THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States Mr. Trumbull, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made an adverse report upon the bill for the protection of soldiers in the service of the United States, and to suspend civil proceedings against them in the courts. It was resolved to proceed with the impeachment of Judge Humphreys, of Tennessee, on Thursday afternoon—to-day. The consideration of the tax bill occupied the remainder of the session.

In the House of Representatives the Senate bill removing the disqualifications of persons of color from carrying the mails, was tabled by a vote of 33 to 43. The debate on the confiscation bill was resumed.

If we dare place implicit credence in the statements of the army correspondents of the Associated Press, General McClellan is now pushing forward his columns vigorously in the direction of Richmond. On Monday the Confederate pickets were driven across Bottoms—or Bottemon's Bridge—by the troops marching in that direction, whilst Stoneman's cavalry advanced to New Bridge, within eight miles of Richmond. As it was not the purpose, we are told, of General Stoneman to bring on an engagement, he subsequently retired one mile from the bridge and encamped. On Tuesday the whole army started early, expecting to make a long march during the day, and last night it is reported that the headquarters of General McClellan were within a short distance of Richmond. If such were the fact, a battle must be imminent. It must not be supposed, however, that the progress of the Federal troops has been easy and unimpeded. On Saturday, according to the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, during a reconnoissance in force, they were met by the Confederates and repulsed with some loss. That the casualties must have been quite serious is evident from the fact that the writer expresses an earnest hope that the statement in regard to the affair may turn out to be somewhat exaggerated. One of the Divisions was under orders at that time to prepare for a forced march, and it is now apparent that it is the intention of General McClellan to threaten the Confederates in front, whilst he endeavors to turn their position by forced marches upon Richmond in a different direction.

A later telegram from Fortress Monroe gives a confused account of the firing upon a flag of truce up the James river by the Confederates, and the wounding or capture of nearly the whole party. The narrative of the affair is singularly confused and inexplicable. We first learn that a boat, containing six officers and twelve men, bearing a flag of truce, was sent ashore from the Wachusett. We next learn that the surgeon of the ship was sent for from the shore, and that the officers and men remained behind to guard the boat; that the party in the boat was fired on, and the party ashore attacked and taken prisoners. Of those remaining in the boat two are said to have been instantly killed and three wounded. We are then told that "three of the latter" were placed on board the George Washington and brought to Fortress Monroe, one of whom died by the way. Taken altogether, the story is the strangest and most intervolved of any that has yet been published, and illustrates to a remarkable degree what the *Journal of Commerce* styles, in the case of Colonel Campbell's report of the gunboat repulse, "a want of power of intelligible language."

Halleck's army in Tennessee drags its slow length along. There was skirmishing all along the line on Tuesday; the object of which, it is said, was to feel the enemy's strength and to obtain, if possible, more advantageous positions for making the assault upon the works at Corinth. As might have been expected the alleged mutiny of several Confederate regiments and the interposition of Federal troops, turns out to be wholly false.

All was quiet at Norfolk when the Bay steamer left Fortress Monroe on Tuesday evening. At that time the Naugatuck was still lying in the Roads, no effort having been made to furnish her with a new gun to replace the one which had burst in firing. The progress of events on the Peninsula appears to be low doubled in official quarters whenever even the Monitor would be able to reach that city. It is quite probable that the recent engagement between the iron-clads and Fort Darling, has satisfied Commodore Goldsborough himself in regard to that fact.

The Journal of Commerce is of the opinion that the information concerning the repulse of the gunboats by Fort Darling, is most unsatisfactory and meagre. "It seems," says the *Journal* in a mild tone of reproof, "as if there were lacking"—in the report of the engagement—"either a spirit of frankness, or a power of intelligible narrative."

General Butler is distinguishing himself at New Orleans in a somewhat remarkable manner. If the report which reaches us from Memphis via Cairo is to be believed, he is rapidly paving the way for foreign intervention in its most unmistakable form. On the 10th inst. he is said to have forcibly entered the office of the Consul of the Netherlands, searched the person of the Consul, and took from his custody eight hundred thousand dollars, which were placed in his charge for the Bank of Amsterdam, and were intended to meet the interest on Confederate bonds. He is also said to have taken possession of the offices of the French and Spanish Consulates, and to have put them under guard. The statement appears to be so incredible that we are constrained to doubt it until it receives confirmation from other sources.

Mr. James D. Montgomery had the undoubted honor of having drawn the longest bow of any officer on the Peninsula. His record of personal adventure, as published in the New York *Times*, is absolutely marvellous. He rode, according to his own account, "into a perfect nest of the Hampton Legion," which he deceived "for a time by "most consummate coolness," as he modestly states; had his horse shot from under him, counterfeited death—but "could not suppress a smile," was taken prisoner; bandied epithets with his captors, had his nose skinned by a passing shell, escaped again "on one leg," and returned safely to camp very much exhausted, but was speedily recovered with "whiskey and care." We rather opine it was the whiskey that did the business.

We copy from the New York *Times* the official despatch of General Beauregard, announcing a victory at Farmington. Subsequent telegrams state that the Confederate loss was slight, whilst that of the Federals was heavy. A large amount of clothing and knapsacks was captured, but very few prisoners were taken, as the Federal retreat was so rapid. The Confederate forces operating on the Tennessee river are said to have captured at Paris and Paducah large numbers of prisoners and a large amount of property.

From the Valley of Virginia, General Jackson reports to the War Department at Richmond, under date of May 9th, a victory at McDowell's.—A despatch to General Letcher speaks of the affair as "a brilliant victory," and estimates the Federal loss at five hundred in killed and wounded. The Confederate loss is put at forty killed and two and forty wounded. The Federal troops burned all their baggage and wagons, and were in full flight, hotly pursued.

BURNING OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE AT WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA.

We understand that the Medical College at Winchester, Va., has been set on fire by some of the Federal soldiers stationed there, and burnt to the ground. It is said that it was openly avowed that this was done because it was ascertained that the body of one of John Brown's sons had been dissected in the college by the students there.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamer Georgeanna arrived from Fortress Monroe yesterday morning at 6 o'clock. Military matters were excessively dull. Nothing at all had been heard from Gen. McClellan. Commodore Goldsborough had gone up the James river to confer with the officers commanding the gunboats. The Naugatuck was still lying in the Roads, and as yet no effort has been made to replace her gun. Nothing of any interest has transpired at Norfolk.

THE EXPENSE.—Caleb Cushing estimates that at the close of the present fiscal year, June 30th, the public debt will be $1,200,000,000. He calculates the expenses to average $1,000 to each man in the 633 regiments now in the service, and to this is to be added $631,000,000, the cost of the naval service.

The bark Wild Gazelle, at Boston, from Ship Island, reports that the prize steamer Gazelle, while on her way from Ship Island to New Orleans, with a battery of artillery on board, sprung a leak and was sunk. Her crew was saved by the gunboat Saxon.

The *British Journal of Dental Science* states that dry collodion, when mixed with gutta percha or india rubber, forms a compound of great hardness and elasticity. It may be used in the arts as a substitute for horn, ivory and such like materials, and billiard balls, buttons, &c., may be made of it.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

IMPORTANT FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Onward March to Richmond--General McClellan's Headquarters Within a Short Distance of the City--The Enemy Driven Across Bottom Bridge--One of the Advancing Columns Eight Miles From the City.

From the Army Correspondent of the Associated Press.

TUNSTALL'S STATION, VA., May 20, P. M.—The enemy's pickets were driven across Bottom Bridge yesterday by the troops advancing in that direction. The Rebels attempted to regain the post by the use of their artillery, but failed. Our batteries opened upon them, shelling the woods each side of the bridge.

The advance under Gen. Stoneman reached New Bridge yesterday, within eight miles of Richmond, and found no enemy in force this side of the Chickahominy, which at that point dwindles down to a small creek. The country in that locality is in a good state of cultivation, with no more swamp than is to be found in ordinary bottom land. Six pieces of artillery were found posted upon the opposite bank, but Gen. Stoneman's purpose not being to bring on an engagement, he retired one mile from the bridge and encamped. During the day, while driving the enemy's outposts, he had one killed and three wounded.

The whole army moved again this morning early, with the view of making a lengthy march. What roads they took it is not necessary to state, but the headquarters of General McClellan to-night are within a short distance of Richmond, in front of which city it is supposed to be encamped the main body of the Rebel army. If they intend to give the Union forces battle, which is almost universally acknowledged to be their purpose, the hour is drawing near at hand when they will have an opportunity.

The Latest from Gen. McClellan—An Advance of the Whole Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 21, 8 P. M.

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

I have just returned from Bottom's Bridge, and have examined the country on the other side, making a reconnoissance on the heels of the enemy, who probably did not like the skirmish of yesterday. The bridge will be repaired by to-morrow morning and others constructed.

All the corps have advanced to-day.

G. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major-General Commanding.

LATEST FROM GEN. HALLECK'S ARMY.

The Conflict Approaching.

BEFORE CORINTH, May 20.—There has been skirmishing along the whole line to-day, the result of our feeling the enemy's strength and seeking more advantageous positions. Our losses were small.

The army is advancing slowly.

The story about several Rebel regiments attempting to mutiny, and the sending of United States forces to their assistance, is false.

It has been raining all day, and there is a prospect of a rainy night.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Reported Seizure of $500,000 by Gen. Butler at New Orleans.

CAIRO, May 20.—The Memphis *Appeal* of the 15th contains the following despatch, addressed to the Rebel Secretary of State, dated Camp Moore, 11th:

Gen. Butler yesterday took forcible possession of the office of the Consul of the Netherlands, searched the person of the Consul, and took from him the key of a bank vault, in which were $500,000 transferred by the Citizens' Bank to Hope's Bank, of Amsterdam, intended for the payment of the interest on the Confederate bonds.

General Butler also took possession of the offices of the French and Spanish Consulates, in the old Canal Bank, and placed a squad there.

He also seized the Canal Bank and Smith Bank, and has issued an inflammatory proclamation to incite the poor against the rich, promising to distribute to the poor a thousand barrels of beef and sugar captured in New Orleans. He is recruiting in New Orleans. The poor will soon be starved.

The enemy have sent a force up to Bonnet Carre which marched through the swamps and destroyed the railroad bridge.

The despatch is not signed.

The Vicksburg *Citizen* of the 12th says that the latest we can learn of the gunboats below is that they are between Fort Adams and Bayou Tunica, supposed to be in or about the Red river cut off.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE PER TELEGRAPH.

A Flag of Truce Fired Upon by the Rebels on the James River.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 12—12.30 P. M.—The steamer Commodore Vanderbilt, with the flag of truce, proceeded to Yorktown with the flag of truce, was sent ashore, and an answer was received to Gen. Wool's communication during the day.

The Galena was fired on yesterday by the enemy's cavalry, but no damage was done and the enemy was dispersed by a single shell from the Galena.

On Monday afternoon a boat went ashore from the Wachusett, with a flag of truce, containing six officers and twelve men. The surgeon of the ship had been sent for from the shore, and the officers and the rest remained to guard the boat. For some reason as yet unexplained, the party in the boat were fired on by some twenty or thirty men, and simultaneously the party on shore were attacked and all taken prisoners.

Of the party in the boat, the master's mate, Olmy, of Philadelphia, and W. P. Pierce, seaman, were instantly killed. Henry Johnson was severely wounded in the face, breast and neck, Wm. Brown in the kidneys, and John Close in the thigh. Three of the latter were placed on the George Washington and brought here, but Brown died only an hour after he was placed on board. The other two were, on their arrival here, transferred to the hospital ship. Among the prisoners taken were Wm. Baker, Engineer; Mr. Stockwell, Paymaster; the surgeon of the ship, Dr. Deford; a signal officer detailed from the army; Thomas Green, coxswain; J. O. Mallory and Frank Cousin, seamen, and several others. Lieut Pre-ton, who brought despatches for General Wool from the Rebel authorities on next day, stated that the prisoners had been sent to Saulsbury, North Carolina. The purport of communications in relation to the officers held prisoners at Richmond, has not transpired. It is understood to have been the intention to remove them further South a week ago.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Wreck of the Steamer Oriental.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—An altogether reliable despatch received this morning, dated Fortress Monroe to-day, stating that the Oriental, in which Brigadier General Saxton sailed for Port Royal, was wrecked on Friday night, May 15, on Bosly's Island, 33 miles north of Cape Hatteras. The passengers and crew were saved, but a portion of the cargo was lost. The remainder will be saved on the beach. W. J. A. Fuller, Esq., of New York, went sixty-five miles in a storm in a canoe across the sound to Fort Hatteras for assistance, which, by his energy, was obtained. Lieutenant Ellis, A. A. Q. M. came with the steamer George Peabody. Colonel Hawkins, commander of Roanoke Island, came next day and took possession of the Government property and placed a guard over it. Lieut. Ellis and Colonel Hawkins displayed the most commendable zeal and judgment in preserving the Government property and generally promoting the comfort of the shipwrecked passengers. Both deserve the highest praise. Brigadier General Saxton arrived at Fortress Monroe this morning and goes to New York this evening. Most of the passengers will be in New York on Friday in the U. S. steamer George Peabody.

The Recent Visit of Count Mercier to Richmond Explained.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Permission has been given to state the facts in regard to the French Minister's visit to Richmond, which has excited so much attention in this country and in Europe. M. Mercier had no instructions from his Government, nor had it the least knowledge of his intention to go to Richmond. M. Mercier, in conversing with Mr. Seward, expressed his regret that he could not see Richmond and judge for himself about the views and expectations of the insurgents.

Mr. Seward said he could go without any objection from this Government—that he wished every foreign Minister would go and see for himself how hopeless the insurrection was.

M. Mercier went unofficially. He heard and saw for himself, of course, in no way acting or speaking for his Government, or compromitting his relations towards the United States. The President was previously consulted and approved of his going, and when he returned he called immediately on the Secretary and afterward upon the President, and communicated to them frankly the impressions that he received. He allowed no one in Richmond to say anything to him that he should not be at liberty to communicate to the Secretary of State, and he neither communicated to the Rebel leaders anything from this Government, nor anything from them to the Government. He held no official communication with any one, nor did he permit himself to receive official attentions. M. Mercier's whole conduct in the transaction was discreet, loyal and friendly.

Interesting Fugitive Slave Case at Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Much interest is excited in a case before the Commissioners, under the fugitive slave law, to-day, Charles H. Hill, of Maryland, claiming the man Stephen, his slave. Messrs. Bradley and Carlisle for the claimant, and Mr. Dean, of Brooklyn, for Stephen. Mr. Dean submitted the points:—First, as to whether the Commissioners will exercise their discretion in allowing cross-examination of the claimant's witnesses; secondly, whether they will allow testimony contrary to that of the claimant, as to identity, loyalty, &c.

Contending that under the practice, both in England and this country, in exparte and summary proceedings, both criminal and quasi-criminal, the magistrate is bound to exercise a sound discretion in the mode of ascertaining the facts, and that both elementary and decided law were uniform in exacting from the magistrate the exercise of such discretion. The argument took a wide range. The spectators were principally composed of persons from Maryland, who are here for the purpose of recovering their fugitive slaves.

The Commissioners—Messrs. Walter S. Cox, S. L. Phillips and Charles M. Mathew—reserved their decision till to-morrow.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The Senate to-day confirmed the nomination of Wm. Price, U. S. Attorney for the District of Maryland.

The President has approved the Homestead bill, and it is therefore a law.

Official Despatches from the Gulf.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Voluminous despatches from the Gulf were received to day. They relate principally to the details of the recent movement connected with the capture of New Orleans.

The vessels of the fleet have been judiciously distributed, a number under Commander Lee going up as far as Vicksburg for purposes which it would be improper to state.

It appears from the documents that Commodore Farragut carried out his instructions to the letter, and was ably and cheerfully sustained by all under his command.

On our forces occupying Pensacola the Mayor promised that the citizens would behave themselves peacefully. The Rebels had evacuated the place on hearing that our steamers the day before were going to run into Mobile bay, and that the squadron and mortar-boats would soon follow. Commander Porter left Ship Island on the 7th with the steamers bombarding to the mortar fleet and the Sachem for Mobile bay, for the purpose of fixing a place for the mortar vessels to lie, and plant buoys for the ships to run in by when they should arrive. Great excitement seemed to exist within the forts at the progress of the fleet.

There was reason to believe Fort Gaines was evacuated, and that the troops there were leaving to reinforce Fort Morgan. The Clifton got ashore under the guns of the latter fort, which opened fire upon her, and when they had got her range beautifully they threw shot over her. Lieutenant-Commanding Baldwin went to work coolly, and got his vessel off just as Commodore Porter sent him assistance.

The weather being bad, and for the purpose of coaling, the vessels left for Ship Island.

Skirmish at Strasburg.

STRASBURG, May 20.—Last night the guerilla cavalry came down on our pickets at the bridge west of Thoroughfare station, Manassas road, killed one and took two prisoners belonging to the 1st battalion Michigan cavalry, commanded by Major Alwood.

The Ocean House Destroyed by Fire.

HIGHLANDS, May 20.—The Ocean House, Shrewsbury river, New Jersey, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The fire was first discovered about seven o'clock in the upper part of the building, and is supposed to have been from a defect in the chimney. The building and furniture are insured.

Tornado at Wheeling—A Church Unroofed and a Steeple Blown Down—Three Children Killed.

WHEELING, May 21.—A tornado swept over this region this afternoon, doing great damage, and causing some loss of life. The Lutheran church was unroofed, and being occupied as a school, three of the children were killed and six wounded. The wind also blew down the steeple and partially unroofed St. John's Episcopal church, and demolished the upper works of the steamer Mariner, bound down the Ohio with troops. The captain, mate and pilot were somewhat injured, but no lives were lost.

Arrival of the Borussia—A Rebel Prize Passed at Sea.

NEW YORK, May 21.—The steamer Borussia has arrived from Southampton on the 7th. Her advices are anticipated. She reports seeing on the 20th, a schooner flying a Rebel flag with the American flag over it.

Resignation of the Canadian Ministry.

MONTREAL, May 21.—The ministry have resigned, consequent upon the defeat of the Military bill. Their resignation has not yet been accepted.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, May 21.—Cotton is firmer—sales of 1,100 bales at 27⅞@28 cts. Flour is heavy—sales of 16,000 bbls. Wheat is steady—sales of 419,000 bushels; Chicago spring at 81 cts.@81.03; Milwaukie Club 90 cts @1.11; white Michigan 21.29. Corn is depressed—sales of 39,000 bushels. Pork is heavy—Mess $12.31@12.50. Lard is heavy at 7⅞@8⅜ cts. Whiskey quiet and firm at 24½@25 cts. Sugar firm at 7@8 cts. Coffee is firm. Molasses firm. Spirits Turpentine closed firm at $1.47½@1.50. Rosin is dull at $7@7.44. Rice is quiet. Freights are firm.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS OF RECENT BATTLES.

The Victory Near Corinth.

RICHMOND, May 16.—The War Office has received the following official despatch:

CORINTH, May 9, via MOBILE, May 16.

To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant-General:

We attacked the enemy to-day, and drove him from his position.

[Signed] G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CONCORD, May 8.—Bragg and Van Dorn advanced on the enemy at 11 o'clock this morning. After a sharp skirmish, which lasted three hours, we drove the enemy two miles beyond Farmington, and beyond the bridge. Five thousand troops were engaged on each side. The Federal casualties are Colonel Cameron, killed, and 62 wounded, were dangerously wounded. We captured a large amount of clothing and knapsacks. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded was heavy.

MAY 9.—I have just returned from the front.—The enemy was driven across Seven Mile Creek, running like sheep. It appears that Gen. Pope's division of the Federal army alone occupied Farmington. Gen. Halleck, with the main part of the army, is still on the river. The Confederate loss is slight. The Federal retreat was so rapid that we were unable to capture many prisoners. Generals Price and Van Dorn led the attack. We captured the telegraph office at Farmington. The Confederates are returning to Corinth. It is reported that the Confederate forces operating down the Tennessee river have captured large numbers of prisoners and a large amount of property at Paris and Paducah.

Jackson's Victory in the Valley of Virginia.

RICHMOND, May 10.—The following official despatch was received at the War Office this morning:

VALLEY DISTRICT, May 9, via Staunton, May 10.

To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant-General:

God blessed our arms with victory at McDowell's, yesterday. [Signed.] T. J. JACKSON, Major-General.

A despatch to Gov. Letcher, this morning, says that Gen. Jackson telegraphs that we have gained a brilliant victory in the Valley, and that the enemy is in full flight, hotly pursued. Our loss is killed, and 200 wounded. The enemy's loss was heavy, and all his dead and wounded were left upon the field. Of the 12th Georgia regiment, Capts. Furlow, McMillan, and Patterson, Lieuts. Turpin, Gouldware, and Woodward, were killed.—Capt. Dawson was badly wounded.

May 11.—A later despatch to Gov. Letcher, dated Staunton, Saturday evening, says that the enemy's loss at McDowell was 500 killed and wounded. In their flight, the Yankees troops burned all their baggage and wagons. Our forces are pursuing them closely. Some of our wounded have arrived here.

THE GUNBOAT REPULSE ON THE JAMES RIVER.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

Our information concerning the recent repulse of our gunboats on the James river is most unsatisfactory and meagre. It seems as if there were lacking either a spirit of frankness or a power of intelligible narrative. From Washington we have only a despatch made up of rumors and patches collected from various unofficial sources. From these, as far as anything seems to appear, Commodore Goldsborough went up the James river on one of the last days of the week, finding all batteries deserted till he came near to Fort Darling, where he met part of his squadron which had preceded him up the river, and which had been driven back from the vicinity of Fort Darling. There we are told that he was informed of the grounding of a gun on the Naugatuck; but we are left in as thick darkness as ever with regard to the extent of the damage done by this accident, as well as to all the attending circumstances.

It would seem that the Galena and the Monitor were the only members of the fleet which had been able to reach a point so far up the river as Fort Darling. Then the great forbearing of this fortification, 200 feet above the water, gave it an unusual advantage. The Galena was pierced by seventeen shot out of twenty-eight; the Monitor received no injury. The former vessel, however, was not materially damaged; for we learn that she was probably able to go up again in company with the fleet of Commander Gold-sborough. What we hold to be the fact we learn, rather by implication than by direct statement, that Goldsborough was immediately pushing on to redoubt the work which had compelled us to retrace our steps. We hope for some more clear account of the whole affair before long.

As to the bursting of the large gun on the Naugatuck, though a despatch from a Philadelphia paper speaks of it as likely to have been a most disastrous affair, it is hardly probable that it was so. The hundred-pound gun which is said to have burst, was mounted amidships, pointed towards the bow, and was loaded from below by depressing the muzzle, which was effected by means of pulleys ingeniously constructed for that purpose. The loading was performed by means of a moveable charger, which could be raised or lowered at pleasure. The ramming was accomplished by a sort of piston-rod on a line with the muzzle of the gun, which was also worked by pulleys, thus enabling the crew to load and fire with a great deal of rapidity, while they were themselves below the gun-deck, and consequently out of danger. The bursting of the gun could hardly have done much injury to the crew, who had a powerful deck between themselves and the exploded piece. In loading and firing the huge weapon, but a single man was exposed at any time upon the gun-deck, and he was only exposed for an instant while priming.

BRITISH TRADE.—The British Board of Trade returns for the first three months of this year have just been published in London; they show a certain decrease in the value of the exports of the country, yet not so great as might be supposed from the distress now prevailing in England among the poor cotton spinners. The exports of cotton yarn and manufactures of course show the largest decrease. There is a falling off, in fact, of more than ten million dollars for the quarter, since last year; and a decrease of about fifteen millions compared with the exports for the same quarter in 1860, or at the rate of sixty millions per year. On the whole of the exports there is, however, a much smaller decline. The declared value of the total exports from Great Britain for the first quarter of the year 1860 was £30,461,907; for the same period in 1861, £27,669,245; and in 1862, £20,423,763. The imports are also much less, and at the same rates for the whole year, will not exceed one hundred and fifty million pounds sterling, against two hundred millions, the value of last year's imports.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to the New York Post.

THE MONITOR AND THE ADVANCE UPON RICHMOND.

Doubts are expressed to-day in naval quarters in reference to the ability of the Monitor to reach Richmond. The river is so narrow and the water so shallow that it is an undertaking full of risk and danger. The bluffs on the river banks are so near to the current that it is almost or quite impossible to attack with our guns. On the Mississippi and the larger class of rivers there is little trouble, the gunboats being able to stand off at such a distance that they can bring any Confederate fortification or battery within good range. Private advices from the peninsula and the Rappahannock indicate new movements against the enemy that do not depend at all upon the ability of our gunboats to reach Richmond. It has never been considered certain that gunboats could pass up the James river to the Confederate capital. One thing is settled by the ability of the iron-clads to gain a point so near Richmond—the Confederate army, if it retreats southward, must do so by passing through Richmond and crossing the bridge over the James river at that place. An intelligent Southerner, who left Richmond ten days ago, asserts that it was understood among those persons who were intimate with Davis and the Confederate cabinet, that Richmond would not be given up until the entire army around it should be fairly beaten on the field of battle. But it is quite possible that the rebel leaders would conceal carefully their purposes from their intimate friends.

AFFAIRS AT NORFOLK.

The party of Congressmen, Messrs. Potter, Aldrich and others, who left here Friday night for a little trip down the Potomac to Fortress Monroe and Norfolk, have returned, and do not speak in encouraging terms of the condition of things at Norfolk. They found no Union sentiment there to speak of. Mr. Trott, who was sent down by Mr. Blair to open a postoffice there, found it impossible to secure the services of three or four men, residents of Norfolk, to serve as his clerks, and was obliged to send to Washington for clerks, which he has done. Two or three of the party alluded to above called upon Mr. Millson, who used to represent Norfolk in Congress, and received from them with much kindness and courtesy, but did not say one word respecting the rebellion. He has lived the life of a hermit for a year, and has taken no part in the rebellion, neither does he commit himself now in the least, by word or act, one way or the other. Three outspoken Union men have been found in Norfolk by our troops. One of them was worth $30,000 a year ago, every dollar of which the Confederate Government confiscated. He took to the woods and swamps south of Norfolk; and upon hearing that the old flag waved once more over his native city, he returned. Meeting an old northern friend on the streets, he threw himself into his arms and fell to the ground a shrieking maniac. The convulsion of joy was too much for mind and body, enfebled by his starving life in the woods, and he is now a lunatic.

INTERESTING FROM TENNESSEE.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Herald.

NASHVILLE, May 14.—Ex-Governor Neill S Brown was arrested in this city to-day by order of Governor Johnson. He is on parole for a few days, in order to allow him time to make arrangements for his removal North. From present appearances more Southerners of distinction will visit the North this summer than did the last. Governor Brown has not taken an active part in favor of the secessionists since the Union troops arrived, but was one of the Military Board when secesh prevailed here.

Mr. John W. Childers, of Murfreesboro, brother of Mrs. ex-President Polk, of this city, has been arrested by order of Governor Johnson. Several other State prisoners from the same region have recently arrived here and been placed in charge of Provost Marshal Matthews. The arrest of persons encouraging the depredations of marauding bands will be prosecuted with vigor. It is neck or nothing now between Confederate and Union.

The arrest of Mr. Childers, brother of Mrs. J. K. Polk, and his son-in-law, Lawyer Avant, with other prominent citizens, was in consequence of the attempt to assassinate Captain Parkhurst, Provost Marshal of the town, last Saturday night.

The steamer Sir William Wallace left last evening for Louisville, having on board 143 Confederate prisoners, including Lieut. Colonel Wood, Morgan's second in command, and other officers, captured by General Dumont at Lebanon in the late fight at that place. The prisoners are under the charge of Captain John D. Cunning, Company K, Ohio 51st, and a detachment from the same regiment, with a number of convalescents. Reports were current that an attempt would be made to capture the boat on her passage down the Cumberland river by Morgan and his men. Morgan has sworn that he would rescue his companions if he went to hell for it. There is no account of his success by the latest information.

We have accounts from Murfreesboro' on to last Saturday morning, which represent the situation as quiet. It is useless to attempt to obtain intelligence of any movements; and it is useless to attempt to obtain any news. Mail communications between other places in Tennessee and the North are so precarious that we do not publish any news unless it be of a character, consequent upon the celebrity of the parties, such as the capture of John Morgan.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Caroline Talbot *vs.* Henry Knell. Plaintiff called; makes default. Judgment of *non pros.*

Assignment for to-day from No. 265 to 331 inclusive.

William Schley, Esq., announced the death of Langdon Erving, Esq., a member of the Bar of the city of Baltimore. He said—

It is my painful duty to announce to the Court the decease of our professional brother, Langdon Erving, who departed this life yesterday.

Few young gentlemen ever came to the Bar under more promising circumstances. From his social position, and his habitual intercourse with refined society, he had the manners, the habits, and the deportment of an accomplished gentleman. He had the benefit of the best education which the highest schools of our country afforded; and he diligently and faithfully availed himself of the opportunities which he enjoyed. He was, for his age, an able lawyer; and when I had the pleasure of moving for his admission to the Bar, I anticipated for him an honorable, useful and brilliant career. Indeed I considered him—and my opinion was based on almost daily intercourse during a period of several years—as destined to occupy a place in the very front rank of the profession. He had, apparently, all the qualities to ensure success—uncommon vigor of intellect, unusual industry, and apparently firm physical health. Unhappily this appearance of physical strength was deceptive.—He has been taken away, in the very morning of his professional life, before he had any opportunity to acquire professional distinction. We can only regret the loss which the profession and society, his many friends, and above all, his bereaved family, have sustained in his decease.

As a mark of affection and respect, I move that the Court adjourn.

Judge Martin responded in the following language:—

The death of Langdon Erving, Esq., which has just been announced, is to me a subject of deep regret. He was a highly esteemed member of the Bar, of great promise, and universally respected and admired by his professional brethren. I concur in all that has been said in his commendation, and as a testimonial of our respect for his memory shall direct the Court to be adjourned until to-morrow, and that this order be entered upon its minutes.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* schooner Alconquin. Libelled as a prize for trading with blockaded ports. Decree of condemnation and sale ordered.

Same *vs.* a quantity of gold and silver coin, (about $1,700, now deposited in the Bank of Baltimore,) taken from Samuel D. Lankford, Robert H. Crosswell, H. A. Brooks and W. J. Whittington, passengers and crew of the prize sloop Velma, captured by the United States steamtug Hercules. Original.

The case of the United States *vs.* 109 hhds. bacon, was postponed until the 3d of June.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

George W. Gordon *vs.* Frederick Weigand. Appeal from Showacre. Judgment reversed.

Jacob Romoser *vs.* John Wist. Appeal from Peters. Judgment affirmed.

Louis Gurowski, &c., *vs.* Benjamin B. Hough *et al.* Plaintiffs' appeal from Hayward. Appeal dismissed.

Louis Smith *vs.* W. P. Spencer. Appeal from McKinley. Dismissed.

E. Namuth *vs.* Benjamin C. Myers. Appeal from Gwynn. Judgment reversed.

L. Hamburger, garnishee, *vs.* Thomas Simpson. Appeal from Duncan. Dismissed.

C. Keidel *vs.* State. Appeal from Reid. Dismissed.

CRIMINAL COURT—JUDGE BOND.

There were no cases tried in this Court yesterday. Five or six cases will be called to-day.

Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PRICE.

TOWSONTOWN, May 21.—Richard J. Gittings, Esq., Attorney for the State. The following business engaged the attention of the Court to day:

The greater part of the day was consumed by counsel in arguing a demurrer to the indictment in the case of Samuel M. Rankin, charged with forging a license. Held under *curia.* Ensor for the defendant.

At the time of closing our report the argument was just closed in the case of Thomas James, magistrate in the 12th district, indicted for misconduct in office and false imprisonment: Jury out.

ON THE ANXIOUS BENCH.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* states that

The anxiety to hear from the McClellan army is irrepressible and universal. Ditto, ditto, in reference to the grand army under General Halleck.—Some folks are under the impression that a battle has ere now been fought at or near Corinth, but that red tape in some Western telegraph shop is holding back the news; but that impression, of course, must be all moonshine.

The New York *Express* of Tuesday afternoon says:

A mysterious silence broods over the great (Halleck) army of the West. The newspaper correspondents were ordered to leave camp several days ago, and if a battle has taken place, the official telegrapher alone can give us the news. At last accounts the two great armies were almost within striking distance of each other—and it is natural, therefore, that there should be a little anxiety that the telegrapher should speak out; if he has anything to tell.

Three Days Later From Europe.

THE SCOTIA AT NEW YORK.

The steamship Scotia, from Liverpool on the 10th inst., arrived at New York at 1 o'clock yesterday morning.

Her advices are three days later than those furnished by the steamer Great Eastern.

The United States frigate Constellation and gunboat Tuscarora were at Algesiras on the 4th. The gunboat Ino was at Cadiz on the 28th.

The Sumter remained at Gibraltar.

THE WAR IN AMERICA.

Various rumors continued to float about relative to the political significance of M. Mercier's visit to Richmond, but they are all apparently disposed of by an announcement made in the House of Commons, by Mr. Layard on the 9th inst., to the effect that M. Mercier went to Richmond without any instructions from his own Government, and that his visit was attended with no political result whatever.

The Paris correspondent of the *Index* (the new London organ of the Confederates) writes as follows, under date of May 7:

I said that the denouement of the tragedy cannot be much longer delayed. M. Mercier leaves New York on the 11th instant to report to the Emperor the result of the negotiations which he has been instructed to open at Richmond. Immediately on his return—that is to say, before the end of the present month—the Imperial decision will be published to the world; and I repeat what I said in my last letter, that the decision will be enforced, if necessary, with the whole power of the armies and navies of France. The objects of M. Mercier's visit are briefly these:

First—To ascertain the condition of things in the Confederate territory, and the resources of its Government for protracted resistance.

Second—To ascertain whether, and on what terms, the Confederacy is disposed to accept the mediation of France, and what stipulations regarding boundary and other questions, and the disposition of debatable territory of the Confederate Government deems sufficient guarantees of an honorable peace, and on the other hand what concessions it is willing to make.

Third—And as a consequent upon the others, what terms can be offered to France and to her industrial interests in the event of her media ion being accepted and successful.

These, you may rely upon it, are the outlines of M. Mercier's instructions.

Mr. Layard's announcement seems to dispose of this "reliable" information.

An official despatch from Lord Lyons to Earl Russell says:

Although the power to make arbitrary political arrests has not been formally announced by the Executive Government, it has not, so far as I know, been recently exercised. I am not aware of any British subject being now arbitrarily detained as a political prisoner.

The *Independance Belge* says:

The object of M. Lavalette's recent visit to London was to induce England to consent to a common intervention in America, and England has agreed; but only on one condition, viz—the previous settlement of the Roman question. The Imperial Government lent an ear to this proposition, and it has thus led the English Cabinet to confer with it as to an intervention in American affairs.

In the House of Commons on the 8th inst., the question of which Mr. Stanley had given notice relative to mediation by England in the American difficulty, was not brought forward. The motion in regard to the distress in Lancashire was also postponed on account of Col. Wilson Patten—the mover—having met with an accident.

On the motion for the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue bill, Sir Stafford Northcote made an elaborate survey of England's financial position, which he considered most unsatisfactory. He argued that the state of England's foreign relations did not warrant her present high expenditure, and he strongly urged prudence and economy.

Mr. Gladstone vindicated his views as to the public expenditure and his financial policy generally at great length.

Mr. D'Israeli attacked not only Mr. Gladstone's management of the Exchequer, but also the foreign policy of the Government. He considered that the present was an opportune period for considering a reduction in the warlike expenditure of the country. He pointed out that the foreign policy of England, after real interests were consulted, would be in close union and harmony with the interests of France and America; but, instead of this being the case, the representatives of England and France anywhere, and especially in America, were actingagainst each other with suspicion and even hostility. He contended that, in Italy, England's policy appeared to have the same effect as that of the Poor Law Board on the subject, and also asked the Secretary of State for India whether reductions in the India tariff had been decided upon, and when they would come into operation.

Sir C. Wood said that as yet he had received no further information from India than had appeared in the papers. He had, however, no doubt of the truth of the report that the finances of India would admit of a considerable reduction in the duties upon imports.

Mr. Villiers said that the Government were painfully alive to the necessities of the case, and he had felt it his duty to warn his colleagues that if the war in the United States was prolonged, a great amount of distress in the manufacturing districts might be expected. He had also issued a circular to the Boards of Guardians, urging them to take measures to be provided for such an emergency. The answers which he received were most confident; and he was satisfied, from the tone of the general majority of them, that they felt themselves prepared to meet any emergency by the ordinary processes. He did not wish to mislead, or, by understating the amount of distress, to encourage fallacious hopes for the future; but during the last weeks of April the distress had decreased, but it might be owing to accidental and special causes. In conclusion, he pointed out the necessity of a firm and judicious, but liberal and humane administration of the Poor law, and assured the House that the Poor Law Board would do all in its power to give adv