The Columbia Spy.

COLUMBIA, PA. SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1862.

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. - We are requested to announce that J. W. Hamilton will be a candidate for the Office of Justice of the Peace in the Upper Ward, at the ensuing Spring elegaion:

We call attention to the large stock of Carpetings, &c.; advertised by Haldeman. Call and examine the assortment, in which Tur Earl's Heirs. By Mrs. Ellen Wood, will be found something to suit every one, ut the most reasonable prices.

PENNSTLVANIA CANAL.-We learn that water will be let finto the Canul on Monday. We way look for early and brish opening FNavigation.

for a supply of fancy patriotic stationery, &c. Mr. Greene feraishes to the public very excellent articles in that line, at very class story telling. The narrative is plain I.w rates. The patriotic dosigns on his and clear, without effort at find writing or note paper and envelopes are the best and profound reflection. The tale is told withight most neatly execute I that we have seens

Tur Hurcainsons.-This celebrated troupe life too well known to need recommendation to the public. Their programme on the oceasion will consist of a number of their best songs, among which are several new nationthe house will be well filled on the occasion.

SERGEANT MAJOR SAITH -We regretted to learn some, weeks since of the illness of Sergeant Major R bert W. Smith, jr., of the Lifth Reserve. He returned to his home in Wrightsville on Saturday last, and we had the pleasure of greeting him in our sanetum 'n few days since. He has obtained ten days' furlough, and we hope he may be speedily thet up by home comforts and care. He looks, however, as if a longer leave would do him no harm. He reports the boys of Ca. K as all hearty, and probably among the advancing army. They had not left

Pierpont when he iele on Saturday morning. THE KEPPER GROWESTRA. -On invitation we spent an evening last week at the room 'at the "Keffer Orchestra," in Walnut street, listening to the music of that band of in-"strumental performers. We were scarcely W. II. Keffer. As our musical education has amounted to exactly nothing, we cannot 'be expected to speak critically of the performance. The music was pleasing to as-exceedingly so; and we sat listening to it a whole evening. We can honestly 'compliment the performers upon their rapid a trancoment and the good music which they bring out of their instruments. We noticed a number of visitors present, and all appeared delighted with the entertainment .-When the Orchestra shall have become familiar with a few more good pieces of music their present selection is excellent—they will doubtless give the citizens a touch of their quality. We bespeak for them general encouragement, when they shall appear in pellis.

A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE OF RELIEF. -When, a week or two since, news arrived of severe fighting on the Potomac, in which, it was exceedingly probable that our Pennylvania troops had been, or soon would be engaged, many anxious hearts in Columbia board. I was at once rated as Corporal, and beat in apprehension of harm to loved ones filled that position (with what dignity it does during the day, the enemy at one time havin the ranks of our defenders. It was then not become me to say) during my stay. suggested to us a duty on the part of those I spent a week with our friends enjoying who remain at home, to be prepared to do the visit hugely, in spite of rain and mud. their part towards the the alleviation of the I found the Columbians all hearty, in good suffering of those of our brave boys whose keeping, and full of enthusiasm. They are ill fortune it might be to fall wounded in the comfortably quartered, are well clad, armed fight. We learned later that the advance of with rifled muskets, and supplied with an Gen. Banks had been made without a col- abundance of everything. Their rations assion; and more recently our entire forces are everything a man can desire. have been pashed forward, the enemy retiring before them. Hal a great battle taken initiated in the mysteries of camp life and place near Washington, the hospitals of that amusements. It would consume too much city would have been thronged with our space to enter into particulars of these, but nounded, and it was the anticipation of this I must mention the theatrical entertainment Somingency that led to a remark that organ. Sot up mainly by the members of the regi-2/81 readiness for relief, on the part of our meat colleted in Philadelphia. Those were citizens, ought certainly to exist. The sug. first rate, and gave great satisfaction both gestion was, that the most effectual aid that could possibly be extended to our wounded, would bart; obtain them a furlough, when the to travel, and bring them home for the ficiency in drill, &s. entirely satisfactory. sareful nursing and kindness of friends. In The new Colonel-Neil!-is bringing the menced another change of front forward, so in lividual cases, this, if possible, would cers boys out, and has done wonders for them as to face the enemy, where he had deploytainly be deno; but from our town there since taking the command. He was a little ed on my right flank in strong position. where friends removal, and attendance such first, but I assured him that I was prepared but was folly in progress when, at surrise ha is regimed, would fall too heavily for to be pleased with the regiment; and indeed on the morning of the Sth, my right and their means; and some again who are with- soom found that even were I disposed to be centre renewed firing, which was immediout immediate families to look after them, critical I could find no fault. Among the ately answered by the enemy with renewed It is for these men who are fighting our bat- | very best companies of the regiment is comthe that provision should be made. The alin st cortainty of a battle-and probably a Van Cleve. (Lieut. Adams is detailed as severe one-before our forces reach Rich. Aid to Brig. Gen. Graham.) They are well him from the heights and advancing steadily mond, renders the event of such a call on drilled, make a fine appearance, and I was toward the head of the Hollows. tour sympathics and assistance not a remote proud of being able to claim the majority of I immediately ordered the centre and possibility. In such case Washington would them as fellow-citizens. I am not giving right wing forward turning the left of the still be the main hospital for the wounded, my (possibly prejudiced) opinion of our enemy and cross-firing on his centre. whose sufferings would only be increased by boys-they rank in the regiment, as I have the additionally fatiguing transportation said, among the very best. grom the battle-field.

e ministre whose duty it shall be to look af- any apolgies-and he didn't. per our wounded, in the event of a conflict I found that Col. Neill and all other off- files of cross timber. in relief of the wounded. Shall any of our remains sent home to his family. brave bors unfortunately be numbered I had intended getting over the Potomac among them, we believe the most speedy to see our boys of the l'ifth, and the Lanzhis and it will do the vork of a regiment the orders came to be ready for a move, and I have not yet received the statements of Braddock road. They met the enemy a mile ledde the independence of some part of the and Young America. af physicians.

girl, to the hospital of our army at Sultillo, bearing the musket of one of the sick, to every patient in the wards.

Will our citizens take this matter into serious consideration, and act?

author of "East Lynne," &c. Philadel-phia, T. B. Peterson & Bros.

Messrs. Peterson has here given to the public the very best story we have read since Wilkie Colline' "Woman in White." We don't mean to call it the best work of fiction; but in skill of construction, natural devel-We are indebted to Mr. N. W. Greene | logical sequence of incidents and situations, we think it decidedly without fival; 'If not first-class writing, it is very hearly first along to the end, the interest never flagging, the attention never diverted by irrelevant matter. Who takes up the book, reads if of singers announce a concert in Cdd Fel-through at a sitting. We finished it awong hows Hall, on Tuesday evening next. They the small hours, and feel confident that we shall fall asleep over any book we may chance to pick up for a week to come through force of contrast. The story, although hinging on a deeply tragical indident, is enal song: which have been received with tirely without unpleasant or depressing ingreat favor wherever introduced. Of course fluence. The tragedy falls in at the right denoughert we say nothing -let every one cud for himself.

The publishers will send the work, post paid, to any part of the country on receipt of the price-Fifty Cents a copy.

EXTENDED RAILROAD FACILITIES-PRO-POSED COMPLETION OF THE READING AND CO-LUMBIA ROAD .- The report made from the Iouse Committee on Roads and Canals today, necompanying a bill for increased railroad facilities between New York and Wash ington, sets forth that the exigencies of the Government Possire additional and more speedy communication, and that the line should be inland, and safe from the dangers of foreign invasion, to which the existing shore line is everywhere exposed. This want, they say, can be supplied by cam pleting the Reading and Columbia Railroad, prepared for the improvement made and and the committee accordingly recommends profisiency attained by the orchestra. The that the Secretary of the Treasury be author. members, must of them; commenced with ized to endorse on the first mortgage bonds the rudiments of masic upon the formation the guarantee of the payment of the of the association that full, and their present principal and interest to the extent of \$450. attainments co-bredit not only to themselves, | 000-one half to be paid on the completion but to their efficient and talented instructor, of half the road, and the remainder on its completion .- Phila. Press, March 14th.

Our Army Correspondence.

COLUMBIA, March, 13th. 1862. MR. Spr:-Your communications from our boys in the army have been numerous, and, I believe, attractive to a majority of your readers. Having recently served a short term with one of our companies in the field, I propose to constitute myself your 'Special" for the nonce, and give to you in brief my campaigning experiences.

I left Columbia en Şaturday, March 1st, for the city of Washington, my errand being simply to visit my numerous friends and acquaintances encamped around the Capital. I stopped over Sunday in Baltimore, and reached Washington next day, proceeding directly to Camp Birney, in Prince George County, Md., where our boys of Co. I, I supposed would be the reinforced line of Twenty-third Regiment were encamped. I was heartily received by the boys-officers and men-and made welcome to bed and ing, commenced an attack on my right.

I was voted the freedom of the camp and to speciators and performers.

I also frequently reviewed the regiment shy of putting them through before me at pany I, under Capt. Haldeman and Lieut,

Can'we not be realy for such a dread inspection on account of the mud; but I completely routed the whole Rebel force, emergency as this? Can we not organize a begged that Gen. Graham would not make which retired in great confusion, but rather

with the enemy, and procure their removal, cers of the regiment were favorites with the if advisable, to their homes? Car main men, and treated them with uniform kindforce of volunteers is with the army of the ness. I found notill feeling existing in the scattered over a large field. Their wounded, Potomac, and the first great battle will prob- regiment. The only unpleasant circum- too, may, many of them be lost and perish. guly to fough; within our reach. Let, then, stance connected with my visit was the death a committee be appointed and a fund be of a member of Company I-Corporal Lane, saised to be applied as may be deemed best, of Philadelphia. Capt. Haldeman had the Mountain.

means of restoring their health and strength casterious, but I was some distance from bringing in prisoners, and trying to find the will be that suggested. A sight of home town, our quarters were comfortable, and I Rebel Major General Van Dorn, who had tages to the sick or wounded so dier is a felt disinclined to move, so I put it off until command of the entire force at this battle at grant of new life and etrength. Give them too late. On Monday morning, at 1 o'clock | Pea Ridge.

from Col. Weish, whose experience of the for advance had at length been ordered .depressing monotony of hospital life dates By three everything was packed and we back to his first service. He relates that the were off. Your "Special" fully armed and where he lay after the battle of Buena Vis- marched in the ranks. (Declined Gen. Keys' ta, was equivalent to a week's new strength offer of a horse, as I wanted to be with the boys.) We had five miles to Washington, wounded in the arm in his gallant effort to marched through the city and on to the reinforce the right, Colonel and Acting Chain Bridge. Our march was cheered by Brigadier General Davis, who commanded song and shout. I joined in the "Star Spangled Banner," and other National out-pour- and pressed forward the centre of the enemy ngs, and my throat was hoarse with cheer-

rain had been falling for some time and the struggle. mud-was knee deep. My heart was Gred opment of plot, and entire possibility and with eagerness to meet the foc, my boy, and unequal to the spirit. You know, Mr. Spr, that I'm not a light weight, and the ten McCulloch, at Pea Ridge, in the mountains Brunswick by the fleet under his command. mile march commenced to tell. My throat began to parch, there was a whizzing in my ears as of lager escaping from a "fresh kag," and visions of the foaming beakers of the "Continental" danced before my eyes. I felt that the hour of separation had indeed arrived. Murmuring to myself "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori, my boy!" 1 struck an impressive attitude and grounded arms at the entrance to the bridge. "Good bye, fel's!" said I, and burst into tears.

Capt. Haldeman relieved me of my mus ket and ammunition, the boys thook my hand and told me blow my nose and stop place—; as beginning of the book. Of the crying, and with a farewell cheer my com panions in arms marched on over the bridge, as gallant and during a band of soldiers as has left any town or city of our land to fight in defence of our liberties. May they catch the rebels-I know they will whip them if they'get a chance. And may they all re-

turn to their homes safe, and soon. I wended my way back to Washington sad from the parting. On Tuesday I arrived at home, and to-day I give in my experience. I shall never forget the week I sneht with the brave soldiers of the Twenty-third, God bless them.

By command of the President. "Bowery." (Signed) Corporal.

The Great Battle in Arkansas. THE COMBINED REBEL ARMY DIFEATED.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. CURTIS.

Sr. Louis, March 11 .- The following is the official report of Gen. Carris of the great battle in Arkansas:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE SOUTHWEST,)

PEA RIDGE, Arkansas, March 9. General-On Thursday, the 6th inst., the enemy commenced an attack on my right, assailing and following the rear guard of and improving. the detachment under General Sigel to my main lines on Sugar Creek Hollow, but ceased firing when he met my reinforce-

ments about 4 P. M. During the night I became convinced that he had moved on so as to attack my right or rear. Therefore early on the 7th I ordered a change of front to the right. My right, which thus became my left, still rested on Sugar Creek Hollow. This brought my line neross Pea Rridge, with my new right resting on the head of Cross Timber Hellew,

which is the head of Big Sugar Creck. . I also ordered an immediate advance of cavalry and light infantry under Col. Osterhaus, with orders to attack and break what the enemy. This movement was in progress, when the enemy, at 11 o'clock in the morn-

The fight continued mainly at these points ng gained the point held by Col. Carrat Cross Timber Hollow. But he was entirely repulsed with the full of their commander, Ben. McCulloch, in the centre, by the forces under Col. Davis.

The plan of the attack on the enemy's centre was gallantly carried forward by Col. Osterhaus, who was immediately sustained and superseded by Col. Davis' entire division, supported also by Gen. Sigel's command, which had remained till near the close of the day on the left.

Col. Carr's Division held the right under

galling and continuous fire all day. In the evening, the firing having entirely censed in the centre and the right being now on the left, I reinforced the right by a portion of the Second Division, under Genwhen on dress parade, and found their pro- convinced that the enemy had concentrated his main force on my right, I therefore com-

This change had been partially effected energy along the whole extent of his line.

My left, under General Sigel, moved close to the hills occupied by the enemy, driving

This final position placed the enemy in the arc of a circle, when a charge of infant-The brigade was not ordered out for my ry, extending throughout the whole line, safely through the deep and impassable de-

Our loss is heavy. That of the enemy can never be ascertained, for his dead are

The fee scattered in all directions, but I think his main force has returned to Boston

Gen. Sigel follows towards Keithsville, while my cavalry is pursuing him towards the mountains, scouring the country and

the orders came to be reary for a move, and | I have not yet received the Monitor the you may be sure it was relived with cheers, the dead and wounded so as to justify a this sile, but the Robels retreated and our disaffected region, and that all the slave At about the same time the alarm signal gun much more serious

will forward you very soon

The officers and soldiers have all displayed lantly carried the right, and drove back the the centre where McCulloch fell on the 7th, on the 8th, Colonel and Acting Brigadier General Carr was also wounded in the arm, Up to near this point I felt as good a sol- and was under the continuous fire of the

of Arkansas.

(Signed) R. Curtis, Brigadier General. Major General Halleck, St. Louis.

GLORIQUS NEWS FROM VIRGINIA. Manassas Evacuated by the Rebels.

The Union Troops in Quiet Possession.

WASHINGTON, March 11, A. M .- Manassas has been evacuated by the Rebels and our forces have taken peaceful possession! No other news of public interest has been eceived this morning.

LATER. WASHINGTON, March 11 .- The reliable letails of the evacuation of Manassas and ts occupation by our troops have not yet peen received. The whole fortifications were abandoned, and everything possible burned.

The Retreat of the Rebels from Manassas.

CENTREVILLE, March 11 .- Yesterday mornng our forces, amounting to upwards of 2,000 men, proceeded to Centreville and oc cupied that village about 4 o'clock on the previous afternoon. It was altogether de-

The entire command thence proceeded to Manassas, arriving there in the evening.-The Rebels had destroyed much of their property, which they could not carry away, by fire and otherwise. The bridges and railroad track and depot in that vicinity were extensively damaged, nothing but rreck and desolation were apparent.

When some time ago it was stated in this correspondence the Rebels were falling back from Munussus the assertion was industriously contradicted, but there is now satisfactory evidence that the main body left their lines nearly two weeks ago. The roads in Virginia in some places are tolerably good

The whoreabouts of the Liebels who retreated from Manassas is a subject of earnest speculation.

LATER.

Upon closer examination it was discovered that the Rebels before evacuating 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 desclationmass of charred and blackened ruins.

The Rebels also blew up the bridges along the line of the Orange and Alexander Railroad for some miles below Manassas. Such of the locomotives as were out of repair were also destroyed, it is supposed by being blown 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 Centroville on Sunday morning.

Large numbers of contrabands have Manassas Junction, and are still coming in

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 from twenty miles west of Manassas. They ull agree in saying that the Rebels left the latter place in great precipitation, and that the Darlington, loaded with wagons, ammunition destruction of the commissary stores was commenced at an early hour on Sunday endeavoring to escape.

The contrabands state that a portion of the force which left Manassas passed northwardly, but this is considered improbable, but if they did it was for the purpose of reinforcing Jackson at Winchester. They session of the forts and earthworks, which eral Asbeth. Before the day closed I was also state that all the bridges along the route which they came had been blown up by the Rebels in their retreat, and that the dina had fled, and the city was taken pos greater portion of the track is also torn up. session of. The earthworks at Centreville had been greatly mis-represented. They were not of the formidable character supposed. The

enemy before evacuating had somewhat in jured them by breaking the embrasures and easeme5ts: E. at Hanassas, which however has not been fully examined. Our treops' on arriving at Fairfax Cour

House found not more than a dozen families. The soldiers rushed into the Court House and brought away some of the records, but this being discovered the officers directed their return. .

Wheel "our troops learned that Manassas had been evacuated their spirits suddenly became depressed, as they had anticipated a spirited conflict with the enemy.

About a mile and a half before reaching Centreville a number of graves were discovered, principally of Alabama troops. The graves were marked with head and footboards. With the names of the deceased thereon. A guard was placed near them as if to shield them from mutilation, although t was not to be supposed that such an ac could be committed.

Most of the contrabands above alluded to were cheerful and happy in their liberty, and remarkably communicative to the extent of their limited knowledge.

Occupation of Fairfax and Centreville by the Federal Troops.

New York, March 11 .-- The Tribune's special says that the companies under Major tion. The leaders of the existing insurrec-

terday. Major Hatfield's company reached The Union for which we have struggled promptly turned out under arms, eager for the Centreville and wund is had been evacuated being already gone, we now choose to go such unusual gardry that f hardly dare to on the night previous, leaving behind tents with the Southern section. To deprive them visit of an American lady, with her little equipped, with his rations in his haversack, make distinctions. I must, however, name and other property in large quantity. Both of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, Commanders of Divisions: Gen. Sigel gal- places were occupied last night. General and the initiation of emancipation complete-Kearney's Brigade drove back the Rebels ly deprives them of it as to all the States left wing of the enemy. Gen. Asboth (was at Sangster's on Sunday. Lieutenant Wee- initiating it. The point is not that all the deen, of the Lincoln Cavalry, was killed .-Several were killed on both sides.

CAPTURE OF FERNANDINA, FLA., AND BRUNSWICK, GA.

Important from Com. Dupont's Expedition.

The United States steamer Alabama, Cap from Fernandina, Florida, bringing Captain for all. In the mere mancial or pecuniary Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Obio and Missouri Davis, late Flag officer of the South Atlantic view, any member of Congress, with the may proudly share the honor of the victory | Squadron, as bearer of despatches from Commake him mine; but, alas, the flesh was which their gallant heroes have won over modore Dupont to the Navy Department, the combined forces of Van Dorn, Price and announcing the capture of Ferhandina and soon the current expenditures of this war

> We are indebted to Captain Davis for an it left Port Royal, about the 1st of March, on what was announced as an important authority, to interfere with slavery within expedition, the place of destination having State limits, referring, as it does, the absoment.

> cipitately flying at the approach of the gunboats left in charge. This gives the Govern- I said this not hastily, but deliberately .gia, from South Carolina to Florida.

nandina, Florida,

the following order: - The Mohican, flag-ship dents which may attend, and all the ruin of Com. Dupont, the Ottowa, the Seminole, which may follow it. Such as may seem the Pawnec, the Flag, the Bienville, the Al- indispensable, or may obviously promise Seneca, the Huron and the Pembino. They and will come. The proposition now made armed transport McClellan, followed by the value to the states and private persons con-Star of the South, George's Creek and the in it, in the present aspect of affairs .brig Gen. Wright, all loaded with troops While it is true that the adoption of the under the command of General Wright.

hasty flight, and fired two or three random shots from the barbette guns of the fort .--The shells of the fleet, however, caused a to my God and to my country, I carnestly hasty evacuation, and Fort Clinch was im- beg the attention of Congress and the people mediately taken possession of, and the flag to the subject. of the Union raised on the old staff which has been so long disgraced by the traitors' colors. This is the first of the old Southern forts of the Union that has been recovered since the proclamation of the President declaring that they must all be restored to the Union.

As the fleet approached the fort a train of shore of the Sound, Com. Dupont sent one

of the gunbonts in pursuit of the train. An exaiting race took place, the steamer throwing shells at the flying train, some of them falling in such close proximity that some or the fleeing rebers jumped from it and took to the bush. Among the latter is said to have been the late Senator Yulee, of Florida, accompanied by his servant. The train, of course, outron the gunboat and es-

caped. The old casemated Fort Clinch having been taken possession of the flag was also speedily raised from the eight Rebel earthworks abandoned by the enemy. Twelve large guns fell into our possession, including one reached our lines, which now extend beyond | Five of them were found in Fort Clinch, and the others were in the earthworks.

They had hastily removed a portion of their guns, which were said to be at St. Johns, farther up the Sound. An expedition was preparing to go up to capture them when the

Mabama sailed. Considerable ammunition was also captured, and the same eveing the Rebel steamer and camp equipage, was also captured whilst

The expedition accomplished its mission on the 4th of March, the anniversary of the inauguration of President Lincoln. The troops'of General Wright were landtd. and Commodore Dupont handed over to him pos

were quickly garrisoned. Most of the male inhabitants of Fernan

This has been one of the most useful ports to the Rebels, a large number of vessels having run the blockade here.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. He Indicates a Policy on the Slavery Question. GRADUAL EMANCIPATION DECOMMENDED.

On Thursday 13th the President transmitted to Congress the following message: Feliow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: I recommend the adoption French flag at their mast-head by way, as is and is now on her way here. She received of a joint resolution by your honorable supposed, of complimenting the French menbodies which shall be substantially as ful- of-war in the roads.

by such change of system.

tion does not meet the approval of Congress ing above like the roof of a house. At her and the country, there is the end, but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people importance that the Minnesota and probably other vessels in port, and the final disabling of the steamer mediately interested should be at once dis-tinetly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject

of the most efficient means of self-preserva- got under way for the scene of action.

States tolerating slaves, would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation; but that while the offer is equally made to all, the more Northern shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more Southern, that, in no event, will the former ever join the initiation, because, in my judgement, gradcensus tables and Treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very

would purchase, at a fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State. Such a propooutline of the operations of the fleet since sition, on the part of the General Covernment, sets up no claim of right, by Federal been withheld at the request of the Govern- lute control of the subject, in each case, to the State and its people immediately inter-The first point of the coast approached by ested. It is proposed, as a matter of perthe fleet was the town of Brunswick, Gergia, feetly free choice with them. In the annual the enemy abandoned their works and pre- massage last Decemper I thought fit to say: 'The Union must be preserved, and hence boats. It was taken possession of and gun- all indispensable means must be employed." ment the control of the whole coast of Geor- War has been made, and continues an indispensable means to this end. A practical Brunswick being disposed of the fleet reacknowledgement of the national authority moved twenty miles further to Cumberland would render the war unnecessary, and it furious rate. She continued firing, however, Sound, the entrance to the harbor of Fer- would at once cease. If, however, resistance continues the war must also continue, The fleet entered Cumberland Sound in and it is impossible to forsee all the incinbama, the James Adger, the Florida, the great efficiency in ending the struggle, must were followed by the small armed steamers is an offer only. I hope it may be esteemed Potowska, Penguin and Ellen. Next came no offence to ask whether the pecuniary the armed revenue cutter Henrietta and the consideration tendered would not be of more transports Empire City, Boston, Belvidere, cerned than are the institutions and property proposed resolution would be merely initiaturned her attention to the Congress, and in When the expedition came in sight of Fort tory, and not within itself a practical meas-Clinch the Rebels were discovered making a ure, it is recommended, in the hope that it would soon lead to important practical results. In full view of great responsibility

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

FROM MISSOURI.

A Battle Supposed to be Going On at New Madrid.

CAIRO, March 10 .- A despatch from General Pope's column says his forces have cars was observed leaving Fernandina, and reached New Madrid. Heavy cannonading as the track runs some three miles along the has been heard in that direction. The enemy are said to be in strong force there. The total number of torpedoes found in

the river thus far is four hundred. Exciting news from New Madrid is expect

ed hourly. Large gangs of negroes have been working in Forts Randolph and Pillow, on the Missig. plosion. sippi river; the former mounts 100 guns.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE Particulars of the Attack of the Rebel Iron.

Clad Steamer Merrimac on the Fleet. GREAT BATTLE-SEVERE LOSS OF LIFE

Heroic Bravery of American Tars.

CAPTURE OF THE FRIGATE CONGRESS-SHE IS "BURNT TO THE WATER'S EDGE

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION OF HER MAGAZINE. The Camberland makes a Brave Fight.

One of the Rebel Steamers Disabled. ANOTHER REBEL STEAMER CUT IN TWO. THE MINNESOTA GOES TO THE ATTACK BUT

GETS AGROUND She Escapes with no Material

OPPORTUNE ARRIVAL OF THE MONITOR.

A Fierce Fight—The Merrimac has a Hole Battered in Her Side and Retires. NO DAMAGE TO THE MONITOR. SHELLING OF NEWPORT NEWS.

FORTRESS MONDOE, March 9, P. M.—The States gunboat Oregon was struck by the Merlong expected and talked of Rebel steamer Merrimac has at length made her appearance in these waters. Yesterday afternoon, with the assistance of two wooden gunboats which One of the Rebell gunboats was cut in two came out with her from Norfolk, and the James- yesterday afternoon by the sloop-of-war Cumtown and Yorktown, which came down the James river, she made an attack upon New-

that place. The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fort Monroe, on her way to Newport News, at about a quarter to one o'clock. Two

The Merrimac had a flag at her bows, which Resolved, That the United States ought to was thought by some to be a Commander's two guns were seen projecting from a long, Merrimac, wich had previously been proof cliptical porthole

Hatfield were ordered on Sunday morning tion entertain the hope that this Govern- by the breaking of her shaft some time since, erally of opinion that, considering everything,

We may mention that the suggestion came | The boys were rejoiced that the long wished | report, but I will refer you to a despatch I | troops entered the Court House at a gon yes | States north of such parts will then say | of the fortress was fired and the whole garrison

anticipated fight.

The Tenth Regiment of New York Volunteers were drawn up and briefly addressed by Col. Benedix, and all testified the greatest delight at the prospect of getting into action .-After being under orders for some time the garrison was dismissed antil, they should be wanted.

The Rebel boats steadily pursued their way to Newport News, and the Merrimac soon turned the point and was lost to the view of the sager spectutors at the Fortress.

The first shot was fired from the frigate latter in their proposed confederacy. I say Cumberland at a little past two o'clock. The Sewell's Point Battery then opened upon the dier as "any other man," although the enemy during the two hardest days of the tain Lanier, arrived here yesterday, direct ual and not sudden emancipation is better Minnesota, which was passing up, and the a few shots at the Sewell's Point Rebels.

A thick cloud of smcke was seen to arise above and hang over Newport News, indicating that our batteries there, as well as the sloop-ofwar Cumberland and the frigate Congress, were engaging the enemy.

The progress of the action could not now be seen from the fortress, but the telegraphic line thither kept General Wool advised of the pro-

gress of events. A despatch was after a time received announcing that the Cumberland and the 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 the Cumberland with her sharp bows, making a jagged hole in her side, at the water line, about seven feet in extent. The Cumberland immediately commenced to sink, when the Merrimac, backing a short distance, run into her a second time, making another terrible hole, which admitted the water at a her brave crew working at her guns until the water began to enter her port holes. She careened over slowly, and finally sunk at about three o'clock.

The Newport News Battery and the guns of the Cumberland fired continually upon the Merrimac, but no apparent effect was produced. The Minnesota unfortunately got aground on the way up and could offer but little assistance.

Shortly before three o'clock the Jamestown and Yorktown arrived from up the James river, but the latter was disabled by the Cumberland shortly after her arrival and had to put in shortly after her arrival for repairs. After sinking the Cumberland the Merrimac

less than an hour afterwards a white flag was hoisted on board the latter. A Rebel gunboat immediately went alongside and the officers and marines being taken prisoners the seamen were allowed to escape to the shore. The United States frigate St. Lawrence arrived here during the afternoon, and without

followed the example of the Minnesota and Roanoke in firing upon Sewell's Point, but like theirs her shot fell short. The gunboat Mystic was also towed up in

dropping anchor proceeded up the river. She

the afternoon. At sundown the Roanoke, St. Lawrence and Mystic all returned. 'After 4 o'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shell into the camp at Newport News, while the Jamestown and other Rebel gunboats commenced firing upon the Minnesota. The latter replied as vigorously as possible, and the

conflict was continued without any apparent effect until dark. During the evening the frigate Congress was set on fire and made a brilliant spectacle. At midnight she blew up with a tremendous ex-

During Saturday evening the Monitor (Ericsson Battery) arrived very opportunely, at once proceeded up the river, although not prepared for immediate action, having just arrived from her first 'sea trip. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. Both sides seemed o be willing to wait for daylight.

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:

The Battle Renewed.

This (Sunday) morning the conflict was renewed by the Rebels. Until the presence of the Monitor was known to the Merrimac the latter was engaged with the Minnesota, and but for the fortunate arrival of the Monitor, the Minnesota might have been lost, as she was aground and of course unable to do effective service.

The two iron-clad batteries now engaged each other for three or four hours at long and short range. For a long time no perceptible effect was produced upon either. Once or twice they lay close alongside and seemed almost torun each other down, but they soon reappeared from the cloud of smoke that hovered over them. Finally the Monitor succeeded in damaging her antagonist, battering a large hole in the port side of the Merrimac, and she soon drew off, and with the whole Confederate freet retired towards Norfolk at about 1 o'clock.

During the fight this morning the United

rimac in her boilers, which blew up.
The gunboat Zouave was also seziously

berland before she was sunk.

The principal loss of life was on board the port News and the naval vessels stationed at Cumberland, where it is thought as many as 150 must have been killed or drowned. But six lives were lost on board the Minne-

sota, according to the statement of one of her officers. gunboats followed, all carrying the detested shore this afternoon, and with the assistance The crew of the Minnesota were brought on Rebel flag at their stern. The gunboats had a of the steamer Spaulding she has been got off,

numerous shots, but no serious damage.

The frigate Congress is supposed to have lost over one hundred men, including but one officer. the gradual abolisament of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such by such change of system. the escaped crews of the Congress and Cumcovered with a sloping iron roof, extending She behaved remarkably well on her passage If the proposition contained in the resolu- about two feet below the water line, and meettimes completely covered her decks, her speed bows, on the water line, were two sharp iron did not seem to be at all diminished. To her does command such approval, I deem it of points, about six or seven feet apart. Her presence here may be attributed the safety of

against everything.
Capt. Worden of the Monitor, was wounded it. The Federal Government would find its come apparent until between one and two in the head while looking out of the wheelhouse highest interest in such a measure, as one o'clock, and by that time the Minnesota had No other accident of any kind occurred to the battery or crew. We have not yet any list of The Roanoke (flagship), having been disabled killed and wounded. Naval men here are gento go to Fairfax Court House by the old ment will ultimately be forced to acknow- was taken up in tow by the tugboats Dragon the Rebels had the worst time of it. Without the Monitor the damages might wave been