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The Press.

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The Press.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1862.

SIX MONTHS IN THE WILDERNESS OF NEW MEXICO.

Lieutenant Ives' Exploration of the "Rio Colorado of the West."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1862.

To appreciate the infamy of this rebellion, in its effects upon the growth of American art, science, and discovery, one should spend a quiet hour in the Congressional library. Here are stupendous tomes that narrate the progress of explorations broken off, experiments unfinished, giant enterprises delayed, and a thousand other schemes that promised well, but will now remain unrealized for years. The genius of the North had planned these things; the evil genii of the South, ever averse to civilization, has ruined them. And, strange to say, most of these explorations had for their object the examination and improvement of territory that promised, in time, to be under slave dominion. Here, for instance, is a splendid volume, yet damp from the Government presses, filled with curious engravings, plates, and maps, describing regions heretofore unknown, yet in the very heart of our Republic. The graduates of Northern colleges, in the United States service, have here detailed the incidents of a six-months adventure in the *terra incognita* of New Mexico. The great "Colorado river of the West," with its sublime mountains and cañons, its savage denizens, its minerals and mines, and wierd reminiscences, is made as familiar in this volume as the shores of our own Delaware or Hudson.

I have thought it well to make an abstract of this report, particularly of those more exciting and adventurous episodes which constitute the romance of the Southwest. The facts are new, and so well related, that they should not pass without remark, even in this feverish era of war.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE COLORADO.

Excepting the Columbia river of Oregon, the "Rio Colorado of the West" is the largest of our streams emptying into the Pacific. It has its sources in Nebraska and Oregon, and after draining 300,000 square miles of New Mexico, Utah, and California, empties into the Gulf of California. Two tributaries, called the Green and Grand rivers, were supposed to have formed the Colorado, but their point of junction had never been visited or determined. Below this junction no white man had seen the river for centuries, and few Indians had been near its banks. But, curious to relate, this same river was explored within fifty years after the discovery of America. In the year 1540 three Spaniards, named Coronado, Diaz, and Alarçon, led an adventurous party up the Colorado to the country of the Mojave Indians, where, "after a long inland march over a desert, they arrived at a river, the banks of which were so high that they seemed to be four leagues in the air." After attempting to descend to the shore, they saw "some rocks of the size and shape of the great cathedral of Seville," when, full of amazement, they returned. No more efforts were made to examine the region till the era of our revolution, when Jesuit missions were established with ill-success among the Yumas and Mojaves. Thereafter a few daring trappers, or an occasional war-party of savages, were all that trod the shores of the desolate river. But soon after the Mexican war, when our arms had conquered the adjacent territory into the Union, a military post, called Fort Yuma, was established a hundred and fifty miles from the mouth of the Colorado, and at the confluence of the River Gila. By this route emigrants to the gold region passed, often harassed and murdered by the treacherous Yumas, and, in 1851, a steamboat route up the river to the fort was established by Lieut. Derby, U. S. A. Lieut. Sitgreaves and Whipple, at different times, led small parties up the stream as far as "Big Cañon," an immense rocky formation, through which the Colorado breaks, constituting one of the grandest natural scenes in the world. Curiosity was stimulated by their accounts to learn, if possible, something of a region so lonesome and so sublime, and accordingly, in 1857, Secretary Floyd directed Lieut. Joseph C. Ives, of the Topographical Engineer Corps, to organize an expedition, and set out [illegible]

HOW TO ORGANIZE AN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

Lieutenant Ives at once ordered an iron steamer fifty feet long, from Reaney & Neafie, of Philadelphia. The same was constructed in sections, and, after making a trial trip upon the Delaware river, was taken apart and shipped to California via Panama. Mr. A. J. Carroll, of Philadelphia, went out as steamboat engineer, J. S. Newbery as naturalist, and several gentlemen as topographers, artists, astronomers, and meteorologists. One of the latter was an associate of the late Baron Von Humboldt. On the 1st of November, 1857, the expedition sailed from San Francisco in three divisions, two of which were to start from different points on the Pacific coast of California, and go over the desert with mule teams to Fort Yuma, where they would be met by Lieutenant Ives, who was to go up the Gulf of California and construct his boat. The latter gentleman had much trouble in embarking upon a crowded schooner, already heavily freighted. His steamboat boiler alone weighed three tons, and three whaleboats, the heavy iron sections, etc., with a number of mechanics, made up a ponderous load. In seven days, they made Cape Lucas, the point of Lower California, when a calm set in, and, for a week of burning days and stifling nights, they rolled on the glassy swell, unable to reach the Gulf. After three weeks' delay, they attained the head of the Gulf, having passed numerous volcanic islands and steep bluffs, most of which were sterile, and had never been trodden by the foot of man.

THE MOUTH OF THE RIO COLORADO.

On the 28th day out, the mouth of the Rio Colorado was signalled by means of "Ship Rock," a huge volcanic spire, that can be seen at a distance of thirty miles below. It is covered with guano, and a number of reefs stretch from its base. In the limpid atmosphere of that latitude, its outlines are clearly defined, and they bear a resemblance, from afar, to a ship before the wind. Mountains environed them on every side, rude, rugged, and massive. That night they rested in the river, and next morning beheld a brilliant scene encircling them, of promontories and hill-ranges that were converted by a powerful mirage into castles, domes, and statues, purple, blue, and golden under the sunshine. The water of the Colorado was of a turbid red color, full of shoals, and difficult of navigation. They passed some glittering islands, sloped by a green lawn of marsh grass, where myriads of pelicans were congregated. A portion of the crew directly went ashore, with fowling pieces, treading in the soft gluey mud, and scaring up quantities of pelicans, curlews, plovers, and wild duck. The climate here at midday was that of pleasant midsummer.

The next day they made "Robinson's Landing," an anchorage where a restless American had put up a shanty with the expectation of finding certain sunken treasure. The place was muddy and almost utterly desolate. Here they witnessed a "bore" as it is called, or a succession of immense waves, met with nowhere else in the world, caused by a rapid falling of the tide in the gulf, and a consequent reaction upon the part of the sea. Great waves came rushing up the river, with the roar and volume of a cataract, threatening to demolish anything that happened in the way. Three days were now occupied in unloading the parts of the steamboat; derricks and platforms were erected after much trouble, and the tents pitched on the moist soil. The men went out hunting at night, and once got sight of a California lion. Coyotes were heard howling about the camp at nightfall, and by day waterfowl were abundant. The boat was put together on shore at a considerable distance from the river, and a gulley dug with spades, wherein it was finally floated off. On the intervening Sunday the crew went clamming, and returned wet, weary, and disappointed. The next day two Coocopas Indians—dirty beings—came trotting into camp, and at once made for the cook, who was preparing supper. They regarded her with mingled wistfulness and veneration, and after being fed were supplied with sailors' shirts. They preferred to go naked, however, excepting a strip of bagging tied about their loins. They were photographed by Lieutenant Ives, to their own great astonishment and perplexity. A telescope they regarded with a strange mixture of fear and amusement, but positively reverenced the cook, who finally quarrelled with them and drove them away.

After a time the steamboat came down from Fort Yuma, bringing a number of the Cocopas as passengers. They were well-disposed people, and the women were bright eyed and fat. The cook could not be made to tolerate the sparseness of their costume, however, which, as a rule, was even more insignificant than the men's. They had heard for many months of the proposed exploration, but were much disappointed at the smallness of the boat, and, in fact, ridiculed it exceedingly.

UP THE COLORADO TO FORT YUMA.

On the last day of the year 1857, the little steamer *Explorer* was floated into the stream. She carried a four-pound howitzer at the bow, and had a cabin eight feet by seven at the stern. She was stern-wheeled, and looked like one of your Schuylkill steamers, made bare to the hull, with the boiler and engine exposed. The flag of the Union floated from the cabin. At midnight, under a beautiful moon, that made silvery dimples on the waves, the crew gave three cheers that scared the wolves, and started up the Rio Colorado. They camped every night on the river shore, and, finding the Indians friendly, trusted them with a quantity of dod freight. As the river was full of shoals, a man was kept standing at the bow with a long pole in his hands, to sound as they advanced. They met one house fifty miles below Fort Yuma, inhabited by a pig, a dog, an old Indian, and the dirtiest white man that the Lieutenant had ever seen. After a night's sleep here the Lieutenant borrowed a horse and rode across the country to the fort, being joined on the way by a couple of Yuma Indians that trotted along by the steed through a region of dwarf cedars and clumps of greese wood. The fort was built upon a gravelly bluff, and a rope ferry led across the river to a second bluff, crowned by a few dilapidated houses. This was denominated Colorado City, and a tavern—the first symbol of civilization—had been the earliest structure erected. The river Gila came flowing down from the east and joined the Colorado above. They were now upon United States soil, but at the Botany Bay of military stations, and in the midst of a bleak territory, and surrounded by crafty but subjugated Indians.

ADVENTURES UP THE COLORADO TO MOJAVE CAÑON.

The voyage up the Rio Colorado to Mojave Cañon was marked by a thousand incidents of adventure, and a thousand associations of the grand and the beautiful. The explorers were to ascend a stream almost unknown, and to meet people and scenes before undiscovered. They started in the second week of the new year, twenty-four in all—the rest of the party, with the mule packs, going by land, and accompanied by two friendly Yuma guides, named Mariano and Capitan. The whole Yuma tribe were assembled to see them off, and they screamed and giggled like so many apes as the little steamer headed up the river. Passing some miles of dangerous shoals and narrow gorges, they entered a defile of purple rocks, and reached a pleasantly-wooded country. Here they received the first mail from home by means of a swift Yuma runner, who came up from the fort. The letters from two thousand miles away were very dear to the adventurers, and the Indian was handsomely rewarded. The Dome Rock range of mountains, and Chimney Peak, an immense bluff, were objects of regard. The vistas on the river now grew broader, and the vegetation more rank and luxuriant. The hills, too, were streaked with more variegated hues, and the water sweeping at their bases shadowed the colors and fringed the low, wooddy shore. The cactus, the mezquite, and the cottonwood, were some of the varieties of vegetation, and the mineralogist of the party discovered at odd places tokens of gold, galena, and copper. They named the peaks as they passed along, and sketched the most remarkable scenes. Some of the latter were Alpine in their sterility, massiveness, and abruptness.

At places the crew had to disembark and tow the steamer, for she grounded frequently. Soundings were taken at every few feet, and all the rocks and bars carefully noted. Few Indians were seen, as their villages lie in the alluvial bottoms, away from the barrenness of the river shores; the fish were poor and of but one description, although the game was plentiful, and "big horns," or mountain sheep, came often down to the slopes to drink. At the night encampments the men talked around their blazing fires of home and its far-off associations; but the two guides, following their primeval instincts, invariably wandered away after receiving their rations, and cooked their food over some smouldering embers in the most secluded nook. They always came back in the morning at the scream of the whistle, and sat stolid but quietly all day.

After a while they entered the Half-Way mountains, and could see through the vistas the fields and villages of the Yumas. These Indians had a passion for clothing, and evidently despised their nakedness. They were accompanied in visits by parties of Chemehuevis, who carried bows and quivers, were predatory in their habits, and proud of their dishonesty. They all wore sandals, and were very individual in their manners, regarding the slow and difficult movements of the boat with contempt, but assisting the explorers at sundry times. They were punctilious in the fulfilment of contracts, and often ran a hundred miles and back, at a trifling charge, with the mails for Fort Yuma. In February they entered the Mojave country, where the Indians averaged six feet in height, often six and a half, and were enormously developed. Some trading was done with these people, generally in a very summary way—the explorers fixing the price, and paying in beads, red cloth, and mirrors. Instead of resenting this delusive traffic, the tribe enjoyed it, and laughed heartily at the discomfited Mojaves. They reached Mojave Cañon on the 9th of February, entered by a low purple gateway and a splendid corridor with massive red walls. Mountains frowned above, piled one upon the other, and seeming to block the way. The Cañon was grand beyond all previous experience. On either side majestic cliffs, hundreds of feet in height, rose perpendicularly from the water. As the river wound through the narrow enclosure, every turn developed some sublime effect or startling novelty. Brilliant tints of purple, green, red, brown, and white, illuminated the stupendous surfaces and relieved their sombre monotony. Far above, clear and distinct upon the narrow strip of sky, turrets, spires, jagged statue-like peaks and grotesque pinnacles, overlooked the deep abyss. The waning day found them still threading the windings of this wonderful defile, and the approach of twilight enhanced the wild romance of the scenery. The bright colors faded and blended into a uniform dark gray. The rocks assumed dim and exaggerated shapes, and seemed to flit like giant spectres in pursuit, and retreat along the shadowy vista. A solemn stillness reigned in the darkening avenue, broken only by the plash of the paddles or the cry of a solitary heron, startled by their approach from his perch, on the brink of some overhanging cliff.

THE HYDROGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, BOTANY, AND METEOROLOGY OF THE EXPEDITION.

Thenceforward, through hundreds of miles of grand scenery and unknown territory, the expedition pushed steadily. From the very beginning the geologist, the naturalist, and the hydrographer of the party made out their several computations and kept their diaries. If a strange Indian came into camp he was sketched and questioned. If a rare plateau or valley, suitable at some distant day for a town or railroad-site was discovered, it was examined and measured. Minerals of every description and fossil-impressions in abundance were collected. All the tributary streams were explored, and not a flower upon the mountains was not carefully culled, classified and named. The channels of the river were traced for future pilotage, and all the rocks and sands denoted. The peaks were ascended and their temperatures ascertained. In fact, all was done as if, the next year, a great nation was to occupy the soil, build its towns, and construct its highways. So was the Government prosecuting its mission of civilization and regeneration, while the very section most intended to be benefited was plotting the ruin of a fabric and a happiness that had grown through centuries, and was making its far-off and waste places to blossom and rejoice. Appended to Lieutenant Ives' report is one of the fullest local geological documents ever published It is beautifully embellished, and owes its completeness to Dr. J. S. Newberry.

FROM THE MOJAVE COUNTRY TO FORT DEFIANCE.

The main intention of the exploration had been to find, if possible, a navigable avenue by way of the Colorado, to the military posts in New Mexico and Utah, and to the fertile country surrounding them. With a little expense in promoting navigation, both objects were found to be feasible, but the war will doubtless retard any contemplated improvement for years to come. The route of the expedition through the countries of the Mojaves, Yampais, Halpais, Moguis and Navajo Indians, was fruitful of incident and discovery. The Mojaves, at first friendly, were afterward distrustful and disposed to violence. Their chief, José, was painted black on the occasion of his formal visit to the *Explorer*, and he offered Lieutenant Ives a handful of baked beans, and a pipe, which were enjoyed amid profound and ludicrous silence. Another chief, Caircok, came over from shore, standing on a raft, propelled by four warriors, and the whole tribe swam around the raft. While on this visit one of the explorers who had false teeth took them out of his mouth, at which the tribe pressed around in a sort of stolid astonishment. Most of these Indians had never seen a white man before. Two stupendous gorges—the Black Mountain Cañon and the Big Cañon—were afterward passed, and at the latter the whole party were near dying from want of water. On the 22d of May, 1858, the party reached Fort Defiance, having fully accomplished the objects of their mission without loss of life, and to the satisfaction of science and the Government. The practical result of the expedition will one day be the steamboat navigation of the Rio Colorado for four hundred and twenty-five miles at a cost of about $13,000 per annum.

G. A. T.

AN "EGYPTIAN" SHERIFF POISONED BY THE SECESH.—The Jonesboro (Ill.) *Gazette* states that L. D. Craig, sheriff of Johnson county, was poisoned by a Secesh at Fort Donelson. Like many others, Sheriff Craig went up to the fort, after the battle, to assist in relieving the wounded. Arriving there, he fell into conversation with some of the Secession prisoners, in the course of which one complimented him on his devotion to the Union, and invited him to take a drink, at the same time drawing a flask from his pocket. Mr. Craig, not suspecting, took a swallow, but immediately remarked that the liquor was poisoned, and he was a dead man. The effects of poison were soon manifest, and Mr. C. died in about two hours. His body was taken back to Johnson county for burial. The *Gazette* did not learn the fate of the poisoner. In addition to this, we may add that our forces found a lot of poisoned bullets, left behind by the rebels, at Nashville.

IT is stated that when communication between Fort Pulaski and Savannah was cut off the fort had only a ten days' supply of ammunition.

VERY LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

DATES TO THE 7th INST.

Proceedings of the Rebel Congress.

PROPOSAL TO BURN THE COTTON AND TOBACCO.

Foreign Succor to be Asked For.

THE RICHMOND PRESS DESPONDING.

REBEL HUMILIATION CONFESSED.

THE COTTON MUST BE BURNT.

The Sacrifice Necessary.

A NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

GENERAL LEE PROPOSED.

Arrest of More Union Men.

&c., &c., &c.

Our Fortress Monroe correspondent furnishes us with the Richmond papers of the 7th inst., and North Carolina journals of the 5th. We present extracts from their columns which will serve to show that a sense of deep humiliation and despondency pervades the rebel capital. The effect of their recent defeats, however, has been less pressing than the necessity which now arises of destroying their cotton and tobacco, to prevent its falling into our hands. Nevertheless, the hope of foreign interference is still cherished by some of the Richmond journals, and one of them—the *Examiner*—asserts that measures will speedily be taken by the Cabinet to secure *assistance* from abroad. It is generally admitted, in all the Southern papers we have seen, that *recognition* is hopeless.

Proceedings of the Rebel Congress.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, March 5, 1862.

The Senate assembled at twelve o'clock, and, being opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. DUNCAN, of the M. E. Church, the journal of yesterday was read and approved.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. SPARROW, of Louisiana, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the House resolutions, declaring the sense of Congress in regard to reuniting with the United States—solemnly declaring an unalterable purpose to suffer all the calamities of war, rather than submit to any such alternative—which was read a third time and passed.

THE REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BURNETT also reported adversely to the resolution for balances due the census-takers of Louisiana. This was merely an equitable claim, which would, most properly, be classed with a large number of the claims to be disposed of after the war.

Mr. SEMMES, of Louisiana, explained to the Senator that, at the time of the secession of Louisiana, a considerable amount of bullion, belonging to the United States, was retained by the Louisiana authorities. This might very probably have been held, as it was intended, as an equitable fund for such claims. But the State, instead of passing upon these questions, transferred the amount to the Confederate States Government. There was a peculiar propriety, he thought, in passing the payment of these claims.

Mr. BURNETT replied that the reasons given by the gentleman were insufficient to influence his opinion in the matter. There was not a single State which had not transferred to the Government either money or property.

Mr. SEMMES said that at the time of the secession of Louisiana, that State made a seizure of about $800,000. It was found that a large amount was deposited to the credit of various parties. The State provided for the payment of a large number of the drafts upon this fund, leaving a balance of about $500,000. At that time the State was an independent sovereignty. In the meantime $190,000 had been collected for customs. No other State had transferred money collected for customs while in the condition of independent sovereignty.

Mr. MAXWELL stated that, if action was to be taken on this subject, he would state that he wished Florida to be represented. Some five or six thousand dollars were collected at Pensacola, and transferred to the Confederate States.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. Stephens). The same case with Georgia.

A motion was made to recommit the subject, which was lost. [illegible]

Mr. SPARROW offered a resolution that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to inform the Senate, what amount of money has been transferred to the Confederate Government by each State.

Mr. SEMMES moved to amend by adding "and what amount of property."

Mr. SPARROW said that he had only offered the resolution in order to ascertain a certain fact, but if it was to be killed by indirection, he would withdraw it.

The resolution being withdrawn, the Senate then went into executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 11 A. M., and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Ford, of Kentucky.

Proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. BONHAM asked leave of the House to take up the Senate resolution pledging the Government to maintain the territorial integrity of the Confederacy.

The resolution was passed.

BURNING OF COTTON AND TOBACCO.

The bill reported by the Military Committee for the burning of cotton, tobacco, and other property, which may be about to fall into the hands of the enemy, having come up in order for consideration,

Mr. MILES said he did not desire to detain the House long. The subject of the destruction of cotton and tobacco to prevent it from falling into the hands of our enemies had only engaged the attention of the committee in one particular view—the looking to the burning, and leaving the details for after consideration.

What we wanted now is energetic action.

Mr. FOOTE concurred with the gentleman from South Carolina in the opinion of expediting matters in every way possible; but he thought that his original bill, for which the report of the Military Committee was a substitute, was likely to be a much more effective plan for attaining the purpose. The bill of the committee was not only less effective than his bill, but it was not likely to have any effect at all. It would, in his opinion, help in no way whatever the attainment of the object it may have in view. It looks to the burning of all cotton and tobacco that may be *about to fall* into the hands of the enemy.

If this clause is adopted the bill can have no effect. It is with reference to an action as about to take place, but which it may turn out never does take place, and if it never does take place how can it be about to take place? In this view of the case, only those whose property was actually invaded, after the burning of their stores, would ever receive compensation. He would recommend to the gentleman *vigilantibus non dormientibus reges adjuvant.*

Mr. SMITH said he would like the gentleman to speak English.

Mr. CURRY said that, if there was any man in Alabama who was so avaricious that he would not, with his own hands, put the torch to every lock of his cotton rather than that the Lincoln Government should get it, he hoped the Yankees would burn him. He offered, as an amendment, to strike out the words "when it is *about* to fall;" also, the words "other property which may be useful," after the words "cotton and tobacco." The object of the enemy was to get what had now become a high military necessity, and it is to our interest to prevent them from getting it. He had expected some bill of indemnity would be drafted by the Military Committee. This bill embraced a very wide field in specifying other property, for there was some property in our limits owned by the French Government.

Mr. CONRAD was not exactly satisfied with either the original bill or that reported by the committee. We should not wage war against any foreign Government except that of the United States.

Mr. BOYCE, of South Carolina, would call the attention of the House to the fact, that if we keep the enemy from obtaining these supplies of cotton and tobacco, they will soon exhaust all their resources; and one great object is to to strike at the vital points. Their debt now is a thousand millions; next year it will be a thousand millions more. It might be supposed that the second year the expenses would be less, but their currency will depreciate, and thus the expenses increase. If we let them find our cotton and tobacco whenever they force us to evacuate a place, they will attain the very object of the war.

Mr. PRYOR said he accorded his hearty and cordial support to the measure of the gentleman from South Carolina (Miles.) Unless some such means as these are adopted, the best of our great staples, our peculiar productions, will become the prey of Yankee enterprise and Yankee rapacity, and what will be the consequence? By just so much that you will replenish the empty exchequer of your adversary; by so much will his hand be strengthened for our subjugation. Nor is this all. Every pound of tobacco, much more every pound of cotton, thrown upon the world, to that extent relaxes your hold on foreign Powers, diminishes the chances of your recognition, and alienates the South from all diplomatic intercourse and alliance.

Mr. HEISKELL quoted the authority of Vattel and Grotius in reference to the duty of the Government to remunerate its citizens for losses sustained.

Mr. DAVIS said the Government was not able to indemnify the citizens for all losses such as would be sustained.

Mr. MILES said that on the issue of this bill hung all that was dear to us on earth—liberty, happiness, and personal security for the future; and he was not surprised by differences of opinion in reference to it. He had been prevented hitherto from offering a resolution from the Military Committee, which was to refer the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, who should propose a bill to provide for compensation of loyal citizens, whose property may be destroyed by military authority.

Mr. PERKINS called the question on the subject, which was not sustained.

Mr HEISKELL called the previous question. Not sustained.

The amendment of Mr. CURRY, allowing compensation for the destruction of cotton and tobacco *only*, was rejected.

Mr. BONHAM offered an amendment, to strike out all after cotton and tobacco, and insert wool, rice, and other grain, long forage, and all military and naval stores. Rejected.

Mr. BARKSDALE offered an amendment, adding a section to the bill in reference to compensation. Rejected.

Mr. CHILTON offered an amendment that no compensation shall be received for property which shall be removed to exposed towns or other places after the passage of the bill.

The amendment doing away with all compensation was then adopted.

Mr. CONRAD moved to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. FOOTE moved to adjourn, which was agreed to, and at four o'clock the House adjourned.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

In the Senate, Mr. BARNWELL, of South Carolina, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill fixing the pay of Senators and Representatives at $2,500 per annum, and mileage at twenty cents per mile; the President *pro tem.* of the Senate, when acting as such, to receive the pay of the Vice President; and the Speaker of the House to receive double the pay of any other member of that body.

The bill was amended, on motion of Mr. OLDHAM, of Texas, by striking out $2,500, and inserting $3,000; and further amended by providing for the deduction from the pay the amount of each day's absence without leave, and passed.

The pay of the officers of the Senate was fixed as follows: Secretary, $2,500 per annum; Assistant Secretary, $2,000; two Clerks, $1,500 each; Sergeant-at-arms, $2,000; Doorkeeper, $1,500; Assistant Doorkeeper, $1,200—each payable quarterly, in advance—and page $2 per diem.

A message in writing, from his Excellency the President, by his private secretary, was received, and the Senate resolved itself into executive session.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, a resolution was introduced to adjourn the sessions of Congress on the 31st March, and was laid on the table.

Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Postal Affairs to take such action as to modify the law and exclude from the number of military exempts all clerks in post offices, as well as certain postmasters in charge of minor offices. The resolution was referred.

Mr. PRYOR, of Virginia, introduced a bill to continue in office major and brigadier generals of the Provisional army, which was ordered to be printed, and made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. PRYOR also offered a bill for the suppression of drunkenness, which was ordered to be printed.

The House had also under consideration the bill for the destruction of cotton, tobacco, and other property, as reported by the Military Committee, which passed—yeas 71, nays 11.

The bill reads as follows:

A bill to provide for the destruction of cotton, tobacco, and other property, when the same shall be about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That it shall be the duty of all military commanders, in the service of the Confederate States, to destroy all cotton, tobacco, or other property that may be useful to the enemy, if the same cannot be safely removed, whenever, in their judgment, the said cotton, tobacco, and other property is about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

Mr. MILES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for the compensation of all loyal citizens whose cotton, tobacco, and other property may be destroyed by the military or by themselves, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. The resolution was agreed to—yeas 61, noes 19.

Mr. SWAN, from the Military Committee, reported a bill for the regulation of passports, as a substitute for a bill referred to the committee. This bill provides only for the supervision of passports by the Secretary of State, in the case of persons leaving the Confederate States.

Mr. FOOTE reported back a bill from the Committee on Foreign Affairs for the appointment of commissioners to attend the World's Fair, in London, on 1st May next. He asked that it be laid upon the table, and the committee discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. F. also reported a resolution asking information of the President concerning the presence of certain foreign ships-of-war in Hampton Roads, and their objects, if not incompatible with the public interest.

The Rebel States Humiliated---No Hope for Recognition.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

The Confederate States have been humiliated. The disasters at Roanoke Island and Fort Donelson were not the sources of the humiliation; for that of the former, all the circumstances considered, was, perhaps, inevitable, and the latter compensated by the vigor of the resistance and the loss of the enemy—both were among the natural and ordinary consequences of any great war. But we have been degraded by sitting, through our representatives, upon the steps of English royalty and soliciting the English Government to recognize us. Herein we forgot our own dignity as a powerful and wealthy nation; for had we been true to ourselves—had we fallen back originally upon the weapons we could have effectually wielded, and should wield now—we could have *compelled* that haughty nation to accede to every reasonable wish.

FEDERAL ATROCITY SUMMED UP.

The paths of our enemy have been marked with ruin, barbarism, and shameless atrocities. He has laid cities and villages in waste; stripped widows and orphans of death's legacies; overthrown municipalities and State Governments; imprisoned citizens without warrant, and regardless of age or sex; destroyed commerce; beggared the mechanic and manufacturer; aimed at judicial murder by calling privateering piracy; boarded neutral vessels *vi et armis*, and arrested the sacred persons of ambassadors; violated the law of nature and of nations by endeavoring to destroy the harbors of the South, and shut our people out from all intercourse with humanity, by an unheard-of barbarism; ripped open the knapsacks of our captured soldiery, robbing them of clothing, moneys, necessaries of life, and even of the instruments of their surgeons. From the commencement of this war, the enemy have been a foe to mankind, religion, and civilization.

ENGLAND TOO LUKEWARM.

But, in the face of all these public outrages—many of which were aimed against her own dignity, honor, and independence—England has been a silent, if not an approving, spectator; now, while proclaiming neutrality, she has imparted a continuous negative support to the oppressor and transgressor. If we except the case of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and, perhaps, that of the "stone blockade," she has not once remonstrated with the Government of that usurper, under whose authority public and private laws have been violated, and the ordinary amenities of life forgotten. The United States have been permitted to clandestinely purchase arms and ammunition in England, and ship them from the ports of that country, while a similar privilege has been strenuously denied to the Confederate States, and the steps of their agents jealously watched. Even a paper blockade has been permitted to exist, and has been as sacredly observed as if it was effective; albeit it is the dicta of international law, mainly proclaimed by English jurists, that such is contrary to the code which regulates the intercourse of nations.

NO HOPE OF RECOGNITION.

Farewell to expectations of aid from across the Atlantic. We must become the arbiters of our national fortunes. We must buckle on the armor of earnestness, and wage a relentless and deadly war upon our *open* foe. Meanwhile, we should teach those who are not with us that we owe to them no obligations, and that we properly appreciate their ambiguous neutrality. It is notorious that, from tobacco raised in the Confederate States, the European Governments derive millions of dollars annually in revenues. Not one leaf of that plant should, for the future, be cultivated until that day arrives when we are recognized among the family of nationalities. It is equally notorious that there are over seven millions of human souls in Europe wholly dependent for livelihood upon the successful culture of the cotton plant; the greater moiety of whom are British subjects. Now, England boasts that she can procure a sufficient supply of this staple elsewhere; but let the people of our Confederacy desist from the cultivation of this despised cotton plant for one or two years—and they can well afford to do so—and Old England and New England will be visited with ruin, chaos, and revolution. Our planters can profitably direct their attention to the growth of other commodities, and they should immediately act upon a concerted resolution to produce nothing from the womb of the soil until our tribulation is passed, but that which is actually necessary to the support of the cause. The consuls of foreign Governments should be promptly dismissed from our midst, for, under present circumstances, their presence is a double insult to our pride; every man capable of bearing arms should meet the foe hand to hand, and foot to foot, resolved to conquer or be exterminated; and every town, village, city, and blade of grass threatened with pollution by the advancing foe should be literally destroyed.

Southern Credit and Finances.

Notwithstanding all the malignant assaults of Northern editors, we are gratified, says the Charleston *Courier*, rather than surprised, in finding that the financial credit of the Confederate States and of South Carolina is maintained abroad above question or suspicion.

We have seen a letter, under date of January 18, 1862, from a leading bank in Liverpool, authorizing drafts to the amount of £20,000 sterling, or, in round numbers, $100,000. The letter is addressed to the president of a bank in this city, and that by no means one of the largest or most prominent banks in capital or resources, but a bank which is, has been, and will be, ready for all engagements.

This is also a bank which has no deposit or credit with the Liverpool bank which has made this flattering offer.

This proposal unsolicited and unexpected, is a gratifying tribute to the financial facility and resources of Charleston and South Carolina, and an additional expression of the good will and favor borne by many of the bankers, capitalists, and merchants of England towards the Confederate States.

The Draft in Virginia.

Colonel J. J. Evans, of the Nineteenth Virginia Regiment, made his report to the Adjutant General. We find in it the following statistics:

Number of persons who failed to report themselves for enrolment, and who, by the terms of the law, are enrolled or drafted among the first levies 631

Number of persons who have reported themselves for enrolment, and who claim no exemption 561

Number of persons who claim to be exempt for the following causes:

Employed on Government work	345
Physically disabled	236
Have sent substitutes for the war	119
Holding office under Confederate States	66
Holding office under the State of Virginia	29
Employed on railroads	38
Police officers	36
Firemen	29
Bank officers	9
Ministers of the Gospel	3
Total	2,102

"Less Officers and more Brains."

The Richmond *Examiner* of Thursday has the following editorial in its columns:

The new office now proposed in Congress appears to be dictated by the actual wants of the service. A Secretary of War is found insufficient for all the duties of the department at the present period. But there are secretaries and secretaries. Twenty secretaries of one kind would not suffice for the little army of San Marino; but one Louvois, one Carnot, one Chatham has been found all that was necessary for some of the greatest complications of military affairs that this world has seen.

At present, it may be found advisable to separate the duties of the War Department, and confide a portion of them to a general competent to understand and direct the campaign at large. But, if any good is to come out of the new office, it must be filled by an able, and especially by an energetic man, who will make war in a style different from that which has hitherto characterized the operations of the Southern Confederacy. All will depend on the choice of the man. If the commanding general is only another minnow in the pond, another dummy, a respectable bubble, an echo, an amiable courtier, the position of the country will not be altered by the creation of a new office, the employment of a new set of clerks, and the verbiage of a new set of official documents.

What the Confederate Government lacks is not more offices, but more brains. Whether brains come to it under the label of a commanding general, a reorganized Cabinet, or simply a new Secretary of War, does not matter at all. The foresight that perceives, but is not appalled by coming misfortunes; the hard sense, the vigorous command, the courage that flames up from defeat, and rebounds unhurt from disaster; the manly confidence in others, the strength of body as well as of mind, which supports and renews them all—these are the qualities that are necessary to the leaders of a cause, like ours, in dangers like those that press hard upon us. The men or man who possesses them is the fit companion, counsellor, and agent, of the President now; and whether he is called the commanding general or something else, will not matter.

The Whereabouts of John Bell.

The Atlanta *Commonwealth* says that John Bell would not remain in Nashville to be insulted or imprisoned by the insolent invaders of his State, but is safe, along with the rear of the retreating army. It is reported that all he possessed about Nashville is lost, the vandals having destroyed a large establishment in which he was interested, if not sole owner.

The War an Invasion for Cotton.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

Who has read without deep mortification the late order of the Federal Government that "the cotton just taken in Tennessee, to the amount of $100,000, shall be forwarded to New York?" Fifty thousand bales, it is said, are already in New York, brought from Port Royal; another quantity was secured by the gunboats ascending the Tennessee river; now it is certain that a hundred thousand dollars' worth—twenty-five hundred bales—have been secured on the first entrance into Tennessee.

EXPLANATION OF OUR ACTIVE CAMPAIGN.

This war has been made because of cotton. It is indispensable to the commercial fabric of the United States. If we had no cotton and no tobacco, the North would not have put 600,000 men in the field and spent three millions of dollars every day for our subjugation. European nations have become clamorous, and the Governments of France and England press upon Lincoln for the immediate fulfilment of his promises to seize and deliver over cotton to their merchants and manufacturers at a less price and in less time than they could get it from the planters even with open ports. Hence the hurried and premature commencement of this campaign by Buell, McClellan, and Burnside, before their preparations were completed, contrary to their intentions, and against their predictions—in the month of February instead of the month of April. This is the explanation of the sudden start of the Federal army. Europe would be patient no longer, and the United States found that it must absolutely do something at once, or run the risk of great dangers both at home and abroad.

COTTON MAY BE DESTROYED.

To get our cotton is this invasion made; and, so far as they have come, they have actually secured cotton—an article which may be destroyed in any quantity by a hand no stronger than a child of five years old, with the simple, easily furnished, and cheap machinery of a box of friction matches. Yet the owners of that product have been vehement in their declarations that they would burn every shred rather than leave it to be the booty of the enemy. What is the explanation of the fixed fact that some cotton, though not, indeed, a considerable quantity, is actually in the possession of the United States troops?

Do the proprietors of the cotton get any money for it? Not one dime; not one cent; not the thousandth part of a cent. Cotton and tobacco are decreed *contraband* of war, and, as such, become the lawful spoil of the invader. If he succeeds in over-running the entire South, the cotton he finds will pay part of his expenses; at any rate he will and does take every fibre of it to himself. Whether it is burnt by the proprietor's own hand, or whether it falls into the hand of the enemy, the loss is equal to the proprietor.

COTTON DEARER THAN LIFE.

In the first case he has the better chance to save himself; for, if the Confederacy triumphs, the cotton destroyed by its own people to thwart the foe will be duly paid for.

The explanation of its inconsistency is found in the construction of the human mind. Persons who have a certain amount of reflection and principle, prefer to sacrifice their lives rather than live to incur greater misfortunes than death; many others have sufficient intelligence to destroy their property when they perceive that it will be employed to their own hurt But, with a large portion of the human race, the instincts are stronger than reason. These will hold to their lives, and keep their property long after it is either rational or useful to do so. To the last instant of existence they will hope that something will save them. They cannot burn their own cotton. That seems to them the end of the world. It is "to pauperize themselves and their children;" and it is useless to show them that the pauperization is far better secured by leaving their property to be taken by those who will certainly never pay a cent for it, than to destroy it themselves, and run the chance of their country's remuneration.

THE COTTON MUST BE BURNT.

Yet it is clear that the very first measure of defence is to place the object of this invasion beyond the hope of the invader. He overruns the country to take our cotton; let the cotton be burnt, and the chief motive to overrun is destroyed with it. The cost to ourselves will be great, but not so great as its actual seizure by Lincoln's soldiers.

WHO IS TO DESTROY IT?

If done effectually, it must be done by the military power, and with the general authority of the Government. If done at all, it must be done before the enemy is on the road to the depot. In the confusion which follows a lost battle is not the time when such acts are possible. The army is then occupied with its retreat and its stores. If the cotton and tobacco are to be burnt, the burning must precede the slightest reverse in the region where the destruction is necessary. The entrance of the enemy's columns into any State of the Confederacy should be the signal for applying the torch to those staples for which they are come. It is now possible for the agents of the Government to take possession of these products in Southern Tennessee, at Richmond, and in other places threatened by the invasion; they can give certificates of that taking to the owners; and arrange the material for combustion. Then it will be easy to finish their work in time to do it well.

The moral effect of this resolute and sensible proceeding would be incalculably great. Twenty victories like that on Manassas Plains would not help the Southern Confederacy so much. The subject is now before Congress, and will be the test of that body's merit. Whether there is sufficient unity and energy in Congress and the present Government to do anything more than discuss it, may be doubted.

The Dress of the Federal and Rebel Soldiers.

The Richmond *Dispatch*, of Friday, has a long editorial on the dress of the Federal and rebel soldiers. The editor concludes thus:

The ability of the Yankees to dress themselves in handsome style is all due to the South, whose staples they have used to make themselves rich, and indulge in all manner of luxurious living. This matter of dress is a matter of taste, even when people are not shut out from the sources of supply. The North has always been in the habit of putting all it was worth on its back and in externals, whilst the South has been content with a plain style of living in everything. The one is a vulgarian who, the moment he emerges from poverty, goes all lengths in display, believing that it is externals which constitute a gentleman; the other, being conscious of elevated sentiments and certain of his position, is not, perhaps, as careful as he might be of the outward insignia of superiority. No one, however, can, by any possibility, mistake pretenders and parvenues for gentlemen, in spite of all their fine feathers. From their representative man, the railsplitter, down to the lowest of the jail birds whom they have let loose upon our soil, they have exhibited none of the qualities which constitute a gentleman—courtesy, magnanimity, truth, honor. All the fine dressing in the world can no more disguise a blackguard so that he shall pass for a gentleman, than the trappings of a war-horse can hide the long ears of a mule, or convert his dissonant bray into the "Ha! ha!" with which the fiery charger described by Job hails the shouting of the captains and the roar of the battle.

As to the miserable penny-a-liners of Yankeedom, who make themselves merry over the plain dress of the Southern soldier, we cannot possibly elevate them to the dignity of contempt. The sons of our Southern farmers, who have never known what it was to draw a dependent breath, and who have cheerfully impoverished themselves for the vindication of great principles, are beyond the reach of those galley slaves of the mercenary Yankee press, who have never known what it was to have a free and independent sentiment in the whole course of their lives, and who, for a decent suit of clothes and a daily allowance of codfish and potatoes, would sell their country to despotism, their souls to the devil, and congratulate themselves with justice that they had made a good bargain.

How the Virginians Try to Escape the Draft.

The muster rolls just handed in to the colonels of the Nineteenth and One hundred and seventy-ninth regiments are the most ridiculously curious documents it has ever been our luck to encounter. In their anxiety to get clear of militia duty, hundreds of the men have attached to their names the record of some permanent injury or horrible distemper. The rolls are thus made complete catalogues of all the ills that flesh is heir to. The great number of one-eyed and deaf men, the prevalence of chronic diarrhœa, and rheumatism in all its varieties, is truly astonishing. Some parties, who perhaps could think of no particular affliction, have stated in general and comprehensive terms, that they were "physically disabled," and in "bad health." One old gentleman, who avowed himself a hypochondriac, actually appended his will and codicil to his signature. Great numbers have signed themselves "exempted by the Governor," and numerous citizens, though only perhaps making a pair of shoes for a clerk in the Treasury Department, have followed their names with the imposing announcement, "employed on Government work."

It is our opinion that this city has already contributed her quota to the army; but we hope these muster-rolls will be published, that the world may know the men who would shirk muster themselves, and only parade (in many instances assumed) diseases when their country calls for soldiers.—*Examiner.*

The Forger of the Confederate Notes Captured.

It will be recollected that the woman, Charlotte Gilman, examined as a witness before Commissioner Watson, on Monday last, testified to having seen a young man, whose name we did not then mention, in the act of counterfeiting Confederate notes; and, further, that she had promised to meet this young man in Petersburg on Monday evening. That young man's name is George W. Elam. On hearing the evidence of the woman, measures were immediately taken to insure his arrest, which was successfully done at Petersburg. The prisoner was brought to this city yesterday morning, and carried to the Secretary of the Treasury. In answer to some questions of the Treasurer, Elam avowed that he had never been guilty of counterfeiting, and that he had been arrested solely on suspicion.

Elam is a young man, perhaps twenty-two years of age, quite handsome, and of good address. On his person, at the time of his arrest, were found a pocket-book containing one hundred and thirty dollars in genuine money, a memorandum book, a filthy doggerel song, some scraps from newspapers, the stencil with which he is described by Charlotte Gilman to have committed the forgeries, a box of percussion caps, and a pistol powder flask. No money known to be counterfeit was found upon him. Curtis Pidgeon (whose case we have reported) stated that Elam had told him he would never be arrested alive, and it was therefore expected that he would be found armed to the teeth. He had about him, however, nothing but the articles we have mentioned, having, no doubt, left his weapons at whatever house he was staying in Petersburg. The trunk the prisoner had telegraphed for was brought to the Commissioner's office, but has not yet been opened. It may, though we think it unlikely, contain such of the notes as Elam had not had occasion to affix the signatures.

The memorandum book we have mentioned contained a number of entries, some written, but mostly in figures, and nearly all of both kinds incomprehensible except to the writer himself. On one leaf we read these words. "On Sunday shoved three $10." On another leaf was inscribed this legend, whereby, doubtless, hangs a tale: "Went out to look for Lottie (Charlotte Gilman?) and spent a thousand dollars." Elam had re-enlisted for the war, and had his furlough with him, on the back of which was written: "He is therefore entitled to transportation." This carelessly worded superscription accounts for the facility with which Elam has travelled on the various trains between this city and Norfolk. From what we have been able to learn of Elam's history, he was born in Richmond, has served his time at lithography, and since the war has, for a short time, been employed in one of the lithographic establishments in this city. The facts elicited on the further examination of this case before the Commissioner will be duly reported.

Gen. Sidney Johnston's Movements.

The *Atlanta* (Ga.) *Confederacy*, in making the announcement that the army under General A. Sidney Johnston had fallen back from Murfreesboro' and Columbia, Tenn., to Decatur Ala., says:

We do not look upon this with any degree of alarm, or special concern, whatever. It is not because we are unable to hold Murfreesboro' or many other places between there and Decatur, but of choice, and we predict the fruits of this judicious movement will be manifest to every one in due season, when all will acknowledge and approve it. If the enemy will only attempt to follow, it is all we ask.

We have assurances from other sources that Gen. Johnston is making the very best disposition possible of the forces under his command.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, and the Distilleries.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has issued a proclamation, ordering each distiller in that State to desist absolutely from the manufacture of ardent spirits after the 15th day of March, 1862. The superintendent of the State road is forbidden to transport any whisky over that road, and other railroad superintendents are requested to do likewise. In case of distillers refusing to obey this order, their stills are to be seized and sent to Rome, Ga., to be manufactured into cannon; and all liquor brought near military encampments is to be emptied upon the ground.

Rebel Telegraphic Reports from the West.

The Richmond *Examiner* of Thursday has the following telegraphic news in its columns:

MEMPHIS, March 3.—Jonas Leilbetts, who furnished the Union flag to the Federals at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and who pointed out the leading Secessionists and their property in that place, has been arrested by our troops, and was brought to Van Buren, in irons, on Friday last.

The latest advices from New Madrid represent that the Federal army, 20,000 strong, is within two day's march of that point. A skirmish occurred on Saturday with the advance Federal guard of over 1,000 cavalry and about two hundred under Gen. Jeff. Thompson. The small force under Thompson was driven in. The Federal loss was twenty-five.

The Confederates are in large force at New Madrid, and they expect to whip the Federals there.

The latest advices from Nashville represent that only three Union flags are flying in that city. The Lincoln soldiers are surprised and chagrined on account of the little sympathy exhibited by the people.

Captain Morgan captured ninety of the Federals on Thursday night, and every night Federal pickets are either killed or captured. The Federal pickets now extend their operations to Franklin, twenty miles south of Nashville.

A skirmish occurred at a locality called Savannah, near Eastport, on Friday last, in which eighteen Federals, who had landed from their gunboats, were killed. Four were killed on our side.

General A. S. Johnston is falling back at a convenient point, so as to be in supporting distance of the Charleston and Memphis Railroad.

A battle is expected to take place at Boston Mountain at a very early day.

MEMPHIS, March 4.—We have reports from New Madrid up to Saturday. The Federal army was then stated to be thirty miles off, and advancing. Their advance guard was within five miles of New Madrid. No fighting had occurred up to Saturday.

The latest intelligence received from Nashville states that the Federal troops in the city are conducting themselves with marked propriety. All the Confederate soldiers on furlough have been arrested. A company belonging to Colonel Bates' regiment was arrested on Thursday while crossing the river and making their way home. The company consisted of forty men.

Two Federal flags were flying—one on the capitol and the other on the court house.

A very few stores are open. No arrests of private citizens have been made.

MEMPHIS, March 4.—Reinforcements are rapidly coming forward for the defence of the Mississippi Valley.

General Johnston has fallen back to Decatur, Alabama.

The Federal Troops at Salisbury, N. C.

A correspondent, writing from Salisbury, N. C., to the Raleigh *Standard*, says:

I understand that one of the Federal prisoners confined in this place was hung by his comrades, night before last, for using strong anti-Lincoln doctrine—that he intended to remain in the South when released, and battle for its institutions, instead of being under the dominion of Lincoln & Co. He was rescued from death by the timely interference of some of the guard, who heard his supplications, &c.

Gen. Price made a Major General.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of Friday says:

"We are informed that Sterling Price has been promoted to a major general, and will be assigned to duty in Missouri. This is unquestionably a good appointment, for Gen. Price has shown himself a daring and capable officer."

Arrests for Disloyalty, &c.

The Richmond *Dispatch* contains the annexed:

The following parties were arrested yesterday: William Williams, for disloyalty; John Findsley and Heinrich Frischcorn, for selling liquor, and Daniel Bitter, superintendent of the Monticello House, by order of Captain Samuel Maccubbin, chief of the provost marshal's police; by detectives Shaw, Hicks, Carter, Hammond, O'Brien, and Roach. They found two Union flags, and took possession of the papers, letters, and books belonging to the German Turners' Society. On entering the assembly room of the Turners, the officers found a figure of the Goddess of Liberty painted on the wall, with Union colors and shield, with the words underneath of "Hats off!" Besides the parties above named, a number of soldiers were arrested.

Confederate News from Europe.

The Petersburg *Express* says:

A gentleman in this city has received, per the Confederate steamer *Nashville*, from a friend in London, an interesting letter, from which we have been kindly permitted to make the following extract:

"The *Trent* affair retarded rather than hastened the raising of the blockade of our ports. The measure, I have the best reasons for believing, was agreed upon some weeks ago between England and France—the former Power to take the initiative. The settlement of the *Trent* difficulty, on terms so disgraceful to the Lincoln Government, renders it somewhat indelicate for her, in view of such a triumph, now to do so. I am certain, however, that it will occur soon. All Europe will be united upon the subject."

We are not authorized to use names, but we feel at liberty to say that the above comes from high authority, and from one as likely to be posted in public matters as any other man in the British realm.

"Lassoing a Yankee."

The *Dispatch* of Friday relates the following under the above head:

Some days ago one of the Texas Rangers in Kentucky, whilst out on a scouting expedition, rode suddenly and unexpectedly into the presence of a Federal picket. Before he had time to cock his trusty rifle the picket brought his Minnie to bear on him, and ordered him to surrender. The Ranger felt that he was in a fix—he was fairly in for it, and could not do anything more than to throw down his gun with the best grace possible. Having done so, the picket stooped to get it, when, in an instant, the Ranger's lasso was thrown around him, and he felt himself dragged along as fast as a horse at full gallop could carry him. The picket yelled, but it was of no use—the Ranger had him to his heart's content. The Ranger returned, got his own and the picket's gun, and proceeded with his prisoner into camp. The Yankee was badly hurt in the dragging, but it taught him a useful lesson. When he gets loose, and meets a ranger again, he will know something of the "ropes."

A Rebel Dash.

The Charleston *Mercury* contains the following in its columns, which it says is received from a gentleman from Florida. No doubt the whole affair is a myth, or, if not, it will be considerably changed in its aspect when the Federal accounts are received:

The Yankees, who hold Cedar Keys, have been in the habit of sending out barges with armed crews for various purposes. Some days since some Confederate soldiers, not having the precepts of the defensive policy in mind, determined to lay an ambush for one of these Federal boating parties. So they loaded their rifles with ball cartridges, and, after fording bayous and crossing creeks, finally ensconced themselves behind a convenient sand hill, where they lay in wait. Soon after two barges, with "the flag" flying, approached quite near, and the riflemen, at a given signal, poured a deadly volley into each boat. For fear of accident, they reloaded and gave them another round. Upon a close observation, they found that only four oarsmen remained in one boat and but two in the other. As each boat had come up with ten oarsmen, the inference is that fourteen Yankees were "hurt."

Deposit of Arms in the Virginia Ordnance Department.

[From the Richmond Dispatch.]

Yesterday, a large number of fire-arms were handed in by our citizens at the Ordnance Department of Virginia, corner of Seventh and Carey streets. All these arms, and all such as may be hereafter brought in, which are private property, we learned yesterday at the armory, will be paid for by the State. The payment, as may be seen by an announcement in another column, will commence in a few days. In consequence of the great rush of our citizens to deposit their arms at the armory, it was found impossible to pay for them on the spot; for it would be done in such a hurry as to create the risk of undervaluing or overvaluing the arms. Every arm fit for service, either of cavalry or infantry, will be received and paid for.

While we were at the armory, yesterday, we noticed a large additional number of the local force receiving their arms, by order of Gov. Letcher. Truly, Virginia has done wonders, and is still untiringly exerting herself in this war. Her supply of arms seems to be inexhaustible; and we know that the Executive of the State exercises a most sound judgment and unfailing energy in issuing arms and providing for the requirements of the war.

One fact we learned at the armory yesterday, of which we before had no idea, and that is, that no less than six or eight different factories are engaged in percussioning arms for the State, under the superintendence of the Ordnance Department of Virginia. The extent of the work done it would not be prudent to make public, but it was such as to astonish us. Truly, the co-operation of the Ordnance Department of Virginia is of incalculable value in arming our people for the war.

The Arrest of Prominent Union Men in Richmond.

The *Examiner* of Thursday has the following in its local columns:

It has already been announced that the Rev. Alden Bosserman, pastor of the Universalist Church, in this city, had been arrested. We propose to give a sketch of the history of this reverend gentleman from the time of his arrival here from the North to his arrest on Tuesday and lodgment in McDaniel's jail.

Mr. Bosserman is a native of Maine; but for several years previous to 1861 he had been living in Baltimore, and officiating as a Universalist preacher. In the month of January, 1861, he was called by the Universalist congregation of Richmond to supply the place in the church here, made vacant by the resignation, on account of ill health, of the Rev. Jas. S. Shrigley, an eloquent preacher, and a good and true Southerner.

Mr. Bosserman took charge of the church, and his conduct excited no public notice or comment during the remainder of the winter. The following spring the whole country was in a state of violent agitation, and people had neither time nor inclination to watch the conduct of an obscure minister of a small and uninfluential sect.

Time wore on. The month of June came. Our troops were crowding to defend our most exposed frontiers. Magruder had met and routed the Yankees at Great Bethel. The President of the Provisional Government of the Southern Confederacy, by proclamation, indicated the fifteenth of June as a day of fasting and prayer. Mr. Bosserman was requested to open his church and have divine service. On that day the church was opened; the usual religious ceremonies performed, and the reverend gentleman delivered a discourse. But his discourse contained not even an allusion to the occasion. It was simply such a sermon as might have been delivered in any church in times of profound peace, when the country was all tranquillity. This reticence on the all-absorbing topic of the day excited some remark, but was soon forgotten amid the stirring events of that and the following month.

After our signal victory of the 21st of July over the foe at Manassas, the President signified, by proclamation, his desire that the whole nation should devote and set aside the fifth day of August as a day of prayer and thanksgiving. Though importuned by his congregation, Mr. Bosserman refused to open his church on this occasion, and, in consequence, a great majority of the members have, since that time, refused to attend the church. Latterly, we learn, he has discoursed on Sundays to only forty attendants.

At the Planters' meeting, held at the City Hall, on the 26th of February, Bosserman, accompanied by B. W. Wardwell, the ice-man, was present, and was noticed to take full notes of the proceedings. The same two men attended together the adjourned meeting of the planters at the African Church. On this occasion they took no pains to conceal the contempt and derision in which they held the meeting and its proposed object.

On the last general fastday Mr. Bosserman again refused to open his church, and gave as his reason that Mr. Franklin Stearns had requested him not to open it, and that as Mr. Stearns paid him more money than all his congregation put together, whatever he said should be done. On last Sunday he prayed, from his desk in church, that "this unholy rebellion should be crushed out."

In view of the course of conduct pursued by this man since the beginning of the war it did not excite surprise that an order was issued for his arrest. The officers having the order repaired to his residence, situated on Twentieth street, between Broad and Grace. A negro girl answered the door bell, and, in reply to the officer who inquired for Mr. Bosserman, she said he was out of town, and had not been at home for several days. Seeing a man's hat hanging in the passage, the officer inquired whose it was. The girl said she didn't know. The officer then told her he knew that Bosserman was up stairs, and that he intended to go up and find him. The girl protested that he was not in the house, and that there were several ladies up stairs, and that the officers could not go up. Without further parley they ascended the stairs, and there found in his chamber the reverend gentleman, now crest-fallen and terrified, "Union man." Mr. Bosserman was politely, but decidedly, informed that he "was wanted," and in fifteen minutes he was lodged in McDaniel's jail.

We will now treat of a more recent arrest. Mr. Charles Palmer has before, since, and throughout the war, been known as a loud-talking, violent "Union man," and as such has rendered himself odious. But it was generally believed that his insignificance and entire lack of influence would protect him, and, in all probability, notwithstanding his noise and talk, he might have escaped arrest, had he not have made himself so busy about Mr. Botts and his affairs. On Tuesday he made application to see Mr. Botts, stating that Mr. Botts' daughter had desired him to get from her father certain keys to a cabinet, which contained certain papers of importance. Mr. Palmer was allowed to see Mr. Botts and get the keys, but then was informed that he could not deliver them to Miss Botts without a written permit. Whether he ever received this permit we cannot say, but fancy he did not.

At eleven o'clock yesterday morning he was arrested at his commission office, on the corner of Virginia and Cary streets. He is said to have been very much terrified. Before being taken to jail he obtained permission to see a gentleman whose office is near his own. White as a ghost, he entered the gentleman's office, and entreated him to see Gen. Winder and induce him to restore him to liberty. The gentleman informed us that he would represent to Gen. Winder that Palmer was "all gas," and by no means dangerous.

After the transaction of a little private business, Mr. Palmer was duly escorted to McDaniel's jail, and locked up.

We might, if we thought them of sufficient consequence to publish, fill a column with the treasonable speeches and remarks said to have been recently made by Mr. Palmer; but, knowing his style, we feel assured the public will not care to hear his mouthings.

Mr. Palmer has a son, a captain of one of the companies of the Richmond Howitzers, who is a gallant officer and as true a Southern man as can be found in all our army.

The charge against Mr. Palmer is TREASON.

The Proposed Commander-in-Chief of the Rebel Army.

The Richmond *Examiner* says:

We learn that there has been some hesitation in Congress to pass the bill creating the office of commanding general to direct the movements of the war before the President decides on the reorganization of his Cabinet. The bill, in its present shape, gives the appointment of the commanding general to the Executive; and in that quarter it is said to be already a foregone conclusion that General Lee is to have this important post in the Government.

With reference to the delay in the reconstruction of the Cabinet, we may say that it is reported, in well-informed quarters, that nominations have already been sent into the Senate, and that that of Mr. Mallory as Secretary of the Navy has, by a large vote, been rejected.

The Force of Rebels at Columbus before the Evacuation of the Place.

The Chicago *Times* of Friday contains the following special despatch:

COLUMBUS, Ky., March 6.—I have derived from a reliable source the following list of the forces who held, and have vacated, Columbus—in all, supposed to be 12,000 men:

First Department, Western Division—Major Gen. Polk, commanding.

First Division—Brigadier General Cheatham.

Second Division—Brigadier General Burrell.

Third Division—Brigadier General McCowan.

Heavy Artillery—Brigadier General Frider.

Ordnance Officer—Captain Champlins.

Quartermaster's Department—Captain Mason.

Cavalry—Lieut. Col. Logwood. The cavalry were 900 in number.

Light Artillery—Stewart's Louisiana Battery, and Bankhead's, Jackson's, and two other Tennessee batteries.

Infantry—Louisiana regiments: the 11th, Col. Marks; 12th, Col. Scott, and 13th, Col. Gibson. Tennessee regiments: the 1st, Col. Smith; the 2d, Col. Walker; the 4th, Col. Neilly; the 5th, Col. Travis; the 6th, Col. Stevens; the 12th, Col. Russell; the 13th, Col. Vaughn; the 15th, Col. Carroll; the 21st, Col. Pickett; the 22d, Col. Freeman; the 31st, Col. ——; the 32d, Col. Brown; and a battalion of Tennessee troops under Lieut. Col. Kennedy.

There were also at Columbus the Seventh Kentucky Regiment, Col. Wickliffe, and a Mississippi regiment, Col. Blythe.

Miscellaneous Items.

FIRES IN HELENA, ARK.—Two disastrous fires occurred at Helena, Ark., last week. By one fire, two blocks of business houses were destroyed, involving a loss of from $85,000 to $90,000. By the other, a flouring mill and machine shop, with their contents, was burned. Loss $15,000.

GENERAL WASHINGTON BARROW, of Nashville, a member of the Tennessee Legislature, and a prominent leader in the Southern cause, was arrested by the Yankees at his residence, in Edgefield, immediately after their arrival there.

EIGHT companies of the North Carolina "Bethel" Regiment, which disbanded at the expiration of its term of service, are again in the field.

GOV. BROWN, of Georgia, has come out in a long letter against the planting of the usual amount of land with cotton this year, and in favor of making a large provision crop.

HON. ROBERT TOOMBS, in his letter declining an election to the position of Senator, says he has determined that he can now better serve his State and country in the army than in the Senate.

IN Pickens and Anderson districts, South Carolina, there are 250 distilleries, which use each week 12,500 bushels of corn, or 600,000 bushels per year!

THE North Carolina *Standard* has an "important rumor that the seat of Government is to be removed from Richmond to Raleigh."

HON. HENRY W. HILLIARD has been authorized to raise a Legion for three years or the war.

THE proprietor of one of the paper mills in Greenville district, S. C., will soon commence the manufacture of writing paper.

THE "Bell County Rebels," from Belton, Bell county, Texas, started for their rendezvous, Hempstead, sometime ago, when one of their lieutenants, James F. Landis, a lawyer, deserted, and returned to Belton. Several ladies of the place, (says the *Crescent*,) incensed to see him strutting about the streets in his uniform, got together a few days ago, seized him in public, and stripped off his stripes, which they sent to his company, who rewarded them with a vote of thanks.

THE Fayetteville (N. C.) *Observer* says: "We hear from various parts of the State that the spirit of patriotism is fully aroused, and volunteers are mustering by hundreds and thousands."

THE ladies of New Orleans, Mobile, and Charleston are making contributions for building and equipping gunboats at those places respectively.

AN EXTENSIVE gun factory has been set in operation at Holly Springs, Miss. A considerable number of gun barrels are rolled out every day, and contracts have been entered into to supply the Government with 30,000 guns in a short time.

A BLACK "UNION MAN."—Allen, slave of Richard Whitfield, was yesterday arrested by Officer Chalkley, of the city police, on the charge of having proclaimed that "Jeff Davis was a rebel, and that he (Allen) acknowledged no man as his master." This fellow should be whipped every day until he confesses what white man put these notions in his head.—*Richmond Examiner of Thursday.*

THE rumor that General Huger is under arrest is incorrect, as he was exercising the duties of his command to-day. He had been out superintending the defences at Suffolk, whence an attack from General Burnside, which will cut off Norfolk from Richmond, is momentarily expected. General Burnside had, it was stated, occupied Winston in force, and his pickets extended a considerable distance towards Suffolk.

THE OCCUPATION OF COLUMBUS.

The Appearance of the Town—Extent of the Fortifications—Large Amount of Ordnance Captured.

The correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*, writing from Columbus under date of March 4, gives the following interesting particulars of the capture of the Gibraltar of the West:

THE STARTING FROM CAIRO.

Columbus, the raw head and bloody bones of Federal fancy, and the subject of Confederate gasconade and braggadocio, is to-day in our hands, with its splendid fortifications, its stores of ordnance, burned barracks, and deserted tenements. The mystery of Columbus outwardly is solved; the secret history remains unwritten.

At 10 o'clock Monday night, the 3d instant, I stepped from the Cairo wharf-boat into Captain Paulding's gig, and, crossing the swiftly-rushing Ohio, soon found myself aboard the gunboat *St. Louis*, which was lying in the lee of the Kentucky shore, in readiness for the coming expedition Columbusward in the morning. The fleet destined for the occasion was composed as follows: the iron-clad gunboats *Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Louisville, Carondelet*, and *St. Louis*; the *Lexington*, just down from the Tennessee; four mortar boats in tow of the steamers *Lake Erie* and *Ike Hammit*; and the transports *Illinois, Aleck Scott*, and *T. L. Magill*, conveying the Twenty-seventh Illinois, Colonel Buford; Fifty-second Illinois, Colonel Roberts, and Fifty-fifth Illinois, Major Sanger commanding, *vice* Colonel Stuart at Paducah. The *Benton* had originally been chosen as flag-ship, but her repairs not having been concluded, the *Cincinnati* bore the colors of Commodore Foote.

The fleet got under way at four o'clock on Tuesday morning, headed for the *equivota terra*, the land of mystery—Columbus. It was a cold, chilly morning, the wind cutting like a knife, rendering an overcoat and blanket decidedly comfortable. For two hours we steamed down the river, our pace accelerated by the swift current, some six miles an hour, between unending files of cotton woods, sycamores, and willows, dead and decaying in swamps and the overflowed lowlands, with here and there a tumble down, squat cabin, perched upon some eminence fortunate in being *terra firma* by a margin of a few inches.

ARRIVED AT LUCAS' BEND.

The fleet arrived at Lucas' Bend, about two miles and a half above Columbus, just as the sun was rising. The flag-ship signalled the fleet to come to, and we lay in the middle of the stream, the transports far astern. The near edge of the Columbus bluffs was in sight, but the glass revealed no signs of the enemy. The fleet moved slowly down until opposite the fatal field of Belmont, at the point where the transports conveyed away our forces upon that tragic day. Upon the margin of the river stands a ruinous looking tenement, at the door of which was a still more ruinous looking native and his son, a lank, long-limbed stripling, who, upon sight of the gunboats, incontinently took to his heels and "skedaddled" through an adjacent cornfield and vanished in a swamp. A tug set out from the flag-ship for the house, and accosted the native, who persistently declared that the rebels had evacuated Columbus on the previous day, and burned their quarters. Little faith was reposed in the native's statements. After lengthy and tedious inter-gunboat communications, the line of battle was formed, the drums beat to quarters, and the guns were manned for action. Another tug, carrying a scouting detachment, set off from the flag-ship, gradually and cautiously crawled down to the point behind which frowned the mysterious fortifications and reposed the deserted village with its great ancestral name. The tug reached the point and rounded it in full range of the water batteries. Upon the crown of the bluff could be seen stragglers, here and there, and as the tug rounded the point, one of them unfurled a flag and waved it. The character of the flag could not be discerned from the gunboats, but it was evidently satisfactory to the scouting party, as the tug suddenly increased her speed in direct line for the water battery, and closely followed by a second tug with a party from the flag-ship.

HOISTING THE FLAG.

Both parties landed and started for the top of the bluff at double quick, and in a few moments Lieut. Phelps, of the *Cincinnati*, unfurled the stars and stripes. They found themselves, however, second comers, for the Second Illinois Cavalry, from Paducah, had rode overland the day before on a scouting expedition, and taken possession of the town. The gunboats rapidly steamed down to the town, and the crews enthusiastically saluted the flag. The transports landed their troops, and possession was taken. The work was accomplished without the firing of a gun or loss of life. The bubble, when it was grasped, left very thin suds in the hand.

THE TOWN.

Columbus is situated upon a narrow neck of land running south from the base of a bluff of steep ascent, and some ninety feet in altitude above the present water marks. Upon this bluff the rebel batteries were located. The town is simply a heterogeneous collection of mongrel wooden tenements, most of which were at one time devoted to bowling, billiard, and libatory purposes. One brick residence lays some well-defined claims to architectural pretensions and finish. One lawyer's shingle decorates a side wall, and one church lifts its meek wooden turret to the sky, some distance above it. A dilapidated depot—for Columbus, insignificant as it is, established an imaginary claim to commercial importance, in being the terminus of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad—two or three grocery stores and as many insignificant taverns, a post office, combining fluid with its postal arrangements, the whole, backed by swamps, fronted by the river and hemmed in with bluffs, make the town. Everything bore the marks of desertion and destruction. The houses were closed and the inmates gone. The stores had been ransacked and the contents scattered through the streets. Molasses, flour, groceries, letters, candle-boxes, playing-cards, whisky-bottles, house furniture, and other articles, *ad infinitum*, littered the sidewalks A contraband mounted upon a forlorn and mud-bedaubed mule, and a butternut-legged saloon keeper bestraddling a dirty counter, whose glories had departed down secession throats, were the only signs of male life in the town. Every woman had departed. Every dog, hog, and other animal adjunct of civilization had followed Rev. Gen Polk and his forces. The sand-bagged levee was covered with gun-carriages, caissons, torpedoes, shell, shot, chains, and anchors. The torpedoes, which were generously intended to blow Commodore Foote's fleet heavenward, were constructed in the shape of a sky rocket, and would prove about as effective for the purpose as one of the latter sky-piercing institutions. Large quantities of coal were piled upon the landing, which will come in excellent use for our gunboats and transports. Ordnance was scattered in every direction, much of which, from appearances, had but recently arrived. All of the gun-carriages were of Memphis manufacture, and were addressed to Gen. Polk.

THE FORTIFICATIONS.

The fortifications upon the bluff and its slope are reached from the town by an inclined railroad plane. They are constructed in the most thorough manner, and upon purely scientific principles, showing the handiwork of a master engineer. The water battery mounted twenty-two guns, some of them of heavy calibre, which had been dismounted, and probably thrown into the river. Five of them were lying upon the slope, and undoubtedly others are at the bottom of the river. The gun platforms were filled with grape, canister, and shell in great profusion. The upper works presented a front of some two miles and a half in [illegible] extent, the earthworks mounting 128-pounders, and the whole embracing about 60 guns. All the upper guns had been removed. The forts were so located and constructed as to be almost impregnable to an assault by storm. The capture of one by no means involved the capture of the balance. A fresh assault must be made in each instance. At the main fort, and many of the earth works, stockades crossed the trenches, exposing the assaulting party to a storm of bullets from riflemen firing through loop-holes. Every ravine and ditch was thoroughly protected, and the various approaches of the river commanded for a long distance in every direction. The bearings of the guns will be more readily understood from a cut I send you than from any technical description. It is sufficient that an unusually strong natural position was seized upon, and so improved by rare engineering and skill that the equal of the Columbus fortifications, in extent and perfection of detail combined, can hardly be found in the United States. The water battery was exposed to the fire of the gunboats, and in no lengthy time could have been silenced by vigorous shelling. The upper works, if manned by determined men, would have proved disastrous to the gunboats, and could be held against the assaults of a vastly superior force by land.

About the only souvenirs of the camp life of the rebels, and their theological progress under the tuition of their reverend general, were countless packs of playing-cards and shattered fragments of whisky bottles, which were strewn all over the fortifications, sandwiched into the pyramids of grape, and scattered down the slope of the bluff. Nothing of any value in the line of camp furniture, small arms, or private property, was left; whatever could not be carried off was burned. One article, too bulky to carry away, and impervious to fire, was Pillow's forty thousand-dollar chain, with which that sage warrior proposed to obstruct the navigation of the river. One end is firmly anchored in the bluff, and thence dangles its ponderous links to the river below, a harmless monument to the child-like simplicity and imaginative ideality of the great constructor of ditches.

There are two magazines of capacious dimension one located at some distance in the rear of the main fortifications, and still burning while I was there. The other is located upon the slope of the bluff above the western battery. In addition to these is a sort of telegraph magazine filled with galvanic batteries and coils of wire, forming portions of a subterranean telegraph connecting together the various parts of the works. Water was obtained from the river by means of a steam pump, and emptied into a huge tank which still remains there, minus the pumping apparatus.

AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

That the rebels encamped at Columbus bore little love to the Federal officers, both military and civil, is evidenced by the fact that effigies of the most ludicrous make-up, and labelled McClellan, Scott, Seward, Chase, etc., were found suspended from trees and gibbets, and hurled headlong down the bluff. Letters of the most obscene and profane character, alluding to Federal officials, and expressive of the private reflections and cogitations of the rebels, were also found. Everything connected with the evacuation indicated a most deep-seated, malignant enmity, and venomous hatred against the Union forces and the people of the North. From such indices as were presented at Columbus, it may readily be inferred that Polk's army went off cursing louder than did "our army in Flanders."

INTERIOR OF THE FORTIFICATIONS.

The parade ground is about a mile and a half in length, and three hundred yards in width, and most admirably adapted for its purposes. Most of the larger barracks were burned, but many of the huts remained intact. These were constructed simply but substantially. A capacious cellar was dug, and the excavated earth banked up around the structure. Many of the cellars were flooded with water, rather incommoding sleeping arrangements, a difficulty which was obviated by mounting the beds upon logs. Our boys, with true Yankee tact, seized upon these institutions, and rapidly converted them into comfortable and hospitable domiciles.