XXXVIII CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

SENATE, Jan. 16th.—A petition was presented, asking that the rebel prisoners now in Northern prisons be placed under the care and control of discharged Union prisoners, and be furnished with the same rations and clothing furnished Union prisoners in the South. On motion of Mr. Howard, the matter was referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Sumner offered a resolution in regard to the expediency of giving Her British Majesty's Government the notice required for the termination of the Extradition Treaty. The resolution was adopted. A bill was introduced, and referred to the Committee on Commerce, relative to commerce between the loyal and rebel States. A communication was received from the Secretary of the Interior, in reference to Pension Agents.

HOUSE.—A bill was introduced, and referred to the Judiciary Committee, to amend the judicial system of the United States. The House concurred in the Senate's amendments to the joint resolution requiring the President to give to Great Britain the required notice for terminating the Reciprocity Treaty. The Deficiency bill was taken up, and the amendment appropriating $3,000 for a medal to Commodore Vanderbilt was discussed and passed. A peace resolution was introduced by Mr. Cox, and laid on the table by a vote of 84 to 51. The House then considered the bill to provide a Republican Government for States subverted or overthrown, and after listening to a speech by Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, in favor of his amendment, adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 17.—Mr. Sumner presented the memorial of the Boston Board of Trade, asking for the postponement of the Bankrupt Law. A petition from Ex-Surgeon-General Hammond was presented, asking for a court of inquiry in his case. A bill was offered, and referred to the Judiciary Committee, to amend the judicial system of the United States. A resolution was offered, and laid over until to-day, to add to the standing committees of the Senate a committee of five for the investigation of corruption of the Government in all its departments. Mr. Morgan introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, to regulate the management of captured and abandoned property in the rebel States. Mr. Sumner presented a report for the House resolution terminating the treaty of 1817 with Great Britain. Ordered to be printed.

HOUSE.—A bill was introduced providing grants of land to disabled soldiers and seamen. A resolution was offered and agreed to, to investigate the policy pursued toward the Indians. The bill to provide a Republican form of Government for rebel States, was postponed for two weeks. The Military Academy Bill was approved, and the House then adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 18.—A memorial from the Philadelphia Board of Trade was presented, asking for the postponement of the Bankrupt Bill. The resolution recently offered by Mr. Powell was taken up and debated at some length. Mr. Howard, from the Military Committee, reported a resolution, which was ordered to be printed, recommending that measures of retaliation be adopted, in order to prevent the continuance of the barbarities practiced at the South on Union prisoners. The Senate then took and passed the resolution ratifying the notice given Great Britain by the President of the termination of the treaty of 1817, limiting the naval forces on the lakes. Resolutions of thanks to Gen. Terry and Admiral Porter were offered, and referred respectively to the Naval and Military Committees.

HOUSE.—A committee was appointed, of which Mr. Windom, of Minnesota, is Chairman, to investigate the Government policy toward the Indians. A resolution was adopted appointing a committee to investigate certain charges against Lucien Anderson, a member of the House, in connection with the charges against Gen. Payne. The Fortification bill was made the special order for Friday. A resolution was adopted appointing a committee to inquire into reported abuses at the Old Capitol and Carroll Prisons. A lively debate sprang up on a motion to reconsider the vote by which this resolution was adopted, in which Messrs. Stevens, Ganson, Davis, Coffroth, and others, took part. The motion to reconsider was finally laid on the table.

SENATE, Jan. 19.—Resolutions of thanks to Gen. Terry and Admiral Porter, and their officers and men, were unanimously passed. The joint resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the treatment of the Indians was passed. The consideration of the act to regulate commerce between the several States was postponed until Tuesday next. A bill was passed to amend the act defining the pay of army officers, which confines that the brevet rank shall not entitle the holder to any extra pay. A bill in reference to the special income tax was introduced, and referred to the Committee on Finance. A bill to amend the act to encourage immigration was introduced, and referred to the same committee.

HOUSE.—A resolution was adopted relative to an assessment of one per cent. on the first six hundred dollars of income, now exempt. A joint resolution was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means in reference to the temporarily increased duties on imports. A resolution was adopted, requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the House the record of the court-martial of Major David H. Hastings. A joint resolution was referred to the Military Committee, that the Secretary of War be instructed to give credit, in any draft hereafter made, for the hundred days' men from Ohio and other States. The consideration of the amendment to the Enrollment Act was assigned for two weeks from yesterday. Resolutions of thanks to Gens. Thomas and Terry, and Admiral Porter, were referred to the Military Committees. The Legislative, Judicial and Executive Appropriation bill was then taken up, amended and passed.

Our Victory at Wilmington.

The victory won by our army and navy at Wilmington on Sunday last, is one of the greatest and most important we have ever achieved. The damage is crushing beyond compute to the Southern Confederacy. The place lies about midway between the positions occupied by our great armies on the Savannah and on the James; and its bearings are as wide as the region of country between these rivers, in which the conclusive campaigns of Grant and Sherman must now be speedily brought to their culmination and consummation.

The capture of Fort Fisher itself, with its twenty-five hundred men and seventy-five guns, is a feat of arms worthy of our soldiers and sailors. The blocking up of Cape Fear River, the seizure of the last port open to the rebels, and the final cutting off of all intercourse between the Confederacy and the outside world, is a blow from which there can be no recovery. The capture of the city of Wilmington, which we have no doubt will be presently effected, if it is not already effected by our iron-clads or by our army, will bring within our lines the largest and only important city in North Carolina, will complete our control of the coast of that State, and will enable us to operate at convenience in the interior. These and other bearings of Sunday's battle are most ruinous to the prospects of the rebellion, and most hopeful for the final and decisive triumph of the Union arms.

But great as these positive gains are in themselves, there is a far larger scope to the victories of Sunday. General Sherman, with that iron-clad army of his, has lately been making significant demonstrations toward various important points in the State of South Carolina; and the opinion of his forthcoming campaign that is generally entertained is, that he will strike across the Carolinas as he struck across Georgia, and join Gen. Grant in Virginia, in which State our great combined army will make the final result upon the last remaining army of the Southern rebellion. The vastness of this scheme is such as to lead timid people to doubt its feasibility; but the view of what Sherman has already accomplished, and in the light of his remark recently made at Savannah, that his "army can now march anywhere over the South and do anything," we see no reason to doubt that the work can and will be done. Now, if Jeff Davis looks at his map, he will at once see that if Gen Sherman takes Branchville, which he is now threatening, both Charleston and Columbia will be in a very bad way, and the next points on his onward march would be Kingsville and Florence. When at the latter point, he would nearly have got across one of the Carolinas, and the broad surface of the Old North State would lie before him. The vast importance of Wilmington in this onward march is now evident at a glance. It lies in a direct line by railroad, east of Florence, and would at once furnish Sherman a new base and starting point in his onward march through North Carolina. In this view it is that we see by far the greatest importance of our success at Wilmington, and by far the greatest necessity for the capture of the city itself. We have no doubt, that if not already done, the taking of the city is a part of the programme now, though it might have been no part of the object of our operations primarily, when the only purpose was to prevent blockade running.

We have thus no doubt that the capture of Wilmington is an essential link in the operations of Sherman, and in the terminating campaign of the rebellion in the Atlantic States; and it is not impossible that the month's delay of Sherman at Savannah may be partly owing to our December failure at Wilmington.

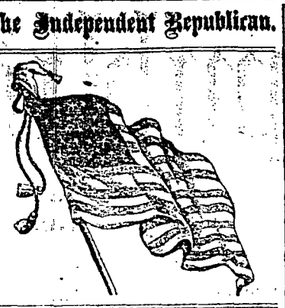
The able military critic of the London *Spectator* has been the first on the other side of the Atlantic to note the remarkable fact—not as a mere coincidence, but as a designed part of Lieut.-Gen. Grant's stupendous combination over the military field—that it was on the very day (15th December) when the news got to New York that Sherman's scout had reached Dahlgren's fleet with the intelligence that Sherman's army had safely arrived at the seaboard—it was on that same day that the gallant army of Thomas sallied out of Nashville, struck Hood, and began the battle which ended in the total rout of the rebel forces from Tennessee. We have no means of verifying the idea, but we have no doubt that the one great event waited upon the other, and that when Grant on the James heard of Sherman's safety on the Atlantic, he telegraphed Thomas on the Cumberland that his hour had come. The world knows the glorious result.

In the same way our operations at Wilmington may be directly related to the pending campaign of Sherman; and as Sherman will learn of the fall of the city almost as soon as it occurs, we need not any day be surprised if we hear that the victor of Georgia has turned his footsteps toward Richmond.—*N. Y. Times.*

TROTTING.—The fastest time ever made in trotting in double harness was made by Lady Palmer and Flatbush Maid. They trotted one mile in a road wagon in 2.26, and two miles in 5:13¼. The fastest time ever made for one mile to a wagon was by Peerless. She trotted it in 2:23¼. The fastest time ever made to sulky was made by Flora Temple. She trotted a mile in 2:20¾ on Long Island, and a mile in 2:19¾ on the Kalamazoo track; but that track is generally believed to be short. A horse can trot several seconds faster when hitched to a sulky than he can when hitched to a wagon.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

—At Madrid, lately, a servant girl murdered her mistress, and as the court couldn't see any reason for the murder they appointed a board of theologians to see if the girl was possessed by the devil.

The Independent Republican.



"A Union of lakes and a Union of lands,
A Union of States none can sever;
A Union of hearts, and a Union of hands,
And the Flag of our Union forever."

CIRCULATION 3,100.

H. H. FRAZIER EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Montrose, Pa., Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1865.

☞ *The conspiracy is now known. Armies have been raised, war is levied to accomplish it. There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States, or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war—only patriots or traitors.*—STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, at Chicago, April 11, 1861.

☞ *What right has the North assailed? What justice has been denied? And what claim, founded in justice and right, has been withheld? Can either of you today name one single act of wrong, deliberately and purposely done by the Government at Washington, of which the South has a right to complain? I challenge the answer.*—HON. A. H. STEPHENS, 1861.

THE PLEASURES OF THE PASSPORT SYSTEM.

The Canadian papers are upon the "rampage." There is a hitch in their affairs, a hiatus in the heretofore steady flow of the Yankee stream which dropped its loose change along the routes of its travel. The Goliah of the State Department stands at the gates of entrance and exit, and sternly demands the production of a bit of printed paper with an autograph appending, setting forth the height, weight, general features, color, and nationality of the traveller who knocks for entrance, or who requests the privilege of vamosing the monarchical dominions. Of course, the rushing tide presses up to the barrier, undulates awhile, and then commences a steady ebb. It, of course, seeks other channels, and finding them surges on its course.—So from Suspension Bridge to the Canadian shore opposite Detroit there are plenty of seats for our Canadian cousins. Crowding is out of fashion. Engineers and firemen are not kept in a state of excitement over the steam gauge, brakemen lazily swing themselves around with the wheel of their breaks, and conductors look hopelessly down the empty platforms of the depots, and sing out to ghosts unseen their usual "all aboard." Dinners have ceased to smoke on the tables; waiters keep their dirty aprons on continually—a saving of laundry fees—and the empty tills of the cashiers, and of the beer and strong drink fountains, are strongly suggestive of bankruptcy. Officers and directors meet, look glum, and inwardly curse the Yankee who will not admit the Canadian right to harbor raiders, allow them to run over the lines on a small spree of murder, theft, and arson, and return to find an official to keep their stolen moneys until they call for them, and a judge who will stand between them and justice. But the cursing does not help them to bank their deposits or surplus in such amounts as to suggest the pleasure of a fat dividend at the end of the financial year.

The provincial towns and cities are taking up the lament and the cursing. Yankees are doing more business at home and less among our cousins. The beds and dining tables of hotels are like the "the banquet hall" of the old song, "deserted;" and, in a word that *grim* passport sentinel has given our good, generous, philanthropic cousins a great desire to see their relatives once more in the flesh and—their money. The reciprocity treaty, which, like the handle of a jug, was all on the Canada side, bids fair to suspend its action, and thus our dear neighbors are in a double grief. If they have to exist upon themselves, what can they do? It will be French against English, and both against their cousin Jonathan, who refuses to come to their loving and depleting embrace. "When this cruel war is over," or when Canada shall be purged of raiders, or cease to be made an asylum for banditti who plot treason and how best to consummate it, when their judges shall learn common sense and neighbor love, mixed with the smallest modicum of justice, and their officials cease to be "pals" to keep the money of thieves, then, perhaps, the grim passport sentinel will retire; but the so-called reciprocity has gone up, not to return to its official earthly sphere again, in our judgment.

SOUTHERN ABOLITIONISM.

The debate in the House of Representatives, elicited by the question of abolishing slavery in the United States, has already established the fact that there is a strong abolition party in the South anxious to get rid of slavery as the only means of saving the Union. And stranger than all this, is the fact that the most intense abolitionists in the South are slave-holders, men who own hundreds of negroes, who are now willing to give up their "human cattle" to save their lives and perpetuate their own freedom. The common sense men of the South begin to understand that the result of the rebellion for victory or defeat, cannot save slavery. To be successful, Jeff. Davis is willing to sacrifice slavery—he is willing to sacrifice the entire South and bring every white laboring man of that region under the dominion of France, England or Spain, (under the control of either of which powers, the condition of the white men of the South would be reduced to vassalage or slavery) rather than return to the Union. The white men of the South begin to understand this fact, and hence they are more anxious to return to the Union, there to regain the equalities of American citizenship. Hence it is, too, that in the debate alluded to, the most earnest men advocating the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, are the men of the South. Jeff. Davis, himself, is now the most out-spoken abolitionist in the land. He wants to free the negro that he may secure the eternal bondage of the white citizens of the South, by an alliance with the aristocracies of the old world. Take the question as it is now viewed in Congress and as the traitors begin to regard it, abolitionism is becoming an attractive feature of the war.

LETTER FROM GENERAL SHERMAN.

The Savannah *Republican* of the 11th inst. publishes a letter from General Sherman to a prominent citizen, stating that he is merely a military commander, and can act only in that capacity. He can not give assurances or pledges affecting civil matters. In future Congress will adjust these when Georgia is again represented there as of old. He says that Georgia is not out of the Union—therefore a total reconstruction appears inappropriate.

As long as any of the people remained armed and organized, the United States would press them with armies, and deal with them accordingly to military law. Afterwards they will be dealt with by the civil courts.

He thinks that the same course should be adopted as indicated by George Washington in the Whiskey Rebellion, and in accordance with the Burr Conspiracy. He quotes from Washington and Jackson on the preservation of the Union, and says that the armies are simply fulfilling their commands.

The Union must and shall be preserved, cost what it may. There is no other alternative for the people of Georgia than to conform to this view of the case.

No commissioners or negotiations or conventions are necessary. Whenever the people of Georgia quit the rebellion, elect members of Congress and senators, and these take their seats, the state of Georgia will have resumed her functions in the Union.

THE COMING DRAFT.

The *Daily News* and New-York *World* are enjoying a family quarrel over the coming draft, which the *News* is amiable enough to attribute to those curiosities in politics, commonly designated as war democrats, whose representatives, according to the theory of the *News*, are Geo. B. McClellan and the Jew Belmont, with other non-combatants of that particular stripe of malcontents.

The *News* says that were it not for the *World* having acquiesced in the repeated tyrannies of Abraham Lincoln, that individual would not have resorted to this final despotism of calling out the deficiency on the last call. The *World* retorts, and most justly, that had not the *News* misguided individuals, liable to the draft, and encouraged wholesale desertion, it would not have been found necessary to resort to a summary conscription to fill the army to an efficient standard. The *World* is right.

GENERAL TERRY.

Alfred H. Terry, Brevet Major-General United States Volunteers, is the hero of Fort Fisher. Educated a lawyer, never within fifty miles of West Point, a child of the people and a soldier in this war from the beginning for conscience sake—he it is who has won in a single day a national fame and a professional military renown not inferior to the proudest. Gen. Terry was one of the few men who before the war saw the necessity of preparation for it, who helped put his State (Connecticut) in preparation for it, and who devoted his own energies to its appproaching demands. He was among the first in the field, has served steadily and with ever-increasing distinction since, and now at a bound reaches the highest place among the soldiers of the Republic.

The Plot to Burn New-York.

ARREST OF FOUR CONSPIRATORS.

General Dix and his subordinates have had an object in view in striving, as they have done since the incendiary attempt to lay our city in ashes, to create the impression that they were making no movements with a view to the apprehension of the incendiaries. And the event proves their action to have been judicious at least, if not the most gratifying that the newsmongers could have coveted; for, ere the veil has been partially lifted, we discover four prisoners against whom the accumulated proofs are said to be overwhelming, and learn that our officials have gathered such facts as will enable them, in due time, to establish a clear case against many another rebel who now reposes in fancied security.

Immediately on promulgating the memorable order of November 26th, instructing military officers in the Department of the East to deal summarily with rebel raiders and incendiaries, General Dix called Police Superintendent Kennedy to aid him, and the Superintendent was authorized to employ such and as many men from his force as he might think proper. Mr. Kennedy lost no time in detailing a number of his ablest detective policemen, and these, under the leadership of Chief Detective Young, were promptly sent to the Canadian border, under instructions giving them discretionary powers. The men had been absent a fortnight before any person remarked the circumstance; but at length their prolonged tarry naturally excited the curiosity of frequenters at the Central Department of the Metropolitan Police; yet the secret was well kept, and not until the officers had reached Town with their prisoners, and seen them securely bolted within the walls of Fort Lafayette, did a lisp escape their lips.

Chief Young and his men went hence direct to the Canada line, and put themselves in communication with the detective officers in the chief cities from Lewiston, New York, to Port Huron, Michigan; and having done this, they visited not but were careful to keep within telegraphic hail of each other—some going into Canada, and others remaining on our side of the line. The secret having been entrusted to the authorities on the border, these gentlemen entered into the work with much spirit, keeping an eye upon persons whom they suspected, giving our officers now and then a useful hint, rendering them speedy transportation to such points as it seemed desirable to reach, in short, aiding them in every way that lay within their power.

Nearly a fortnight passed in apparently fruitless search together fruitless, however, since every day's wanderings paved the way to the object which our officers had ultimately in view. So they groped onward patiently—now in the gaming houses, now in the bar-rooms and drawing rooms of rebel-haunted houses of entertainment, now here and then there; indeed, making themselves almost ubiquitous, until at the opening of the third week they struck the trail of the rebel Captain Bell and a party of his satellites. Bell was flourishing at a fashionable Canadian hotel, under the pseudonym of Baker; but, unluckily for him, there were loyal citizens of the United States at the house who knew him too well, and they contrived a plan to get him over the line, and then, dissemblance being no longer necessary, they revealed their knowledge, and delivered him into the hands of Detective Young and his assistants

The apprehension of Captain Bell was followed in a brief time by the capture of three other rebels, one of whom is known to have been engaged in the attempt to burn our hotels on the night of November 25th. The prisoners were found passing under names which they had assumed for the occasion; but their real names are known, and are to be given to the public whenever General Dix shall have made other arrests which the capture of these rebel emissaries has rendered necessary.

A general court-martial is to be convened immediately, at Fort Lafayette, to be composed as follows: President—Brig.-General Fitz Henry Warren, U. S. A.; Brig.-General Wm. H. Morris, U. S. V.; Col. M. S. Howe, Third U. S. Cavalry; Col. H. Day, U. S. V.; Brevet Lieut. Col. R. F. O'Brine, Fourteenth U. S. Infantry; Major G. W. Wallace, Sixth U. S. Infantry; Major John A. Bowles, Judge Advocate.

Our detective policemen have learned from credible sources that the number of incendiaries who were employed by George N. Sanders to apply the torch to our hotels, was not so great as has been supposed, only six persons having been engaged in that hazardous and diabolical plot; and of these the police force feel sure of capturing five at least. Should our officers catch them, and make a clear case before a court martial, they could expect nothing short of the gibbet, and that with but limited opportunity for prayer.—*N. Y. Times.*

Everett's Career.

Edward Everett was born at Dorchester, Massachusetts, on the 12th of April, 1794, and was the son of Oliver Everett, who had been both a clergyman and a judge. At an early age he had for a tutor no less a personage that Daniel Webster, who prepared him for college. In 1807, when only thirteen years of age, he entered Harvard College, and very soon took a position as one of the most brilliant and successful of the students. He edited the college journal—the *Harvard Lyceum*—and graduating in 1811, was engaged as a tutor in the college. In 1813, when but nineteen years of age, he was appointed pastor of the Brattle Street Church, and a year later wrote a reply to a theological and skeptical work by George B. English. In 1815, having been appointed Professor of Greek in Harvard, he went to Europe to prepare himself for the position, and besides travelling through Great Britain and the continent, mingling with the most eminent men in letters and science, devoted two years to study at Gottingen.

Returning to America, Mr. Everett assumed his duties as Greek professor, and until 1824 also had charge of the *North American Review*. In that year also he again made a mark as an orator in a lecture on "American Literature," at which Lafayette was present.

In 1824 also he was elected to Congress, in which body he served for ten years, being most of the time a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In Congress he was not merely a brilliant but a very useful member. He spoke often, and always with ability, and during all this period he did not neglect literary labor.

1834 he was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and was three times re-elected. In 1840 he visited Europe with his family, and while there—when Harrison was President and Webster was Secretary of State—was appointed American Minister to England, and during his subsequent residence in London his diplomacy was as satisfactory to his government as his reception in the most educated classes of society was to himself.

In 1845 Mr. Everett returned to this country and was chosen president of his Alma Mater, Harvard University. But he soon resigned the position on account of his health. In 1852, on the death of Daniel Webster, President Fillmore called Everett to succeed him as Secretary of State. While holding this position, Mr. Everett declined entering into a tripartite treaty with France and England to secure Cuba in perpetuity to Spain.

Mr. Everett was next in public life as United States Senator, but in 1854 his health again compelled him to resign. Since that period Mr. Everett has been prominent for his noble efforts for the Mount Vernon fund, which resulted in a profit thereto of about ninety thousand dollars; for running for the Vice-Presidency in 1860, with John Bell, of Tennessee, for President; for aiding the East Tennessee sufferers in 1863: and for various patriotic speeches and letters since the breaking out of the rebellion. His last public effort was in behalf of the destitute citizens of Savannah.

FORT FISHER CARRIED BY ASSAULT.

Official Reports from General Terry and Col. Comstock.—Twenty-five Hundred Prisoners and Seventy-five Guns Captured.—General Whiting and Col. Lamb Taken Prisoners.—Our Loss Nine Hundred.—Admiral Porter's Official Report.—General Grant Orders a Salute in Honor of the Victory.—Rebel Account of the Fight.—Official Dispatch from General Lee.

[OFFICIAL.]

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 17—10:40 A. M.

Maj.-Gen. J. A. Dix:

The following official dispatches have just been received at this department:

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON } FEDERAL POINT, N. C., Jan. 15, } via FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17.

Brig.-Gen. J. A. Rawlins:

GENERAL:—I have the honor to report that Fort Fisher was carried by assault, this afternoon and evening, by General Ames' division and the Second Brigade of the First Division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, gallantly aided by a battalion of marines and seamen from the navy. The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment from the Federal fleet, and was made at 3:30 P. M., when the First Brigade—Curtiss', of Ames' division—effected a lodgment upon the parapet, but full possession of the work was not obtained until 10 P. M. The behavior of both officers and men was most admirable. All the works south of Fort Fisher are now occupied by our troops. We have not less than 1,200 prisoners, including Gen. Whiting and Col Lamb, the Commandant of the fort. I regret to say that our loss is severe, especially in officers. I am not yet able to form any estimate of the number of casualties.

(Signed.) ALFRED H. TERRY,
Brev. Maj.-Gen., Commanding Expedition.

FORT FISHER, Monday, Jan. 16—9 A. M.

After a careful reconnoissance on the 14th it was decided to risk an assault on Fort Fisher Paine's division with Col. Abbott's brigade to hold our line, already strong, across the peninsula, and facing Wilmington against Hoke, while Ames' division should assault on the west end. After three hours of heavy navy firing, the assault was made at 3 P. M., on the 15th. Curtis' brigade led, and as soon as it had made a lodgment on the west end of the land front it was followed by Pennypacker's and the latter by Bell's. After desperate fighting, gaining foot by foot, and severe loss, by 6 P. M., we had possession of half the land front. Abbott's Brigade was then taken from our line facing Wilmington, and put into Fort Fisher, and on pushing it forward, at 10 P. M., it took the rest of the work with little resistance—the garrison falling back to the extreme of the peninsular, where they were followed and captured, among others Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb, both wounded. I think we have quite 1,000 prisoners. I hope our loss may not exceed 500; but it is impossible to judge in the night. Among the wounded are the Commanders of the three leading brigades; Curtis severely, Pennypacker severely; but Cols. Pennypacker and Bell dangerously. The land front was a formidable one, the parapet in places, fourteen or fifteen feet high; but the men went at it nobly, under a severe musketry fire. The marines and sailors went up gallantly; but the musketry fire from the east end of the land front was so severe that they did not succeed in entering the work. The navy fire on the work, judging from the holes, must have been terrific. Many of the guns were injured. How many there were on the point I cannot say, perhaps thirty or forty.

(Signed.) C. B. COMSTOCK,
Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. C.,
and Chief Engineer.

Another dispatch estimated the number of prisoners captured at 2,500, and the number of guns at 72.

Gen. Grant telegraphed to his department that in honor of this great triumph, achieved by the united valor of the army and navy, he has ordered a salute of one hundred guns to be fired by each of the armies operating against Richmond. C. A. DANA,
Assistant Secretary of War.

The Naval Dispatch.

[OFFICIAL.]

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17th, 1864.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

The *Atlantic* is just in from Wilmington.

Fort Fisher and the works on Federal Point are in our possession.

The assault was made by the army and sailors on Sunday afternoon, and by 11 P. M. the works were ours.

The losses are heavy.

Lieuts. S. W. Preston and B. H. Porter, of the navy, are killed.

Our captures were 73 guns and about 2,500 prisoners. Gens. Whiting and Lamp, (rebels) are prisoners and wounded.

The *Vanderbilt* is on her way North with dispatches. Two fifteen-inch guns burst on the monitors.

(Signed.) E. T. NICHOLS,
Commander.

The Rebel Account.

[OFFICIAL.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, Tuesday, Jan. 17—9 P. M.

Maj.-Gen. Dix, New York:

The Richmond *Whig* of this morning contains the following account of the capture of Fort Fisher, by the naval and land forces of the United States:

FALL OF FORT FISHER.

The unwelcome news of the fall of Fort Fisher, commanding the entrance to Cape Fear River, was made this morning, and occasioned a sensation of profound regret. *The capture of this fort is equivalent to the closure of the harbor of Wilmington by the enemy's fleet.* It is situated about eighteen miles below the city, but was the main defence of the entrance to the river, and its fall, therefore, will prevent in future the arrival and departure of blockade-runners. How far this reverse may prove injurious to our cause, remains to be seen, but at present we regard it rather an unfortunate than a disastrous event.—The following is the official report:

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN VIRGINIA, }
Monday, Jan. 16th, 1864. }

Hon. J. H. Seddon:

General Bragg reports that the enemy bombarded Fort Fisher furiously all day yesterday.

At 4 P. M. their infantry advanced to the assault, a heavy demonstration at the same hour being made against their rear by our troops.

At 6:30 P. M. Gen. Whiting reports that their attack had failed, and the garrison was being strengthened with fresh troops.

At about 10 P. M. the fort was captured with most of the garrison.

No further particulars at this time known.

(Signed.) R. E. LEE.

No dispatches have been received from Gen. Terry since that of Sunday night announcing the result of the assault. C. A. DANA,
Assistant Secretary of War.

BALTIMORE, Tuesday, Jan 17th, 1865.

The *American* has the following from its special correspondent with the Wilmington expedition, who has just arrived at Fortress Monroe:

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17—6:30 P. M.

After three days and nights of bombardment, Fort Fisher is ours, with all the contiguous works commanding New Inlet. The assault was made by the army and naval brigade at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. One corner of the fort was secured in half an hour, but we had a hand-to-hand fight with the garrison, which lasted until 9 o'clock at night. It was a very stubborn and bloody resistance, and the fort and the approaches were strewn with dead. The garrison had been heavily reinforced. The number of prisoners taken was over 2,000. The number of guns captured was 72. All the forts, including Mound and Seeks Island batteries, surrendered.

The rebel loss in the assault was 500 dead, beside the wounded. Our loss (army and navy) is about 900 killed and wounded. Fleet-Lieut. Preston and Lieut. Porter, commandant of the flag-ship, were both killed in the assault. Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb are both prisoners and wounded.

The rebel pirates *Tallahassee* and *Chicamauga* were both in the fight, and were driven up the river.

Our gunboats went up the river on Monday morning.

Our prisoners will be immediately sent North.

We had several days of delightful weather.

The magazine of the fort exploded by accident on Monday morning, killing and wounding two hundred of our men. The *Santiago de Cuba* brings the bodies of Lieuts. Preston and Porter, and the wounded of the navy.

Gen. Hancock at Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 16th, 1865.

General Hancock, who has been in this city since last Friday, on business connected with the 1st Corps, appeared in the State Senate this evening upon a special invitation of that body. His entrance in the Chamber was the signal for general applause, the Senators in a body receiving him standing. The Speaker welcomed him in an eloquent speech pertinent to the occasion, in reply to which the General, from the Speaker's desk, addressed the Senate and a large assembly of spectators upon the subject of his present mission to the State. The speech occupied nearly half an hour in its delivery, and was principally devoted to an explanation of the mode of enlistment and the character of the proposed new 1st Corps. His speech will excite an influence in legislation on military affairs.

The Result of Mr. Blair's Visit to Richmond.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 1865.

Francis P. Blair, sr., and his son, Montgomery, were with the President this morning. It is stated that Mr. Blair, while in Richmond, succeeded in obtaining a portion of his papers, stolen from his house at Silver Springs by Breckinridge, but all idea of any result arising from his visit is now completely exploded.

Missouri Proclaimed a Free State.

ST. LOUIS, Saturday, Jan. 14th, 1865.

Gov. Fletcher issued a proclamation to-day declaring Missouri a free State, in accordance with the emancipation ordinance passed by the State Convention. Hundreds of business houses and private residences were brilliantly illuminated to-night. Bands of music are playing, fire-works are exploding, and thousands of enthusiastic citizens throng the streets to witness the grand spectacle.

Sherman's New Movement.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17—10 P. M.

To the President:

Gen. Sherman renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah, last week. The Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps went in transports to Beaufort on Saturday, the 14th. The Seventeenth Corps, under Major-Gen. Blair, crossed Port Royal ferry, and, with a portion of Gen. Foster's command, moved on Pocotaligo. Gen. Howard, commanding that wing of the army, reported, on Sunday, 15th, that the enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night. Gen. Blair's corps now occupies a strong position across the railroad, covering all approaches eastward to Pocotaligo.

All the sick of Gen Sherman's army are in good hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head, where the genial climate affords advantages for recovery superior to any other place.

The peace and order prevailing at Savannah since its occupation by Gen. Sherman, could not be surpassed. Few male inhabitants are to be seen on the streets. Ladies and children evince a sense of security. No instance of disorder, or personal injury, or insults has occurred. Laboring men and mechanics, white and black, are seeking employment. The troops are cheerful and respectful toward every one, and seem to feel themselves as much at home and on good behavior as if in their native towns.

Trade is restricted, for the present, to actual military necessity. Many ships with merchandise from the North are waiting at Hilton Head for permission to go to Savannah, but Gen. Sherman has admitted only a limited quantity of supplies required by his troops.

A mistake prevails at the North as to the present inducements for commerce at Savannah. There is not yet any large population to be supplied, no credit, no money, no commodities of exchange, and there can be no great amount for a considerable period.

All the cotton and products now within Savannah belong to the Government, as captured property.

Stringent precautions against supplies that might go to the enemy have been made, and will be enforced by Gen. Sherman.

The cotton captured in Savannah, of which there is a good deal of Sea Island, has been turned over by the Quartermaster to Mr. Draper, Special Agent of the Treasury. The Quartermaster General remains at Savannah, to execute the arrangements for shipping. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

OUR TROOPS ESTABLISHED ON THE CHARLESTON AND SAVANNAH RAILROAD.

On Saturday night, the 14th inst., the Seventeenth Army Corps, and the troops commanded by Gen. Hatch, advanced on the Pocotaligo Bridge, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, and captured that position, together with the fortifications and 12 guns, losing in the charge 40 killed and wounded. The guns were spiked.

The enemy evacuated during the light, and fell back to Ashepo, toward Charleston.

It is thought the enemy will make a stand at that point.

Nomination of Parson Brownlow for Governor—His Speech, &c.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 15th, 1865.

The Tennessee Union State Convention in its session to day nominated Parson W. G. Brownlow for Governor by acclamation.

A Delegate asked if he would accept, whereupon he responded in the following language:

GENTLEMEN:—I settle the controversy by assuring you that I will accept. [Applause.] I cannot be expected to do anything more, and I certainly ought to do no less than tender to you as a Convention my sincere and unfeigned thanks for the honor and distinction you have conferred upon me. I will not speak to you at length now, gentlemen, but what I lack in speaking, if the people should ratify the nomination made by you, I will try to make up in deeds and acts, and, God being my help, if you will send up a Legislature to reorganize the militia and pass other necessary measures, I will put an end to this infernal system of guerrilla fighting in the State, in East, Middle and West Tennessee, if we have to shoot every man concerned in such business. [Loud and long continued applause, amid which the Parson retired.]

News Items.

—Gen Whiting, captured at Fort Fisher, is a native of Hartford, Conn., and an old friend of his captor, Gen. Terry.

—The Charleston *Mercury* in a long gloomy editorial, reviewing the present position of affairs, says six months will settle the fate of the Confederacy.

—The Brooklyn pastors are favorites of fortune. One of them has made $80,000 in stock speculations, and another has "struck ile" and realized $250,000 from an investment of $5,000 in oil lands.

—There is just three days' difference in the age reached by Daniel Webster and Edward Everett at the time of their respective deaths. The former was seventy years, nine months and six days, the latter seventy years, nine months and three days old.

—General Thomas has written to the War Department a letter, giving a very encouraging view of military affairs in the Southwest. He says that Hood cannot gather an army of twenty thousand men, and that the Southwest is practically a conquered country.

—The President has approved the joint resolution, charging the President with the communication of a notice to the Government of Great Britain, of the wish of that of the United States to terminate the Reciprocity treaty of 1854.

—The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Journal* writes that Mr. Blair was warmly greeted at Richmond, and the wife of President Davis actually threw her arms around the old gentleman and kissed him. Surely that is a pacific intimation for the stock-jobbers.

—It is estimated that the present number of petroleum companies in the United States is three hundred and fifty, with capital ranging from $50,000 to $10,000,000 each. Many company, proposing to consolidate several others with it, has a capital of $15,000,000.

—*The Evening Post* says upon authority that no more gold-bearing bonds will be issued, that no additional inflation of the currency will take place, and that the Government will henceforth rely for its entire expenditures upon the seven-thirty loans and the taxes.

—George Davis, of New Haven, Conn., lost the sight of both his eyes in a singular manner a few days since. He had a tooth in a stone eft, to receive an iron staple, and poured in molten lead without first clearing the water from the hole. The consequence was, it flew back with the force of steam, into his face, burning him terribly.

—A correspondent of a Boston paper writes from New York that Gen. McClellan leaves for his European tour the first week in February. He has declined the offer of the private vessel tendered by his friends. He leaves in the steamer China, and will be gone a couple of years. He is made perfectly easy in pecuniary matters. He will make a thorough study of the military science in Europe.

—Senator Buckalew is sending circulars about the country, charging the Republicans with threatening to kill Democrats, "men, women and children," in Fishing Creek. About as good business for a United States Senator as taking prisoners out of jail to vote the Democratic ticket.

—A dispatch from Washington states that Senator Henry S. Foote of the Rebel Congress, has made an unsuccessful attempt to escape, with his wife, from the Confederacy. Mr. Foote was taken back to Richmond, Mrs. Foote being left at Occoquan, where she was sent for, by authority from Washington, and brought to Willard's Hotel under the escort of Secretary Seward.

—The Washington *National Republican*, of the 10th, says in relation to the removal of Major-General Butler: "In the last edition of the *Republican*, yesterday, we announced that Major-General Butler was relieved as Commander of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. It is perhaps proper to add that this was done at the instance and by the particular request of Lieut.-General Grant, the General-in-Chief of the armies of the United States.

—The Tennessee State Convention has unanimously adopted resolutions abolishing and forever prohibiting slavery within that State, and abrogating the secession ordinance and all the laws passed in pursuance thereof. These are to be voted upon by the people on the 22d of February, and if they are adopted, an election for Governor and members of the Legislature will be held on the 4th of March.

—Gen. W. H. F. Lee, of the rebel cavalry, has written a letter for the benefit of the rebel Congress on the subject of cavalry. He makes various suggestions for the improvement of this arm of the rebel service, acknowledges the superiority of the Union Cavalry, and says "unless Congress takes the matter in hand and legislates more liberally on the subject, the enemy next spring will ride rough-shod over the whole State."

—Dr. C. T. Jackson, of Boston, announces the discovery of a mine of emery at Chester, near Springfield, Massachusetts—inexhaustible and invaluable. He says: "It may not be generally known that the emery of the Grecian Archipelago is monopolized by a single banking-house