The Press.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1862.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.—"The conspiracy to break up the Union is a fact now known to all. Armies are being raised, and war levied to accomplish it. There can be but two sides to the controversy. Every man must be on the side of the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war. There can be none but patriots and traitors."

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

We publish this morning the Federal account of the recent doings of the Burnside Expedition in North Carolina. Although the battle was hotly contested, we are glad to see that the loss of life to our troops is considerably less than first reported by the rebels. Our loss amounts to 40 killed and about 200 wounded, while the rebels lost 30 killed and 100 wounded. Among the killed on our side were Col. Russell, of the Tenth Connecticut, and Lieut. Col. De Monteil, of the De Epineuil Zouaves. Our forces lost the most on account of their having to storm several masked batteries. Gen. Burnside states that his forces captured six forts, forty guns, three thousand prisoners, and over two thousand stand of arms. Enough colonels, lieutenant colonels, and majors were also captured to insure the release of all our officers of the same ranks now in the hands of the rebels. The navy acted with its accustomed gallantry, and the victory is, to a great extent, indebted to it. All of the rebel gunboats were sunk or burnt except two, which escaped up the canal. The *Seabird*, the flag-ship of Commodore Lynch, was run down and boarded, the Commodore jumping overboard and swimming to the shore. Elizabeth City and Edonton were both taken possession of by Commodore Goldsborough without opposition.

The uprising of the Union men in Tennessee, and other parts of the Southern Confederacy, has caused a great deal of commotion among the rebel leaders. Ever since the battle of Bull Run the rebels have tried, through their papers and orators, to disguise the fact that there were persons in their midst who still retained their love for the old Union. But now they are forced to acknowledge the fact that there *is* a Union sentiment, and that it has become so strong and resolute, that they (the rebels) entertain serious fears that it will break out in open insurrection. The recent successes of the Union troops have given those people additional resolution and courage, and they have become so emboldened, that they exhibit open manifestations of joy, whenever they hear of the triumph of the Federal forces over their persecutors.

The steamship *Melite*, which arrived at New York from Antwerp, brought a large cargo of arms, saltpetre, and ammunition for the Government.

The officers of our navy in the West have made some experiments with the mortar boats now at Cairo, which will, no doubt, play an important part in the Mississippi expedition. The Cairo correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat*, in speaking of these experiments, says:

"In respect to the efficiency of the mortar boats constructed at St. Louis at the suggestion of Gen. Fremont, there have been many doubts in the minds of well-meaning persons, including a number of army and navy officers. They have been thought clumsy, insufficient in their bulwarks, incapable of bearing the heavy mortars designed for them, and beyond all question incapable of resisting the terrible concussion which would attend the firing of a thirteen-inch shell.

"All these opinions and prognostications have been overthrown to-day by the experiment made under the superintendence of Captain Constable, and before a committee of three, composed of himself, Captain Kilty, of the gunboat *Mound City*, and Captain Dove, of the gunboat *Louisville*.

"One of the mortar boats, No. 35, was taken in tow this morning by three steamtugs and conveyed to a point a few hundred yards below Fort Holt on the Kentucky shore. The huge mortar had previously been placed on board, and fixed upon one of Rodman's mortar carriages or beds. Everything having been got in readiness, Captain Constable fired a small charge of four pounds of powder for the purpose of 'scaling' the mortar. The first experiment with a shell then followed, with a charge of eleven pounds of powder. The suspense was relieved by the sudden shooting up, from the water's line, of a white column of spray far down the Mississippi, and, as it was estimated, two miles and a half away from us. The mortar-boat was scarcely moved by the explosion, and the mortar-carriage recoiled but two or three inches. This was very encouraging.

"Experiment number three was made with the full charge of twenty-three pounds of powder. The time of the flight of the ball was thirty-one seconds, and the distance *three and a half miles*. The recoil of the gun-carriage was about two feet, and the effect of the concussion upon the loose wooden work of the boat was the same as in the previous shot.

"Experiment number four gave results similar to number three, Capt. Paulding, of the gunboat *St. Louis*, discharging the gun in the place of Capt. Constable. Capt. Paulding describes the concussion as very stunning and painful, and thinks it could not be endured within the bulwarks of the mortar boat by any man for more than eight or ten consecutive shots.

"The mortar boats are about sixty feet long and twenty-five feet wide, surrounded on all sides by iron-plate bulwarks, six or seven feet high. The mortar itself weighs 17,210 pounds; has a bore easily admitting a 13-inch shell, and from the edge of the bore to the outer rim is seventeen inches. The mortar-bed weighs 4,500 pounds, and, from the experiment of to-day, is pronounced by Captain Constable to be the most admirable mortar-bed carriage yet invented.

"Say twenty of these mortar boats drop down to within easy range of Columbus, and at the same time be out of the reach of the best rifled cannon the rebels may bring to bear—so small, indeed, at a distance of three and a half or four miles, as scarcely to be discernible on the surface of the water. Say, further, that each of these boats will fire, at a very low estimate, four shells an hour. Then twenty of them would discharge eighty shells an hour with perfect impunity, and, at this rate for one night of ten hours, eight hundred of these terrible missiles may be thrown into the rebel camp and fortifications. Can they endure it?"

The expedition which left Rolla several weeks ago, under the command of Gen. Curtis, has occupied Springfield, Missouri. Gen. Price, instead of waiting and giving our forces battle, has again retreated, but Gen. Halleck, in an official despatch, states that Gen. Curtis has sent a strong body of cavalry in pursuit of the fleeing rebels. What Price intends to do is not known, although it is probable that he will retreat again into Arkansas. Springfield is the key to Southwestern Missouri. It will be, no doubt, permanently occupied by our forces.

A Cairo correspondent of a St. Louis paper tells the following story of Commodore Foote, of our Western flotilla. It appears that the gallant Commodore can officiate in the church as well as in his fleet, and exhort Christians as well as he can strike terror into the hearts of the rebels:

"To-day Commodore Foote attended the Presbyterian church. A large congregation was in attendance, but the preacher did not make his appearance. A general impatience beginning to manifest itself, the Commodore sought the elder of the church, and urged him to perform the services. The elder refusing, the Commodore, on the impulse of the moment, took the pulpit, read a chapter in the Bible, prayed, and delivered a short discourse from the text, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Ye believe in God—believe also in us.' The congregation was delighted. On coming down from the pulpit, the minister, who had arrived just after the prayer, approached and tendered his thanks, but the Commodore rebuked him for his tardiness of duty, and reproached him for his neglect to take the pulpit immediately on his arrival. This incident is illustrative of the Commodore's energetic, earnest character and sincere piety."

Public Amusements.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—Mrs. Anna Cowell, of old Anna Cruise, will take a benefit to-night at the Walnut-street Theatre. Mrs. Cowell has been very many years upon the stage, always occupying useful positions, and although eminent in no particular parts, she has been satisfactory and capable in most. Her connection with the Philadelphia stage extends some distance back. Her friends will bear this benefit in mind. Miss Cornelia Jefferson will have, we understand, a benefit shortly. Miss Jefferson is one of the quaintest, quietest, and petite-est of actresses. Her best friends are those who do not know her personally—the best of all testimony to her merit as an artiste.

ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—Mr. John Drew did not exhibit to advantage, last night, in the nautical drama of "Black-Eyed Susan." The performance may have been meritorious to those who have not seen Mr. E. L. Davenport in the same part, and upon the same boards. Mr. Drew did not represent the glib, dashing, rollicking sailor, sufficiently melo-dramatic to be redeemed from caricature; but rather an awkward landsman, who assumed an abundance of sea-phrases that he did not understand, and affected a pathos that he did not feel. The merit of the piece lay upon Mr. Frank Drew and Mrs. Henri. A lad—and a new face at the theatre—danced and acted promisingly. Mrs. Baker scarcely looked the fresh, free *Susan* that would please a sailor's fancy. S. D. Johnson—a wonderful old man—played an eccentric part admirably. The two Irish farces were well enacted, and will be repeated to-night.

The Germania Orchestra's usual Saturday afternoon Concert will be unusually excellent to-day. By consultation of the programme—which, by the way, should be advertised of Saturdays—the merit of the entertainment will be perceived.

SIGNIOR BLITZ AND DR. VALENTINE have, by solicitation, engaged the Academy of Music for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings next, and Wednesday afternoon. The combined performances of these distinguished gentlemen will be great. The Doctor will relate stories and imitate new characters; the Automaton Rope-dancer will appear, and Blitz is to have all new feats and scenes in ventriloquism.

The Attack upon Fort Donelson.

By this time Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland river, is probably in the hands of the Federal troops. An expedition consisting of more than fifty thousand men had started simultaneously from Fort Henry, Tennessee, and from Paducah, Kentucky, expecting to reach the beleaguered fortress some time during Thursday afternoon. The iron-clad gunboats formed part of the expedition, and many field pieces and light batteries accompanied the land force. Able officers presided over the naval and the army commands, and the determination seemed intense to overcome all opposition and gain possession of the only leading defence of the Cumberland. It is not probable that Fort Donelson will fall, except after a most stubborn resistance. In addition to General PILLOW's forces at that point, numbering about ten thousand men, General JOHNSTON has doubtless moved a large number of his troops from Bowling Green to the east bank of the river, so that twenty thousand men may constitute the defending party, all strongly entrenched, well armed, and constituting the flower of the rebel army. If Fort Donelson falls, the rebel cause is virtually dead in Kentucky and Tennessee. A few earthworks at Clarksville, thirty miles above, where the Memphis and Ohio road crosses the Cumberland river, are the only barriers on our way to Nashville. The gunboats will be able to reach that city within four hours after the surrender of the fort; the retreat of JOHNSTON and BUCKNER thus cut off and they compelled to fight, to surrender, or to disperse. Gen. BUELL, meantime, is moving in three columns upon Bowling Green, and the rebels are reported to be falling back upon Nashville. If the rumor be true, a portion of them will doubtless repair to Evansville and make a final and desperate stand for their capital and the Cumberland river.

The surrender of Fort Donelson we anxiously expect; and so important do we hold its possession that we must also fear. There is no reason, however, for undue tremor upon the subject, as our arrangements are so thorough and powerful that only a combination of adversities can retard our advance. The minutes, to-day, will be significant; for our good or evil Destiny has by this time wrought his best or worst, and we are listening.

BY THE official despatches, received yesterday from Roanoke Island, we learn that O. JENNINGS WISE, the reckless son of an erratic father, died in battle on the afternoon of Saturday last. There is something in the manner of this young rebel's death that will make romance in years to come, when the infamy of the rebellion is forgotten. A life singularly adventurous, instincts almost barbarous, personal traits not altogether ungenerous, and wits unusually intrepid, prompt, and active, are some of the characteristics of a career that won its main renown by brutality, and ended in blood. Consistent only in the intensity of his impulses; greater in his malevolences than his affections holding nerve to be higher than mind, and reckless death more honorable than patient labor, sufferance, or trial, his example may be dangerous to the young, the wayward, and the rash, but not to the truly manly and the really brave. Such men become the heroes of fiction; never the heroes of sober history. They are the relics of a feudal and uncivilized age. We of to-day know them only by the buskin and the sock, and so follow their fortunes in a leisure hour, to forget them when the pageant has passed away.

THE SAME STEAMER which brings us intelligence of the capture of three thousand rebel soldiers brings us the official denial of the rebel Government to receive our commissioners, Messrs. FISH and AMES. These gentlemen went upon errands of mercy, to relieve those that were sick and in prison. The Virginia chivalry, not content with insult, and even murder, upon the persons of the weak and the wounded, has forbidden these philanthropic and religious men either to administer consolation, or to provide food, clothing, and comfort. This is in keeping with the rebel character. A disloyal people can hardly be expected to be kind to a stranger or merciful to an unfortunate. We, who have holier motives and broader charities, can afford to be unlike our enemies. The three thousand insurrectionists now in our hands shall have no occasion to question the magnanimity of our Government, even to armed traitors and open fratricides. Their possession, however, will insure the speedy return of our brave fellows imprisoned, and, as the times go, it is unlikely that as many more will ever again be tenants of the Richmond tobacco houses.

Unacknowledged Kindness.

None of the English journals that we have seen, and our files are pretty extensive, say any thing of the kindness shown to the British troops, destined for Canada, by allowing them to land at Portland, and proceed through the State of Maine to British America. This was a real kindness, saving foreign troops a great deal of delay, privation, and other hardships. No doubt, the British Government will duly express proper gratitude, ere long, but the British journals which have been so eagerly anxious to pick up and misrepresent the most careless words written and spoken here about British policy, might have expressed some approval of Mr. SEWARD's kindness—which, under all the circumstances, was at once generous and magnanimous.

PETERSON'S COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.—The increase of small notes and of counterfeits renders the "Detector" a *necessity*, not only in the counting room, but in every private dwelling. From the semi-monthly number, to be published to-day, we learn that 46 new counterfeits have been put into circulation since January 15th, including *seventeen* within the last fortnight. In these are:

BANK OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, MEADVILLE, PA.—10s altered from 2s—vig. buck and five deer under a tree; female, girl, and chickens on right.

BANK OF DANVILLE, PA.—1s, spurious—vig. an eagle poised on frame, man each side; brig and 1 right, female feeding eagle on left.

FARMERS' BANK, PA.—5s, spurious—Indian and 5 above on left, portrait with 5 above on right. Name across the bill.

STROUDSBURG BANK, PA.—1s, altered—vig. a hunter fighting a bear; a male head on right; female and grain on left.

TIOGA COUNTY BANK, PA.—5s, altered from 1s—vig. farm scene, man, children, and dog; on right end, 5 and Indian; on left end, 5 and Washington; red FIVE across the note.

CONTINENTAL MONTHLY FOR MARCH.—We have received an early copy—not in time for notice to-day. One article, "General Patterson's Campaign in Virginia," attacking the courage and judgment, and even doubting the loyalty, of a distinguished Philadelphian, strikes us as being equally unfair and unprovoked.

The Streets.

[For The Press.]

It would appear that his Honor the Mayor has been out of town for some days. Otherwise, going into his office, he *must* have seen the dozen heaps of snow at the base of the dozen trees in front of the State House. No doubt these will be removed, and the footpath swept when his Honor returns.

IPSE.

PIANOS! PIANOS!!—George Steck (New York) makes a Piano-forte which has no equal in fulness and richness of tone and beauty of touch. J. E. GOULD, Seventh and Chestnut.

REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, &C., TUESDAY.—See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues, issued to-day.

Reinforcements for Ship Island.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—The ship *E. W. Farley* sailed to-day with a portion of the New Hampshire Eighth Regiment for Ship Island.

The gunboats *Kineo* and *Kennebec* also sailed to-day, and five more will leave next week.

Suspension of the Detroit Banks.

DETROIT, Feb. 14.—All the banks of this city suspended specie payment to-day.

Troops for Port Royal.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The Twenty-eighth Massachusetts Regiment embarked on the steamer *Ericsson*, for Port Royal, this morning.

Arrival of the Steamer Ariel.

$600,000 IN GOLD RECEIVED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The steamship *Ariel*, from Aspinwall, with dates to the 5th inst., has arrived, bringing $600,000 in treasure from California.

Cavales and his army had been defeated and dispersed. Asboleda and all the people of Canca were asking for peace. Mosquera was on the way to Antioquia.

AT last the Dublin Mansion House Committee is moving on the subject of distress in the West of Ireland. The returns of seventy-five Protestant clergymen, in reply to a circular from Bishop Plunkett, of Tuam, show that, in their opinion, the potato crop is less than half what it was last year. But the oat crop is up to the average. Of fuel, a large proportion would be useless. There was an increase in the number in the poor-houses. Lord Plunkett concludes that, while there can be no doubt that distress will prevail, no actual famine need be apprehended.

ARCHDEACON O'LEARY, the parish priest of Castle Island, Ireland, energetically denounces the efforts made to entrap young men into secret societies.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, February 14, 1862.

Before this letter appears in print it is to be hoped that the two Houses will have substantially agreed upon such a finance bill as will be satisfactory to the country. The struggle in the Senate prior to the vote being taken on making United States notes a legal tender, was a most animated one, but the vote itself was so decided, being 17 to 22, as to prove that the wishes of the Secretary of the Treasury could not be defeated. As the bill now stands reported from the Senate to the House, it contains the legal tender, and the provision that the interest on the public debt shall hereafter be paid in coin, with the proposition allowing the holders of notes in sums not less than one hundred dollars, to obtain an equal amount of registered bonds from the treasury redeemable after two years, bearing an annual interest of eight per cent. per annum; and also a clause authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive United States notes on deposit for not less than thirty days, in sums not less than one hundred dollars, at any of the depositories of the United States, and to issue certificates, which are to bear an interest of five per cent. per annum; this amount to be withdrawn at any time on the return of the certificates, the interest to cease at the pleasure of the Secretary, and the aggregate not to exceed twenty-five millions. The other portions of the bill are, with slight alterations, similar to the project that passed the House. In the latter body many votes were thrown in favor of the measure under the impression that the interest was to be paid in coin, but Mr. Stevens, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, managed at the last hour to secure a vote in favor of his own idea against such payment. He is still supposed to be averse to the payment of the interest in coin, but I am inclined to believe that, whether he yields his opposition or not, the House will affirm the action of the Senate in this important particular. When it is recollected that the refusal to pay our interest in coin would involve the certain depreciation of our stocks in foreign countries, the propriety of this provision will be at once appreciated. I was struck with the powerful arguments of Senators Collamer and Cowan against the legal-tender clause. The first, a veteran statesman, recalled the best days of the old school of public men, and justified his reputation as one of the most profound, thoughtful, and honest of all our great leaders. The second, a younger man, new to senatorial life, distinguished himself equally by the acumen, logic, and force of his expression and style. But in such a crisis as this all abstract theories and old opinions must give way to the national exigency. No man has surrendered more of his political record in this contest than Salmon P. Chase. If there ever was a hard-moneyed Democrat on earth, he is that man. His whole financial policy has contemplated a war upon all unsound banks, hostility to high duties, and that permanent protection to labor and industry which alone results from an unfluctuating circulating medium. He came to the remedy of the legal tender, therefore, with marked reluctance, but he believed it was his duty, as a patriotic statesman, to yield everything in order that the rebellion might be crushed; and when finally his mind was resolved on this point, he devoted himself with herculean energy to the task of aiding in the preparation of a proper bill, and to the labor of pressing it to a successful passage in both houses. When appealed to by some who attempted to remind him of his old opinions, and to argue against the legal tender, he is said to have answered that "he was ready to make any sacrifice for his country. That being willing to yield his life to it, he would certainly abandon everything else in order to put an end to the rebellion; and that, as the financial measures before Congress were necessary to that end, and were demanded by the people, were essential to the protection of our soldiers and of all classes of the laboring poor, he had given them his earnest and his conscientious support." It is an easy thing for a learned jurist to expound law and to indulge in the luxury of argumentation against that which is a State necessity; but in an hour like this, when the existence of the nation is at stake, he is the best benefactor of his kind, and the bravest soldier of the cause, who forgets himself and remembers his country alone. All honor to Secretary Chase for the unselfish patriotism he has displayed from the beginning to the end of this trying period of our history! In order to show how this fearless statesman is appreciated, I give you an extract from a letter just received from one of the most responsible and influential merchants of Philadelphia: "Chase is 'A No. 1.' Let him have six hundred millions of legal-tender notes instead of one hundred and fifty millions; let it, in fact, be made the whole circulating medium of this glorious country, and when we are reunited, and the rebels are forced to respect the Constitution they have violated, or to fly the country, among their greatest blessings will be the enjoyment of such a currency as the world has never known."

The finance question being disposed of, the next great question will be the tax bill, to the preparation of which the Committee of Ways and Means in the House has given the most careful attention. Those who have been impatient because this great measure has not preceded the note and interest bill should bear in mind that a system which is to affect every class and every interest cannot be perfected in an hour or a day. Hence information is sent for and sought by the committee from all quarters, and to digest this information will require incredible labor and reflection. The tax-bill out of the way, then will arise the stupendous question, What is to be the political relation of the revolted States when they are conquered? Many ideas have been suggested, some of them novel and startling.

Several propositions have been, or will be, presented to Congress. Mr. Sumner's resolutions look to the reduction of the rebel States to a territorial condition, and the establishment of provisional governments, under the jurisdiction of the United States, and is based upon a comprehensive emancipation idea. His theory is, that Secession abdicated the rights of the State under the Constitution, forfeited the functions and powers essential to the existence of the State, and, hence, that the State fell under the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress as so much territory. And that being territory subject to Congress, all local institutions, slavery inclusive, having their origin in the Constitution and depending entirely upon local laws, no longer exist. Senator Harris, the distinguished New York jurist, this morning introduced a bill into the Senate looking simply to the organization of provisional governments in the revolted States, which are to be maintained until the people of such States rally around the Constitution and form a republican government for themselves. The third remedy is that which consists in recognizing the example set in Missouri, Maryland, Kentucky, and Virginia, in all of which States, by the aid of the Federal Government, the loyal Union men have seized upon the old machinery of the State Governments, have made war upon the Secessionists and driven them out, and while maintaining the Federal authority, have defeated, humiliated, and disgraced those who have taken up arms against it. As our victorious columns advance into Tennessee and Alabama, they are hailed (as I predicted long ago they would) be hailed as deliverers, and thus the element for a reorganization of these States is ascertained. Wherever the people of a Southern State are found to be persistently hostile to the Federal Government, then a Provisional Government may be necessary. This vast and stupendous issue opens an unbounded field for patriotic action. And we shall soon be called upon to choose which of the three theories is most feasible and practical.

OCCASIONAL.

CELEBRATION OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY.—The 22d, the anniversary of the birth of Washington, will be celebrated in an appropriate manner in this city. The Select Council have appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements for a proper celebration, and Common Council will, no doubt, concur at their meeting on Monday. This will be in addition to the grand military display to be made by the First Division, P. M., and the Philadelphia Home Guards. The Reserve Brigade, under General Frank Patterson, is composed of four regiments, under the command of Col. P. C. Ellmaker, Col. Alfred Day, Col. C. E. Eakin, and Col. W. H. Yeaton.

THE number of men now employed at the Springfield (Mass.) armory is fourteen hundred, and the product of their labor during the past month was 10,500 muskets. Since the 30th of last June—seven months—over 44,000 guns have been made.

THE REV. ADOLPH GEREVEY, chaplain of the Thirty-seventh Ohio regiment, at Camp Clifton, Gauley Bridge, deliberately shot himself, in the tent of an officer, one morning last week. He was a native of Baden, Germany, forty-eight years old, and had a wife and five children residing in Ohio.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THE GUNBOAT BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE.

Important Executive Order in Relation to State Prisoners.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM PORT ROYAL RECEIVED.

A RECONNOISSANCE NEAR CENTREVILLE MADE BY OUR TROOPS.

&c., &c., &c.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, February 14, 1862.

The Lower Potomac.

The frequent heavy firing by the rebel batteries, on the Potomac, is at passing vessels, but none are struck.

Yesterday afternoon our pickets, near Mount Vernon saw two men leave the Virginia shore and go on board of a small sloop which was anchored in the stream. The fact was reported to the officer of the day, and a detachment was immediately sent off to board the sloop. This was done, and a number of letters were discovered to and from parties in Dixie, and among them ten of a treasonable character. One is said to contain a very complete description of our lines of defence on the Potomac. The two men were arrested.

Despatches from Port Royal.

The Navy Department has received voluminous despatches from Port Royal. They consist mainly of accounts of explorations, allusions to which have already been published.

It appears that considerable supplies of cotton may still be found on Edisto Island, if a reconnoissance in force should be made. The negroes report that there are small quantities of cotton hidden in various localities, and small quantities of unginned are to be found on nearly all of the plantations on Edisto Island, the rebel soldiers not having been there to burn the cotton houses, as they did on the opposite shores on the arrival of the *Pawnee* accompanied by the *Seneca*.

The despatches say it is worthy of note, as indicating the changes in the blacks, that they now express themselves most anxious to obtain arms. The black man who has the general superintendence of the colony wished to land his force in Rockville and drive the rebel soldiers, expressing the utmost confidence that with about twenty old muskets that they had picked up, many of them with flint locks, he would be able to effect his object.

Treaty with Hanover.

The President, to-day, sent a message to both Houses enclosing a copy of the treaty with the King of Hanover, heretofore ratified, and recommending, according to the terms thereof, that 60,353 thalers be appropriated as the proportional quota of the United States in indemnification of Hanover for losses sustained in the abolition of the Stade or Brunshausen dues.

The New Gunboats.

The gunboats authorized to be built by the amendments to the naval bill, and for which $15,000,000 is appropriated, are additional to those recently provided for by act of Congress. It is proposed to arm them each with three or four guns of the heaviest calibre. They are to be built on the same general plan as those which have recently proved so efficient, the only difference being that an endeavor will be made to improve their swiftness as sea-going vessels.

Nomination for Brigadier General.

The President to-day, on the recommendation of the Secretary of War, nominated to the Senate Col. THOMAS A. DAVIS, of the New York volunteers, as a brigadier general, for gallant conduct at the battle of Bull Run.

Suppression of the Slave Trade.

Senator TRUMBULL to-day introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Be it enacted, etc., That wherever the laws of the country or the treaties of the United States may permit, the consuls and commercial agents of the United States, on the coast of Africa, shall have power to entertain and decide upon any cases of libels of vessels which may be seized for being concerned in the slave trade, in the same manner and to the same extent as such power is now vested in the courts of the United States; it shall be the duty of the said consuls or commercial agents to send to the United States for trial, according to law, the master, crew, or ship's company of the vessels seized as aforesaid.

Secretary Stanton.

Secretary STANTON has so far recovered from his sickness as to be at his post in the War Department to-day.

Affairs in New Mexico.

JAMES H. HOLMES, Secretary of State of New Mexico, arrived here this morning, bringing official despatches to the Government. He was only fourteen days on the journey, being, it is said, the quickest trip ever made between that Territory and Washington. It appears that SIBLEY, the rebel general, has issued a proclamation, in which he says: "A wicked war is waged by the United States for the subjugation and oppression of the Confederate States by force of arms," and makes various misrepresentations in behalf of his own cause. He was, at the latest dates, marching on Fort Craig, which is 200 miles south of Santa Fe. He has three regiments of Texans, with heavy artillery. Colonel CANBY was concentrating all the available troops to meet him. Everybody in New Mexico capable of bearing arms, regardless of profession or business, was summoned to arms. Gen. HUNTER had ordered the two Colorado regiments called out by Governor GILPIN to proceed to the relief of New Mexico. The Governor, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and other Federal officers, had gone to Colonel CANBY's camp. Great excitement prevailed throughout the Territory. An order had been issued for all arms and munitions of war in the hands of private citizens to be turned over to the Quartermaster's Department.

Important Executive Orders Relative to State Prisoners.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1862.

The breaking out of a formidable insurrection, based on a conflict of political ideas, being an event without precedent in the United States, was necessarily attended with great confusion and perplexity of the public mind. Disloyalty, before unsuspected, suddenly became bold, and treason astonished the world by bringing at once into the field forces superior in numbers to the standing army of the United States. Every department of the Governmet was paralyzed by treason. Defection appeared in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the Cabinet, in the Federal courts. Ministers and consuls from foreign countries to enter the insurrectionary councils, or the land and naval forces; commanding and other officers in the army and in the navy betrayed the councils or deserted their posts for commands in the insurgent forces. Treason was flagrant in the revenue and the post office service, as well as in the territorial governments and in the Indian reserves. Not only governors, judges, legislators, and ministerial officers in the States, but even whole States, rushed, one after another, with apparent unanimity, into rebellion. The capital was besieged, and its connection with all the States cut off. Even in the portions of the country which was most loyal, political combinations and secret societies were formed furthering the work of disunion, while from motives of disloyalty or cupidity, or from excited passions or perverted sympathies, individuals were found furnishing men, money, materials of war, and supplies to the insurgent military and naval forces. Armies, ships, fortifications, navy yards, arsenals, military posts and garrisons, one after another were betrayed or abandoned to the insurgents. Congress had not anticipated, and so had not provided for the emergency; the municipal authorities were powerless and inactive. The judicial machinery seemed as if it had been designed not to sustain the Government, but to embarrass and betray it. Foreign intervention was openly invited and industriously instigated by the abettors of the insurrection, became imminent, and has only been prevented by the practice of strict and impartial justice with the most perfect moderation in our intercourse with other nations. The public mind was alarmed and apprehensive, though fortunately not distracted or disheartened. It seemed to be doubtful whether the Federal Government, which one year before had been thought a model worthy of universal acceptance, had indeed the ability to defend and maintain itself.

Some reverses, which perhaps were unavertable, suffered by newly levied and inefficient forces, discouraged the loyal, and gave new hopes to the insurgents. Voluntary enlistments seemed about to cease, and desertions commenced. Parties speculated upon the question, whether conscription had not become necessary to fill up the armies of the United States. In this emergency the President felt it his duty to employ with energy the extraordinary powers which the Constitution confides to him in cases of insurrection. He called into the field such military and naval forces authorized by existing laws as seemed necessary. He directed measures to prevent the use of the post office for treasonable correspondence. He subjected passengers to and from foreign countries to new passport regulations, and he instituted a blockade, suspended the habeas corpus in various places, and caused persons who were represented to him as being engaged, or about to engage, in disloyal and treasonable practices, to be arrested by special civil as well as military agencies, and detained in military custody, when necessary to prevent them and deter others from such practices. Examinations of such cases were instituted, and some of the persons so arrested have been discharged, from time to time, under circumstances or upon conditions compatible, as was thought, with the public safety.

In the mean time a favorable change of public opinion has occurred. The line between loyalty and disloyalty is plainly defined. The whole structure of the Government is firm and stable.

Apprehension of public danger and facilities for treasonable practices have diminished with the passions which prompted heedless persons to adopt them. The insurrection is believed to have culminated, and to be declining. The President, in view of these facts, and anxious to favor a return to the normal course of the Administration as far as a regard for the public welfare will allow, directs that all political prisoners or State prisoners now held in military custody be released on their subscribing to a parole engaging them to render no aid or comfort to the enemies in hostility to the United States.

The Secretary of War will, however, in his discretion, except from the effect of this order every person detained as spies in the service of the insurgents or others, whose release at the present moment may be deemed incompatible with the public safety.

To all persons who shall be released, and shall keep their parole, the President grants an amnesty for past offences of treason or disloyalty, which they may have committed.

Extraordinary arrests will hereafter be made under the direction of the military authorities alone. By order of the President.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.

An Order in Respect to Water Transports.

In order to know what means of transport can be had by the Government, and at what rates when required, immediate proposals, by telegraph, for furnishing the following transports will be received by the War Department:

First. Barges, such as are used on the North river for transporting cattle.
Second. Steam tugs and towboats.
Third. Steamboats of any description, adapted only for smooth water.
Fourth. Sea-going [illegible] vessels of every description.

The proposals should specify the description of vessels, tonnage, and equipment; also, the rate of charter per day, with the crew, and everything except coal, sea and war-risks, to be borne by the Government.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Reconnoissance near Centreville.

A reconnoissance was made, to-day, by a portion of the division under command of General PORTER, in the direction of Centreville.

The enemy's pickets were met, but they retired on the advance of our troops, embracing a thousand men. They met no casualties.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

The Land Expedition Against Fort Donelson.

50,000 MEN IN MOTION.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—The special despatch of the *Evening Journal*, dated Fort Henry, 12th inst., says that the expedition under command of Col. Riggin returned to Fort Henry from up the Tennessee river, having captured $75,000 worth of contraband goods at Paris, Tennessee. He also found the tents and camp equipage of the rebels who left Fort Henry.

The troops have moved from Fort Henry, and will probably attack Fort Donelson to-morrow.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Capt. Willard, of the Chicago Light Artillery, left Fort Henry the day before yesterday, at half past 10 o'clock, and reached here to-day. From him we learn that the artillery left Fort Henry for Donelson between 3 and 4 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, with six regiments of infantry. Gen. Grant, with his staff and body guard, left at 10 o'clock on the same day. The rear guard left at 2 o'clock P. M., with 27 pieces of light artillery. At 4 o'clock on the morning of the same day 11 regiments left Paducah under convoy of gunboats, to go up the Cumberland river, making the whole force over 50,000 men. The gunboats expected to reach Fort Donelson at 7 o'clock yesterday, and it was designed to attack Fort Donelson with the whole force yesterday afternoon.

LATEST FROM TENNESSEE.

The Bombardment of Fort Donelson Commenced.

THE FORT SURROUNDED.

GUNBOATS ON THE RIVER.

THE REBEL FORCE 15,000 MEN.

THEIR REINFORCEMENTS NOW CUT OFF.

Severe Loss on Both Sides.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—The following is a special despatch to the *Tribune* office:

CAMP IN THE FIELD, NEAR FORT DONELSON, Feb. 13, 12½ o'clock P. M.

Fort Donelson is invested by our troops. Our lines are fromed from right to left, and from north to south, nearly surrounding the fort. Heavy cannonading and skirmishing have been going on since 7½ o'clock A. M. Owing to the extent of the action, but little can be learned of the result. I hear, however, that a captain, in Company I, Seventh Regiment, has been killed.

General McClernand's division is in operation on the right; General Smith's on the left. We have had but one gunboat to play upon the fort until just within the last half hour, when other gunboats are firing on the fort. The force within the breastworks is estimated at about 15,000, from the best information.

No reinforcements can now arrive to the rebels, as all communication is cut off.

It is now thought that their left redoubt has fallen into our hands.

All the officers are acting with great valor, exhibiting a fearlessness highly creditable to our Western army.

General Grant and staff have been riding along the lines all the morning regardless of the grape that is being showered in every direction.

LATER.

Eight o'clock P. M., February 13.—The cannonading skirmish has continued briskly all day, but has lately been discontinued.

A considerable number have been wounded on both sides.

The Twenty-fifth Indiana, which rushed boldly up to the entrenchments, had, during the day, forty of their men wounded—all slightly.

The Seventh Illinois and Seventh Iowa, who have been close to the enemy's fire, have also lost some men. Among the killed is Captain Mandell, of Company I, Seventh Illinois, and Colonel Morrison, of the Forty-ninth Illinois, is wounded.

Berge's sharpshooters have done good service. They have kept several of the enemy's guns idle by picking off the cannoniers as fast as they appeared at the guns.

Capt. Birak, with a company of cavalry, went round to the left bank of the river this afternoon, and reports that the gunboat *Carondelet* received a ten-inch ball through her casemate, which wounded eight men, but did not injure the boat materially. Capt. Walker, of the *Carondelet*, says that he has dismounted three of the enemy's river guns. The other gunboats had not arrived up to 6 o'clock P. M.

The enemy's rifleshots and the grape have been flying thick and fast about here all day. Some six shots struck around Gen. Grant and his staff this afternoon while they were riding along the lines. One bullet hit one of the horses of the body guard near by. The fort will be stormed in two days if not surrendered before.

Our men have driven back the enemy in every instance. Generals Pillow, Floyd, Johnston and Buckner are said to be here.

One of our companies has been within 75 yards of the enemy's entrenchments.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

RECAPTURE OF SPRINGFIELD.

RETREAT OF THE REBELS AFTER A SHORT FIGHT.

Capture of Stores and Camp Equipage.

OUR CAVALRY IN PURSUIT OF THE FLYING REBELS.

ST. LOUIS, February 14.—The following despatch was forwarded, this morning, to General McClellan, Washington:

"The flag of the Union floats over the court house, at Springfield, Missouri. The enemy retreated after a short engagement, leaving a large amount of stores and camp equipage, which was captured by General Curtis. Our cavalry is in close pursuit.

"W. H. HALLECK,
"Major General Commanding."

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri, February 13, via Bear Creek, February 14.—Our troops took possession of Springfield to-day without firing a gun. Price evacuated the place yesterday afternoon, marching out on the Fayetteville road.

Army Orders of Gen. Halleck.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Gen. Halleck has assigned Gen. Grant to command the district of West Tennessee, and Gen. Sherman to the district of Cairo.

The commanders of districts, divisions, brigades, and posts are directed to have an immediate inspection of all their troops, for the discovery of stolen and contraband property and fugitive slaves. General order No. 3, of 1861, will be strictly enforced, and any officer who has permitted it to be violated by his command will be arrested and tried for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders.

From Annapolis.

The *Jersey Blue* left Annapolis, yesterday, with troops. The sick belonging to them, about 250, remain at that city.

A salute of thirty-four guns was fired to-day at Annapolis, in honor of the success of the Burnside Expedition.

Alleged Mail Robbery.

BUFFALO, February 14.—J. S. Corning, a baggage-master of the New York Central Railroad, has been arrested on the charge of robbing the mail.

Enticing British Soldiers to Desert.

ST. CATHARINES, February 14.—Several men have been committed for trial at the next Assizes for enticing members of English regiments here to desert to the American service.

A National Salute.

LANCASTER, Feb. 14.—A national salute was fired this evening by Captain Young's Artillery Cadets in honor of the Union victories in North Carolina and Tennessee.

THE EXPEDITION TO SAVANNAH.

Speedy Capture of the City Anticipated.

GENERAL WRIGHT IN COMMAND OF THE LAND FORCES.

Encounter with Tatnall's Fleet.

HIS FLAG-BOAT DISABLED.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Sunday, Feb. 9, 1862.—On the 21st day of January, the embarkation of several regiments of troops, and other active preparations, betokened an expedition of some magnitude. The troops are under command of General Wright, while the naval force, consisting of six gunboats—the *Ottawa, Seneca, Petumka, Western World, Isaac Smith*, and *Ellen*—were commanded by Captain Davis.

The morning of the 26th proving clear and propitious—after a period of stormy weather of longer duration than any we have yet experienced here—the fleet sailed, and on the afternoon of the same day cast anchor in Warsaw Sound—a large bay which makes in south of Tybee Island. This is one of the numerous outlets from Savannah—the one through which the English steamer *Fingal* endeavored to make her escape—effectually blockaded by the vessels *Seminole* and *Norwich*. During the night soundings were made, and the next morning the gunboats entered Wilmington Narrows, a narrow channel which runs within two miles of Fort Pulaski, and nearly parallel with the Savannah river, which it enters about three miles above Fort Jackson.

Upon passing Fort Pulaski, great bustle and activity were observed, as if they were endeavoring to get a heavy gun to bear upon this channel, in order to give us a salute as we passed, but our active little gunboats were out of range before their purpose could be accomplished.

Following this river, which winds through flat, swampy lands, the gunboats proceeded for a distance of five miles, when a row of piles was discovered, stretching from bank to bank, obstructing the channel, and preventing our further progress. Here the gunboats came to anchor, and General Wright, who had accompanied the reconnoissance on board the *Ottawa*, disembarked two companies of the Sixth Connecticut Regiment to reconnoitre on each bank of the river, while he proceeded in a rowboat to within a short distance of the Savannah, ascertaining the depth and position of the channel, and the nature of the obstructions placed there. On the left bank of the river was a plantation and house, but the place was deserted, and no signs of life could be seen anywhere. As the gunboats could not navigate the river, except at high water, they remained here all night. On the next morning Tatnall's fleet, of five side-wheel steamers, were seen coming down the Savannah river, puffing forth volumes of dense black smoke.

They were towing two hulks, evidently intended for sinking somewhere. A strip of swamp land, only a mile and a half wide, separated them from our gunboats, and as they passed within good range both sides were at their guns, each waiting for the other to speak first.

Our officers were anxious for the order from Capt. Davis to open upon the saucy little rebel craft, but it did not come, and a shade of disappointment passed over their faces as they saw them passing without a shot from either side. But Tatnall had no intention of allowing the opportunity to pass, and turning back, his little steamer, the *Savanna*, discharged a solid shot, which fell short.

This friendly token was replied to by a shell from the *Ottawa*, which reached them, but did no damage. It was received with grim satisfaction by the officers of our other gunboats at the signal for an interchange of shots, and they opened on the rebel fleet with a well-directed fire of shells, which proved very damaging to them, while all their shot fell short and did us no injury whatever.

Tatnall's vessel was struck twice, once amidships, by a shell from the *Ottawa*, and damaged so severely that her flag was lowered, and another vessel came to her assistance and towed her off. The other vessels were all more or less damaged, many of our shells striking them frequently and silencing their fire. They soon withdrew from their position, and made their way back to Savannah.

The gunboats returned to Warsaw Sound the same night. On the morning of the 29th, the *Ottawa* returned to Hilton Head with Captain Davis and Gen. Wright, to obtain further orders. Gen. Wright has since returned to his command—meanwhile the expedition is riding at anchor in Warsaw Sound.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1862.

SENATE.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep.), of Maine, presented the petition of N. C. Jewett, of Colorado, in favor of an increase of the navy, that we may be better prepared to resist European influence; and the assumption of the Mexican debt for the same reason, and praying that in crushing out rebellion we do not interfere with slavery.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to organize the cavalry arm of the service.

Mr. WILKINSON (Rep.), of Minnesota, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a joint resolution for the relief of certain Indians. He said there were at this time from 4,000 to 5,000 loyal Indians at Leavenworth who had been driven from their homes, and were now entirely destitute and almost in a state of starvation. They were mostly Creeks, Chickasaws, and Choctaws.

Mr. DOOLITTLE (Rep.), of Wisconsin, said a resolution to the same effect had been drawn up with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. WILKINSON accepted the latter resolution as a substitute, and it was adopted.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, introduced a bill to provide for the safe keeping and maintenance of United States prisoners.

Also, a bill providing for provisional Governments in certain cases. Both bills were appropriately referred.

Mr. DOOLITTLE (Rep.), of Wisconsin, presented the petition of the Oneida Indians, asking that the criminal laws of Wisconsin be extended over them.

Mr. FOSTER (Rep.), of Connecticut, introduced a bill for the occupation and cultivation of certain cotton lands on the Southern coast. Referred.

Mr. CHANDLER (Rep.), of Michigan, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill requiring the captains of vessels sailing to foreign ports to take the oath of allegiance.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, the bill to provide a warden for the jail in the District of Columbia was taken up. He said that a man, named Duval, was discharged yesterday by this man Lamon, because he was loyal, and would not do the bidding of Lamon and his man Philips, and the negro-thief, Wise.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep.), of Ohio, thought the bill did not go far enough. Such a man ought not to be marshal of the District at all. If the President did not remove him, the Senate ought to abolish the office. The bill was passed.

A communication was received from the Commissioner of Patents, transmitting his annual report. Referred.

A communication was received from the President, transmitting a copy of the treaty with the King of Hanover. Referred.

The report and resolution of the Naval Committee, in regard to the Secretary of the Navy, was taken up.

Mr. FOOT (Rep.), of Vermont, said that the resolution stated that a certain mode of making purchases by commissioners was unwise, and not to be tolerated. He contended that the trouble was not in the manner of compensation, but in the character of the agent. A dishonest agent would cheat the Government under any mode, while an honest man would make purchases under commission at the lowest rate, and charge only a commission. A dishonest agent would purchase at perhaps the lowest price, but would hand his purchase over to the Government at an enhanced price, and pocket the difference. The safety of the Government depends on the honesty and fidelity of its agents, and this is the only security. The resolution does not point at the real evils. If it had no other meaning than an opinion as to the mode of compensation he should regard it as of little consequence. But it is the admitted purpose and intent of the resolution to cast censure on the Secretary of the Navy. He was not prepared to say that the Secretary of the Navy had done anything calling for reproof or condemnation. There was nothing in the character of the transaction calling for a rebuke. He had read the response of the Secretary of the Navy, and considered it a fair and frank exposition of the transaction, and solemnly declared that, in his judgment, it was a complete vindication of his honesty and integrity, and ought to be perfectly satisfactory to any one not predisposed to fault-finding. The Secretary of the Navy, at the commencement of the war, found the difficulty of his position when called on to buy vessels immediately. He had no time to procure them in the ordinary way, but had to go into the market and buy them. The Secretary tried to purchase them through the brokers; but when he found that the most outrageous frauds were perpetrated under this system, he was compelled to select an agent. He referred to the character of Mr. Morgan as high and unimpeachable, and contended that the Secretary had done the best he could, and selected the very best agent he could, and that the purchases made by Mr. Morgan were made on the best terms, and at a great advantage to the Government. Mr. Morgan was not allowed to make any purchases until the vessels had been examined by the Board of Naval Inspectors. But the chief complaint is, not that the agent paid too much, and that the Government did not receive the full benefit of every dollar it paid, but that the agent received too large a compensation. At the time he was appointed no one knew the amount of the purchases he would have to make, but the amount proved to be large, amounting to three and a half millions, and the commission reached the sum of $70,000. The per centage paid was one decided by many years' experience to be proper. Then, shall a high public officer be held up to reprobation, because he had adopted a rule of the commercial world, under the force of circumstances? He thought the country, in its sober judgment, would decide that the plan was an absolute economy, although it had been profitable to the agent. He contended that Mr. Morgan had saved a large amount to the Government, and at this time, when the naval achievements are sending joy through the country, the head of that department ought not to be stricken down.

Mr. WILKINSON (Rep), of Minnesota, said that he could not go to the people of Minnesota with a vote to sanction a transaction giving one man more money than was paid to all her soldiers in the field for the same time. He thought the question was not whether the Secretary of the Navy or Mr. Morgan were honest men. He did not deny that, but it was a burning shame when the people of the country were taxed, and going to be taxed, to pay such amounts to one man, and the people of the country condemn, and will condemn the Senate, if they sanction it. The Secretary of the Navy doubtless thought that he was paying the proper and usual price, but when he found that he was paying too much did he stop? When he ought to have stopped paying so much he did not. What encouragement have the people to give up their hard earnings, if we allow the officers of the Government to pay them out in such large sums to personal friends?

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep), of Maine, from the Committee on Finance, reported back the legislative and executive appropriation bill, with several amendments.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, moved to lay the subject on the table, in order to take up the case of the Senator from Oregon, Mr. Starke. Agreed to—yeas 31, nays 5.

The case of Mr. Starke was then postponed till Tuesday, and the bill in regard to the pay and emoluments of officers of the army was taken up.

By consent, Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep.) introduced a bill in relation to carrying into effect the provisions of the treaty with Japan, China, and Siam.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, offered an amendment to reduce the number of paymasters in the army from one hundred and forty-nine to one hundred and twenty-five. Adopted. Also, an amendment that the bounty allowed to soldiers, if the soldier shall die, be paid to the widow or children, or the father or mother. Adopted. Also, an amendment relative to contracts and orders for supplies for the Government, being in substance the bill offered on the subject. Adopted. Also, an amendment that the President be authorized and requested to discharge from the service in the army or navy any officer in case in his judgment such officer is unsuitable for the service, or the service benefited thereby. Adopted.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep.), of Ohio, offered an amendment to repeal the act passed in July authorizing the major generals to appoint aids; but, after some discussion, Mr. Sherman withdrew it; but Mr. Grimes renewed the amendment, which was discussed at some length.

After an executive session, the Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Senate's amendments to the United States note bill were received and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

The House then resumed the consideration of the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. SEDGWICK (Rep.), of New York, offered an amendment appropriating fifteen millions of dollars for building additional gunboats.

Mr. SEDGWICK, in reply to the remarks made about the expense incurred by this last appropriation, said the navy would give full value for the sum thus to be expended. He referred to the Hatteras, Roanoke Island, Elizabeth City, Fort Henry, and Port Royal expeditions, to show what the navy has done. It would take every fortified place on the Southern coast within four months if you will only furnish the means. The gunboats already built had proved a perfect success.

Mr. WICKLIFFE (U.), of Kentucky, said he would give the Government all it asked for the suppression of the rebellion. He was perfectly satisfied with the gunboats built on the Mississippi, and they had been highly successful. His opinion was that more such boats would be necessary before the war was over.

Mr. DUNN (Rep.), of Indiana favored the appropriation. With a single exception (that of Secretary Welles permitting his brother-in-law to receive an outrageous percentage for buying vessels) that department had been administered with less complaint than any other.

Mr. KELLEY (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, said that England was building ships at her dock-yards in order to assail our widely-extended and badly-defended sea-coast. Our treaties bind us to having no more than a limited naval force on the lakes, but they do not prevent England from concentrating a fleet in the neighborhood of the Welland canal. A distinguished townsman, writing to him from England, says: "Don't deceive yourself. The governing classes, with Palmerston at the head, will have war with you, if they are not anxious already to do so." Therefore, the expenditure proposed was proper, and dictated by wise considerations.

Mr. DAVIS (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, was rejoiced that this amendment was offered. Its adoption would do more to secure peace than ten times the amount expended in the army. England respects force more than anything else.

Mr. SHELLABARGER (Rep.), of Ohio, suggested the postponement of this question until they should become acquainted with the magnitude, quality, and extent of the vessels proposed.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, advocated the amendment. He said we are threatened with a foreign war by England, and perhaps France. He trusted that it would not come; but, whether we consider our present necessities or the events of the future, we should be prepared for all emergencies.

Mr. RICE (Rep.), of Maine. While admitting the efficiency of the Navy Department, he objected to the appropriation, only because the Committee on Naval Affairs had not had an opportunity of examining into the subject.

Mr. ALDRICH (Rep.), of Minnesota, remarked that no member of that committee had objected to the amendment.

Mr. SEDGWICK (Rep.), showed the impracticability of Congress prescribing, as had been suggested, the form and draft of the gunboats, for the reason that they would have to be constructed to suit the waters in which they were to operate. Therefore, that branch of the subject must be left to the best discretion and good sense of the Navy Department.

The amendment, appropriating $15,000,000 for building additional gunboats, was then adopted—yeas 118, nays 25.

Amendments were also adopted appropriating $50,000 for an ordnance foundry at Washington, and for ordnance, $1,000,000.

The bill was then passed.

Mr. HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.), said that Mr. Wikoff having appeared before the Judiciary Committee and answered the question propounded to him, thus purging himself of contempt, he moved that Mr. Wikoff be brought before the bar of the House with the view that he may be released from custody by the action of this body.

The SPEAKER thought that, by the terms of the resolution by which Mr. Wikoff was ordered into close custody, the witness can be discharged without further action of the House, he having answered the question.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.), said he would like to know what the answer was.

Mr. HICKMAN replied that the House would be furnished with it at the proper time.

According to the ruling of the Speaker, Mr. Wikoff was then ordered to be discharged from custody.

Mr. CRITTENDEN (U.), of Kentucky, from the Select Committee, reported favorably on the joint resolution of the Senate—namely, that the two houses assemble on Saturday, the 22d, and, in their presence, the Farewell Address of Washington be read: that the President, heads of departments, judges of the Supreme Court, representatives of foreign Governments, and such officers of the army and navy and distinguished citizens at the seat of Government be invited. The President is also requested to order to be read to the army and navy on that day the entire Address, or such parts of it as may be selected, and ten thousand copies of the proceedings in Congress shall be published for distribution by members. The report was unanimously adopted.

The Senate joint resolution for the relief of the loyal Choctaw, Seminole, and other Indians, was passed.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union on the post office appropriation bill.

Mr. McPHERSON (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, expressed his profound hatred of the agents, promoters, and sympathizers with the rebellion—the declared principles on which it rests—the perjured apostacy in which the deep duplicity was developed, and the violence and terrorism by which Secession was forced on an unwilling people, and the accursed machinations of crafty men, who, while singing the praises of the Union, were plotting the destruction of the Government, and for the purpose of more easily attaining their ends, sought entrance into all political parties, and alarmed the slave interests, and prepared them to combine against the Union. State sovereignty, he explained, as a Democratic doctrine, had assumed the position of armed rebellion, and to resist this, men have ceased to be politicians and acted like Americans. He repeated that he hated this rebellion because of the principles it accepts, and the purposes it represents. It was caused by reactionary principles having no sympathy with popular rights, and aimed at the existence of popular liberty. It was controlled by cold, calculating men, who neither in character nor conviction are in harmony with freedom, but have shown a contempt of labor and republican ideas. Their object is to degrade labor and stigmatize poverty. Traitors here had controlled legislation in almost everything, and for years it was made a tributary to their atrocious scheme. To it diplomacy revealed its secrets. The treasury was robbed and bankrupted—the navy scattered to distant seas, and arms and munitions of war placed in the easy reach of theft. The rebellion was instigated by unscrupulous demagogues, who believed that they could wield power—a power more easy to attain, and more supreme and continuous in a Confederacy, more compact and harmonious than that formed by our fathers. Their motive was ambition, the intended result the dismemberment of the Union, and establishment of a new confederacy devoted to a propagandism of the slave system in society and aristocratic ideas in government. It is our duty to break up by force this rebel conspiracy, to overthrow their authority, expel their agents, and punish the guilty authors of this calamity. To this end he would impose every needed tax, and enact all needed legislation, hoping that the military measures adopted and contemplated would be adequate to accomplish the purposes of the Government. Respecting the alleged impossibility of subjugating the South, he believed, they relied upon their military power to withstand ours, and that when it shall be broken both the ability and inclination to maintain a rebellious attitude will disappear. As the people now in rebellion had never been oppressed, according to the showing of Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, one of their officials, and as the rebellion had proceeded not from the people, but from politicians, a deep animosity could not exist among the former. He believed that in the common sympathy that would gladly reaccept the Government of the Union. But if not, he could in no view consent to close the contest until the complete restoration of the authority of the Union shall be effected—until American citizenship shall be impartially protected over every foot of the territory of the Union, and until the disgraces of the past shall be lost in the dawning glories of the future—costly, crippling, and demoralizing as the war had been or would be. It was worth much to have had the true theory of the powers of the Government settled, to have had all vicious and emasculating theories crushed out, and its fitness established to withstand internal treason as well as outward attack. If, in this struggle, the seductive sophisms which are the inspiration of secession disappear, it will be an occasion for rejoicing to have had the Government weeded of those elements of weakness which were fast making it the plaything of faction, and the object of the contemptuous disregard of most of the leading Powers. As the contest was for the nation's life, he thought our duty was plain. It may be attended by striking events, whose strangeness will be lost in their deep significance. It may invoke sacrifices, privations, and suffering—present difficulties, which patient courage can alone surmount—and demand the exercise of every high and manly virtue; but this fair inheritance shall be saved from disjointure and demolition, and this people, rising to the stature of true heroism, will inscribe their name, in characters of blood, upon the eternal tablets of history, as the brave, devoted, and successful defenders of republican and constitutional government.

The committee then rose.

The House concurred in the Senate amendment to the bill for the suppression of the Coolie trade.

The Senate's joint resolution providing a stenographer for the Committee on the Conduct of the War being read,

Mr. WICKLIFFE (U.), of Kentucky, said that Congress has, through that committee, undertaken the command of the war.

Mr. LOVEJOY (Rep.), of Illinois, called him to order on the ground of irrelevancy.

Mr. WICKLIFFE had merely to say that the committee were not fit to examine into the war. He had heard a great deal about their proceedings. The newspapers say that they had the General-in-Chief before them. He did not know what answer General McClellan gave, excepting from report, and that was that he intended to conduct the war according to his own notions of right.

Mr. Wickliffe alluded to Napoleon, who took charge of the army on condition that the French Chamber of Deputies should mind their own business.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM (Dem.) reminded the gentleman that Napoleon drove out the deputies and subverted the Government.

Mr. WICKLIFFE said for aught he knew, the Military Committee might be driven out.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM. Not the committee, but Congress.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, resuming, said that one of the most disastrous results of these investigations was the creating of a distrust in the constitutional conductors of the war, and incidentally remarked that our army would have fought better at Bull Run if Congress had kept away. [Laughter.]

Mr. LOVEJOY made some explanations about the battle of Bull Run. At 3 o'clock he believed our soldiers were victorious, and the enemy were on the point of retreat. Our soldiers, however, left the field because of the rebels being reinforced by Gen. Johnson, contrary to expectation.

Mr. BLAIR (Rep.), of Missouri, said that Gen. Patterson telegraphed to Washington that Gen. Johnson had eluded him the night before, and Johnson, it was known, was thus enabled to participate in the fight. When this information came to the President he went to Gen. Scott to protest against a movement on Manassas and Bull Run, but Gen. Scott insisted on its being made, and this was with the full knowledge that Beauregard had been reinforced by Johnson.

Mr. COVODE (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, denied that Gen. Patterson ever telegraphed any such thing.

Mr. BLAIR replied that Gen. Patterson telegraphed that Johnson had thirty or forty thousand men at Winchester, when it was known that he had not half that number.

In response to a question asked by Mr. GOOCH, Mr. BLAIR said he knew Gen. Patterson had so telegraphed, either on Friday or Saturday night before the battle.

Mr. COVODE asked from whom Mr. Blair received the information.

Mr. BLAIR. You had better summon me to appear before your secret committee.

Mr. WICKLIFFE claimed his right to the floor.

Mr. DIVEN (Rep.), of New York, appealed to Mr. Wickliffe to give the military critics an opportunity to discuss the war. The news from Missouri and elsewhere indicated that the labors of the committee were coming to an end.

Mr. BLAIR, in further explanation, said he had never seen any man who would assert that Gen. Patterson had yet put himself in danger, or ever would. That Gen. Scott insisted on an advance on Manassas against the wishes of the President and the Secretary of War, he knew to be true.

Various gentlemen enjoyed a lively running debate about some points concerning the Battle of Bull Run.

Mr. COVODE (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, wanted to set the matter right, but could not obtain an opportunity.

Mr. BLAIR (Rep.) remarked that nobody inside or out of the House could controvert the statement that he had made.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Dem.) made an earnest appeal that Mr. Covode might be heard.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, however, gave the floor to Mr. CRAVENS (Dem.), of Indiana, who said that there was no truth in the charge that the members of Congress at Bull Run, of whom he was one, were responsible for the retreat. He neither ran nor followed the army. He remained at Centreville till the next morning, and, with others, endeavored to rally our troops, who fought nobly and well.

Mr. COVODE eventually procured a hearing. He had no controversy with Mr. Blair about the number of rebels at Winchester, but he was astonished to hear that gentleman say that Gen. Patterson sent a despatch of the character indicated. Gen. Patterson never sent such a despatch, and did not know on Saturday that Gen. Johnston had eluded him.

Mr. BLAIR said that the information was received here.

Mr. COVODE. You said that Gen. Patterson sent the despatch.

Mr. BLAIR. I believe he did.

Mr. COVODE. But you said that came from Gen. Patterson. Now you say you believe.

Mr. RICHARDSON said what had been said here in debate had so upset all his previous notions, that he now doubted whether there had been a Bull Run battle at all. [Laughter.]

Mr. WICKLIFFE concluded by remarking that what he said about members of Congress was more in joke than in earnest. But still he thought they had no business at Bull Run.

Mr. GOOCH (Rep.), of Massachusetts, spoke briefly in vindication of the committee on the conduct of the war, saying that no committee had labored more industriously than they had.

Mr. DUNN (Rep.), of Indiana, offered a resolution which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Contracts to inquire into the subject of procuring horses on short notice, as set forth in a recent advertisement of the Quartermaster's Department.

Adjourned till Monday.

THE ROANOKE VICTORY.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM GENERAL BURNSIDE.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

The particulars of the late victory achieved by the Burnside Expedition will be found on our first page. The following official despatch from Gen. Burnside to Gen. McClellan, was received late last evening:

HEADQUARTERS, DEP'T NORTH CAROLINA,
ROANOKE ISLAND, Feb. 10, 1862.

Major General GEO. B. McCLELLAN, Commanding U. S. Army, Washington.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that a combined attack upon this island was commenced on the morning of the 7th, by the naval and military forces of this expedition, which has resulted in the capture of 6 forts, 40 guns, over 2,000 prisoners, and upwards of 3,000 small arms. Among the prisoners are Col. Shaw, commander of the Island; O. Jennings Wise, commander of the Wise Legion. The latter was mortally wounded, and has since died. The whole work was finished on the afternoon of the 8th, after a hard day's fighting, by a brilliant charge in the centre of this island, and a rapid pursuit of the enemy to the north end of the island, resulting in the capture of the prisoners mentioned above. We have had no time to count them, but the number is estimated at near three thousand. Our men fought bravely, and have endured most manfully the hardships incident to fighting through swamps and dense thickets. It is impossible to give the details of the engagement, or to mention meritorious officers and men in the short time allowed for writing this report. The naval vessel carrying it started immediately for Hampton Roads, and the reports of the brigadier generals have not yet been handed in. It is enough to say that the officers and men of both arms of the service have fought gallantly, and the plans agreed upon before leaving Hatteras were carried out. I will be excused for saying, in reference to the action, that I owe everything to Generals Foster, Reno, and Parke, as more full details will show. I am sorry to report the loss of about thirty-five killed, and about two hundred wounded, ten of them probably mortally. Among the killed are Colonel Russell of the Tenth Connecticut, and Lieutenant Colonel Victor De Monteil, of the d'Epineuil Zouaves. Both of them fought most gallantly. I regret exceedingly not being able to send a full report of the killed and wounded, but will send a despatch boat in a day or two, with full returns. I beg leave to enclose a copy of a general order, issued by me on the 9th. I am most happy to say that I have just received a message from Commander Goldsborough, stating that the expedition of his gunboats against Elizabeth City and the rebel fleet has been entirely successful. He will, of course, send his returns to his department.

I have the honor to be, General,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. BURNSIDE, Brigadier General,
Commanding Department of North Carolina.

Another Account of the Battle.

A private letter, written on board the gunboat *Stars and Stripes*, Feb. 13th, says: After the cannonade of the enemy's batteries by our naval forces, a landing of the military was commenced about half past four o'clock on Friday evening, at Ashby's harbor, about two and a half miles below the rebel Fort Bartow, of nine 32-pounders. The landing was effected under cover of the guns of two of our gunboats, the *Delaware* and *Morse*, which, with shrapnel, drove away and dispersed two rebel regiments that were stationed there, with three field-pieces, to oppose their landing. Our men were up to their middle in mud and water in landing. When on shore they found the three rebel field-pieces in the morass.

By 9 P. M. that night, General Burnside had landed six thousand men, and continued landing them through the night at the rate of one thousand per hour. The land movement against the enemy's batteries was commenced early on Saturday morning, the fleet meantime engaging and silencing a shore battery opposite it. Our forces advancing in the direction of the battery in the centre of the island, the rebels were soon driven behind their entrenchments, where they resisted. Eight mortars were landed from the fleet, to serve as our army's field artillery. About mid-day the Hawkins Zouaves and the Tenth Connecticut regiment, under Gen. Foster, made a dashing bayonet charge upon the battery commanded by young Wise, wading knee-deep through mud and water to get at the fort, and yelling like so many Indians. Meanwhile, a detour was made on the right by Gen. Reno, and left by Gen. Foster. This attack, from three sides, decided the fate of the day. The rebels fled from their entrenchments before the array of cold steel was brought to bear against them. The Hawkins Zouaves leaped the front defences bayonets in hand, as the rebels fled. Young Wise was not wounded here, as report has had it, but received his wounds in endeavoring to escape from the island in a boat from Shallow Bag bay. The boat was fired on, and he received four wounds. He was made prisoner and died on Sunday morning of his wounds. After the reduction of the battery in the centre of the island, Generals Reno and Parke took a force of men, and went down to Fort Bartow, Colonel Hill in command, and took undisputed possession of it. It had been the principal point of two days' bombardment by our navy. At 4.45 P. M. of Saturday, the American flag was displayed from this battery. Gen. Foster then pursued the rebels to the north end of the island, where was also in camp or drawn up a Virginia regiment, that had been turned down in six schooners from the mainland, early on Saturday morning. General Foster approached and had an interview with the rebel commander, Colonel Shaw, of North Carolina, who asked what terms he would exact. Gen. Foster replied, "an unconditional surrender," and consented to give him time to return to his camp to decide or not to accede to his demand. The rebel officer had barely reached his men, when the Massachusetts Twenty-fourth, burning with impatience, sprung forward in the direction of the enemy, when Col. Shaw immediately raised a white handkerchief, as a signal that the rebels had concluded to surrender. The enemy had proposed to cut off our passage up Croatan Sound by a chevaux de frize of stakes, extending from the mainland entirely across to the head of Roanoke Island, but our gunboats forced their way through, and commenced the impetuous pursuit of the enemy's fleet, which had been drawn up behind this barrier.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, February 14, 1862.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at eleven o'clock by the Speaker. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Moore.

Petitions.

Messrs. DONAVAN, SERRILL, and LOWRY presented petitions in favor of the abolition of curb-stone markets in Philadelphia, and Messrs. CONNELL and SMITH remonstrances against the abolition of the same.

Mr. DONAVAN, the petition of Lieut. Emory, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment, praying to be reimbursed certain recruiting expenses.

Mr. CONNELL, a remonstrance from the Board of School Directors of the Nineteenth ward, Philadelphia, against the reorganization of the Board of School Controllers.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. CLYMER, a supplement to the act relative to the collection of taxes in certain townships in Berks and Lancaster counties.

Also, a bill to authorize certain military officers to take acknowledgments of deeds.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, a supplement to the several acts relative to the Greenridge Improvement Company.

Resolution.

Mr. LOWRY offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to investigate alleged frauds committed by the Bank of Commerce of Erie, with power to hold their sessions at Erie, if they deem it expedient, and to send for persons and papers.

After a long discussion, Mr. McCLURE moved to amend, by instructing the committee to inquire into the case of every bank and savings institution that has failed within the last eighteen months. Not agreed to—yeas 10, nays 20.

On motion of Mr. FULLER, the expense of the investigation was limited to $500, and the resolution was adopted—yeas 25, nays 5.

Adjourned until Monday afternoon.

HOUSE.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock A. M.; Hon. John Rowe, Speaker, in the chair. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Johnson. The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Military School.

An act to provide for the establishment and organization of a military school, and for the purchase or leasing to the Commonwealth of suitable grounds and buildings for such school, was taken up on second reading, when Mr. SHANNON, of Allegheny, moved to postpone further consideration till this day two weeks. Agreed to.

Bills Considered.

"An act supplementary to act entitled an act concerning the sale of railroads, canals, bridges, and plankroads, approved the 8th day of April, A. D. 1861," was referred to the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Duffield, of Philadelphia, in the chair. The committee reported it as committed. Read second and third times, and passed finally.

"An act regulating appeals from awards of arbitrators." Being referred to the Committee of the Whole, it was reported with a negative recommendation. Lost.

"An act relative to the rate of interest." Postponed till this day a week—next Friday.

"Supplement to an act, entitled 'an act to exempt property to the value of $300 from levy and sale,' &c., passed April 9, 1849." Postponed till next Friday.

A supplement to an act, entitled "an act relating to execution, passed the 16th day of June, A. D. 1836." This bill has reference to *legal* executions. Amended, and ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence.

"A supplement to an act relative to the commencement of actions." Amended and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

"A further supplement to the act, entitled 'an act for the regulation and continuance of a system of education by common schools,' approved the 8th day of May, 1854." The bill declares that four weeks shall constitute a school month, and no teacher to have school open on Saturday for ordinary education.

It was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. SMITH, of Chester, and Mr. BLISS, of Bradford, thought that ten months in a year was a sufficient length of time to have schools open.

Mr. REX, of Montgomery, moved to make twenty-four days a school month. Not agreed to.

Mr. ELLIOTT, of Tioga, said that this bill had been prepared by the head of the school department.

Mr. TUTTON, of Wyoming, said the bill as it stands contains many inconsistencies.

The committee returned the bill and asked leave to sit again next Wednesday at 12 o'clock.

"An act relating to passenger railway companies."

Mr. SHANNON, of Allegheny, moved to insert the words "wantonly or maliciously." Agreed to. He also wished this bill to be confined solely to Allegheny county; the railways of Pittsburg run into the townships of the county, consequently cannot be reached by city ordinances. The bill was so amended. The title was amended by adding the words "in Allegheny county." Read second and third time, passed, and ordered to be presented to the Senate for concurrence.

"An act relative to the payment of military orders." Passed.

"An act for the suppression and destruction of counterfeit bank notes."

Mr. CRANE said that the effect of this bill is to give bank officers authority to stop the circulation of counterfeit bank notes when they come in their possession.

Mr. TRACY, of Bradford. In this bill you are to allow money which is not bad, but good, to be destroyed by the banks. There should be a penalty of ten times the value of the note if a bank marks it to be counterfeit when it is not. The bank has the advantage of the circulation of that note.

Mr. CRANE, of Wayne, said his theory is that there is not a cashier in the Commonwealth who would make a mistake and stamp a good note. He was willing to trust to the integrity of those for whom the bill is to benefit.

Mr. TRACY, of Bradford, did not come to the conclusion that no rogues were officers in banks, because there were petitions presented to the Legislature proving there were. He made no charge of roguery of any one.

Mr. WILLIAMS, of Allegheny, wished it referred to the Committee on Banks, so the provisions could be made to apply to all dealers in money, (brokers,) as well as to banks.

Mr. VINCENT, of Erie. There should be some restriction put on the wanton destruction of property of this kind. If the officer should make a mistake, it is right and just and equitable he should restore the value of that which he rendered valueless.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, of Allegheny, to refer the bill to the Committee on Banks, the yeas and nays were asked by Mr. Williams, and seconded by Mr. Weidner—yeas 23, nays 32, so the motion was lost.

The hour of one having arrived, the speaker adjourned the House till Monday, at 3 o'clock P. M.

NOTE.—The bill for the repeal of the act for the commutation of the tonnage tax was made the special order for February 26.

Arrival of Munitions of War.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Thirteen hundred packages of arms, and 840 bags of saltpetre, arrived from Antwerp yesterday, in the steamer *Melita*.