visit is, however, regarded as improbable.

TROUBLE WITH THE NEGROES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.—It is reported that since Saturday last nearly three hundred negroes have run away from their masters in Prince George's county. On Thursday morning last, nine slaves of a gentleman living near Bristol, started to run away, and were pursued and overtaken. They refused to return, and threatened a revolt, when two of them were shot. On Friday a number of citizens visited Annapolis to confer with Governor Bradford relative to the condition of affairs, but he was absent, being on a visit to his farm in Baltimore county. The Secretary of State telegraphed to the Governor, but the despatch failed to reach him. Yesterday morning a portion of the committee visited this city, and had an interview with the Governor, the result of which has not transpired.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamer Adelaide brought no news of importance from the Fortress. Gen. McClellan's headquarters were at Cumberland, on the banks of the Pamunkey, directly opposite New Kent. There is no news from his army other than that a fight was daily anticipated. The gunboats in James river had not been heard from, and their precise whereabouts unknown.

A CARD FROM SENATOR HOWARD.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: Your issue of last Monday contains a communication from your correspondent, headed "Official Visit to Yorktown," in which he observes that the Military Committee of the Senate visited York- and Fortress Monroe during the last week on official business, and that he accompanied them as an invited guest. Speaking of the committee, or rather of the four members who repaired thither, he assumes to assure your readers that—

"The works of the Confederates at Yorktown were thoroughly inspected, and found to be of the most formidable character, and it was their unanimous opinion that the greatest possible credit was due to Gen. McClellan for compelling the evacuation of so important a stronghold with so little loss of life. Indeed, they expressed the utmost confidence in the ultimate, speedy and complete success of all his plans for the entire subjugation of the rebellion."

As one of the four gentlemen referred to by your correspondent, allow me to say that this statement, both as to Gen. McClellan's credit for compelling the evacuation and the expression of confidence in the success of his plans, &c., is, so far as I am concerned, wholly without authority.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. HOWARD.

Mr. George Carter, of New Haven, dug up in his garden the other day, a well preserved farthing 113 years old. It was issued in 1749, in the reign of George II., and is a rare and valuable coin.

The last foreign steamer brings intelligence of the death, in Italy, of Rev. Dr. Bethune, of Philadelphia, the eminent author and divine.

IN BALTIMORE CITY ORPHANS' COURT May 16th, 1862.—Ordered, that the sale of the leasehold estate of Conrad Hofman, deceased, made by John Boyd, the Executor of the last will and testament of the said deceased, and this day reported to this Court by the said Executor, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on or before the fifteenth day of June next: provided, a copy of this order be inserted in some daily newspaper published in the city of Baltimore, at least once a week for three successive weeks before the said fifteenth day of June next.

The report states the amount of sales to be seven thousand and ten dollars.

True copy taken from the original.

Test: ISAAC F. COOK,

Register of Wills for Baltimore city.

m16-3ewtw

SALT.—6,289 sacks Ground Alum SALT, and 2,000 sacks Worthington's Fine SALT, afloat per ship Sarah, for sale by FOARD & HOOKER, 16 Spear's wharf.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM GENERAL HALLECK'S ARMY.

Stringent Order Excluding Civilians from the Lines of the Army—The Rebels Admit the Fall of Pensacola.

NEAR CORINTH, (via Cairo,) May 15.—A special field order has just been issued, which says that guards will be immediately placed along the line of Chambers' Creek, and no officers or soldiers will be permitted to pass to the rear, and no citizens to the front of the line without special authority. Commanders of army corps and divisions will see that their camps are cleared of all unauthorized hangers-on, and any one attempting to evade this will be compelled to work in entrenchments, batteries, or in the construction of roads.

This order is understood to apply to all persons, correspondents included.

Fifty seven privates, three corporals and one sergeant, captured at Dresden, Tennessee, came on this morning under a flag of truce. An equal number will be sent to-morrow in exchange. Col. Jacob Thompson, of Beauregard's staff, formerly Secretary of the Interior, accompanied the flag.—He admitted the fall of Norfolk, New Orleans and Pensacola, but denies the fall of Richmond.

Deserters are coming in by squads daily. All agree that the Rebels are still at Corinth, fortifying. Picket skirmishes have been going on all day, with half-a-dozen wounded on our side.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH.

STRASBURG, May 16.—A continuous stream of Union residents of the valley of the Shenandoah are pouring into town under the mistaken belief that our army are retreating, and the knowledge that detachments of Rebel cavalry are visiting every farm-house and impressing all males between fifteen and sixty. Secessionists along the route to Harrisonburg say that Jackson won't attempt to follow us.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

STRASBURG, May 16 — Yesterday afternoon a band of about three hundred mounted guerrillas made a dash on the railroad guard beyond Front Royal, killed one and took fourteen prisoners, all belonging to the 28th Pennsylvania regiment.

The railroad bridge, 50 feet high and 350 feet long, over the north fork of the Shenandoah river, was completed to-night, and the track will be laid and trains passing during the forenoon of to-morrow. This work has been constructed in 48 hours, under the superintendence of G. W. Nagle, Government bridge-builder.

All is quiet in front to-night.

It is currently reported that Generals Milroy and Schenck are in occupation of Staunton.

General McClellan's Commendation of the Troops Engaged at the Battle of Williamsburg.

WASHINGTON, May 16 —The following has been received at the War Department:

CAMP 19 MILES FROM WILLIAMSPORT, May 11, 1862.

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

Without waiting further for official reports which have not yet reached me, I wish to bear testimony to the splendid conduct of Gen. Hooker's and Gen. Kearney's divisions, under command of Gen. Heintzelman, in the battle of Williamsburg. Their bearing was worthy of veterans. Gen. Hooker's division for hours gallantly withstood the attack of greatly superior number with very heavy loss. Gen. Kearney's arrived in time to retrieve the fortunes of the day, and came most gallantly into action.

I shall probably have occasion to call attention to other commands, and do not wish to do injustice to them by mentioning them now. If I had had the full information I now have in regard to the troops above-named, when I first telegraphed, they would have been specially mentioned and commended. I spoke only of what I knew at the time, and shall rejoice to do full justice to all engaged.

GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN,

Major-General Commanding.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Visit of Secretaries Seward and Welles to Norfolk.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 15.—A cold northeast wind and rain storm has been prevailing here today.

In consequence of the storm, no despatch boat to Cherrystone was sent out this afternoon.

Secretary Seward, Secretary Welles and Attorney-General Bates arrived from Washington this morning and proceeded to Norfolk with Commodore Goldsborough.

General Wool also visited Norfolk to-day. All is quiet there.

Orders have been issued by General Wool prohibiting the sale or distribution of newspapers in Norfolk or surrounding country—prohibiting the transportation there of supplies, or merchandise of any kind, whether by rail or other conveyance; and prohibiting officers, soldiers and citizens from visiting the city except on business connected with the troops belonging to the Department of Virginia.

It is understood that the embargo upon travel to Fortress Monroe from Baltimore will soon be removed, and free transit to and fro resumed.

Adams' Express Company, having acquired a location in Norfolk, will open an office there to-day.

Lieutenant Cameron, one of the most useful members of the staff of General Wool, has been appointed Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law in the District of Columbia.

GENERAL ORDER.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The Fugitive Slave Law is being quietly enforced in the District to-day, the military authorities not interfering with the judicial process. There are at least four hundred cases pending, and it is said that some of the negroes, whose owners or their agents from Maryland are here seeking their recovery, mysteriously disappeared this morning.

Paragraph second of General Order No. 102, dated November last, having been revoked, the officers and men transferred to skeleton regiments under its operation, will be re-assigned to their original regiments as fast as vacancies occur.

False Rumors and Sensation Despatches.

WASHINGTON, May 16 —On enquiring at the War Department, it is ascertained that the order of the Assistant Supervisor of Telegrams at Cincinnati to the operator at Cairo was not issued by the Military Supervisor at Washington. It was issued by the Assistant Supervisor at Cincinnati, under a misapprehension of the instructions received from the Military Supervisor, which were intended to stop the forwarding from Cairo, to the newspapers, of false and improper military intelligence, and sensation despatches relating to military matters; such as had on several occasions created public anxiety and alarm, without cause, and of which great complaint had justly been made. There has been no change in the orders of the Department, and there is no intention to withhold any authentic information from the public, except such as could not be published without embarrassment to military operations and danger to our armies.

Confirmations by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The Senate to-day confirmed Sayles J. Bowen, Dexere Burr, Joseph Pearce, Hamilton Loughborough, Richard R. Crawford, Jenkin Thomas, Robert White, Nathan Sargeant, Thomas Donahue, George H. Plant and Samuel Drury, to be members of the Levy Court for Washington county, District of Columbia. The Senate also confirmed the nomination of Charles Chase as Postmaster at Winchester, Va.

Promotion of Major-General Wool.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The Senate to-day confirmed the nomination of Brevet Major-General John E. Wool, to be Major-General of the Army, for gallant conduct on the 10th of May, in the taking of the city of Norfolk, and for other gallant services.

Mails for New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The mails for New Orleans will be made up at New York, to be forwarded by sea on every steamer which may leave for that port, therefore the communication between these cities will be frequent. Postmasters are requested to forward all mail matter for New Orleans to the New York postoffice.

The Agricultural Department.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Isaac Newton, at present connected with the Agricultural branch of the Patent Office, has been nominated by the President as Commissioner of Agriculture, under the recently passed law establishing a Department of Agriculture.

The Manassas Gap Railroad Held by General Geary's Command.

MANASSAS GAP, May 13.—General Geary's command, threatened by large forces of guerilla cavalry, has put the Manassas Gap Railroad into complete running order to Front Royal, and has guarded thirty-two miles of the mountain passes for five weeks past, and reconstructed all the destroyed bridges. They were attacked by, and had almost daily skirmishes for twelve successive days with bodies of guerilla cavalry, whose object was to obstruct the road. Several of the Rebels have been wounded, and a number of prisoners taken.

Guerillas have crept up at night upon the infantry pickets, under cover of the darkness, and attempted to murder them, but have been foiled by constant watchfulness. Several of these desperadoes have been captured and sent to Washington.

The 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers are now in all the mountain recesses of the Blue Ridge, from Paris to Manassas Gap, and driven the guerillas, constructed bridges and the railroad, south of Manassas Gap.

IMPORTANT FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA

Ravages of the Rebel Guerillas—The Towns of Burning Springs, Palestine and Elizabeth Burned, &c.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Hon. Jacob B. Blair, of Western Virginia, received it a morning the following startling communication from one of his constituents in Western Virginia:

PARKERSBURG, May 10.—We are all in a great state of excitement here. The town of Burning Springs, in West county, was burnt yesterday afternoon by the Morgan Rangers; also Palestine. Everything at the former place is destroyed. This town is full of fugitives. It is not known who have been killed, though many are missing. Charley Shattuck was shot at twice across the river. The last seen of the Morgansiers by fugitives here, they were taking the goods out of the boats in the river. It is not known what has become of the small military force in that region. The number of Morgansiers is not known, though some say six at six hundred. Where the devil did they come from? The town of Elizabeth is deserted, and by this time probably burned. Some consider this place in imminent danger. They have but one company of soldiers here. The citizens would turn out to a considerable extent, if they only had arms.

Order Thanking General Wool for the Capture of Norfolk.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The following order has been issued from the War Department:

"The skilful and gallant movement of Major Gen. John E. Wool and the force under his command, which resulted in the surrender of Norfolk and the evacuation of strong batteries occupied by the Rebels on Sewall's Point and Craney Island, and the destruction of the Rebel iron clad steamer Merrimac, are regarded by the President as among the most important successes of the present war. He therefore, orders that his thanks as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, be communicated by the War Department to Major General John E. Wool and the officers and soldiers of his command, for their gallantry and good conduct in the brilliant operations mentioned.

By order of the PRESIDENT:

Made at the City of Norfolk on the 11th day of May, 1862.

[Signed] EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

Successful Movement Against the Rebels by Gen. Mitchell.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The following has been received at the War Department:

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD DIVISION, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, CAMP TAYLOR, May 15.

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

At 6 o'clock P. M., on the 13th inst., General Negley's expedition from Pulaski, supported by Colonel Little's expedition from Athens, entered Rogersville, driving the enemy across the Tennessee, and destroyed a portion of their ferry-boats.—Having learned of the approach of Col. Little's forces, the enemy succeeded in removing their artillery, baggage and stores before the arrival of General Negley's forces.

I expected an obstinate defence at the passage of Elk river, and accompanied in person Col. Little's expedition, but without crossing, the enemy (as usual) fled at our approach. I ordered, yesterday, an expedition to move promptly from Rogersville, to seize the bridge across Shad creek, and the ferry below the mouth of the same stream. This duty has been promptly executed, and the ferry and bridge are ours. No more troops will enter from that region, and we have now upon this side of the river 1,200 or 1,500 cavalry of the enemy, in bands of three or four hundred, whom we will endeavor to hunt down and destroy or capture. The gunboats which I have extemporized will be ready for respects to the enemy on the eastern side of the region under my command.

[Signed] O. M. MITCHELL, Major-General.

Clearances for Southern Ports Recently Opened.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued full instructions to the various collectors, respecting clearances to ports opened by proclamation of the President. These instructions authorize clearances at any time before June, but vessels so cleared are not to enter such ports until on or after that date.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, May 16.—Cotton is firm—sales of 1,200 bales at 27⅞@27¾ cts. Flour is firm—sales of 18,500 bbls. Wheat is steady—sales of 88,000 bushels Chicago spring, $1.00@1.08; white, $1.35@$1.36. Corn is firm—sales of 53,000 bushels at 62½@62¾ cts. Pork is heavy at $12.50. Lard closed buoyant at 7⅞@8⅛ cts. Whiskey is heavy at 24½@24¾ cts. Sugar is firm at 7⅝@8⅛ cts. Coffee is firm at 19⅝@20 cts. Molasses is firm. Spirits Turpentine closed firm and quiet at $1.17½. Freights are quiet and drooping.

THE NEGRO SOLDIERS A FAILURE.

A Port Royal correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes as follows in reference to the arming of the negroes:

The enlisting of negroes as soldiers, with the pay and rations of volunteers, is going on in this district with no great success. A company of contrabands was formed here three or four weeks since, and numbered at one time, when the interest and zeal of the "innocents" culminated, nearly one hundred and fifty men. Since then the contrabands' courage, like that of Bob Acres, has oozed out of their finger's ends, and the company could scarcely turn out a corporal's guard. The contrabands have no heart for the business, when they reflect upon the possibility of being encountered by cold steel, or perforated by bullets, with the addition of a risk of shuffling off this mortal coil through the simple and expeditious aid of a hangman's noose; and their fears increase in the same ratio that they reflect and inwardly digest, are rapidly changing their anxiety to take up arms to a deep-seated disinclination to place themselves in positions of danger. They are fond of the "pomp and circumstance of war," but prefer to enjoy it under more favorable auspices than those likely to be afforded them in this department. So far the experiment is not likely to prove a brilliant success. There are enough arms here now to arm all the contrabands in this department; but it is exceedingly questionable whether they will ever be placed in their hands. But we shall see what we shall see.

A call has been made in several regiments for volunteer drill-masters, to undertake the instruction of the contrabands in military duties. It has been responded to by numerous ambitious young men, and the supply at present seems likely to exceed the demand. I do not think, from all I can gather, that the freed negroes are desirous of military distinction; they do not "burn" so ardently as I had been led to suppose for the honors and the glories of war, but rather prefer easily and lazily to "simmer" in the glaring sunlight of freedom or "swelter" in the grateful shade. They never will make good soldiers. They have not that appreciation of the cause which would nerve them to the dangers of a contest in the field. They have no confidence in themselves, nor are they fitted for the trust which the country should and does now repose in its gallant armies. They like freedom better than slavery, because freedom here is easier than slavery, but they think very little more of a Union man than they do of a Rebel. Their ambition is to be clothed and fed, in return for which they do not care to give any more of their labor than they are compelled to. With the side that exacts the least and affords them the most they cast their lot and their fortunes. As field hands and servants they may be usefully and profitably employed; but for the men to fight our battles, win our victories and put to flight the Rebel hosts now in arms against the Union, the Constitution and the laws, we cannot look to the slave-hosts of the South.

FROM GENERAL HALLECK'S DEPARTMENT.

Correspondence of the New York World.

THE STAND AT CORINTH.

The information we have of the enemy is exceedingly limited. It is not a settled question, we believe, whether the enemy is there or not. One of our adventurous officers and an orderly is reported to have gone within two miles of Corinth this morning, at which point they were challenged by picket and deemed it prudent to retire. It is just to say that we are still seven miles from the enemy, and it is unlike the enemy to allow us to creep upon them without discovery. They may have been retreating for three days and we be still ignorant of the fact, for ought we can see to the contrary. The little force at Portland may have been a rear guard charged with the duty of delaying our approach.—Contrabands have, we believe, been received within the lines, but they are ordered to be excluded hereafter.

General Halleck may have some more positive knowledge from scouts, and it is upon his preparations, orders, and movements that we base the opinion that the Confederates will stand at Corinth rather than from any specific evidence—the opinions of those generally well informed, sometimes swaying in favor of their retreat, and sometimes in favor of a great stand.

There is just reason to complain, however, that the large forge of cavalry which we have here is so worthless. Aside from the aspersions of wholesale cowardice in the late battle, which are freely and openly cast upon them, there is abundant testimony to their unwillingness to go to the direction of the enemy. If we had a cavalry officer with the requisite dash, we should soon see whether the enemy was there or not, and we should hear of one of the bridges on the railroad to Memphis being destroyed. In this respect we are not equal to the daring of the Confederate cavalry, though vastly better armed.

For the present, then, we can only premise that the Confederates will fight us at Corinth in great force behind intrenchments. If so, it will be at least three days before we attack, and most probably thirty before we defeat them. They will fight desperately if at all, and the climate is a powerful ally. That impression prevails at headquarters, and there it is expected they know.

From the St. Mary's Beacon.

THE CURFEW.

As a memorial of the war, and of the recent military occupation of our country by the Federal troops, we publish the following rescript, which smacks somewhat strongly, we think, of William the Conqueror and the golden days of Norman dominion in England. The notice is sufficiently explicit to render unnecessary a fuller explanation at our hands, and here it is:

ALLEN'S FRESH, Md., May 7, A. D., 1862.

Notice.—The citizens of Chaptico are hereby notified by the military authority, that they are respectfully solicited and expected to put out all lights and suspend all business at the hours of nine and a half o'clock, P. M., of each day, and any and all persons violating these orders will be liable to an arrest and to be taken before the proper authority. The Sergeant commanding squad at that place will see that these orders are strictly adhered to.

By order of LIEUT. PAUL CLARK,

Commanding detached pickets.

A HOAX.—The Chicago *Tribune* publishes what purports to be a "Secret Circular" of President Davis, appealing to the patriotism of the people of the Southern States, asking for material aid in money and men, and commissioning as agents those to whom the circular is sent. Simultaneously, however, with its appearance in the Northern papers, comes the following explanation of its origin:

CHICAGO, May 15.—The *Times'* special Cairo despatch says the famous "Secret Circular," purporting to emanate from Jeff. Davis, was got up in this city as "a sell," by a reporter.

THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS—THE FEELING IN NEW YORK IN REGARD TO IT.—The Press Censor at Washington has made a good many people unhappy, by prohibiting the newspaper correspondents at Pittsburg Landing and Cairo telegraphing any news of a battle at or near Corinth, until such times as the official report has gone forward. Impertinent folks are asking what harm can it do, if a battle has really been fought, and won, or lost, to let the people know it; but in these days all such queries ought to understand that it will not do to be too curious about such things, and that it is best not to be "wise above things that are written," if not telegraphed.—*N. Y. Cor. Philadelphia Enquirer.*

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, made a statement in reference to a remark of Mr. Holman, of Indiana, in the House, who said, speaking of investigating committees, that Mr. Sherman's committee had received eight dollars a day. Mr. Sherman said that he had been on two committees, one the Kansas Committee and the other the Naval Investigating Committee, and the members had never received or thought of receiving any compensation.

Various petitions were presented, among them one from merchants and others of New York, asking the speedy passage of the Pacific R. Road bill.

Mr. HARLAN, of Iowa, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill to donate public lands to States for the establishment of agricultural colleges, with amendments.

The resolution of Mr. SUMNER directing the Committee on Enrolled Bills to consider the propriety of changing a rule of Congress so as to enrol bills on linen paper instead of parchment, was taken up, and after some remarks by Mr. S. giving a history of the parliamentary course on this subject, showing the general practice now was to print, the bill was passed.

The Indian appropriation bill for 1863 again come up as the unfinished business, and after further action on amendments the bill was passed.

Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, moved to take up the bill "to suppress insurrection and to punish treason and rebellion, and for other purposes," reported by the select committee on confiscation.

Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, urged the importance of taking up the tax bill from the House, as reported by the Senate's committee of finance, as it had to go into operation by the first of July.

Mr. SAULSBURY, of Delaware, thought that tax bill the most important to be proceeded with especially as the confiscation would delay by debate.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, was opposed to imposing any tax on the loyal people until something had been done to put the burdens of the war on the Rebels.

Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, did not think that was fairly stating the question. He considered both bills important, but because he should vote to take up the tax bill first, it was not fair to consider him opposed to imposing burdens upon the Rebels.

Mr. CLARK said the subject had already been fully discussed, and ought not to occupy much time in passing.

Mr. HENDERSON, of Missouri, said that if the gentleman from Ohio expected to derive much revenue to the Treasury from the bill to punish treason, he would be greatly mistaken. It was only to act prospectively upon those hereafter convicted; and he knew also that various amendments would be offered. In addition, the tax bill would act upon rebels as well as loyal citizens, wherever our arms extended.

Mr. WADE responded that if the bill, such as it was, was not passed quickly, it would be of no use, as those who in the meantime submit will not be affected.

After further debate the question was taken on Mr. Clark's motion, and it was carried—yeas 23, nays 19.

The bill "to suppress insurrection and punish treason" thus being up, Mr. CLARK explained the action in committee on the subject.

Mr. POWELL moved to strike out the first section of the bill, and declared that the bill was simply a bill to lighten the punishment for treason, making it less than our fathers had done. He thought it a very inopportune time for such a measure. The author of that section (Mr. Collamer, of Vermont,) had declared that he had no idea of executing these traitors. If there is any section of the bill which is unconstitutional, it is this first section, as it provides for the taking of property beyond the life of the owner, under the name of a fine. He could not see the practical difference between forfeiture and fine. The language of the Constitution was that Congress shall pass no law which shall work a forfeiture for life; and would not this fining for treason, by which the whole estate might be taken, work the same thing? He ridiculed the two classes of punishment prescribed—one to suffer death and make freemen of slaves of the convict; the other, to impose imprisonment and fine, and free the slaves—as giving to the culprit the choice of punishments; that is, that he might live and keep his property, except slaves, or live without property and slaves. He would prefer to rely solely on the constitutional punishment for treason.

Mr. CLARK said he expected assault upon the bill from those who wanted to take property without any trial. All knew that the courts would adjudge the punishment, and the two classes of punishment were prescribed in the bill with the view of giving the courts a discretion, as there were different degrees of criminals in this rebellion—those who had plotted it and those who had been drawn into it.—With the provision for fine and imprisonment, the punishment will be more likely to be inflicted than if the only resource is hanging.

Mr. TED EVCE, of New Jersey, referred to the recent judical decision in Ohio declaring that giving aid and comfort to citizens of the United States in rebellion is not treason, and therefore the varier provisions of the bill were necessary.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, did not think the decision was so broad as that.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, moved to amend the amendment of Mr. Trumbull, by striking out of the first section the words "making free the slaves of those convicted of treason," and adding at the end of the section, "or may be punished by confinement in prison at hard labor for not less than five nor more than twenty years." He held that Congress had no power to free a slave in any State, on any pretence or in any way. He wished slave property to be treated as all other property, subject to be taken and sold in case the fine is not paid. As regards punishment, all knew the difficulty there was in procuring capital convictions in this country, and as the law now stood there was no other than the death penalty for treason. With the various degrees of complicity in the rebellion, he held that conviction and punishment would be much more sure under the provisions of this bill.

Mr. CLARK denied that the freeing of slaves as a punishment conflicted with the Constitution. He did not see any difference in taking them and freeing them, or rather taking them and letting them go, just as we might take a horse and let him go.

Mr. DAVIS said that the freeing amounted to "forfeiture," and forfeiture meant conversion, the taking from the criminal to indemnify the injured party, whether it be a nation or individual. Fines worked in this way, and there was no authority to take for other purpose.

Mr. HARRIS, of New York, was opposed to striking out the first section, but thought there was much in the views of the gentleman from Kentucky relative to the difficulty of procuring capital convictions. He did not see, therefore, why those most strenuous for punishing Rebels should wish to alter the bill.

After further debate, Mr. Davis' amendment was rejected—yeas 7, nays 31. The yeas were Messrs. Davis, McDougall, Pearce, Powell, Saulsbury, Stark, and Wilson of Missouri. Among the nays were Messrs. Henderson of Missouri, Willey of Virginia, and Wright of Indiana. Among those absent were Messrs. Kennedy of Maryland, Carlisle of Virginia, Bayard of Delaware, Latham of California, Nesmith of Oregon.

The question recurred on the motion of Mr. Trumbull, to strike out the first section.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, thought that if they wanted to make a test on the question, the gentleman had better offer the original bill as a substitute, and not try to mutilate that of the Senate.

The original bill, but if the Senate was determined to have this bill, he wanted to take it as it was.

The point was discussed at some length by Messrs. Trumbull, Wade, Browning, Howard, and others, and finally Mr. T.'s motion was rejected, yeas 10, nays 29. The yeas being Messrs. Davis, Howard, Pearce, Powell, Saulsbury, Trumbull, Wade, Wilkinson, Wilmot, and Wilson, of Missouri.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, moved to strike out the second section of the bill, which imposes forfeiture of all personal property and of real property for life, and frees all the slaves of the convict as of no use, a mockery, under which no conviction would take place in a Southern State.

Mr. CLARK moved to amend the amendment by giving the court discretion to impose imprisonment not exceeding ten years, either with or without the other punishment, which was adopted.

The amendment as amended was then rejected—yeas 5, nays 33—the yeas being Messrs. Davis, Howard, Powell, Saulsbury and Wilson, of Missouri.

Mr. DAVIS said he would vote for this second section except for the clause in it freeing slaves.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, offered a substitute for the bill in order that it might be printed.

The Senate went into executive session, and subsequently adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War in answer to a resolution, enclosing a report from General Geary in relation to the homicide of Robert E. Scott and others, who were killed between Warrenton and Salem, Virginia.

The report states that Messrs. Scott and Matthews were leading an armed party to capture which they passed. Gen. Geary sent a squad of cavalry after them, and captured one of them.

Mr. WADSWORTH, of Kentucky, offered a joint resolution that the Committee on Naval Affairs inquire into the propriety of providing by law for the education of O. Heck, who distinguished himself at Fort Jackson. Passed.

Mr. DIXON, of New York, introduced a bill authorizing the appointment of a cadet to the Military Academy at West Point from the District of Columbia. Referred.

The House occupied the whole day in considering bills of a private nature.

Mr. WOOD, of New York, submitted a speech to the House upon the state of the Union. He maintained that it was the intention of the abolitionists in this war to emancipate. They first applied the torch, and are now more busy than ever in throwing fresh fuel to the flame. Should history ever trace (which God forbid!) the record of this country's ruin, that page will seem the strangest to those that read, which shall tell of the madness of the fanatics of abolitionism. In the dark recesses of the temple of infamy, the gloomiest niches will bear the inscription of their names.

He would not even deprive fanaticism of free speech. Already, with one year's bitter experience, we have beheld some of the dearest privileges of American citizenship wrested from our grasp. How long, at the same rate, before, upon the plea of necessity, we shall be stripped of those rights which heretofore have deemed us freemen? He then spoke of legislators being hurried off to prison before they could assume the sacred functions of their office. Self government is the god of my political idolatry, and the Union was but a temple in which he worshipped it. Should that temple be destroyed, he would not forsake the creed, nor would the mighty principles be buried in the ruins.

The House adjourned until Monday.

THE FIGHT NEAR FARMINGTON.

Correspondence of the New York Times.

CAMP NEAR FARMINGTON, May 9.—I finished a letter to you last evening, in which I took no small pleasure in informing the public of a very considerable progression in the affairs of the army of the Mississippi, under Gen. Pope. At that time our skirmishers had routed the enemy from the vicinity of Farmington, driven them directly into their stronghold at Corinth, finished the telegraph line to Farmington, and, in short, had performed a very creditable and comparatively bloodless and inexpensive day's work, by which the enemy were driven from their advanced positions, and a thorough reconnoissance of the approaches to Corinth effected.

Last night pickets were thrown out over the ground occupied by our troops, the main body of the army was ordered to return to the encampment, a mile or so from Farmington, while one brigade, under General Palmer, was left to hold possession of the place.

These arrangements being effected, we all lay down, and enjoyed such pleasant dreams, and such tranquil slumbers as come to men wearied in the operation of well doing. Many dreamed of home—a few within twenty-four hours found their dreams realized, in one sense of the word, for are the close of that time they had passed the portals of the final home of all mankind, the home of everlasting rest. No more dreams for them, but tranquil slumbers without end.

I had intended in the morning to return to the right wing, and had saddled up for that purpose, and was about to leave, when, from the direction of Farmington, came the heavy report of artillery. This was about half-past eight o'clock in the forenoon.

Everybody supposed the cannonading to proceed from skirmishing, or some trivial cause; and in consequence, paid no particular attention to it. For an hour the deep bass came roaring over the woods, without exciting much remark; but just then I noticed a cavalry soldier coming along on a horse, his face all bloody and himself supported on his horse by a comrade on either side. This looked a little serious, and was not altered in its effects by seeing, a few moments after, the ghastly face of a dead man in an ambulance coming from the direction of Farmington. Teams also came pouring down the road from the same direction—all going in a rather faster pace than is generally adopted by locomotive institutions of that character. Squads of soldiers, too, came along, some on foot, some on horseback—all of whom were hastening mainly in a direction opposite that from which the noise of conflict proceeded. These, and the occasional report of a solitary soldier, who stated that he was the only man left in his regiment, induced the belief that matters in advance were assuming a serious character.

Having reached this conclusion, about noon I started out to investigate the operation in front.

A mile or so beyond the point occupied by the advance of the army, the road passes across a swamp, whose width is perhaps half or three-fourths of a mile. East of this swamp—which is densely timbered on the side of the road—is an open field, with a ridge running north and south, whose distance is some four hundred yards from the entrance to the bottom." From the opposite side of the swamp the road winds through a partially-cleared country, till at a distance of some two miles it passes through the town of Farmington.

The road through the swamp is of "corduroy," and was built by General Pope. The material is mostly of rails, and consequently admits of the passage of but one team at a time.

As I neared the swamp the crowd became thicker, all of whom were taking the direction that led away from the *melee* in front. On the ridge east of the swamp were drawn up an endless number of batteries, behind which were regiments of infantry, seemingly without end, all drawn up in line of battle, and listening, apparently, with intense interest to the savage cannonading that came from the opposite side of the swamp.

Passing through this line, I was about entering the swamp, with a view of forcing my way through the crowd that came pouring through the battle field, when suddenly, with a savage twir-r-r, a ball shot came tearing through the tree tops, and dashed into the earth a few yards beyond the line of reserves. It had evidently slowed given a thought to this phenomenon, when it was repeated, the shot this time striking near the same place, and throwing up columns of dirt like water. I immediately concluded to take up a new position, with a view to this end rode off with considerable haste, but in good order, to an eminence a little to the rear. I did not, however, take the new position without being rounced with another shot, which passed directly through a tree beneath which I was riding, and which sent down a shower of limbs and leaves