The Press.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1862.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

We have, thanks to the telegraph, news from Gen. McClellan's army up to yesterday morning. The enemy have been driven across the Bottom's Bridge, and our forces were, at the date of the despatch, within eight miles of Richmond, and still marching on. They had at that time found no enemy in force. Six pieces of rebel artillery were found posted on the opposite bank of the Chickahominy, but possession was not taken of them, it not being the wish of Gen. Stoneman to bring on an engagement. Gen. McClellan's headquarters last evening were expected to be within a short distance of Richmond, and the grand battle was believed to be imminent.

Fuller official despatches, with reference, principally, to the capture of New Orleans, have been received from Commodore Farragut. A number of the vessels of the fleet under Commodore Lee had ascended the Mississippi as far as Vicksburg, for purposes not yet to be made public. Commander Porter was arranging his mortar vessels in the vicinity of Mobile bar, and planting buoys for the guidance of the ships which, have not yet arrived. It is thought that Fort James was evacuated for the purpose of reinforcing Fort Morgan.

By the arrival of the steamer Haze from Newbern yesterday, we have additional confirmation of the report that the Union sentiment is rapidly spreading in that State. A Union meeting was held in Shepardville, Carteret county, at which resolutions were unanimously adopted denouncing the traitors, asking protection from the Federal Government of all Union men, and warmly welcoming Mr. Stanley, the new Governor, to his field of labor. The Union people of Craven county had formed a home guard company, under the name of the Craven County Union Home Guards. The Newbern *Progress* states that the North Carolina State Convention will adjourn soon, and that at least two-thirds of its members are Union men.

Congress Yesterday.

SENATE.—Resolutions were passed thanking Capt. D. G. Farragut, and officers and men under him, for their late brilliant achievement. The bill amendatory of the Post Office appropriation bill passed. A resolution to resolve the Senate, to-morrow, into a committee of impeachment on the case of West H. Humphreys was adopted. The confiscation bill, was further discussed. The tax bill was taken up, and several amendments were adopted, when the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The bill removing all disqualifications of color in carrying the mail was tabled. The consideration of the confiscation bill was resumed, and speeches were made by Messrs. Voorhees, Kelley, Mallory, and others.

A SPECIAL ELECTION for a Representative in Congress from the Bucks and Lehigh district, in this State, to serve for the unexpired term of Dr. THOMAS B. COOPER, lately deceased, will be held on Saturday next, the 24th inst. The candidates are GEORGE LEAR, of Doylestown, and JOHN D. STILES, of Allentown—the first being the open advocate of the policy of President LINCOLN'S Administration and of the war, the second the exponent of all the hostilities alike to the Administration and the authorized and proclaimed objects of the war. Mr. LEAR'S platform is contained in the following resolutions, adopted by his friends in County Convention on Tuesday last:

"*Resolved*, That it is the duty of every patriotic citizen, in an emergency like the present, to rally to the support of the Government of the country, and to aid to his utmost its efforts to put down a barbarous, wicked, and causeless rebellion against its authority, and intended to destroy its very existence.

"*Resolved*, That with one accord we express our cordial approval and support of the measures of the National Administration to sustain and protect our beloved Union against the attacks of domestic traitors, and that we pledge to it our united and steadfast co-operation until treason shall have been utterly extinguished, and every traitor shall have laid down his arms.

"*Resolved*, That we repose entire confidence in the energy and wisdom of the President and his Cabinet, in the ability and sagacity of our generals in the field, and in the bravery and patriotism of our soldiers in the ranks, and that we rest implicit faith in their ability to restore our country to its ancient condition of strength, prosperity, and harmony.

"*Resolved*, That while nearly one hundred thousand of the brave sons of our noble Commonwealth, of all political creeds, are fighting shoulder to shoulder against a common foe, their brethren at home should sustain their efforts by electing to office men who will strengthen and uphold the arm of the Government, and vindicate the holy cause in which the army is engaged.

"*Resolved*, That in presenting the name of George Lear, Esq., to the people of this Congressional district as our candidate for Congress, we earnestly recommend him as *a true, honest, and loyal man*, and an able and fearless supporter of the National Administration."

The position of Mr. STILES is best stated in the fact that the Bucks county so-called "Democratic" Convention which nominated him was controlled by the worst Breckinridgers of the county, while the resolutions placing him before the people *do not utter a word of thanks or encouragement for the hundred thousand Pennsylvanians who are battling for the Union, and not a word of rebuke of the traitors who began the rebellion.* Mr. STILES himself, who was present when these resolutions were adopted, pursued the same line of argument in his speech, and fully endorsed the course of the late Representative, Dr. COOPER, who voted steadily with Mr. VALLANDIGHAM and other well-known sympathizers with Secession in the National Legislature. The issue is, therefore, fairly made up in this district between the friends and the enemies of the Administration and of the war. Could the people see the question in its true light; could they realize that Mr. STILES will go, if elected to Congress, to act with the men who look to the rebellion rather as a means to overthrow the Government than as a great and unparalleled crime against free institutions; could they feel, as their absent friends in the army feel, against all who do not sustain the President and his wise, conservative, and patriotic course—Mr. STILES would be overwhelmingly and deservedly defeated. Mr. LEAR should be elected. His great ability, heart-warm loyalty, and earnest opposition to the enemies of the Union, would enable him to do good service in the National Legislature in this most important crisis.

HENRY L. CAKE, colonel commanding of the Ninety-sixth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers—who was a private in Captain McDONALD'S company, which was among the first to reach the capital after the fall of Sumpter, when all was gloom and despondency, and who has since been promoted to the high position he occupies—is well known in this State as an ardent Democrat. He cooperated with the straight Douglas Democracy, in 1860, and was one of the earliest and bravest of the men who took ground against the criminal Lecompton policy of JAMES BUCHANAN. He and his regiment are now in the advance under General McCLELLAN, and we are not surprised to hear that he has proved to be a most efficient, energetic, and popular commander. Colonel CAKE, in a recent letter to Colonel J. H. PULESTON, military agent of Pennsylvania, expresses some opinions which will be read with interest, written, as they are, from the battle-field, and being the sentiments of a conscientious Democrat. After speaking of his pro-Douglas proclivities, he says:

"That the war will be prosecuted to a successful issue for the Union is beyond a peradventure. I did not vote for Mr. Lincoln, but I believe that God Almighty had a hand in his election. He has three good years to conquer a peace, but the present Congress has only one. It would seem impossible that this violent and vindictive contest can drag along for another twelve month, but it may. The old stagers of the Democratic party are lying in wait, and by a judicious handling of the 'war debt,' 'the taxes,' the 'Black Republican, Abolition' scare-crow, 'that annually emancipates a flood of black labor, and sets it North to the undoing of free labor at home,' it is just probable that a large majority of such politicians as Biddle and Ancona will take the place of the present more conservative majority, *and then where are we?*

"As sure as it happens, I believe the great traitor Breckinridge and his party, or all that are left of them, will be invited back, and the war will have accomplished nothing. Thus it may overtake us again in your time and mine. The Yanceys of the South will be more exacting than ever, and while they again come to the North to insult us with impunity, will prohibit our speaking above a whisper in Dixie.

"We can never be at peace with the South until an inflexible policy in regard to slavery has been established. Therefore, meet the question *now*. Let its abolition be so gradual that it will be almost imperceptible. If this can be done, who doubts that every portion of the South—the cotton, rice, sugar, tobacco, hemp, and turpentine region—will accommodate itself to the new order of things? It requires no Daniel to suggest, but a great party only can carry out the details of the 'mode.'

"Let all who are slaves remain slaves until they die; but after the first of January, or the 4th of July, 1863, let no human being be born to slavery in the United States of America. This has nothing to do with the disposition of the confiscated property 'of rebels; and if Government wants to go further, let a price be named and paid for the slaves of such States voluntarily asking the precipitation of emancipation.

"This war should bear some fruit. Let that fruit be a hundred years of peace."

THE ACTION of Common Council to-day is looked for with more than ordinary solicitude. On the 15th instant a bill passed Select Council authorizing the lease of the railroad on Market street to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for a period of thirty years, at *one dollar per annum*, and to-day the bill will come up in the other branch of that body. As this is a matter affecting not only the interests of property-owners, and the business of our merchants, but the comfort and convenience of our people at large, and in a measure the future prospects of the city itself, whatever action that may be taken should be the result of mature deliberation. Hasty proceedings in a matter of such vital importance to the city would be exceedingly injudicious, and probably excite suspicion. From what we have learned respecting this movement, the proposed lease has been urged upon the Pennsylvania Railroad Company by interested individuals, rather than sought by the company. This alone is enough to condemn it. But there are other considerations which should, and we have no doubt will, insure its rejection. The entire newspaper press of this city labored for years for the removal of the Market-street sheds, and, much opposition as that measure incurred, its consummation did more to improve the appearance of our city than any other act of Councils within living memory. The fine business edifices flanking that avenue were, until then, buried ornaments, and no one doubted that the removal of the old market-houses would give a new impetus to the architectural adornment of the street. But for the war, this hope would already have been realized, and now that confidence is being rapidly restored by the success of our armies, and trade is resuming its accustomed channels, the work of improvement has begun. Twelve months from to-day will witness on Market street some of the finest new business edifices in the world, and, if unimpeded by blind legislation, it is safe to predict that Market street, Philadelphia, will in a few years become the finest avenue of trade in America. With all due regard for the advantages of our great Pennsylvania Railroad, and with no intention of interfering with its usefulness as a noble public improvement, we must protest against this proposed lease, as at once ruinous to our most important business avenue, and detrimental to the trade of our city, especially as there are other streets in Philadelphia through which the same result could be attained. We hope, therefore, that the effort to make Market street a receptacle for continuous mule trains, clogging the street east of Broad to the Delaware, as they now do west of it to the Schuylkill, will be rejected in Common Council to-day, without a dissenting vote. We understand that remonstrances against this contemplated measure are to be presented to-day, signed by a large number of our leading merchants.

THE LONDON TIMES can indulge in novel and startling logic to serve its own prejudice or purpose. In an article upon foreign (which, in this case, means British) intervention in our domestic troubles, it avows that the sympathies of Europe are with the South, and proceeds to establish this fact by a number of characteristic arguments, based upon the dictates of policy, and totally ignoring such a useless incumbrance as principle. The *entente cordiale*, which may, for all ordinary purposes, still be presumed to exist between the United States and England, is as perfectly lost sight of as though it lay at the bottom of the ocean, along with the Atlantic cable. What does a royal proclamation of neutrality amount to when it means starvation to British cotton-spinners? "The Southerners have been our favorites," says the *Times*, "because their demand for independence was thought too natural to be resisted at the sword's point, by a Government founded on the right of insurrection only." There are only three misconceptions in this sentence, that demand our notice. The Southerners do *not* demand their independence. A demand for independence can never be resisted, for the weapons of right are omnipotent. The *Times* has yet to learn that there is a vast distinction between independence and licentiousness—between the abrogation of old forms of tyranny, and the abrogation of the very principles of law and order that lie at the base of society, and underlie every human reform. A pure democratic form of government is *not* a government founded on the right of insurrection. By securing to the people the exercise of the privileges, and the enjoyment of the blessings of civil liberty, it is their safeguard against mob violence and terrorism; and it is only when it comes in contact with sectional prejudices, and institutions hostile to its spirit, that its peace is assailed, and its existence menaced. As long as such institutions and prejudices exist, they necessarily imperil its integrity and perpetuity; but it is they that are insurrectionary and not the government which has unwisely fostered them. Again, we deny that a government founded on the right of insurrection, would be a government at all; for government to a certain extent implies restraint, and restraint will never be tolerated by the vicious and lawless, as long as a means of escape from its bonds is open to them, and guaranteed as a right. Anarchy is not government, any more than licentiousness is independence. The *Times* seems incapable of comprehending these nice distinctions. "The demand of the Southerners for their independence was too natural to be resisted." That is to say, their demand for the destruction of the United States Government—the most beneficial, liberal, and just on the face of the earth—was too natural to be resisted. Treason, rebellion, repudiation of honest debt, the reign of mob-law, the hanging of Union citizens, and the expatriation of their wives and children—all this was too natural to be resisted. Equally natural, we presume, in the estimation of the *Times*, was the plundering of our mints and custom-houses, and the firing on our forts and unarmed vessels. All these proceedings *we* regard as extremely unnatural and barbarous, and the civilized world is much of the same opinion. It is unnecessary to refer at great length to the absurd argument so resorted to in this attempted justification of intervention, which we publish in another column. They are all off-shoots of the peculiarly British creed, that might makes right; and had we but the space, might tempt us to a freer use of the pruning-knife.

THE *London Index*, weekly organ of the Confederate party, has characteristically commenced its career by making a statement, touching the desire of France to interfere in our civil war with a view to recognize the rebel South, which has been officially contradicted, in Parliament, by Mr. LAYARD, Secretary for Foreign Affairs under Lord RUSSELL. It was to be expected that a Confederate organ would "lie through a three-inch plank" to serve the purposes of Treason, but it has most fortunately happened that, at the very start, it should meet the rebuff of an official contradiction from the British Government. The *Index* affirmed that M. MERCIER, the French Minister at Washington, had visited Richmond, by special desire and command of NAPOLEON, to ascertain the condition of affairs in Virginia, to ascertain on what terms the Confederates would accept the mediation of France, and to learn what they would concede to France for interposing with the North to settle the question by acknowledging the Rebel States as out of the Union. On the 9th inst., Mr. LAYARD stated, in the House of Commons, that M. MERCIER *went to Richmond without any instructions from his own Government, and that his visit was attended with no political result whatever.* This disposes of two points: the reported official character of M. MERCIER'S visit, and the credibility of the Confederate organ. Next thing, perhaps, will be an assertion of Gov. WISE'S headlong bravery, of FLOYD'S downright honesty, of MASON'S anti-slavery principle, of JEFFERSON DAVIS' lofty chivalry, pure love of country, and contempt of power.

Perhaps, if the act could yield the necessary supply of cotton and tobacco, it would be for the present interest of France and England to recognize the South as an independent nationality. But the principle thus sacrificed is too dangerous to be put into peril. England and France respectively have Colonial possessions, and in the event of *their* becoming rebellious, *our* recognition of them, first as "belligerents," and next as independent, would be a fatal return of the envenomed chalice to the lips of NAPOLEON and PALMERSTON. Great distress undoubtedly does prevail, in the manufacturing districts of England and France, from the want of the American staple which kept the looms at work, and from the want of demand for the manufactures and produce of both countries. It would be strange if England and France should be angry, not with the South, whose rebellion has mainly caused this distress, but with the North whose loyalty has been employed in preserving the Union.

On the 8th inst., in the House of Commons, two motions (relative to mediation in American affairs and the distress in Lancashire) were not made, but a conversation took place on the national finance and foreign relations of England, in which Lord PALMERSTON said that M. MERCIER and Lord LYONS, at Washington, were acting together in the most frank manner. On the following day, the subject of distress in Lancashire was brought on, and it was stated, on the part of the Government, that the stringent regulations of the Poor Law, as regarded out-door relief, must be relaxed, to keep the working classes alive. Mr. BRIGHT, who has been constantly and consistently just and friendly to this country, said that "he wished to warn the noble Lord at the head of the Government that nothing was more prejudicial to the trade of Lancashire than hasty statements with respect to this war and the blockade. A statement of the noble Lord the Foreign Secretary [Lord RUSSELL], when he expressed a hope that in a few months the Northern States would allow the independence of the South, had for the time paralyzed business in Lancashire by the sudden reduction it caused in the price of yarn. The Foreign Secretary was quite ignorant of the case if he supposed the North would have consented to such a course. The trade was greatly unsettled by the reports spread abroad of the blockade being raised, for the prices were so high and so sensitive that a sudden change was ruin to a person engaged in large transactions. *It was, therefore, highly culpable, and a breach of neutrality in the Foreign Secretary, to indulge in the remarks he had made.*" These be plain words, but true as they are bold. Lord RUSSELL knows as little of this country as one of his predecessors in office did of the Continent, a century ago. "The Dutch have taken umbrage," one of his opponents said. "In that case," was the reply, "a large fleet shall immediately be sent out to retake Umbrage. It shall not be sacrificed."

THE FACT is worthy of notice that the triumph of our armies in the States that attempted to secede is rapidly followed by the restoration of civil order, and the establishment of competent and legal State Governments.

Thus, in Missouri, the Governor, CLAIBORNE F. JACKSON, who was elected in 1860, joined the armed foes of his country, and while he was sharing the fortunes of their retreating forces, H. R. GAMBLE, a true Union man, was chosen Provisional Governor, and under his supervision the affairs of the State have since been administered.

In Kentucky, MAGOFFIN was strongly suspected of sympathizing with the Secession movement, but the overpowering Union majorities of the Kentucky Legislature restrained him from committing any overt act, and having pledged himself to respect the decision of the people, he found it proclaimed in such unmistakable and emphatic terms, that he had not the power, and perhaps not the disposition, to oppose it.

In Tennessee, ISHAM HARRIS, the Secession Governor, having fled from Nashville on the approach of our armies, the position he disgraced and abandoned was immediately filled by Hon. ANDREW JOHNSON, who, having repeatedly been honored with the highest stations in the gift of his fellow-citizens, probably enjoys a larger share of their confidence than any other living man. His familiarity with their wants, prejudices, and opinions; his knowledge of the true and false men around him; and his stern integrity and wise statesmanship will probably enable him to so strengthen the Union sentiment of Tennessee that it will remain forever loyal to the core, as well from choice as from necessity.

In Virginia, a basis for a somewhat similar movement is already in existence. LETCHER and the Richmond crew of conspirators having openly defied and levied war against the Federal Government, the only legal authorities of the State are those connected with the Administration of Governor PIERPONT, of Wheeling. His jurisdiction is already acknowledged and obeyed in Western Virginia, but as our armies advance and hold Eastern Virginia, it will speedily be extended over that portion of the Old Dominion. Gov. PIERPONT has already issued an address preparing for this contingency, and distinctly setting forth the policy he intends to pursue. He says "the action of the Wheeling Convention was not, as some have supposed, confined in its scope to Western Virginia; it goes to *the whole State*." And he adds: "As fast as the army of the United States puts down the rebellion in the State, I shall proceed *to reorganize the government in every county*, by having all the offices filled with loyal men, that law and order may again prevail in every county. In this work I shall expect the active co-operation of all well-disposed people in the State. The Legislature has denounced severe penalties against every person who shall do any official acts in the State without first having taken the oaths prescribed by the Convention. All offending will be punished."

Thus a complete programme for the re-establishment of civil order in Virginia is already presented. While the western portion of the State desires and expects to form a Government distinct from Eastern Virginia, for the present Gov. PIERPONT'S authority extends throughout the whole Commonwealth.

It is reported that the Governor of North Carolina is so heartily disgusted with the conspiracy that he has evinced a strong disposition to openly declare himself in favor of the Union. If this statement is untrue, or if he is prevented from carrying out his alleged design, a provisional government of some kind will speedily be organized after the assured triumph of our forces.

Thus, then, loyal local governments will speedily be restored everywhere, except in the Gulf States, Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas, and when the necessity for reorganization among them arises, as it probably soon will, some plan will, no doubt, be adopted by which all the national interests will be amply protected.

WAR IS PERHAPS the most expensive luxury of modern times. Those who indulge in it must expect to put their hands in their pockets deep and often. And while it is but common justice that our "deluded Southern brethren," being the instigators and declarers of the war now in hand, should be made to foot the heaviest bills, it is not less true that the loyal men of the country are to be heavy losers in a pecuniary way. Each, of his much or little, must prepare to contribute to the fund for the support of the Government in the prosecution of the war. One would naturally enough conclude that this was a fact so patent as to need no further elucidation. It seems, however, that it is sometimes overlooked and disregarded.

Capitalists, representing the various trades and branches of industry, may be supposed to be among the more intelligent of our citizens. But how many branches of industry have not sent their deputations up to Washington, to protest against this or that, or the other proposed degree of taxation? And now we hear of another protest—the protest of the coal interest of Pennsylvania. We do not say that these protests are, in every respect, uncalled for and unjust. In degree they may be both; but how soon will interested men fix upon a law which will require just the right and proper sacrifice on their part? Not soon, we fear. With many, taxation, under any circumstances, is held at little else than robbery. A tax is the last bill to be paid, and that grudgingly. Yet, taxation must exist in every civilized land, and under every form of government, until some poet or capitalist discovers Utopia.

But where is the protest of the men who have to give of their little? When capitalists protest against taxation which cannot be avoided, should not the receivers of lesser incomes be heard, also, besieging the committees of Congress for a reduction? But we hear nothing from this class. They expect to put their hands in their pockets and pay for the luxury of war. They do not expect to be granted immunity from the lesser rigors of war. They expect to suffer pecuniarily as long as the general industry of the country suffers prostration. Probably all classes will pay their quotas, but most to be admired is he who pays without protest and without grumbling.

Intelligent men have not yet to learn that perfect equality, either under the operation of constitutions and laws, or regulations of finance, is impossible. The highest wisdom of men is but an approximation to that which regulates the affairs of the universe. Idealism is good in its place; it gives us poets and prophets. But it never gave the world a statesman who lived in history. This war is a hard fact, and everything growing out of it partakes of its nature. There is money to be raised and debts to be paid; and neither theory nor speculation will yield a dollar to the treasury. There is money to be raised: How? By taxation. Then let capital be taxed.

FROM WASHINGTON.

M. MERCIER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND

HIS PURPOSE AND INTENTIONS DISCLOSED.

He Received no Instruction from his Government.

No Official Communication Held with the Rebels.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, May 21.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, May 21.

"Oh, wonderful rights! that have cost Great Britain her empire on the ocean; her boasted grand and substantial superiority which made the world bend before her! Oh, inestimable rights! that have taken from us our rank among the nations and our happiness at home; that have taken from us our trade, our manufactures, and our wealth; that have reduced us from the most flourishing empire in the world, to be one of the most compact, unenviable powers on the globe! Oh, wonderful rights! that are likely to take from us all that yet remains!"

So spoke Edmund Burke, the great English philosopher and statesman, when the Government of Great Britain was prosecuting an unjust war against the American colonies on the basis of certain alleged "rights" and privileges. How applicable the words of Burke to the crusade of the Southern rebels against free institutions! Stimulated by the cry of State-rights, they have prostrated one of the most flourishing regions in the world, beggared themselves, and driven their commerce from the seas. Like England, from which they derived the system of slavery, they contend for a remorseless aristocracy, and like that power, they employ the most savage instruments to carry on their campaign. Before they close their rebellion, they will furnish a still more fitting illustration of the picture of the illustrious Englishman.

Gen. McClellan is on the eve of a great battle, or another rebel evacuation. Some persons predict that the rebels will not fight. Such is not my opinion. If Richmond is abandoned, Virginia will be rescued from the traitors, and the war, at least in this section, virtually at an end. A very few hours will decide this question. As I write the town is full of rumors, and all are waiting anxiously for the result. General McClellan, from whom the Department has almost hourly intelligence by telegraph, sends hopeful accounts of his progress and prospects.

Andrew Johnson's organ in Tennessee, the Nashville *Union*, of the 17th of May, has published an overwhelming denunciation of the Address of the fourteen members of Congress in favor of reviving the "Democratic party," and does not hesitate to stigmatize the Address as in all respects dangerous, disgraceful, and ill-timed. This noble appeal will show where the true Southern Democracy stand in this crisis of our country's fate. Publish it by all means, at the earliest moment.

OCCASIONAL.

Some of the Periodicals.

The second monthly part of Chambers' "Book of Days" has been published by J. B. Lippincott & Co. It covers the time from Twelfth Day to St. Anthony's Day, (January 6-17,) and contains many anecdotes, with antiquarian and legendary passages, and numerous illustrations.

The new number of the *London Quarterly Review*, republished in New York, and received from W. B. Zieber, opens with a chatty paper upon Dorsetshire, which is followed by one on Hymnology. Two striking criticisms here are upon Thornbury's Life of Turner, the painter, and Stanhope's Life of Pitt. The first is dissected, with evident relish for the task, while the other is lauded as a remarkable book on its subject and treatment. In a brief notice of the Merrimac and the Monitor, the *Review* objects to Captain Coles' cupola, does not think that one contest between the two American iron-clads should decide the question, and goes in for the erection of strong forts as defences of the British dock-yards and arsenals.

The May number of the *London Art Journal* continues a further portion of the Illustrated Catalogue of the International Exhibition; engravings on steel, from pictures, by Turner and T. Faed; specimens of the works of the late John Cross, painter; with a number of other engravings, and the usual quantity of letter-press, relating to the Fine Arts. The Illustrated Catalogue, here given gratuitously, is worth double the cost of the whole number.

Johnson, Fry, & Co., New York, have issued the 11th and 12th parts of their National Portrait Gallery, consisting of original full-length Portraits by Alonzo Chappel, with biographies by E. A. Duyckinck. The portraits here given are Paul Jones, Governor George Clinton, C. C. Pinckney, and Abbot Lawrence. In each case a fac-simile of the signature is given. This collection of portraits will be more complete and extensive than any yet published here. The engravings are beautifully finished, in line and stipple.

In our notice of *Harper's Magazine* we clustered together the names of the contributors. We now desire more particularly to affiliate the respective articles. The excellent paper, illustrated, on the Catawissa Railroad, is by H. D. Mears; "Rough Riding down South," by T. H. H. Claiborne, the biographer of Gen. Quitman; "George Bancroft," by Dr. James Wynne; "Burr's Conspiracy," by B. J. Lossing; "Failing Love," a brief story with a true moral, by T. S. Arthur; "Concerning Laughter," an essay, by Charles Nordhoff; "A Dangerous Journey," (concluded here,) by J. Ross Browne; and "Broadway," a poem, illustrated by J. McLenan, by N. G. Shepherd. There is a very well-written story, by Harriet E. Prescott, called "Madeleine Schaeffer," which none but a gifted, sensitive woman could have written. The continuations of stories by Dinah Mulock, Thackeray, and Trollope, with the Monthly Record, Reviews, and Editor's Table, Easy Chair, Foreign Bureau, and Drawer complete, what we accept as the best number of *Harper* yet published. It has reached us through T. B. Peterson.

Death of John Drew, the Comedian.

The public will be startled and pained at the announcement of the death of Mr. John Drew, which took place at his residence, in this city, yesterday afternoon. Until Tuesday afternoon Mr. Drew was in the enjoyment of perfect health and the best of spirits. He had just concluded a successful engagement, and had hoped to enjoy a brief relaxation from his professional duties, prior to his return to Europe.

The deceased was born in Ireland, September 3, 1825. While yet a young man, in fact before he attained his majority, he emigrated to this country. His aptitude for the dramatic profession had displayed itself at an early period of his life, and, confident of success, he determined to make his appearance on the stage. His *début* took place at the Old Bowery Theatre, then under the management of A. W. Jackson, in the year 1845. He played on this occasion the part of *Dr. O'Toole*, in the Irish Tutor, which afterwards became one of his favorite *roles*. His success was very marked, and inspired him with confidence. He rapidly rose to be a leading artist in the profession, and had hosts of imitators, although none were so inimitable, natural, and irresistable in Irish characters.

Such was the impression produced by his original and graphic impersonations that he received numerous eligible offers from managers in the various cities of the Union. Some of these he concluded to accept, and entered upon a starring tour, which increased his fames made him hosts of friends, and fully developed his talent.

Having concluded these engagements, he came to Philadelphia, and, in conjunction with Mr. Wm. Wheatley, became lessee of the Arch-street Theatre. This establishment, under his charge, became one of the leading theatres of the country, and has continued ever since to maintain its exalted reputation. He continued here for several years, drawing crowded houses, and gathering around him some of the brightest talent of the profession. In compliance with the urgent demands of various theatres, he was compelled to make another starring tour, which was equally successful as his first.

Subsequently he went to California, where, after a brief stay, he proceeded to Australia, and thence to Europe. Everywhere his reputation had preceded him, and he was received in the most cordial and gratifying manner, being universally acknowledged by the most accomplished critics to be the greatest living delineator of the Irish character. After a sojourn in Ireland, he returned to this country four or five months since, and commenced an engagement at the Arch-street Theatre, now under the lesseeship of Mrs. John Drew. This continued for one hundred and one nights, and was probably his greatest success, having been enthusiastically greeted by crowded houses every evening. During this time he personated some of his best and most artistic parts, such as *O'Brien*, in the "Irish Emigrant;" *Handy Andy*; *Dr. O'Toole*, in the "Irish Tutor;" *Rory O'Moore*; and *Dromio of Ephesus*, in the "Comedy of Errors." The term for which he intended to play having expired on last Friday night week, he retired from the Arch-street stage and immediately commenced to make arrangements for his return to Europe. His friends, in appreciation of his merits as an actor and a gentleman, determined to give him a complimentary benefit prior to his departure, and Mr. Drew was looking forward to that happy occasion. But an untimely accident occurred which closed his brilliant career and earthly existence.

Taking a child in his arms in his own house, on Tuesday, his foot caught in the carpet, throwing Mr. Drew in such a manner that his head struck against a wall, and he became utterly senseless. Convulsions ensued, and a physician was summoned, but his aid was unavailing. Mr. Drew suffered until yesterday afternoon, when he expired at four o'clock. By his decease the stage has been deprived of one of its most amusing and accomplished actors, and all Philadelphians—for his greatest achievements were identified with our city—can share the afflictions of his family.

THE CHARITY HOSPITAL.—This evening, at Musical Fund Hall, Dr. Shelton Mackenzie will deliver his lecture on "The Lights and Shades of Irish Character," and read his legendary ballad, "The Geraldine."

Arrival of the Borussia—A Prize Schooner.

NEW YORK, May 21.—The steamer *Borussia* has arrived. Her dates have been anticipated.

She reports seeing, on the 20th, in lat. 41, long. 67, a schooner with a rebel flag, and an American flag over it.

Death of E. P. Christy.

NEW YORK, May 21.—E. P. Christy, of the Christy Minstrels, died this morning.

From General McClellan's Army.

OUR ADVANCE WITHIN EIGHT MILES OF RICHMOND.

REBELS DRIVEN ACROSS BOTTOM'S BRIDGE.

The Army Still Moving On.

A BATTLE PROBABLE.

TUNSTALL'S STATION, Va., May 21.—The enemy's pickets were driven across Bottom's bridge yesterday, by the troops advancing in that direction.

The rebels attempted to regain the post by the use of their artillery, but failed. Our batteries opened, shelling the woods each side of the bridge.

The advance, under Gen. Stoneman, reached New Bridge yesterday, within eight miles of Richmond, but found no enemy in force this side of the Chickahominy, which at that point dwindles down to a small creek.

The country in that locality is in a good state of cultivation, with fewer swamps than are to be found in ordinary bottom lands. Six pieces of artillery were found posted on the opposite bank, but his purpose not being to bring on an engagement, he returned one mile from the bridge and encamped. During the time we were driving the enemy out one man was killed and three wounded.

The whole army moved this morning early, with a view of making a lengthy march towards Richmond. What road they took, it is not necessary to mention, but General McClellan's headquarters to-night will be within a short distance of Richmond, in front of which is supposed to be encamped the main body of the rebel army.

If they intend to give the Union forces battle, which is almost universally acknowledged, the hour is drawing near when they will have the opportunity.

THE ADVANCE TO RICHMOND.

Despatch from Gen. McClellan.

A RECONNOISSANCE BEYOND BOTTOM'S BRIDGE.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 21, 1862—8 o'clock P. M.

To the Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

I have just returned from Bottom's Bridge, where I examined the country on the other side, the reconnoissance being made on the heels of the enemy, who probably did not like the skirmish of yesterday. The bridge will be repaired by to-morrow morning, and others constructed. All the corps have advanced to-day.

G. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major General Commanding.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Resolution of Thanks to the Naval Heroes at New Orleans Passed by the Senate.

The Senate Consents to Try the Humphrey Impeachment Case.

THE CARRYING OF MAILS BY COLORED PERSONS.

The Bill Tabled by the House.

Remarks of Mr. Kelley on the Confiscation Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 21.

SENATE.

Petitions Presented.

The Chair presented a communication from the Department of the Interior, transmitting the census report.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep.), of Illinois, moved that 100,000 copies be printed. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, presented the petition of the widow of Gen. Charles F. Smith, asking for a pension.

Mr. TEN EYCK (Rep.), of New Jersey, presented the memorial of the yearly meeting of Friends, at Philadelphia.

Several petitions were presented for a bankrupt act.

Thanks to Captain D. G. Farragut.

Mr. GRIMES, from the Naval Committee, reported a joint resolution giving the thanks of Congress to Capt. D. G. Farragut and the officers and men under his command. Passed.

Post Office Appropriation Bill.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), from the Committee on Finance, reported back the bill amendatory of the post office appropriation bill. Passed.

Pension Bill Passed.

Mr. WRIGHT (U.), of Indiana, offered a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting at an early day, a bill providing a suitable bounty for the soldiers enlisted for three months and one year, and also for pensions for the widows of soldiers who die in the service. Adopted.

Land Donation Bill.

The bill donating lands for the benefit of agricultural colleges and mechanics arts was taken up.

Mr. LANE (Rep.), of Kansas, spoke against the bill, as tending to take away all the lands of Kansas, not leaving an acre for the school purposes of that State. This was unjust to a State whose every other voter was serving the country in the army.

The discussion was continued till one o'clock, when the special order, being the confiscation bill, was taken up.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, moved to take up the tax bill.

Impeachment of West H. Humphreys.

Mr. FOSTER (Rep.), of Connecticut, by consent, offered a resolution in regard to the impeachment of West H. Humphreys, that the Senate will, to-morrow, resolve itself into the Committee of Impeachment on the case of West H. Humphreys, and the Vice President shall administer the following oath to the Senate: "I solemnly swear, in all cases and things pertaining to the trial and impeachment of West H. Humphreys, late Judge of the United States for the several districts of Tennessee, that I will do impartial justice, as a court of law;" and the court, being thus formed, will receive the managers from the House, &c. Adopted.

The Confiscation Bill Taken Up.

Mr. CLARK (Rep), of Rhode Island, appealed to the Senate to continue the consideration of the confiscation bill till they finish it.

Speech of Mr. Ten Eyck.

Mr. TEN EYCK (Rep.), of New Jersey, in referring to the provisions of the bill in regard to employing blacks, said the soldiers of New Jersey would not serve beside black regiments; but he supposed that was not the purpose of the Government. He was perfectly willing to trust the President with power. He commended the course of the President in regard to General Hunter's proclamation. That proclamation was entirely foreign to Hunter's character, and he could not explain it, unless Hunter had been "*egged* on by somebody else," or else he had got the President drunk when he had a great deal better have the yellow fever, which is less dangerous, and sooner recovered from. He should vote to take up the tax bill.

A Running Debate.

Mr. LATHAM (Dem.), of California, sent to the Clerk's desk a general letter from General McClellan, concerning the advance of the army, which was read.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, said he should vote to take up the tax bill, as he regarded it as the most important measure. The people of this State will probably have to pay one-quarter of the proposed tax, and they are ready for it, and want to see it and look it in the face.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.) said a character in one of Dickens' works says if you take a bit of orange and peel it, put it in a glass of water, and make believe very hard, you would have a very strong drink. He regarded the confiscation bill, as reported from the committee, very much like such a drink. It amounted to nothing. It was not a confiscation bill, but a mere nonentity. Therefore, he should vote to take up the tax bill, and wait the action of the other House.

Mr. COLLAMER (Rep.), of Vermont, disclaimed being one of the committee who attempted to dupe and deceive people by making such a bill as the Senator from Massachusetts had accused him of. He thought this charge was rather discourteous. There had been a great deal of domineering here, which sounded like the crack of a slave whip. He had acted with integrity, and been governed by his own convictions of what was right.

Mr. CLARK (Rep.), of New Hampshire, repelled any idea that anybody had been deceived. He had done what he had done frankly and openly, and he did not like this sort of denunciation and rebuke.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, said he was in favor of a stringent bill, but, because he could not get one he wanted, was not going to refuse anything, but he would take the best that could be got. He thought there was no doubt a tax bill would be passed when the time came, but he was in favor of finishing this bill now we were in the middle of it.

Mr. TRUMBULL should vote against taking up the tax bill. He thought it best to go on with this bill, and see if we could not strengthen and make it better.

Mr FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, said he had made a motion to take up the tax bill, for he despaired of getting a vote on the confiscation bill. It was a regular game to drive it over to wait for the bill from the House, and he did not wish to postpone so important a measure as a tax bill for such a purpose.

After further discussion a vote was taken, resulting as follows:

YEAS.

Anthony (Rep.)	Howard (Rep.)	Saulsbury (Dem.)	
Browning (Rep.)	Howe (Rep.)	Sherman (Rep.)	
Carlile (Unon.)	Kennedy (Union.)	Simmons (Rep.)	
Cowan (Rep.)	King (Rep.)	Starke (Dem.)	
Davis (Union)	Lane (Rep.), Ind.	Sumner (Rep.)	
Dixon (Rep.)	Latham (Dem.)	Ten Eyck (Rep.)	
Fessenden (Rep.)	McDougall (Dem.)	Willey (Union.)	
Foot (Rep.)	Morrill (Rep.)	Wilmot (Rep.)	
Foster (Rep.)	Nesmith (Dem.)	Wilson (R.), Mass.	
Harris (Rep)	Pomeroy (