The Press.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1862.

## THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

The West continues to furnish us with victories. We have the authority of Major General Halleck to announce two brilliant engagements—a bombardment on the Mississippi and a battle in Arkansas.

The press despatches from Cairo are no later than yesterday morning, when the rebels were supposed to be in full retreat across a neck of land which connected Island No. 10, a position which the rebels have recently fallen back upon, with Mrs. Merriweather's landing. At a serenade given to the Commander of the Western forces at St. Louis last evening, he took the opportunity of gratifying the loyal hearts of the country with the announcement of the complete success of Commodore Foote's bombardment, together with the capture of all the ordnance, ammunition, stores, and transports of the enemy. The retreating rebels will probably fall back upon Forts Wright and Randolph, situated on the Chickasaw bluffs. But our acquaintance with Com. Foote's treatment of a retreating enemy is too recent to admit of any doubt that he is already in as hot pursuit of them as prudence will allow, and that *Memphis is doomed*.

Of the victory in Arkansas we have but a bare announcement of the fact. Three rebel colonels were captured.

We have details of interesting news from our special correspondent at Fortress Monroe. It is rumored that General Magruder is concentrating his forces at Warwick, a village about seven miles above Newport News. A second visit is expected from the *Merrimac* in the course of a few weeks—provided, of course, nothing should occur in the interval to divert her attention in another direction.

Our Western correspondent has forwarded to us files of late Memphis papers, from which we extract all the news of importance and interest. Pillow and Floyd (who have been suspended by Jeff Davis) are being soundly berated by the rebel journals, for their cowardice and bombast. Doubtless they would be quite satisfied if some one should interpose to save them from their friends.

The Louisville *Journal* states that large numbers of East Tennesseans, amounting to some thousands, who were driven from their homes, and were obliged to seek refuge in the loyal portion of Kentucky, are now joining Gen. Carter's command, at Cumberland Gap, for the purpose of making their re-entrance into East Tennessee, under the protection of the Union troops. As our forces approach the Gap, large numbers of refugees are coming into the Union ranks, and enlisting, that they may fight for the stars and stripes, and repay their persecutors for the treatment they were subjected to.

It is said that Commodore Dahlgren, the eminent ordnance inventor, and at present in command of the Washington navy-yard, opposes the proposition to construct several 20-inch Dahlgren guns. He thinks that, as we have several 15-inch guns of the same pattern yet untried, we had better wait and see if *they* are efficient before making larger ones.

### Congress Yesterday.

SENATE.—A resolution was adopted instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of appropriating money to make experiments testing iron-clad vessels of war.

The bill making an appropriation to the Post Office Department was passed with unimportant amendments

The bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia was postponed till to-day.

HOUSE.—The Senate joint resolution, authorizing the Secretary of War to accept the State moneys which have been appropriated for the payment of volunteers, was agreed to.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, for the consideration of the tax bill.

### Pennsylvania Legislature.

SENATE.—Mr. Nichols presented the resolutions passed by the Seventh section of this city, favoring the abolition of the Board of Controllers of Public Schools. The resolutions are so terse and pointed, that, in connection with the numerous others of the same sort which have been and will be presented, they cannot fail to exercise a wholesome influence upon the judgment of our legislators.

A bill to reduce the rate of payment for advertising the names of delinquent tax-payers of Philadelphia was passed.

HOUSE.—The bill relative to the Girard Bank was postponed until Friday next.

The consideration of the resolution providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature was postponed until to-morrow.

### The Tax Bill.

Many of the business interests of the country are now represented by delegations at Washington, which are endeavoring to reduce the rates of the new tax bill, upon their favorite articles. It is proper they should all be heard, and that unjust and unfair impositions of all kinds should be avoided. But a large revenue must be collected, and a portion of the burden should fall upon all who are able to bear it. Congress should not be deterred by clamorous opposition from imposing any tax which is appropriate and just. Mature consideration will enable our national legislators, we think, to devise an equitable system that will yield as much money as the nation will require and yet not prove painfully oppressive to the people. The sum asked for (about $160,000,000 per annum) is but little more than double the revenue which was sometimes derived from imposts and public lands in a period of profound peace, without causing any serious inconvenience. To preserve the nation from destruction, that sum will cheerfully be contributed now, if a mode of levying it that is at once thoroughly just and convenient is adopted.

### The News from Mexico

The news from Mexico, which we publish *this morning*, is of a highly important and interesting character. An American citizen, by the name of ADDISON T. ARLEN, who was a bearer of despatches from our Government to Minister CORWIN, was murdered while travelling from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico. We are not informed whether this terrible outrage was perpetrated by one of the guerilla bands that infest that country, or by authorized agents of a faction.

The English contingent of the invading army has been withdrawn, and left the armies of France and Spain to adjust the matters in dispute. The discussion of the diplomatic bodies is to commence, at Orizaba, on the 1st of April, and it is rumored that Minister CORWIN will propose that the American Government shall pay, or secure the payment of, the interest on the debts of Mexico to France, England, and Spain, provided those countries withdraw their armies, and abandon all designs against the independence of Mexico.

### The Epiphany Church.

We understand that new troubles have arisen in the Epiphany Church of this city. Several years ago, as most of our readers will remember, its pastor was the late Rev. DUDLEY A. TYNG, who became obnoxious to some of its members on account of his allusions in the pulpit to the difficulties in Kansas. He was succeeded by Rev. Mr. PRENTISS, who proved to be a notorious Secessionist, and who, after his departure from this city, became a colonel in one of the South Carolina regiments of the rebel army. About a year ago, Rev. Mr. CRAYCRAFT, of Ohio, was duly installed, and it was generally supposed that under his charge good feeling and harmony among the members, and between the communicants and their pastor, would be fully restored. This expectation, however, has not been realized, and we understand that on Sunday last he delivered a farewell sermon, in which he stated that there seemed to be a determination to drive him from the Church by withholding his salary. He intimated that the cause for this action was his denunciations of the rebellion, and in proof of this he alleged that he had received anonymous letters enclosing peace articles from the New York *Daily News*, and threatening him with the loss of his salary if he continued to evince his antagonism to the Secession conspiracy. We know nothing of the merits of the controversy, and regret that it has occurred. For the credit of our city, we hope that the disagreement, which is but too evident, originated from some other cause than a want of loyal feeling on the part of any of the leading members of the Church.

PIANOS! PIANOS!!—George Stock (New York) makes a Piano-forte which has no equal in fulness and richness of tone and beauty of touch. J. E. GOULD, Seventh and Chestnut.

It is now established, we think, that Congress will not pass any extreme measure in reference to the reoccupied Southern territory. A bill to abolish slavery in the District will undoubtedly become a law; but it will be so digested and arranged as to render it liable to the least possible objection from the people. The warmest advocates of emancipation now admit that military necessity is doing all that any one can desire—and especially by those who keep in view the difficulty of disposing of the negroes after they have been made free. No bill will be passed that does not recognize the unity of the Government and the existence of the State. In regard to confiscation there is much difference of opinion. This will be seen in the tone of the recent speeches of the leading Republicans in Congress, and in the tone of the leading Republican newspapers in the country—the bill of Mr. SHERMAN, and, indeed, the well-known differences of sentiment everywhere. Mr. LINCOLN's message has developed these dissenting views, and yet that message was one of the most popular State papers ever issued by a President. Without going to any extreme course, it pleased the radical men by recognizing the policy and possibility of emancipation. Although mildly opposed by the men of the Border States, it even gave them satisfaction by its non-interference with the institution of slavery as it exists, and its recognition of their rights as slave-holding members of the Union.

By the law of military necessity the people are willing that the questions arising out of this war shall be determined. Military necessity, however, is a temporary expedient, and possesses no relation whatever to the permanent laws of a State or district. It might be a necessity to summarily emancipate all the slaves within ten miles of Manassas—to burn the dwellings of Norfolk, or lay waste the country around Acquia Creek—and while we would approve of the action and commend the generals commanding it, we could not find a precedent for any law or general policy. This becomes the duty of Congress. In performing this duty, Congress must consider every question—every interest—every motive. Remembering that the great object of government is the greatest good to all, and that this unprecedented war is for the preservation of government, it naturally follows that Congress in its legislation must be kind, comprehensive, conciliatory—devoted to no irritating idea, and allied to no sectional feeling. We think this spirit animates the governing powers—the executive and the legislative—and we are therefore prepared to see Congress shape its future legislation upon principles arising out of it. We are prepared to see such a course adopted towards the Union people of the South as will foster their love to the flag and bring them back to their old allegiance.

While Congress thus proceeds in its work, with mercy, magnanimity, and justice, the army will be compelled to push on the work of conquest. We must not legislate before we subjugate. For the rebels in arms; for the rebels who are menacing our homes, destroying our commerce, and murdering our people; for rebels in the active pursuits of treason, there can be nothing but fire and the sword. We send fleets and armies to North Carolina, because North Carolina is an active foe; we send Governor General JOHNSON and a United States marshal to Tennessee, because Tennessee, redeemed and repentant, is at our feet. If it is necessary to aid our ambassadors to North Carolina, we may proclaim emancipation, confiscation, even devastation, for there a military necessity exists, and to restore the Union nothing must be omitted. In Tennessee, on the other hand, military necessity has accomplished its purpose, and at the hands of *Governor General* JOHNSON and the Congress which has clothed him with authority, we must expect another, and a more enduring policy—a policy of peace and prudence—a policy which will carry out the determination of the President that the nationality and integrity of the Republic must be restored.

This illustration will present, we think, the just view of our policy towards the people of the subjugated territory. It seems to be based on reasonable principles, and its adoption by Congress would gratify the true patriots of the country.

### Anglo-American Trade.

The returns of the trade of the United Kingdom for 1861 have been published, and exhibit some novel results, caused by the cotton crisis, the United States protective tariff, and the commencement of free trade with France. The whole trade for 1861 is of the value of $625,575,665, against $679,456,125 in 1860; being a falling off of $53,880,470 in the past year—or a diminution of *eight* per cent. In the imports there was a large increase in grain over even the extraordinary arrivals of 1860. In cotton there was a falling off of only *nine* per cent. as compared with the imports of 1860. In the export of cotton goods there was a falling off of $22,977,985. This no doubt arose from the reduced consumption of such goods in the United States.

The British colonial traffic is one-third of the whole, and the United States, which hitherto had occupied the *second* place on the list, has dropped down to the *fourth*. The British exports to the United States in 1861 are valued at $45,291,630, against $108,333,325—being a falling off of $62,043,695 in the last twelve months. Germany is the next best customer—then come the populations of South America, Brazil heading them. The United States are fourth, closely followed by France, which in 1859 took only one-fifth of the amount taken by the United States. There has been more or less decrease in the exportations for 1861, to all countries but France, Holland, Italy, China, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway, Denmark, and some other very small States. The falling off on the whole British exports of the year is $53,880,470—which is a considerable amount.

At the same time, the annual British expenditure is $350,000,000, and the annual interest payable on the debt, (which was $4,025,392,770, three years ago,) amounts to $140,021,495. In one year the British exports to the United States have declined considerably more than one-half—in the proportion of $21½ to 9.

The dependence of Great Britain on the United States, for food, can be best shown by a few statistical facts. During the year 1861, the enormous quantity of 14,322,399 quarters of wheat—actually 8,020,543,440 lbs., as the British quarter contains 8 bushels, or 560 pounds—and 6,242,897 cwt. of meal and flour, were imported into the United Kingdom. During that year, the United States supplied upwards of 2¼ millions of quarters of wheat, and 3¾ millions of cwt. of meal and flour. The whole cost of these importations was about $100,000,000 for wheat, and $30,000,000 for meal and flour. The share of the United States in these vast sums was at least $50,000,000. The authenticity of these figures cannot be questioned, for they are taken from Parliamentary Returns, recently published in England.

### The Kingdom of Italy.

This country and England were the first to acknowledge VICTOR EMMANUEL as King of Italy. France did it later, and with a reluctance which nearly deprived the action of all grace and merit. Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, and several other sovereign States, have also accepted the Kingdom of Italy as an established and independent Power. As yet, however, Austria, Russia, and Prussia have held back.

That Austria, with the expectation of an attack on Venetia, and the recollection of having lost the whole of Lombardy, should be slow in acknowledging VICTOR EMMANUEL as King of Italy, is not by any means surprising. Austria has apparently forgiven the complicity of France in the Italian war of 1859, but it cannot be expected to extend similar amnesty to VICTOR EMMANUEL, who has profited so largely by that war. Besides, Austria is eminently a Catholic Power, having strong sympathy with the Pope, whose antagonist is the same who detached Lombardy from the Imperial domain.

Prussia, it now is certain, has resolved upon immediately recognizing the Kingdom of Italy, and is alleged to have solicited Russia to do the same. The Liberal party in the Prussian Parliament has strongly urged the propriety and policy of this measure. We find it stated, as by authority, that "the endeavor of the Austrian Government to obtain a very questionable change of the Federal Constitution, hostile to Prussia and to progress, has had still greater weight. Jealous of the advance made by the North German Power towards a consolidation of the national army, finance, and foreign diplomacy under a central administration, her rival sought to turn the proposed movement to her own purposes, by extending the 'reform' to other kinds of centralization, involving the non-German provinces in which Austria is so rich, and virtually obtaining a German guarantee for the tenure of those alien possessions. The Vienna Cabinet was thus employing the antagonism between the Southern or more Absolutist Governments of the Fatherland and the Constitutional North, to strengthen her position in Italy, and especially in Venetia. By a decisive stroke, Prussia has frustrated the manœuvre."

Prussia, which eminently desires to secure to herself the authority in Germany hitherto conceded to Austria, and really is head of the Protestant Confederacy in Germany, has seen, at last, that, by not acknowledging the Kingdom of Italy, she was playing Austria's game. Pursuing the wiser and more liberal course, she will, by acknowledging VICTOR EMMANUEL, do more to weaken Austria, by isolating her, than by winning a campaign.

## LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1862.

The Congressional economists who had consoled themselves that the necessity was passing away for more large expenditures of the public money, beyond the subsistence of the army and navy, and the absorption of the appropriations already made, are greatly disturbed by the demands consequent upon the rage for iron-clad vessels; and this demand will be irresistible. Looking at the future, however, the new expenditures about to be authorized by Congress will, I think, prove to be a wise precaution. It is only necessary to reflect what incalculable injury would be inflicted upon the shipping in the bay of New York, and upon the city itself, if such a devastator as the *Merrimac* should be able to effect an entrance, to realize the necessity of immediate and liberal provision against any such accident. Foreign nations who have known our deficiency in iron-clad steamers will receive the intelligence of the conflict between the *Merrimac* and the *Monitor* not merely as an evidence of the wonderful efficiency of these engines of war, but as the harbinger of a state of vigorous preparation on the part of our Federal Government. A thorough revolution in the whole naval marine will be the consequence. The wooden walls will give place to the iron walls, and before the present year is out our iron-clad ships-of-war will be found in most of our harbors, bays, and rivers. In this aspect the engagement off Fortress Monroe on Saturday and Sunday of last week will prove a most auspicious admonition—forewarning and forearming us at the same time—forearming us against domestic as well as foreign foes. Pennsylvania iron will thus have a wide and almost limitless field before it, and the ingenuity and enterprise of our inventors will be stimulated by the prospect of a lucrative return for their labor. The reverse at Bull Run called an invincible army into the field, and the prowess of the *Merrimac* will add an invincible iron navy to our national strength. It is too late to hesitate because this revolution will sensibly increase the national debt. As was well said by the venerable Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, some days ago, the American people will gladly bear any burden if they are only convinced that the Government can be maintained and the war energetically prosecuted. What we are now doing is equally to achieve these objects and to be ready against complications with foreign Powers, and in this sense the heavy appropriations made, and about to be made, by Congress may prove the most enlightened economy in the end.

OCCASIONAL.

## ADDITIONAL MEXICAN NEWS.

### The English Contingent Withdrawn—Action of Minister Corwin—Sufferings of the Allies.

A correspondent of the New York *Express* writes from Havana, to the 12th instant, as follows: By the R. M. steamer *Thames*, we have dates from Vera Cruz to the 24 instant. The news is interesting. It appears that the English contingent of the Allied forces has been withdrawn, and that the French and Spaniards alone are to assume the pacification of Mexico, the English agreeing to sanction all their proceedings. Accordingly, while the English proceeded to re-embark, the Spaniards and Frenchmen were in movement to occupy Cordova and Orizaba, leaving Vera Cruz on the 1st instant. The discussions of the diplomats will commence about the 1st of April, and it is expected that no difficulty will be experienced in arranging indemnity for the past, and ample security that in the future Mexico will observe an honest and prompt course in the payment of her debts, and will afford ample protection to foreign residents without the necessity of a Spanish or Austrian prince to keep order in the country. It is reported that Mr. Corwin has undertaken, on the part of the United States, "that his Government will pay or secure the payment of the interest on the debts of Mexico to France, England, and Spain." It is worthy of observation that very little is now said about instituting a new Government for Mexico. General Prim, in the course of preliminary negotiations, was distinctly informed by the Mexican Government that no such attempt would be tolerated for a moment, and that no dictation of any sort would be permitted to influence the people in the exercise of their elective privileges. The presence of the American minister may have the effect to prevent the assumption of undue power by the Allied plenipotentiaries.

The Allied troops have already suffered severely from the diseases incident to the climate; and the British soldiers are said to be overjoyed at the order for their withdrawal, as they are by no means anxious for "yellow-jack" laurels and the grave honors connected therewith.

Advices from Key West, just received, are to the effect that the Admiralty Court there sitting, has declared that the Spanish brig *ترسيتا* is not a legal prize, and Judge Marvin has accordingly ordered her release. This intelligence has had a good effect upon official circles here, and it is expected that the release of the steamer *Lahnan*, recently sent to your port, will follow.

Complaints are made here that the late news from the North is not full and complete, and as the Government has charge of the telegraph, there is a disposition to discredit the reports of the recent victories of the Union armies. Shades of doubt characterize all the reports that go from here to Europe by every steamer, the rebel agent, Colonel Charles J. Helme, taking care that his versions of occurrences are widely understood by all the foreign agents, with whom he is very intimate.

The *Santiago de Cuba*, Captain Ridgley, is in port—all well. The *Black Joker*, a British Confederate, is to leave this evening for a port in the Gulf, though she cleared for Matamoros.

### Hibernian Society.

This society, established in 1792, in succession to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, (first associated in 1771,) held its anniversary meeting at the Continental Hotel, yesterday. The election of officers, which took place at noon, eventuated in the following appointments:

President, Major Gen. R. Patterson; Vice President, Hon. James Harper; Treasurer, James Brown; Secretary, James L. Taylor; Counsellors, Wm. J. Duane, Esq., Samuel Hood, Esq.; Finance Committee, Robert Steen, Jos. Jones, Wm. C. Patterson; Physicians, Drs. R. H. Irwin, Jos. S. Harper, Charles Funde—First Quarter, Mark Devine, James Smyth; H. W. Catherwood; Second Quarter, Hugh Cassiday, Michael Keenan, John Robinson; Third Quarter, Joseph Collins, Hugh Craig, Wm. Duffy; Fourth Quarter, David Boyd, Andrew McBride, James Black.

THE BANQUET.

According to annual custom, the day—that specially dedicated to the honor of St. Patrick, Ireland's Apostle and Patron—was appropriately wound up by a splendid dinner, at the Continental Hotel, of which members and guests partook. The banquet was in Mr. Stevens' best style.

Major General Patterson, president of the Society, occupied the chair, and the Hon. James Harper and James Brown, Esq., were the vice chairmen. His Excellency Andrew Curtin sat on the right, and James Allen, Esq., president of the St. George's Society, on the left of the president; in whose immediate vicinity we also noticed David Milne, Esq., vice president of the St. Andrew's Society; H. Gates Jones, of the Welsh Society; Demby Sharswood, Esq., of the St. George's, and the Rev. Dr. Wylie and the Rev. Dr. Blackwood.

Dinner concluded—and surely a good dinner is an excellent thing, for Byron speaks, with no small *gusto*, of "that focain of the soul, the dinner-bell"—the company settled down to regular post-prandial enjoyment and *abandon*, and though, by a judicious, mutual understanding, the too ordinary infliction of general speech-making was negatived, patriotic and genial sentiment prevailed. It was remarked by one gentleman, that perhaps this was the only Irish celebration in Philadelphia at which "The Repeal of the *Union*" was not a sentiment near and dearest to the participants. Now, *tempora mutantur*, and all citizens, whatever their origin, coalesce for the preservation of the great (American) Union. Governor Curtin's speech, eloquent and patriotic, when he was called on to reply to the sixth toast (the State of Pennsylvania), stirred the hearts of all who heard it, like a trumpet call, and every sentence which he spoke was "applauded to the echo which doth applaud again." Not one Irish-American desires the repeal of *this* Union. Governor Curtin was loudly applauded when he expressed his full confidence in the integrity of President Lincoln, but the enthusiasm was raised to its *acme*, when he made a spirited eulogy upon the courage and the conduct of General McClellan, a native of Philadelphia, of whom the country had every cause to be proud.

The toasts of the evening were as follows:

1. The Immortal Memory of Saint Patrick.
2. Ireland—
"Her fruitful soil forever teems with wealth,
With gems her waters, and her air with health;
Her waving furrows float with bearded corn,
And arms and arts her envied sons adorn."
3. The Memory of Washington.
4. The United States—The loved home of our adoption.
5. The President of the United States—May he have the wisdom, desire, and ability to restore our country to its former greatness. [Three cheers.]
6. Pennsylvania—The Keystone of the Federal Arch; ever sound, may her foundations never be sapped.
7. The City of Philadelphia—Her *Brotherly Love* has been shown by the hospitality of her citizens to the myriads who have passed through her bounds on their way to the field of battle.
8. The Army and Navy—Each co-ordinate to the other; both combined, the nation has little to fear. [Nine cheers.]
9. The Judiciary—Upon their exposition rest the vital principles of our freedom.
10. The Press—When truth is free to combat error, right must prevail.
11. Our Deceased Brethren—
"Blest be that strain of high belief,
Which says, that souls that part in grief
Part only for a time."
12. Our Sister Societies—May they be blessed with full coffers and generous hands, to relieve the distressed.
13. Woman—Our guardian angel in youth, our companion in riper years, and comforter in declining days.

Andrew J. Catherwood, Esq., of the Select Council, spoke to the seventh toast; Colonel Crosman to the eighth; Dr. Shelton Mackenzie (with the merit of great brevity) to the tenth; H. Gates Jones, Esq., to the eleventh, and Gilbert Rice, Esq., to the twelfth.

After the regular toasts were honored, the healths of General Patterson and Governor Curtin were given and duly honored.

A handsome tribute to the patriotism and judgment of Governor Curtin was paid by General Patterson.

During the evening several good songs, more or less Irish, were sung by amateurs, members, and guests of the society.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

### COMPLIMENT TO GEN. HEINTZLEMAN.

### VISIT OF THE NAVAL COMMITTEE TO FORTRESS MONROE.

### Rebel Documents Come to Light.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, March 17.

### Secretary Stanton's Newspaper Order Carried into Effect—Seizure of a Washington Newspaper—Proper Explanations Given.

An order was issued this morning for the seizure of the printing office and the arrest of the publisher and printers of the Washington *Sunday Chronicle*, and their trial by a court martial, that paper having yesterday published news of military operations and movements, thereby disregarding the order of the Secretary of War, and making itself liable to be proceeded against under the 57th article of war.

The order of arrest was placed in the hands of the Military Governor of the District of Columbia, and the editor of the paper brought before him. The editor stated that the news was handed in at a very late hour, and the paper went to press without his personal supervision. He expressed his regret at the violation of the order, and promised to guard carefully against a recurrence of similar publications; whereupon, at the request of the Military Governor, (he being satisfied that the offence would not be repeated,) the execution of the order was suspended.

Attention is called to the following order, issued last August, which still continues in force:

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 67.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, August 26, 1861.

By the 57th article of the act of Congress entitled "An act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States," approved April 10, 1806, holding correspondence with or giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, is made punishable by death, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court martial.

Public safety requires the strict enforcement of this article.

It is, therefore, ordered that all correspondence and communication, verbally or by writing, printing, or telegraphing, respecting the operations of the army, or military movements on land or water, or respecting the troops, camps, arsenals, entrenchments, or military affairs, within the several military districts, by which intelligence shall be directly or indirectly given to the enemy, without the sanction of the proper authority or of the general in command, be, and the same are, absolutely prohibited; and from and after the date of this order persons violating the same will be proceeded against under the thirty-seventh article of war.

By order. L. THOMAS, Adjutant General.

It is presumed that the action taken with the *Sunday Chronicle* will stop the publication of improper news in this capital—the headquarters of the enemy's spies. It has been hard to convince the correspondents of the Philadelphia and New York papers that it was of real service to the Government to prohibit the transmission of intelligence in a direction opposite from the enemy, while newspapers here, almost under the eyes of the rebels, filled their columns with information which would be declared contraband on the telegraph wires. The Government appears to have been of the same opinion, and only waiting for a clear case to make an example.

### A Bill Providing for the Organization of Army Corps,

And of Staffs attached to Corps, and Divisions of the Army of the United States.—Reported to the Senate and laid out a law.

*Be it enacted, &c.*, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to establish and organize army corps according to his discretion.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That each army corps shall have the following officers attached thereto, who shall constitute the staff of the commander thereof: One assistant adjutant general, one quartermaster, one commissary of subsistence, and one assistant inspector general—who shall hold respectively the rank of lieutenant colonel, and who shall be assigned from the army of volunteer forces by the President; also, three aids-de-camp, one to bear the rank of major, and two to bear the rank of captain, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the commander of the army corps.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That each division of the forces of the United States, consisting of two or more brigades, shall have the following officers attached thereto, who shall constitute the staff of the permanent commander thereof, viz:

One assistant adjutant general, and one assistant inspector general, who shall bear, respectively, the rank of major, and who shall be assigned from the army or volunteer forces. Also three aids-de-camp, to bear the rank of captain, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the commander of the division, and the appointment to cease upon the expiration of his division command. The division commander may detail an officer of his command, of the rank of captain, to act as judge advocate of the division, or a lieutenant of said command, upon the recommendation of said commander, may be assigned by the President to act as such division judge advocate, who shall bear the rank of captain while so assigned. Any officers of the regular army assigned and detached to staff duty, as above provided, shall, upon the cessation of such service, resume their position in the regular army, with the same rank and promotion as if they had continued to serve in their own regiments or corps. The senior officer of artillery in each division shall, in addition to his other duties, act as chief of artillery and ordnance at the headquarters of the division.

### From Manassas and Vicinity.

Collector THOMAS arrived here to-night. Scouting over the country for a distance of 20 miles from Manassas has just been completed to-day. Everything that was found went to show that a panic prevailed among the rebels. They not only left their guns and blankets, etc., strewn on the ground, but destroyed their houses, bridges, and railroads. It was confidently stated that they have made a stand on the south bank of the Rappahannock. Some few of the inhabitants who were not swept off by the rebels professed Union sentiments. The rebels throw forward 2,000 cavalry several miles this side of the Rappahannock. Several unburied rebels' bodies were found to-day near Bull Run. They were interred by our soldiers. Large quantities of Confederate treasury notes and letters, the latter stating that one regiment of rebels had lost over one half of their number by death, were likewise found.

### Major Generals in the Army—Rents of Offices.

The Secretary of War, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of December 17, 1861, in relation to the names and numbers of the Major Generals, and the names of the officers who are performing the duties of such, transmits the report of the Adjutant and Quartermaster General, as applies to the resolution of General MEIGS as to rent of offices:

Lieutenant General SCOTT, New York, one building at $800 per annum.

Major General MCCLELLAN, Washington, six buildings at $720 per month.

Major General HALLECK, St. Louis, one building at $136 per month.

Brevet Major General WOOL, Troy, one building at $420 per month.

Major General DIX occupies offices belonging to the city of Baltimore, but $400 has been paid out for repairs.

Major General BUTLER, Boston, seven rooms at $70 per month.

Brigadier General ROSECRANS, Wheeling, one building at $46.25 per month.

Brigadier General BUELL, Louisville, three buildings at $230 per month.

The report of Adjutant General THOMAS states that there are three Major Generals in the regular army appointed from civil life, and five Major Generals in the volunteer corps; and that there are thirty-five officers of various ranks performing the duties of Major Generals, all of whom, with the exception of General Wool, draw the pay only of their proper rank. Five of this number are Brig. Generals of the regular army, and two of the remainder Brig. Generals of volunteers.

### The Washington City Railroad.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, of New York, one of the leading grantees of the House Washington City Railway bill, is here. That bill substituted the names of Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, DEWEY and others, for names of citizens of Washington, who were the grantees under the original Senate bill. Much excitement has been created. The bill is now with the Senate District Committee, and many think that the whole subject will get the go-by for this session.

RICHARD SHELL, of New York, is here.

### The Naval Committee Visit Fortress Monroe.

The Naval Committee of the House left here on Saturday, in anticipation of another visit from the *Merrimac* and another contest with the *Monitor*. During yesterday, however, nothing occurred to disturb the usual quietness of affairs at Fortress Monroe, and the committee returned to Washington this morning.

### Compliment to Gen. Heintzleman.

Colonel PULESTON, Agent of the State of Pennsylvania, has received from Governor CURTIN the following:

"Congratulate General HEINTZELMAN on his promotion to a command, creditable to the President, and justified by his ability and long and faithful services. I am much gratified on his selection to a position so elevated and important. A just compliment has been paid to Pennsylvania and to one of her most distinguished sons."

### General Fremont.

General FREMONT has had an interview with the President and Secretary of War. He will press his affairs by promptly starting to his department. His staff will, therefore, be determined on at an early day. His headquarters will be in the field. Col. SLAMKE, of the House of Representatives, will accompany him as soon as his public duties will permit.

### The Regular Service.

A large number of applications have been made by volunteer officers to be appointed in the regular army, but these have been unsuccessful. Among other reasons is the difficulty of discriminating as to the relative merits of the applicants.

### Confirmations of Brigadier Generals.

The Senate were four hours in executive session today, and confirmed the following nominations for brigadier generals of volunteers:

Major WILLIAM F. BARRY, chief of artillery, attached to General MCCLELLAN'S staff.

WILLIS A. GORMAN, of Minnesota.

Colonel SCHUYLER HAMILTON.

THOMAS L. PRICE, member of Congress from Missouri.

Major JAMES N. PALMER, Fifth Cavalry.

Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAM H. EMORY, Sixth Cavalry.

Major ANDREW J. SMITH, Fifth Cavalry.

MARCUS L. PATRICK, of New York.

ISAAC F. QUINBY, of New York.

ORRIS S. FERRY, of Connecticut.

HIRAM G. BERRY, of Maine

### Pennsylvania Surgeons Confirmed.

The following brigade surgeons, all of Pennsylvania, have been confirmed:

JAMES D. STRAWBRIDGE, R. D. MCCOY, GEORGE S. KEMBLE, J. H. TAYLOR, GEORGE L. PANCOAST, C. F. H. CAMPBELL, F. H. GROSS, WASHINGTON J. DUFFIE.

### All Quiet at Fortress Monroe.

By telegraph from Cape Charles this afternoon, we learn that all was quiet at Fortress Monroe at noon today.

Telegraphic communication between Fortress Monroe and Cape Charles is temporarily interrupted.

### Medicinal Stores Found at Manassas.

A colonel of the old army, who returned to this city last evening from Manassas, says that the rebels left behind them a large quantity of medicinal stores, such as quinine, &c. Another officer of rank, who has just reached here from Kentucky, expresses the opinion that twenty thousand Federal troops could have held Fort Donelson against an army of a hundred thousand men.

### Captured Property.

Mr. TRUMBULL, from the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, to-day reported back House bill facilitating the adjudication of property seized under the law of prize. The bill provides that the prize commissioners for the district to which the property may be brought shall make a speedy examination of it, and if it be perishable, dispose of it, but if not, it is to remain in the custody of the United States marshal, for action in the United States courts.

### The Tax Bill.

The House had considered, ere its adjournment today, some twenty sections of the tax bill, and has amended all those sections, though not in any important character. One amendment provides that assessors in California shall be paid higher prices than in other States, (owing to the higher price of labor,) at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

### Rebel Documents.

One of the Committees on the Conduct of the War has secured an immense package of valuable documents, which belonged to the rebel Generals BEAUREGARD, SMITH, and JOHNSON. They contain information of much importance.

### Slavery in This District.

The Senate will proceed to-morrow to the consideration of the bill for the abolition of slavery in this District, and with the evident determination of pressing the bill to a vote ere adjournment.

### Miscellaneous.

Since the return of Mr. DOLE, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, from his protracted and important mission on the border of the Indian country of the Cherokees, Creeks, &c., it has been determined, upon conference with the President, that the loyal Indians, who were driven from their homes by the Confederates, shall be restored to their rights. There are about two thousand warriors under Opotholehoha who are to be armed. Most of them are Creeks and Seminoles. The present expense of supporting the fugitive Indians is thirty thousand dollars a day.

Certificates of indebtedness to public creditors are in a state of preparation at the office of the Register of the Treasury, but none have yet got into business circles.

The printed sheets for the new issue of treasury notes are daily expected at the Treasury Department.

## VICTORY!

### ISLAND NO. 10 IS OURS, WITH ALL THE ENEMY'S AMMUNITION AND TRANSPORTS.

### GENERAL HALLECK SERENADED.

CAIRO, March 16—Afternoon.—Commodore Foote is shelling the rebels at Island No. 10.

Gen. Pope's batteries prevent their escape down the river.

The rebels are said to be from 15,000 to 20,000 strong.

The rebel gunboats are understood to be engaging Gen. Pope's batteries.

The position of the rebels on Island No. 10 is a very strong one. Forty-six guns have been counted.

Eight of our mortars shelled a battery situated above the island to-day. The rebels left it several times, but subsequently returned. They only fired with two guns.

There is no difficulty whatever in our shells reaching the island.

General Pope has sent a despatch to Com. Foote, saying that his heavy guns command the river, so that neither steamer nor gunboat of the enemy could pass.

Firing has been heard in the direction of New Madrid all day. It is supposed the rebel gunboats are trying to force a passage.

Several rebel transports near Island No. 10 are hemmed in.

It is supposed the rebel encampments are large enough to hold from 15,000 to 25,000 men.

ST. LOUIS, March 17.—In response to a serenade tonight, General Halleck announced, from the balcony of the Planters' House, that *Island No. 10 is ours, with all the ammunition and transports the enemy had there.*

## Another Victory in Arkansas.

### THREE REBEL COLONELS CAPTURED.

General Halleck also announced that another victory had been gained by the United States forces in Arkansas, in which there were three rebel colonels captured.

The particulars of this event have not yet transpired.

## Bombardment of Island No. 10.

### THE LATEST.

### EXECUTION OF THE MORTAR-BOATS.

### The Rebels Supposed to be Retreating.

OUR GUNBOATS STEADILY ADVANCING.

CAIRO, March 17.—Nothing later has been received from Island No. 10 than the intelligence contained in the previous despatches.

The accuracy of the firing of the mortars yesterday fully equalled the previous expectations. They threw two hundred and fifty shell. The gunboat *Benton* threw forty-one shell.

It is expected that one or more of the enemy's works will be reduced to-day, and the place more closely invested.

It is thought by some that the rebels are marching across the neck of land extending from the island to Mrs. Merriweather's landing, Tennessee, on the Mississippi, a distance of 5 miles over a practicable route, and below the place where General Pope has his batteries, and from thence they are embarking on boats, the smoke of which was plainly seen all yesterday at or near Merriweather's landing from the gunboat *Benton*. We shall probably find the rebel nest empty and the river clear—the rebels retreating to Forts Randolph and Wright.

### Description of Island No. 10.

Island No. 10 is in the Mississippi river, ten miles above New Madrid, and about fifty-five miles from Cairo. The place itself possesses considerable natural advantages for defence, and, in the opinion of the enemy, engineering skill and vast labor have made it almost impregnable. Their position is such that they cannot be reached by land forces, and the attack must be made by the fleet. A Cairo correspondent, in commenting on the probability of an attack by Commodore Foote on the island, says:

By this time, they understand the power and peculiarities, the strong and weak points of the gunboats, and will probably be better prepared to meet and repulse them than ever before. Then the gunboats will be obliged to make the attack under circumstances hitherto untried, with their sterns up the current, and holding themselves against the current. Hitherto, they have always made their attacks from below. It is doubtful how they may behave under these new conditions, whether they can be held sufficiently still to allow of accurate aim being taken, or to maintain the proper range of their guns when it has once been obtained.

It is probable that we shall have to rely mostly on the new mortar boats in this encounter, and they are as yet, so far as any actual service is concerned, an untried experiment. It is still a question whether they can be made to throw their deadly missiles with any great degree of accuracy. Should they succeed in doing so, the effect will certainly be tremendous. Those huge shells, thirteen inches in diameter, and weighing upwards of 200 pounds each, falling from a height of probably half a mile, will scatter all before them in a terrible manner which can be erected, and the explosion of one would be equivalent to death and ruin to everything within its range.

Consequently the reduction of all the rebel fortifications is only a work of time, but still it may be a long time, and we may be severely beaten before it is accomplished. Commodore Foote has declared his intention of descending the Mississippi to its mouth, if you may rely upon it that what