The Press.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 tides to the controversy. Every man must be on the aids 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.

After a most determined resistance, Fort Donelson surrendered at nine o'clock on Sunday morn. ing. By this victory we have captured Generals A. Sidney Johnston, Buckner, Bushrod, and 15,000 prisoners of lesser rank. Gens. Floyd and Pillow, with some five thousand men, are reported to have escaped. The loss on our side is estimated at four hundred killed, and eight hundred wounded. Commodore Foote, although wounded, will immediately preceed, with his gunboats and mortar fleet, to attack Clarksville. This is a thriving post village, and is the capital of Montgomery county, Tennessee. It is situated on the right bank of the Cumberland, and at the mouth of the Red river, and is about fifty miles northwest of Nashville. It has a population of between five and ten thousand. Gen. Curtis still continues to closely pursue Gen. Price and his rebel ferce. At the latest dates the latter was at Crane creek, seventy-nine miles from Springfield, and the Federal forces were only five miles in his rear. Price evidently expects reinforcements from Arkansas, but Gen. Curtis has so laid his plans that he will probably defeat Price's calculations.

deration of the Committee on Military Affairs, who sustain it in an elaborate and ex_ The glorious news of the capture of Fort Donelhaustive report recommending it to the patroson has been received with immense eclat throughout nage of the Government. It comes in the all loyal portions of the Union. A despatch from shape of an application from PERRY McD. New York informs us that, yesterday morning, Collins to have a survey made of the waters, while the veteran hero, General Scott, was making coasts, and islands in the Northern Pacific, in some private purchases on Broadway, an enthusiastic crowd rushed into the establishment to acquaint him with the latest news. The throng subject a vast amount of time and attention. speedily increased in dimensions, until it had He personally undertook a journey to St. Peblocked up the streets, meanwhile cheering tersburg, and from thence to the mouth of the lustily and crying for a "speech!" The Gene-Amoor river, with a view of proving to the ral, however, finding himself unable to the task. commercial world the resources of the hitherto begged leave to be excused, and entering his carunknown, and unexplored regions of Siberia. riage was driven up Broadway amid a storm of He was the first American who penetrated these unknown and forbidding regions, and his cheers. The General was again recognized while experiences are very valuable. On these exentering the Shoe and Leather Bank, and was a periences the plan of Senator LATHAM is based. second time compelled to extricate himself from The striking feature is the avoidance of the fahis enthusiastic friends, who seemed bent on "twice tal obstacles which ruined other schemes. He jeopardizing his life and limb." In Baltimore, a uses but one submarine cable, and that is at like feeling of enthusiasm was shared by the Behring's Straits. Here the distance is but loyal citizens. The few Secessionists hid their forty miles, and there can be no trouble in sucdiminished heads in shame, and cursed the forcessfully spanning it, especially when we remember that, in cases like the Malta and Alex-

We hope that the news from rebel sources, to the effect that our forces had made an attack on Sawannah, may prove true. By the last arrival from Port Royal, we learn that two formidable expeditions were fitting out at that place, one of which was to operate on Charleston, and the other on Savanrah. A new channel, leading into the Savannah river, had been discovered by our naval officers, by which our gunboats could ascend the river to within a few miles of Savannah, without coming within range of the guns of Fort Pulaski. The naval portion of the expedition was to have been under the command of Captain Davis, fleet captain of Commodore Dupont's Squadron, and the land forces were to have been under the command of General Wright. It is probable that this expedition has commenced to strike a blow, and if it has, we are sure that it will be effective.

According to all accounts the Texan rebels are having their hands full. A correspondent of a St. Louis journal states that they are now extremely busy making preparations to prevent the advance of Col. Canby with a large force from the northwest, the Camanche Indians from the north, Gen. Hunter from Kansas, and the naval expedition supposed to be approaching Galveston. Under these circumstances it is hardly to be expected that Gen. Sibley will leave the State for the purpose of making an attack upon posts in New Mexico, thus scattering his forces far and wide. It is highly probable that the rebel Col. Barbor has been reinforced at Fort Fillmore, that post being necessary to secure possession of the Territory of Arizona.

The Camanche Indians design making a treaty with our Government for a tract of land to be used by them as a permanent home for themselves and their posterity. They are already disgusted with the so-called Confederate States of America, and its Government. Colonel Pike, as agent to these Indians from the Jeff Davis Confederacy, made what he was pleased to designate a treaty, which was duly signed. The Camanches then sent the document to their Great Father, the President of the United States, and the same band are now en route to the Arkansas river to make a treaty with our Government.

The London papers, of the 29th of January, publis presented in this form: Our Pacific telelished the following monster hoax, under the graph cost two hundred dollars a mile, and it heading, "Rumored Confederate Victory at Port is the longest and most expensive that has

"The Asia has brought intelligence from New York of a battle having been fought, on the 12th of January, on the mainland in the vicinity of Port Royal, between General Lee's forces and the Federal troops, resulting in the total defeat of the latter, with a loss of 1,700 killed and wounded. "The Washington Government, we are informed, had taken steps to suppress the news of this reverse, which, nevertheless, has reached a highly respecta-ble party in Liverpool, through a private chan-

Gen. Sedgewick, a brigadier general in General Heintzelman's division, is assigned to the command of General Stone's division, now on the Upper

"Move on, Men."-The motto of General BURNSIDE, "move on, men," is being nobly acted upon by our brave troops in every quarter. Victory follows victory in quick succession, and the soldiers of all the Northern States are at different points sharing in the rich harvest of glory that is being reaped by the defenders of the flag of our country.

COTTON DECLINING.—Among the significant signs of the times in commercial circles is the rapid decline in the price of several kinds of cotton goods. The day is rapidly approaching when, instead of cotton-ing to King Cotton, the sovereign people of the United States will find him one of their most humble and submissive subjects.

PAYING DEARLY FOR THEIR WHISTLE,-The London Times says that the release of MASON and SLIDELL and their two secretaries cost the British Government (in its preparations for hostilities, we presume,) £1,000,000 a piece, or in all about \$25,000,000. No wonder that the people of England are somewhat dissatisfied with their bargain and disposed to believe that they have paid too dearly for their

Death of Ex-Speaker Pennington. Hon. WM. PENNINGTON, one of the most able and distinguished sons of New Jersey, died at Newark, on Sunday morning, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. He was born in New Jersey, and had always lived there. He was a prominent member of the bar, and at one time occupied the position of Chancellor of that State. In 1837 he was chosen Governor, which office he held for seven terms of one year each. He was appointed Governor of Minnesota by President Taylor, and confirmed by the Senate, but he declined the appointment. Subsequently, he was appointed by President Fillmore one of the judges to settle claims under the Moxican treaty. In 1858 he was elected to Congress from the Fifth New Jersey district by our age and our country. Nor can we refrain the People's party, his political antecedents being from feeling that a Senate which can pause in Whig. During the protracted struggle for the the midst of this whirlwind of war and revo-Speakership in the Thirty-sixth Congress, his name lution, to contemplate and arrange one of the was substituted for that of Mr. Sherman, in a grandest projects of civilization, must repre-Republican caucus, and on the lat of February, 1860, he was chosen to that position. ability and impartiality. In 1861 he came before be tried, and having consummated this triumph his constituents for re-election to Congress, and of peace, we can say in the elequent words of

to France, and is now in Paris. The cause of Mr. Pennington's death was as follows: On Thursday evening last he attended a lec-ture, and when he returned home he complained of being unwell. The following morning he became worse, when two physicians were called in, who stated that his complaint was typhoid fever. On Sunday morning he appeared to be no better, when a prescription was written for quinine, and sent to a drug store. The prescription, directing may rejoice that we have a nation as powerful powders, was dispensed and labelled "quinine." as it is wealthy; a Union as inseparable as it Shortly after the powder was administered to the discovered that there was something wrong, and on examination the powders were discovered to be morphine, eight grains of which had been taken. The sad affair will be fully investigated, when particulars will be made public.

was defeated. His son is secretary of the legation

It was not without a certain degree of hesitancy that we examined the plan of Mr. Senator LATHAM, as proposed in the Senate yesterday.
We are rather afraid of vast telegraphic enterprises; for the disastrous experience of Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD, and his colleagues in the

narrow waters of Behring's Strait, embraces

the Western Continent, on the bleak shores of

Northern-Russian America, crosses the penin-

sular territory above Prince William's Sound.

pauses in Sitka, the capital of the Russian pro-

golden shores of our Pacific States until it

andria line, communication is constantly main-

tained through submerged cables three hun-

There are many difficulties surrounding the

plan of the Senator. These he frankly meets,

and as far as possible obviates. Our impres-

sions of Siberia have always been unfavorable.

It is not such a country as we should regard

favorable for telegraphic communication.

The barbarous tribes of Tartary, the Cossacks,

and the nations beyond the Amoor, could not

communication so delicate and extensive.

The Senator tells us, however, in reply, that

frontier of Chinese Mongolia, and is protected

orderly and safe. He is so impressed with

these representations, that he considers the

whole country as safe for telegraphic opera-

population is concerned, the Russian territory

is the only part of the route where these diffi-

It is a scientific question whether insulation

regard as conclusive. "So far as the climate

is concerned," (these are his words,) "I con-

ceive there is no insurmountable obstacle to

the advancement of the enterprise." It is

claimed, indeed, by many who are expert in

the science of telegraphing, that a cold and

dry temperature is more favorable than other-

wise, and that insulation may be maintained

without any difficulty. The question of cost

been erected. Allowing for the additional

difficulty and expense attending telegraph ope-

rations in the Northern countries, Mr. LATHAM

thinks the proposed line will cost no more than

three hundred dollars a mile, or, for the whole

five thousand miles, a million and a half of dol-

lars, quoting a well-known and experienced

telegraph manager to show that it may even be

done for a smaller sum. On this point, how-

ever, we are not satisfied, and Mr. LATHAM's

We have thus given to our readers the

plan of the Senator, as he presented it to the

Senate. Its advantages are apparent; its

disadvantages are those suggested by our-

selves in the exercise of a reasonable criti-

cism. His proposed route unites the whole

world telegraphically, with but forty miles of

submerged cable at Behring's Straits. It

unites India, China, and Japan upon the main-

trunk route, with but twenty-five miles of

water. A branch may be extended through

island of Manilla, and by another and more

intricate route may embrace Australia and the

important countries of the Lower Pacific. By

opening this route, American and Russian

commerce will push into Northeastern Asia,

where American steam-engines, saw-mills, and

machine-shops are already found, thus open-

ing up in the wilds of Tartary a new field of

practical occupation. China, Japan, and dif-

ferent points of the South Sea, are within

rapid and easy contact. Russia is progressing

eastward; America is pressing westward, and

the interests of humanity and civilization de-

mand that they should meet. Filled, as this

vast region is, with coal and minerals, and

wonderful resources, it opens up a vast field

for exploration. Viewed as an investment.

there can be no dispute that the union of the

whole world upon this route will be advan-

So far as the question of cost is concerned

we do not think the Senator need anticipate

any difficulty. We should be willing to pay

ten millions of dollars to accomplish the re-

sults he presents with so much enthusiasm.

The more we examine his plan, the more we

are impressed with its practicability and im-

portance. It is hard to realize at once; it

dazzles the reason, and robs us of judgment:

but a project which embraces the earth in the

circle of an hour, which brings London and

Paris, and Moscow, and San Francisco and Phi-

ladelphia together, and outstrips Time itself

in the transmission of thought, is worthy of

sent a people whom no danger can dishearten,

and no defeat destroy. Let the experiment

the Senator from California: "We hold the

ball of the earth in our hand, and wind upon it

a net-work of living and thinking wire, till the

whole is held tegether and bound with the

THE bravery of our soldiers has saved the

Republic. We have foiled the conspirators of

is grand and extensive; a people as brave and

Columbia, and boast that the Star Spangled

whole country.

same wishes, projects, and interests."

tageous and profitable.

Asia to the capital of Spanish India, on the

figures are far from convincing.

and may easily be traversed.

dred miles long.

capture of Fort Donelson so fully explain he incidents connected with that glorious victory that there is little necessity for further comment. The bloodiest and most important battle of the war has been fought and won by Atlantic Cable, and the utter failure of the Red Sea and India Submarine Telegraph, have disthe noble troops under command of General GRANT. They have achieved a triumph not heartened and disappointed us. We began to ess difficult, daring, and majestic than the think that the science which can compass the capture of the Redan, by the allied troops, mysterious ways of the vasty deer, and en-Sebastopol. They have stormed one of circle the globe with its invisible current, had the strongest fortifications that the genius not been vouchsafed to our age, and that beof the best rebel generals could devise, and yond the sublime point already reached we paralyzed an army of 30,000 men, taking could no further go; that having conquered 15,000 prisoners, and killing or disabling 10,000 the earth, and the lightnings and clouds above of the enemy. This is one of the grandest the earth; having laid tribute upon Nature as military achievements of ancient or modern she is with us, and in the Universe around us, times. If our soldiers had not been the we must yield to the relentless sea. There is something in the idea of the Senator from bravest of the brave, and so fully devoted to the honor of the Republic that they were California which carries us away. A telegraph from Paris to San Francisco, which ready and eager to offer up their lives as holy passes through St. Petersburg and Moscow. sacrifices upon the altar of their country, they across the European boundary into the cold could never have performed such marvellous countries of Siberia, running into Tartary, deeds of valor. and passing the northern boundary of the great Chinese empire, joins the Amoor river. and keeps along the shores of the Okhotsk ses, and through the wild province of

Every part of Kentucky is now practically edeemed from rebel thraldom, except that portion which is located in the immediate ricinity of Columbus. We have an immense Tchuktch, until it passes from Asia into the army, which has been triumphant at every point, available for an attack upon that remaining stronghold or for a descent upon Tennessec. All the roads to that State east of the Mississippi are open to us, or so poorly guarded that we can easily put to flight the rebels who vince, runs along the coast to Vancouver's are defending them. It is scarcely possible that Columbus can Island, from thence to Oregon, and over the long be held by the enemy. If it is deemed

The Capture of Fort Donelson

The telegraphic despatches announcing the

rests at San Francisco, and uniting with our advisable to attack it, such a Union force can great Pacific line, brings London within a day | now be concentrated as will render its downof New York, cannot but startle the progres- fall inevitable, and when it is taken the Great sive people of this ambitious and daring age. Father of Waters—the Mississippi—will fall as This, briefly stated, is the proposition of completely under our control as the Tennessee Senator LATHAM. It has received the consi- and Cumberland now are. The rebel reign in the great Southwest is nearly ended. Tennessee in the occupation of our armies would soon become almost as

loyal as Kentucky is to-day, and it would form such a basis of operations against the rebels in Virginia, and those who may still hold out in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, or Texas, order to show the practicability of this tele- that it would be utterly useless and hopeless graphic scheme. Mr. Collins has given the for the enemy to prolong the contest.

Foreign Neutrality.

It is proper to be just, no matter how un airly a person may have acted, or appeared to have acted, towards us, at any time. Without too curiously going into motives, it is pleasant to record that Lord Palmerston is andoubtedly manifesting a desire to make Queen Victoria's Neutrality Proclamation a living thing, instead of the dead letter it has been, in some respects. Under his direction Earl Russell has written a letter to the Admiralty, to the Treasury, and to the Secretaries of State for the Home, Colonial, War, and India Departments, distinctly and decidedly laying down certain rules of neutrality to be practically and efficiently carried out by all persons employed in the service of Queen VICTORIA. We published this despatch in full esterday.

The avowed design is to prevent British har pors, ports, coasts, or waters, home or colonial, from being used for warlike purposes by either the United States or the rebels, and expressly prohibits any war ship or privateer of either belligerent from entering or remaining in the port of Nassau, or any port or harbor of the Bahama Islands, except by special leave very well be trusted with a line of telegraphic from the Governor, or in case of stress of weather. In the event of two hostile vessels being in any port, (in such a case are the Nashville and the route selected is for a great distance the Tuscarora at Southampton,) one of them is to ave twenty-four hours fair start of the other Neither party in the war shall be allowed to and secure. Along the main course of the have a war-vessel remain more than twenty-Amoor, Russia has sovereignty and maintains four hours in a British port, except in case of security, while the Cossack settlements are stress of weather, nor shall either receive supplies, except such provisions, &c., as are necessary for the subsistence of the crew, and only as much coal as will carry the vessel to tions as the country from Leavenworth to the nearest port. No second supply of coal

Sacramento. The Russian Government itself to be allowed within three months. guaranties to extend the line from Moscow to This order reflects great credit on the Brithe mouth of the Amoor, and to insure its tish Government. The only question it can integrity from the interference of tribes and provoke is this-why was the Sumnter receive enemies. The American part of the plan does ed, patronized, supplied, and coaled, twice not include these regions, and as far as the within one month at Trinidad? But we shall not rake up old scores, and will gratefully acknowledge fair play from England, though tarculties exist. Russian America, British dily bestowed. No doubt, other European America, and our Pacific coast, are safe enough, nations will follow the lead of England in this natter. If so, we shall not again hear of the Sumpter being made much of by the authorican be maintained in the frigid regions of Sities at Cadiz,-a procedure the more unacberia and North America. We have no facts countable, inasmuch as Spain must know that in existence affecting this question, and, in the the projects for annexing Cuba to the United absence of experience, we have the theory of States have all been fostered, if not created, Mr. Morse, which, in all matters like this, we

in the Southern States. Another satisfactory symptom is the nonreception of Mason and SLIDELL in England. The public really did follow the advice of The Thunderer, and treated them precisely as if they were of no more interest or value than Cæsar or Pompey, or any other brace of negroes. In Paris, whither Mr. SLIDELL betook himself without delaying to test public opinion in London, he has been treated as a mere nobody,—as a person with no recognizable position. In fact, all Southerners are at a discount in Paris, because the Court has determined to pay them no atten tion. They did think, on what ground is unknown, that Napoleon would raise the blockade, and thus virtually recognize "the so-

called Southern Confederacy." Mr. Mason remains in England, where he is not invited to Ministerial hospitalities. Against him is arrayed the sentiment of a vast number of educated British ladies and gentlemenpersons who, holding anti-slavery cpinions, can have no sympathy with a cause represented by "the author of the Fugitive-slave Law." which is Mr. Mason's familiar appella-

tion in England. It is right to state, in referring to the neu trality regulations of the British Government, that they were issued, of course, far in advance of intelligence from this country of our recent great successes by sea and land. When that news reaches England, the Ministry, no doubt, will bless the prescient prudence of Lord PALMERSTON.

The Debate in the British Parliament. The English journals state that a warm debate in regard to the recognition of the Southern Confederacy was soon expected in the British Parliament. The zeal of the orators who propose to speak on the side of the South will be terribly checked, however, by the announcement of our recent successes, as each steamer arrives in England. If the debate is a protracted one, "the logic of events" on this side of the water will very easily decide it by showing that there is no pretence of a "Confederacy" left here to be recognized. It is already melting away before the resistless march of our armies like the "baseless fabric of a vision." To any harangues that Mr. LINDSAY OF Mr. GREGORY may make. it will only be necessary for those who sustain the policy of non-intervention to say: "THO-MAS has routed CRITTENDEN;" " BURNSIDE has captured Roanoke;" or "Foore has taken Fort Henry;" or "Fort Donelson has surrendered;" or "SHERMAN threatens Charleston and Savannah." The swords of our soldiers are making more forcible arguments for the Parliamentary debate on American affairs than were ever uttered by the masters of English eloquence.

THE RULING PASSION. - General FLOYD, finding nothing else to steal at Fort Donelson

HALF THE HEAD OF THE SECESSION SERPENT has been bruised by our late victories. A few more such blows will crush it, and break its ack-bone, and though its tail may still possess a little muscular vitality, it will speedily become helpless and lifeless.

LARGE POSITITE SALE OF BOOTS, SHOES, BRC-GANS, CAPS, &c .- The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large assortment of boots, shoes, broguns, caps, boot-jacks, &c., embracing a general assortment of seasonable goods, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, for cash, commencing this morning, at 10 o'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., suctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOAMS, &C. this day, at the Exchange. See Thomas & Sons' modern times as Cicero foiled Catiline. We pamphlet catalogue.

By reference to our advertising columns, i will be seen that the time of opening the proposals for furnishing horses for the army of the Po has been extended to Saturday next, the 22d inst. five days longer than originally advertised.

THE WASHINGTON MAIL had not arrived up to the hour of our going to press.

The Offer of Mason and Slidell to Abolish Slavery.

The statement has been so often reiterated in various shapes that the Southern Commis sioners in Europe have offered to the Governments of France and England (as an inducement to secure the recognition of the Southern

Confederacy,) to abolish slavery, that, startling as the proposition may appear, it can scarcely be longer doubted. WILMER & Smith's European Times says: "These gentlemen [Mason and Slidell], we see stated, are commissioned to buy the recognition of the South, by France and England, on very liberal terms—complete freedom of trade for fifty years, the suppression of the African slave trade, and even the emancipation of all blacks born in the Southern States after the conclusion of the

This is possibly a mere newspaper rumor, but if well founded, it is unquestionably one of the most significant events of the great contest in which the nation is engaged. We can scarcely suppose that, even if the offer were made and accepted, it would be kept in good faith. It is like the good resolutions of an incorrigible sinner on what he believes to be his death-bed, which are so easily broken : When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be When the devil got well, the devil a monk was he."

But, whether made in good or bad faith. it shows what sacrifices the leading rebels are ready to make to destroy our Union. Much as they love slavery, it seems they love Secession (or political power) still more. After contending that all interests in our country, North and South, should be jeopardized to save slavery, and making no other plea for Disunion than the preservation of their "favorite institution," they now avow a willingness to offer up that benign feature of Southern civilization as a sacrifice upon the altar of Southern independence. What the people of the South, who have been taught that an Aholitionist was the embodiment of all imaginable wickedness, will think of leaders who, without consulting them, voluntarily propose a grand emancipation scheme, remains to be seen. If they approve such a policy, they can easily establish a "happy accord" with the people of the North, who would be delighted to learn that the course of the old free States in abolishing slavery was popular in the South. If they disapprove of it, what faith can they have in the rebel conspirators, who, after plunging them in untold grief and misery, propose to free their slaves, and make them vassals of foreign kingdoms?

The Legislature and the Currency. The state into which our paper currency has been thrown, by circumstances which need not be elaborated now, is pregnant with so much inconvenience and loss to the public, that it is high time the Legislature should interfere for

the pretection of the community. Our city is flooded with country bank notes from every quarter of the State, far and near. all of which are refused on deposit at our banks; they will not be received in payment for any city claims—though the city warrants are unpaid by the treasurer-and cannot be cashed on the street except at a heavy discount; they are even refused when tendered for State taxes, though the very bank note thus offered may have been received on the State Treasurer's check. They are not a legal tender for any debt, as everybody knows: and they are repudiated at the counters of the very banks that issued them, of course, as the banks have universally suspended specie payments. The consequence is, that persons who wish to show their solvency are obliged to incur very considerable loss in brokerage, paid for the discount of their uncurrent notes, to enable them to meet their obligations. In this emergency we think it is the clear

duty of the Legislature to compel the country nks to keep their notes at par phia and Pittsburg, with the allowance, probably, of one-fourth to three-eighths per cent. to cover the expense of transmission and collection: current funds should be made receivable for taxes, and the treasury notes, that were not long since issued by the banks, should not be refused by them now.

The attention of our representatives a Harrisburg is directed to the measure of relief which we have thus briefly suggested. We would be very reluctant to aggravate the pecuniary embarrassment of the country or the banks in any way, but our citizens should not be vexatiously overburdened at a time when they are willing to strain every nerve to sustain the Government in crushing the rebellion.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

How the Fort Donelson Victory was Received.

LANDER. GEN. GRANT NOMINATED FOR A MAJOR-GENERALSHIP.

THE PRESIDENT COMPLIMENTS GENERAL

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, February 17, 1862. The Hare of Fort Donelson, Gen. Grant, Nominated for a Major Generalship. "Honors follow swift on the heels of victory." Immediately on the receipt of the telegraphic news appouncing the capture of Fort Donalson, the Sacretary of War sent the name of General GRANT to the President for nomination to the Senate as major general, as a reward for his gallant services. The War and the Telegraph.

Yesterday the military telegraph, the lines of the American Telegraph Company and those of the Western Union Company, were connected with the headquarters of Major General McClellan, and Official Despatch to General McClellan. put in direct communication with General Bushi at Louisville, General HALLECK at St. Louis, and Commodore Foors at Cairo. By arrangement, the messages of the General in-Chief to each commander were repeated at the same time to the others. The distance traversed by the electric fluid at one writing was over 1,300 miles. The communication was maintained from 11 o'clock in the morning till 6 o'clock in the evening, with the promptness of a personal interview, and not only gave entire satisfaction, but called forth the warmlyexpressed admiration of the distinguished cor

Trophies of Victory Received. The War Department to-day received by express a number of Secession flags, trophics of victory at Mill Spring and Fort Henry.

Congratulations by the Navy Department. under their respective commands are also complimented for their heroic achievements, accomplished under extraordinary circumstances, and after sur-mounting great and almost insuperable difficulties. While the hearts and wishes of the nation have been with them through the long trials they have endured, and most sincerely, the Secretary says, do we rejoice with you in the successes which you have obtained.

The Horse Contracts. The House Committee on Contracts have been discharged from further consideration of Quartermaster VAN VLIET'S advertisement for horses. The committee say that the shortness of the notic for bids was owing to pressing necessity. They are perfectly satisfied with his integrity, and his action n the premises was with a view only to the public

The War in Missouri. This forenoon, Gen. HALLECK telegraphed to Gen. McClellan the gratifying news that Gen. CURTIS' pursuit of PRICE's fleeing army has, s far, been eminently successful. He had, up to yes erday, captured one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two captains, and more privates, &c., than he could, by any possibility, just then take care of. This means, evidently, that he has succeeded in breaking up Price's army. plimentary Letter to General Lander.

WAR DEPARTMENT, } Washington, Feb. uary 17, 1362. The President directs me to say that he has observed with pleasure the activity and enterprise manifested by yourself and the officers and the solmanifested by yourself and the officers and the sol-diers of your command. You have shown how much may be done in the worst weather and worst roads, by a spirited officer at the head of a small force of brave men unwilling to waste life in camp when the enemies of their country are within

when the chemics of reach.
Your brilliant success is a happy presage of what may be expected when the army of the Potomac shall be led to the field by their gallant general.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.
To Brigadier General F. W. LANDER. The Slave-Trader Gordon's Case.

The Slave-Trader Gordon's Case.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Chief Justice Taney, this morning, delivered the opinion of the court in the case of Gordon, the slave-trader. It denies the motion made by Judge Pean for a writ of prohibition to prevent its execution, on the ground of a want of power in the court to review proceedings in criminal cases, or. to restrain the action of a ministerial officer. The allegation was based on alleged irregularity in the New York Circuit Court. An application will soon be made to the President, in behalf of Gordon, on the same grounds.

THE FORT DONELSON VICTORY.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM OUR COMMANDERS.

FEDERAL LOSS, FOUR HUNDRED KILLED AND EIGHT HUNDRED WOUNDED.

Three of Our Colonels Killed. THE ILLINOIS REGIMENTS SUFFER

TERRIBLY. Gens. Pillow and Floyd Steal Away from the Fort, Unknown to its Commander.

COMMODORE FOOTE GONE TO ATTACK CLARKSVILLE. SPEECH OF GENERAL HALLECK ON

HOW THE NEWS IS RECEIVED.

THE DETAILS. FORT DONELSON, Feb. 16-[Special to the Times.] -Fort Donelson surrendered at daylight this morning unconditionally.

We have Generals Buckner, Johnston, Bushrod. and 15,000 prisoners, 3,000 horses, and 20,000 stand of arms. Generals Pillow and Floyd, with their brigades, ran away on steamers without Gen. Buckner being

General Smith led the charge on the lower end of the works, and was first inside of the fortifica-The runaways from Fort Henry were bagged The prisoners are being placed aboard the

aware of their intention.

steamers for Cairo. Our loss is heavy, probably 400 killed, and 800 wounded. We lose a large percentage of the officers; among them are-Lieut. Col. Erwin of the Twentieth Illinois Lieut. Col. White, of the Thirty-first Illinois.

Lieut. Col. Smith, of the Forty-eighth Illinois. Among the wounded are: Colonel John A. Logan, member of Congress. Colonel Sawyer. Colonel Ransom. Major Post. of the Eighth Illinois Regiment, with

two hundred privates, are prisoners, and have gone to Nashville, having been taken the night before the surrender The loss of the enemy is heavy, but not so large as ours, as they fought behind entrenchments. We should have taken them by storming the fortifications on Saturday if our ammunition had not given

out in the night. Gen. McClernand's division, composed of Oglesbie, Wallace, and McArthur's brigades, suffered terribly. They were composed of the Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, Eighteenth, Twentieth, Twentyninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-fifth, Thirtyeighth, and Forty-ninth Illinois Regiments. General Lew Wallace, with the Eleventh Indi-

ana, Eighth Missouri, and some Ohio regiments, participated. Taylor's, Williard's, McAllister's, Schwartz's. and De Cesse's batteries were in the fight from the commencement The enemy turned our right wing for half an hour, but our lost ground was more than regained. Gen. Lauman's brigade of Gen. Smith's division

was the first in the lower end of the enemy's works, which position they succeeded in obtaining by charging bayonets. As nine-tenths of the rebels were pitted against our right wing, our forces on the right were ready all Saturday night to recommence the attack. On Sunday morning they were met on their approach by a white flag, General Buckner having ent early in the morning a despatch to General

The works of the fort extend some five miles or the outside. rebels lose 48 field pieces, 17 heavy guns 20,000 stand of arms, besides a large quantity of commissary stores. The robel troops are completely demoralized, and have no confidence in their leaders, as they charge Pillow and Floyd with deserting them in their hour

Grant surrendering his command.

of distress. Our troops displayed immense physical endurance, as well as undaunted bravery during this severe struggle. Since the investment of the fort on Wednesday last, they were often times exposed to a heavy storm of rain or snow, fighting during the day and lying on their arms at night; and were

without provisions half of the time, and all the time without tents. Speech of General Halleck. Sr. Louis, Feb. 17 .- This city is wild with exritement and joy. The news was read at the Union Merchants' Exchange, creating the most intense enthusiasm. The "Star-Spangled Banner," "Flag of our Union," and "Red White and Blue," were sung by all present, after which they adjourned

and marched to headquarters, from 1,200 to 1,500

strong, where three rousing cheers were given for Halleck and Foote. General Halleck appeared at the window and thanked the people for their hearty demonstration. He said, "I promised, when I came here, with your aid, to drive the enemies of our flag from Four State. This has been done, and they are now virtually out of Kentucky, and soon will be out of

Tennessee." [Three cheers for the Union.] The "Star-Spangled Banner" was repeated, and the crowd dispersed.

Judge Holt, ex-Secretary of War, wept for joy when he heard the news. Many of the stores are closed, the city is being decorated with flags, and evidence of great joy is everywhere manifested. Governor Yates, Secretary Hatch, and Auditor Dubois, of Illinois, left for Fort Donolson this morning, to look after the wounded among the Illinois

troops. A requisition has been made for all the teamboats in this vicinity to be held in readiness for the transportation of Government stores. Sr. Louis, Feb. 17.-Fort Donelson was surrendered at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning to the land forces. Several of the gunboats were present

An immense amount of war material are amon the trophies of the victory. General Floyd skulked away the night before the

surrender. The gunboat Carondelet, Captain Walker, has arrived at Cairo. A large number of our wounded have been brought to the Paducah and Cairo hospitals.

GAIRO, Feb. 17, 1862.

The Union flag floats over Fort Donelson. The Carondelet, Capt. Walker, brings the glorious intelligence. The Fort surrendered at 9 o'clock yesterday (Sunday) morning. Generals A. Sidney Johnston and Buckner, 15,000 prisoners, and a large amount of material of war, are the trophies of victory. The loss is heavy on both sides. Floyd, the thief, stole away during the night previous with 5,000 men, and is denounced by the rebels as a traitor.

I am happy to inform you that Flag Officer Roote, though suffering with his foot, with the noble spirit characteristic of our navy, notwithstanding his disability, will take up immediately two CAIRO, Feb. 17, 1862.

ble spirit characteristic of our nary, notwitastanding his disability, will take up immediately two
gunboats, and with the eight mortarboats which
he will overtake, will make an immediate attack
on Clarksville, if the stage of water will permit.
We are now firing a national salute from Fort
Cairo, Gen. Grant's late post, in honor of the glorious achievement.

Gran W. Cullin. Congratulations by the Navy Department.

The Secretary of the Navy has sent congratulatory letters to Commodore Foote and one to Commodore Goldskorough. The officers and man Despatch from Com. Foote-Clarksville to

be Attacked by the Mortar Fleet. be Attacked by the Mortar Fleet.

"Cairo, Feb. 17, 1862.

"The Carondelet has just arrived from Fort Donelson, and brings information of the capture of that fort by the land forces, yesterday morning, with fifteen thousand prisoners.

"Johnston and Buckner were taken prisoners.
The loss is heavy on both sides.

"Floyd escaped, with five thousand men, during the night. the night.
"I go up with the gunboats, and, as soon as possible, will proceed up to Clarksville. Eight mortar-boats are on their way, with which I hope to attack

Clarksville.

"The wound in my foot is painful, but not dangerous. The army has behaved gloriously. I shall be able to take but two iron-clad gunboats with me; the others are disabled. "The trophics of war are immense. The par ticulars will soon be given.
A. H. Foote, Flag Officer.
To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

How the News was Received.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—The Union men of Balti-more are overflowing with joy The news is no-where more acceptable than to them. Secesh is overwhelmed with this Waterloo defeat. overwhelmed with this Waterloo defeat.

Boston, Feb. 17.—A salute of a hundred gunswill be fired to morrow by direction of the Mayor, and all the bells in the city will be rung. The citizens will also fire five hundred guns.

Resolutions were unanimously passed in both branches of the Legislature, presenting the thanks of the people of the State to the gallant officers and soldiers of the army and the sailors of the navy on the occasion of the series of brilliant achievements were by their courage and skill in the States of the occasion of the series of original achievements won by their courage and skill in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessae; and the Governor was requested to fire a salute in henor of these great successae of the Union these great successes of the Union.

Despatches from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, announce the general manifestation of enthusiasm and thanksgiving for the glorious re-

Fult.
WILMINGTON, Feb. 17.—The people here are

WILMINGTON, Feb. 17.—The people here are crazy with excitement; firing cannon, burning rockets, and giving demonstrations of their joy in every conceivable way.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—The greatest excitement on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was perfectly free ment on a newspaper paragraph. He was free to suppose that this House had too mush respect for to say that the General-in-chief did, appear before the committee, not by summons, the young never that this House had too mush respect for those who compage the committee as to suppose that the foundation that the summittee had an intervent which he would object to answer. His testimany was not taken! That the committee had at hat he was called as a witness was not true. It was totally without, foundation that the committee had at hat he was called as a witness was not true. It was totally without, foundation that the committee had at hat he was called as a witness was not true. It was totally without, foundation that the committee had at hat he was called as a witness was not true. It was totally without, foundation that the committee had an intervent when the committee had a witness was not taken. That the committee had at he called as a witness was not taken. That the committee had at he called as a witness was not taken. That the committee had at he called as a witness was not taken. That the committee had at he called as a witness was not taken. That the committee had as a witness was not taken. That the committee had a hutarn when the called as a witness was not taken. That the committee had The

Utica, Feb. 17.—Guns are firing, flags flying, freworks and bonfires blazing, and the city in a ferment,
Burlington, Vt., Feb. 17.—Vermont fires all BUBLINGTON, Vt., Feb. 17.—Vermont fires allthe guns she has left at home, and rings all her
bells in token of her great rejoicing over the feats
of valor performed by the men of the West
DETROIT, Feb. 17.—The news of the victory at
Fort Donelson has caused indescribable joy here.
A hundred guns were fired, and to-night many
buildings are illuminated. There will also be a
grand torchlight procession to-night.
CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—The peeple of Chicago claim
the honor of the victory for Illinois, there having
been engaged twenty-five regiments of infantry of
Illinois, six of lows, and four of Indiana; also,
four regiments of cavalry from Illinois, and six
companies from Missouri.
ALBANY, Feb. 17.—Huge bonfires are burning
in the streets to-night, and the whole city is a seene
of rejoicing.
APURIN, N. Y., Feb. 17.—A hundred guns were
fired to-day in honor of the great victory.
GENEVA, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Bells are ringing and
cannon firing.
POUGHKEEPSIE, Feb. 17.—A salute of a hundred
guns was fired here to-day.

runs was fired here to-day.

Rochester, Feb. 17.—Our citizens are enjoying a general jubilee—cannon are being fired, bells The Battle of Bull Run. Mr. BLAIR (Rep.), of Missouri, referred to what he said on Friday, and, in confirmation of the truth of his statement, read a copy of a despatch furnished by a gentleman who was on Gon. Patterson's staff, as follows.

"OHARLESTOWN, July 20.* THE WAR IN MISSOURI. THE RETREAT OF GEN. PRICE.

* This was Saturday.

Mr STEVENS (Rep.). of Ponnsylvania, gave his recollection that General Scott, in the presence of the Cabinet, said that the battle of Bull Bun was fought against his wishes and judgment, under the pressure of the highest authority, and further, that he deserved to be dismissed from the army for thus yielding his consent, Mr. BLAIR replied that they all understood the statement which was heretofore made by Mr. Bichardson, but the latter had further related that General Scott, in answer to a question by the President, discludmed that the latter had influenced him in risking the battle. It would not do for the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THE PLAN PROBABLY DEFEATED. GEN. SIGEL IN CLOSE PURSUIT. SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Feb. 16-[Special Despatch to the St. Louis Democrat.1-According to the latest advices, the Federal army was in vigorous Price's army was in Crane Creek, seventy-nine miles from here, on Friday evening, and our forces were five miles in his rear, preparing to make an early start in pursuit the next morning. Price had placed his train in advance. About 100 wagons, containing supplies for him, were brought into this place, from Forsyth, a few hours before his retreat.

The rebel sympathizers here claim that Price will Mr. BIDDLE (Dem.), of Pennsylvania, said that Gen. Patterson was his townsman and constituent. He had no knowledge, from personal observation, of the army which Patterson commanded in July last. At that time be (Col. Biddle) was in the military service in that part of Virginia within the scope of Gen. McClellan's command. A large himber of his constituents, friends, neighbors, and connectious were with Patterson, and he never heard from them anything but what was in the highest respect honorable to Patterson, and expressive of confidence in his ability. Some of the officers in high rank in the army, together with those from civil life, were on his staff, and none of them, he believed, ever brought a charge a ninst him. Whatavas was dathermental to that gentleman was merely 1 unor and hearsay, which the gentleman from Tennessee had repeated. Mr. Biddle caused to be read extracts from Gen. Scott's rebe reinforced by twelve or fifteen regiments from Bentonville, Arkansas, under Gen. Van Dorn, but Gen. Sigel, who is advancing on the rebel column on different route than that pursued by Gen. Curtis, may strike a blow on their flank, and upset Price's Four rebel officers and thirteen privates fell into our hands, on Friday, and are now here. The officers are the notorious Col. Freeman, Major Berry, aid-de-camp to Gen. McBride; Capt, Dickinson, chief engineer; and Capt. Donnel, quartermaster

which the gentleman from Tennessee had repeated. Mr Biddle caused to be read extracts from Gen. Scott's re-A pony express, with relay posts, has been established between Rolla and this point by Capt. Baldport concerning Gen. Patterson's skill and bravery Mexico, and also referred to the fact that Gen. Patterso XXXVIITH CONGRESS-FIRST SESSION.

W ASRINGTON, Feb. 17, 1862. SENATE.

Communications and Petitions.

Mr. HARLAN (Rep.), of Iowa, presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior in regard to the recently discovered gold mine of Catifornia. Referred. erred.
Ecveral petitions for emancipation were presented.
Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, presented a petiion from citizens of New York, asking that the full rank
of Major General be conferred on General Wool. Military Survey for a Telegraph Route. Mr. LATHAM (Dem.), of California, from the Mili-tary Committee, reported a bill authorizing a survey in relation to the construction of a telegraph to the Amoor

Payment of Awards. On metion of Mr. NESMITH (Dem.), of Oregon, the joint resolution relative to the mode of payment of awards for the settling of the Oregon and Washington Capture of Fort Donelson.

His Expected Reinforcements.

Capture of Fort Doneson.

Mr. LANE (Rep.), of Indiana, asked to have read the despatch received by Goneral McClellan, announcing the capture of Fort Donelson by the land forces of the United States.

There was much laughter on the floor and in the galleries when it was said that Floyd had ascaped.

The news was received with loud applause in the galleries. ies.
THE VICE PRESIDENT. That's all right. [Reapplause, neither approving nor consuring the words of a Senaror, is correct and proper. [Laughter.]

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), said there was also information that the city of Nershall in State of Convincent and the glorious news with which we are furnished to day. that the city of Savannah, in the State of Georgia, wa

aken. [Renewed applause.]

Oregon War Debt. The resolution in regard to the Oregon war debt was Circuit and Districts Courts of New York. On motion of Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), the bill to change and regulate the Circuit and District Courts of the Outsthern district of New York was taken up and passed. Mr. FOOT (Rep.), of Verment, asked to have the depatches from rebel sources read, in regard to the victo-res at Fort Donelson and Savannah. [Loud applause in

the galleries.] Mr. FOSTER (Rep.), of Connecticut, asked whether it was in order to cheer the rebel accounts. The Capitol Extension. Mr. FOOT, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to transfer the continuation of the Capitol extension, and the erection of a dome, from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. Organization of Cavalry Forces.

Organization of Cavalry Forces.

On motion of Mr. WILSON (Rop.), of Massachusetts, the bill to provide for the better organization of the cavalry forces of the United States was taken up.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, thought that fifty regiments, which the bill provides for, was too large a number. Each regiment will cost about a million a year, causing an immense expenditure. He moved to reduce the number to thirty.

Mt. GRIMES said the number of cavalry wanted depends on the character of the war. If it is to be a guerilla war, then we will need a large force of Gavalry, the moved to lay the bill on the table for the present.

Mr. HARRIS was in favor of this motion. He thought he could tell better in thirty days. He did not consider the expense would be so large as estimated. Eleven regiments were set down to the State of New York, while there were only three full regiments, many of them being mere skelton regiments.

Mr. FOSTER said it was evident, from the despatches received, that we should want more cavalry, as a man wall of Each hed viden awar from York Donelson, and

mir. FUNTER said it was evident, from the despatches received, that we should want more cavalry, as a man called Floyd had stolen away from Fort Donelson, and we would need cavalry to catch him.

Mir. JOHNSON (U.), of Tennessee, asked the consent of the Senate to offer a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to the officers, soldiers, and seamen of the army and navy, for their heroic galantry, under the protection of God, and for their brilliant victories over the ensemies of the Union and Constitution. The resolution was passed.

the ensures of the Union and Constitution. The resolution was passed.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, hoped the Seuate would not make such a large reduction in the cavalry force, in consequence of any news that had yet been received. The war was not over yet. There were other battles to be fought and won. He hoped the reduction would be only to fortly regiments.

Mr. WILLEY (U.), of Virginia, agreed with the chairman of the Committee on Military-advairs that the war was not over yet. He knew enough of the Southern people to know that they must fight yet. He hoped the Senate would consider well before they reduced this arm of the service. He thought we should have to reduce numerous guerilla bands, and cavatry would alone be competent for such service.

Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, modified his amendment so as to reduce to forty instead of thirty regiments.

Mr. WILSON. of Massachusetts, thought that Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, thought that

mr. Willsun, on massachusute, though that thirty of these regiments were to day skeleton regiments, scattered over the country. We have to purchase ten thousand borres to mount even forty regiments. Mr. DOULITLE (Rep.), of Wissonsin, disliked to be legislating on such a pendulum as cavalry seemed to be in this war. Before the battle of Rull Run we wanted no cavalry; after that we went to the other extreme, and authorized about eighty regiments, and now we propose to swing back again. Mr. Fessenden's amendment was adopted—yeas 25, Mr. Fessencer's americance was considered an amend-mays 10.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, offered an amend-ment as a proviso, that the United States pay for the uniform and equipments of officers mustered out of the service, at the original cost.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, thought the officers received pay for their time, and that was sufficient.

This would be like putting the Government into the old clother brainage.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Fort Denelson Victory.

On the opening of the hall, Mr. COLFAX (Bep.), of Indiana, asked and readily obtained permission to make a statement relative to the capture of Fort Donelson. Amid a profound silence, he then announced that General McClellan had authorized him to inform the House that he had just received a despatch from Cairo, informing him of the arrival of the gunboat Carondelet at that place this morning, bringing the news of the capture of Fort Donelson, yesterday, by the land forces of the United States army, with 15,000 prisoners, including Generals A Sidney Johnston and Buckner.

Floyd ran away and succeeded in making his escape.

The loss on both sides is very heavy.

The news was received with great applause, with laughter at the announcement of Floyd's cowardice.

Mr. COLFAX was surrounded by members to hear Mr. COLFAX was surrounded by members to hear further news.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep.), of Illinois. I want the gentleman from Indiana to know that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who commanded the land forces that captured the furt, is from Illinois, and from Galena, in my district. Mr. MALLORY (U.), of Kentucky, in view of this gratifying fact, moved, but the House refused, to adsourn. ourn.
Mr. COLFAX said that he had further news from
Donelson, from rebel sources. [Cries, let's hear it. Go
to the deak and read it. 'Read it loud.] Intense excite-

The SPEAKER called the House to order, and deep ilonce prevailed.

Mr. COLFAX then read the despatch as brought from
Norfolk by the flag of truce. [Applause on the floor and in the galleries.]
Mr. WRIGHT (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, moved an adjournment, which was disagreed to.
Mr. MALLOBY moved to discharge the Committee on the Conduct of the War, as from the good news of this merning, there seemed to be no farther use for them.
[Laughter, and cries of "agreed." "good."]

the conduct of the War, as from the good news of this merning, there seemed to be no farther use for them. [Laughter, and cries of "agreed." "good."]

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep.), of Illinois, remarked that the news was so gratifying the House was evidently in no temper for business, and suggested an adjournment; but the House again refused to adjourn.

Mr. WBIGHT had made a similar ineffectual motion.

Mr. WBIGHT had made a similar ineffectual motion.

Mr. WBIGHT had made a similar ineffectual motion.

Committee on the Conduct of the War.

Mr. GOOCH (Rep.), of Massachusetts, addressed the House in layor of the joint resolution authorizing the appointment of a stenographer for Committee on the Conduct of the War. He called on Mr. Wickliffe to state on what authority the latter, on Friday last, made an afgation against the committee as to the manner, they perform their duties. If the gentleman had any authority for the allegation is the manner, they perform their duties. If the gentleman had any authority for the allegation is the manner. Conduct of the War. He called on Art. Wickline of state on what authority the latter, on Friday last, made an aregation against the committee as to the manner, they perform their duties. If the gentleman had any authority for the allegation, he (Mr. Gooch) would yield the floor for him to make the statement.

Mr. WICKLIFFE (U.), of Kentucky, repeated what he had heretofore said, namely, that he had seen it stated that the committee had the Gaseral in. chief before them, when they had interrogated, and that Gen. McChellan, gave an anway which as has satisfied him.

Mr. GOOCH. By what authority?

Mr. WICKLIFFE. With you deny the fact?

Mr. GOOCH is again ask by what authority.

Mr. WICKLIFFE. And I ask whether you deny the fact?

Vindication of the Committee.

nesséa as were necessary to the investigation. The committee had deemed it their duty to keep to themselves what they had heard from witnesses. They had made no revelations to individuals or to newspapers which members might read in advance of the report being made. He did not believe that Congress had done its whole duty when it had made the necessary appropriations. It was the duty of Congress to remain in session, and every member should be in his place to contribute by all means in his power to uphold and sustain the Administration in crushing out the Feedblion. The relations between the committee and the Executive, the Secretary of War, and all the other officers of the Cabinet, are of the most cordial character. The officers and men when going into the field should be assured that they are supported and sustained by every branch of the Government, whether in victory or defeat, provided they fighs manufuly in the field. He trusted that we would lose no more battles, and believed that we can soon win a score of them if we only put the men we now have in the field against the enemy. The fall of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Rosnoke Island, and Bowling Green, is but the beginning of the series of victories in the history of the rebellion. The committee have, from the cutest, been a unit in everything they have attempted or undertaken, and he felt authorized to say, that if there is any one thing they desire more than another, it is fighting; for fighting only will crush this rebellion. The sooner this fighting could be done, the better—the object of the war being the maintenance of the Constitution without alteration or amendment—a war which shell cease only when the last vestige of rebellion and treason shall be crushed out.

"Col. E. D. Townsend:
"Sin: With a portion of his force, General Johnston left Winchester, on the afternoon of the 18th, with about 30,000 treops.

R. Patterson."

the latter had influenced min in risking the battle. It would not do for the gentlemen from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) to finit this important admission.

Mr. STEVENS replied that he did not rise to vindicate anybody. He was no one's partisan. He merely wished to ascertain the truth.

Mr. BLAIR seid the gentlemen's recollection was true. battle.
Mr. MAYNABD (U.), of Tennessee, said it was reprited by the Secessionists, after the battle of Bull Run, that General Patterson sympathized with the South, and that he would soon be found acting with them. It was also openly expressed by Secessionists that Patterson was greatly wanting in loyalty and fability to the Government. /erument.
Mr. BIDDLE (Dem.), of Pennsylvania, said that Gen

mexico, and also referred to the fact that deal. Fatterson rendered service in the war of 1812.

Mr. GOOCH resuming, said if Mr. Bisir or Mr. Stevens had any important revelations to make, on their own responsibility, the Committee on the Conduct of the War would afford them an opportunity of relieving

The Functions of the Committee. Mr. CRITTENDEN (Unloh), of Kentucky, was opposed to the committee, which should be abolished in order that harmony might be preserved in the operations of the Government. The power with which the committee was clothed was dangerous. Let the officers of the Government be made to depend on the report which of the Government be made to depend on the report which may be made by the committee, and the committee would command the Government, the President included.

Mr. GOOCH explained that the committee never attempted to bring the President before them, and he believed they never would.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, continuing his remarks against the existence of the committee, said the House might not always have such discreat gentlemen on such a committee. Others might become overbearing in the exercise of power. They might at first handle the scoptre lightly, but it would ultimately become the club of Hercules. They had no right under the Constitution to investigate the conduct of the war which included the future as well as the past. For himselt, he had had an invitation to appear before the committee, but the next thing he might be summoned.

e summoned. Mr. TBOMAS (Rep.), of Massachusetts, said he was one of those who voted against the raising of the committee, and would do so again were the question repeated to-day. He thought it wrong in principle, and useless for any wise purpose. There are no co-ordinate departments of Government. Neither the Excentive, nor those invested with power under him as the communder-in-chief of the army and navy, could be summoned before the Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING (Rep.) said he voted for the and expressed the belief that to the comm

Tribute to Gen. Scott. Mr. CBITTENDEN was of the opinion that we are in-debted for these victories to the valor of our troops, under the skill and plans of the commanding general. He proceeded to speak of Gen. Scott, with whom he had en-joyed an acquaintance of forty years, concluding by saying that he never knew a man more scrupulous that constitutes integrity, and patriotism, and m of character. Scott's name was now a glorious our nation's history.

The Senate's resolution for the employment of a steno grapher by the Committee on the Conduct of the War wa

A Department of Agriculture. A Department of Agriculture.

Mr. LOVEJOY (Rep.), of Ilinois, called up the bill, heretefore introduced by him, from the Committee on Agriculture, for the establishment of a Department of Agriculture. The principal amendment made by the House was in the reduction of the salary of the commissioners from \$5,000 to \$3,000 per annum. The bill was then passed.: Yeas 189, mays 7.

The Postal Appropriation Bill.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole one state of the Union on the Post Office appropriation bill.

Mr. ABNOLD (Bep.), of Illinois, in the commencements to his remarks, referred to the news to-day from the West—our troops having penetrated the heart and centre of the rebellion. He proceeded to speak of slavery as the cause of the conflict. Slavery is doomed. This fact should be recognized, and all unite in practically meeting the grave results involved. The question was, the transfer of the Army Signal Service. Appropriation for the Army Signal Service.

Mr. BLAIB (Bep.), of Missouri, from the Military Committee, reported the Senate bill making an appropria-tion for the signal service of the army. Passed. The House then adjourned. PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE. HARRISBURG, February 17, 1962.

SENATE. The Senate was called to order at three o'clock by the Speaker.

Messrs. SMITH, DONAVAN, and CONNELL, presented petitions asking for the abolition of the curb-stons
markets in Philadelphia. Bills Introduced. Mr. ROBINSON presented a supplement to the act re-

vising the penal laws.

Mr. RELLLY, of Schuylkill, a bill relative to the Philadelphis and Reading Railroad.

Mr. PENNEY, of Allegheny, a supplement to the act of 1851 relative to boroughs.

Mr. LANDON, of Bradford, a bill providing for the contract of the remaining of decayard soldings. Mr. Clymer was excused from serving on the committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank of Committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank of Com-Bills Considered.

The supplement to the act relative to mechanics' lien was taken up on second reading, and passed The act relative to hawkers, pediers, and retailers in Bucks county was considered and passed. The Recent Victories.

HOUSE. The House was called to order at 3 o'clock, by th Speaker pro tem., Mr. Crane. A letter from Speaker Rowe, dated at Chambersburg leputizing Mr. Crane to act as Speaker, was read.

The Capture of Fort Donelson.

Mr. PERSHING, of Cambria, offered a resolution that members of the Pouse have heard with feelings of patricities, the intelligence of the capture of Fort Donelson, and tender the thacks of the people of Peunsylvania to the galiant officers and men of the army and nawy, who by the recent victories at Roancke Island, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, have added new lustre to the American name, and have blighted the hopes of treason and traitors, and also thrown an imperishable glory over the age and over the nation. A second resolution provided that the House should adjourn immediately.

Mr. BIGHAM thought that the resolutions.

Mr. PERSHING had no objection to such a course. They would lie over for a day, however, under the rules.

Mr. BIGHAM then moved that the rules be suspended.

Mr. WILLIAMS said that the first event in this succession of brilliant engagements which have shed lustre on our arms has been overlooked. It is the battle of Mill Springs. It was there our beroes died, and it was then that we turned the tide of rebellion. He thought that the thanks of the people should be conveyed through the shands of the Governor. During the evening the incultored. In that case the resolutions should be reconsidered. The Capture of Fort Donelson. mounced. In that case the resolutions should saidered.

Mr. PERSHING was surprised that the gentleman should wish a reference to the battle of Mill Springs. That affair should have been noticed at the proper time. The events referred to in the resolutions all occurred.

The events restrict to it the tractations within the past few days.

Mr. SMITH, of Chester, hoped that the resolutions would have placed without any formatity. We want to declare here that patriots are willing to put down traitors wherever found, and show that we repoice as American citizens, as Pennsylvanians, and as the Pennsylvanian. excitement.

Mr. SCOTT said that the whole State was electrified upon the receipt of the telegraphic news of the victories, one after another. Mes could scarcely keep their thoughts from the glorious news.

Mr. KAJEE remarked that the resolutions were intended as the spontaneous expression of the sentiments of the House.

Brand as they are, simply saying something about Bort Boraleon and congravilating our gallant schiers.

Mr. WILLIAMS would go further, and offered ansamendment tendering thanks to the new head of the War Department. He believed that the change which was made has saved this nation, and led to this victory, over which the public heart now rejoices.

Mr. CESSNA was of the opinion that a more general appression of thanks should be conveyed to the different commanders.

commanders.

Mr. BIGHAM here announced that Savannah had been taken. He hoped that it would not be long before Charleston and Fort Sumpter, too, are surmounted by the old banner of freedom.

This state are considered was received with tremendous ab-

This able-accession was received with treminions are plause.

Mr. GOWAN thought that they had better adjourn before Charleston comes in. [Laughter.]

Mr. ARMSTROM 6 said that, in addition, to the flag waving over Savannah, the lespatch states that our troops met with congrantations from, the citizens, and great joy was expressed at 'their couling. [Applause,] or There may be traitors in Charleston, and there may be traitors at home, but the friends of the Union, with that patriotic impulse which beats in every true heart, ase, tound in every part of the Union.

He believed that the time has come when the rebellion. He believed that the time has come when the rebellion and the flag float over every part of the counter, and henored as it has been before, at home and abroad, and henored as it has been before, at home and abroad, and never again to be disgraced or trampled under foot by traitors. raitors.
The resolutions were then adopted unanimously,
Adjourned,

Public Amusements. Mr. Hackett opened to a good house at the Walnut-street Theatre last evening. He is the great delineator of the fat knight, and renders his cunning, sensuality, duplicity, and cowardice, in all their eccentricity and naturalness. Hackett's laugh has the true Falstaffian ring, and his snore is Wonderfully deep and ludicrous. It is a treat to see him drink his favorite Sack, and his walk is the perfection of the ponderous and the awkward. One can almost see him perspire.

Mr. John Drew did not fulfill his engagement at

the Arch-street Theatre last night, having, we learn, been detained by a tardy train while on his way from New York. The theatre was closed in onsequence, but the same bill will be given to night, and the secured seats will be retained.

On Monday next, M. Gottschalk, the famous composer of piano music, and the rival of Thalberg. Liest, and Chopin, will commence a series of enter tainments in this city. Many of his most ingenious morceaux were composed at the age of twelve years, and he is now quoted at home and abroad as a brilliant pianist and a gifted composer. He is the author of ballads, mazourkas, caprices, symphonies. etc., and is also said to be a contributor to the best magazines in the French and the Spanish lan-

guages.

THE Germania Orchestra and Dr. S. M. Landis, a lecturer of some local note, will give an entertainment at Musical Fund Hall to night, for the benefit of the volunteer refreshment salvons.

THE CITY. FOR ADDITIONAL CITY NEWS, SEE FOURTH PAGE.

flow Philadelphia Hailed the Victory. The town has been in travail since Friday, and was not completely at ease until the hour of twelve meridian, yesterday. Mill Spring, Roanoke, Savannah, and Spri gfield had not satisfed the cormorant annetite of the paople. They clamored for "more" in the manner of Oliver Twist (chap. 6), and finally got it in such overpowering quantities that their bloody desires will be satisfied for a week. Fort Donelson was captured; that was a matter of congratulation. Fifteen thousand rebels, having hoisted the black flag, probably supposing that our backwoods troops could be scared by an owl, had laid down their arms; that was a matter of triumph. Floyd had escaped; that was a matter of mingled shagrin and amusement. Many lamented his escape. Some did not regret it, on the ground that our army should not be put to the ignoble service of overhauling horse-thieves. But a weight of film was lifted from a hundred thousand eyes, and a weight of doubt from as many minds. The rain was falling, but all saw the sunshine, and the pavement might be ever so icy if there was no slip in the news. By and by placards were posted up bearing the talismanic word "OFFICIAL!" That was enough; for no man or woman doubted the word of the Government that had never yet published a canard. Gen. McClellan's advices came afterward, and as we had already heard the rebel acknowledgments by way of Norfolk, it was concluded that all doubts were and all species of offences were pardoned. Scores of umbrellas were taken by mistake, and never nissed; and nobody swore or grumbled at dinner though it was a rainy wash-day. Grim visaged war had a smooth countenance, at least in our direction and people were capering nimbly in sundry cham bers, and out of them, to music of lutes and pines, Trade was dull. Very few merchants had the presence of mind to sell anything, and preferred oredit sales to cash. Old enmittes were forgotten in the common joy, and the customary running up of flags was suspended; for flag owners were too happy to remember that they owned anything—but Fort

If, added to the general excitement, our worth Mayor had ordered the State-house bell to be rung-or if Col. Price had made a parade on Chestnut street, we should have had to record s lost of sudden deaths to-day, Absence of mind became contagious, and we are assured that some individuals failed to meet their obligations at bank. The railroad depots presented the spectacle of s number of through travellers that had been left. The hotels, judging from yesterday, would do well to get up a great battle twice a week and pay the expenses of both sides; for the devout and the carnal, of all persuasions drank promiscuously, and some went to bed early in the duy, having had violent nervous shocks. A few have not gone home up to the hour of this writing, and many wives are objecting to more victories in the future—they so derange do mestic affairs. A rain in such cases is a providential thing. It prevents conflagration, and folks were on fire. So that, providentially, the rain seemed to keep pace with the news, and people that persisted in venturing out got soaked and caught colds. The pavements were slippery, and people that in the general joy did not know their head from their heels soon learned the difference neglected their patrol business to talk over the news. In this way the town might have been robhed, had the thieves not been so everjoyed that they did not care to steal. Folks, that at a late election were loud in favor of Donelson, seemed united the other way, and none more so than the

Native Americans. Joy overspread the town. Mails and teams conreyed the glad tidings to every suburb. To-night the theme will engross a million of happy firesides, and the prayers and thanks that go up to heaven will have nothing formal about them. The Union arms have regained their prestige. Our sons, fathers, and countrymen are either proud in victory or prouder in death. The shame of our flag has been washed out in blood; the rivers of the garden of our Continent carry the sails of the Union, and agony and gloom are tenants of hundreds of disloyal dwellings. The soldier, the sailor-perhaps the slave-look up. Our banners are blessed; our bayonets are

bristling-we thank God! STRANGE EXULTATION IN COURT, When the intelligence reached the Court of Quarter Sessions, where Judge Allison presided, lespatch containing the news was handed to the Judge. A perjury case was then being tried, but such was the Judge's satisfaction that he handed the message to the crier, and gave him permission to read it. The effect was immense. The culprits in the dock forgot their fears; the jurymen did not for the moment remember that they were trying a citizen for the loss of liberty and character; the veriest loungers in the rear gallery woke up from their naps, and the motley collection of studentsat-law, tipstaves, and attorneys in the bar area, eaped to their feet with a shout, and the equanimity of the court bade fair to be a long while disturbed. The judge then said that justice and the cause of our arms were so intimately related that the court-room was the proper place to state our

successes. After another cheer, the business went It is proposed in various quarters to recommend a general illumination on the night of the 221 instant, in honor of the great victory at Fort Donelson. This great event-deserves some local commemoration, and as other cities are about to move in the matter, Philadelphia should not be the last to express its gratitude and exultation. A grand procession of the people and an illumination of the whole city, conjoined with the military arrangements already made, will be the proper procedure. The

matter, we understand, will be broached to-day. PATRIOTIC AUTIUN ON THE MERCHANTS. In the midst of the joy of the merchants over the news, among the crowd in the Commercial Rooms, in the Merchants' Exchange, a proposition was started to raise a fund of \$200,000 to educate and provide for the orphans of the slain on our elds, and \$5,000 was raised in a few minutes. The rest will be easily obtained.

A SALUTE. We understand that Captain Turner, of the navyyard, has ordered a salute to be fired, to day, la nonor of our giorious success achieved by the navy and the army.

CORONER'S CASES -Yesterday morning an unknown white man was found drowned in the Delaware, opposite Green-street wherf. He was dressed cavalry uniform, and had been in the water come time. The coroner was notified and took charge of the body.

The man found drowned at Green-street what, on
Tureday last, has been identified as James Hellen, who
fell off the gumboat Hatea, opposite the naw yard, in

MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN CON-MEETING OF THE ILEPUBLICAN UONVANION.—Last evening the Republican Convention reassembled at the County Cours House, Etr., Wainwright
in the cheir. The only bushnass transacted was the
amending of rule fifteen, which now stands as follows:
"No citizen shall be eligible to a seat in more than one
of the conventions provided for in these rules; nor shall
any member of a convention he a candiables for nomination before said convention." The meeting then adjourned
until Thursday evening.

THE RELEASE OF COL. CORCORAN. THE RELEASE OF UOL. OPECORAN.

Arrangements are now being made to hold a public meeting in this city, to uf-e the Government to use its power and influence for the release-of the galant Cel. Corroran, of the Sixty-ninth Begiment New York State mixts. The meeting, if held, will be similar to those that have taken place in other cities. A large number are opposed to any meeting, on the ground that the Government, now having so many priseers of war, will at suce take active measures for the release of all prisoners. ace take active measures for

HAYTIEN EMIGRATION .- The emigraion to Hayti from the city and interior still conti

THE JUNIATA READY TO LAUNCH. The slop-of-war Juniata is now ready for launching, and orders are expected from the Navy Department to launch her at an early-day. The Juniata will be one of the snest vessels in the navy: No expense has been spand to make her all that she should be, and also has been strengthened in every possible way. Those best saquainted with saval architecture prenounce has of su-nation model.

SWORN In .- Yesterday morning the following newly-elected heads of departments were sworn into office by Mayor Honry: Onrhise MoDenough, Commissioner of City Property; Dambnick Torpoy, Commissioner of Markets; Francis P. McCormick, Supering tendent of Girard Estato.

ADJOURNED..... Yesterday morning the Grand Jury came into court, and stated that they has adjourned over for one week in consequence of the indisposition of Rangamin Q. Mann, Assistant Marriet Attorages