BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

VOLUME L.—NUMBER 47. BALTIMORE, SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

GLORIOUS NEWS.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

THE FALL OF WILMINGTON

The Federal Troops in Possession

REBELS DRIVEN FROM THEIR WORKS

700 Hundred Prisoners Taken.

LARGE AMOUNT OF STORES CAPTURED.

COTTON AND ROSIN BURNED.

The Rebels are Retreating North

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Official Ignorance in Richmond.

THE SITUATION OF CHARLESTON.

Sherman's Measure of Freedom.

Federal Officers Enjoying Themselves in Richmond

&c., &c., &c.

Official Bulletin.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, February 24, 9.45 A. M.

Major General Dix, New York:

Dispatches just received here announce that Wilmington is in possession of our troops.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Official Bulletin.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 11.30 P.M.

Major General Dix, New York:

The following official report of the capture of Wilmington, has been forwarded to this Department by Lieut. General Grant.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Fort Monroe, Va., 10 P. M., Feb. 24, '65.—Lieut Gen. Grant, City Point:—Our troops entered Wilmington on the morning of the 22d instant.

After the evacuation of Fort Anderson, Gen. Schofield directed Gen. Cox to follow its garrison towards Wilmington, while General Terry followed Hoke on the east side of the river.

The latter took up a new line four miles from Wilmington, but was so closely pressed by General Terry that he could send no troops to the west side. On that side the rebels made a stand behind Town Creek, but on the 20th General Cox crossed his troops below them with a flat boat, and attacked them in the rear and routed them, taking two guns and three hundred prisoners.

On the 21st, Gen. Cox pushed to the Brunswick river, opposite Wilmington, where the bridge was on fire, and on his arrival the rebels began burning cotton and rosin in the city and left it that night.

Our captures, including Fort Anderson, amount to 700 prisoners and 30 guns.

The citizens state that the rebels burned 1,600 bales of cotton and 15,000 pounds of rosin.

The Union feeling showed itself quite strongly in the city.

General Terry followed Hoke northward. (Signed)

C. B. COMSTOCK, Lieutenant Colonel, A. D. C. and Brevet Brigadier General.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY ADMIRAL PORTER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—The Navy Department has just received the following, dated U. S. Flag Ship Malvern, Cape Fear River, Feb. 22d, via Fort Monroe, Feb 21, 9 A. M:

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:—I have the honor to inform you that Wilmington is in possession of our troops.

(Signed) DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

THE LATEST FROM WILMINGTON.

The Rebels Retreat, Leaving a Large Number of Prisoners in Our Hands

The following despatch, giving additional particulars of the fall of Wilmington, has been received at the Navy Department:

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 24, 1865.—Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:—The Cuyler has just arrived from Cape Fear and reports our forces having taken possession of Wilmington on the morning of the 22d, Washington's birthday. The rebels retreated, leaving a large number of prisoners in our hands. Official dispatches from Admiral Porter go by to day's mail.

STEPHEN D. TRENCHARD, Commander.

SUFFERINGS OF A SCOUTING PARTY.

CAIRO, Feb. 24.—The scouting party under Capt. Newell, of the 5th New Hampshire, which left Vidalia in the early part of the month to patrol along Black river, have returned in a terrible state of dilapidation, having met with great hardships, and having to subsist for six days on horse and mule meat, being alone in the swamps surrounded by rebels.

Brig. Gen. Meredith has been relieved of his command in Western Kentucky.—His successor has not yet been announced.

The trial of General Paine is progressing, and thus far not a single charge against him has been sustained.

EXECUTION OF BEALL, THE REBEL PIRATE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Beall the pirate, was hung to-day.

OUR VICTORIOUS ADVANCE ON WILMINGTON.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 23.—The steamer Virginia, Captain Snyder, arrived here this morning from Fort Fisher, which she left on the morning of the 20th inst., bringing cheering news of the victorious progress of Generals Schofield and Terry's forces toward Wilmington, which has doubtless ere this reached your readers through official despatches, telegraphed from this point.

Immediately after the capture of Fort Anderson, on the west bank of the river, Gen. Schofield ordered a general forward movement of the troops on both sides of the river, Admiral Porter's fleet also pushing up the river protecting the flanks of both forces. The enemy were driven before our troops in utter confusion. Up to the hour of the sailing of the Virginia, our troops were still victoriously advancing and had reached a point within four miles of the city.

A general engagement between the two armies was thought not altogether improbable, as the prisoners captured declared that Wilmington would not be given up without a desperate struggle. Extensive earthworks defend the roads leading into the city, but it was generally believed that the city would be evacuated and fall without any serious resistance into our hands.

SKETCH OF WILMINGTON.

Wilmington is the capital of Hanover county, N. C., and is situated on the east bank of Cape Fear river, about thirty-four miles from its mouth. It is the largest commercial place in the State, the business and population having been greatly increased by the construction of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad, which extends north to Weldon, on the Roanoke river, one hundred and sixty-two miles, and forms part of the great highway of travel North and South. This railroad cost $2,500,000, and up to a short period was in excellent condition. Wilmington is also connected with South Carolina by another railroad to Manchester, and then connects with the branch to Camden, in South Carolina—a very flourishing town, situated on the east bank of the Wateree river, thirty-three miles northeast of Columbia, and one hundred and forty-two miles northwest from Charleston, with which it is connected by railroad. This is the Camden where we fought the two battles of that name during the Revolution—one in August 1780, between Gen. Gates and Lord Cornwallis; the other in April 1781, between Gen. Greene and Lord Rawdon. Wilmington is thus connected by rail with the most important and fruitful portions of the neighboring States.

From Wilmington steamboats ascend the Cape Fear river at all stages of water to Fayetteville, one hundred and twenty miles. The United States Arsenal in this place was seized in January, 1861, and a large quantity of arms and powder and shot were secured by the rebels. This arsenal is situated in the southern limits of the city, and has been used by the rebels principally in the manufacture of swords and bayonets. Previous to secession five or six newspapers were published here, and more than twenty engines were employed in manufacturing, while four mail steamers kept up a daily communication with Charleston. The arrivals at the port, exclusive of the Charleston steamers and coasters, were upwards of one thousand. The population in 1861 was ten thousand, and the city carried on a large trade, with tonnage amounting to 29,288 tons. The location is said to be unhealthy, and in consequence the population is principally confined to tradesmen and mechanics, the manufacturing branch of business being quite large.

For many months past Wilmington has been the most important point of entry in the rebel confederacy, and is of vital interest to Lee's army, and indeed, to the whole South. In a speech which he made in Wilmington in November last, Jeff. Davis alluded to the port as the only one of great importance left open to the rebels. Much of the material for the rebel armies imported from Europe, by blockade runners, has been heretofore entered at Wilmington; and the chief supply of cotton for Europe has been shipped from the same point. Accession to the port has heretofore been very easy for vessels of such light draught as could run past our blockading fleet by way of the Beach channel, where our heavier vessels could not follow. There is no other port in the rebel confederacy from which such extensive operations in blockade running has been carried on as at Wilmington; but the fall of Fort Fisher put a stop to all this profitable business.—*N. Y. Herald.*

IMPORTANT MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI—SPECULATIONS IN REGARD TO LEE'S DESIGNS.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—The Bulletin's special Cincinnati despatch says:

Advices below indicate general preparations for a three-fold movement to occupy Alabama and Mississippi. Thomas from the North; a strong mounted force of Infantry from Vicksburg, via Jackson and Canby from Pensacola. It is apprehended that if Lee is compelled to relinquish Richmond, he will fall back on Lynchburg and thence make his way through the Mountains to East Tennessee or Kentucky.

The efforts making to repair the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad to Bristol are indications of such an intention. It was rumored in Knoxville last week that one division of his army had already appeared on the borders of East Tennessee. The expedition now moving from Knoxville is to defeat this movement, and, by again destroying the railroad, render the transfer of Lee's army west of the mountains impossible.

THE NATIONAL LOAN.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—The sales by Jay Cooke, of the 7-30 loan to-day, amount to $3,162,450. The largest single subscriptions were:—$325,000 from Philadelphia and $50,000 from Columbus. There were 2,218 individual subscriptions in sums of fifty and one hundred dollars each.

RECRUITING ACTIVELY PROGRESSING.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 24.—Advices from Columbus represent that recruiting is very active: companies are reporting faster than they can be mustered in. It is expected that Ohio will put more regiments in the field than were authorized by the Secretary of War.

EXCITEMENT AT KNOXVILLE—LONGSTREET REPORTED MARCHING THITHER.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 24—A special despatch to the Democrat, dated Feb. 23d, 4 P. M., says that intense excitement exists at Knoxville, owing to a report that Longstreet's command was moving on that place.

Latest News From The South.

SHERMAN'S MEASURE OF "FREEDOM."

We notice in some of our Southern exchanges at hand an order from Sherman to encourage the people to "meet together in peaceful assemblages to discuss measures looking to their safety and good government and the restoration of the State and national authority," declaring that they "will be protected by the national army when so doing;" that peaceable inhabitants who satisfy him that they are "earnestly laboring" to restore the Union will be left "undisturbed in person and property," and "protected as far as possible."

To give effect to this "measure of freedom," General Sherman's order concludes with the following atrocious and cowardly threat:

"If any farmer or peaceable inhabitant is molested by the enemy, viz: the Confederate army or guerillas—because of the friendship to the national Government, the perpetrator, if caught, will be summarily punished, or his family made to suffer for the outrage; but if the crime cannot be traced to the actual party, then retaliation will be made on the adherents to the cause of the rebellion. Should a Union man be murdered, then a rebel selected by lot will be shot; or if a Union family be persecuted on account of the cause, a rebel family will be banished to a foreign land. In aggravated cases retaliation will extend as high as five for one. All commanding officers will act promptly in such cases, and report their action after the retaliation is done."

That is, in short, Sherman essays in his order to encourage the traitors and tories outside of his lines to be bold and outspoken in their treachery and toryism, and make threats to awe, and terrify patriots who are not in his power into a respect for his preposterous edicts and pretensions.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 21.

The War Department is still dumb as to the situation in South Carolina. It is stated that no official despatches have been received from General Beauregard since those dated at Winnsboro', on which he had moved on the evacuation of Columbia.

We have yet no news of the enemy's occupation of Charleston, although it has been reported that our force had been withdrawn from there on Sherman's front. It does not appear that at Branchville Sherman has detached any of his force to move upon Charleston.

The only Yankee force we know of in the close vicinity of the city, is that reported some days ago to have made a lodgment on James Island. The Ashley river, two thousand yards wide, intervenes between James Island and the city, and there are strong works on the other side of the island facing toward Fort Sumter and the harbor, which have probably had the effect of warning off the force of the enemy.

Reports from Charleston as late as Thursday last, state that on the lines in the immediate front then everything was quiet. The enemy are not moving in this direction. Scouts report no enemy within six miles of Vance's ferry.

CHARLESTON.

While the War Department could furnish us nothing upon the subject, it was generally believed that Charleston, the "cradle of Secession," and the very nest of rebellion, has been evacuated by our troops. Sherman, by his bold advance, has thus accomplished, without bloodshed, what Dupont, Dahlgren, Gillmore & Co., have in vain attempted, though aided by the combined naval force of Yankeedom. This ill fated city, or rather the remnant of it, will now experience to its full extent the mercy and magnanimity of Yankee rule. The Mercury moved its quarters several weeks ago in anticipation of this sad result.

ENJOYING THEIR LIBERTY.

Yesterday the bright blue uniforms, gold lace and shoulder-straps of several high stepping Yankee officers, might have been seen perambulating the city, going about their business or pleasure with as much freedom as anybody. Upon inquiry, we learned that Brigadier-General J. D. Hays, of New York, and several Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels, and other Lieutenants, had been paroled by the military authorities, with the freedom of the city, to superintend the distribution to the Yankee prisoners of the clothing, &c., received per flag of truce from the North. These Yankee visitors will be paroled and sent into their country in a few days, and any little stray bits of information they can pick up concerning affairs in the "rebel capital" will be very acceptable to their Government.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—The Richmond Sentinel of Feb. 22d contains the following:

THE WAR—(NEWS SUPPRESSED.)

"Our readers will cheerfully forego the desire to be apprised of pending military movements in the Carolinas, when they are informed that our reticence is in compliance with wishes which have been communicated to all newspapers.

The enemy got up a furious shelling in front of Petersburg, caused by the appearance of a Confederate working party.—Several shells exploded in the city of Petersburg, and numbers fell in Blandford. Grant is extending his line of railway to his new position on Hatcher's Run."

The Express says: The enemy is throwing up heavy works on the Brunswick stage road, between Reams' Station and Monk's neck bridge, two miles below the latter place. Heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of Dutch Gap yesterday, but we were unable to learn the cause of it.

A gentleman, now a resident of the city, formerly of Kentucky, proposes to put his able bodied men slaves at the disposal of General Lee. He thus gives unmistakeable evidence of his patriotism. Not only so, but he intends to comfortably equip each man and furnish him liberally with money to secure comforts in camp. Here is an example worthy of imitation. Who will follow it?

A RICHMOND EDITOR TRYING TO "FIRE" THE NEGROES.

"Among the lately returned prisoners were five negroes, who resisted all solicitations to join the enemy or to take the oath. One of these, named Dick, of Petersburg, was quite a character. The Yankees often engaged him in conversation, but Dick was a match for them at all points. He told them he was formerly a Union man of the John Minor Botts school, but that day has past with him now.

He had been in favor of the Union as it was, and not as the Yankees purpose to make it. Dick has been a prisoner since the battle of Gettysburg.

MAIL NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.

The Charleston Courier of the 16th says that *nothing of importance* has occurred since last report.

"The force at Bull's Bay at last accounts had not yet landed; and it was believed had mostly disappeared.

The Examiner says: "In the absence of official information, we abstain from other reports less reliable of the military situation in South Carolina.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE AND SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA.

We have a confirmation, says the Examiner, of the report of an expedition of the enemy from Knoxville in the direction of Greenville, but there are various surmises of its object.

A letter from Wytheville, dated on the 15th inst., says:

The enemy 4,000 strong, under Gillem, are reported to be advancing through upper East Tennessee. Their outposts are north of Greenville.

Prisoners brought in by our scouts state that it is the intention of the enemy to occupy the whole State, if possible, on the day of the election, the 22d inst.

"The same deeds of murder that East Tennessee has witnessed daily since the war commenced, are still being enacted. No man's life is safe an hour."

The same writer adds:

Gilmer's brigade of Kentucky cavalry had an engagement last Saturday at Powell's bridge, in Lee county, Va., 25 miles north of Cumberland Gap, resulting in a splendid victory to our arms. Our loss was not over 60 killed and wounded.

The proposition to arm 200,000 negroes, which passed the rebel House Monday, was indefinitely postponed by the Senate on Tuesday by one majority. On the first vote in the Senate it was rejected, it will be remembered, by a two-thirds majority. The Dispatch thinks it will be reconsidered and passed.

The Enquirer says there is a rumor in town that Sherman was between Beauregard and Charlotte; in other words, that he had flanked Beauregard and got on the north of the rebel army.

The Enquirer says there is a rumor on the street that Beauregard had gone crazy, owing to excessive wear and tear of body and mind.

The Enquirer says that the absence of news from the South had given rise to a large amount of croaking, and that croakers were going about saying that there was the devil to pay, and the Confederacy had gone up.

The Enquirer has an extract from Gen. Lee to Hon. Porcher Miles, urging the arming of the slaves, saying that the North has already a large superiority in men and they will continue to overrun their territory and overbear their armies unless this measure is adopted.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCOUTING EXPEDITION—CAPTURE OF REBEL OFFICERS AND GUERILLAS.

A detachment of the 8th Illinois cavalry, sent out from Fairfax Court House on the 21st instant, on a scouting expedition, under command of Capt. Corbett, has returned to camp, bringing in a number of rebel officers and guerillas, among whom are Col. R. W. Carter, of the 1st Virginia cavalry; Lieut B. B. Turner, of Fitzhugh Lee's staff; Assistant Surgeon A. J. Barnes, of the 46th Virginia infantry; and privates George W. Somers, L. R. Mason, and J. L. Smallwood, of Mosby's guerillas; E. H. Anderson and R. T. Crapper, of White's guerillas.

This is the second time that Lieutenant Turner, of Fitz Hugh Lee's staff has been captured by our forces, the first time being in October last, when, he says, he made his escape from the guard while being conveyed from the Old Capitol prison to Fort Delaware. Turner declines, however, to tell the particulars of his escape.

The guerilla Somers, of Mosby's gang, is believed to be a silversmith by that name, who formerly resided in this city, but who went south at the breaking out of the rebellion.

The prisoners were all brought to Washington last night and committed to the Old Capitol.—*Star.*

SUICIDE OF A REBEL CONSPIRATOR AT CINCINNATI.

The Cincinnati Gazette of the 20th says: Yesterday afternoon Col. Benjamin M. Anderson, one of the prisoners confined in McLean Barracks in this city, for complicity in the Chicago conspiracy, made a desperate attempt to commit suicide—Between twelve and one o'clock in the afternoon, as one of the guards engaged as barrack policeman was in the room in which the prisoners were confined, Anderson suddenly snatched a pistol from the soldier's belt, and deliberately cocking it pointed the weapon at his own heart.

One of his fellow prisoners seeing the action of the intended suicide, made a motion to wrest the pistol from his hand, but failed in the attempt, and before others could interfere the pistol was discharged and the unfortunate man lay on the floor bleeding profusely. The interference of his friend had somewhat altered the aim of Anderson, for the bullet, instead of lodging in his heart, as he evidently intended it should, penetrated the centre of his stomach, causing a frightful wound, which will certainly result fatally.

"Although he seemed hardly disposed to enter into the particulars of one or two occurrences, the sufferer was quite communicative, considering the intense agony which was racking his entire frame. He denied complicity in the Chicago conspiracy, but acknowledged that he had acted unwisely and foolishly in many particulars, adding, with much earnestness, "though I was only foolish, I know that foolishness often becomes a crime." Regarding the letters which have been produced by the prosecution during the trials, Anderson admitted their authenticity, but urged that he wrote some of them in a spirit of jest, never intending to fulfil the obligations they inferred, while some were emanations when he was inebriated and hardly knew what he was writing.

Anderson asserts that after he took bonds not to take up arms against the federal government, he was ever in favor of the restoration of the Union, and consequently never intended to rejoin the rebel cause. He was his intention, he states, of going to Mexico and serving in the army of that country, though he admits that he might have told some people that he simply wished to go to Mexico as an easy way of regaining the rebel States.

"With the death of Colonel Anderson there will be three prisoners on trial before the Military Commission now in session. Of the original eight, Cantrill was granted a severance, Daniels has escaped, Marmaduke and Semmes are already disposed of, leaving Judge Buckner S. Morris, Chas. Walsh and Col G. St. Leger Grenfell to prepare a defence to the charges against them."

Kentucky Rejects the Emancipation Amendment.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 20.—The Kentucky House of Representatives yesterday rejected the amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibiting slavery, by a majority of eight votes.

NOMINATION CONFIRMED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Brigadier Gen Robert Anderson, to be Major Gen. by Brevet in the regular army.

SALUTE IN HONOR OF WILMINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A national salute is now being fired by order of the War Department in honor of the glorious news from Wilmington.

PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF GENS. KELLEY AND CROOK.

On Tuesday morning, the 21st instant, about 3 o'clock, a party of about 150 mounted rebels, mostly dressed in Federal overcoats, entered Cumberland by the Cresaptown road, and proceeded at a slow walk along the main street to the front of the headquarters of Major Generals Crook and Kelley, where they halted and formed in line, facing the side pavement. General Kelley's headquarters are in the Barnum House, and General Crook's in the Revere House, about 200 feet distant.—They captured the sentinel in front of General Kelley's, who, with presented pistols at his head, was compelled to conduct them to the General's sleeping apartments, where they captured him and his Adjutant General, Captain Melvin.

Another portion of them in front of the Revere House, seized a negro servant and forced him, with pistols pointed at his breast, to point out the room occupied by Gen. Crook, where they captured him also. They went to General Kelley's stables and took eight of his best horses, and mounted each of the two Major Generals and Adjutant General Melvin on a horse, speedily decamped down the towpath of the canal, and crossed the river into Virginia at Wiley's ford.

During their visit here they destroyed no property, except that they gutted the military telegraph office and cut the wires. They are supposed to be part of Rosser's force from near Moorfield, towards which place they hurried off with their prisoners. Pursuit was immediately made by a well mounted military detachment from this post.—*Cumberland Civilian.*

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

Blockade runners have given up the ghost in despair, and are going to turn virtuous. Tom Bold, of Liverpool, cousin of the rebel M. F. Maury, has had a big row with the rebel leaders and government, and vows eternal vengeance against the whole lot. He, it will be remembered, fitted out the Rappahannock. But he says the Southern rogues have swindled him out of all the profits that he expected to make, and seeing the game all up, he cannot restrain his temper. And, to the poor rebels, "sorrows come not single, but in battalions."

The two hundred and fifty thousand stand of Enfield rifles that the rebel government contracted for last autumn have gone the way of all the rebel hopes. You may remember they were to be paid for with cotton, a bale for each rifle, the contractor to run all the risk, carry the guns into port, and take his cotton and run out again.—Now Sherman and Porter and Terry have stopped that little game, and the speculator in England has thrown up his contract. These new rifles were to arm the Southern (white) army, and the old guns now in use were to go into the hands of the blacks. Now, there is nothing the South will suffer so much for as small arms and ammunition for them.

The statement which I made in my last letter relative to the departure of the rebel iron-clad is fully confirmed. She sailed from the Isle of Houat, which is between Belle Isle and Quiberon, on the coast of Brittany, on Saturday last, after having been furnished with coal by a French steamer, and with a number of cannon and a quantity of powder and other munitions of war, as well as a crew, by an accommodating English steamer. Immediately after this she hauled down the English flag, which up to that time she had carried, hoisted the rebel flag and got to sea. Her object, it is said, is to force the blockade of Charleston.

The French journals have begun to smell war, and in political circles of all shades the possibility of such an event is being discussed more freely than at any time within my remembrance. The story about the cession of Sonora, Durango, Lower California, &c., with the accompanying statements that Dr. Gwin has been made Viceroy and Duke, is not believed in all its plenitude: but that the question of a cession of a strip of Mexican territory to France is under consideration, and will be carried out if circumstances permit, I think there is no doubt.

From Savannah.

The Gifts of Philadelphia to Sherman's Army—Thanks to Our Citizens from the Commanding General.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 12.—The General Commanding has requested me to return his sincere thanks, through your journal, to those citizens of the Quaker City who so kindly donated supplies to the troops of this Department. The pickles were decidedly acceptable, and much relished by the "boys." To Capt. George H. Smith, for his very arduous labors and kindness, all join in sending good wishes; he will ever live in the memory of the brave fellows who presented this city as a Christmas gift to the nation.

You will confer a great favor by inserting this in your paper, so that your citizens may know that your efforts in trying to add to our health and comfort are duly appreciated by those who were the recipients of the articles purchased with the means which were kindly donated. The whole command joins in wishing you long life and happiness.

Very respectfully,
C. H. HINDS, A. A. General,
District of Savannah.

ENGLISH OPINION OF FRENCH DENIAL.

The London Times, relative to the denial of the reported cession of Sonora to France, says: The question of the cession of Lower California to France is not considered to have been settled even by the unqualified assertion telegraphed from Paris, that the news on the subject is wholly unfounded. Indeed, it can be positively shown to have had some foundation, whatever may be the ultimate extent of its realization. Mr. Gwin, after the Southern secession, of which he was an advocate, visited France, and energetically laid certain plans before the Emperor, which, according to advices from Paris, were, at all events, received with very great attention. It is likewise believed that means were furnished to him to proceed upon the mission which has led to the present announcement. In any case, the public, remembering the number of formal statements and contradictions that preceded the transfer of Savoy to France, will, for a considerable time, regard the matter with reserve. According to some impressions, the most probable arrangement is that France will not immediately take an absolute cession, but will guarantee a new loan to Mexico on the security of the provinces name l.

A Military "Straw."

A correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser, writing from Newbern on the 6th, says. "No harm can result from stating now (inasmuch as the fact is known to the enemy) that Gen. Grant's Construction Corps arrived here a few days since, for the purpose, it is thought, of rebuilding the railroad from Bachelder's creek to Kingston. By glancing at the map, you will perceive that this means a move on Goldsboro. This village, which, prior to the war, numbered between five and six hundred inhabitants, is situated east from here about seventy-five miles, on the left bank of the Neuse river, at the intersection of the Weldon and Wilmington and the Atlantic and North Carolina railroads. Once in our possession, all of Southwestern North Carolina would be cut off from communication with Virginia, as well as from Raleigh, the State capital. As I have previously written you, the Old North State must now take her turn in experiencing the heavy pressure of the iron hand of war."

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

[*Washington Correspondence Baltimore Clipper.*]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 1865.

The Secretaryship of the Treasury.

The announcement that the Hon. Hugh McCullough, of Indiana, will succeed Mr. Fessenden as Secretary of the Treasury, gives general satisfaction. Whatever preferences may have been entertained in different quarters, it is admitted by all that the choice of the President has fallen upon a man whose qualifications in point of talents, experience and administrative skill, and whose character for integrity and purity of life in public and in private, must take away from every competitor the least idea of having his claims set aside for those of a less worthy rival.—These considerations also, cannot fail to mitigate the disappointments naturally felt by the friends of other gentlemen. Such, I am sure, is the result. The acquiescence of all who have taken an interest in the question of the succession is cordial and sincere.

The separation of Mr. Fessenden from the Treasury Department will be regretted by no one, perhaps, more earnestly and truly than it is by Mr. McCullough himself. Few men (even during the last four years of self sacrifice on the part of many true patriots) have had the opportunity of so signalizing their disinterested devotion to their country and the Government as Mr. Fessenden did when he consented to take the office of Financial Minister last summer. All who knew him know with what reluctance, and at what cost of personal wishes, ease and interest, he accepted the place. All who are acquainted with the management of Treasury affairs during his incumbency know how laborious, painstaking, and devoted he has been; and the country will attest the energy and fidelity and success of his administration.

The names of Chase and Fessenden might well make any comparison formidable to the worthiest successor. And yet Hugh McCullough is a name which, in any crisis that may be reasonably contemplated, will be a "tower of strength" in the financial and commercial world. His appointment to the responsible post of Comptroller of the Currency was one of the felicities of President Lincoln's administration. It secured, at once, for that Bureau the unquestioning confidence of the business classes throughout the nation. His instructions to the National Banks are full of intrinsic wisdom, enforced by the lessons of experience—showing a capacity comprehensive enough to deal with the highest problems of the science of Finance, and with the minutest details of the practice of Banking.

It may not unreasonably be expected that, in the highest post which an experienced financier can possibly occupy at this day, his genius and tact will be exerted still more beneficially for his country, and more gloriously for his own fame. If honors are justly bestowed upon the founders of empires, the fathers of Republics, and upon the war-worn veterans of victorious fields—not less commendation is properly due to those whose abilities and industry are exerted in maintaining the credit of their country. The very life of a Nation, at such a crisis as that through which we are passing, is CREDIT.—And it is fortunate that, in view of the embarrassing complications which the Government and people of the United States may be called to undergo, (even after the military power of the Rebels shall have been subdued), the financial and commercial classes, who are always most sensitive to the slightest breeze of danger or mischief, rejoice in the designation for the Head of the Treasury, of one so long and familiarly known to them as Hugh McCullough.

A LOCKER ON AT THE CAPITAL.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE DRAFT.

Mr. Editor.—Notwithstanding the labour which has been expended in the adjustment of the coming draft, the simple arithmetician can have no difficulty in showing that the rules which have been prescribed by the head of the law, the chief of the engineers and a high official of the War Department, are founded in gross error. I will endeavor to expose this error in a few words, and probably the subject may be of sufficient importance to secure for my article a corner in your columns.

It is clear that one man who is to serve one year is not an equivalent for another who is to serve two years' or a third who is to serve three years.

The officials are therefore right in assuming the man who is to serve one year as the integer, and multiplying the two year's man by two and the three year's man by three.—By this process we have the positive contributions of every district represented by the number of years of service to be rendered by the men who have been placed in the field by the respective districts.

If every call had been for men to serve for one year and no more, the credits to be allowed would be ascertained by deducting the number of men placed in the field from the aggregate of years of service they were to render. But if one call was for one year, and another for two years, and another for three years, then in order to adjust the credits now to be allowed the number of men furnished on the call for two year's men must be doubled, and the number of men furnished on the call for three year's men must be multiplied by three, and the aggregates of men supplied as thus ascertained, must be deducted from the aggregate of years of service actually contributed. It follows that the second branch of the rule proposed is correct only on the hypothesis that every call has been for men to serve for one year and no longer.

The third branch of the rule which proposes to multiply the present requisition by three, and to add this product to the excess of years already contributed, is contrary to every principle. In effect, it is equivalent to allowing to a district now in excess no more than one third part of the credit to which it is entitled.

Instead of explaining why this is so, I will endeavor to show that the result is really such as I have stated.

By the table of quotas, &c., lately published, (and which it might be useful to republish, that we may know where we stand,) it appears that the Eighth Ward is now entitled to a credit for 119 years of service in excess of its last quota, and by that table the quota now required of that Ward is 100. The Ward is therefore assessed at this time to no less than 219 out of an enrollment of 675.

Upon this basis the Seventeenth ward, which has an enrolled population of 947, ought to be charged with 207 years of service, and being already in excess of 76, ought to supply under the present call no less than 281 years of service. It is assessed at no more than 177. The error in the rule is thus demonstrated.

Now upon my principle you would add to the present excess of 1625 years of service, the positive quota required, and from the Third Congressional District 2,166, making an aggregate of 3,791. Divide this by the enrolled population, 13,083, and you will have 2-9 as the ratio of contribution.

Then multiply the enrollment of the Eighth ward, 675, by 2-9, this gives you 195 67.—Again multiply the enrollment of the Seventeenth ward, 947, by 2-9, this gives you 273 68.

Now you will find that 675 bears the same proportion to 947 as 195 67 does to 273 68, which proves that the rule suggested by me is correct.

Then to ascertain the number of one year men to be contributed by the 8th ward, in answer to the present call

From the whole number	195 67
Deduct present excess	119
And you will have	76
And from the whole number assessed as above to the 17th Ward	273 68
Deduct present excess	177
And you will have	96

as the number to be contributed by the 17th Ward under the present call. A.

☞ Lieut. Frank Hibler, formerly on John Morgan's staff, captured with Morgan and who escaped with him from the Ohio Penitentiary, was picked up at Evansville, Ind., last week as a rebel spy and lodged in prison.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Sentenced by the Court Martial.—Whilst Gen. Wallace was in command of this department the following parties were convicted, but from causes not promulgated, were not published. Gen. Morris, however, has approved the decision of the court martial and the prisoners are now probably on their way to the places of their imprisonment. The following are the cases referred to: Wm. Calhoun, private, Company D, 91st Regiment New York Volunteers, charged with absenting himself from his regiment without leave, sentenced to be confined at hard labor in Fort McHenry for two months. Geo. Thompson, alias Geo. Miller, private, Company D, 91st Regiment New York Veteran Regiment, charged with desertion, sentenced to hard labor at Fort McHenry for 3 months and to forfeit to the United States all of his monthly pay for the same period. James Flynn, private 1st Connecticut cavalry, charged with desertion; sentenced to hard labor at Dry Tortugas for one year, and to forfeit all pay during said confinement. E. G. Insley, private Company G, 1st Eastern Shore (Md.) Volunteers, charged with striking his superior officer with a billy while in the discharge of his duties; sentenced to hard labor at Fort McHenry for the period of six months, and to forfeit all pay during said confinement. Chas. A. Fagan, private of Captain W. E. Jones' Co., 97th Pennsylvania Volunteers, charged with desertion; sentenced to be confined at Dry Tortugas for the period of two years, and to forfeit all pay during said confinement. Peter Cowan, private Co. F, 157th New York Volunteer Infantry, charged with desertion; sentenced to hard labor at Dry Tortugas for the period of two years, and to forfeit all pay during said confinement. Thomas McMahon, substitute in the military service of the United States, charged with desertion, and James Wilson, private 157th New York Volunteers, charged with desertion, received the same sentence as Cowan, Fagan and Flynn.

Lecture at Trinity Basement.—On Wednesday night, Rev. G. A. Leakes, Chaplain U. S. N., gave a lecture at the request of the Vestry. The subject was "The Fallibility of Mental and Moral Faculties." The lecturer maintained that all natural objects were types of the mental and moral, and thus from the periodicity in disease and insanity, from the circulation of blood discovered in 1620, from the planetary system he deduced a cycle not only in historical events, but in families, schools, and even in wandering thoughts—the comets of the mind. He further alledged that in conversation and writing there was the same periodic law, which extended also to floods and popular commotions. The Ohio river obeyed this law every 18 years; and he remembered an old inhabitant of this city stating that he had lost two fortunes by the rising of Jones' Falls. The last flood in that stream was in 1837, but could any one tell the date of the previous one? Such a fact might be very useful. He further maintained that moral influence moved in cycles, and that it increased by physical distance; and as a striking instance he cited the birth day of George Washington, which like the English morning drum surrounded the world, and on that very night distant people were working to its commemoration. This idea of periodicity was new, but novelty is not necessarily false; if so, there is no circulation of the blood and the recently discovered petroleum is fabulous; shall physical science abound with discoveries while moral science, far more important, remain stationary? Altogether the lecture furnished subject for much thought, and received from the audience close attention.

As It Should Be.—General Morris has issued the following order. That it will meet with the hearty approval of our loyal citizens no one will for a moment doubt:

Prisoners of War, en route through this Department, will not be permitted to communicate with any person except by special permission of the proper officers of the Government. All persons are forbidden to approach the prisoners or to attempt to pass the guards. The officers and soldiers of the guard have no authority to grant indulgences to citizens or prisoners, and will be punished for disobedience of orders if they take such liberty.

No one can be ignorant of the fact that all prisoners of war held by the United States Government are liberally provided for, therefore offerings in the shape of food or luxuries are superfluous and unnecessary and will be construed as an manifestation of sympathy with those in rebellion against the Government and a desire to embarrass and harrass the military authorities.

Arrests of persons violating the orders of this Department will continue until demonstrators of rebellion cease.

This order is not issued as a threat but to warn those disloyal people who have made it necessary to resort to extreme measures, that the orders of the Government will be enforced, and all persons violating said orders will be arrested and imprisoned without regard to sex or condition.

The Old Volunteer Fire Department.—It will be remembered that when the Old Fire Department was organized, an ordinance was passed by the City Council providing for a permanent fund for the relief of disabled firemen, their widows and orphans. Five per cent stock of the city was created, and certificates to the amount of $12,000 issued, which stands upon the books of the Register's office, and for which the Fire Department paid to the city the sum of $12,000. The volunteer system having been succeeded by the paid department, being desirous of dissolving its organization, and to transfer its funds and properties to the institution known as the "Aged Men's Home" of this city, with this view the department has petitioned the City Council for authority to donate or transfer its funds to the object above named, and in the First Branch of the City Council last evening, the ordinance granting the request asked for was passed.

Promoted.—Capt. Weigel, the able assistant of Col. Wolley, Provost Marshal, has been promoted by the war department to the position of Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, with rank of Major. The Major has proven himself a brave officer during the present rebellion, and during the time that he has been acting as Assistant Military Provost Marshal of this city he has known neither friend or foe, but has administered the arduous duties of his office with a justice dictated by the promptings of his conscience. It gives us pleasure to record his new position, and trust that the time is not far distant when we shall have the satisfaction of speaking of him in a higher capacity.

The Approaching Inauguration.—At informal meeting of both Branches of the City Council was held yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of perfecting arrangements in relation to the members of the City Council and the heads of the City Departments attending the inauguration of President Lincoln on the 4th of March next. The following gentlemen were appointed as the committee to make the necessary arrangements: Messrs. Wagner, Lamden and Nicholas, of the First Branch; Nair, Taylor, and Vellinti, of the second Branch.

Arrest of Females.—On Thursday last several females were arrested by the military authorities, charged with violating the order in relation to furnishing rebel prisoners with food and dainties. The arrested parties were taken to the office of Capt. Weigel, Assistant Provost Marshal, and after a hearing, they were released, with the injunction "to go and sin no more."

Stabbing Affray.—A colored man named James Johnson, was arrested yesterday af