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The Reading Matter on this Page is from Yesterday's Evening Edition.

The Ladies' National Covenant—A Noble Address to the Women of the Land.

A remarkable meeting of the ladies of Washington, wives of Cabinet ministers, Senators, Representatives, Commissioners, Generals, and other officials was held on the evening of Monday. Rev. Dr. McMurdy presided, and Mrs. Senator Lane, of Indiana, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the authoress, Mrs. Senator Wilson, Mrs. General Logan, Mrs. Representative Pike, Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas, and Mrs. Representative Ingersoll were appointed a committee to form a constitution and prepare an address to the women of America.

Article first of the constitution declares that the name of the association shall be the Ladies' National Covenant—its object, to unite the women of the country in the earnest resolution to purchase no imported articles of apparel where American can possibly be substituted, during the continuance of the war. The president of the executive committee is Mrs. Gen. James Taylor; secretary, Mrs. Stephen Arnold Douglas. Mrs. Vice President Hamlin heads the list of committees for Maine; Mrs. Senator Hale that of New Hampshire; Mrs. Senator Wilson, Massachusetts, and so on through the States, the whole organizing a moral and patriotic movement of wide and promising influence. The committee appointed for Pennsylvania is constituted as follows: Mrs. Senator Buckalew, Bloomsburg; Mrs. J. W. Forney, Philadelphia; Mrs. S. I. Hale, Philadelphia; Mrs. Judge Kelley, Philadelphia; Mrs. Senator Cowan, Greensburg; Mrs. Representative Moorhead, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Bliss, Erie; Mrs. Bishop Potter, Philadelphia, and Mrs. Hon. John M. Broomall, of Media.

The following well-written and eloquent address deserves the attention of all the ladies of the loyal nation:

ADDRESS TO THE WOMEN OF AMERICA.

In the capital of the country we have this day organized a central society for the suppression of extravagance, the diminution of foreign imports, and the practice of economy in all our social relations. To this society we have given the name of "The Ladies' National Covenant." Its object is a good and generous one, which should inspire a spirit of patriotism worthy of women who are the glory of a great nation. For this society we have an example and precedent at once august and encouraging.

In 1770, the women of Massachusetts, actuated by the same impulse that inspires us, assembled in the city of Boston, as we have met here, and resolved to serve the country by an effort of self-sacrifice far greater than we are called upon to make.

On the 9th of February three hundred matrons, each the mistress of a household, met as we do now, and signed a pledge to abstain from the use of tea, the greatest luxury of the time, and the very life of all the social gatherings for which our New England ancestors were so famous for. Three days after, twice that number of blooming young girls met in the same place, and signed like pledges. From that brave assembly of women non-importation societies sprang up that produced an effect on the mother country almost equal to that caused by the success of our Revolutionary armies. During all the terrors of the war these noble women held firmly to their pledge, and by their earnestness awoke the sympathy and co-operation of every sister colony in the land. The spirit thus aroused extended itself to imported goods of all kinds, and every hearthstone was turned into an independent manufactory. Thus it was that the flax-wheel, the hatchel, and hand-loom became sublime instruments of freedom in the hands of American women. The homes mothers of seventy-six not only kept their pledge of non-importation, but with their own hands wrought from the raw material the garments which clothed themselves, their husbands, and children. The pledge which they took, and kept so faithfully, evoked not only great self-sacrifice, but hard, hard toil, such as the women of the present day scarcely dream of. Had they not endured and labored while their husbands fought, we should have had no mighty Union to pray and struggle for now.

We, the women of '64, have the same object to attain, and the same duties to perform, which were so nobly accomplished by the women of '76. Shall we not follow their example, and take up cheerfully the lesser burdens that the welfare of our country demands? They gave up the very comforts of life without a murmur; can we refuse when a sacrifice of feminine vanity is alone required? Can we hesitate to yield up luxuries that are so unbecoming, when the very earth trembles under our feet from the tread of armed men going down to battle, and almost every roof throughout the land shelters some mother lamenting the son who has fallen gloriously with his face to the foe, or a widow whose husband lies buried so deeply among the mazes of slain heroes, that she will never turn where to seek for his grave!

When the wife of a great prince, whose husband was absent at the seige of Troy, was urged by her friends to put on her royal robes, and be cheerful, she answered: "My husband is under the walls of Troy; shall I adorn my hair while he wears a helmet? Shall I dress in new robes while he carries arms? No! my raiment shall be like his hard labors, and in sadness will I pass the time of this mournful war."

Patriotism is beautiful in all eyes, and was uttered alike by the lady of classic story and the mother of the Revolution, clad in her homespun dress and steadily performing more than household duties. Compare the spirit of these women with the reckless extravagance which has marked the duration of this terrible struggle for the Union, and the contrast is indeed humiliating. Still the women of America are not unworthy their ancestors. Thoughtless they may be, and luxuriously extravagant from long habits of prosperity, but cruel and unjust never! Appeal to their reason and gentle feelings, and the women of this day will prove themselves capable of as noble deeds as ever marked the struggles of the Revolution. Convince them of the evils their thoughtlessness is producing, and the remedy is certain.

It has not yet been sufficiently impressed upon them that the encouragement of extravagant importations is injurious to the public good. To impress this vital truth upon the women of the Union, we have entered into this solemn covenant, not only lauding ourselves to a general system of economy in our personal, but holding it as a duty to impress upon others how unwomanly it is to make outward display a paramount subject of thought, when the nation is in the throes of a rebellion such as the world never saw. Gathered here in the centre of the nation, a handful of women, intent on a single object, anxious only for the good of the country, we appeal to the patriotism and intelligence of our sister women throughout the length and breadth of the land. Let it be well understood that every ounce of gold that goes from the country detracts from the pay of the soldier who is fighting for our salvation, and diminishes the wages of our sister women, who toil for their bread, into a miserable pittance that scarcely suffices to keep them from starvation. The precious metal that flows from this country to Europe for the luxuries we do not need, increases the price of gold here, depreciates the value of the national currency, and helps to sweep the necessaries of life beyond the reach of the workingman.

It is a painful truth, for which we shall yet learn to blush, that the importations of the most expensive goods manufactured in Europe have been far greater during the war than at any time in the history of our country. The importations last week at the New York Custom House alone amounted to five millions of dollars; and all that week—which will yet find its ignoble record in history—the streets of Washington were blocked up with weary soldiers, marching through mud, rain or dust, down to the army of the Potomac, which now lies with bated courage waiting for the carnival of death which is almost flinging its crimson shadow over us.

For the good of our country and the honor of our sex *let us redeem ourselves from the reproach of wanton extravagance.* Let us prove by cheerful retrenchment that the women of the country are not so wedded to luxurious self-indulgence that they cannot fill a glorious page in the history of this war and retain all that is retiring and beautiful in womanhood. In all humane works they have proved themselves charitable, kind, and munificent. Let them comprehend that self-abnegation will accomplish more than works of charity, and they will not be less earnest to sacrifice than they have been to act.

It must not be said of us that we have been willing to give up our husbands, sons, and brothers to fight or die for the Union and yet refuse to renounce our laces, silks, velvets, and diamonds. That thought would cover us with shame before the nations of the earth. No; our women of the Union only lack knowledge of the means by which they can prove themselves true help-mates of the heroes who are fighting our battles.

Impress it upon them that in discouraging excessive importations and adopting goods manufactured at home they keep gold in the country, reduce the rates of exchange, and establish confidence in the Government, and they will prove now far patriotism can rise above feminine vanity in the hearts of American women.

In order to invoke this spirit of self-sacrifice, it is important that the great object of the covenant we have made should be broadly circulated and thoroughly understood. It discourages profligate expenditures of any kind, recommends the use of domestic fabrics wherever they can be substituted for those of foreign make, and advises simplicity of attire both as a matter of policy and good taste. It asks the great sisterhood of American women to aid in this reform before it is too late. Thank God! science has given us the means of reaching thousands on thousands in a single hour. While we make this covenant, the thought that thrills our hearts may tremble in fire along the telegraph, and awake kindred inspiration throughout the entire land. By every means of communication in our power, let us urge the necessity of prompt action. In every town and village throughout the Union, some woman who loves her country is implored to establish an auxiliary society, and forward the names of all who are invited to act for the State in which her duty lies. We ask simultaneous action, earnest work, and general self-sacrifice at the hands of our sister women. With their ardent help, a work will be accomplished so important in its results, that the woman who shares it may, hereafter, leave the emblem of our object as the richest jewel that she can leave to posterity.

THE COVENANT—A BADGE, &C.

The pledge or covenant (Art. 3d of the constitution), is as follows:

"*For three years, or for the war, we pledge ourselves to exclude from the country, to purchase no imported article of apparel.*"

On motion of Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, it was

Resolved, That the badge of the National Covenant shall be a black bow, with wings enamelled, according to nature, worn with a tri-colored ribbon, a little in front of the left shoulder.

On motion of Mrs. Ingersoll, it was

Resolved, That while, as the wives, and daughters, and women of America, we are ready and determined to practice self-denial for the benefit of the country and our sex, we earnestly request the men of America also to abstain from the use of imported articles, especially wines, liquors, and cigars.

On motion of Mrs. Morris, it was

Resolved, That the women in the nation, sympathizing with the great object of this society, be and hereby are invited to copy the covenant, record their own names thereto, and, obtaining as many signatures as possible, forward the number (and the names) so obtained to the committee of their State.

Garibaldi's Departure from England—His Parting Address.

Garibaldi left London on April 22, for the seat of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, and was to embark for Caprera on April 26. On April 21 he was entertained by 200 members of the Reform Club. On April 22 he breakfasted with a party of American citizens at the residence of the United States Consul, and in emphatic terms expressed his regard for the United States, and his readiness to offer his services to President Lincoln in the war against the Slave Power. Much dissatisfaction continued to be expressed at his sudden departure, and political motives were generally imputed to Garibaldi's actions. In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone admitted that he had advised the General to leave, because the tour through England might affect his health, and because "the magnificent national reception which had been given to him in London might lose some of its real dignity from being frequently repeated elsewhere."

The Prince of Wales traveled from Sandringham to London, on April 22, for the purpose of paying a visit to Garibaldi. The Prince met the General at Stafford House, and remained with him, it is said, for upward of an hour.

The following is Garibaldi's address to the English nation, on his departure:

"I offer my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the English nation and their Government for the reception I have met with in this free land. I came here with the primitive object of thanking them for their sympathy for me and for my country, and this, my first object, is accomplished. I have desired to be altogether at the disposition of my English friends, and to go to every place where I might be wished to go, but I find that I can not now fulfil all these engagements of my heart.

"If I have caused some trouble and disappointment to many friends, I ask their pardon, but I cannot draw the line between where I should go and where I should not go, and therefore, for the present, these are my thanks and my farewell. Still I hope, perhaps at no distant time, to return to see my friends in the domestic life of England, and to redeem some of the engagements which the generous people of this country, which, with deep regret, I feel that I cannot now fulfil.

"Signed "G. GARIBALDI."

Grant's Plans.

As Washington correspondents are at length, happily, brought to acknowledge that there is no probability of penetrating Grant's plans from that point of observation, it may interest those of our readers who are in the last stages of the fever of curiosity to hear some rebel speculations. A correspondent of the Richmond *Enquirer*, from Lee's lines a few days ago, speculates as follows:

"The commonly received opinion that Grant will attack Gen. Lee in front, and in his fortifications is erroneous. He will seek to turn the flank of our army, and his policy is, evidently, to retain his present position until his organization and equipment be thoroughly accomplished, and then, by suddenly finishing his strategy, to surprise Gen. Lee. He may march rapidly and without announcement either to some point of crossing the Rapidan or Rappahannock, or to Port Republic, thence to Staunton, thence to Lynchburg. I think an attempt to flank on the East the more probable; his army crossing at some of the lower fords of the Rappahannock. This, however, is all conjecture, and but the echo of Washington gossip.

"There is yet no indication of any move in the direction of Fredericksburg, save the fact that the telegraph road from Occoquan to Alexandria being repaired by the Yankees may be so regarded."

This rebel writer further announces that Grant's army will be ready to advance in ten days from the time of his writing, which would make the day of movement Saturday next. But the rebels know very little, after all.

Tariff and Taxes.

A Washington correspondent writes:

"Senator Sherman states that he believes the House of Representatives intend to make about the same percentage of increase in the tariff that they did in the Tax bill. The internal duties they have increased from sixty to one hundred per cent. They have increased the income tax and the taxes on manufactures from three to five per cent., which is an increase of sixty-six per cent., and they have doubled the license tax, which is an increase of one hundred per cent.

But it is doubtful whether upon coffee and tea the increase of duties will be fifty per cent., or whether it will answer to increase duties to that amount on silks and other articles which can be easily smuggled in from Canada. There is a disposition manifested, however, to increase the tariff as near as possible to the standard of the "temporary tariff" of last week, in spite of the wholesome advice given by Judge Collamer.

There should be some care taken, especially after the contract we have made with our creditors, to pay them their interest on the money we have borrowed of them in gold, that we do not lay such duties upon importations as will cut off the importations. It is unnecessary to multiply words about this. I cannot illustrate it better than by the old saying, that that is just killing the goose that lays the golden egg; and it is the only goose we have that does lay it [laughter], and that golden egg we have pledged.

Washington Items.

THE WOMEN EMPLOYED IN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

It should be understood that the many excellent ladies holding clerkships in the Treasury, by appointment of the Secretary, are entirely a distinct class of appointees from those procured, employed, and dismissed by Mr. Clarke, at his pleasure. If is not to be disguised, however, that the idea of furnishing employment to young and handsome women in the public offices in Washington, requires that they should take their work to their homes.

THE BANK BILL.

In Senate Mr. Doolittle proposes to amend the Bank bill by providing that no bank or banking association whatever shall issue any new notes, except National notes, after the passage of the act, not redeemable in gold or silver coin on demand; and also, that every bank, etc., shall reduce the amount of their circulation to the amount of cash capital paid in and per cent. added thereto, or amount secured by pledge of the United States or State stocks, on penalty of a tax of one per cent. per month on all excess of circulation after a period not yet specified.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

It really would seem as though the Government was *in earnest* in its efforts to put down this rebellion by force of arms. We not only see the available battalions ordered to the front, but the officers and men who have been ensconced in a variety of cosy positions heretofore. Generals and corporals, colonels and privates, who have by the aid of political influence secured snug sinecures, have had to leave their desks, and take the field, which they regard as a very high-handed proceeding.

THE FORT PILLOW MASSACRE.

One of the Committee who went to investigate the Fort Pillow affair on being asked today if the massacre had been exaggerated by the newspapers, replied passionately that it had not, for the reason that it was not in human power to exaggerate the atrocities of that occasion; that half the truth had not been told. The Committee's report is now being written out, and is looked for with intense interest, coming as it does, in a great measure, from the lips of dying victims of the atrocity.

NAVAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The bill which has just become a law, fixing the rules and regulations for preventing collisions on the water will go into effect on the first of September. It is applicable both to the navy and merchant marines. The same features have been adopted by England and France, and perhaps by other nations, and have thus become international.

The Case of Commodore Wilkes.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 3, 1864

General Order No. 33.—A Naval General Court-Martial, recently convened in the city of Washington, Commodore Charles Wilkes, of the Navy, was tried upon the following charges preferred against him by the Department:

Charge I. Disobedience of the lawful orders of his superior officer while in the execution of his office.

Charge II. Insubordinate conduct and negligence or carelessness in obeying orders.

Charge III. Disrespect and disrespectful language to his superior officer whilst in the execution of his office.

Charge IV. Refusal of obedience to a lawful General Order of Regulations issued by the Secretary of the Navy.

Charge V. Conduct unbecoming an officer, and constituting an offence made punishable by Article VIII. of the Articles adopted and put in force for the government of the Navy of the United States.

Of each of these charges the accused was found by the Court "*guilty*," and was sentenced in the following terms:

"And the court hereby sentence the accused, Commodore Charles Wilkes, to be publicly reprimanded by the Secretary of the Navy, and to be suspended from duty for the term of three years."

The finding of the court in this case is approved, and the sentence confirmed.

In carrying into execution that part of the sentence which requires that Commodore Wilkes be publicly reprimanded, I hardly need say more, to an officer of his age and experience, than the promulgation of such charges, and of the decision upon them by a court composed of officers of the highest rank in the Navy, constituting, in itself, a reprimand sufficiently poignant and severe to any one who may have desired to preserve an unblemished record in the service. The Secretary of the Department would gladly have dispared the unpleasant duty which has devolved upon it in this case. But the appeal made to the public by the accused, in a paper which the court had pronounced to be "of an insubordinate and disrespectful character, containing remarks and statements not warranted by the facts," rendered it necessary for the Department either to tolerate the disrespect and submit to the unfounded aspersions, or refer the case to the investigation of a court-martial.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Effects of the New Tariff—Falling off in Custom-House Receipts.

The effect of the fifty per cent. additional tax imposed by Congress, and which was put into operation at the New York Custom House on Saturday, is manifest, and that a day of reckoning which The New York *Post* of Monday evening says:

The merchants who withdrew goods to largely last week now take little or nothing from the customs, and the amount of the duties received at half past one o'clock this afternoon was only fifteen thousand dollars, against four to five hundred thousand, the usual hour on Saturday. Importers are warehousing their goods. The determination seems to be general among them to withdraw nothing from bond that is not absolutely needed for immediate sale, and many of them have the strong impression that Congress will take an early opportunity to reduce the amount of the duty now imposed.

Another effect is thus stated by the *Express*:

Some of the shopkeepers already give as a reason for an advance in the price of dry goods, foreign groceries, &c., that the dealer paid up to 2½ per cent. gold duties. Yet, the retail and small grocer never paid the half-cent part of one per cent. of these increased duties. All the goods in store, whether wholesale or retail, have paid duties under the old law, and not the new. There is no justice, therefore, in paying the increased price. On a large amount of goods now on the market the duties were paid when the government sold his gold certificates at 165, and prices, therefore, ought to be lower, instead of higher.

THE death of Thomas Motley, the father of the historian, at the age of 82, will depain Boston of one of its most familiar faces, and of a connecting link between the business world of the present and the past generation. He began his commercial life in Portland, and, on his removal to Boston, took a high position among our merchants. He was a thorough business man of the old school, distinguished for sagacity, integrity, intelligence and enlarged views. His vigorous mind was almost unaffected by old age, and he took a spiritual interest in all that interested others, and in could converse on no subject without giving the impression of largeness of experience, extent of information and soundness of judgment.—*Boston Transcript.*

RICHMOND papers of the 30th ult. contain the following: "We have again rumors of an impending battle on the Georgia and Tennessee lines. The opinion in that part of the Confederacy appears to be that the enemy is to make a grand effort of the campaign in that quarter, but while there is much stronger evidence that the effort is to be made in the direction of Richmond, it must be recollected that this theory by no means excludes the probability that an important issue is to be tried in Northern Georgia."

REV. SAMUEL CROWTHER is shortly to be consecrated Bishop of the native churches in Western Africa beyond the dominions of the British crown. This announcement will shock "our southern brethren," for Rev. Mr. Crowther is a black man, and was once a slave boy. Yet the black slave is about to be made a Bishop of the English church!

A MAN in Troy, N. Y., has won a suit against the Mutual Bank in that city for the recovery of the value of a counterfeit twenty dollar bill on the Union Bank of Rochester, which was paid him by the teller of the Mutual. The counterfeit was so skillfully executed that the President could not distinguish it from a genuine bill.

MR. and Mrs. Charles Kean, now in Australia, will sail thence for San Francisco, and thus come to New York to play during next winter. In July of 1865 they propose returning to England.

A MACHINE for sewing boots is in use in a factory in Massachusetts. It is a new invention, and is said to be successful, sewing a boot complete in thirty seconds.

THE detective force in the Chicago police has been dissolved.

TELEGRAMS.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, MAY 4, 1864.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Civilians find all avenues to the army hermetically sealed. Even newspaper correspondents now have the utmost difficulty in getting down.

The Committee of Investigation in reference to the Treasury Department have had Mr. Chittenden, Register of Treasury, and Detective Baker before them. But little progress yet has been made. The charges in reference to the fractional currency are now being investigated, and trade regulations in the Southwest. The Committee met immediately afterwards with special reference to Frank Blair's charges.

TENTS FOR THE TROOPS—ORDER OF GEN. GRANT.

Gen. Grant has issued an order calling the attention of officers to General Orders of 1862, providing for the issue of common wall or Sibley tents. When troops refuse to accept shelter tents they will not be furnished with any. Troops in garrisons, at stations or in detachments can construct huts if they prefer them to shelter. Tent quartermasters are prohibited from issuing tents other than the kind provided for, no matter by whom requested and approved, or by whose order the issues are decreed to be made, until otherwise ordered through the Adjutant General of the army. Any one who shall issue or direct the issue of tents other than as prescribed shall be tried by court martial, or reported for summary dismissal.

GARRET DAVIS.

Garrett Davis got started again in the Senate this afternoon. As usual, everybody at once began to lock up their desks and leave the chamber, when the Senator informed them that they need not expect to affect him by that sort of thing; that he did not expect others to listen to him and spoke only to hear himself. He was at once left in undisputed and solitary enjoyment of that luxury.

WINTER DAVIS' RECONSTRUCTION BILL PASSED.

The Reconstruction Bill, which was presented by Winter Davis, passed the House to-day by a decisive majority. Its policy of reconstruction differs decidedly from that proposed by the President in his annual message.

RELIEF OF SUFFERERS BY INDIAN DEPREDATIONS.

The bill for the relief of the sufferers by the Sioux depredations, which passed the House on Tuesday, appropriates the sum of $1,170,324 for that purpose. There was no opposition to it, and it was not even referred, as is usual, to the Committee of the Whole.

MISSOURI CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

The contested Missouri election case of Bruce against Loan, now expected to be called up in the House to-morrow, is the first of the Missouri cases.

COL. DAVID CHAMBERS.

Col. David Chambers, of Zanesville, Ohio was upon the floor of the House to-day. He was a member of the House 43 years ago.

ARMY SENATORS TO BE REPRIMANDED.

The report of a quorum having almost daily interfered with the transaction of business in the Senate lately, Mr. Fessenden offered a resolution, which was agreed to, that hereafter when the yeas and nays are called, the reporter shall take the names of the Senators absent, as well as those present, and that they be published in the *Globe*.

PROPOSED MILITARY RAILROAD.

The House Military Committee had General Foster before them, urging the importance of building the military railroad across Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, as is earnestly recommended by the President.

CONFIRMED NOMINATIONS.

The Senate, in Executive session, has confirmed the following nominations: C. Latham Sholes, to be collector of customs in the District of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; A. W. Templin, to be Commissary of Subsistence with the rank of Captain.

AVENGES TO THE POTOMAC ARMY SEALED.

The Committee investigating the Blair and Brooks charges against the Treasury Department was in session to night, for over three hours.

WITHDRAWN NOMINATION.

The President has withdrawn the nomination of George Rothweiler, of Missouri, for Consul at Ravenna.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President to-day sent in the following nominations: Henry C. Caldwell, Judge of the United States Court in Arkansas; Delano T. Smith and Elisha P. Ferry, Direct Tax Commissioners for Tennessee.

SUBMARINE ORDER FROM GENERAL MEADE.

General Meade issued a stirring order to the Army of the Potomac this morning.

MAIL APPROPRIATION REDUCED.

The Postoffice Committee will cut down the Senate appropriation to the Overland Mail at from $1,000,000 to $800,000.

SECRETARY CHASE.

Mr. Chase was upon the floor of the Senate this afternoon.

IMPORTANT FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Washington Reported Evacuated and Burned.

LOSS SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Indignation Against Gen. Butler.

RAM ATTACK ON GUNBOATS EXPECTED.

West Point Occupied by our Troops.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 4:—Passengers report that Washington, North Carolina, was laid in ashes by straggling marines and soldiers, who destroyed all the commissary stores, ordnance and quartermasters'. They also destroyed property mainly owned by Union people whose losses will reach severe million of dollars.

Four thousand Federal troops suddenly evacuated Washington, N. C., in the face of several companies of rebels, leaving the entire Union population to their tender mercies, after burning the houses over their heads.

When the United States steamers left the docks the screams of the women and children, at being abandoned, were pitiful.

The indignation against General Butler is very bitter in North Carolina, and a delegation of leading men has gone to Washington to ask his removal.

It is said that the rebel rams have decided upon an attack on our gunboats, without waiting assistance from their army.

BALTIMORE, May 5.—Accounts from Washington, N. C., are evidently greatly exaggerated. Letters received from Fortress Monroe, this evening, say: Several refugees arrived from Washington and report the place burned last Saturday, probably by guerrillas. It was a very small town, and in its most prosperous days had only 2000 inhabitants. It is absurd to state the loss at several millions of dollars.

The Draft in Ohio—The National Guard

CINCINNATI, May 5th.—The draft begins in the First district this morning.

C. Hays & Bros. grain warehouse was damaby fire to the amount of $11,000, yesterday. They were insured.

Gov. Brough has issued a proclamation thanking the National Guard for their prompt response to his call. The Guards are rapidly assembling at the different camps ready for duty. Over 6,000 have reported at Camp Dennison.

Arrival of the Ocean Queen.

THE steadfast Ocean Queen arrived from Aspinwall, bringing $276,000 treasure.

ADVICES FROM THE FRONT.

Address of Gen. Meade to the Potomac Army.

LEE BELIEVED TO BE RETREATING INLAND.

The French Defeated in Mexico.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The Herald has the following:—*Headquarters Army of the Potomac*, May 4.—As an earnest Spring campaign is about to commence, I send you the following address of General Meade. Its confident tone, patriotic sentiment and impressing phraseology, all tend to and do beget the same tone and spirit in the hearts of the brave men who will soon march upon the foe.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, May 4.—Soldiers! again you are called upon to advance on the enemies of your country. The time and occasion being deemed opportune by your commanding General, he addresses you a few words of confidence and caution. You have been reorganized, strengthened and fully equipped in every respect; you form part of several armies of your country, the whole under command of an able and distinguished General, who enjoys the confidence of the Government, the people and the army. Your movement, being in cooperation with others, is of utmost importance. No effort should be left unspared to make it successful. Soldiers, the eyes of the whole country are looking with anxious hope to the blow you are about to strike in the most sacred cause that ever called men to arms. Remember your homes, your wives and children, and bear in mind that the sooner your enemies are overcome the sooner you will be returned to enjoy the benefit and blessings of peace. Bear with patience the hardships and sacrifices you will be called upon to endure, have confidence in your officers and in each other, keep your ranks on march and on the battle field, and let each man earnestly implore God's blessing, and endeavor by his thoughts and actions to render himself worthy of the favor he seeks. With a clear conscience and strong arms, actuated by a high sense of duty, fighting to protect the Government and her institutions handed down to us by our forefathers, if true to ourselves, victory under God's blessing, must and shall crown our efforts.

[Signed] GEO. MEADE, Maj Gen. Comd'g.

J. WILLIAMS, Ass't. A. A. Gen'l.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The *World's* special reiterates that advices from the front lead to the belief that Lee is abandoning the intrenchments on the Rapidan and retreating inland. There has been no collision between the armies.

The *Herald's* Key West letter announces the arrival of the gunboats Galena, Cornubia and Tioga.

Advices from Ft. Myers, Charlotte Harbor, state that on the 1st, a detachment of the 2d U. S. Colored troops, under Capt. Crane, landed on the main land, and drove back the rebel force, without loss on either side. Our troops captured 300 cattle, and returned on the 25th.

Advices from Mexico via Havana report that Alvarez had openly declared for Juarez and was fortifying himself in Acapulco, which was blockaded by French ships. The fortifications at Mazeiso had been bombarded by a French fleet. The French are reported defeated in Vejaca and Gandalajara, losing the latter and six thousand men.

The report also says that the Mexicans have taken Jalapa.

The Guadalajara story looks like a canard.

From Cairo and Below—The Attack on the Petrel—Gen. Hurlbut's Farewell Address, etc.

CAIRO, May 4.—The steamer Liberty, No 2, from Memphis for Louisville, arrived with 450 bales of cotton and Memphis dates of yesterday evening. No news.

There is great activity in the Memphis cotton market. Middling continues unabated; market firm and all offerings taken at advanced rates. The receipts for the past forty-eight hours were 810 bales from Helena and Little Rock. Middling to strict Middling, 68@69; Good, 70@73; Fair, 75.

The steamer Wilson arrived with three barges laden with cotton. Her cargo consisted of the same as mentioned in a former dispatch.

The Dispatch has arrived from Memphis. Eight officers of the gunboat Petrel came up on the Wilson. The attack on the boat was a complete surprise, no broadside being given by the enemy, when the commander of the Petrel ordered the boat to be fired to prevent her from falling into the hands of the enemy. It is believed that the boat was ineffectual. She carried eight 24-pounder brass howitzers and a number of small arms. She had ammunition and stores for six months, all of which, with the boat, is a loss to the Government.

It has been learned that the enemy were removing guns to Yazoo City, where they had a battery posted when the Petrel passed, and which they used against her without serious damage.

Gen. Hurlbut issued his farewell address to the 16th army corps. He states the manner in which the corps I have not scattered and reduced until there were not men enough left for offensive operations; that they have lost no honor by not performing impossibilities; that they are now receiving additional strength, and that a day of reckoning which The New York *Post* of Monday evening says:

The merchants who withdrew goods to largely last week now take little or nothing from the customs, and the amount of the duties received at half past one o'clock this afternoon was only fifteen thousand dollars, against four to five hundred thousand, the usual hour on Saturday. Importers are warehousing their goods. The determination seems to be general among them to withdraw nothing from bond that is not absolutely needed for immediate sale, and many of them have the strong impression that Congress will take an early opportunity to reduce the amount of the duty now imposed.

Another effect is thus stated by the *Express*:

Some of the shopkeepers already give as a reason for an advance in the price of dry goods, foreign groceries, &c., that the dealer paid up to 2½ per cent. gold duties. Yet, the retail and small grocer never paid the half-cent part of one per cent. of these increased duties. All the goods in store, whether wholesale or retail, have paid duties under the old law, and not the new. There is no justice, therefore, in paying the increased price. On a large amount of goods now on the market the duties were paid when the government sold his gold certificates at 165, and prices, therefore, ought to be lower, instead of higher.

THE LONDON TIMES ON OUR BIG GUN.—The London *Times*, in alluding to the manufacture of ordnance, makes the following admission: "In the calibre of its ordnance Europe is now, as it ever has been, *far behind America*. At Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, a 50-ton gun has just been cast for the United States Government. This monster piece of ordnance, which is stated to be perfect in its casting, is to throw a solid 20 inch shot weighing 1,600 pounds."

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN M. E. CHURCH.—This body is now in session in the Bethel Church, Philadelphia. The presiding Bishops, Right Revs. William Paul Quinn, Daniel A. Payne, and Willis Nyvey are present, and members and delegates from the Annual Conference districts of Ohio, Indiana, New England, Missouri, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, and a double delegation from the British provinces of North America.

DIED FROM INJURIES.—Samuel Hamilton, who was stabbed about ten days ago in an affray at Webster, Westmoreland county, has since died from his wounds. The perpetrator of the homicide, William Campbell, is now in jail.

WANTS.

WANTED—At the House of Refuge, three persons to act in the capacity of say—
ONE CLERK.
ONE NURSE.
ONE HOUSEKEEPER.
Good reference required. Application for either of the situations to be handed in to the office of the Institution, No 67 Fourth street, (up stairs.) The applicants to meet the Committee at the above office, on THURSDAY, the 5th instant, at 4 o'clock p. m.
By order of the Committee of Instruction.
my3:3t

WANTED—$60 A MONTH.—I want Agents at $60 a month, expenses paid, to sell my EVERLASTING PENCILS, ORIENTAL BURNERS, and thirteen other new, useful and curious articles. Fifteen circulars sent free. Address, JOHN F. LOBD, Biddeford, Maine. ap30:3mdw7

WANTED.
$3,000 Lawrence County Bonds.
W. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
my4:1w corner Third and Wood streets.

WANTED—Immediately, in a first-class Dry Goods House,
AN EXPERIENCED SALESMAN.
None else need apply.
Address BOX 304, Allegheny City, Pa. my4:4t

WANTED,
A BRASS MOULDER.
DAVIS & PHILLIPS,
ap30:1m 110 Water street.

$75 A MONTH!—I want to hire Agents $75 a month, in every county at $75 a month, expenses paid, to sell my new Sheep Family Sewing Machines. Address, S. MADISON, Alfred, Maine. ap30:3mdw

WANTED—Boys to learn Brass Finishing and Steam Fitting.
DAVIS & PHILLIPS,
ap30:1m 110 Water street.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

General Conference M. E. Church.

SECOND DAY CONTINUED.

The Rev. Mr. Scott, delegate from Ireland, then presented the address of the Irish Conference, which was read by the Secretary, as follows:

Reverend Father and Brethren—We heartily respond to the sentiments of love and esteem expressed in your letter dated Buffalo, and bearing the signatures of your venerable Bishop Morris, and your Secretary, the Rev. Wm. L. Harris. We also consider the frequent interchange of such friendly greetings well calculated to draw us closer together, and to strengthen the bonds of fraternal affection.

We regret that your arrangements for holding the German Conference deprived us of a visit from Bishop Janes, the pleasure of which we had expected.

We have marked with grateful admiration the growth and extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and anticipate for you a still more glorious future. The statistics with which you have kindly furnished us show an increase during your last quadrennial term, which has gladdened our hearts and evoked our thankfulness to God. Your prosperity is our pr sperity. May the Great Head of the Church bless and increase you more and more. We have observed with no unfriendly eye the rapid progress and unexampled prosperity of our great commonwealth; and we fully appreciate the grave responsibility resting upon you as a church, at the present time.

In common with the great majority of our fellow-citizens, we deeply lament the existence of those evils which threaten to divide your beloved country. In the order of Divine Providence, nations as well as individuals, in gaining positions of honor and influence, are subject to vicissitude, always painful and often humiliating. Meanwhile, from our public assemblies and family altars fervent supplications will ascend to our Heavenly Father that the vexed question of negro slavery, the source of all your recent troubles, may find a just solution without involving you for a protracted period in that worst of national calamities, a fratricidal war.

In the special effort we are making for the increase of our agency, we urgently demanded by the peculiar circumstances of our position in this kingdom, your pecuniary aid, which you are pleased to say fell far below the obligations of American Methodism to Ireland, as well as below the desire of your hearts, owing to the "financial revulsion" which, in the midst of your efforts, swept over the country, is highly valued by us, not only on account of the liberal sum contributed, but of the generous sympathy elicited.

At your public meetings, attended by our deputation, the utterance of many of your noble sons, connected with this country by the ties of kindred or association, have awakened in our hearts feelings of the deepest gratitude, and go far to recognize us for the heavy losses which, by emigration, we have from year to year sustained.

Our Annual Conference, now drawing to a close, has been characterized by great harmony of feeling and unanimity of sentiment. The increase of our membership, though not so large as last year, is very encouraging, and the reports of all our funds evince a steady progress.

Very gracious results have followed the recent outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Protestant Church of our land. The work of God has been decreed in the hearts of the ministers and people; many an outcast has been reclaimed from the vortex of error and sin; and many a door of usefulness has been opened to missionary enterprise. Again we thank you for your cordial reception of our beloved brother, the Rev. Robinson Scott, and for your continuous and efficient co-operation in the labors of our deputation.

JAMES TOBIAN, Secretary.
Cork, June 25th, 1854.

To-morrow at 10 o'clock was fixed as the time when the body would hear the delegate from Ireland. Adjourned to meet at 3 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with the usual religious exercises by Rev. Dr. Peck of California. Bishop Scott in the chair.

After some routine matters were disposed of, petitions were declared to be in order. One was received from central Illinois, asking for the organization of district conferences. From South Carolina in Indiana, by the Rev. Dr. Crooker, in reference to printing hymn books for the blind.

An appeal was presented from the Rev. Henry P. John, who had been expelled from Troy Conference. Referred to the appropriate Standing Committee.

The following committees reported themselves organized: Committee on Episcopacy—President, Jos. M. Trimble, Ohio Conference, Secretary, Thomas M. Eddy, Rock River. On Itinerancy—President, Rev. J. M. Reid, Genessee; Rev. Andrew Nel