

The Press. MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1862.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

By way of Fort Monroe, we have the intelligence that Norfolk is in a ferment of excitement and alarm. The destruction of the city, in case of an attack, is apprehended by the inhabitants. A strong force is concentrated at Suffolk to check Burnside, who is reported to have occupied Winton, and to be moving on Norfolk.

We have news this morning from Washington of an occurrence which, while proving a serious injury to our cause, may teach us an invaluable lesson of prudence for the future. The United States steamer Cumberland has been sunk, and the frigate Merrimack captured, by the iron-plated steamer Albion.

The frigate Merrimack, which was finally driven to a sinking condition, was the result of the destruction of the Cumberland. The details of the disaster will be found in a special column. The Union flag now waves over Cock Pitt point on the Lower Potomac. The name is not the most euphonious, we admit, but in that respect it is perfectly in keeping with the history of the war.

About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, the rebel commanders, in order to change their property which had not the merit of portability. The steamer Page was struck on the ground just as she was about to anchor.

Our Forts Monroe correspondent has forwarded to us a copy of the Southern Journal to the effect that the rebels have made a number of interesting extracts. The necessity of burning the cotton and tobacco crops, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, is a measure which has been introduced into the rebel Congress, on Thursday last, to render such a measure obligatory.

The telegraph line to Forts Monroe has been completed and opened. Besides, however, to be in receipt of such news as may be sent, the rebels have been ordered to be in receipt of such news as may be sent, the rebels have been ordered to be in receipt of such news as may be sent.

The recent movements on the Upper Potomac have culminated in the capture of Leesburg, by the Federal troops. The rebels have been driven from the town, and a large quantity of arms stored. While our troops were approaching the town, the rebels could be discerned through a glass in full retreat.

The evidences of a decaying rebellion are rapidly multiplying. We see it not only in the great results following the victories at Fort Donelson and Roanoke, but in the other and more recent successes. The loss of the foreign aid, so illusive and long propped, was dispelled by the ability and foresight of the Secretary of State, and it is amusing to witness the humiliation heaped upon the rebels by the capture of the steamer Merrimack.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1862. Once more I write to the friends of a great movement of the army of the Potomac. The year that has passed, Washington has been the theatre of singular excitements and great events.

It is a singular coincidence that there is as much hostility to the present organization of the Democratic party, as it is by the Democratic and backs who voted STEUBEN A. DOWD in 1860, and who voted JOHN C. BARNES in 1862.

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IMPORTANT FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Audacity of the Rebel Steamer Merrimack. OUR FLEET AND BATTERIES ATTACKED. SINKING OF THE U. S. SHIP CUMBERLAND.

Special Despatch to the Press. Fortress Monroe, Saturday, March 8, 1862. About one o'clock this afternoon the iron-plated steamer Merrimack, accompanied by two smaller boats, proceeded from the river to the Point.

The Merrimack, which was finally driven to a sinking condition, was the result of the destruction of the Cumberland. The details of the disaster will be found in a special column.

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IMPORTANT FROM NEW MEXICO.

Special Despatch to the Press. Fort Union, N. M., March 9, 1862. The rebels have been driven from the town, and a large quantity of arms stored. While our troops were approaching the town, the rebels could be discerned through a glass in full retreat.

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FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press." The Army of the Potomac to be Divided. The President has issued a war order, No. 2, in which he orders that the army of the Potomac be divided into three corps.

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