



ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1862.

"Honest John" (?)

Honest, honest lago—Shakespeare. An honest man is the noblest of nature.—Bulwer. Honesty is the best policy (if it pays).—Brother-in-law.

Reader, would you look at a man who never looks in the glass, without seeing the image of an honest man? Behold the Editor of the Blair County Whig. He is composed entirely of the pure gold of honesty. He has the clear ring. He is a living, walking sermon on honesty. His life is a book, and every day of it is a leaf, on which is written a lesson on honesty.—Let other people talk about honesty, and urge reasons in favor of honesty, and show the meanness of dishonesty—this is all well enough in its way. But he is the quintessence of honesty itself—the focus, as it were, of all the rays of honesty. So dazzling is the light which is emitted from him, that at his mere presence, all crooked, squirming and dishonest tricks flee away, and each thing of evil fades and dwindles into its native darkness. So that when he would urge an argument in favor of honesty, he simply says, "look at the editor of the Blair County Whig!" Do you ask how we know this man is honest.—The answer is easy. He says so himself. And he would lie. See with what genuine modesty, in the last Blair County Whig, he, in effect, asks the public to behold in him the true type of all excellence—a lump of unalloyed honesty.

"The man who on all occasions spurns a bribe"—such a man for instance as the editor of the Whig—"who has a strict regard for the truth," as the editor of the Whig has—"who has never deceived the people," as the editor of the Whig has not, (some say this is because the people know him too well, but we know better)—"in whose honesty and integrity, the people can repose the fullest confidence," as they can in the editor of the Whig—"who will not be the representative of a soulless corporation," as the editor of the Whig will not, for he hates soulless corporations with his whole soul, and he is a whole-souled man. They do say that whilst he was a member of neither House, and had no legitimate business at Harrisburg, he honored the State Capital for weeks with his presence last winter, boring, gouging and working with all his might for the commutation bill, or what he now styles "the infamous legislation of the winter of 1861." But what of that? We know that his motives were patriotic—that he "spurns a bribe," and is not that enough? They do say that he obtained himself into the business relating to the "soulless corporation" of 1861, that he rushed eagerly forward, and offered himself, "body, soul and breeches" to the "soulless corporation" to promote the passage of that "infamous legislation," which it is now his sole hobby to denounce. But, if true, what of that? Can't a person turn a back-handed somerser if he alights on his feet and no money has slipped out of his pocket in the operation? "Infamous legislation," indeed! Hear him again. Give us the man, "who will be the representative of the hard working farmer, the industrious mechanic and laborer," such as the editor of the Whig would be—"who will consult the interests of the honest tax-payers," as the editor of the Whig would do. Ah, yes! Here is the man who would take care of the interests of the "honest tax-payers." See what a deep and tender solicitude he has for the "hard working farmer and the industrious mechanic." He is equally their friend and benefactor, when he goes for a measure one winter and against it the next, for it, until it becomes a law, against it, after. Aye, he is ever their guardian angel, whether he is hovering about the lobbies at Harrisburg, or in the murky atmosphere of Washington over the carcasses of defunct horses. Trust him then "honest tax-payer." He is your man. Take his advice. He is always judicious. In addressing you he is actuated by the purest and most patriotic motives, without the least tincture of selfishness. You cannot go wrong, if you do what he tells you. He is a man of great and comprehensive views, as his many profound and original schemes of political science, his brilliant career at the bar, his eminent public services, especially in the "Buck Shot War," clearly testify. We will have the candor here to admit

that some of the people have always believed, and do yet believe, that he is a mere political adventurer, that his moral horizon is very circumscribed, that he is solely and supremely selfish, that he will "turn a penny," honestly, if he can, but that he is always in the market, and even that he has done some very little and dirty tricks in his time. It is unnecessary to say that this is a popular delusion. We think a great delusion—a great mistake. We cannot shut our eyes either to the fact, that somehow or other, the people have got it into their heads that he is not fit for any office, and for this reason they have been so blind to their own interests as entirely to repel (though they could not quench) the honorable aspirations which, for years, he has indulged in this direction. Another strange popular notion seems to be this, that his ideas only come at long intervals, that he is incapable of apprehending or entertaining more than one at a time, and when he gets one he thinks he has made a great discovery, and so makes a hobby of it and rides it down. To this mental peculiarity these silly people attribute what they call his dreary and blatant repetitions of that, (to him,) newly discovered phrase, "soulless corporations." We need only say that this also is a popular hallucination. Another queer fancy prevails, that he would not care how much money would be taken out of the pockets of "the honest tax-payers," if by any kind of dexterity it could be jerked into his own. Strange, that people will so err when the man's whole soul is completely wrapped up in the "honest tax-payers." We mention it also as a singular fact, that all the best men of the community, those most estimable in private life, and eminent for public worth, have generally been and are now arrayed in opposition to him, and he to them.—We have only to say in reference to these unaccountable caprices, that it seems to be the peculiar fate of some great men not to be understood. We again say to all "hard working farmers, industrious mechanics and laborers," and "honest tax-payers," confide in the editor of the Whig, in his wisdom, his integrity, and his truth, do as he says, and all will be well. By adopting our advice they will increase their pile of "hard cash," insure to themselves long life, health and happiness; be sure to have good crops and plenty of paying work, for the "hard cash," too, and in all probability assist much in keeping the earth on its axis—a very necessary thing just now.

We hear and read a great deal of nonsense about the alleged impregnability of certain rebel points. This springs from a general ignorance of military affairs.—There is no position in the United States which makes even an approach to impregnability, nor, indeed, is it easy to conceive how any place could be made impregnable against modern science. Men like Archimedes, and Vauban, and Tollen are not as numerous as mushrooms. Those who understand the science of fortification and defensive operations may render a place strong, but there is no such thing as impregnability. Sebastopol proved that.—Military engineering affords the means of taking whatever can be presented for attack, and with the inexhaustible resources of our government in men, money, arms, munitions of war, engineers, and all the appliances of war, it is folly to talk of a mere collection of earthworks being impregnable.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES HUMILIATED.—The Richmond Examiner says that the Confederate States have been humiliated, not by the recent disasters to their arms at Roanoke Island and Fort Donelson, but "by sitting, through our representatives, upon the steps of English royalty and soliciting the English Government to recognize us. Herein we forgot our own dignity as a powerful and wealthy nation; for had we been true to ourselves—had we fallen back originally upon the weapons we could have effectually wielded, and should wield now—we could have compelled that haughty nation to accede to every reasonable wish." Poor fellows! Foreign interference has become "sour grapes" to them.

FROM TENNESSEE.—Humphrey Marshall is still at Gladesville, eight miles from the Kentucky line, near Pounding Gap, with the few unscattered demoralized forces belonging to Colonel Williams' regiment. Marshall at first attempted to conciliate the people in that region, but since his defeat has been irritable and overbearing.—Tennessee advises say that the citizens of Shelbyville, Bedford county, burned, on Sunday night, a large quantity of Confederate stores to prevent their falling into the hands of the rebel troops, under A. Sidney Johnson, who was in full retreat from Murfreesboro.

The Patriotism of '76 vs. '62.

There is a striking difference between the patriotism which pervaded the hearts and minds of the men who framed and passed the Declaration of American Independence, in the State House at Philadelphia, on the fourth of July 1776, and that which actuates the Congressmen and Senators of the Southern Confederacy.—The first unhesitatingly passed the Declaration and at the same time pledged their "lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors" in maintenance of their action; while the latter quibble, amend, retract, propose and almost fail to agree upon any sacrifice, however small, to accomplish their end. That patriotism which will not sacrifice everything for country, is not true patriotism, consequently we are inclined to believe that there is very little of the genuine article in the so called Southern Confederacy. A few days since the question of destroying all the cotton and tobacco, and other useful property, likely to fall into the hands of the Union troops, was brought up in Congress, and there was a warm debate upon it. Quite a number of members were unwilling to go into this destruction of property unless the Government would remunerate them for the loss, thereby showing plainly that they were fully as much concerned about their pockets as their independence. We think this action the more reprehensible and unpatriotic on the part of Southern Congressmen when it is taken into consideration that should this cotton and tobacco fall into the hands of the Federal authorities, they would not only get anything for it, but it would supply the Federal Government with money to carry on the war against the rebellion. Evidently there are men in the Confederate Congress who have no heart in the rebellion, or are the veriest knaves that ever disgraced such an assemblage. We have little respect for any of them, and none at all for those who will not go their whole length to carry out their designs, if they honestly believe them to be right. When our forefathers passed upon the Declaration of Independence, they did not stop to inquire how much they would be likely to lose by attaching their names to that document.—They staked their all. Not so with southern patriots. They would like to set up a government of their own without costing them anything. If they are to destroy their cotton and tobacco they want the government to agree to pay for it, as also if it should happen to fall into the hands of the Union troops. They do, or certainly should, know that the Southern Confederacy is not able to pay them for their articles now, and even should it gain its independence would not be able to pay them for years to come. If they were patriots they would not hesitate to make the sacrifice in order that their children might the more fully enjoy the benefits of the government they propose to establish, by leaving them as small a public debt as possible.

Hard Fight in Arkansas.

The telegraph has already electrified the country with the information that Generals Curtis and Sigel had met the rebels under Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh, at a place called Pea Ridge, in Arkansas, and after three days hard fighting, commencing on the 6th inst., had completely routed them, scattering their forces in all directions. It appears, from Gen. Curtis' official report of the battle, that the rebels had surrounded him and intended to cut him off entirely, but they had mistaken their men. Gen. Sigel commanded the left wing of the army, and upon this Gen. McCulloch made a furious charge, but he was stricken down in the engagement and his forces completely dispersed. The latest accounts we have from the battle are the following, under date of Springfield, Mo., March 10: A messenger who arrived here at three o'clock this morning reports that the battle at Pea Ridge lasted from Thursday morning to Saturday evening, and that our loss was about four hundred and fifty killed and wounded. The rebel loss was about one thousand killed and wounded, and 1,000 taken prisoners. Among the latter was Col. McRae, of an Arkansas regiment. The attack on our forces was made from the north and west—our army being completely surrounded. Generals Van Dorn, Price, McCulloch, and McIntosh were present with 25,000 men. McCulloch and McIntosh are reported to have been mortally wounded. The attack from the rear was made by McCulloch and met by General Sigel, who wounded him and completely scattered his force in wild confusion. We have also captured a large amount of stores, teams, cannon, small arms, and ammunition.

Regular Snappers.—Uncle Sam's Mississippi "turtles."

Our Army Correspondence.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., February 28, 1862. MESSRS. EDITORS:—Since I last wrote you, nothing of importance has occurred here. Everything is moving on quietly, though it is very evident that a great amount of work is being done. Since our Regiment arrived here, a long wharf has been built by the Engineer Corps, and is now nearly completed. It is built by driving piles into the sand, and on them a framework is laid upon which the floor rests. It is a very substantial, though I fear not very durable work. The worms will in the course of a couple of years render the piles entirely useless. Every day this wharf is constantly crowded with wagons and carts, receiving freight and transferring it to the numerous storehouses on shore. This place is beginning to resemble a good sized town, the numerous storehouses giving it quite a business look. The army and navy have been very quiet for some time, but last evening an expedition started for Fernandina, Florida, consisting of the flag ship Wabash, three gun-boats, and a transport, carrying a regiment of infantry, I believe the 50th Pennsylvania, Col. Christ commanding. The fleet presented a beautiful appearance as it slowly moved out of the harbor. Just as twilight was beginning to deepen into total gloom, the vessels could be seen at the very edge of the horizon, and their spectral appearance reminded one forcibly of the old story of the Flying Dutchman and his phantom ship.—By the time you receive this the blow will have been struck, and another name will be added to the list of victories gained in the month of February. Truly this has been a glorious month for the Union cause. The fall of Fort Henry has been known here, and close after it came the rumor of the fall of Fort Donelson, of which, however, we are not yet positive.—In addition to these, the glorious victory at Roanoke Island, places the prospects of the Union cause in much better position than they were one month ago. I do not think England will be quite so rabid as she was a short time ago, when she hears of these repeated successes. Fort Pulaski is now entirely cut off from all supplies, and in a short time will, I think, fall into our hands. No changes of any importance have been made among the troops here; however, their local position has been somewhat changed. All the regiments who have heretofore been encamped outside of the entrenchments have been moved inside, and a Regiment of Cavalry has heretofore occupied the most advanced position, has also been ordered inside.—I cannot understand the object of this move. The 70th still remains "in statu quo." Companies A and F are doing duty as provost guard, and the balance being connected with the garrison of the fort, and doing general guard duty around the post. The health of the Regiment is very good. No prevailing diseases have as yet made their appearance. Several men have been discharged from the different companies and have taken passage on the U. S. Steam Transport Ericsson for New York. The Regiment was paid off on the 18th and 19th of this month. The men received pay from the date of enlistment and the officers from the day of muster. By this the officers lose the pay for all that time in which they were engaged recruiting and organizing their companies; and that too, the very time when they were laboring under the heaviest expenses. I certainly think that the State should see to it, that the officers do not lose all this time, but that they receive full compensation for the time elapsing between the date of their appointments and the date of their muster. Out of their first pay the Regt. sends home between \$18,000 and \$20,000. Co. F sends home over \$1,000 in drafts, besides a considerable amount in Treasury notes. The drafts have been sent to Wm. M. Lloyd & Co., where those to whom it is to be paid can receive it. To-day we muster for pay, and expect to receive two months more pay in a few days; which all goes to verify the old adage that it never rains but pours. We have had very pleasant weather for the past month. Occasionally we have a blow from the east, but it never lasts longer than one or two days. It is quite warm during the day, and when riding out over the island the appearance of nature seems to indicate autumn rather than winter. Roses, Japonicas, wild flowers, &c., are to be found blooming everywhere, and bouquets of roses are quite common. If such is the winter, what will the summer be. But I must close this hastily written letter, with an apology for my long silence, and a promise to be more punctual hereafter. KEYSTONE.

REBELS STILL AT WINCHESTER.

A telegraphic dispatch dated Butler Hill Va., March 11th, says:—The latest intelligence from Winchester is to the effect that the town was occupied by at least one brigade of rebel infantry, and other troops. There is also a strong suspicion that a portion of the forces which evacuated Centreville have been ordered to reinforce Winchester. Our pickets were undisturbed last night. Active scouting expeditions are continually kept up. LATEST.—Federal forces occupy Winchester.

THE UNION MEN IN RICHMOND.

The Richmond Examiner has the following significant intelligence: Distressing as were the rumors from Tennessee, which prevailed in this city on Tuesday, we could almost find it in our hearts to wish it had not been so soon corrected. The Tenkes in our midst were on the eve of proclaiming themselves, and in one day more we might have had the satisfaction of seeing and knowing by their own acknowledgment, our internal enemies. Putting the Roanoke disaster with our rumored Tennessee discomfiture, they thought the cause of the South desperate; so great was their joy that it could scarcely be concealed. We learn that a man went through this city on Tuesday morning, trying to sell \$60,000 worth of dry goods, still in Philadelphia, to be delivered in Richmond in ten days. Another is said to have gone up to a gentleman in the Second Market, on Tuesday morning, and slapping him on the back said: "Ah, ah! what do you think now? I thought you said we could not subjugate you." We have no doubt many similar instances occurred which have not reached our ears.

Nashville would rather at this moment give half a million of dollars than have the Federal army leave her limits and the rebel army return for even thirty days. So says the Louisville Journal. The use of a soldier's "drill"—To make a hole in the enemy.

Evacuation of Manassas.

The people throughout the North were considerably astounded, a few days since, on receipt of the news that the rebels had entirely evacuated their stronghold Manassas, and would not at first credit the report, but it is now proven true. What their intention is in thus deserting these fortifications remains to be seen, but we rather expect it was because they were afraid to risk a battle. CENTREVILLE, March 11.—Upon a closer examination, it was discovered that the rebels, having evacuated their much-boasted stronghold, had set fire to such of their commissary stores as they could not conveniently carry off. The place presented a scene of the utmost desolation—a mass of blackened ruins. The rebels also blew up the bridges along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad for some miles below Manassas. Such of the locomotives it is supposed by blowing up, and the vicinity of the depot is covered with fragments of machinery belonging to the destroyed locomotives. It is said that the rebels left Centreville on Sunday morning. Large numbers of contrabands have reached our lines, (which now extend beyond Manassas Junction, and are still coming in by droves.) On our way from Centreville, yesterday morning, we passed at least one hundred who were making their way to Washington. Some of the refugees claim to have come a distance of twenty miles west of Manassas. They all agree in saying that the rebels left Centreville in great precipitation, and that the destruction of their commissary stores was commenced at an early hour on Sunday. The contrabands state that a portion of the force which left Manassas passed northwardly. This is considered improbable, but if they did, it was for the purpose of reinforcing Jackson at Winchester. They also state that all the bridges along the route by which they came had been blown up by the rebels in their retreat, and that the greater portion of the track is also torn up. The earthworks at Centreville had been greatly misrepresented. They were not of the formidable character supposed. The enemy, before evacuating, had somewhat injured them by breaking the embrasures and casemates. The same is probably the case at Manassas, the fortifications of which, however, have not yet been fully examined. Our troops, on arriving at Fairfax Court House, found not more than a dozen families remaining. The soldiers rushed into the court house and brought away some of the records, but, on this being discovered, the officers directed their return. Most of the contrabands above alluded to were cheerful and happy in their liberty, and remarkably communicative to the extent of their limited knowledge. About a mile and a half before reaching Centreville a number of graves were discovered, principally of the Alabama troops; the graves were marked with head and foot boards, on which the names of the deceased were inscribed. A guard was placed near them, as if to shield them from mutilation, although it was not to be supposed such an act could be committed. LATE NEWS.—WASHINGTON, March 11.—When, some time since, it was stated in this (the Associated Press) correspondence, that the rebels were falling back from Manassas, the assertion was indignantly contradicted; but there is now satisfactory evidence that the main body of the rebels left their lines at that place nearly two weeks ago. The roads in Virginia, in some places are tolerably good and improving. The whereabouts of the rebels, who retreated from Manassas, is a subject of earnest speculation. Eleven prisoners who were captured in the vicinity of Burke's Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, yesterday, were brought here to-day. They are roughly clad.

The Dress of the Federal and Rebel Soldiers.

The following, which we copy from a late number of the Richmond Dispatch, will serve to show how the editors down South attempt to explain away the difference between the dress of the Union soldiers and those of the Southern Confederacy. Did each Union soldier provide his own uniform there might be a show of truth in the article, but when we consider that the governments of each section provide their soldiers with clothing the cause of the fine appearance of the one and the ragged appearance of the other is too apparent. The Federal Government has money, credit and clothes, while the Confederacy has poverty, bankruptcy and rags. With this discrepancy between them we can well afford to take all such innuendoes and laugh at them: "The ability of the Yankees to dress themselves in handsome style is all due to the South, whose staples they have used to make themselves rich, and indulge in all manner of luxurious living.—The matter of dress is a matter of taste, even when people are not shut out from the sources of supply. The North has always been in the habit of putting all its wealth on its back and in externals, whilst the South has been content with a plain style of living in everything. The one is a vulgarian who, the moment he emerges from poverty, goes all lengths in display, believing that it is externals which constitute a gentleman; the other, being conscious of elevated sentiments and certain of his position, is not, perhaps, as careful as he might be of the outward insignia of superiority. No one, however, can, by any possibility, mistake pretenders and parasites for gentlemen, in spite of all their fine feathers. From their representative man, the rail-splitter, down to the lowest of the jail bird whom they have let loose upon our soil, they have exhibited none of the qualities which constitute a gentleman—courtesy, magnanimity, truth, honor. All the fine dressing in the world can no more disguise a blackguard so that he shall pass for a gentleman, than the trappings of a war-horse can hide the long ears of a mule, or convert his dissolute bray into the "Ha! ha!" with which the fiery charger described by Job halts, the shouting of the captain and the roar of the battle. As to the miserable penny-a-liners of Yankeeedom, who make themselves merry over the plain dress of the Southern soldier, we cannot possibly elevate them to the dignity of contempt. The sons of our Southern farmers, who have never known what it was to draw a dependent breath, and who have cheerfully impoverished themselves for the vindication of great principles, are beyond the reach of those galling slaves of the mercenary Yankee press, who have never known what it was to have a free and independent sentiment in the whole course of their lives, and who, for a decent suit of clothes and a daily allowance of codfish and potatoes, would sell their country to despotism, their souls to the devil, and congratulate themselves with justice that they had made a good bargain."

The Naval Engagement at Fort Monroe.

Fortress MONROE, March 9. The long-expected rebel steamer Merrimac, at last made her appearance, and yesterday afternoon, with the assistance of two gunboats, which came out with her from Norfolk, and the James town and Yorktown, which were from the James river, made an attack upon Fort Monroe, and the naval vessels stationed at that place. The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fortress Monroe, on her way to Newport News, at about a quarter before one o'clock. The rebel gunboats followed her. They all carried the Confederate flag at the stern. The gunboats had a French flag at the mast-head, and the Merrimac had a flag at her bows, which was described by some as a commodore's blue flag, and by others as a black flag. She appeared to be very low in the water, and her sides low and stern were covered with sloping iron plates extending two feet below the water line, and meeting above, like the roof of a house. At her bows, on the water line, were two sharp iron jags, resembling ploughs, about six or seven feet long. Her number of guns is stated at twelve, but she might not have had so many at her bows. Two guns were seen projecting from her elliptical port-holes. The design of the enemy did not become apparent until she was close to the fort, and by that time the Merrimac had got under way for the scene of action. The Roanoke flag-ship having been disabled by the breaking of her shaft some time since was taken in tow by the tug-boats Edgar and Young America. At about the same time the Merrimac fired a shot, and the whole garrison turned out under arms. The 10th New York regiment was briefly addressed by Col. Bender, and all testified the greatest delight at the prospect of a battle with the Merrimac, and their orders for some time the garrison was dismissed until they should be wanted. The rebel boats steadily pursued their way to Newport News and the Merrimac soon turned the point and was led to view from the fort. The first shot was fired upon the Merrimac from the land at a little past 2 o'clock. The Sewell Point battery then opened upon the Merrimac, which was passing, and the Sawyer gun at the Rip Raip replied with a shot at Sewell Point. At a gun salute was soon seen to approach the Newport News Point, indicating that the battery there, as well as the Cumberland and Congress, was engaged. The details of action could not be seen from the fort, but a telegraphic dispatch was received indicating that the Cumberland and Merrimac were in close quarters. As the latter approached the Cumberland she did not pay any attention to the Congress, but after firing two guns, struck her, the Cumberland having a shot in the water line, which commenced to sink, when the Merrimac, backing a short distance, run into her a second time, making another terrible hole in the Merrimac, until the water began to enter her port holes, and soon after she careened over slowly and finally sunk at about 5 o'clock. The Newport News battery and the guns of the Cumberland fired continuously upon the Merrimac, but no apparent effect was produced. The Merrimac unfortunately got aground on the way up, and could offer but little assistance. Shortly before two o'clock the Jamestown and Yorktown arrived from Fort James river. The Merrimac was seen early in the afternoon by the Cumberland, and put in shore for repairs. After sinking the Cumberland, the Merrimac turned her attention to the Congress, and in less than an hour afterwards a white flag was hoisted on board the latter. The Merrimac was then towed alongside her, the officers and marines being taken prisoners, the seamen were allowed to escape to shore. The United States frigate St. Lawrence arrived here during the afternoon, and without delay anchoring proceeded up the river. She followed the example of the Merrimac, but like the latter, she fell short. The gunboat Mystic was also towed up in the afternoon. St. Lawrence and Mystic, all returned. After four o'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shells into the camp at Newport News, until the Jamestown and other Confederate gunboats commenced firing upon the Merrimac. The latter replied as vigorously as possible, and the conflict was continued without any apparent effect until dark. During the evening the Congress was at anchor, and made a brilliant spectacle as she sailed by. She was blown up with a tremendous explosion. During the evening the Merrimac arrived very opportunely, and at once proceeded up the river, although not prepared for action, to take her part. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent to Newport News early in the afternoon. But little serious damage was done there, and no one was killed. This morning the Merrimac was towed up to the presence of the Monitor, which was known to the Merrimac. The latter was engaged with the Monitor, the Merrimac might have been lost. The two iron-clad vessels engaged each other for two or three hours, and at short intervals. No perceptible effect was produced upon either. They went along side once or twice, and seemed almost to run each other down but they soon parted. The Merrimac succeeded in making a large hole in the port side of the Monitor, and with the whole Confederate fleet she then retired to Norfolk. At about one o'clock the U. S. gunboat Oregon was struck by the Merrimac in her boiler and was blown up. The morning the gunboat Zouave was also seriously damaged and was obliged to return. The principal loss of life was on board of the Cumberland, where it is thought as many as one hundred lives must have been killed or drowned. The report of her officers. A rebel gunboat was cut in two yesterday afternoon by the Cumberland. The crew of the Merrimac were brought on shore this afternoon, and six lives were lost on her way up. She received numerous shots, but no serious damage. The Congress is supposed to have lost over one hundred, including but one officer. The escapees of the Congress and Cumberland have been reported here. The Monitor has come up to the expectation that were entertained of her, and has proved herself impregnable to the heaviest shot at close quarters. She behaved remarkably well on her passage from New York, and although her speed does not seem to be at all diminished. To her presence here may be attributed the safety of the Merrimac and other vessels in port, and the final disability of the Merrimac, which had seriously injured against everything. Captain Winslow of the Monitor, was wounded in the head while looking out of the wheel-house. No other accidents of any kind occurred to the Battery or crew. We have not yet any list of the killed or wounded. The Richmond Examiner says:—We have had the honor to have been present in Congress to pass the bill creating the office of commissioner general to direct the movements of the war, and the President decides upon the reorganization of his Cabinet. The bill, in its present shape, provides for the appointment of the commanding general to the Executive, and it is rather interesting to see that a ready foregone conclusion that General Lewis has had this important post in the Government. With reference to the delay in the reorganization of the Cabinet, we may say that it is reported by well-informed quarters, that the nominations have already been sent into the Senate, and that Mr. Mallory as Secretary of the Navy has a large vote, been rejected.

LOCAL ITEMS. Local items are distressingly scarce, and besides, we have been so busy with our new job work and getting our new good running order, that we have not been able to give this department the attention it deserves. It will be all right next time if we will cope with another body's wife, or a black off and kill nobody, or something else. NEW MODE OF COMPUTING INTEREST. mode of computing interest at six per cent. has been published, which appears simple. Any given number of dollars by the number of interest required, separate the right hand and divide by six, the result is the true interest for such sum for such number of months per cent. This rule is so simple and so every banker, broker, merchant and clerk put it up for reference and use. There is nothing as a fraction in it, there is no liability to error or mistake. By no process can the desired information be given with so few figures. WELL DONE.—We learn that the Captain Wayne's company, now at Fort C. have sent home some \$1800, of month's pay lately received. Some of this amount was sent directly to W. & Co. to be paid out by them to some of the men last therewith. No doubt the members of the company. No doubt they came very opportunely to many of the soldiers who have nothing to depend on, the small pittance they may receive score. FOR THE CHANGE.—The election held on Saturday last, on the question of removal of the election polls, resulted in the removal. No place has yet been chosen to remove them. It will now be the duty of the Ward to petition to appoint a place for holding election forth the name of the place in the Ward. We have heard the "Altoona House" Ward School House named as suitable the location of the polls. WHAT AILS THE WHIG?—Register. Why he wants a dose of "cash down get it. The doctor thinks he's only paying believe," and don't think such a power yet awhile. In the meantime his quill have volunteered to prescribe if they don't effect a cure in less than a doctor might be prevailed upon to slight dose. A CAUTION.—The public are cautioned of a piece of villainy, by which the operation of the \$50 7-30 treasury note as the note as a demand note in trade, the \$10,95, the amount of the coupons for which he may collect half-yearly upon them at the Government offices. To bear in mind that there are no \$50 of only \$55, \$105.—Petersen's Detector. RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.—By the Adjutor General, we find that the no sons killed and injured on the rail State during the last year was: 1 killed, 13 injured; employees, 54 killed, 88 injured. Let everybody read "a few buyers," in another column, and the young friend and see whether he tell REMOVAL. H. Fettinger of the Literary Exchange, Altoona House, would respectfully a friends and patrons and the public in he has removed to No. 7 Main St. above his old stand. I would just remark in this connection, I feel justly proud in having been employed for more extended and ample accommodation, old stand having become entirely to accommodate my vast and constant business. I therefore had a new place fitted up at considerable expense, in a class adapted to the news, periodical, stationery and variety business. I have a large stock of new goods, such as publications, in great variety, Toys, Tops, Marbles, Balls, Jumping Beans, general variety of Toys, and Notice suited to the season. I hereby return my sincere thanks to my numerous friends and Customers of the city, for their very liberal patronage in this place. When I started some five years ago, I was poor, to borrow money to begin with. I succeeded, and by persevering industry application to business, I may say, fear of being considered egotistic succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. But I have already said more in this communication. In closing I would say, inasmuch as a sense in whose progressive included to christen my new stand, KNOWN EXPERIENCE. My store known to the public by the above. Finally I invite all my friends and the public in general, to visit my establishment and be convinced, that the place must be visited. Yours Respectfully, H. Fettinger. Beauregard went to H. forthwith the rebel army at that he went to Columbus, and straggled at that place treated. He seems of retreats. Some of the confederates selves with the thought that they them good. Yes, these reverses do good to the whole country, periods. They tell us that Gen. H. caped at West Point, but he neglected at all points.