The Press.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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.

Let us shout pæans of victory! Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, and one of the boasted strongholds of rebellion, has been occupied by our troops. The army of occupation was probably under the temporary command of General Mitchell, comprising his own division and those of Generals Wood and McCook, numbering in all about fifty thousand men. Gen. Buell, commander-in-chief of the department, is reported by the telegraph to have left Louisville on Saturday, and may possibly have joined his forces in time to participate in the honor of the bloodless victory. The city was, of course, evacuated by its "brave" defenders, who, by their gallantry, have consigned the State to the safe-keeping of Federal arms. Rebellion in Tennessee is dead beyond a hope of resurrection.

There would seem to be some truth in the rumored rebel intention of evacuating Manassas, which came to us from credible sources a few days since. Mr. George W. Walker, of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, one of the released Union prisoners, states that he has learned, upon good authority, that an order had been issued for the withdrawal of all but thirty thousand troops from Manassas. The railroads leading to Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee were thronged with troops, and the number leaving Manassas had been about five regiments per day for some time past. Troops were also being sent to North Carolina, to resist the advance of Burnside, mostly the North Carolina regiments from Manassas.

General Grant's official report of the taking of Fort Donelson is published on our first page. It disposes of the subject in a brief half-column, as though it were not the grandest achievement that has ever taken place upon the continent. The first accounts, it would seem, were not exaggerated. We have taken from twelve to fifteen thousand prisoners, at least forty pieces of artillery, and a large amount of stores, horses, and other property. Our loss has not been determined even approximately, but it is set down at 1,200—killed, wounded, and missing. Of the latter, 250 were made prisoners, but they will be immediately restored to us by exchange. We will not lessen the interest of the report by recapitulating its prominent features here. It merits and will receive the attentive perusal of every loyal citizen.

Interesting letters from our correspondents at Key West, Tybee Island, and Paw Paw, Va., will be found under the appropriate head. Our soldiers and seamen have not forgotten how to handle that potent instrument, the pen.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of Saturday has advices from Suffolk to the effect that Winton, North Carolina, had been abandoned and burned by the rebels, who had retired to Murfreesboro. Winton is an unimportant town of Hertford county, but is only twenty miles distant from the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, which connects Weldon with Norfolk.

Another despatch from Norfolk states that the town was burned by the Union troops.

A despatch from Fort Smith, via Clarksville (Ark.) and Chattanooga (Tenn.), states that the rebel Price had made a stand at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, and had given battle to our troops with a loss of one hundred men. Our loss is modestly set down at seven hundred. The despatch is evidently a fabrication.

The Old Point boat should live in history, and her name be cherished with gratitude. Yesterday she arrived at Baltimore, from Fortress Monroe, with fourteen United States officers who had been released from the vilest description of durance vile—a rebel dungeon. The liberated party comprised, among others, Col. Wood, of the Fourteenth New York, Col. Lee, of the Twentieth Massachusetts, Col. Coggswell, of the Tammany Regiment, and Capt. Keffer (a Philadelphian), of the California Regiment. In addition to these, three hundred and ninety more of our prisoners, who were released on Sunday, have arrived in Baltimore. Richmond is now entirely free of Union prisoners. Col. Corcoran, and those prisoners confined with him at Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina, are expected to arrive at Fortress Monroe on Thursday or Friday night.

The Richmond *Whig*, of Friday, has an article bitterly condemning Jeff Davis' administration. It says: "Judging by the results so far, it is the most lamentable failure in history, and suggests that the most signal service which that government can now render to the country is the surrender of the helm to abler and better hands."

A general exchange of prisoners will doubtless be speedily effected, as the negotiations are now pending—or were the day before yesterday. On Sunday morning, General Wool proceeded to Craney Island under a flag of truce for the purpose of meeting General Howell Cobb by appointment. Before reaching the Island, the *Adelaide* was met by the rebel boat *William Selden*, when a consultation of an hour's length took place between the two generals. The result is not known, but may be readily surmised.

Congress Yesterday.

SENATE.—Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill repealing certain laws appertaining to persons of color in the District of Columbia, which was referred.

On motion, the joint resolution providing that the Secretary of War shall pay the St. Joseph and Hannibal, and Pacific railroads for the transportation of troops and war supplies was taken up. We are not informed as yet, as to what disposition was made of it.

HOUSE.—Mr. Roscoe Conkling, of New York, offered a resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Major Generals Halleck and Grant for planning and achieving their splendid victories. Referred.

The Post Office appropriation bill was passed, and the Indian appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole.

The Legislature.

SENATE.—A joint resolution was submitted thanking our City Councils for the hospitable reception tendered the Legislature on Saturday.

The bill relative to elections by stockholders of railroad companies was passed.

HOUSE.—No less than nineteen petitions from citizens of Philadelphia were presented, asking the passage of an act declaring certain rights to farmers in our markets.

Mr. Rex presented a bill authorizing the levying of a tax upon bankers and brokers. Referred to the Judiciary Committee (general).

The bill for the suppression and destruction of counterfeit bank notes was lost—yeas 32, nays 41. The telegraph should have given the names of the members upon this vote.

WE OBSERVE that the Legislatures of several of the loyal States are taking measures for the thorough organization and arming of their militia. This is the highest of practical wisdom. In view of the complications that may grow out of the domestic difficulties still upon us, and the European intervention now so fully developed in Mexico, it behooves us, as a wise people, to have all our military resources at command. The State Governments can do a vast deal by seeing that their militia forces are well organized and well armed. Indeed, this duty seems at this time to devolve especially on the Legislatures of loyal States, in view of the fact that the energies of the National Government are sufficiently taxed in the present contest. The "Volunteer Rifle Corps" in England, and recently introduced in Canada, are giving to the British nation a most powerful auxiliary to their regular military establishment, and rifle practice in all our military organizations will create and develop a force among us which will be alike available and irresistible. Let each State do its duty in this respect, and do it promptly!

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, TRAVELLING TRUNKS, &c.—The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large assortment of boots, shoes, brogans, boot-jacks, trunks, valises, &c., embracing a general assortment of desirable seasonable goods, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, for cash, commencing this morning, at 10 o'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

THE INDOLENCE of the chivalry is proverbial. They have a holy horror of "occupation" of all kinds, but particularly of Southern towns, by Union armies.

More Good News.

We hear from two sources that Nashville is now occupied by the Union troops. One of the prisoners lately released at Richmond was assured that such was the fact by a rebel officer, and, at a late hour last night, we received a despatch stating that intelligence had been received at Cairo announcing that General BUELL's army was in possession of the capital of Tennessee, and that a strong reaction in favor of the Union had taken place. It is also reported that Governor HARRIS has recalled the Tennessee troops from the service of the Confederates. This statement, if true, indicates an earlier suppression of the rebellion than the most sanguine have anticipated. It is plain enough that the Tennessceans cannot make an effective resistance to our overwhelming force, and the wisest course they could pursue is undoubtedly that which they are said to have adopted. If they have thus promptly surrendered, it will be utter folly for Virginia, when entirely isolated from the Southwest, and nearly cut off from the Southeastern States, to continue a hopeless conflict.

OUR LATE SUCCESSES have essentially changed the theatre of the war. It is rapidly approaching the States which were the first to inaugurate it, and which have the first claim to all the horrors it may entail. The original "Confederate" banner consisted of seven stars, representing South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. After they all decided to "secede," Tennessee, Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, and Delaware, the eight remaining slave States, still resisted the attempts made to plunge them in the vortex of the rebellion; but the four first named afterwards unfortunately fell for a time completely under control of the conspirators. Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, are now as completely wedded to the Union as any of the free States. Tennessee, Arkansas, Virginia, and North Carolina, cannot long resist the immense Union force which is accumulating within their borders, and the internal pressure which will doubtless be plainly perceptible when the oppressed Union men feel that our armies are near at hand to sustain and protect them. The force available for an onward movement in Tennessee probably numbers 150,000 men, and it can scarcely be doubted, in view of its gallantry, efficiency, and the wonderful success which has attended all the late movements in the departments of General HALLECK and General BUELL, that Nashville, the great railroad leading from Eastern Tennessee into Virginia, and probably Memphis, will speedily fall into our possession. Late accounts from Cairo indicate that the retreat of Bishop POLK, on the South, will be cut off, and that Commodore FOOTE's fleet of gunboats and mortars will descend the Mississippi to attack his position. If this great movement should succeed, it will prove the greatest achievement of the war, and will go far towards giving us command of the whole Mississippi Valley.

Meanwhile, General BURNSIDE is gradually pushing his way still further into the interior of North Carolina. Winton, the town he is reported to have last taken, is situated but a short distance south of the Virginia line, and is not a great distance from Weldon, one of the most important Southern railroad centres. There are strong indications that he will be enabled to cut off several of the railroad communications between Virginia and North Carolina. If the rebel armies in the Old Dominion should be thus isolated from the South and Southwest, our army on the Potomac will be enabled, as soon as the condition of the roads is improved, to march against and conquer all the rebel forces now quartered in that State. The circle of loyal bayonets which encompasses them is daily increasing in power and strength, and slowly but surely approaching their strongholds. The prisoners who lately arrived from Richmond state that not only is there a strong Union feeling existing there, and a secret Union organization extending in every direction, but that leading rebels admit that, if the whole able-bodied population does not immediately rise in arms, Virginia will, in a month or two, fall completely into our possession. Intense dissatisfaction with the rebel leaders is felt by many citizens, and it not unfrequently finds open expression. All the prophecies of evil uttered by those who vainly warned Virginians of the folly and danger of joining the mad-cap conspirators of the Gulf States have been more than fulfilled. They have made their historic Commonwealth one of the most desolate and war-stricken regions that ever existed, and yet all their past sufferings, if we may judge by present indications, are but a slight foretaste of the bitterness and misery prepared for them in the near future, if they persist in their attitude of hostility to the noble Government which was, in a great measure, founded by their own noble sons of the Revolutionary era. Well may they repine at their lot. Never had a people greater cause for indignation against false, cruel, and wicked rulers than they have against the desperate conspirators who enticed them to join the death-dance of Secession. We shall not be surprised if thousands among them will hail the triumphant march of our armies through their dominions with rapture and delight, and gladly seek refuge, peace, and prosperity forever hereafter under the shadow of the old flag.

If the movements, now rapidly progressing, for restoring the national authority in Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, are successful, it will be a comparatively easy task to suppress the rebellion in the Gulf States. Already they are all closely hemmed in on their sea-coasts. Their ports are blockaded, and we have strong camps entrenched upon their soil at Port Royal, Tybee Island, Cedar Keys, Key West, Fort Pickens, and Ship Island. If we are at a future period also enabled to penetrate North Alabama with our gunboats on the Cumberland, and to send our Western fleets down the great father of waters into Arkansas, Mississippi, and Lonisiana, all the points worth holding in their country will speedily be acquired. With all their outlets for foreign and commercial commerce in our possession, and all their strategic points under our control, submission will be so plain a necessity that even blind and bombastic "Southern chivalry" cannot find an excuse for long protracting a hopeless contest.

The rebellion is doomed to an early death. Of the thirty-four States which constitute the Republic twenty-three are now exerting all their energies to crush the conspiracy. Four more are so closely invested by our gallant army that they soon must fall completely into our possession. The remaining seven are too weak to make a very stubborn or effectual resistance. If the efforts of the Administration continue to be cheerfully supported by a loyal and resolute people, and if the pecuniary aid necessary to sustain our glorious army and navy is ungrudgingly bestowed, the glorious heritage of our fathers will be preserved undivided forever, and not a star will be torn by rude and sacrilegious hands from our political constellation.

France and America.

We published, some months ago, the eloquent oration delivered by Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, at the banquet given to Prince NAPOLEON, during his visit to Boston. Our readers will remember that it abounded with beautiful and touching allusions to the striking manner in which the destinies of France and America had frequently been interwoven with each other. The following letter, addressed by the Emperor NAPOLEON to our distinguished American orator, shows how fully his remarks were appreciated:

"COMPIEGNE, November 24, 1861.

"SIR: I have read with the most lively interest the discourse pronounced by you at the dinner, at which his Imperial Highness the Prince Napoleon was present, and which you have sent me. I am happy to have found, in a language full of cordiality and frankness, the animated expression of the sentiments by which America and France have been for so many years united. I have also been particularly touched by the just homage rendered to the genius of the chief of my family. Receive, therefore, my sincere thanks, and be pleased to make my acknowledgments to your honorable fellow-citizen, Dr. Holmes, for his ode, so full of inspiration. of *Vive la France!* Believe, sir, in my distinguished consideration. "NAPOLEON."

THE MAMMOTH CAVE in Kentucky is a wonderful curiosity; but it is less of a "mammoth cave in" than that of Gov. ISHAM HARRIS, of Tennessee, if the report that he has directed the troops of that State to withdraw from the rebel service is true.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, February 24, 1862.

It is natural that those who have denounced the progress of Secession and suffered from its excesses, should wait with impatient anxiety for the severe punishment of the traitors. That a crime so stupendous should not be overwhelmingly repudiated and forever put down, would excite the contempt and indignation of every intelligent and civilized people. Hence, however men may differ on ordinary questions, and even as to the details of disposing of the seceded territory after it has been conquered, a single sentiment animates the whole loyal population in regard to the proper treatment of the rebel leaders after they have been captured. North and South, the friends of the Constitution, while ready to approve the policy of a general amnesty to the followers, insist that the heads of the rebellion should be dealt with as voluntary and self-convicted criminals, and should be subjected to the inevitable doom, in person and property, which they have deliberately invoked.

Here is a common ground for loyal citizens to meet upon. No doubt your William B. Reeds, Caleb Cushings, and Fernando Woods will plead for mercy to their dear friends and counterparts, John Slidell, Judah P. Benjamin, and Jefferson Davis, but there is not a Democrat who cares for his country and understands the deep depravity of the treason from which we are about being extricated, who will not reject such appeals. Who, for instance, in the South, beyond their own limited circles, would shed an honest tear when these reckless and cruel men are executed or exiled? It is they, and they alone, who have crimsoned with blood and desolated with fire and sword the Southern country; they and their associates who have plunged the Southern people into beggary, bankruptcy, and starvation, and when they are removed forever, the masses they have oppressed will feel that they have been delivered from the worst of despotisms. James Guthrie, of Kentucky, one of the eminent patriots of the South, uttered a right sentiment on the 22d, at Louisville, when he demanded the severest treatment of the leading captured rebels. He saw that a stern necessity required that a stern example should be made. How, in fact, can we ever expect to arouse, consolidate, and make permanent a vigorous affection for the Union in the slave States, if the prominent opponents of the Union, doubly guilty of a violation of their oaths to support the Federal Constitution and of taking up arms to destroy it forever, are permitted to live at their former homes, to wield their old influence and to stimulate the passions of their old followers? What chance would Andrew Johnson and Horace Maynard, in Tennessee; John S. Carlile and W. T. Willey, in Virginia; Frank Blair, in Missouri; Hicks and Bradford, in Maryland; Crittenden, and Jackson, and Wickliffe, and Wadsworth, in Kentucky, have to bring back their people to reason and to obedience to the laws if they are to be persecuted and hounded by the master spirits of Secession? When President Lincoln firmly refused to interpose to save the life of Gordon, the slaver, he quietly admonished the men, who have been even more guilty than this infamous wretch, that when their hour shall come he will be found equally resolute and inexorable. But while the snake of treason is scotched, it is not yet killed. The manner and form of the punishment to treason must be first agreed upon, and, when decided, must be fearlessly and impartially executed. In treating of the slavery question, the highest considerations require equal prudence and care. Undue haste and rash measures may ruin all. Events are hurrying on with lightning-speed, and it may be, in God's inscrutable providence, slavery will have been struck to the heart before our legislators take it in hand. It has already been wounded, and, I believe, fatally. Let mere humanitarians bide their time, leaving the question to present perils, and postponing their own remedies before the action of the military Federal authorities in the seceded States and the operations of Congressional law. An amazing advance has been made upon past prejudices within the last nine months. Thousands who have for years believed that slavery could not be touched without danger to the whole Southern social system are now willing to see it share the fate that must befall all the other property of the traitors in arms. In the splendid oration of George Bancroft, at New York, on Saturday last, that profound historian and life-long Democrat uttered a thought that will be responded to in millions of Democratic hearts when he said:—

"For myself, I was one who desired to postpone, or rather hoped altogether to avoid, the collision which has taken place, trusting that society, by degrees, would have worked itself clear by its own innate strength and the virtue and resolution of the community. But slavery has forced upon us the issue, and has lifted up its hand to strike a death-blow at our existence as a people. It has avowed itself a desperate and determined enemy of our national life, of our unity as a republic; and henceforward no man deserves the name of a statesman who would consent to the introduction of that element of weakness and division into any new territory, on the admission of another slave State into the Union. Let us hope rather that the prediction of Washington will prove true, and that Virginia and Maryland will soon take their places as free States by the side of Ohio and Pennsylvania."

Here we have foreshadowed the speedy abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, an event which eighteen months ago would have set the whole Democracy in a blaze. In my opinion, such an act will be accepted as one of the logical consequences of rebellion, and almost universally approved. In the *National Intelligencer*, of this very morning, another Democrat, more venerable, and, if possible, more honored, as the opponent of Republicanism and the advocate of the rights of the South, Hon. Amos Kendall, lifts the veil from before the peculiar institution and exposes it as one of the most hideous and revolting of aristocracies. The following extract is full of eloquent significance:

"In my last I proposed to consider in this letter the causes which have led to the pending rebellion, and to show the advocates of emancipation that they have every reason to be satisfied with the progress that operation is making.

"The cause or causes of the rebellion may be summed up in the single phrase, *Pride of Wealth and Lust for Power*. These are not peculiar to the South, but have their influence in the North as well. North and South they pervade, with honorable exceptions, those classes of society which find means to live and to enrich themselves without manual labor. North as well as South the feelings of these classes revolt against a Government controlled by the toiling millions, and would overthrow it if they could. In the North the attempt would be hopeless, and the aristocratic classes quietly acquiesce in things as they are. In the cotton region of the South the laborers have no political rights, and the aristocratic classes govern in all that relates to local affairs. But they are not content with that. Their pride revolts at association in any Government, however mild and beneficent, in which laboring men participate, directly or indirectly. To get rid of such a Government, though it has been the chief sour e of all their prosperity, is the object of the present rebellion. The avowed design of the South Carolina leaders is the organization of a community composed of gentlemen and laborers, in which the gentlemen shall be masters, and the laborers their slaves. To this end they were, before the rebellion broke out, avowedly in favor of reopening the African slave trade, and have since submitted with a bad grace to a restriction in their Confederate Constitution, dictated by an apprehension that it would not be safe at present so far to outrage the feelings of the civilized world.

But there is a considerable class of slaveholders, especially in the Border slaveholding States, who do not entertain this antipathy to labor. It is composed of men of moderate means, owning but few slaves. They are the self-made men, whose industry and economy had enabled them to purchase one or more slaves, and they may often be seen at work in the same field with their own negroes. They do not sympathize with the cotton, rice, and sugar planters, who reckon their slaves by hundreds, and who never put their own hands to the plough, the hoe, or the axe. These small slaveholders, numerically probably more numerous than the richer class, have no repugnance to being associated in a Government controlled in part by the laboring men of the North, and they are generally faithful to the Constitution and the Union. Slavery does not make them rebels."

Patience, then, good friends, patience. We have forborne for years the insults and aggressions of the slave aristocracy. The clouds are breaking away; the dawn of a nation's deliverance is at hand. Let us wait a little longer. OCCASIONAL.

The Inauguration of Jeff Davis.

The conspirators at Richmond inaugurated JEFFERSON DAVIS, as the Rebel President, on Saturday last, but never was there a more gloomy and desponding crowd assembled to witness such a ceremony. Not a cheer was heard. A universal feeling of sadness and despair prevailed among those who sympathized with the rebellion; but doubtless thousands of Union men in their hearts rejoiced at the prospect of their speedy release from the thraldom of their Secession oppressors. Now, since the occupation of Nashville by our army has cut off their main avenue to the most important States of the so-called Southern Confederacy, they must see that all hopes of the destruction of the Union are vain. JEFF DAVIS will be fortunate if his reign is not shorter than the Hundred Days of NAPOLEON after his return from Elba.

MORE GLORIOUS NEWS!

The Advance of the Union Army.

NASHVILLE IN OUR POSSESSION.

GOVERNOR HARRIS CALLS IN ALL THE TENNESSEE REGIMENTS.

A STRONG UNION FEELING MANIFESTING ITSELF.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—A special despatch from Cairo to the *Democrat* says the latest intelligence from the Cumberland furnishes glorious news, to the effect that General Buell's forces occupy Nashville; that Governor Harris has called in all the Tennessee troops, and that a strong reaction in favor of the Union has occurred among the people.

CAIRO, Feb. 24.—The Nashville papers advise the undermining of some of the bluffs on the Cumberland, and blowing them into the river on the approach of our gunboats, either to destroy them or to obstruct the channel.

[This despatch, which was received at an earlier hour than the previous one, makes no mention of the occupation of Nashville.]

Another Confirmation.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 24.—Reliable private information received here to-night assures us that Nashville is virtually in the possession of the Federal forces.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.—Colonel Lee, of the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment, says the information about the surrender of Nashville was given to him by a prominent citizen of Richmond, and not by an officer of the rebel Government, as previously stated. It was also said that the despatch was received by Jeff Davis while he was reading his inaugural address.

A Sketch of Nashville.

As the above telegraphic despatch states that Nashville has been taken possession of by our troops, the following description of that city may not be uninteresting:

Nashville is situated on the left or the west bank of the Cumberland river, some two hundred miles, by the course of the stream, from its mouth; two hundred and eighty miles northeast of Memphis; two hundred and sixty-six miles southwest of Lexington, in Kentucky, and six hundred and eighty-four miles from Washington city. Many of the private residences are erected on a scale of palatial magnitude and splendor, and the public buildings exhibit a corresponding character. The suburbs abound with picturesque scenery, enriched with beautiful groves of cedar. The city was originally laid out in lots of one acre each, with a reservation of four acres for public buildings. The boundaries have since been enlarged.

The new Capitol, which stands on a commanding eminence, one hundred and seventy-five feet above the river, is one of the most noble, magnificent, and costly structures in America. The material is fine limestone, which was quarried on the spot, and nearly resembling marble. The dimensions are 240 feet by 185, and the estimated cost $1,000,000. It is built, as it is stated, entirely of stone and iron, without any wood about it, except the plank on which the copper roofing is fastened; the floor and inner walls are of crossed stone. A lunatic asylum on a large scale has recently been erected in the vicinity. The State Penitentiary at this place is 312 feet by 50, containing 200 cells. The University of Nashville was founded in 1806. The Medical College connected with the University was opened in 1851; it occupies a spacious building, and has upward of 150 students. There are also a number of female seminaries, the largest of which is attended by more than 300 pupils.

There were fifteen newspapers published here, six of them daily. Nashville contains three banks, with a total capital of $5,182,500, and fifteen churches, representing the various religious denominations. The mineral cabinet of the late Dr. Troost contains the largest private collection in the United States. The city is lighted with gas. The Cumberland river is crossed by a magnificent wire suspension bridge, built at a cost of $100,000. Water is supplied by being raised from the Cumberland river. Six railroads now centre at Nashville, affording communication with many desired points. It is the terminus of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, 150 miles long, which was finished in 1852, at an expense of about $3,000,000. The road is built in a very substantial manner, and completes the connection with Charleston and Savannah. The commerce of Nashville is very extensive, amounting annually to over five thousand tonnage, composed of steamboats, navigating the Cumberland river, engaged in the conveyance of passengers, and the traffic of goods and produce. Extensive manufacturing establishments are in successful operation at this place, among which may be mentioned the powder-mill, the rolling-mill, the Tennessee Iron Works, just below the city, on the Cumberland river—which are as extensive as, and equal in capacity to, any in the United States—and foundries and machine-shops. The population of Nashville at present is about 26,000.

AFFAIRS AT FORT DONELSON.

Proclamation of Commodore Foote.

CAIRO, Feb. 24.—Everything is quiet at Fort Donelson.

The rebels, before evacuating Clarksville, fired the railroad bridge crossing the Cumberland at that point.

Commodore Foote has issued the following proclamation to the inhabitants of Clarksville:

At the suggestion of Hon. Cave Johnson, Judge Wisdom, and the mayor of the city, who called upon me yesterday, after our hoisting the Union flag on the forts, to ascertain my views and intentions towards citizens and private property, I hereby announce to all peaceably disposed persons that neither in their persons nor property shall they suffer molestation by me or by the naval forces under my command, and they may safely resume their business avocations with assurances of my protection.

At the same time, I require that all military stores and army equipments shall be surrendered, no part of them being withheld or destroyed; and, further, that no Secession flag, or manifestation of Secession feeling, shall be exhibited; and for the faithful observance of these conditions, I shall hold the authorities of the city responsible.

ANDREW H. FOOTE.

The Fort Donelson Prisoners—General Buckner taken to Indianapolis.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 24.—The steamer *Argonant*, from Cairo, arrived at Jeffersonville this afternoon with 194 of the Fort Donelson prisoners, including General Buckner and staff. They were in charge of a detachment of Federal soldiers, under command of Capt. Walker, and were sent to Indianapolis by a special train this afternoon.

The Union Sentiment in Richmond.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.—The returned prisoners all speak of a strong Union party in Richmond, who are in high glee at the Union victories. They were compelled, for their own safety, to keep quiet, but took frequent occasion to make their sentiments known to the prisoners, extending to them various acts of kindness, which had to be stealthily performed.

There was a large attendance to witness the inauguration of Jeff Davis, but the enthusiasm was very subdued. Those who were on parole could not get close enough to hear the address, and it was not printed before they left.

Proclamation of General Halleck.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, February 23.

The major general commanding the department desires to impress upon all officers the importance of preserving good order and discipline among their troops as the armies of the West advance into Tennessee and the Southern States.

Let us show to our fellow-citizens in those States that we come merely to crush out rebellion, and restore to them peace and the benefits of the Constitution and the Union, of which they have been deprived by selfish and unprincipled leaders. They have been told that we come to oppress and plunder. By our acts we will undeceive them. We will prove to them that we come to restore, not to violate, the Constitution and the laws. In restoring to them the glorious flag of the Union, we will assure them that they shall enjoy under its folds the same protection of life and property as in former days.

Soldiers! let no excess on your part tarnish the glory of our arms!

The order heretofore issued in this department, in regard to pillaging and marauding, the destruction of private property, and the stealing or concealment of slaves, must be strictly enforced. It does not belong to the military to decide upon the relation of master and slave. Such questions must be settled by the civil courts. No fugitive slave will therefore be admitted within our lines or camps, except when specially ordered by the general commanding.

Women and children, merchants, farmers, mechanics, and all persons not in arms, are regarded as non-combatants, and are not to be molested either in their persons or property. If, however, they aid and assist the enemy, they become belligerents, and will be treated as such. As they violate the laws of war, they will be made to suffer the penalties of such violation.

Military stores and the public property of the enemy must be surrendered, and any attempt to conceal such property, by fraudulent transfer or otherwise, will be punished, but no private property will be touched unless by order of the general commanding. Wherever it becomes necessary to obtain forced contributions for the supply and subsistence of our troops, such levies will be made as light as possible, and be so distributed as to produce no distress among the people. All property so taken must be receipted and fully accounted for, as heretofore directed.

These orders will be read at the head of every regiment, and all officers are commanded to strictly enforce them.

By command of Major General HALLECK.
N. H. MCLEAN, Adjutant General.

Ex-Governor Wright Appointed Senator for Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Governor Morton has appointed ex-Governor Joseph A. Wright, U. S. Senator, to fill the place of Jesse D. Bright.

RELEASE OF FEDERAL PRISONERS.

COLONEL CORCORAN TO BE EXPECTED ON THURSDAY.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.—The released prisoners say that the captain of the steamer that brought them informed them that he expected another party of prisoners to be waiting for him on his return. They were from Salisbury, N. C., and Alabama. The next lot to come after these will be the prisoners confined at Charleston and Columbia, S. C., including Colonel Corcoran, who might be expected on Thursday or Friday.

The party that came to day includes all who were in Richmond except three, who were too sick to be removed.

The following are the officers among them:
Col. M. Cogswell, Forty-second New York.
Col. Wm. R. Lee, Twentieth Massachusetts.
Col. A. M. Wood, Fourteenth New York.
Major Paul Revere, Twentieth Massachusetts.
Capt. Henry Bowman, Fifteenth Massachusetts.
Capt. F. J. Keffer, First California.
Capt. G. W. Rockwood, Fifteenth Massachusetts.
Capt. R. Williams, Twelfth Indiana.
Lieut. F. C. Freeman, First Virginia.
Lieut. J. E. Gruerre, Fifteenth Massachusetts.
Lieut. Wm. Harris, First California.
Lieut. B. F. Hancock, Nineteenth Indiana.
Lieut. E. R. Hull, First Virginia.
W. E. Merrill, Engineer Corps U. S. A.
W. B. Vassels, Fifteenth Massachusetts.
Lieut. Gen. H. Wallace, Forty-second New York.

The whole party went to Washington this afternoon, after spending a merry day with the Union men at Baltimore.

The Rebels to make a Stand at Columbus, Kentucky.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—A Cairo despatch to the *Republican* says that the reports about the evacuation of Columbus are entirely false. The rebels are still there in strong force. None of the garrison have been withdrawn, and they evidently intend making a desperate stand there.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Reported Evacuation of Manassas.

RUNNING THE REBEL BLOCKADE.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1862.

The Reported Evacuation of Manassas

The reports which have been circulated of the evacuation by the rebels of Manassas is not credited. The *Star* has reliable information to the effect that no considerable force of the rebels have left their position at, or in front of, Manassas. Many of their re-enlisted men, having been furloughed for sixty days to enable them to visit their homes, have departed.

As they filled a number of trains for some days, the rumor that they were going away by regiments got out. Their departure does not amount to materially weakening the enemy in our front, though it is very questionable whether they will ever again join their respective regiments, owing to the successes of the army of the United States, the destruction of their railroad connections, etc.

The Public Buildings Closed.

The public buildings are all closed to-day, in consequence of the funeral of President LINCOLN's little son.

Run the Blockade.

The propeller *Metamora* succeeded in safely running the blockade last night. Eight shots were fired at her by the rebel batteries without effect.

Deaths of Pennsylvanians.

The following deaths among Pennsylvanians, in the hospitals and camps, are reported: R. E. EARL, Company F, and WM. WILLIS, Company E, Ninety-first Regiment; JAMES WARREN, Company H, and JAMES HARFORD, Company F, One hundred and fourth Regiment; SOLOMON NELSON, Company F, Fifty-second Regiment; and EDWARD ZORN, Company I, Ninth New Jersey Volunteers

General McClellan Urged to Move.

The *Republican* this morning is the authority for saying that Senators WADE and JOHNSON are urging General MCCLELLAN to make a speedy advance of the army of the Potomac.

Gale at Washington—Roof of the Congressional Library Blown In.

An extraordinarily high wind prevailed to-day. The roofs of many houses were blown off, trees torn from the ground, and signs and awnings destroyed. The roof of the library of Congress, which was constructed of thick glass, was blown in.

Furlough to the Returned Prisoners.

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

The Resignation of Judge Wilmot.

The rumored resignation of Judge WILMOT, of Pennsylvania, is without any foundation in fact. The friends of Mr. WILMOT say that there is no danger of his dying unexpectedly, and his present health does not interfere with his Senatorial duties.

Washington News and Gossip.

It is very evident from circumstances that General SMITH's division, to which the Pennsylvania Reserves, under General MCCALL, are attached, will soon be encamped at Centreville.

Petitions are being freely circulated in favor of making General BURNSIDE a major general. His friends seem to think that he is justly entitled to promotion.

From reconnoissances made, it is apparent that the rebels are concentrating a large force on the hills opposite General HOOKER's division. They seem to anticipate that our forces will cross at this point.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1862.

SENATE.

Mr. WILMOT (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, presented a memorial from the Board of Colonization of Philadelphia, asking the recognition of the independence of Hayti.

Mr. WILKINS (Rep.), of Minnesota, presented a memorial from the Legislature of Minnesota, asking a grant of land for the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced a bill to authorize the corporation of Georgetown to issue scrip. Referred.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to repeal certain laws relating to the District of Columbia, in relation to persons of color. Referred.

Mr. WILMOT thought the Senate should act on the bill for the abolition of slavery in the District. That covers the whole ground. The Senate would be more derelict in its duty than any other body of men, if they adjourned without abolishing slavery in the District.

Mr. KING (Rep.), of New York, presented a memorial from the ship owners and builders of New York, stating that there is a great scarcity in ship timber, owing to large orders received from abroad, and asking Congress that the exportation of ship timber be prohibited during the war. Referred.

On motion of Mr. WILSON (U.), of Missouri, the joint resolution in relation to certain railroads in Missouri was taken up. The resolution provides that the Secretary of War shall pay the St. Joseph and Hannibal and Pacific Railroad for the transportation of troops and war supplies. The roads having originally received grants of land for which they agreed to transport arms and munitions of war, etc., of the United States.

Mr. HALE (Rep.) opposed the resolution as having a tendency to encourage special legislation, and opening the door to an immense amount of claims.

Mr. BRANDERSON (U.), of Missouri, contended that the lands actually realized but a small amount, and the roads had done an immense amount of transportation for the Government. The companies had no money to go any further, unless helped by the Government, and the lands would be likely to revert to the Government, for they would not be able to finish the road, on which condition the grant of lands was made.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING (Rep.), of New York, offered the following:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the thanks of Congress are due, and are hereby presented, to Major Generals Halleck and Grant, for planning the recent movements within their respective divisions; and to both these generals, as well as to the officers and men under their command, for achieving the glorious victories in which these movements resulted.

Mr. CONKLING asked that the rest of the resolution shall lie over for the present. He desired that the men who earned these honors shall wear them, and all the honor to which they are entitled.

Mr. COX (Dem.), of Ohio, had no objection to the resolution, but thought it ought to be a little more extended. It was a matter of opinion as to whom the credit of planning these movements belonged. He thought the gentleman, on a former day, gave the credit to the joint committee on the Conduct of the War. Resolutions of thanks to our officers and men ought to be carefully drawn, so that no one entitled to credit should be excluded. He therefore moved that this subject be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. CONKLING, in reply, said he ventured to predict that whenever the history shall come to light, it will turn out that these movements did not originate in Washington, according to the established mode of doing things in the Military Department, but that to the generals named in the resolution, and other agencies credit should be the credit of the achievements. Victories have not been organized by any one sitting in a room and organizing generals in the field, having the confidence of their soldiers.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep.), of Illinois, advocated Mr. Cox's motion. There were other brave men than those named deserving of thanks.

Mr. CONKLING further explained, saying that he had no desire to exclude any person entitled to honorable mention.

Mr. KELLOGG (Rep.), of Illinois, advocated the reference of the resolution. In cases like this we should not do injustice to the General-in-Chief, which the resolution did, though, perhaps, this was not the design of the mover of it.

Mr. WASHBURNE did not believe that the resolution reflected upon anybody; but he thought it had better be referred for the reasons stated.

The resolution was so referred.

The House passed the Post Office appropriation bill.

The Indian appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHELLABARGER (Rep.), of Ohio, made a speech in favor of the general emancipation of the slaves.

[The storm which prevailed yesterday interfered with the working of the telegraph, thus preventing us from receiving the conclusion of the Congressional proceedings.]

The Gale at New York.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMERS NORTH STAR AND CONSTITUTION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The steamers *North Star* from Aspinwall, and *Constitution* from Ship Island, have arrived below, but our marine reporters are unable to board them, owing to the tremendous gale which is blowing to-night.

All the vessels anchored in the North river, including the U. S. frigate *St. Lawrence*, have dragged their anchors, and in the