The Press.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 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.

The importance of the movement in the Department of the West, which we announce this morning, cannot be overestimated, and will everywhere be hailed with the liveliest feelings of gratification and pride. Columbus—well styled the Gibraltar of the Mississippi—has been occupied by the Union troops. All its terrible defences and formidable batteries have gone for naught, like the valor that erected them. To show the immense strategic value of the fort, we make the following extract from an editorial of the New Orleans *Delta* of January 30—before Forts Henry and Donelson had fallen into our possession:

"Our dependence, at present, for the safety of this city from the approach of a formidable expedition down the river is upon Columbus. *That is the northern key to the Mississippi delta. That in possession of the enemy, the floodgates of invasion will be opened*, and we would be confronted with terrible dangers and the whole country exposed to fearful evils. On one condition only can we realize a full assurance that such dangers will not occur, and such evils will never impend. That condition is the impregnability of General Polk's position at Columbus. But, it may be asked, is not that position already strong? Strong it undoubtedly has been, as the enemy's gunboats that encountered its batteries found out, and as his army at Belmont bitterly discovered. Strong it still is, in point of its defensive works, in the resolution of its defenders, and the vigilance, prudence, ability, and energy of its commanding general. But in war strength is relative."

A Federal reconnoissance to Columbus, on Monday, revealed the fact that the town had been evacuated by the rebels and reduced to ashes. The rebels have retreated to Fort Randolph, a post on the Mississippi above Memphis, which cannot be made tenable by any military skill.

Island No. 10, which, according to accounts published yesterday, was to be made a stronghold by the rebels who have evacuated Columbus, is one of the numerous small islands in the Mississippi, the numbering of which begins a short distance below Cairo. It is just over the Kentucky line, nearly opposite the village of Obionville, at which heavy works were thrown up by negro laborers last autumn. The rebels expect, by holding the island, to block up the passageway of our iron-clad gunboats down the river; while they will doubtless send the bulk of the Columbus forces to Memphis, to defend that city against a land assault. There is no island in the river could be so fortified as to be defensible for a single day against the combined iron-clad gunboats and mortar flotilla, unless by regular stone fortifications. Any one of them could be literally paved with shot and shell, from boats beyond the reach of earthwork batteries.

General Halleck has issued an order directing that all licensed attorneys, counsellors, and proctors of the State (Missouri) shall take the oath of allegiance, as prescribed by an ordinance of the State Convention in October last. Those refusing will not be allowed to practise in court.

From Fortress Monroe we learn that the expected released prisoners have not yet been heard from. General Wool has refused the further issue of passes to parties desiring to go South. The *Constitution* was fired on by the rebel batteries, on her way up to Newport News, but escaped damage.

The official report of Colonel Webster, chief engineer of General Grant's staff, detailing to the latter a technical account of the Fort Donelson fortifications, is published on our first page. Colonel Webster is an engineer in the regular service, and possesses military attainments of a high order.

Hon. Andrew Johnson, the staunch patriot of Tennessee, has been appointed military governor of that State, during the pleasure of the President, or until the loyal citizens shall organize a government in accordance with the Constitution. The appointment, although but a provisional one therefore, will meet with universal approbation. Mr. Johnson necessarily vacates the seat in Congress, which he has so honorably filled, in assuming the duties of the new position. His presence, influence, and labors in Tennessee are absolutely necessary for the prompt restoration of the State to the Union by and through the operation of a provisional government such as that not long since so easily and successfully established in Missouri, which required and had no absolute military head, though the temporary assistance of the arms of the United States made that work of loyal civilians a success.

We have five days later intelligence from Europe by the arrival of the *Norwegian*, at Portland, with Liverpool dates to the 20th, and Londonderry dates to the 21st. The news presents but few points of prominence; the remark covering the proceedings of Parliament to the 19th. It is stated to have been semi-officially confirmed, that the Spaniards had received a decided defeat by the Mexicans, and that the despatch of further reinforcements would consequently be necessary. In the Italian Parliament, Baron Ricasoli had stated that the object of his Government in sending frigates to the colonies was merely for the purpose of protecting its subjects, and not with a view to reinforce the Mexican Expedition. The Paris *Temps* and other French journals argue that the erection of Mexico into a monarchy would only accrue to the benefit of Spain and the Spanish monarchical interests existing there. From Vienna, we have the rumor that the Arch Duke Maximilian was to leave for Paris and London towards the end of last month.

A despatch from Liverpool, dated the 21st ult., states as a common report, that insurances are daily effected, in that city, upon ships and cargoes fitted out with the intention of running the blockade of the Southern ports. The highest premium paid is stated to be fifteen guineas. The ships are entitled to select any port. The majority of the vessels for which policies have been taken out are steamers of 1,500 tons.

In the House of Commons, on the 13th ult., Sir J. Parkington asked the Secretary to the Admiralty if the statement which had been made as to the bad sea-going qualities of her Majesty's ship *Warrior* was correct. Lord C. Paget replied that no official report whatever had been made as to the *Warrior*. She had arrived at Lisbon, and the only intelligence they had received from Captain Cochrane was contained in a letter addressed to the Controller of the Navy. Captain Cochrane wrote: "You will be glad to hear we have had a continuance of gales of wind. The ship behaved very well—nothing strained, no accident. We found the mainyard slightly sprung. We fished it at sea with iron fishes, and it is as strong as ever. The springing of the yard I do not consider had anything to do with the straining or working of the ship." He could himself corroborate that report, which was so far very favorable. He had had a cruise in the *Warrior*, and believed her to be a first-rate sea-going vessel.

The *Warrior* is ordered from Gibraltar to Portsmouth.

In the House on the 17th ult. the estimates for the expenditure upon the *Trent* affair, amounting to £973,000, were unanimously agreed to. In the debate on the subject, Mr. Bright strongly denounced the policy of the Government, and said "that it was in every respect unadvisable to inflict a sting that it might take centuries to remove."

The London *Star* accords much praise to Secretary Seward for his course relative to the passage of British troops through the State of Maine.

Congress Yesterday.

SENATE.—A memorial was presented asking Congress to provide for the transportation of the mails from New York to Panama and Aspinwall. Referred.

The bill for the safe keeping and maintenance of the United States prisoners was passed.

The bill for the preservation of the Atlantic fisheries was passed. It authorizes the President to appoint a commissioner to meet the British and French commissioners to take measures for the preservation of the interest.

The confiscation bill was taken up. It is likely to be debated at considerable length before any decisive action is taken upon it.

HOUSE.—The Pennsylvania contested-election case of the Third Congressional district being taken up, the resolution declaring Mr. Verree entitled to the seat was adopted—yeas 105, nays 13.

The resolution reported some time since from the committee on Government contracts was taken up, and that portion of the report referring to the case of General Fremont was especially considered. The House then adjourned.

MR. TOUCEY and his friends have been holding a love-feast at Hartford. They celebrated WASHINGTON'S Birthday in an appropriate manner. Mr. TOUCEY presided. He made a speech. He announced his devotion to the Union. His friends made speeches and announced their devotion to the Union. It was a happy occasion, and we have a glorious report in the Hartford *Times*. Ex-Secretary TOUCEY was received with applause, and cheers were given for "ISAAC TOUCEY, the Constitution, and the Union." Happy Union and glorious Constitution, to be thus remembered! It was a "patriotic assembly." "I thank you, gentlemen," said Mr. TOUCEY, "for the honor you have done me in calling me to preside over this patriotic assembly." BURR, of the *Times*, one of the most offensive Breckinridge vassals in New England, was present, and acted as secretary. One EATON reappeared. EATON'S last appearance was in the spring, when he declared that he would oppose any troops that sought to cross the soil of Connecticut for the purpose of "coercing his Southern brethren." Since that time he has been busily engaged in keeping out of Fort Lafayette, and we can only account for his resuscitation at this time by the general order of amnesty recently issued. A conspicuous figure was SAMUEL W. GRISWOLD. GRISWOLD is gazetted as an enterprising dry-goods merchant, who sends one hundred and fifty copies of WASHINGTON'S Address. The presiding genius of the whole affair was one HAMERSLEY. HAMERSLEY was the Postmaster during Mr. BUCHANAN'S Administration, and he looms up grandly in this affectionate gathering. He called the meeting to order—he acted as secretary—he read the Farewell Address—he was loudly called for, and he made a speech, in which "he coincided with the views of WASHINGTON, and deemed his address to be worthy of the profoundest consideration." It will be gratifying to his friends to know that "his apostrophe to the American flag was touchingly eloquent and beautiful, and was received with the greatest satisfaction by the audience."

Mr. TOUCEY made a brief speech. He told his Hartford audience many things, but might have told them many more. He could have given his theme a wonderful interest. He might have illustrated many mysterious proceedings in the late Administration. He might have told us how persistently and atrociously he co-operated with Mr. BUCHANAN in the ruin of the Democratic party, and the overthrow of Mr. DOUGLAS. He might have shown us how the Treasury Department was depleted by Mr. COBB, how the arsenals were plundered by Mr. FLOYD, how the defenceless Indians were robbed by Mr. THOMPSON, how DAVIS and SLIDELL and BENJAMIN were permitted to develop their treasonable conspiracy in the parlors of the Presidential mansion. He might have been more personal in his narrative, and quite as interesting. His management of the Navy Department would have been a most thrilling theme. We could have overlooked any omission to explain how his favorites were enriched at the public expense; how the interests of the Secession party were fostered by the money of the Government; how every Breckinridge vote in the Democratic Conventions was purchased, if he had explained his own active complicity with the traitors; if he had told us how he had dispersed our small navy over distant seas, and sent our best ships and bravest seamen to Africa and the Indian Ocean; how he nurtured the disloyal officers in the city of Washington, until the time arrived when they could strike a blow at the Republic. We look in vain for any fact or illustration on these interesting topics. "The country is bleeding at every vein," says the ex-Secretary. Who caused it to bleed? "We are in a most gigantic civil war." Who precipitated that war upon us? Mr. TOUCEY tells us that the "Constitution is the Union," and that he "repudiates the right of secession as a political heresy," but beyond this is strangely silent.

In the speech of this venerable traitor—we give the word its most emphatic meaning—we have a fair idea of the purposes of the Northern disloyal party. He gives a political definition which we accept as authoritative and enrol in our vocabulary. "The people of the North may be divided into two classes—one of them small indeed, and powerless without their allies, yet still two classes—*those who will maintain the old Constitution at all hazards—who would restore it throughout the whole country—who would never, never give it up*; and those on the other hand who would be glad to get rid of it—who would destroy it if they could—who would never consent to its restoration without a new feature in it against which the public faith is plighted—who would never consent to the unconditional restoration of the old Constitution—who would convert the present war into a war of emancipation, and would excite servile insurrection." In other words, Mr. TOUCEY tells his Hartford audience that the great mass of the loyal people in the Northern States are engaged in a conspiracy against the Constitution, "that they would destroy it if they could," and that its only defenders are to be found in the remnant of the old Breckinridge organization of which he is so illustrious a leader. "This class is small indeed," says Mr. TOUCEY, "and powerless without their allies," DAVIS, BENJAMIN, and SLIDELL, but to it we must look for the restoration of the Union.

This, then, is the official announcement of the platform and principles of the new Northern Democratic organization. Its leaders deal in dainty phrases. Mr. TOUCEY is especially guarded and coy. "I repudiate," he says, "the right of secession as a political heresy." In this phrase he gives us his idea of the rebellion. Plain men call it treason, murder, theft, assassination, the perpetration of unexampled crimes and a conspiracy against the best Government on the earth. Mr. TOUCEY, however, only sees in the crime and infamy of DAVIS "a political heresy." He sees the same thing in the doctrines of Congressional Intervention, Popular Sovereignty, a National Bank, Internal Improvements, or a high protective tariff, and the men of the rebel States who have darkened the nineteenth century with their crimes are nothing more than political antagonists like Mr. LINCOLN, Mr. SEWARD, Mr. SUMNER, or the late lamented Mr. DOUGLAS. Nor are we surprised that the teachings of such a leader should lead his followers to propose, as some of his followers proposed at the Hartford meeting, that the "olive branch must appear with the sword," and that "there must be some measure of compromise just to both sections of the country in order to make the Union what it was." In these plain terms we are told that if the influence of Mr. TOUCEY can prevail, this war will end by a summary and humiliating peace. The rebels will again be recognized as the members of a Union they vainly attempted to destroy. MASON and SLIDELL, with their sins unatoned for, will again enter the Senate, and Mr. TOUCEY may have the pleasure of proposing, at the next Democratic Convention, the name of JEFFERSON DAVIS for the Presidency.

We are not disposed to be unjust to Mr. TOUCEY or to his humblest follower in the North. We look upon his disloyalty with pain and mortification, and we would rejoice if a citizen of Connecticut as distinguished as the ex-Secretary of the Navy had taken his position with DICKINSON, and BUTLER, and HOLT, and STANTON, and gave to the Union even a tardy allegiance. But no such pleasure is in store for us. Mr. TOUCEY and his followers are enemies of this Union. We have yet to hear from his lips, or from the lips of any of his friends, a single word of sympathy with our soldiers in the field—a single word of hope or confidence. When the country calls for sympathy or succor they are silent. Amid all the glory of recent triumph, the successes of our arms upon the land and sea, they are silent. Mr. REED opens his mouth to snarl at Mr. SEWARD'S diplomacy, and to say that his loyalty is not the hearty devotion of the patriot to his country, but something "genuine and rational." Mr. VALLANDIGHAM wraps himself up in the American flag, and protests his devotion to the Union while he gives every vote against the Administration, and opposes every measure of national safety. And now, Mr. TOUCEY, the representative of the last Administration, who was silent amid all the intrigues of his master and his master's satellites to destroy the republic—who was silent even when the fall of Fort Sumpter made the blood of the most sluggish patriot thrill with indignation—who was silent in the hours of our deepest danger and distress—now comes from his retirement to calumniate the loyal Northern men by stigmatizing their war as a war upon the Constitution, and to organize a party in opposition to the Administration and the successful prosecution of the war. These men are enemies of the Union—as malignant and efficient as BEAUREGARD or LEE—and as enemies of the Union they deserve to be treated.

The Progress of the War.

The news of the evacuation and virtual destruction of Columbus is now so fully confirmed that there can be no further doubt of its truth. Thus the boasted Western Manassas of the rebellion crumbles to dust without a struggle; and a new shock is given to the confidence of the people of the South in the wisdom and power of the conspirators. The moral influence of this retrograde movement will be as great as if we had driven off the forces of the enemy after a terrific battle. It will be regarded in the whole Southwest as the crowning disaster of the long series of defeats which have fallen in quick succession upon the rebel arms, in Missouri, in Arkansas, in Kentucky, and in Tennessee.

It is nearly a year since the traitors commenced completing their military organization for their war against the Union, and but a comparatively few months since the Federal armies were sufficiently well drilled and well disciplined to consummate the vigorous operations which are now being attended with wonderful success. A long and a tedious process was necessary to fully fit our peaceful citizens for their new duties in the camp, but the whole world is rapidly learning that their indomitable spirit, quick intelligence, active habits, and earnest desire to exert all their energies in any laudable pursuit in which they may be engaged, make them the best and bravest soldiers in the world. They are daily showing that "they dare do all that may become" men. They gladly and eagerly brave danger in every shape in which it presents itself; and are equally ready to fight upon the open field, to storm entrenchments, to charge upon death-dealing batteries, or to scale the walls of frowning forts. No natural or military obstacles impede them. Inured to hardships, they cheerfully struggle with the elements or the enemy; cross rivers, sounds, or seas, amid storm or sunshine; tramp over muddy roads, wade through swamps or climb the summits of towering mountains; and march with glee at a moment's warning, wherever glory awaits them.

Few campaigns have been endowed with the endless variety which characterizes the present contest. The theatre of most wars is confined to a comparatively small district of territory—but here a large portion of a continent resounds with the din of arms and the clangor of warlike commotion. Every species of military achievement is attempted. In all kinds of defensive and offensive operations, on water and on land, our troops are rapidly becoming skilled. They have already displayed their heroism alike in gallantly defending, up to the last moment, against terrific odds and against hope, isolated posts, and in making irresistible charges upon the strongholds of the enemy.

At the outset of the war many of the rebels were vain enough to suppose that the power of this great Republic could be defied with impunity—that it would die and make no sign—that no strong arms or stout hearts would rise up to defend it—that its forts and arsenals could be seized without fear of retributive justice—that our capital would fall an easy prey to chivalric freebooters, and that even the rich towns and cities of the North could easily be plundered. Loud were the cries of triumph over the capture of ungarrisoned forts and the fall of Sumter. But at the summons of our Government an army almost as large, and scarcely less effective than that with which NAPOLEON held Europe in awe, sprang into existence. Though at the outset it met with disasters not unlike those encountered by the first armies organized by the French Republic, it speedily recovered from them, and for the last four months it has achieved a brilliant succession of triumphs without meeting a single reverse. We no longer hear of new advances of the rebels, but of their rapid retreats, and burn with impatience if each new day does not chronicle some important forward movement of our forces. No fear of rebel invasions of any portion of the territory now in our possession is entertained by even the most timid—we are only anxious to know at what new point our flag waves as the emblem of undisputed sovereignty, and what new districts have been redeemed from the thraldom of the conspirators.

Although there is a veil of secrecy thrown for the present over some of the forward movements of our armies, and although it is possible that some of the great enterprises projected may not prove fully successful, of the general efficiency of our army there is no doubt. Never was it in such admirable condition. Elated with recent triumphs, and rendered familiar by experience with the system of warfare adopted by the enemy, the divisions that have tasted the glories of triumph pant for new distinctions, and those who did not participate in the engagements that have occurred, burn for an opportunity to show that they are as fearless and devoted as their brave brethren-in-arms, who have proved their valor in desperate encounters. Opportunities are not wanting. Fields for the display of their heroism are opening on every side. And whether we look to the camp formed at Ship Island, to the forces at Fort Pickens, Key West, Hilton Head, on the Burnside Expedition, at Fortress Monroe, in Tennessee, in Missouri, in Arkansas, or on the Potomac, we know enough of their movements to perceive that every muscle of the great boa-constrictor, that is now crushing the Rebellion, is in motion, and that every fold is being tightened for the mighty death-grip that is to crush out forever the life of the heresy of Secession.

THOSE who had occasion to meet the celebrated Dr. RUSSELL, special correspondent of the London *Times*, will not forget his avowed opposition to the Federal cause on the ground that those in charge of the Government refused to attack the institution of slavery, and to avow their determination to abolish it wherever found as the property of the rebels. In one of the despatches of Lord LYONS, the British minister at Washington, to his Government, just published, that of December 18th, 1860, there is the following passage, which shows that Dr. RUSSELL did not, in this as other cases, speak without authority. It will be seen that Lord LYONS' hostility to slavery is not shown against the course of the Federal Government, but against the course of the rebels themselves. It will also be noticed that Lord LYONS, while using this earnest language, tells the rebels in words that England will gladly do without the cotton of the South, if the South is resolved to insist upon the maintenance of slavery and the reopening of the slave trade:

"This overweening notion of their own importance may lead to very serious inconvenience, if they should succeed in establishing their independence. Our need of the cotton is quite great enough to render it extremely desirable that we should be on good terms with them, and encourage any disposition which they may show to place their commercial relations with us on a mutually advantageous footing. We might be willing to consider that a quarrel with them would give us no means of ameliorating the condition of their slaves, while it would bring a great deal of hardship and suffering upon vast numbers of our own working people. But still it must ever be repugnant to our feelings to be in intimate relations with a Confederation formed on the avowed principle of perpetuating, if not of extending, slavery.

"Unless the seceding States can be induced to act with moderation upon the question of slavery they may rouse a feeling of indignation and horror in Great Britain which will overpower all consideration of material interest. Of this many of their leading men in the present movement do not seem to be aware. Some of them even talk openly of reviving the African slave trade. An attempt actually to do this would, it may be supposed, be at once put down by the united force of the Northern States, of Great Britain, and of civilized Europe. But, on the other hand, it might be extremely difficult to bring any of the slaveholding States to renounce, in principle, the right of trading in negroes, or to induce them to enter into any treaty engagement on the subject. Any such engagement would be regarded by them as an admission that they were in the wrong on the question on which their contest with the North has so inflamed their passions that they have lost sight of all reason. How could they bind themselves not to extend to larger numbers of Africans the blessings of the institution of American slavery, which they hold to be ordained of God for the happiness and improvement of the negro race? It is to be apprehended that we shall have very considerable difficulty in placing our relations, commercial or political, on a satisfactory footing with a people imbued with such sentiments immense as is the importance to us of procuring a cheap and abundant supply of their staple commodity."

SALE OF 6,000 SHARES STOCK of the Pennsylvania Mining Company of Michigan, to-morrow, at 417 Walnut street. *See Thomas & Sons' advertisements.*

AN AWKWARD POSITION.—We learn that on Monday night last, a house at Mexican Corner, occupied by two families, was so completely submerged in snow that in the morning nothing of it could be seen. The inmates attempted to escape by tearing boards from the gable ends of the house, but did not succeed in making their exit, and they were obliged to remain in that position until the neighbors gathered to dig them out. By tunnelling *forty feet* through the snow the blockaded families were released.—*Portland Advertiser.*

The New Governor of Tennessee.

The appointment of Hon. ANDREW JOHNSON as Governor of Tennessee, with authority to act in the manner described in our telegraphic despatches from Washington, will be warmly approved by all loyal men in every section of the country. It foreshadows a policy for the government of the States reclaimed from the dominion of the conspirators, that cannot be too highly commended. Faithful among the faithless, and true among the false, ANDREW JOHNSON clung to the Union in the hour of deepest peril, and when his Southern associates were glorying in the shameless violation of their oaths of fidelity to the Republic. Unmoved by the threats of the conspirators, and uninfluenced by the popular violence engendered in the South by the misrepresentations of the Secessionists, this illustrious representative of the State of JACKSON was one of the few Southern Democrats who religiously observed the counsels of the illustrious hero of the Hermitage. No torrent of obloquy, no storm of persecution, could diminish his loyalty, or destroy his devotion to his whole country. He goes back to the people who have repeatedly shown their strong attachment for him and their confidence in his integrity and wisdom, to administer even-handed justice, to drive the traitors who have stolen temporary power only to abuse it, and to persecute faithful Union men, from the positions they have doubly disgraced, and to restore peace, order, and prosperity to all the well-disposed citizens of Tennessee. That thousands of them will hail with delight his return cannot be doubted; and we trust that under his wise and just rule the great State of the Southwest will soon be as firmly riveted to the Union as ever, by the ties of affection and interest, no less than by the bands of military power.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL"

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1862.

The mission of Andrew Johnson, who goes forward as the military governor of the State of Tennessee, is at least one way of cutting the Gorgian knot of complications which have resulted from the conquest of the rebels in that State, and will certainly follow their overthrow in other quarters. It will prove to be most effective. He will enter the State, of which he is the proud and peerless Senator, not only as a brigadier general, at the head of an overwhelming force, but as the deliverer of his own people, long held in chains by their oppressors. His first step will be to seize upon the machinery of the State government, to carry out the idea that no act of secession can annihilate a State of this Union, and to prepare the way for the election of a Legislature, chosen by the loyal people of Tennessee, who will co-operate with him in the great purpose of constitutional obligation and obedience to the laws passed in pursuance of the Constitution. All this has been done by the Government, you will perceive, without the aid of Congress, and it is a significant evidence of the justice and expediency of this policy that no portion of the Representatives and Senators in Congress are found to object to it. If you have read the proceedings of the Maryland and Kentucky Legislatures, both of which are now in session, and both of which were chosen upon the programme about to be put in operation in Tennessee, you must have observed that they have, in many cases, adopted measures against the rebels even more extreme than any which have awakened the indignation of rebel sympathizers against the Federal Government. In Maryland, the course of the President in arresting the disaffected members of the last Legislature has received the approval of the present. In Kentucky, a number of the traitors in the Legislature of that State have been expelled by a nearly unanimous vote, and it will be a comparatively easy task for Andrew Johnson to put down the rebellion in Tennessee. He will not go there for the purpose of forgiving the leaders, or punishing the people. With his strong views of the great issues involved in our present struggle, he will initiate and perfect such a system as will forever banish Secession from the State of Carroll and Jackson. If the slaveholders resist his sway, he will make short work of them, with the aid of the armies of the Republic. Hundreds and thousands of patriotic young men will be attracted to his standard, and before long he will be sustained by many of the most prominent minds in the State. The interests of men like Johnson are all against allowing Secession to resume its control in the South. They are, in fact, more directly concerned in this than those who have immediate charge of the Government here, for, should they fail, their lives will be the forfeit. A strong party has already been formed against the proposition of obliterating State Governments in any portion of the so-called Confederacy. This party proceeds upon the conviction that any such scheme would be revolutionary, and would end in the extinction of the whole theory of our republican system; and should Andrew (now Governor General) Johnson triumph, almost irresistible strength will be given to this organization. Wherever a State refuses to obey and submit to the authority and arms of the Federal power, by declining to assist in the restoration of the old machinery of the local government, a military ruler, like Johnson, has only to seize upon such machinery, to open courts, in accordance with State laws, to protect the Federal judges who may be sent into it, and, if need be, to find his population among the soldiers of the Republic gathered for his protection and support. I am not without hope that many of those who are now thinking and toiling to bring order out of the chaos of antagonistic doctrines in Congress will find most of their doubts solved by the complete success of Andrew Johnson in the new sphere to which he has been called by the President. OCCASIONAL.

From Washington to Old Point.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

FORTRESS MONROE, March 3, 1862.

If any reader of *The Press* desires a pleasant ride by rail or steamboat, let him make a trip to Old Point Comfort. And for the benefit of those who have not been so fortunate as to visit this place, let one of *The Press* gang detail his experience of the jaunt.

Leaving Washington, well armed with the needful documents, I found myself before long in the famed city of monuments and Plug Uglies, and, after a little inquiry, found the headquarters of General John A. Dix. Fortunately, he was "at home," and, on making known my business, I was ushered into his presence. His portraits do not belie him. I found him a mild, pleasant old gentleman, but whose clear bright eye and steady hand told of the fire within. Before him I laid my case, and received a letter to General Wool, and a reference to the provost marshal of Baltimore, from whom I procured a permit to leave the city by the steamer *Georgianna* for Fortress Monroe.

At the office of the provost marshal are several persons on the same errand as myself, and we take up our line of march for Union dock, where lies the steamer *Georgianna*, that is to convey us to Fortress Monroe. At the gangway stands one of the provost guard, who takes our permits and enters our names and residences in a large book. This precaution is necessary, because by it the Government has knowledge of every person whose business or pleasure takes him to Fortress Monroe, or other points on the coast now in possession of the Union forces. Here, too, I met Captain M. N. Falls, president of the company owning the line of steamers which ply between Baltimore and Old Point, and who most kindly presented me with a ticket to the fortress.

At five o'clock we start. The bay is rather rough and a strong breeze is blowing, but we make our way in spite of wind and waves; but steamboat travelling is dull at the best of times, and after the evening meal the passengers generally, and I among them, retired to our berths, where, in spite of the war of the wind and the dashing of the waves, I fell asleep, and only awoke as the morning light shone through the cabin window.

By this time could be seen, but dimly, the walls of Fortress Monroe, and the huge columbiads which frown upon us from the ramparts, as if they longed to deal destruction and death to everything and every one within their reach.

But we have now reached the wharf, and those passengers who come to Old Point for the first time are summoned ashore, and go under guard to the office of the provost marshal. Here the oath of allegiance is administered, and we subscribe our names to it. Thence we proceed inside the fortress to General Wool, who grants us passes, when we are at liberty to go anywhere over the point "without interruption or molestation."

ARRIVAL OF THE SPAULDING.

The *J. R. Spaulding* arrived here this morning from Baltimore. She brings a quantity of cattle and hay.

THE CONSTITUTION FIRED UPON.

The *Constitution* went to Newport News last evening. As she passed Sewell's Point two shells were fired at her by the rebel battery there, but the shells fell short and did no damage.

MONDAY, 5 P. M.—The rebels are firing heavy guns from Sewell's Point. They were answered with the Sawyer gun from the Rip Raps. The cause of the firing is unknown. Large crowds are assembled on the piers. The *Minnesota* has steam up ready to start, and there may be hot work soon.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS A VOTE OF THANKS TO COM. GOLDSBOROUGH.

OCCUPATION OF COLUMBUS BY THE UNION TROOPS.

THE OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

The New Articles of War.

Preservation of the Atlantic Fisheries.

PENNSYLVANIA CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

Mr. Verree Declared to be Entitled to the Seat.

Hon. Andrew Johnson Appointed Military Governor of Tennessee.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1862.

The Military Government of Tennessee.

Hon. ANDREW JOHNSON has formally been appointed Military Governor of Tennessee, with all the powers, duties, and functions pertaining to that office, during the pleasure of the President, or until the loyal inhabitants of that State shall organize a civil Government in accordance with the Constitution of the United States. In order to the exercise of those duties, it became necessary to first give him a military position, and hence the President nominated him a brigadier general. This appointment the Senate, to-day, unhesitatingly confirmed.

The present Government of Tennessee being a usurpation, every proper encouragement will, through the Military Government, be given to the loyal people to assume its control. The designation of ANDREW JOHNSON for that position is considered by everybody as eminently proper, both in view of his peculiar fitness for the office and of his great popularity among all the loyal people, besides his devotion to his own State. The Governor, by the acceptance of the office, necessarily vacates his position as a Senator. The term for which he was elected will not expire till March next.

Representative MAYNARD and Mr. ETHERIDGE, Clerk of the House, are making arrangements to return to Tennessee.

Secession Spies.

The order of Secretary STANTON against the publication of war news does not seem to have intimidated the Secession spies in Baltimore and Washington. In the former city, only a few days ago, at a public meeting, the Secession fury broke out, and was only suppressed by the intervention of the police; and it is believed that they are even more active in Washington than ever before. The way to put an effectual stop to this business is to hang the first of these wretches who is detected sending information into the ranks of the enemy, or to adopt the plan pursued by General HALLECK, in Missouri—let them be thrown in prison and held there as hostages for the good behavior of their associates outside. It is monstrous that while we are rejoicing over the victories of the Federal troops in Tennessee and Kentucky, these sympathizers with Secession, here and elsewhere, should not only refuse to applaud the triumph of the Government which protects them, but should be engaged, secretly and actively, in still further attempting to demoralize and weaken it.

The Officers of the Regular Army.

Several weeks ago, the House passed a resolution asking of the War Department whether there has been a literal compliance with the act of Congress requiring the officers of the regular army, appointed in the new regiments, to be assigned to duty in the field, and the officers appointed from civil life to be assigned to the duty of recruiting for those regiments. In reply, through the Adjutant General, it is stated that all the colonels of the new regiments taken from the regular army, two excepted, are general officers of volunteers in active command. These two exceptions are commanding the Departments of Florida and Pensacola, and of New Mexico. When the organization of the new regiments was commenced, a few of the regular officers appointed to them were, for a time, employed in starting the system of recruiting; but nearly all of them were relieved on the passage of the act to which reference is made.

Our Political Prisoners.

Notwithstanding thirty or forty political prisoners were released on the 22d of February from Forts Lafayette and Warren, and the old Capitol building here, at least an equal number are still confined, they being spies, or considered of other dangerous character.

Commodore Goldsborough.

The President, in a message to Congress, states that, in accordance with the act to promote the efficiency of the navy, Capt. GOLDSBOROUGH was nominated as flag officer in command of the North Atlantic blockading squadron. Believing that no occasion could arise which would more fully correspond with the intention of the law, or be more pregnant with the happy influence as an example, the President cordially recommends that Com. GOLDSBOROUGH receive a vote of thanks from Congress, for his services and gallantry, displayed in the combined attack of the forces commanded by him and Brigadier General Burnside in the capture of Roanoke Island and the destruction of the rebel gunboats, on 7th, 8th, and 10th of February.

Speech of Senator Cowan.

The speech of Senator COWAN to-day, against the confiscation bill introduced by Mr. TRUMBULL, was a careful and elaborate argument, and was listened to with earnest attention on the floor and in the galleries. Most of the Border-State delegations from the House were present.

The Philadelphia Contested Election Case—Kline vs. Verree—The Latter Retains his Seat.

This case came up in the House this afternoon, the report of the Committee on Elections being in favor of the sitting member, Mr. VERREE. Messrs. JOHNSON, WRIGHT, and KELLEY, of the Pennsylvania delegation, spoke on the case. The report of the committee is unanimously in favor of the sitting member, they stating that, according to the contestant, "all the corrections claimed by him in the other divisions, he is, nevertheless, not entitled to the fifty-four votes claimed by him to have been by mistake omitted from his count in the Third division of the Eleventh, the Third division of the Sixteenth, and the First division of the Nineteenth wards, and is, consequently, not elected." They therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That John Kline is *not entitled* to a seat in this House as a Representative in the Thirty-seventh Congress, from the Third Congressional district in Pennsylvania.

This was adopted by yeas 105, nays 5. Mr. VERREE, therefore, still retains his seat.

Murfreesboro' not Evacuated.

The statement of a New York journal that the rebels have fallen back from Murfreesboro' is contradicted by the *Star*, of this evening. It says: "On the contrary, a despatch from Gen. Buell to General McClellan, dated at Nashville, this forenoon, mentions nothing of the sort. Had the rebels moved from Murfreesboro', in either direction, it is of course to be presumed that General Buell would, by this time, have announced the fact here."

Mails to Panama.

The Philadelphia and New York merchants having petitioned Congress for the resumption of a letter and newspaper mail to Panama, Senator SUMNER has drafted a bill to be introduced in a day or so, restoring the old mail line. At present there is no mail communication with the Central American States from the United States, the steamship company positively declining to carry letters or newspapers without authority of Congress.

Commission for Pension Agents.

Senator FOSTER reported a bill to-day, from the Committee on Pensions, limiting their commissions to two per cent. on the amount of funds actually disbursed, providing, however, that it does not exceed two thousand dollars per year.

An Additional Article of War.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, at their meeting this morning, decided to report the following House bill, providing that hereafter the following shall be promulgated as an additional article of war, for the government of the army of the United States, and shall be obeyed and observed as such:

ARTICLE.—All officers or persons in the military or naval service of the United States are prohibited from employing any of the forces under their respective commands, for the purpose of returning fugitives from service or labor, who may have escaped from any persons to whom such service or labor is claimed to be due, and any officer who shall be found guilty by court-martial, of violating this article, shall be dismissed from the service.

Section two provides that this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

The House Judiciary Committee on the Censorship of the Press.

Mr. HICKMAN, chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, has completed the evidence before it on the investigation into the censorship of press-messages passing through the Washington telegraph office, and will be able to report in a few days. A large number of witnesses have been examined, and the New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Chicago papers have been represented.

All the suppressed despatches will be published in the report, and will form an interesting and startling picture of sensation journalism. The record of suppressed despatches is very large against the New York *Tribune* and *Herald*, and but very moderate with the *Times* and *World*. The record against a Philadelphia sensation journal is quite large, and unaccompanied by any evidence of its correspondents, the committee making that paper an only exception in that respect.

Confirmations.

ANDREW JOHNSON, of Tennessee, to be a brigadier general in the volunteer forces.

ROBERT C. KIRK, of Ohio, to be minister resident to the Argentine Confederation.

Again Tabled.

In the House, to-day, Mr. LOW, of Indiana, corrected his vote on Mr. HOLMAN'S resolution, offered yesterday, declaring "that, in the judgment of the House, the war should not be prosecuted for any other purpose than to preserve the Constitution in its present form," so that there was a tie vote; but the Speaker announced that he voted in the affirmative, so that still tabled the resolution.

Governor General Johnson.

Senator JOHNSON, of Tennessee, was to-day confirmed as brigadier general of volunteers, by a unanimous vote of the Senate. He goes to Tennessee as governor general, and will exercise all the functions of a military and civil governor of the reoccupied State, from which he was driven not many months since by the enemies of the Republic. He leaves for Tennessee to-morrow evening.

The Case of Alexander Cummings.

Mr. CUMMINGS, who appears so conspicuously in the Van Wyck report, is now in Washington, and a defence of himself will be made in the House in a few days. Mr. C. claims that he has been greatly misrepresented, and asks an impartial hearing from Congress and the country.

Increase of Patents.

The business in the Patent Office is slowly on the increase, there being from fifty to sixty and ninety patents issued per week. A large portion of the patents now issued are for improvements in fire-arms, &c.

Business at the Paymaster's Office.

The business at the Paymaster General's Office is very large just now, the clerks being obliged to work after the regular hours. Major BOYCE, a well-known paymaster in the army, died here yesterday.

Funeral of General Lander.

It is stated that the funeral of General LANDER will take place in this city to-morrow. It will be very largely attended.

General Cameron.

General CAMERON, who is now here, proposes to leave about the first of April, proximo, for the scene of his mission, St. Petersburg.

Reverdy Johnson.

The loyal people of this city were delighted to learn of the nomination of Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON, by the caucus of the Union members of the Maryland Legislature. Mr. JOHNSON'S election is considered certain. He is one of the ablest statesmen in the Republic, and since the commencement of this struggle has been unfalteringly for the Union and the Administration, in its efforts to preserve the Union.

Appointments to the Naval Academy.

The following is a list of the Representatives, whose districts being vacant at the Naval Academy, have the right to nominate candidates for appointment as acting midshipmen. The Navy Department has no power to make an appointment, excepting on the nomination of a Representative. There are no appointments *at large*. Candidates must be between fourteen and eighteen years of age, and actual residents of the districts from which nominated.

The Navy Department desires to make these appointments in time for the appointee to reach Newport, Rhode Island, where the academy is at present located, between the tenth and twentieth of April next.

Persons desiring the appointment will apply to their Representatives in Congress, and not to the Navy Department.

California—Hon. Messrs. A. A. Sergent and T. G. Phelps.

Connecticut—Fourth district, Hon. G. C. Woodruff.

Dacotah Territory—Hon. J. B. S. Todd.

Illinois—Third district, Hon. Owen Lovejoy; Fifth district, Hon. W. A. Richardson, (two vacancies); Seventh district, Hon. J. C. Robinson; Ninth district, Hon. John A. Logan.

Indiana—Sixth district, Hon. A. G. Porter.

Kansas—Hon. Martin F. Conway, (two vacancies).

Kentucky—First district, no representative; Third district, Hon. Henry Grider; Fourth district, Hon. Aaron Harding; Seventh district, Hon. Robert Mallory, (two vacancies.)

Maryland—Second district, Hon. Edwin W. Webster.

Michigan—Fourth district, Rowland W. Trowbridge.

Missouri—First district, Hon. F. P. Blair, Jr.; Seventh district, Hon. John W. Noel.

Nebraska Territory—Hon. Samuel G. Daily, (two vacancies.)

New Jersey—Third district, Hon. William G. Steele.

New York—Tenth district, Hon. Charles H. Van Wyck, (two vacancies); Twenty-third district, Hon. Ambrose W. Clark; Twenty-ninth district, Hon. Alfred Ely, (two vacancies); Thirty-third district, Hon. Reuben E. Fenton.

Ohio—Fifth district, Hon. James H. Ashley; Sixth district, Hon. Chilton N. White; Twentieth district, Hon. John Hutchins.

Oregon—Hon. George K. Shiel.

Pennsylvania—Ninth district, Hon. Thaddeus Stevens; Fourteenth district, Hon. Galusha A. Grow; Eighteenth district, Hon. Samuel S. Blair; Twentieth district, Hon. Jesse Lazear.

Utah—Hon. John M. Bernheisel.

Virginia—Tenth district, Hon. William G. Brown; Eleventh district, Hon. Jacob B. Blair; Twelfth district, Hon. Kellian P. Whaley, (two vacancies.)

Washington Territory—Hon. William H. Wallace, (two vacancies.)

Miscellaneous.

The two District Committees, in the House and Senate, decided this morning to report a bill for the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

The President and General HUNTER appeared before the Committee on the Conduct of the War this morning to answer inquiries about Kansas affairs.

The Senate Military Committee this morning agreed to the House bill prohibiting officers of the army and navy from returning negroes from within their lines.

ROBERT C. KIRK was to-day appointed minister to the Argentine Confederation, in place of ROBERT M. PALMER, who asks to be recalled on account of ill-health.

It is reported at the navy yard this morning that the rebels have built a new battery on the lower Potomac.

General CAMERON was in the Senate chamber to-day.

Some months ago the officers and privates of the Tenth Legion, Fifty-sixth Regiment, N. Y. S. V., with great unanimity, presented a petition to Col. VAN WYCK, to continue colonel of the Legion. In order to accompany his regiment to the field, he asked the House to excuse him from serving as chairman of the Committee on Government Contracts, and of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. The Speaker decided the House had no power to excuse him. Mr VAN WYCK has therefore arranged with his colleagues for the chairmanship of the committees, they being unwilling he should relinquish entirely his position.

Presentation of the Peruvian Minister.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Mr. Barreda has presented his credentials to the President, and been received as minister resident of the Republic of Peru. The latter, in his reply, said:

"The United States had no enmities, animosities, or rivalries, and no interests which conflict with the welfare, safety, rights, or interests of any other nation.

"Their own prosperity, happiness, and aggrandizement, are sought most safely and advantageously through the preservation, not only of peace on their own part, but peace among all other nations.

"But while the United States are thus a friend to all other nations, they do not seek to conceal the fact that they cherish especial sentiments of friendship for and sympathize with those who, like themselves, have founded their institutions on the principle of the equal rights of men; and of such nations those more prominently which, being neighbors of the United States, are co-operating with them in establishing civilization and culture on the American continent.

"Such being the general principles," said the President, "which govern the United States in their foreign relations, be assured, sir, that in all things this Government will deal justly, frankly, and, if it be possible, even liberally with Peru, whose liberal sentiments toward the United States you have so kindly expressed."

It will be recollected that the former minister from Peru was dismissed by Mr. Buchanan, owing to the non-compliance of that Government with certain imperative demands of our own. The address of President Lincoln contains expressions of friendship, indicative of the general policy of the Administration toward all nations.

The President has recognized Gerhard Larsson as vice consul of Sweden and Norway, to reside at Chicago.

Particulars of the Disaster to the U. S. Frigate Vermont.

We learn from Mr. Edward S Birnie, acting storekeeper on the United States frigate *Vermont*, that at 7 o'clock on Monday evening, the 24th ult., the sudden gale overtook the *Vermont* and *Kensington*, which obliged the latter to cast off, and she was soon out of sight astern. The *Vermont*, at this time, was going off about ten knots before the gale, under sails which had been reefed before the gale broke, the fury of which was such that, in attempts to take in the canvas, it was mostly blown away, when the ship soon broached to on the port tack, and the starboard anchor was let go and ran out to the better end and parted. The port anchor was then let go, and she brought up.

On Tuesday, the gale still continuing, all hands were engaged in getting water out of the ship, clearing away the wreck of sails, &c. On Wednesday, at 3 A. M., the iron tiller broke, and while getting up another, the rudder gave way and was lost.

On Thursday, at 10 A. M., wind E. S. E., an attempt was made to cast the ship to port by running out a hawser from the starboard quarter. The chain was shipped, but the ship would not pay off, and continued drifting to the N. W., with head to N. E. At 2 o'clock P. M. she was boarded by the schooner *Flying Mist*, which took on board Mr. Birnie, and landed him at Chatham.

The foresail and maintopsail are the only sails of the *Vermont* which were saved.

It is rumored that one of the Gloucester fishing schooners arrived at that port yesterday, having on board Paymaster Isaacs, of the frigate *Vermont*, who left the ship on Friday, at anchor in seventeen fathoms of water, on the southeast side of George's Banks.—*Boston Journal of Monday.*

The Destruction of Southern Crops.

The planters and Congressmen at Richmond are again wasting their time in discussing the absurd project of destroying the cotton and tobacco crops. Of all the foolish projects which the infatuated Southerners have hit upon this is the most foolish. In the first place, it will never be carried out to any great extent. And then it would hurt nobody half so much as the Southerners themselves. The idea of asking the Confederate Government to pay for the crops destroyed is decidedly rich. *Do they propose to burn the tobacco and the cotton on which the Confederate bonds are based?* And will the planters take pay in scrip for which the ashes on their plantations are the only security? Nay, will the impoverished rebel Government furnish even these? It has refused to advance money to the planters on their crops before they are burned. Will it give more for them after they are destroyed? Can any thing be more stupid and wild than the whole scheme? It will do well enough, however, for politicians to dilate upon with their peculiar eloquence.—*Providence Journal.*

HIGHLY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.

Occupation of Columbus, Ky., by United States Troops.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Secretary Welles, this evening, received the following despatch:

"COLUMBUS, KY., March 4, 1862.

SIR: Columbus is in our possession. My armed reconnoissance on the 2d instant caused a hasty evacuation, the rebels leaving quite a number of guns and carriages, ammunition and stores, a large quantity of shot and shell, a considerable number of anchors, and the remnant of the chain lately stretched across the river, together with a large number of torpedoes.

Most of the huts, tents, and quarters were destroyed.

The works are of very great strength, consisting of formidable tiers of batteries on the water-side, and on the land-side surrounded by a ditch and abattis.

General Sherman, with Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, not knowing that they were last evening occupied by four hundred of the Second Illinois Cavalry, while on a scouting party from Paducah, made a bold dash to the shore, when those in the batteries hoisted the American flag on the summit of the bluff. Its appearance was greeted by the hearty cheers of our brave tars and soldiers.

Funeral of the Late Professor Felton.

BOSTON, March 4.—The funeral of President Felton, of Harvard College, took place to-day at Appleton Chapel, in Old Cambridge. In accordance with the wishes of the deceased, the ceremonies were simple, without display. The attendance was very large, including the faculty, students, and many persons eminent in literature and public estimation. The body was deposited in Mount Auburn.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1862.

SENATE.

PRAYER BY THE CHAPLAIN.

Let us pray. Oh Thou Divine and Glorious King, as from the summit of this day we look back over the year that is past, and to that day, which now rises like a mountain peak of time, on which the Chief Magistrate of the nation was inaugurated, and as we review the mighty current of events which has rolled between, we wonder at the marvels of Thy dealings with us. Then all was darkness and confusion and suspense, and the words of men failed them for fear of the things to come upon the land. But now while the baptism of blood has descended, Thou hast proved the strength and the valor of the nation to endure so great trial, so that again this day we set our faces toward the future, so great, so solemn, so full of mighty portent. Oh Thou living God, our eyes are only unto Thee. We pray that Thou wilt truly and speedily vindicate and glorify the Republic; lay bare Thine arm for our deliverance; and fill Thy servants evermore with inspiration of Thy presence. Amen.

MAILS TO PANAMA AND ASPINWALL.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), of Massachusetts, presented a memorial from the merchants and others doing business on the Pacific coast, asking for the immediate action of Congress, to provide for the transportation of the mails from New York to Panama and Aspinwall, as at present the United States have no arrangement for such transportation. Referred.

PAYMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. WILMOT (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, presented resolutions of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, relative to the payment of volunteers from the time of their enlistment.

Mr. DAVIS (U.), of Kentucky, presented a petition from the citizens of Boston, asking Congress to drop the negro question and attend to the business of the country.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

Mr. DIXON (Rep.), of Connecticut, offered a resolution that the vacancy in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute, occasioned by the death of Prof. Felton, of Harvard College, be filled by the appointment of Henry Barnard, of Connecticut.

Mr. DIXON said Mr. Barnard was known all over the country as a man who had devoted his whole life to the cause of popular education, and to the very object for which the Smithsonian Institute was founded—to the diffusion of knowledge among mankind.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on the Library.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE OF WAR.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, reported from the Military Committee the House bill making an additional article of war.

UNITED STATES PRISONERS.

On motion of Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, the bill for the safe-keeping and maintenance of the United States prisoners was taken up and passed.

ATLANTIC FISHERIES.

On motion of Mr. COLLAMER (Rep.), of Vermont, the bill for the preservation of the Atlantic fisheries was taken up. It authorizes the President to appoint a commission to meet with the British and French commissioners, to take measures for the preservation of the fisheries on this coast. The bill was passed.

KING OF SIAM'S PRESENTS.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a resolution for the custody of the presents received from the King of Siam. It provides that they shall be deposited among the curiosities in the Department of the Interior.

LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill for the codification and revision of the laws of the District of Columbia.

U. S. LANDS IN LOUISIANA.

On motion of Mr. HARLAN (Rep.), of Iowa, the bill providing for the satisfaction of the claims for certain lands sold by the United States in Louisiana was taken up. After some discussion, the bill was laid aside, and the confiscation bill taken up.

THE CONFISCATION BILL.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Dem.), of California, resumed his speech. He quoted from Justice Story and other writers as opposed to any confiscation of private property. He contended that the provision in relation to freeing the slaves was unconstitutional, and quoted the declarations of the President and Secretary of State as showing an entirely different policy of the Government. He declared that the colonization scheme was wild and impracticable, and contended that magnanimity was the greatest virtue of victors, and we should go forward with the Constitution as our common cause, and with the olive branch of peace in our hand.

Mr. COWAN (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, said he agreed with the Senator from California. He thought this was one of the most important measures that were ever brought before Congress, and on which the fate of the Republic might depend. The bill proposes to go back to the doctrine of the feudal ages, and introduce feuds which centuries cannot quiet. He contended that the passage of such a bill would make the whole Southern people our enemies, and the scheme of colonization entirely impracticable.

And further, the bill is directly in conflict with the Constitution, for the preservation of which alone the war is waged. Besides, it is unnecessary, impolitic, and totally useless. It was unconstitutional, because the Constitution provides that no bill of attainder shall be passed, and no person punished for crime without regular proceedings in the courts. It is, in fact, a bill of attainder, and Congress has no power to pass it. The bill makes no distinction between those forced into the rebellion and the willing traitor. Thousands of Southern people had been duped into the rebellion by being told that the Northern people were all Abolitionists. If ever there was a foul slander it was the allegation made by the slaveholders of the South and their Northern allies, that the sole object of the Republican party was the abolition of slavery.

That slander enabled traitors to consolidate rebellion. He had more respect for the meanest soldier in the Southern army than for the editors and orators of the North, who, knowing it to be false, sent South this gigantic lie. He protested against that section of the bill freeing the slaves, as an entire departure from the principles of the Constitution, and especially impolitic at this time. Because we are at war, it would not make a law which was unconstitutional before any better now. He hoped some other and better way would be taken to punish those concerned in the rebellion when it shall have been suppressed, and by a measure which will not furnish cause for future revolt. He would punish effectually those who ought to be punished, and forgive thoroughly those to be forgiven. He was in favor of giving negroes all the freedom he had himself; but what had they done to secure freedom at this time, when the course of their masters seemed specifically to invite them to strike for liberty? Nothing. They had simply relied on their masters like a domestic animal with a sort of third instinct. He hoped the bill would not pass, but that Congress would attend to the measures necessary to secure success in the great struggle in which we are engaged.

CERTAIN RAILROADS IN MISSOURI.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the committee of conference on the bill relating to certain railroads in Missouri, made a report, which was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate then went into executive session, after which it adjourned until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ADDITIONAL CLERKS.

The House concurred in the Senate's amendments to the bill authorizing the appointment of additional clerks in the office of the Assistant Treasurer, at New York, and the appointment of a Deputy Assistant Treasurer.

THE PENNSYLVANIA CONTESTED-ELECTION CASE.

The House then took up the Pennsylvania contested-election case of the Third Congressional district. The resolution pending declares in favor of John P. Verree, the sitting member, and against John Kline, the contestant.

Mr. DAWES (Rep.), of Massachusetts, explained the grounds upon which the Committee on Elections recommend the adoption of the above resolution, they being unanimously of the opinion that, according to the contestant and all the corrections claimed by him, he is, nevertheless, not entitled to the fifty-four votes claimed by him to have been by mistake omitted from his count in the Third division of the Sixteenth and the First division of the Nineteenth ward, and is, consequently, not elected.

Mr. JOHNSON (Dem.), of Pennsylvania, and Mr. WRIGHT (U.), of Pennsylvania, controverted the position of the committee, insisting that the contents of the ballot-boxes gave the seat to Mr. Kline. If it could be known that the boxes had been tampered with, then a recount should not be insisted upon as a governing principle.

Mr. KELLEY (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, spoke in favor of Mr Verree, and the resolution of the committee, declaring that Mr. Kline was not elected, and that Mr. Verree is entitled to the seat.

The resolution was then adopted—yeas 105, nays 13.

PACIFIC RAILROAD AND TELEGRAPH.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, reported a bill from the select committee for the Pacific railroad bill and telegraph line, which was referred and ordered to be printed.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

The resolution reported some time ago from the Committee on Government Contracts, was then taken up.

DEFENCE OF GENERAL FREMONT.

Mr. SHANKS (Rep.), of Indiana, noticed that part of the report with reference to Gen. Fremont, and said that the committee had not as fully investigated as they should have done his military operations in the West. A combination had been formed against that just and good man to destroy him, and if they could not do that, to involve him in disaster. He pitied the soulless wretch who could thus be employed. There has been arrayed against him a combination of disappointed contractors and treasury plunderers; but the great struggle was with the slave power, and Fremont was to be its victim. If he could not be sacrificed, he was to be degraded.

He defended Gen. Fremont generally. The charge of inefficiency was too shallow to deceive anybody, more especially the Western people, and he proceeded to show that the allegation was totally unfounded. He alluded to former events, when the city of Washington was trembling in fear of rebel victorious armies, and when full supplies and equipments were sent hither. It was not so in the West. In vain Fremont asked for men and military stores. There not being supplied, he was compelled, on his own responsibility, to make such arrangements as would save the people whom he was sent to protect. When Fremont went to the West, there were only thirty-five thousand troops, ten thousand of them three-months men, and their time fast expiring. As to arms, he could get only what the holders were willing to let him have on his own credit, and the Government was now refusing to pay for the supplies thus authorized. He paved the way for other men to reap the victories. Fremont was always successful when pursuing the dictates of his own judgment. He saw the necessity for gunboats, and took measures for their construction. Mr. Shanks then reviewed the circumstances under which Fremont was relieved from his command, which was not until twenty-six days after he order was issued, and that, too, at a time when Fremont had a well-appointed army to meet General Price. He alluded at length to the annoyances to which Fremont was subjected, and especially at the time when he was in the pursuit of Price, which was prevented by the arrival of Hunter and Pope. But for this, Tennessee would have long before been in our possession. Fremont was removed because the slave power demanded it. He criticized the report of the committee relative to the fortifications at St. Louis. These, he contended, were as necessary as those on the Southern side of the Potomac, which latter were desired by Scott and McClellan, and for which Congress had voted hundreds of thousands of dollars. Fremont was only in the department a hundred days, during which time he raised his army from fifteen thousand to sixty thousand men, clothing, arming, and feeding them. Besides this, he fortified not only St. Louis, but distant points, holding military occupation of nearly the entire State. Mr. Shanks related the most prominent points in Fremont's operations. The life, spirit, labor, and success of the great Western campaign are due to Fremont, and history will give the credit to him—all "combinations" to the contrary notwithstanding.

The hour expired before Mr. Shanks had concluded his speech.

Mr. BLAIR (Rep.), of Missouri, hoped the gentleman would be allowed ample time.

Mr. SHANKS obtained permission to print the remaining portion of his speech.

Mr. OLIVER (Rep.), of New York, said no reputation of Fremont was at least as dear to him as could be to the gentleman from Indiana himself. He had made many sacrifices for Fremont, and would, if he could, have elevated him to the Presidential chair. But he (Mr. Oliver) regretted that the gentleman from Indiana, while defending Fremont, should have deemed it necessary to cast imputations upon General Ripley, of the Ordnance Department. If Gen. Ripley's suggestions had been followed fifty millions of dollars would have been saved to the Government. He asserted, without fear of contradiction, that no man who had held the position of chief of ordnance had ever brought more energy of heart, and devotion to patriotism and duty, to the performance of his duty, than General Ripley. One of the reasons assigned for the alleged injustice to General Fremont was, that he was not "baptised at West Point." He had heard so much of this slang that he was sick of it. Every man knew that the most prominent rebel, Davis, was a graduate of that institution, and so with others. It seemed to him, that for the gentleman to criticise military affairs, without a knowledge of them, was an idle waste of time.

The House then adjourned.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, March 4, 1862.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock by the Speaker.

PETITIONS.

Mr. CONNELL, a remonstrance from the Sixteenth Legislative district against the supplement to the North Philadelphia Plank-road Company; also, five remonstrances from citizens of Philadelphia of like tenor; also, a petition from the Twenty-first ward in favor of a free bridge over the Schuylkill at Manayunk; also, a petition from owners of property in Clearfield street, for the passage of an act to open said street.

Mr. DONAVAN, a remonstrance from the directors of the Fifth school section against the passage of the bill reorganizing the Board of Controllers. Read and referred.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, three remonstrances against the supplement to the North Philadelphia Plank-road Company.

Mr. SERRILL, four remonstrances of like tenor; also, the petition of Henry Serrill and others for power to sell certain real estate in the Twenty-fourth ward; also, a petition from Delaware county for the reduction of the pay of jurors, election officers, &c., in said county.

Mr. NICHOLS, the remonstrance of the school directors of the Fourth section, against the passage of the bill to reorganize the Board of School Controllers. Read and referred.

Mr. STEIN, a petition from Lehigh county for the erection of said county into a separate judicial district.

Mr. REILLY, one from Schuylkill county for the passage of a law to protect the wages of labor.

Mr. BOUGHTER, four remonstrances from Philadelphia against the supplement to the North Philadelphia Plank-road Company.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. PENNEY (Judiciary), negatively, the bill to facilitate the despatch of business in courts of Common Pleas; also, negatively, the bill for the more convenient and economical settlement of decedents' estates; also, negatively, the bill to enable William J. Duane to close a certain trust.

Mr. CLYMER (same), as committed, the bill making Williamsport the place for holding the Supreme Court for the Northern District; also, as committed, House bill 145, relative to copartners and joint debtors; also, the supplement to the mechanics' lien law.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, (same), as committed, the bill to repeal the sixth section of the act of May 27, 1841, relative to the licensing of brokers, and regulating contracts for the purchase and sale of stocks, loans, &c.

Also, as committed, House bill 246, to authorize the arrest of professional thieves, burglars, &c., in Philadelphia.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, a bill relative to the payment of interest on the State debt.

Mr. STEIN, a supplement to the act incorporating the United Brethren of Nazareth and vicinity.

Mr. CLYMER, a supplement to the charter of the city of Reading, prescribing the mode of filling vacancies in the Board of School Controllers.

Mr. SMITH, of Montgomery, a bill relative to justices of the peace and aldermen in said county.

Mr. KINSEY, a bill relative to actions of ejectment.

BILLS CONSIDERED, &c.

The bill to reorganize the Board of School Controllers in the city of Philadelphia came up in order on third reading, and passed finally—yeas 20, nays 9.

On motion of Mr. REILLY, the joint resolution providing for the adjournment of the Legislature from the 21st of March until the 11th of June, was considered, and, after a long discussion, committed to the Finance Committee.

A message was received from the Governor nominating Francis D. Penniman, of Wayne county, a trustee of the State Lunatic Hospital, to fill the unexpired term of A. G. Waterman, deceased.

The nomination was unanimously confirmed, as were also the nominations of James J. Barclay, of Philadelphia, John L. Atlee, of Lancaster, and Daniel W. Gross, of Dauphin, made by the Governor some time since as trustees of the State Hospital.

On motion, adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M. Hon. John Rowe, Speaker, in the chair.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this House hereafter will hold afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, of each week, commencing at 3 o'clock and ending at 6 o'clock of each of said days, for the purpose of considering public bills as a majority of the House may determine, except on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. ARMSTRONG, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported an act to provide for the ordinary expenses of the Government, and other general and specific appropriations.

Messrs. Dennis, Elliott, Blanchard, Caldwell, and Crane were excused from serving on the Committee of House Expenditures.

PRIVATE CALENDAR.

The following bills passed their first reading to-day:

A further supplement to the act incorporating the East Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

An act supplementary to an act incorporating the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad Company.

A supplement to an act passed the 14th day of May, A. D. 1857, entitled an act to incorporate the Tioga County Bank.

An act creating two additional assessors for the First ward, in the city of Philadelphia.

An act to constitute the county of Lehigh a separate judicial district.

An act relative to the claim of John Loban.

An act to refer the claim of William F. Fiels, for damages sustained upon the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad.

An act to change the width of York street, in the city of Philadelphia.

An act to extend the charter of the Mechanics' Saving, Loan, and Building Association, located at Norristown, county of Montgomery.

A supplement to the act to incorporate the Kingsessing and Tinicum Meadow Company.

An act to extend the charter of the Montgomery Savings, Loan, and Building Association, located at Norristown, in Montgomery county.

An act extending the charter of the Norristown Saving, Loan, and Building Association, in Montgomery county.

An act to extend the charter of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company of Lancaster county.

An act extending the time for the payment of the enrolment tax on certain acts of incorporation.

An act to reduce the expenses of collection on unpaid taxes in the city of Philadelphia.

An act to provide for the better protection of the consumers of gas in and for the city of Philadelphia.

An act to consolidate the laws applicable to the Guardians of the Poor of the city of Philadelphia.

During the reading of this bill, the Chair announced that as the hour of one had arrived the clerk would stop the further reading of the bill.

The House then took a recess until three o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House reassembled at three o'clock P. M.

The following bills were passed:

An act changing the width of York street, in the city of Philadelphia.

A supplement to the act incorporating the Kingsessing and Tinicum Meadow Company.

An act to reduce the expense of the collection of unpaid taxes in Philadelphia.

The following bills were referred to a committee consisting of the members from Philadelphia—viz:

A act to consolidate the laws applicable to the Guardians of the Poor of Philadelphia.

A supplement to the act consolidating the city of Philadelphia (regulating constables.)

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, read in place an act to incorporate Christ Church, Germantown.

Mr SMITH, of Philadelphia, from the Committee on the Militia System, reported, with a negative recommendation, an act to establish a military academy in the State of Pennsylvania.

A supplement to the act incorporating the North Philadelphia Plank Road Company was lost. Then adjourned.

CAPTAIN CHARLES C. CHURCHILL, who has been placed on the retired list in consequence of disability resulting from exposure in the line of duty, is a son of Brigadier General Sylvester Churchill, late inspector general in the United States army, but now on the retired list. He entered the service on the 3d of March, 1848, as second lieutenant in the Third Artillery, and was promoted to a captaincy in the same regiment on the 14th of May, 1861. He is understood to have been suffering from indifferent health for some time past. His retirement will cause great regret among those with whom he has been associated, as he has always borne the character of a fine officer and a high-toned gentleman.

SAD INCIDENTS.—It is a strange coincidence, writes a Federal prisoner at Columbia, S. C., that every one of our number who have died have been buried Sunday, and five of the six *had letters arrive for them the day they were buried!* And what seemed saddest, all these letters were full of hope and joy. One was from a mother to her only son, and breathed a prayer in every line for that son's health and safety. Another was from a sister, whose unchanging love seemed to grow stronger by absence and time. I never realized how much misfortune makes us feel for another's sorrows till I saw officers and men, old and young, dropping a tear of sympathy over those letters, which, alas! would only be answered by strangers! —*Boston Journal.*

ACQUITTAL OF COLONEL ANISANSEL.—We learn that a despatch was received in this city yesterday, announcing the acquittal of Colonel Anisansel, of the First Virginia Cavalry, of the charges preferred against him of cowardice in the face of the enemy. From the best information we can gain we believe this to be reliable. A court martial has had the case under consideration for some time.—*Wheeling Intelligencer of Monday.*

A MRS. BENCHLEY, who is lecturing on Texas, thinks that but for mosquitoes, rattlesnakes, mocassins, yellow fever, the enervating effect of the climate, the whisky-drinking and other propensities of the people, that State would be a desirable place for habitation.

JUDGE S. A. FOOT, of Geneva, New York, has three sons in the Union army. One is captain of Company I, Second Minnesota Volunteers, and was in the hottest of the fight near Somerset; another is master's mate on board the gunboat *Stars and Stripes*; the third is a lieutenant in the Fourteenth Regiment of Infantry.

REAPPEARANCE OF THE CATTLE DISEASE.—The cattle disease having reappeared in several towns in Norfolk county, Mass., a committee of the State Board of Agriculture recommend that every precaution be used to prevent the spread of this scourge.

AT South Danvers there is said to be a dog "Fido" that can count paper money like a bank teller, and when he comes to an uncurrent bill he lays it on one side and barks at it.—*Missouri Republican.*

THE Norfolk *Day Book* predicts that no cotton or tobacco will be cultivated this year, but that the ground will be devoted to raising food exclusively.

A RAVENOUS convict in the Rochester penitentiary, named Dolan, choked himself to death with a crust of bread, last Friday. He seized the crust from a "fellow-laborer," gobbled it down, without mastication, and died in three minutes.

AT the late term of the Rutland (Vt.) County Court, there were granted thirteen bills of divorce. A rather dissatisfied community, we should judge.

BEAUREGARD pronounced the rebel defences on Roanoke Island impregnable, a few days before Burnside and his gallant command landed there.