The Press.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1862.

REMOVAL OF OUR OFFICE.

The publication office of THE PRESS has been removed from its old location to No. 111 South Fourth street, second door from the corner of Chestnut, (east side,) where advertisers are requested to send their favors.

PAPER FOR THE CAMP AND FIRESIDE.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS.

FORTY-EIGHT COLUMNS OF READING MATTER!

A SPLENDID NUMBER FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 5.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Portrait of Colonel William G. Murray—The Battle of Winchester—The Capture of Newbern, North Carolina—The Remains of Col. Slocum, Major Ballou, and Capt. Towers, lying in Independence Hall, on the night of the 26th ult.

WAR STORY.—Frank Elwell; a story of the present war.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES FROM THE CAPITAL.—The Alleged Rebel Atrocities—Federal Officers Captured—Harbor Defences—Relief of the *Cumberland's* Crew—The Tax on Advertisements—The Tax on Liquors—The Tax on Railroads—Miscellaneous.

EDITORIALS.—The Relative Strength of the Loyal and Disloyal States—Yancey's Recommendation to burn the Cotton—The Bravery of the Pennsylvania Regiments—The Proposed Southern Confederacy—The Occupancy of Southern Cities—Colonel William Gray Murray—The Foreign News.

THE LETTERS OF "OCCASIONAL."—Massachusetts and the War—The Democratic Caucus—General McClellan—The Breckinridgers—The Newspapers in the Loyal States—The Government of the Seceded States.

LATEST NEWS—The War on the Mississippi—From Island No 10—From Strasburg—From Fortress Monroe—From Memphis—News from Rebel Papers.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letter from London—Letter from Nashville.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Full Particulars of the Battle near Winchester—The Bombardment of Island No. 10—The Tennessee River Expedition—Despatches from Flag-Officer Foote—The Emancipation Scheme of the President—The Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia—The Latest War News—Gun-Cartridge Factory Blown up—The War in Tennessee—The Defences of New Orleans—The Militia of the United States—Number of Rebel Troops Killed and Wounded at Fort Donelson.

WAR POETRY.—Quail, Secessia!—The Double Description—"Move on, Men"—The Cumberland—The Angel of the Hospital—On Board the Cumberland, March 7th, 1862—The Dream of Jefferson Davis—The Stigma.

WAR WIT AND HUMOR.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.—The Money Market—Weekly Review of the Philadelphia Markets.

TERMS:—One copy, one year, $2; Three copies, one year, $5; Five copies, $8.

Single Copies for sale at the Counter of *The Press.*

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

Our Nashville letter contains some important correspondence between the officials of that city and Governor Johnson, who has directed, much to their distaste, that they shall take the oath of allegiance.

The news from Port Royal and vicinity is interesting. General Sherman intended to open fire on Fort Pulaski on the 1st instant if it did not surrender. The rebels have abandoned all of the Georgia coast and concentrated at Savannah. A fort within five miles of that city has been destroyed by one of our gunboats. Great excitement prevails in Charleston. It is thought that Pensacola has been occupied by our troops.

From Norfolk, we learn that the *Merrimac* is only waiting for ammunition, when she will come out again. She will be accompanied by the *Yorktown* and *Jamestown*, and one of Maury's "infernal" machines.

The latest news from the rebel States will be found on our first page. All the movements of the Potomac army are known at Norfolk. Our gunboats attacked Fort Jackson, at the mouth of the Mississippi, on the 28th ult. Gen. Van Dorn and Jeff Thompson are preparing to attack New Madrid, Missouri.

We publish two interesting letters from our correspondents with Commodore Dupont's fleet, giving an account of the occupation of Jacksonville, Fla., by our forces.

The official list of the killed and wounded at Winchester is published in our telegraphic columns.

Congress Yesterday.

SENATE.—A letter from ex-President Pierce to Secretary Seward, repelling the idea that the writer was a member of a secret league to overthrow the Government, was read. The resolution empowering Congress to co-operate with any State for the emancipation of its slaves, by pecuniary compensation to the masters, was adopted by a vote of 32 yeas to 10 nays.

HOUSE.—The Senate resolution authorizing the President in certain cases to assign two or more officers of the same grade, to the same field or department, without regard to seniority of rank, was passed. The tax bill coming up, the stamp-duties were so amended as to exempt promissory notes or inland bills of exchange; likewise, medicines, preparations, perfumery, etc., intended for exportation. Promissory notes, checks, drafts, etc., of the sum of $50 or upwards, are charged two cents duty. Express companies' receipts are to pay two cents singly or five cents if there be more than one. The charge for entering goods, etc., at any custom house will not exceed one-quarter per cent. of their appraised value.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

SENATE.—A bill for postage for the month of March, amounting to $1,273.59, was reported and passed. A bill was introduced to increase the power of the city "relative to cleansing and other purposes." If street cleansing is the subject referred to, it is to be hoped that the power will be increased *ad infinitum*. The bill to incorporate the Chester County Military Academy was passed.

HOUSE.—The Ways and Means Committee recommended a non-concurrence in the Senate amendments to the general appropriation bill. No other business of general interest was transacted.

No MEN ever prated more of constitutional rights than the leaders of the Rebellion; and yet no men ever evinced less remorse in robbing all who do not join their conspiracy of life, liberty, and property. A single word uttered by Union men in the districts where the Federal authority has not been re-established indicating their attachment to the old flag—a single act of resistance to the tyrannical oppression that weighs them down, jeopardizes all their dearest interests. A reign of terror worse than ever existed in France overshadows them. Numberless victims have in cold blood been cruelly murdered for no other crime than genuine loyalty. Thousands of patriotic citizens have been shamefully persecuted, thrown into filthy prisons, or banished. Millions of dollars' worth of property has been seized or destroyed, simply because its owners would not stain their souls with the guilt of treason. The records of the most barbarous ages would be ransacked in vain to find a parallel for the reckless, vindictive, and fiendish spirit that has been displayed by the conspirators. Ever ready to "cavil on the ninth part of a hair" about every point relating to their alleged "rights," they are more regardless of the dearest rights of others than the worst despots that ever existed.

If there was no other object to be accomplished by this war than to punish them for their ill treatment of the Union men of the South, the nation would be bound in honor to prosecute it with relentless energy. No foreign Government would be permitted to inflict a tithe of the outrages they have committed upon American citizens without provoking a deadly contest, in which the last dollar and the last man of the Republic would, if necessary, be sacrificed in vindication of the national honor and the national security.

The rebellion is stained by every conceivable crime. It jeopardized the peace of this country for no tangible and justifiable cause. It summoned to the field thousands of peaceful citizens, whose homes will be temporarily—and, in many cases, forever—made desolate by the ravages of war. It interrupted scores of industrial pursuits, and caused, North and South, pecuniary losses, which, in the aggregate, will far outweigh all the enormous expenses of the contest itself. It robbed the treasuries and the arsenals, and seized the undefended forts of the Government. It destroyed many fine public works, bridges, towns, and plantations, and thus consumed the labors of years of patient industry. It struck a fearful blow at the principle of self-government, and at the whole present and future prosperity of the American people, which can in no way be successfully resisted except by such a complete and overwhelming triumph of the Union armies in the present struggle that, for all time to come, the great fact that will shine out conspicuously in our history—even above the record of our war of Independence; above the mighty proofs of our past prosperity; above the fame of our noblest heroes and statesmen—will be that there is no such word as Secession in our vocabulary, no such mad scheme as a dissolution of the Union possible, and that all projects for the dismemberment of this mighty nation are as visionary, impracticable, and dangerous as the false hopes that in the old legends fiends excited to lure misguided men to ruin.

THE Southern cities whose mobs a year ago cheered the cause of Secession until their throats grew hoarse, have other employment now. The fair dames who denounced and affected to despise the flag of the Union as a weak and dishonored emblem, behold its power proven and its glory sustained. Looking at the fate of Newbern, of St. Augustine, and of Nashville, the people of Savannah, Charleston, New Orleans, and Mobile watch with intense eagerness the movements of the fleets and armies that are closing around them with the resistless grasp of destiny. Each day brings its fresh alarms. Each mail dissipates some unfounded hope. Each moment teaches them that they have trusted in leaders who are as weak as they are false. Want and terror are almost universal. In vain do they plead for protection to their betrayers. The conspirators are powerless for good. They cannot give sustenance to those they have brought to the verge of starvation; they cannot bring back trade and prosperity to those they have ruined. Their only counsel is—to destroy; their only answer to the tales of woe, destitution, and misery that pierce their ears, is—you must encounter new losses and privations, and all the vestiges of your former comfort that we left you must burn, to prevent them from falling into the possession of the Union troops.

In the House of Commons.

Mr. HORSFALL's motion, on the subject of international law, as affected by the shortcoming of the Treaty of Paris, in 1856, was disposed of, on the 17th March, after a debate of two nights, by being withdrawn. The discussion of the question was all that was required. The Government resisted Mr. HORSFALL's proposition giving immunity to private property at sea, in time of war. Mr. MASSEY, Chairman of Committees, and a skilful advocate as such, supported Mr. HORSFALL's views, which indeed are identical with Mr. SEWARD's, and so, in a long and very able speech, did Mr. BRIGHT. The Solicitor General replied, and Lord PALMERSTON, in a plausible speech against the proposition, used these strong words: "My opinion distinctly is, that if you give up that power that you possess, and which all maritime States possess, and have exercised—of taking the ships, the property, and the crews of the nation with whom you may happen to be at war, you would be crippling the right arm of our strength. You would be inflicting a blow upon our naval power, and you would be guilty of an act of political suicide. If you allow the cargo to go free, you must allow also the men to go free." His Lordship was reminded by Mr. DISRAELI, that, on a previous occasion, he had spoken strongly in favor of the policy which he now characterizes as suicidal.

Mr. LAYARD, the Assyrian explorer, who now, as under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, has to represent the Government in the House of Commons, when matters in his department come up, has made a narrative statement of the arrest of Southern rebels in Morocco, by the United States Consul at Tangier. It appears that one MYERS, an officer of the piratical steamer *Sumpter*, being found by the American Consul on Moorish ground, in company with the United States ex-Consul at Cadiz, was arrested, imprisoned, and put in irons. Mr. HAY, the British Consul, called on to interfere, by the commander of the *Sumpter*, declined doing so officially. The two captives continued in safe keeping for sixteen days, when they were transferred to the United States sloop *Ino*, which had then arrived. The American Consul, remonstrated with by the Moorish Government, declined parting with his brace of rebels, and alleged that the United States treaty with Morocco gave him a right to seize the men and send them home. Finally, when he threatened to lower his flag and declare war with Morocco, he was allowed to carry his point, and the two prisoners were transferred to another American ship, which will bring them to this country.

Mr. LAYARD concluded his statement by saying:

"For the sake of justice, of humanity, of the right of affording asylum to persons accused of political offences—a claim preferred by the weakest and recognized by the strongest Powers—he might be permitted to express an earnest hope that the circumstances came to the knowledge of the President of the United States, he would order the release of the prisoners."

It will be observed that the difficulty here is—was our Consul right, when the rebels were in his power, in retaining them, against the representation of the Moorish Government, that their offence, if any, was only *political?* No doubt, the United States Government will do what is legal and just in this matter. We would suggest that, as yet, we have only a one-sided statement, by the British Government. Our Consul's report may disclose circumstances which may give an entirely new aspect to the case. Even as it stands, it cannot involve us in any difficulty,—except with Morocco.

A LETTER from the United States steamer *Seminole* states that the Secession soldiers *skedaddled* from Skidaway Island, near Savannah, when our gunboats approached its shores. The sound of our shells seemed to stagger them, and they showed no disposition to stand by their batteries. Master STEEL, on landing, set the stars and stripes floating from their flag-staff, and after destroying their works, our squadron steamed back to Warsaw Sound.

THE RIGHT WING of the Army of the Potomac, under command of General BANKS, has made another advance. It is now in possession of Woodstock, Va., and has pursued the rebels to Edenburg—a place whose name is too suggestive of happiness and security to permit it to remain longer under the control of the enemy.

The Bankrupt Law.

[For The Press.]

I notice in some of the morning papers a resolution of a special committee of our Board of Trade, to the effect that a memorial should be prepared, asking Congress to appoint a commission to consider the subject of a bankrupt law during the recess of Congress. I presume the gentlemen of this committee are not aware that at the last extra session of Congress such a commission, under the name of a committee, was appointed to consider the subject, and report at the present session. At the head of that committee is an able lawyer from the State of New York, (Mr. Roscoe Conkling,) who has given to the subject very great attention and study.

That committee have had the matter in consideration now for eight months; they have procured from Europe all the reports and evidence at various times laid before the British Parliament, with copies of reports of committees, and the last bankrupt bill passed by Great Britain; also, all the information which the jurisprudence and experience of other commercial countries—Holland, France, and Spain—could furnish; they have also taken the pains to procure the very extensive correspondence had by the late Daniel Webster on the subject of a bankrupt law over twenty years ago; copies of all the acts passed on the subject by the different States, and an unusual amount of information and data from various quarters.

Mr. Conkling has also taken pains to obtain the suggestions and opinions of the principal mercantile men and mercantile lawyers of the United States. On the other hand the petitions and memorials laid before Congress, urgently calling for the passage of a bankrupt law, as being required by the interests of the whole mercantile community, are signed by some of the principal bankers and merchants of New York, and of other commercial centres, men who cannot for a moment be supposed to have an idea of availing themselves of the law, but who represent, almost exclusively, the creditor interest.

A more industrious committee could not have been appointed. As the result of their labors and consideration, this committee reported a bill some six weeks since; after a second reading in the House, it was, at their own request, recommitted to them, and it is understood that they are now about ready to re-report it, with such additions as their experience and study suggested as desirable.

For the gentlemen of our Board of Trade, then, without knowing what has been done on the subject, coolly to resolve that Congress should be memorialized to appoint a commission to consider the subject during the recess, is little better than an insult to the gentlemen who have given themselves up to the subject, or else it shows a very great ignorance on the subject.

Among the houses and individuals who have signed the petitions to Congress, above referred to, in favor of a bankrupt law, are Duncan Sherman & Co., N. L. & G. Griswold, C. H. Marshall & Co., Carpenter & Vermilye, Claflen, Mellen, & Co., Ketchum, Son, & Co., Auguste Belmont & Co., Howland & Aspinwall, M. H. Grinnell, of New York; McKean, Borie, & Co., J. Dallett & Co., John Grigg, Drexel & Co., Jay Cooke & Co., Thos. Wattson & Sons, E. W. Clark & Co., Buckner, McCammon, & Co., A. J. Derbyshire & Co., John Edgar Thomson, and many other citizens of high standing, of Philadelphia; Ch. Stetson, John L. Sattler, James C. Hall, of Cincinnati, &c.

April 1, 1862. A. B.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1862.

At last the Republicans in Congress are beginning to shape and settle their policy for the future. The speech of Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, Senator in Congress from the State of Maine, yesterday afternoon, on the bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, was undoubtedly the key-note of the Republicans for the coming campaign. It was the centre-piece of a really great debate, and was characterized by lofty independence, deep thought, and a comprehensive view of the national exigencies. Mr. Fessenden is a thorough statesman of the Clay and Webster school—recalling much of the manner of the one, and the solid judgment of the other. He is never out of his seat. Watching all the details of legislation, from the smallest bill that relates to the District to that which contemplates a million-appropriation, he is perhaps the most severe and just man of the Senate. Eminently fair to his adversaries, as they all admit, he cannot be excelled either in his courtesy to them, or in fearless objections to his own party when his conscience demands their utterance. He is probably less of a partisan than any member of the Senate; and yet his whole soul is inspired with the purpose of placing the Republicans upon such a platform as will make them successful by *showing them how to deserve success.* He is not in the habit of mingling in political debates. As Chairman of the Finance Committee, a post always full of responsibility, and now more than ever difficult to fill, because of the national exigencies, he prefers rather to watch and limit the public expenditures, and to leave party harangues to others. He reads coming events in existing complications—warns his fellow-Senators against extravagance—resists every appropriation not absolutely necessary, and points to the enormous debt and heavy taxation we are accumulating. No recommendation, no matter by whom made, whether by friend or foe, but is subjected to the most searching analysis; and if wrong, it meets his prompt opposition. When such a man steps out of his ordinary path to talk on a measure like the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, it is only because he is ready to throw upon the subject new lights and new thoughts. Of all men I have lately met, who are accepted as the oracles of the Republicans, Mr. Fessenden is the man who has the most contempt for giving too much of the public time to the slavery question; and you cannot have failed to observe that he has been significantly silent in the midst of the tempest of discussion which that inexhaustible topic has provoked for four months past. These facts render his speech of yesterday a most important demonstration. The first impression it will make upon the public mind is its manliness and moderation. He goes out of the way specially to disavow every rash and radical measure that has been attributed to the Republicans, and in his appeal to the Border slave States, he makes the powerful point that it would be better for them to adopt the liberal tone and action of the new Senator from Missouri, Mr. Henderson, who classes fidelity to the Government and opposition to treason among the first of our public duties. Mr. Fessenden emphatically objects to Mr. Sumner's bill for reducing the seceded States to Territories, as in disregard of the avowed objects of the war, and takes ground in favor of the bill to abolish slavery in this District, running a powerful parallel between the prosperity of sterile New England, under the influence of free institutions, and the decay and prostration of Virginia, surrounded and oppressed by slavery. That part of the speech in defence of the President's recommendation as to emancipation is full of force, while the vindication of the mission of the Republican party will go far to dispel falsehood and calumny. It is an effort which will be read with pleasure by every patriotic citizen.

If the Republicans can close upon the policy foreshadowed by Mr. Fessenden, they will be the conquering party of the nation; and that, in a great degree, they will do so, is my fixed and firm belief. Republicans of extreme opinions will yield something of their own theories to this great desideratum. The possession of national power and responsibility always leads to moderation on the part of those who have these burdens to bear; and as Mr. Fessenden is one of the men who feel this truth, he proposes frankly to act upon it.

What is most inexplicable to me, however, is the conduct of many of those whose hostility to the traitors is, or ought to be, sincere, in the face of such proffers as that of Mr. Fessenden and other leading Republicans, at the head of whom is the President himself. Refusing to concede anything themselves, too many of the Border-State leaders, and too many Democrats who are anxious to be classed as ultra loyal, insist that *their* peculiar ideas shall be accepted, and that nearly everything else is revolutionary and cruel. Has the President made slavery stronger and more sacred in their eyes? Shall every other description of property be depreciated and destroyed by the rebels, leaving inviolable the very institution upon which they subsist? Are the Republicans to be ruled out of power, to be assailed and misrepresented, to be muzzled and threatened, when they propose to do that in the District of Columbia, the justice and policy of which have been frequently admitted by Democrats themselves? There should be at least as much generosity on the part of those Border-State politicians as there is on the part of the Republican leaders, or the country will relapse into the very hands from which we are trying to rescue it. The example set by men like Fessenden must be followed by the politicians, or they will fail before their constituents.

One more thought occurs to me at this point—viz: that since the Republicans came into power they have repeatedly shown their anxiety to take by the hand loyal Democrats and Americans; in fact, men of all parties and nationalities. I do not speak of Mr. Lincoln's selection of hundreds of Democrats for high positions in the army, nor to the liberal manner in which such citizens were treated by the late Secretary of War, General Cameron, for there were, probably, military reasons for this course. But look at Mr. Fessenden's own State of Maine, where the Republicans joined hands and put loyal Democrats into office. Look at Massachusetts, where at the late election they did the same thing, or offered to do it. The cases of New York and Ohio, both Republican States, are still stronger proofs of this generosity. In Pennsylvania the Republicans aided to elect many Democrats. In Indiana a Republican Governor appointed a Democrat to the United States Senate. In Iowa and Wisconsin the same peace-offering was tendered. Have you ever seen a regular Breckinridge Democrat responding to these exhibitions? *Never!* The spectacle was everywhere presented that the bitterest assailants of all these recognitions of loyal Democrats came from the followers of Breckinridge in 1860, and the present owners, managers, and dictators of the so-called Democratic organization. What they are doing now is universally seen. The Congressional movement to resurrect a party against the Republicans, under the name of Democracy, is led by the well-known Mr. Valandigham, of Ohio. He carried the call for the late caucus that looked to this object, and read the resolutions when the caucus was called. I leave the subject here, proposing to show, in another letter, how surely the Republicans must triumph if they stand by the doctrines of the noble speech of Mr. Fessenden.

OCCASIONAL.

A TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH from Cincinnati announces that Parson Brownlow has accepted the liberal offer tendered by Mr. George W. Childs, of this city, of $10,000, for the copyright of the forthcoming history of the adventures and sufferings of the patriotic Tennessee editor. The volume will doubtless form a deeply interesting contribution to the history of the rebellion.

LARGE AND IMPORTANT SALE OF DRY GOODS, LINENS, HOSIERY, &c.—The attention of purchasers is requested to the large and desirable assortment of foreign and domestic dry goods, housekeeping linen goods, in great variety, cotton hosiery, stock of goods, &c.; embracing seven hundred and thirty-two lots staple and fancy articles, including a full line of drapes d'été, of the celebrated importation of Messrs. L. Maillard & Co., of New York; also, on account of underwriters, for cash, three hundred pounds Rubinacci machine silk twist, to be peremptorily sold by catalogue, on four months' credit, commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, the sale to be continued, without intermission, all day and part of the evening, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

PIANOS! PIANOS!—George Steck (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.

FROM WASHINGTON.

DEAD-LETTER SYSTEM ABOLISHED.

DISCHARGE OF STATE PRISONERS.

The Ex-President of the Virginia Secession Convention takes the Oath of Allegiance.

THE TAX BILL.

But Five More Sections to be Considered.

NO PASSES REQUIRED TO CROSS THE POTOMAC.

THE ESCAPE OF THE NASHVILLE.

NO BLAME ATTACHABLE TO THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1862.

The Escape of the Nashville.

As the Secretary of the Navy has been assailed on account of the escape of the *Nashville* from Beaufort, it may be stated that on the very day of his hearing of her running the blockade, he telegraphed to the naval commanding officer at Boston to send off to Beaufort, as soon as possible, the two gunboats that were reported as finished at that point, and was answered that they would be ready to proceed to sea in three or four days. But it turned out, on account of a defect in the condenser of the engine of one of the boats, and want of preparation of the other, the departure of the vessels was deferred (notwithstanding the urgent directions of the Secretary) until the 14th, and when they arrived at Fortress Monroe the *Nashville* had escaped. The commanding officer at Norfolk had no vessel to send, and, unfortunately, the *Georgia*, which had been off Beaufort, was obliged to come into port for want of coal.

An effort was made to get off in season a gunboat which was in a state of preparation at Baltimore, but in vain. All this urgency of Secretary WELLES arose particularly from the fact that he knew that BURNSIDE was to attack Beaufort, when, of course, the *Nashville* would seek to escape. So it appears that the Secretary made every possible effort to prevent the escape in question, and all the abuse of him on this head is utterly without foundation. At this moment he has not vessels commensurate to the wants of his Department, and hence his appeal to Congress to authorize the construction of so large a number of sea-going ones. The keels of fifty ought to be laid immediately.

Dead-Letter System Abolished.

On the 21st of January, 1862, the President approved an act passed by Congress, authorizing the Post Office Department to return all dead letters to their writers. The Postmaster General was of the opinion that the revenue derived from a charge of double postage on such letters would more than equal the expenditure caused by an extra clerical force in the Department. Thus far the new system (which, I believe, is like the English one) works very smoothly, and all letters not reaching their destination, instead of being burned by the carl-load, are now carefully sent to the writers, and double postage collected. Of course, many invaluable letters are returned to the owners, and the Post Office Department, should be the judge. The following notice on the envelope enclosing the dead letter to the postmaster explains the further object of the new law:

"The enclosed letter is sent to the writer, under an act of Congress approved January 21, 1862. If not delivered, and *double* postage collected, as required by this new law, it must be returned to the 'Third Assistant Postmaster General' within one month, with the reasons for non-delivery endorsed on it, according to section 199 of Post Office Regulations.

"If retained a longer period, the postmaster will be held accountable for the postage, whether delivered or not. The date of receipt at the post office must be marked on the letter.

"No postmaster will not allow the envelope to be opened before receiving the postage."

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and its Bearing on the Union Cause in Maryland.

The Union men of Baltimore and vicinity anticipate a strengthening of their cause by the opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Certainly most people in Northern and Western Virginia are interested in having removed the "locks and bolts and bars" that have destroyed trade and intercourse with the commercial cities for a year back. *Moneyed* Secessionists at Baltimore hate this aspect of things, and freely predict that trade on the road will be constantly obstructed. Such persons have given material aid to the prisoners taken at Winchester with such zest as to show that they might properly exchange places with them. There is, perhaps, no objection to prisoners being treated with good things; but traitors in our midst; but allowing this by our military authorities, is in strange contrast with the conduct of the rebels, who have frequently shot our prisoners for looking out of windows. Brutal treatment of prisoners ought to be a subject of inquiry by the Senate committee who are to get facts as to rebel maltreatment of the dead, &c.

Trade the Great Civilizer.

As our armies progress, now-a-days, there is less or abandonment of farms and houses than existed at the outset of hostilities. Men of small means, who have never had much to do with politics other than as tools of Southern aristocrats, begin to think a little for themselves, and decline to destroy their property to please desperate conspirators. Fear of guerilla bands may deter them for a time from showing much cordiality towards our troops; but "trade is a great civilizer;" and men who have been long deprived of the most common comforts of life will incline to a state of things whereby they can buy everything they want cheap, and sell their own products at high prices in good money. According to all known ideas of human nature, a cause that demands all the substance of men will soon be without supporters. It has been said that idle boys begin revolutions, and as to the Southern rebellion it may be truly stated that they have been decidedly out of the usurping politicians. Time, with foolish women and crazed old traitors, have overpowered the common people as well as many of the richer sort.

Relief for a Danish Bark Seized under the Blockade.

The Senate passed a bill to-day, to the effect "that there be paid out of the treasury, to the order of the proper functionary of the Government of his Majesty the King of Denmark, the sum of one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars, as full compensation to the owners of the Danish bark *Jurgen Lorentzen*, or their legal representatives, for damages occasioned by reason of the wrongful seizure and detention of the said bark by the *Morning Light*, a vessel of the United States blockading squadron, in the month of December last, and also as full compensation to the master, mate, and crew, of the said bark, the said sum to be distributed agreeably to the award of Moses Taylor and H. Dollner, to whom the claim was referred."

The War in Tennessee.

Letters received here from our army near Corinth say that the troops in that vicinity continue in a healthful condition, and are eager for the expected battle. A good account of them is confidently expected.

Abolition by the House Committee.

It is understood that the Senate bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia has been informally considered by the House Committee on the District, and will be speedily reported by them when it reaches the House. Unless the bill speedily becomes a law, it is feared that the rebels will be as slaves to free in the District, as they are being carried into Maryland very rapidly.

Takes the Oath of Allegiance.

About a year since, JOHN JANNEY, Esq., of Loudoun county, was elected as a Union man president of the Virginia Convention, which subsequently passed the ordinance of Secession. Since the adjournment of that Convention he has not been identified with the Secession movement, and doubtless voted against the secession of the State. He has voluntarily come forth and taken the oath of allegiance.

Discharge of State Prisoners.

The commission to examine the cases of civilians confined in forts and prisons on the charge of disloyalty, have nearly finished their labors here, and will doubtless leave during the week for New York, where they will remain in session for some time. It is intimated that the commission find the evidence in most every case of a very serious character, fully warranting the arrests, which some people were disposed to deem arbitrary, but which were evidently absolutely necessary for the Government's safety.

A Pardon.

In the course of his speech, to-day, Senator SHERMAN alluded to the case of the Rev. Mr. GORDON, of Cleveland, Ohio, who is still confined in prison on the charge of aiding the escape of a fugitive slave. I understand that the pardon in this case has been directed to be issued by the President after an examination by the Attorney General.

Cotton Seed.

A large quantity of cotton seed, which has been obtained in Tennessee, is now at Paducah, whence it is to be distributed to the State agricultural societies of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Other Northwestern States will soon be furnished as above. Orders have been given for getting cotton seed from North Carolina.

Transit to New York.

Agents of Northern railroad companies are taking steps whereby the transit of passengers, hence to New York, may be effected in eight hours.

Flax Superseding Cotton.

It is stated by the agent of a large manufacturing firm of Rhode Island that a method has been devised whereby flax may be substituted for cotton.

The Tax Bill.

The House reached the one hundred and fourth section of the tax bill to-day, leaving but five additional sections to be considered. These will probably be finished by Friday, and the bill submitted to the printer.

Returned.

A portion of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, who went to New York to examine General SCOTT, have returned from their mission, having obtained the veteran's evidence on various points of the early campaign.

Miscellaneous.

The regulation requiring permits or passes to cross the Potomac has this day been annulled, after having been in force nearly a year. Its abrogation causes general rejoicing, particularly among business people.

The order concerning the permits is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, April 1, 1862.

1. Permits or passes to cross the Potomac, within the limits of this command, will no longer be required of citizens.

2. Officers and soldiers coming from the Southern side of the Potomac must have permits, as heretofore.

3. No restrictions upon trade on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, or that portion of Virginia within the limits of this military district, will be maintained, except as to liquor and articles contraband of war.

4. No permit will be required from the military authorities to engage in fishing in the waters of the Potomac and Occoquan within the limits of this command.

By command,

Brig. Gen. JAS. S. WADSWORTH,
Military Governor District of Columbia.

The President and a party of friends left this city this morning to pay a visit to Mount Vernon.

The President is in receipt of a letter from Governor ANDREW JOHNSON, of Tennessee. The Governor states that the Secession sentiment is still strong in Nashville, although the people appear more ready to submit to the rightful authority of the Government.

The Senate Sub-Finance Committee are waiting patiently for the House to pass the tax bill, and they have ceased to discuss the tax question until the House bill comes before the Senate.

Mr. SCHLEIDEN, the minister from Bremen, is about to leave the United States on a visit to his home, for several months.

The Western Military Commission.

The Commissioners appointed to examine into the affairs of the Western or Missouri Military Department have made a voluminous report, in which they state that they examined 1,200 witnesses, and had claims presented them amounting to eight millions of dollars. They remark that they have devoted the principal part of their report to an exposure of the abuses which characterized the late administration of that department, and testify to the integrity which generally has been displayed by merchants, mechanics, and manufacturers, when permitted to deal directly with the Government. Wide spread as has been the demoralization in official circles and among their dependants and favorites, and startling as are the frauds which have been attempted and consummated, a large majority of the claimants have presented themselves before the commission unimpeached by imputations, either on their loyalty or honor.

Gen. Jackson and the Rip Raps.

It is an interesting historical fact, that when General JACKSON visited the Rip Raps in nullification times, he used to date his letters from there "Fort Union," and not Fort Calhoun, as before called.

ADVANCE OF GEN. BANKS' ARMY.

Skirmishing on the Way.

WOODSTOCK, Va., April 1—(Court House of Shenandoah County.)—General Banks advanced from Strasburg, this morning, towards this point. When approaching the town, Col. Ashby, with his cavalry, supported by a force of infantry and a battery, disputed the passage of the United States forces, but we passed onward through the town, the rebels frequently stopping and throwing shells, to which we responded with effect.

Gen. Banks pursued the rebels to Edenburg, five miles south of Woodstock. Ashby's men, in their retreat, burned two turnpike and one railroad bridge. All the railroad bridges between here and Strasburg had been previously burned.

The only casualty that occurred on our side in this movement, was the killing of a private of the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Regiment. A private of the Second Massachusetts Regiment received a rifle ball in his belt-plate, but it was harmless.

WOODSTOCK, Virginia, April 2—8 o'clock A. M.—Our guns and musketry drove the enemy from Stoney creek, near Edenburg, this morning, at 7 o'clock.

The enemy were drawn in line-of-battle, within range of our guns. They probably consisted of Ashby's command, and were easily driven from their position.

Our forces will build a bridge over the creek to-day.

All was quiet during the night.

It is not yet known if Jackson's forces were engaged yesterday.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The following despatches were received here to-day:

WOODSTOCK, Va., April 2.—We have driven the enemy from Strasburg to Woodstock, a distance of twelve miles, and then to Edenburg, seven miles beyond. We contested the march most of the way, and at a strong position, where we contemplated making a stand, near Edenburgh, quite a sharp contest occurred.

He burned the bridges in his flight, except that at a narrow passage, which we were enabled to reach in time to extinguish the flames. We lost but one man, and had but one wounded. The enemy suffered more, but I cannot state the extent. Col. Ashby received a shot through his cap, which he exhibited with some satisfaction to the people of Woodstock. Others suffered more severely.

The men behaved admirably. During the advance yesterday our vanguard and skirmishers were frequently fired upon by the rear guard of Jackson's retreating force. We shelled them through the town, and as often as they appeared in range. After passing the bridge over Stoney Creek, they set fire to it; but our troops arrived in time to save it. They also burnt another pike bridge, and the railroad bridge, two miles this side of Edenburg. Our artillerists endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to prevent their destruction by pouring into the enemy showers of shells.

THE LOSS AT WINCHESTER.

Official Reports of the Killed and Wounded.

TWENTY-NINTH OHIO—COL. BUCKLEY.

Killed—1st Lieut. W. P. Williamson, Private Henry Beckwith.

Wounded—1st Lieut Myron T. Wright, 1st lieut. and acting captain, in the leg; Privates Valentine Vieth, in the leg; J. Snider, in the leg; Lewis Harris, in the head; Peter Vandeck, in the arm; Thomas Schultz, in the head; Levi K. Beam, chest and lungs; Alexander Nail, head; Beneville Miller, slight, in the leg; Allen Mason, in the hand.

EIGHTH OHIO—COLONEL CARROLL.

Killed—Sergeants John S. Stough and —— Rust. Privates John Miller, Walter Manning, S. Drake; privates Jas. Martin, (mortally wounded and since dead;) Daniel McNeal, ditto; Corporal Bunce, (wounded in thigh, and died March 29;) A. E. Beynon, wounded in shoulder, since dead; David Parcher, mortally wounded, since dead; Peter Shumaker, ditto.; private Samuel Beeler, left shoulder, since dead.

Wounded—Second Lieutenant Alfred T. Craig, flesh wound in leg; sergeants A. S. Baron, both thighs; W. D. Wetherill, shoulder; Alexander Fawder, slightly in the left hand. Corporals Isaac Hinckley, calf of right leg; J. R. Reynolds, in the hand; Ira S. Brigham, in calf of left leg. Privates J. A. Bonnel, neck and shoulders; J. S. Camp, shoulder flesh wound; Hiram Fellows, throat; John Hamilton, hips, flesh wound; Stephen Roff, left leg amputated; H. D. Bowker, neck; A. J. Discro, right thigh; W. Kerr, left hip; George C. Flanders, flesh wound leg; Luman Smith, ditto; James Emerson, ditto arm; Francis Pearson, right side; A. Fry, both thighs; D. R. Parker, both hips; J. Anderson, thigh; W. D. Wetherill, shoulder.

FIRST VIRGINIA—COL. THOBURN.

Killed—Sergeants Wm. Chohan, J. E. Evans; Corporals Wm. Manahan, Thomas H. Burley; Private Fred Stillwagoner.

Wounded—Col. Joseph Thoburn, severely in the arm; First Lieutenant John Chalmers, J. P. Evans; Sergeant Wm. Gray, severely in knee; James McCarty, in left arm; Corporals Ralph Ruffle, slightly in arm; William S. Tippet, slightly in shoulder; Privates Richard White, mortally; Morris J. Cooper, in side; Charles Poulson, slightly in hand; Thomas Robinson, severely in neck; David Reed, slightly in shoulder; James Simons, upper part thigh; Alexander Lothart, in abdomen (George Boff, slightly; Henry McCarmick, severely in arm; Samuel J. Martin, slightly in breast; Walter H. Hitchcock, slightly leg and arm; George Truax, ditto; J. Rawlings, severely in arm; Samuel Bennett, ditto leg; David Bennett, ditto breast; Wm. Amos, slightly in head; James Brown, severely; Johnson McFarland, ditto.

SEVENTH OHIO—COL. CREIGHTON.

Killed—Sergeant Major J. Webb; Sergeants A. C. Danforth, Andrew J. Kelley; Corporals Adam C. Griswold; Privates Charles Skarris, Joshua Creglow, James Carroll, Allen C. Lamb, Stephen Rice, J. G. Sackett, Reuben Barnham, Lewis Corwin, Elias Hall, John Ryan, Fred'k Groth, James Ring, Frank Dentrick, Frank Lorens, Jos. Seipel, Frank Karbacker.

Wounded—Captain G. A. Oaper; Sergeants Asa H. Fitch, Ed M. Lazarus, Wm. Butzman; Corporals Sam'l Lovett, Edw. Kelly, Wm. Sadler, Wm. Bell; Privates Geo. Blondin, Benj. Gridley, Christ. Reissel, Geo. Deuzel, Wm. Lehr (or Lelt); Privates Hampton Gardner, Fred. Hoffman, Arthur Lippius, Dan'l Clancy, Joseph Miller, Lander Campbell, William Kelly, Chas. Fagan, Duncan Reed, James Smith, Albert E.