

THE GREAT REBELLION.

EVACUATION OF COLUMBUS, Ky.

Rebels at Murfreesboro Surrounded.

Destructiveness of the Rebels.

Gen. Halleck and the Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, February 29, 1862.
The Secretary of War this evening received a dispatch from General Buell announcing that our troops had taken possession of Nashville without opposition. The rebels abandoned everything in their flight. A vast amount of stores of various kinds fell into our hands.—The Union sentiment is represented as being very strong among the people in and about the city. Intelligence has also been received by the Secretary that Columbus is being evacuated, and that the rebels are erecting fortifications four miles above Memphis, for the protection of that city.

CAIRO, February 28, 1862.
The following is a special dispatch to the Chicago Tribune:

The rebel army in their retreat from Nashville left 1,600 sick and wounded, destroyed all the bridges, burned all the steamboats but one, which escaped. The Texans fired the city in many places, but the citizens extinguished the flames. The great majority of the property owners remained. The excitement was intense. Gov. Harris made a speech, and said that he had done all he could, and was going to leave and advised them to follow.

We learn from a gentleman thoroughly conversant with Kentucky that the rebels are dismounting their large guns at Columbus, and that the work of evacuation is now going on. Several transports are lying at Columbus to carry off the troops. Every man coming into Columbus is impressed; even farmers with their teams. Several hundred negroes were sent into the interior yesterday. This is from a trustworthy source.

The Rebel War Department has called on Tennessee for thirty-two regiments.

An official dispatch received at Knoxville, says that an ample force will advance from Richmond to protect East Tennessee.

Gov. Harris has taken the field in person. The report of Gen. Beauregard's illness is unfounded. He left Corinth for Columbus on the 19th.

The Memphis Avalanche of the 24th says persons reported to have left Gen. Johnson's command say that he entertains no doubt of his ability to enter Nashville whenever he wished to do so.

CHICAGO, February 28, 1862.
A special to the Tribune, dated Cairo, 28th, states:—

A report from Murfreesboro states that the rebels have concentrated at that place, and that Gen. Buell had surrounded them so that none could escape. The rebels offered to surrender their position if allowed to march out with the honors of war.

Gen. Buell refused, and demanded an unconditional surrender, and said he would allow two days for consideration, and if the place was not surrendered at the expiration of that time, he would open fire upon them. The time expired this morning.

ST. LOUIS, February 28, 1862.
The Memphis papers of the 19th inst. say that Gen. Polk issued orders yesterday that the track of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad should be torn up, preparatory to the evacuation of Columbus and the demolition of the fortifications there. The Columbus forces are to fall back to Island No. 10, about forty-five miles below Columbus, which, it is said, completely commands the river, and can be fortified with heavy guns, and made impregnable against any river attack.

The St. Louis Democrat has a dispatch dated Clarksville, 26th inst., which says that the rebel soldiers, before leaving Nashville, plundered many dwellings and business houses, and excited great alarm among the people.—Several rebels were shot by the citizens whom they were robbing. Gen. Nelson is in command at Nashville. Gen. Buell being still on the north side of the river. The Union sentiment is very strong, and our troops are received with the greatest cordiality.

Great indignation is expressed against Gov. Harris, who was fairly driven away by the Union men, they having become bold at the proximity of Union troops, and daring to assert their rights. Before leaving, Gov. Harris made a speech recommending the citizens to burn their private property, and calling on Tennesseans to rally and meet him at Memphis, but no one paid any attention to him, and it is thought he will not receive any considerable reinforcements.

Gen. Crittenden's command had joined Gen. Johnston at Murfreesboro.

The railroad bridge at Nashville had been destroyed by order of Gen. Floyd, against the urgent entreaties of the citizens. The destruction of the bridge caused much indignation.

Gen. Halleck, in a general order, states that sufficient information has been received that the rebels, in evacuating Mudtown, Ark., poisoned the provisions they were obliged to abandon, and that forty-two officers and men were poisoned by eating the same. He says we cannot retaliate by adopting the same barbarous mode of warfare, nor can we retaliate by punishing the innocent for the guilty. The laws of war forbid this. But the same code authorizes us to retaliate upon the guilty parties. Persons guilty of such acts, when captured, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war; nor will they be shot; but suffer the ignominious punishment of being hung as felons. Officers of troops guilty of such acts, although not themselves the advisers or abettors of the crime, will, when captured, be put in irons, and conveyed as criminals to these headquarters. The laws of war make it their duty to prevent such barbarities. If they neglect that duty, they must suffer the consequences.

COLUMBUS CERTAINLY EVACUATED BY THE REBELS.

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1862.
The following dispatch was received to-day from Commodore Foote, dated Cairo, March first:—

Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, with his moment returned to Columbus, has intelligence that the rebels are evacuating Columbus, and are burning their winter quarters and removing their heavy guns on the bluffs. But the guns in the water batteries remain intact. He also saw

a large force of cavalry drawn up ostentatiously on the bluffs, but no infantry was to be seen as heretofore. The encampment seen in our armed reconnaissance a few days since has been removed. Large fires were visible in the town of Columbus, and upon the river banks below, indicating the destruction of the town, military stores and equipments.

A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer.
It is expected that Columbus will be occupied by the Union forces to-day.

DEATH OF GENERAL LANDER.

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1862.
General Lander died this afternoon, at Paw Paw, Western Virginia, from the debilitating effects of his wound, received at Edwards' Ferry. His body is on the way to this city, where his widow resides.

General Lander had every attention which his old and well tried friends around him could bestow. His death was somewhat sudden.—It was not until five o'clock this afternoon that his wife received intelligence of his illness.—She immediately took measures for obtaining a special train to proceed thither; but before the arrangements were completed Secretary Stanton called in person, and with much feeling and delicacy acquainted her with the fact of her husband's death. Secretary Chase and other distinguished friends subsequently visited her in her affliction.

General Shields succeeds General Lander in command.

Message of Jefferson Davis to the Rebel Congress.

BALTIMORE, February 28.
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States:—

In obedience to the Constitution and provision requiring the President from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the Confederacy, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, I have to communicate that since my message at the last session of the provincial congress, events have demonstrated that the government had attempted more than it had power successfully to achieve. Hence in the effort to protect by our arms the whole territory of the Confederate States, seaboard and inland, we have been so exposed as recently to encounter serious disasters.

When the Confederacy was formed, the States comprising it were in the peculiar character of their pursuits and a misplaced confidence in their former associates to a great extent, destitute of the means of prosecution of a war on so gigantic a scale as that which it has attained, the workshops and articles were mainly to be found in the northern States, and one of the first duties which devolved upon this government was to establish the necessary manufacturing, and in the meantime to obtain by purchase from abroad, as far as practicable, whatever was required for the public defence. No effort has been spared to effect both these ends and though the results have not equalled our hopes it is believed that an impartial judgment will upon full investigation, award to the various departments of the government, credit for having done all which human power and foresight enabled them to accomplish.

The valor and devotion of the people have not only sustained the efforts of the government but have gone far to support its deficiencies. The active state of the military preparations in arming the nations of Europe in April, the date when our agents first went abroad, interspersed unavoidable delays in the procurement of arms, and the want of a navy has greatly impeded our efforts to import military supplies of all sorts.

I had hoped for several days to receive official reports in relation to our discomfiture at Roanoke Island and fall of Fort Donelson. They have not yet reached me, and I am, therefore unable to communicate to such information of the past events and consequences resulting from them as would enable me to make recommendations founded upon the changed condition which they have produced. Enough is known of the surrender at Roanoke Island to make us feel that it was deeply humiliating however imperfect it may have been the preparations for defence, the hope is still entertained that our reported losses at Fort Donelson have been greatly exaggerated, inasmuch as I not only unwillingly, but unable to believe that a large army our people have surrendered without a desperate effort to cut their way through, and investing forces, whatever may have been their numbers, and to endeavor to make a junction with other divisions of the army; but in the absence of that exact information, which can only be afforded by official reports, it would be premature to pass judgment, and my own is reserved.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

WHAT WE GOT AT BOWLING GREEN.—Our success at Bowling Green, writes a correspondent, is much more important than at first supposed, viewing it merely in reference to what property we have taken possession of. The rebels did not destroy as much of their stores as we imagined, but concealed them in various places in the town and neighborhood, hoping that they might escape the vigilant eyes of our quartermasters and commissaries. But their hopes were vain. Such quantities of provisions of all sorts, flour, pork, &c., having been found, that we should have no difficulty in subsisting our army for a considerable time, even if we should receive no supplies whatever from the North. In every imaginable place these articles have been found—up in garrets, down in cellars, in wells, in cisterns, in houses belonging to professed Union men, and, indeed, in every situation which any individual would be apt to select as suitable for concealment.—This organized system of hiding was not confined to the town. A great many hundred bags and barrels of corn were discovered concealed in the woods in the vicinity. It was astonishing how speedily and surely these were hunted up. No matter whether the hiding place was one, two or a dozen miles off, the hidden goods were smelt out, and a party soon on their way for the purpose of bringing them in. I shall not pretend to estimate the value of the property thus captured. I have not seen the whole of it, but have been informed that little less than a hundred thousand dollars' worth have been found.

Judge J. Richter Jones' Regiment left Philadelphia on Monday, and Angerth's on Tuesday, for Washington. From Harrisburg, the Regiments of Colonels Laman, Schlender, Wilson, Campbell, and Meredith, are moving on as fast as transportation can be furnished—and five more Regiments are to start via Philadelphia. Thus, twelve more Regiments are added by Pennsylvania, in response to a recent call from the Government.

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, March 6, 1862.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

No active operations in the Army of the Potomac are reported. Accounts from every military department received during the past week represent the troops as being in good condition, and that there prevails among them a vigorous patriotic spirit for action in the field.

General Bank's division still rests in the vicinity of Charleson Va. No accident or interruption marred his advance. The condition of the country from Harper's Ferry present the usual appearance of agricultural prosperity. Negroes are flocking in the lines of General Banks in large numbers. Various reports as to the movement of the rebels at Winchester were circulated, but as they come from refugees and contrabands, no reliance is placed on them in the camp at Charlestown.

A despatch received at headquarters on Saturday evening announces the death of Gen. Lander at Paw Paw, Virginia, a town between Romney and Winchester, at five o'clock in the afternoon General Lander's brilliant conduct at Rich Mountain, and his energetic march to open the railroad at Hancock, which won for him the special thanks of Secretary Stanton recently, will be remembered. Gen. Lander was wounded at the battle of Ball's Bluff, from which accident he never fully recovered, and it is said that his late exertion in bringing forward his troops in the remarkable forced march alluded to, eventuated in the total breaking up of his feeble health, on account of which he some time since asked to be relieved temporarily from his command. General Shields has been appointed to succeed General Lander, and will enter upon his duties immediately.

The evacuation of Columbus, Ky., is officially announced by a report from Commodore Foote. Lieutenant Phelps returned to camp on Saturday, and states that the rebels are retreating from Columbus. Several fires were visible in the town, indicating that they were destroying the military stores and equipments, if not the town itself. The Union troops were expected to occupy it yesterday. The War Department has received such encouraging intelligence of the restoration of Tennessee to the Union that it is contemplated to appoint Senator Andrew Johnson Military Governor of the State until the civil government can be reorganized. With this view it is said that the President will nominate him as Brigadier General, and place in his hands the pleasant duty of restoring his old State to its original position.

The Treasury Department has ordered the cotton taken at Nashville, valued at \$100,000 to be sent to New-York.

As an evidence of the anxiety of the solid men—Unionists and conservatives—of rebellion to reconstruct the business connections between the North and the South at the earliest opportunity, we can refer to the fact that telegraph despatches of a purely business character were received in New-York on Saturday from Nashville. No sooner do the people in the capital of Tennessee feel themselves relieved from the incubus of secession, by the occupation of the Union army, than they hasten to restore the old relations with the commercial capital of the country. Circumstances like these, trivial as they may appear, show very forcibly the disposition of the oppressed Unionists of the South to avail themselves of their disenfranchisement. We may look for similar indications from other parts of the South as the soldiers of the government advance and break the chains of the overridden people.

The rebel batteries on the Virginia side of the Lower Potomac make a demonstration occasionally. On Saturday night while General Sickles was reviewing his brigade, on the Maryland side, a shell exploded within a few feet of his position, and on Monday night the Cockpit Point battery threw several shot and shell, with what intention or with what effect it was not known.

Gen. Shields left Washington on Monday to take command of the late Gen. Lander's Brigade on the Upper Potomac.

Nothing of importance has occurred in General Bank's division. Nearly a thousand barrels of flour, belonging to the rebels, together with a woollen factory, owned by a man of the ominous name of Davis, well stocked with cloths, were seized at Charlestown, by General Banks' troops.

The burning of Columbus by the rebels is confirmed by news from Cairo, which represents the appearance there of a terrible conflagration there on Saturday night.

Despatches from Louisville state that railroad communication between that city and Nashville is now perfect, except about ten miles damaged by a rise of water, which would be speedily repaired.

Our news from Fortress Monroe is interesting. General Wool and General Cobb had another interview off Craney Island on Saturday last, relative to a general exchange of prisoners. There appears to have been some unexplained delay in sending down the expected released prisoners by General Huger.—The steamer Express went up the James river on Friday to receive them, and again on the next day, but they did not arrive at the appointed rendezvous. The commanding officer of the rebel steamer Jamestown stated that he

had no knowledge of any prisoners being expected, although the Express was sent up to take them on board on the strength of information furnished by Gen. Huger. The time of their arrival is, therefore, considered uncertain in consequence of these two disappointments. It is not positively known whether Col. Corcoran will form one of the number when they do come.

Our news from the Southern papers is rather important. The Lynchburg Virginian says that the rebel forces at Centerville had received orders on the 16th ult., to send all their sick to the rear and prepare for marching orders. The women and children are said to have been sent away.

The Norfolk and Richmond papers announce the landing of a large force of our troops at Newport News, and they predict an immediate attack on Pig Point. Jeff. Davis has placed Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the vicinity within ten miles around, under martial law, by special proclamation.

The Savannah Republican not only admits that the communication between Fort Pulaski and Savannah is wholly cut off, but declares that the Unionists have erected three batteries on the river in the form of a triangle, which it is impossible for any vessels in the rebel service to pass.

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.—The report of the trustees and superintendent of this institution has been received, and in which we find that the total number of patients admitted to its benefits, for 1861 was 134, of which number 84 were males and 54 females. The whole number of those discharged, or who died during the same period was 145; of whom 30 were perfectly restored, 50 in an improved condition, 49 without any material improvement, and 16 removed by death. "Ill health" appears to be the most prolific cause of insanity which is closely approximated by "domestic trouble";—males appear more liable to the affliction, and the married relation most favorable to sanity. The farmers take precedence upon the list (281) closely followed by the laborers (218), whilst the printers have had but 4 representatives, these numbers having reference to the patients received, since the opening of the institutions. Insanity, from the tables appears to be more generally developed between the age 30 and 40 than through any other decade of human life. The hospital through the past year has been so crowded that for the first time since its establishment several of the counties have been applied to provide for some of the insane. The report, which is quite interesting, insists upon some provision for isolating the criminal insane, and concludes with asking for an appropriation of \$20,000 for repairs, outstanding debts, and several necessary alterations in the economy and conduct of the institution.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.—A correspondent of the New York Tribune of the 28th ult., says the passage of the Homestead bill by a majority of nearly one hundred, after the doubts that hung over it a month ago, was due in a great measure to the personal efforts of Mr. Potter of Wisconsin, and Messrs. Aldrich and Windom of Minnesota, who made a thorough canvass of the House, urging it earnestly on nearly every member.

The bill provides that on and after the first of next January, any person 21 years of age, who is a citizen, or who has declared his intention to be such, and who shall enter upon the land and cultivate it for five years, shall be entitled to 160 acres of land, upon the payment of the Land Office fees and ten dollars to cover the expenses of survey. The same privilege is accorded to all men who have been in the military or naval service of the Government during the present war.

This last clause was appended to the bill originally framed by Messrs. Aldrich and Grow for the purpose of putting an end to the Bounty Land system, under which many frauds have been perpetrated for the benefit of speculators.

Everybody seems to be anticipating an immediate forward movement of the army of the Potomac—another "On to Richmond," or "Manassas" movement—under better auspices, however, than that which terminated in the "Bull Run" affair. There is, indisputably, much to give plausibility to this conjecture.—The Union army is no doubt as thoroughly prepared for carrying out such a movement triumphantly as it ever will be. But, it is said by those just from that locality that the Virginia roads are in a worse condition than ever. If the condition of the highways has heretofore been an insurmountable barrier to a forward movement, the same condition of them still exists, and a forward movement with artillery will be impossible until the March winds shall have dried up the mud. It is said by those professing to be familiar with the climate of Virginia, that this rarely occurs until at least as late as the 10th instant. So that we shall have to wait some time yet before another demonstration in that direction can take place.

SMALL NOTES.—A bill is pending the Legislature, authorizing the banks each to increase their issues of small notes from twenty to fifty per cent. of their capital stock paid in. From present indications we are to have no lack of paper currency. By and by a bit of gold or silver money will be a curiosity to be treasured.

Gordon, the Slave Trader, has expiated crime with his life. A desperate effort was his made to secure him a pardon; but the President was justly inexorable. He gave him a reprieve of two weeks to make preparations for his final end.

Letter from the Secretary of War.

The Tribune publishes the following letter from Secretary Stanton which is worthy of special attention and commendation. It is a noble, magnanimous and characteristic document. It has the spirit of Cromwell. The Secretary proposes to fight in the name and under the inspiration of the Lord of Hosts and God of battles. Such a spirit must lead to success. It will find an enthusiastic response in the American heart.

"Sir:—I cannot suffer undue merit to be ascribed to my official action. The glory of our recent victories belong to the gallant officers and soldiers that fought the battle. No share of it belongs to me.

Much has recently been said of military combinations and organizing victory. I hear such phrases with apprehension. They commenced in infidel France with the Italian campaign, and resulted in Waterloo. Who can organize victory? Who can combine the elements of success on the battle-field? We owe our recent victories to the Spirit of the Lord, that moved our soldiers to rush into battle, and filled the hearts of our enemies with terror and dismay. The inspiration that conquered in battle was in the hearts of the soldiers and not on high; and wherever there is the same inspiration there will be same results. Patriotic spirit, with resolute courage in officers and men, is a military combination that never failed.

We may well rejoice at the recent victories, for they teach us that battles are to be won now and by us in the same and only manner that they were ever won by any people or any age, since the days of Joshua, by boldly pursuing and striking the foe. What under the blessing of Providence, I conceive to be the true organization of victory and military combination to end this war, was declared in a few words by Gen. Grant's message to Gen. Buell:—"I propose to move immediately on your works!"

Yours, truly,
EDWIN M. STANTON.

Probability of a Retreat from Manassas.

A very general opinion seems to be gaining ground at Washington that the rebel army at Manassas will speedily retreat from its strongholds. It is said that Gen. McClellan is prepared for such intelligence at any hour; and there certainly are considerations which render such a step by no means improbable. The army at Manassas is already in a perilous condition. It is virtually surrounded by the Federal armies, and its connections with the South are on the point of being cut off. Burnside and Wool threaten it from Norfolk and Richmond, and Lander and Buell from Western Virginia and Kentucky, while Gen. McClellan controls the position in front. A junction between the forces invading North Carolina and the troops of either Buell or Lander would draw across the country a military line, severing the Virginia rebels from all southern connections, exposing them to a combined attack on every side, and rendering the capture of the whole army inevitable. The splendid success of the Federal army during the last few days are sufficient to convince the rebel Generals that we are capable of accomplishing this, and that with a rapidity that leaves them but little choice between fighting and retreating. In accepting the alternative of remaining to give us battle, every chance is against them. McClellan's force exceeds theirs by probably two to one. Before the rebel army went into winter quarters, our troops on the Potomac numbered three to two of the rebels; and there is good reason to believe that, since then, large numbers have been sent from the huts behind Manassas to protect the exposed points south and west. Moreover, a defeat from a force surrounding them at all points would be final. Their whole army would be captured, and all chance of prolonged rebellion thereby ended.

It would seem, therefore, to be only common prudence, on the part of the General commanding the Virginia rebels, to march their whole force out of the position in which they are being confined, to a point further South.—This would give them the temporary advantage of having changed the whole plan of the Federal campaign, and thereby thrown our movements into confusion. Moreover, our past successes at the South might thereby be reversed; our army drawn into a climate hostile to their health, and for several months, unfavorable to operations. This would at least be a gain of time to the rebels, although it would involve a loss of territory; and it would not be surprising were they, under a blind hope of success, to adopt the expedient.

A Union Man, who left Nashville on the day following the fall of Fort Donelson, represents the of excitement there as being unparalleled. A perfect panic reigned throughout the whole city. The streets were thronged with people perfectly wild with excitement.—Leading rebels were making speeches from store goods boxes, from the street corners, to the excited populace, stating that the "Federalists" were upon them, the city was defenseless, and appealing to every man who had any species of fire-arms, to rally to the defence of the place. He says these appeals had but very little effect, and there seemed to be little, if any, system about anything that looked to resistance. During the confusion, he made good his escape to Mumfordsville.

WHAT THE HORSES EAT.—Gen. Van Vliet, who is at the head of the Quartermaster's Department of the Army of the Potomac, finds it easier to provide for the men than the horses, Captain Ingalls, across the Potomac, has six hundred men at work every day, distributing one hundred bushels a grain; which Captain Dana, on this side, has about twice as many teamsters and laborers, who daily distribute two hundred tons of hay, and about sixty thousand two hundred bushels of grain. In addition to these daily supplies, are those issued by the quartermasters of the divisions on the Potomac, at Fredrick, and down at Boyd's Ferry. The horses are now in fine condition, with the exception of those of a few companies.

OREGON SENATOR.—The United States Senate is very busy discussing the right of B. F. Starke to his seat. On the one side it is alleged that he is not loyal, having given utterance frequently to sentiments that prove him a rebel sympathizer. On the other, it is alleged that the proof of this is insufficient, and if it were not, others assert that the Senate has no right to entertain any inquiries into the loyalty of a man lawfully accredited to that body.

Destructive Conflagration—Loss from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Elmira was visited last night with the most destructive conflagration which has occurred here for years, involving a loss of at least \$75,000 worth of property. At about a quarter past seven o'clock smoke was discovered issuing from the north end of the extensive Fair Shop belonging to the Erie Railway Company, situated on the corner of Wisner and Elm streets. By the time an alarm was sounded, and before an entrance into the building could be effected, the fire had gained considerable headway, and the flames communicated with almost inconceivable rapidity through the entire length of the structure, and from thence to the two large Car Shops, Blacksmith Shop, Superintendent's office, etc., adjoining. In less than an hour's time the work of destruction was complete, and where but yesterday the busy hum of industry was heard, there now reigned a heap of smouldering ruins.

The alarm of fire was promptly sounded by the bells throughout the town, and our firemen responded with commendable zeal and alacrity. The night was bitter cold, and a stiff breeze prevailing from the North fanned the flames into an intensity which rendered their mastery by human efforts impossible.—The effort of the firemen were therefore directed to preventing the fire from spreading to the large piles of wood and lumber, the Erie Freight Depot and the freight cars adjacent to the burning buildings. Many of our citizens and the employees of the Road were also assisting in their assistance. The fire hydrant belonging to the company was found to be frozen when the fire commenced, and was of course useless. Had the wind been in a westerly direction, the buildings belonging to the Elmira & Williamsport R. R. Co. could hardly have been saved.

Notwithstanding the severe cold, the firemen remaining manfully at the post of duty, working with determined energy, until the surrounding property was considered out of danger.

There are conflicting theories as to the origin of the fire—some contending that it originated from a stove in a passenger car in the Paint Shop. Mr. Rutter—the Superintendent of the works—is of the opinion, however, that it might have been communicated by the sparks from a passing locomotive on the Williamsport track, as the Paint Shop caught fire from that source last summer, and was saved with great difficulty. Superintendent Rutter has always exercised the most constant precautions against fire, and is certain that there could have been no fire inside the building previous to the conflagration.

In addition to the loss of the buildings, one or ten splendid passenger coaches—newly repaired—and about eighteen freight cars were destroyed, together with a very large amount of construction and repair materials, tools, machinery, steam engine, &c.

Nearly one hundred and fifty mechanics were employed in the works, most of whom will probably be thrown out of present employment by this disastrous fire. A number of them have lost all their tools—one man losing about \$100 worth. Although the loss to the Erie Company is a severe one—the property being uninsured, and the repair shops here being the principal ones on the Road—it falls with greater severity upon the employees and their families, whose main support is thus withdrawn.—Elmira Press, March 1.

Congressional.

Congress has passed the bill for the re-issuance of the Treasury and the fiscal impregnation of the War for the Union. The leading features of this important act are as follows:—

1. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to borrow for the service of the Government and the prosecution of the War, any amount not exceeding \$500,000,000 in all, to be secured by the issue of Six per cent. Stock, redeemable after twenty years, and of which the interest is payable semi-annually in coin.

2. He may issue \$150,000,000 more of Demand Notes, which are at all times convertible into the stock aforesaid at the option of the holder. These notes, with the sixty Millions already issued are to be a Legal Tender in the payment of private as well as public debts and receivable for all public due except Duties on Imports, which are payable only in the Fifty Millions already issued or in Coin.

The Philadelphia Ledger reports that a strong party in and out of Washington are attempting to induce the government to consent to an armistice of some weeks, in order to ascertain if some terms of settlement cannot be hit upon between the contending parties.

The only settlement that can be at all satisfactory to the great mass of the people is a prompt return to their allegiance by the Southern people, or that announced in the memorable words of Grant, "I propose immediately to move upon your works!"

We thank Heavens for a daring General who so gloriously responds to the earnest craving of the popular heart, and for an honest Secretary who so nobly sustains. It makes a man proud of his country when men like Stanton and Grant are recognized among its public servants.

SECRETARY STANTON'S ORDER.—Mr. Stanford, the Government Supervisor of Telegraphs, will soon issue a circular explaining the order issued by Secretary Stanton in relation to the suppression of military news. It is the intention of the Secretary of War to suppress only such items of military intelligence as may endanger the success of any future movements of our armies.

SENT TO FORT WARREN.—A despatch from Cleveland states that General Backus and Tighman passed through that city on Thursday morning on their way to Fort Warren, Boston harbor, under the charge of Colonel Coates.

FURLOUGH TO RETURNED PRISONERS.—It is stated that Secretary Stanton has granted a furlough of thirty days to the returned prisoners from Richmond, in order that they may visit their families and friends.

The Rebel Generals, Buckner and Tighman arrived at Boston at five o'clock on the 24th inst., and were immediately conveyed to their quarters at Fort Warren.

Governor Morton, of Indiana, has appointed ex-Governor Joshua A. Wright, U. S. Senator, to fill the place of Jesse D. Bright.