The Press.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1863.

The French in Mexico.

It is stated that General FOREY, who has chief command of the French army in Mexico, has demanded such reinforcements from France as will raise his force to 60,000 men. No doubt the Emperor NAPOLEON will comply with this requirement, for to draw back now would be to confess a failure; but this will make it something like a great war, and it will have the disadvantage of being unpopular in France, where the Legislature, albeit not much in the habit of free-speaking, has seriously and strongly told NAPOLEON, in an almost unanimous address, that it considers his foreign policy wrong on two points—that is, on the continued occupation of Rome, and upon the war in Mexico. So far, NAPOLEON has made a comparative failure in Mexico. Now, the French are not used to forgive a failure, and this one must weaken the Emperor's prestige, on which his popularity so much rests.

Two years ago, when the invasion of Mexico first came before the public, we drew attention to the probable purpose of NAPOLEON in undertaking it. For the last ten years—even from the first year of NAPOLEON's rule in France, as President—he has been intent on obtaining territory on the shore of the Pacific, and it has long been notorious that he had singled out the Mexican province of Sonora, as worthy of "annexation." Sonora has an extensive seaboard, chiefly on the Gulf of California, and partly on the Pacific. Its area is close on 124,000 square miles, or nearly three times as great as that of Pennsylvania. It is fruitful, finely cultivated, well watered, fortunate in climate, and very abundant in mineral wealth. Its extent, (three-fifths of the whole area of France itself), would make it a valuable acquisition to any European country desirous of colonizing on the American continent. The last acounts from our Southwestern Territories, are that a French regiment, 800 strong, had entered and taken Guaymas, the best Mexican port on the Pacific side, and were proceeding to occupy the capital of the province. The alleged *casus belli* is that the Governor of Sonora had banished some French traders who misconducted themselves. It is obvious that this French regiment must have gone to Guaymas by long sea, which shows a deliberate purpose of taking a decided position. It is impossible that Gen. FOREY not yet having advanced as far as Puebla, on the eastern side of Mexico, any French regiment could have gone overland into Sonora, on the other side of the Continent. Our anticipations as to NAPOLEON's designs upon Sonora bid fair to be realized. Let him once gain that province, and how long will Lower California, that desirable peninsula, continue part of Mexico? On these points, a short time ago, Senator McDOUGALL, of California, made a public exposition, in Congress, the truth and force of which events are now obviously in process of affirming. If NAPOLEON, under any pretence, whether by conquest or purchase, get a footing in Sonora, he may be expected, ere long, to annoy the United States, by his dangerous propinquity and his characteristic appetite for territorial acquisition. We do not like neighbors who have the reputation of being troublesome.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1863.

The speculator upon the sufferings of the country, whose profits increase with her troubles, and whose interests therefore are in the exaggeration of her defeats and in the depreciation of her resources, can *not* constantly prosper. Such a man is nearly always a traitor to his country. Inconceivable is the mischief produced by the class of which he is a specimen. The timid are terrified by them into the conviction that the country is on the road to irresistible ruin. Labor and property advance to fabulous prices. The necessaries of life are to be had only at exorbitant rates. Everybody is plundered and distressed but the speculator. I think, however, that the day for these gamblers upon the public credulity and upon the nation's tribulations, is nearly over. The wonderful resources of the country ought to have been the assurance to every intelligent American that we are capable of conducting a long war, and that as it continues, we should rather increase than diminish in the great elements of national wealth. But if we forget or become blind to this wholesome consolation, we cannot be indifferent to the movements in Congress based upon the great fact that the immense and various capabilities of the loyal States have hardly been touched, and are strong enough to answer any demand, and to carry any load, for the salvation of the Union. All the recent legislation of the two Houses has proceeded upon and been instinct with this idea. Especially is this true of the Bank plan of Mr. Chase, the bill providing the ways and means for the support of the Government, and the Senate bill for the Enrollment of the National forces, which has passed the House. The alleged antagonism between the two branches of Congress on the bill providing ways and means, upon which antagonism so many guilty thousands of dollars have been put into the pockets of the sharp-scented speculator, has been happily adjusted, as I never doubted it would be, and we may see Congress gladly responding to the people's call by adopting a fair and just measure. Before many days are over these three important measures will be made laws of the land by the signature of the President. There are other acts, all of them framed and carried upon the same theory which planned and passed the three commanding measures alluded to. How long desperate gamblers on the adverse hope that a people powerful in every great individual and general quality, whether of self-support or of successful competition with other races, cannot rescue themselves from the hands of a rebellion like the present—how long such gamblers can maintain themselves, requires little ingenuity to divine. These are bright and cheerful truths, which should warm and elevate every heart, and dispel all the prejudices and apprehensions of fear or of cowardice. The honor and the resources of the Government are pledged for the Preservation of the Government. What this honor is, all the world knows and venerates; and what these resources are, is a fact as familiar as any that is written in books or enshrined in human recollection. There is not a national bond that is not riveted and bound up in the national cause, and that will not be redeemed at every hazard and every cost. There is not a green-back in the hand of the mechanic that does not represent elements far more precious than gold or diamonds. And when the low-browed party croaker tells you that your money is worthless, and that you should get it off your hands, be sure that his wish is father to the thought; and that the tongue that can utter such a lie is rooted in a heart sweltering with treason. Observe the mighty machinery built by thoughtful statesmen of every former political belief, and sustained by every honest patriot, for the Common Welfare, the Internal Safety, and the Public Defence; and tell me it such a Republic can be lightly lost, and if the dangerous and damning plots of traitors and Shylocks shall be permitted to succeed? There is not an interest that has not been carefully guarded. Vast, wide, and most comprehensive, is this wondrous system! Our public debt is first made a sacred obligation upon all, and those who hold national securities are paid for their risk in gold. Our expenditures for the war are collected from a thousand quarters, leaving the laboring poor, and the man of small income, almost wholly outreached; and if he feels the times at all in the enhanced cost of provisions, he is indemnified by higher wages and more constant employment. A currency uniform and convertible is gradually to supersede the private system, the basis being the National and State credit. The enrollment bill almost abolishes exemptions, thus attracting all classes to the army, and swelling the public treasury by contributions from those who cannot enter the service. That part of the system which has already been in operation has produced miraculous results. And when the whole is in motion, with a mighty army on land, and a regular and volunteer navy on the sea, what limit shall be set to our victories, and what bounds to the Progress of our Example? There is, indeed, one bar in our road—one lion in our pathway—the failure of the American people to respond to the call of their bleeding country, and their willingness to listen to the falsehoods and help the intrigues of the sympathizers with Secession. If the people are ready for this, then all that has been done to deliver the Republic from the manifold evils that beset it, will have been done in vain. But I have no fear of this monstrous hallucination. I believe that as the Past, with all its reverses and revelations, is contrasted with the Future, crowded with awful duties and made sublime by the inevitable Destiny that stands ready to record the death of Slavery, and as they count over and study the enormous preparations of the Government for the public safety and for the Protection of the People against the miseries of the war brought upon us by the slaveholders, they will brush away the vermin that are hiding the sun of Truth from their eyes, and will give their whole confidence to the administration of the Government of their fathers. OCCASIONAL.

UNION LEAGUE.—We are informed that the Hon. Thomas Swann, of Baltimore, is now in this city, and that he will be present at the League House and address the members at 9 o'clock this evening. We are requested to call attention to the fact, and urge a full attendance.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1863.

The Bank-Tax Difficulty Compromised.

The two Houses have compromised their differences on the bank-duty section of the finance bill, as follows: All banks, associations, corporations, or individuals, issuing notes or bills for circulation as currency shall be subject to and pay a duty of one per centum each half year from and after April 1st, 1863, upon the average amount of the circulation of notes or bills as currency issued beyond the amount hereinafter named. That is to say, banks, associations, corporations, or individuals having a capital of not over $100,000, ninety per centum thereof; over $100,000 and not over $200,000, eighty per centum thereof; over $200,000 and not over $300,000, seventy per centum thereof; over $300,000 and not over $500,000, sixty per centum thereof; over $500,000 and not over $1,000,000, fifty per centum thereof; over one million and not over a million and a half, forty per centum thereof; over a million and a half and not over two millions, thirty per centum thereof; over two millions, twenty-five per centum thereof.

In the case of banks with branches, the duty herein provided for shall be imposed upon the circulation of the notes or bills of such branches severally, and not upon the aggregate circulation of all; and the amount of capital of such shall be considered to be the amount allotted or used by such branch; and all such banks, associations or corporations, and individuals, shall also be subject to pay a duty of one-half of one per centum each half year from and after April 1st, 1863, upon the average amount of notes or bills not otherwise herein taxed, and outstanding as currency during the six months next preceding the returns herein provided for.

And the rates of tax-duty imposed on the circulation of associations organized under the act to provide a national currency, &c., shall be the same as are herein imposed on the circulation of all banks, associations, corporations, and individuals; but shall be assessed and collected as required by the said act.

All banks, associations, corporations, and individuals issuing or receiving notes and bills for circulation as currency, &c., after April 1st, 1863, in sums representing any fractional part of a dollar, shall be subject to and pay a duty of 5 per centum each half year thereafter upon the amount of such fractional notes or bills so issued.

Associations, corporations, individuals, and all banks receiving deposits of money subject to payment in checks or drafts, except saving institutions, shall be subject to a duty of one-eighth of one per centum each half year from and after April 1st, 1863, on the average amount of their circulating notes or bills lawfully issued and outstanding as currency.

And a list or return shall be made and rendered within thirty days after the 30th of October, 1862, and each six months thereafter, to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, which shall contain a true and faithful account of the amount of duties accrued, or which shall accrue, on the amount of the fractional note circulation, and on the average amount of all other circulation and deposits for the six months next preceding.

The President at the Capitol.

The President has occupied what is known as the President's room at the Capitol to-day, to facilitate the business, by saving the Committee on Enrolled Bills the trouble of travelling the length of Pennsylvania avenue to procure his signature to them. This is the general practice of the Chief Magistrate of the nation toward the close of each session.

Proceedings in Prize Cases.

The bill of Senator GRIMES, to regulate the proceedings in prize cases, provides, first, that in cases in which prizes are perishable, liable to deteriorate, or costing in keeping disproportionately to their value, the court may order a sale without liability to appeal, and the Marshal shall deposit the gross proceeds with the Assistant United States Treasurer nearest the place of sale, and the court may order therefrom the payments of costs and charges. Second. That the Secretary of War or Navy may take any vessel before adjudication for the use of the department, and pay its value into the treasury, subject to the order of the adjudicating court. Third. That an auctioneer of established reputation shall be employed by the Secretary of the Navy, under certain regulations, at a compensation not more than 1¼ per centum, so that the compensation of counsel for the captors, when separate counsel shall be deemed necessary, shall be confined to such services as may be requisite by reason of the separate interests of the captors, and which may conflict with those of the United States, may be involved. Fifth. That the commissioners in the prize cases shall not exceed two in each district—one, a retired naval officer, whose combined salaries shall not exceed $6,000. The sixth and seventh sections relate to witness fees and appeals.

Internal Revenue Decision.

The following decision has been made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue concerning coupons or bonds issued by or in aid of a railroad company: In cases of bonds issued by a State, county, city, or town, in aid of a railroad company, whereof the interest is to be paid by the company, the Government tax of three per centum must be withheld, although neither bond nor coupon may express the liability of the company, such an arrangement being virtually an endorsement of the company's bonds by the said State, county, city, or town; whether the interest is paid by the State, county, city, or town, and received from the railroad company, or paid directly by the company to the bondholders, is immaterial. In either case the managers of the company must account to the Government for the tax. When the bonds are issued by, or in aid of, a railroad company, the interest of which is made payable in a foreign country, such interest will not be subject to taxation under the eighty-first section of the excise law.

The Tax Amendments.

It is the opinion of Congressmen best acquainted with the subject, that the amendments to the internal-tax law, if they had been agreed to by the House in the form originally reported, would have increased the revenue, but this they now consider doubtful in their modified form. The main purpose of the amendatory bill was to remedy existing defects. Mr. DALY, delegate from Nebraska, succeeded in having a clause inserted to dispense with collectors and assessors in the Territories after the present assessment shall have been collected, for the reason that the expenses of the collectors absorb all the revenue received. The stamp tax, however, is retained.

Resignation of Gen. John Cochrane.

The resignation of General JOHN COCHRANE has been accepted by the President, for the reasons by himself stated. He designs still, in other fields, to continue his support of the war for the Union. The officers of his brigade accompanied him in a body to the cars at Falmouth, on his departure. The following is his farewell address:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE, 3D DIVISION, 6TH CORPS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 27, 1863.

SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST BRIGADE: My command over you has terminated. Serious physical maladies, induced by the unaccustomed exposure of nearly two years of military life, constantly in the camp, on the march, or in the field, have unfitted me now for the duties of an active campaign. For this reason my resignation severs my connection with the service; but I should trample upon the most sacred emotions, did I depart from among you in silence. We began our march and have traversed over fields where we lay down only sky covered, and one flag protected us, and when we arose it was to the notes of the same reveille. Your toil has been my toil. To Fair Oaks, Malvern, Antietam, Williamsburg, and Fredericksburg, our memories revert together as to fields hallowed by the bravery and by the blood of our brigade. Soldiers' graves are there filled with our dead, and we, their survivors, bear their names upon our hearts, where, too, their praises are inscribed.

SOLDIERS: For your country have you borne all, perilled all, suffered all, and for that country will you still bleed and endure, till you have seized from the teeth of this monstrous rebellion the dear inheritance of your children—one name, one country, one home! I shall not be with you, nor shall I strike at your side, but whenever on other fields, bending beneath a grievous burden, I may weary or faint, one thought of your brave hearts shall revive my resolution and reinvigorate my efforts in our common cause. You are of the Army of the Potomac. High hopes rest upon you, and fervid prayers supplicate for your success. Objects of hope, and subjects of prayer, comrades in arms, your future is fraught with the destinies of the coming generation. Though sometimes checked, yet never defeated; though sometimes baffled, yet never beaten; the victories of your past are still within hail of your victories to come. Your country's cause rests upon your arms, and your standards will yet gild the day of its success. Soldiers, farewell!

JOHN COCHRANE,
Brig. Gen. Commanding 1st Brigade.

The Indiana Legislature.

ATTEMPT TO STRIP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF ITS MILITARY POWER—THE UNION MEMBERS "BOLT."

CINCINNATI, Feb. 28.—A special despatch to the *Commercial*, from Indianapolis, says the withdrawal of the Union members of the House, on Wednesday, has, perhaps, put an end to further legislation in that State during this session. But two of the minority were in the hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, and all have now gone home.

The cause of this "bolting" was an attempt on the part of the majority to pass an unconstitutional measure, stripping the Federal Government of all military power in the State.

THE LATEST—CONVICTION FOR TREASON.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 1.—In the United States Circuit Court yesterday, four persons, charged with resisting the military authorities in the arrest of deserters, were convicted of treason.

The minority of the Legislature are still absent. Unless a compromise is effected with the majority, there will be no further legislation during the present session.

The Protest Against Mediation.

The following are the proposed concurrent joint resolutions reported by Senator SUMNER from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States, communicating, in answer to the resolution of the Senate, the correspondence on the subject of mediation, arbitration, or other measures looking to a termination of the present rebellion:

Whereas, It appears from the diplomatic correspondence submitted to Congress, that a proposition, friendly in form, looking to pacification through foreign mediation, has been made to the United States by the Emperor of the French, and promptly declined by the President; and whereas, the idea of mediation or intervention in some shape may be regarded by foreign Governments as practicable, and such Governments, through this misunderstanding, may be led to proceedings tending to embarrass the friendly relations which now exist between them and the United States; and whereas, in order to remove for the future all chance of misunderstanding on this subject, and to secure for the United States the full enjoyment of that freedom from foreign interference, which is one of the highest rights of independent States, it seems fit that Congress should declare its convictions thereon:

Therefore, Resolved, The House of Representatives concurring, that while in times past the United States have sought and accepted the friendly mediation or arbitration of foreign Powers by the pacific adjustments of international questions, where the United States were the party of the one part, and some other sovereign Power the party of the other part, and while they are not disposed to misconstrue the natural and humane desire of foreign Powers to aid in arresting domestic troubles, which, widening in their influence, have afflicted other countries, especially in view of the circumstance, deeply regretted by the American people, that the blow aimed by the rebellion at the nation's life has fallen heavily upon the laboring population of Europe; yet notwithstanding these things, Congress cannot hesitate to regard every proposition of foreign interference in the present contest as so far unseasonable and inadmissible, that its only explanation will be found in a misunderstanding of the true state of the question, and of the real character of the war in which the Republic is engaged.

Resolved, That the United States are now struggling with an unprovoked and wicked rebellion which is seeking the destruction of the Republic, that it may build up a new Power, whose corner-stone, according to the confession of its chiefs, shall be slavery. That for the suppression of this rebellion and thus to save the Republic and to prevent the establishment of such a power, the National Government is now employing armies and fleets in full faith that through these efforts all the purposes of the conspirators and rebels will be crushed; that while thus engaged in this struggle on which so much depends, any proposition from a foreign Power, whatever form it may take, having for its object the arrest of these efforts, is just in proportion to its influence an encouragement to the rebellion and to its declared principles, and on this account is calculated to prolong and embitter the conflict, to cause increased expenditures of blood and treasure, and to postpone the much-desired day of peace. That with these convictions, and not doubting that every such proposition, although made with good intent, is injurious to the national interests, Congress will be obliged to look upon any further attempts in the same direction as an unfriendly act, which it earnestly deprecates, to the end that nothing may occur abroad to strengthen rebellion or to weaken those relations of good-will with foreign Powers, which the United States are happy to cultivate.

Resolved, That the rebellion from its beginning, and far back even in the conspiracy which preceded its outbreak, was encouraged by the hope of support from foreign Powers; that its chiefs frequently boasted that the people of Europe were so far dependent upon regular supplies of the great Southern staple, that sooner or later their Governments would be constrained to take sides with the rebellion in some effective form, even to the extent of forcible intervention if the milder form did not prevail; that the rebellion is now sustained by this hope, which every proposition of foreign interference awakens anew, and that, without this life-giving support, it must soon yield to the just and paternal authority of the National Government. That considering these things, which are aggravated by the motives of the resistance thus encouraged, the United States regret that foreign Powers have not frankly told the chiefs of the rebellion that the work in which they are engaged is hateful, and that a new Government, such as they seek to found, with slavery as its acknowledged corner-stone, and with no other declared object of separate existence, is so far shocking to civilization and the moral sense of mankind, that it must not expect welcome or recognition in the commonwealth of nations.

Resolved, That the United States, confident in the justice of their cause, which is the cause also of good government and human rights everywhere among men; anxious for the speedy restoration of peace, which shall secure tranquillity at home and remove all occasions of complaint abroad, and waiting with well-assured trust the final suppression of the rebellion, through which all these things, rescued from present danger, will be secured forever, and the Republic, one and indivisible, triumphant over its enemies, will continue to stand an example to mankind, hereby announce as their unalterable purpose that the war will be vigorously prosecuted according to the humane principles of Christian States, until the rebellion shall be suppressed, and they reverently invoke upon their cause the blessings of Almighty God.

Resolved, That the President be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions through the Secretary of State to the Ministers of the United States in foreign countries, that the declaration and protest herein set forth may be communicated by them to the Governments to which they are accredited.

Soldiers' Reading Room.

Several distinguished speakers to-night participated in the ceremonies attendant on the dedication of a library and reading room free to all soldiers, on ground set apart by Congress for that purpose.

CURIOUS RUMORS FROM WASHINGTON.

Changes in the Cabinet—The "Conservatists" to be Propitiated—General McClellan to have a Command—The Pennsylvania Reserves Dissatisfied.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The *Mercury's* special Washington despatch says: It is admitted that the close of the session of Congress will witness a decided change in the policy of the Government. The President has yielded to the advice of Secretary Seward and Thurlow Weed to propitiate conservatism, and thus make the conscription more palatable. The measures in view are:

First. A change in the Cabinet that will give Mr. Seward and his policy a majority of members. Mr. Chase to be retained, or if he retires, Robert J. Walker is to take his place.

Second. The restoration of General McClellan to some command.

Third. Some concession to the negro prejudices of the Northern troops, and the blacks in the army will be kept in subordinate positions.

Fourth. Moderate Republicans and Democrats are to have the confidence and direction under the Administration.

Fifth. No more arbitrary arrests, except in very flagrant cases.

The 1st Pennsylvania Reserves refused to do duty on picket yesterday over in Virginia, on the ground that they have been in service since May or June last, have participated in most of the hard-fought battles in Virginia, and are so reduced that no one regiment will number two hundred and fifty men; but while their requests to go home and recruit have been disregarded, the 2d New Hampshire Regiment, containing about the same number, has been permitted to go home.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Waiting for Iron-Clads—Honorable Release of General Stevenson—The Hunter-Foster Difficulty—Another Expedition under Foster.

PORT ROYAL, S. C., Feb. 25.—We have been waiting since the 1st inst. for the iron-clads, two more of which are now due.

Assistant Adjutant General Townsend arrived on the 22d, with power, it is said, to adjudicate all the differences between Gen. Foster and Gen. Hunter's forces.

The arrest of Gen. Stevenson and Chief Quartermaster Sleight, of Gen. Foster's command, by Gen. Hunter, grew out of a misunderstanding of the facts. They will both be honorably released.

The announcement by Gen. Townsend that the forces from South Carolina are not to be taken out of the department permanently, or detached from the Eighteenth Army Corps, has healed every wound and caused great joy among these troops. They are now confident of victory.

General Foster has returned to Newbern to make arrangements for another expedition.

A grand review of the entire force from North Carolina was made by General Hunter yesterday. The display was very imposing.

Our iron-clad navy will soon have complete control of Charleston harbor.

The health of the troops is good, and everything indicates success.

Doctors Otis, Ingalles, Derby, and Green, recently arrived from Newbern as a supernumery corps, should their services be needed.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 28.—The British frigate Petrel arrived in Hampton Roads last night from Charleston. The officers report that the rebels have constructed a strong network across the channel to Charleston harbor, and that the network is filled with torpedoes designed to blow up any of the Federal fleet that may attempt to enter the harbor.

An easterly rain storm commenced at Old Point to-day at noon and continues up to this time, 5 o'clock P. M.

ARMY OF THE FRONTIER.

Inaction of this Army—The Cause of it—What Gen. Schofield is Doing—The Troops Eager for Action, &c.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27.—The present inaction of the Army of the Frontier proceeds from no sluggishness on the part of its present officers. Gen. Schofield's friends claim that he is no laggard, and the evidence shows that from the time he started in pursuit of Hindman from Springfield, in September, until he had driven him beyond the Boston Mountains, in November, the chase was kept up with great vigor. The troops endured day and night marches uncomplainingly, and General Schofield personally endured the greatest hardships, in his anxiety to catch the retreating foe. He compelled them to throw away part of their baggage and destroy quantities of stores. When he reached Fayetteville, he was met with an order to halt, and was subsequently ordered to return two divisions to Springfield. Gen. Schofield's personal exertions were too much for his bodily health, and he returned here broken down in health and strength completely. The rebels, finding Blunt's division alone in Arkansas, expected to overwhelm it before reinforcements arrived. Blunt's bravery saved them from utter annihilation at Cane Hill, and Herron's arrival at Prairie Grove settled the rebel dish for the winter. That battle changed the programme, and allowed the young and dashing brigadiers a chance to distinguish themselves. It was no fault of Schofield's that they were restrained subsequently.

The Army of the Frontier (as every rebel in the Southwest knows) is encamped in three divisions at Flat Creek, Crane Creek, and Forsyth. The men are eager for another bout with the rebels. Last week it was reported that a movement had been ordered, but subsequent advices fail to confirm the expectation of its commencement. Should the rebels undertake a new campaign from Arkansas vigorously early in the spring, the Army of the Frontier will be needed in its present location. Upon this contingency great diversity of opinion exists. Gen. Curtis reserves his own ideas upon the subject very closely, but parties from the interior and from the Southwest represent that the rebels everywhere are confident of Price's return to Missouri as soon as the spring weather brings out the early crops of Arkansas and furnishes the starving people with sufficient food and spare a surplus for an army. It is highly improbable under all the circumstances that the Southwest will be left defenceless.

The United States Gunboat Octarora.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The United States gunboat Octarora was off the harbor of Nassau, N. P., on 17th, cruising.

ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Disgraceful Affair near Strausburg, Va.—An Inferior Force of the Enemy Surprise and Capture Two Hundred Union Troops.

WHEELING, March 1.—The correspondent of the Wheeling *Intelligencer*, at Winchester, under date of the 26th, gives the following particulars of a disgraceful affair between a portion of our troops and the rebels. On the 25th the rebel cavalry scout, 80 strong, came inside our pickets, on the Strausburg road, and after a skirmish with the infantry, in which two were wounded on either side, retired, capturing a cavalry picket of 12 men. Five hundred of the 13th Pennsylvania and 1st New York cavalry were sent in pursuit and recaptured, beyond Strausburg, most of the prisoners and horses and also took a number of prisoners. The commander of our detachment transcended his orders and pursued them beyond Woodstock after driving in the rebel pickets, where he stood parleying without guarding against surprise. The enemy returned in force, and charging our men, threw them into confusion, killing and capturing 200 men in their flight of twenty miles. Our men made no stand, though outnumbering the enemy.

ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Success of the Expedition Through Yazoo Pass—Resistance of the Enemy—A Brisk Skirmish with the Rebel Guerillas—The Ram Queen of the West.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—A special despatch from Memphis says that the expedition through Yazoo pass reached Moon lake on the 22d inst. Beyond this lake to Cold Water the enemy sought to obstruct the channel by felling trees, stumps, and logs. The Federal troops have been at work for three weeks to clear out the pass.

A battalion of the 5th Illinois cavalry, sent out to scour the bank, had a brisk skirmish, on Friday last, with a company of sixty mounted rifles, and dispersed them, killing six, wounding several, and capturing twenty-six. Our loss was only five wounded.

CAIRO, Feb. 28.—Full despatches in regard to the capture of the ram Queen of the West by the rebels have been received.

On the day before her capture she went down below Chafaylaya a few miles, and captured a rebel train of seventeen wagons. Upon returning, those who captured the wagon train were fired upon by guerillas, near Semmesport.

On the next morning a force was landed, which destroyed all the buildings in the vicinity.

The Queen of the West is said to have been considerably damaged by the rebel fire.

The steamers which accompanied her were blown up, in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the rebels.

MEXICO.

No Attack at Guaymas by the French—The Steamer Pallas off Mazatlan—Arrival of the Saranac.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—A schooner from the Mexican coast brings Mazatlan dates of the 4th instant, and advices from Guaymas to the 27th ult.

No attack had been made at Guaymas by the French up to that date.

The French war-steamer Pallas had arrived off Mazatlan, anchoring outside the harbor, but she had not communicated with the shore. She intended making a search of all vessels arriving there, with a view of preventing the introduction of munitions of war.

The United States steamer Saranac arrived at Mazatlan on the 3d inst. There is no mention made of any other French vessel than the Pallas being on the Mexican coast.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—Third Session.

WASHINGTON, February 28, 1863.

SENATE.

Release of Prisoners by Naval Officers.

Mr. GRIMES offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of the Navy to report to the Senate whether any officer of the Government has liberated prisoners captured by any naval officer of the United States, and restored any captured property on the payment to him or them of any money or other valuable consideration, and, if so, under what circumstances, and by what authority, such release has been made, and that he report thereupon to the Senate; and whether, in his opinion, any action is proper or necessary to remedy this proceeding. Adopted.

Damages by the Sioux Indians.

Mr. HARLAN (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced a bill supplementary to the act for the relief of persons for damages sustained by the outrages of certain bands of Sioux Indians. The bill extends relief to citizens of Minnesota, Iowa, and Dacotah. Passed.

Bounties and Arrears of Pay.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, presented the resolution of the New York Senate, relative to bounties and arrears of pay to the families of soldiers.

Arming Loyal Citizens.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to pay for arming loyal citizens and troops in any State or States where the inhabitants of which have been or may hereafter be in rebellion against the United States.

Colorado.

Mr. LANE (Rep.), of Kansas, called up the bill to enable the people of Colorado to form a State Government and Constitution, preparatory to being admitted as a State.

After a debate the bill was postponed.

The National Militia Bill.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, called up the bill to enroll and call out the national forces.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem.), of Delaware, proceeded to state his objections to the bill, as an act not within the power confided by the Constitution to Congress, and, even if it was, as not only inexpedient, but dangerous to the liberties of the people. It is a bill, he said, to allow the President to enroll into the regular army every able-bodied man in the country. It is a bill to increase the regular army at the discretion of the President. It entirely destroys and obliterates the militia of the States, and thus destroys that check which the Constitution wisely provided against the power of a centralized Government. Only despotic Governments require to be centralized; but a free Government must always depend upon a decentralized power. Such an act was never passed in this country, even in our utmost need, and England, with her many wars, and often scarcity of men, never resorted to this despotic measure. It is a mode of raising armies only used by despotisms, but never by Republican Governments. This principle, if adopted, would introduce large standing armies, which almost inevitably lead to despotism. In a Government of delegated power, and which rests upon the consent of the governed, such a measure is inexpedient and unnecessary. Congress has no power under the Constitution to thus destroy the militia of the States, which the Constitution had provided for as a reserve force of the Union. If this measure was carried out, there would be no check on the centralized power of the Government. He would not say that the President would make a bad use of this power; but it was the principle which he objected to. It was always dangerous to centralize such immense power in any one man. Under an ambitious man why might not the fate of France be that of this country? Our forefathers saw these dangers and wisely placed checks upon a too great centralization of power. It has been said that the life of the nation is at stake. He believed the liberties of a free people were of more importance than anything else, and if he was to choose between an imperial government stretching over the whole country, including Mexico and Canada, and two or three separate republics, he would have no hesitation in choosing the latter. He had been opposed to this war from the beginning, and in favor of peace, and was in favor of peace now, even if we had to submit to separation. The war, if carried on under the present policy of confiscation and emancipation, can only be successful in the entire subjugation of the South; and then what is to become of the liberty of the people? He was not willing to sacrifice the liberties of the people for the mere extension of territory. We existed as a Republic and as a free and happy people when we had not two-fifths of our present territory. Under the present policy, he believed it was midsummer madness to attempt to restore the Union by the sword. He moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

Mr. TURPIE (Dem.), of Indiana, said he should vote to postpone the bill, not because he would decrease one jot of power to put down the rebellion, but because he thought this legislation unnecessary and unconstitutional. The bill proposes to obliterate one step which always has been taken to raise troops. They have always been raised by requisitions on the States. In 1812, certain New England States refused to furnish their quota, and in this war Kentucky and Missouri had also refused to furnish their quota. These were facts, the merits of which he would not discuss.

Mr. HOWARD (Rep.), of Michigan, asked if the Senator was willing to continue this inconvenience, and allow States which were, perhaps, not loyal, to refuse to furnish men.

Mr. TURPIE said the inconvenience was simply a lack of power. He was not willing to give the National Executive the power to violate the Constitution, or take any step not contemplated by those who formed the Government. The bill gives the President the power to raise armies, which power is confided to Congress.

Mr. HOWARD asked how Congress could raise armies without agents? Would the Senator have a recruiting office opened in these halls by Congress?

Mr. TURPIE replied that there would be few recruits if they did. He further contended that the bill would take away all the power of the States, and make the President a dictator, if he choose to exercise the power. There was no provision in the bill to limit the quota of any district, and he charged that the bill would be used for political purposes, and to secure political victories, and avenge political defeats. He said we have had all sorts of bills to put down the rebellion invented by the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Wilson), who had taken a most ingenious and unique method of putting down the rebellion by boasting of his own loyalty, and impugning the loyalty of others. If the rebellion was to be put down by vapid and stale vociferations of the loyalty of Massachusetts, then it would be put down surely. The Senator talks about Jackson and Douglas, and about the Democrats who have gone into the rebellion. No Democrat had gone into a rebellion. The moment a man ceases to obey and reverence the Constitution and the laws of the United States, then he ceases to be a Democrat. Had the Senator from Massachusetts been in the Senate in the days of Jackson, he would have opposed him, and every slander uttered against that old hero would have come from the lips of the Senator. Though he might have had some reverence for Washington, if he had lived in the days of the revolution he would have been a Tory, and talked flippantly of the rebels, and offered rewards for the heads of Sumter and Marion, and he would have betrayed his country as Arnold did. Had he lived in the days of Luther, he would have sided with the Pope, and feasted on the ashes of the martyrs, and lighted the fires of Smithfield. He might have had some reverence for that Deity who came to save the world, and in his name he would have burned Luther. Had he lived in the days of Christ, the Senator from Massachusetts would perhaps have obeyed him. He certainly would have followed him through the streets of Jerusalem, and to bar of Poutiu Pilot, and then his voice would have been heard; but he would have said, "Release unto us Barrabas; but, as for this Jesus, let him be crucified."

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, said he had no reply to make to the personal allusions of the Senator from Indiana. He did not know what he might have been had he lived in former days, but he knew that now he was no traitor or sympathizer with treason, and his associates were not those who labor daily and nightly to assail every measure and every man that is supporting the country. He thought the Senator had no right to speak for the soldier, as regards this bill. The soldiers were every day expressing their delight at this measure. The Senator had also assailed Massachusetts for failure to respond to the call for troops. Massachusetts had furnished 2,702 more men than were called for, and yet the Senator comes here and repeats the slang of the copperheads of his State, who spit their venom at that brave old Commonwealth. But the Senator could not reach Massachusetts by his assaults.

Mr. TURPIE said he had the right to speak for the soldier, and he would speak for the Western volunteers, who hated secessionists and hated the Yankees just as much. The Senator had said that he could not reach Massachusetts. God forbid that he ever should reach her or set a foot upon her soil. The Senator from Massachusetts, by his speeches, is making the rebels believe there is a party at the North hostile to the Government, and he is doing the dirty work of a scavenger for the rebel army.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Dem.), of California, said the evil of our times was that we were governed too much by particular and not by general laws, and the Senator from Indiana has indulged himself much as to particulars, finding fault with the details. In a time like this we should be governed by general principles, and give such power to the Government as will give it vim and force in its action.

Mr. CARLILE (Union), of Virginia, spoke at length against the bill, characterizing it as a class of legislation calculated to destroy instead of preserving the Government. It was a bill to take away power from the States, and give it to the President. To-day we have a rebellion said to be stronger than when it first commenced, and we have to-day a divided North and a united South. He believed that this state of things was brought about by the conduct of Congress and the Executive. He was sorry to see the party in power, in prosecuting this war, attempting to carry out party dogmas, and interfering with the institutions of the States. If the policy had been pursued of preserving strictly the rights of the States, and it had been shown that this war was not a war against any domestic institutions, he believed there would have been counter revolutions in the South; and if the policy of the Government had not been changed, and the President had resisted the pressure against him, he believed there would have been peace to-day. He denied that the South was a unit; there were true, loyal men there. If it was a unit, then the Government might as well stop the war, for it could never subjugate that people united. That Government was best which most promoted the happiness of its people, and this thing we call slavery is nothing but a form of government for a class of beings whose happiness, comfort, and well-being have been promoted to a greater extent than the same race has ever enjoyed before in any other country on the face of the globe. If we would look on this thing as a means of Christianizing this race, and fitting them for Christianizing and civilizing their own people in their own land, there would be less holy horror.

The Tax on Banks.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep.), of Ohio, from the Committee of Conference on the Ways and Means bill, made a report on the amendment concerning the tax on banks, which was concurred in. The report provides for a tax of one per cent. on all circulation below the scale proposed by the House, and two per cent. on all above, and one-fourth of one per cent. on deposits.

Question of Foreign Mediation.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred certain correspondence concerning foreign mediation, reported, with the unanimous approval of the committee, concurrent resolutions concerning foreign mediation or intervention during the present rebellion.

Continuation of the Debate.

Mr. CARLILE continued his remarks, referring to the many bills passed by Congress as an evidence of the tendency of the present policy toward despotism. He asked if people should not be alarmed when they saw in the leading paper of the party in power such a despatch as he saw in the New York *Tribune* about the Connecticut "Copperheads," saying that there was "a limit to the forbearance of the Administration." He warned the Administration that there was a limit to the forbearance of the people. He was astonished when he saw in Gen. Burnside's testimony before the War Committee what he said concerning his attack on Fredericksburg, "that when he had lost as many men as his orders required he suspended the attack." Who was it that gave orders how many men should be killed in an attack?

Mr. HOWARD (Rep.), of Michigan, explained that it was not Gen. Burnside's testimony, but Gen. Hooker's, and the language did not bear the construction the Senator attempted to put on it.

Mr. HICKS (U.), of Maryland, said he came here as a hearer; but he thought he would not be doing his duty to the loyal State he represented in part, if he did not say a word to the extremists on both sides of the Chamber, that if they did not cease this crimination and recrimination, the consequences would be ruinous. The range of this discussion has been so wide as to trouble him. Here was a party on one side charging the other with being the cause of this war or having conducted it improperly. He knew the Northern extremists had said many provoking things, but it was only a war of words. He would go back to the beginning of our troubles—the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, down to the Charleston Convention, and the time when the traitors left the Senate. The extremists South had long been trying to set up a separate Government. He charged on the extreme Southern men that they were the cause of this war. He was not a Republican, and, thank God, he never was a Democrat. He belonged to no party but the Union party, and he wanted to hear of no other party. But he intended to support the Government in all proper measures to put down the rebellion. He had no conscientious scruples about holding slaves; but if it was necessary, let them go.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem.), of Delaware, asked if the Senator thought it was necessary to let them go.

Mr. HICKS replied, by no manner of means, and he would fight against any attempt to take his slaves away by force. He appealed to Senators to come together to save the Union. He was willing to fight the rebels on both sides of the line. He referred at some length to the attempt to take the State of Maryland out of the Union, and justified the arrests made by the President at that time. He believed these arrests saved the State of Maryland, though he thought the time for such arrests had now gone by.

Mr. KENNEDY (U.), of Maryland, said the Constitution was his only guide; the Constitution he had sworn to support. He differed from some of the views of his colleague respecting Maryland, and he saw no hope in the dark gloom that spread around him, and he had no heart in the contest. He looked upon this bill as the most odious and despotic he had ever read. He regarded the policy pursued by the Administration as tending to destroy all the bonds which bind together the Union. He had opposed this policy, and he gloried in his record. For his course he had been denounced and misrepresented by a hired and venal press. But his career here was most ended. He warned Senators that to introduce the question of emancipation into his State was to introduce revolution. By the action of this Congress the value of slave property was destroyed in that State; yet there was a bill in the other House proposing to give ten millions to Maryland for her slave property. His advice to his State would be to spit upon the insult. If it was attempted to turn loose thousands of these ignorant semi-barbarians to compete with the white citizens of his State, it would raise an insurrection. He wanted no hypocritical, canting devil to come to his State preaching philanthropy and equality to these people. If these negroes were thus to be set free, he wanted them taken away. Let them go to their near of kin, base in heart and deceitful in the objects for which they profess to labor. He saw no bright future for the State of Maryland. Deceit, hypocrisy, and politics seem to have combined to break down that State.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the Military Committee, reported back the bill for the re-organization of the Engineer corps.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced a bill for the purchase of the Stevens battery.

Mr. DAVIS (U.) spoke at length against the bill, contending that it was dangerous to the liberties of a free people, though he would be willing to vote for it as a war measure if he had confidence in the Administration.

Mr. POWELL (D.), of Kentucky, in the course of his remarks, referred to the Senator from Maryland as justifying the arrests while he was Governor of the State. He declared that if he (Mr. Powell) was Governor of a loyal State, he would resist every arrest of that kind, and no citizen should be arrested without the warrant of law, unless it was done over the bayonets of the militia of that State.

Mr. HENDERSON (U.), of Missouri, asked if, as Governor of a State, the Senator would judge of the legality of an arrest, and call out the militia to resist the United States Government?

Mr. POWELL said he would claim the right to decide that the arrest of any citizen without warrant of law was against the Constitution. If any citizen had violated the laws, he would give the President all the power of the State to aid in his arrest.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep.), of Ohio, asked if the Senator would not justify the Government if it had killed the men who burned the bridges, thus committing an act of war.

Mr. POWELL said if they were taken in the act of conflict it would be an act of war, and they might have been killed, but never after they were arrested, unless tried.

Mr. SHERMAN said all the complaint of the Senator seemed to be that the Government did not try and execute these men, and there he (Mr. Sherman) agreed with him exactly.

Mr. POWELL said he had heard that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Hicks), while Governor, had recommended this very bridge burning.

Mr. HICKS said that the report was false—he had often denied it.

Mr. COLLAMER (Rep.), of Vermont, made a report from the Committee of Conference on the bill to reorganize the Post Office Department, which was agreed to.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced a bill to further regulate the proceedings in prize cases, and amend the acts of Congress in relation thereto.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Dem.), of Illinois, opposed the bill at length. He contended that it had no limitations as to the power of the President to call out men from any particular district. He feared the bill would be used for political purposes. He referred to the fact of the President's house and the War Department being guarded by sentinels, and said there were evidences everywhere of armed force. He feared liberty might leave the country forever. At first the Western soldiers lost no battles; but since the President issued his proclamation they had no successes. That proclamation was disastrous to the army and the cause. By withdrawing the proclamation the President would get all the men he needed in thirty days, without any conscription.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, said the President's proclamation had just the opposite effect from what was claimed on the soldiers of Iowa. It was hailed with joy by the soldiers of Iowa, and inspirited them.

Mr. RICHARDSON said we had won no victories since.

Mr. GRIMES asked what the Senator called Stone River, Pea Ridge, Hartsville, and Arkansas Post.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, asked if the Senator from Illinois meant to say that the Western troops had not fought well since the proclamation? That would be the inference from his remarks.

Mr. RICHARDSON said he did not mean that; but they had lost no battles before that.

Mr. POWELL said that many officers had resigned on that account.

Mr. WILKINSON (Rep.), of Minnesota, said he had been informed by a Kentucky colonel that it had made no difference with the Kentucky troops.

Mr. SAULSBURY, of Delaware, opposed the bill. He said under it the President could call out every free negro, and let the slaves go to rebels. If that was to be the policy thousands of men would rise to protect helpless children and women.

At fifteen minutes to twelve the Senate commenced voting on Mr. Bayard's motion to postpone the bill. The motion was rejected—yeas 11, nays 35.

Mr. POWELL offered an amendment exempting persons on account of religious scruples. Rejected—yeas 8, nays 32.

The amendment of the House was then concurred in, and so the bill was passed.

At half past twelve o'clock the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Case of Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. DAWES (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Elections, made an unfavorable report on the credentials of Alvin Hawkins, claiming a seat as representative from the Ninth district of Tennessee.

The Question of Generals.

Mr. McPHERSON (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, made a report from the conference committee on the disagreeing amendments to the bill for an additional number of major generals and brigadier generals. The agreement is to appoint thirty of the former and seventy-five of the latter. The House proviso is also modified, so that the officers to be appointed under this act shall be selected from those conspicuous for gallant or meritorious conduct in time of duty.

Mr. COX (Dem.), of Ohio, moved to lay the report on the table. Disagreed to—yeas 30, nays 85.

The report was adopted.

Patent Office Report.

On motion of Mr. WALTON (Rep.), of Vermont, 20,000 copies of the mechanical part of the Patent office Report were ordered to be printed—10,000 for the use of the Patent office.

Amendments to the Tax Bill.

The House took up the Report from the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the bill containing amendments to the internal Tax bill.

Mr. COX (Dem.), of Ohio, corrected a report in the New York papers that Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, had moved an amendment reducing the tax on whisky to ten cents. That amendment was not offered by Mr. Colfax, who, at the time, was in the chair. Mr. Cox stated he would stagger under that responsibility himself.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep.), of Vermont, offered a substitute for the Tax bill amendments which were yesterday reported from the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, with unimportant exceptions.

The House, by six majority, refused to alter the tax on ready-made clothing from one to two per centum ad valorem.

Mr. F. A. CONKLING (Rep.), ineffectually moved to strike out the section relating to contracts for the purchase or sale of gold or silver coin or bullion. The vote was—yeas 61, nays 68.

The next section, declaring all contracts, loans, or sales of gold and silver coin, not made in accordance with this act wholly void, is retained, the motion to strike it out having been defeated—yeas 48, nays 70.

An amendment was adopted that the pay of assessors shall not exceed $2,500 per annum.

The bill was then passed. It retains the section that private banks, owned by individuals or families, that do not declare dividends, shall pay 3 per centum of the gains and profits, just like public banks.

Naval Appropriations.

Mr. STEVENS (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, made a report from the committee on conference on the disagreeing amendments to the naval appropriation bill, which was adopted. Seven hundred thousand dollars are appropriated for a floating dry dock at New York, if, after examination and survey, the Secretary of the Navy shall deem it expedient. The clause relative to the appointment of midshipmen is stricken out, as the subject is to be provided for in another bill.

Post Office Reform Bill.

Mr. COLFAX (Rep.), of Indiana, from the conference committee, made a report on the post office reform bill, which was adopted. The Senate non-concurred in the amendment giving the soldiers the franking privilege, and establishes the money order system, and the House receded from them. The House non-concurred in the Senate's provisions charging postmasters commissions on their salaries, and requiring postage on magazines to be prepaid by the publishers, and the Senate receded from them. The other provisions of the bill, establishing a free carrier system, making a uniform letter and newspaper rate of postage, etc., were agreed to by both houses.

The Taxation of Banks.

Mr. DAWES (Rep.), of Massachusetts, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing vote on the bank duty clause of the finance bill, made a report thereon, which, after being explained by him, was adopted by the House.

Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill.

The House then considered in Committee of the Whole the miscellaneous appropriation bill.

No conclusion was arrived at, when a recess was taken till 7 o'clock for general debate.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. RIDDLE (Rep.), of Ohio, took the ground that the man who impairs the strength and efficiency of the Executive, to that extent impairs the progress of the war in which we are now engaged. The war is greater than the President and Congress together, and woe to the 'set of men' who oppose it. He alluded to the course of the Opposition, as manifested last night, in not meeting the indemnity bill in parliamentary form, but by resorting to factious tactics to test the physical endurance of the House. He did not question the integrity of the gentleman on the other side, but, for himself, he belonged to a party that never furnished sympathisers with treason, because a Republican cannot be a traitor. He denied that the people had passed condemnation on the Republicans in the late elections, and referred to the reelection of Benjamin F. Wade to the Senate of the United States as a proud and patriotic defiance of all opponents of the war. He said the Republicans were willing and anxious to submit the great political issues to the people for their verdict.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM (Dem.), of Ohio, wished to put on file a collection of evidence to show that he had been grossly misrepresented as to a proposition he submitted in February, 1861. He denied that it was designed to create separate nationalities, but was only an arrangement for the several States in the electoral colleges and Senate of the United States, within the Union, to protect the smaller States from the possible aggressions of the larger ones.

Mr. BINGHAM (Rep.), of Ohio, said nothing his colleague could produce could deprive the proposition of an interpretation different from what he (Mr. Bingham) had given it.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM said no dogmatism or interpretation could give his proposition a different meaning than what it contained.

Casey's Division at Fair Oaks.

Mr. VAN WYCK (Rep.), of New York, after alluding to the fact that no detailed report of the battle of Fair Oaks had been made, briefly recounted the movements of Casey's division from the 5th of May until the battle of Fair Oaks, the loss it had sustained from toil and exposure, and how it was halted amid the swamps about five miles from Richmond; entirely in the advance; that the left wing had crossed the Chickahominy while the right stood panting and impatient on the northern bank. He stated that General Keyes' corps, consisting of Casey's and Couch's divisions, were six or eight miles in advance of Heintzelman's corps, in an exposed and dangerous position. General Keyes, an able and experienced officer, remonstrated at this. Casey's division occupied the front line, and so hazardous was it considered, that two days before the fight the baggage wagons and stores were taken to the rear. He referred to the storm of Friday, which the enemy supposed would prevent the crossing of the right wing or the retreat of the left. Gen. Casey's division had but 5,000 men fit for duty, while the enemy marched from 30,000 to 40,000 against him, Hill and Longstreet's divisions to attack in front, Huger to flank on the left, and Smith to fall on the right.

General Casey's men held the ground for three hours, without being reinforced, when they fell back on the second line, where Couch's and some of Heintzelman's forces yielded in less time than did Casey's. The rebels had planned the battle to capture Keyes' corps and destroy the left wing, but Casey's obstinate resistance protracted the time so that Sumner succeeded in crossing. Night came on, and the army was saved. The tired men and every rod of the ground was covered with rebel dead. Our own gallant men fell "where the sleepers are many;" but with their backs to the field and their feet to the foe. Nearly one-third of Casey's men were killed and wounded—a larger proportion than any other division has sustained in a single battle during the war. He spoke of the despatch of Gen. McClellan, that the division broke "unaccountably and discreditably." He never had, and never would, say an unkind word of Gen. McClellan. Casey's division, at that time, as did the whole Army of the Potomac, yielded to him their admiration; but he had confided too closely in those who had his confidence. There was a wicked, almost a treasonable, hatred among some of his professional generals of military education. McClellan, of necessity, could not be in the fight, and knew nothing personally of Casey's troops, and his despatch must have been on information received from a rival general who was himself not in the fight. He did not see Keyes or Casey or any of his brigadiers before sending his despatch. Some officers of high rank were opposed to Keyes' corps and Casey's division. But Gen. McClellan himself did not partake of that feeling; neither did the two generals of his staff, Marcy and Williams, both of whom are high-minded and noble men.

He then spoke of the division being ordered to the Chickahominy, where, without tents, without blankets, without food, and without murmuring, they lay down on the banks of that deadly stream. General McClellan, after viewing the battle-field, had modified his report, admitting that "portions of the division had behaved well, and made a most gallant stand against superior numbers," reserving it to a future time to designate what portion had done its duty.

He then referred to their conduct at the battle of White Oak Swamp bridge, &c.; as their services as a rear guard. They crossed the last stream, and destroyed the last bridge which separated them from the enemy. He spoke of the gallant dead at Fair Oaks, among them Col. Baily, Col. Brown, and Maj. Van Valkenburgh, so truthfully alluded to in Casey's report as a "brave, discreet, and energetic officer," a brother of the distinguished member of this House, his colleague from New York.

"Honorable in their lives, their death was noble."

The Army of the Potomac never afterwards occupied a position beyond Casey's first line. He alluded to the report of Gen. Johnston and the Southern papers, describing Casey's resistance as brave, obstinate, and bloody. One report from the Charleston *Mercury* states that "there may have been 40 or 60,000 Yankees engaged, but nothing proves it except their obstinate resistance and our heavy losses."

While the history of centuries is being crowded into days, hours, and moments, he felt it his duty that the record of the House should bear justice to the bravery and devotion of a gallant division, who deserve well of their country.

Mr. Van Wyck then alluded to the report of General Heintzleman, lately published, which shows "that for the first three hours of battle he was not near the fight. He admits that Casey's division held the ground for over three hours, and during that time were driven only three-fourths of a mile, while the same enemy in less than two hours drove Couch and Kearney's forces, over 11,000 men, three-fourths of a mile further." He knew these 11,000 men could not withstand the "overwhelming masses of the enemy," for he sent to Sumner for assistance.

Mr. Van Wyck denounced as false the statement that there were more men shot and bayoneted inside of Casey's shelter-tents than outside. Gen. Heintzelman must have known, if he knew anything of the battle, that Casey's regiments were in line before the enemy came upon them in force. The official reports of Casey and Keyes contradict him; yet he puts them aside, and inserts the unofficial and senseless misstatement of some anonymous officer. One of his own division commanders contradicts him. Gen. Kearney, in his report of the battle, said: "As it was, Casey's division held its line of battle for more than three hours, and the execution done upon the enemy was shown by the number of rebel dead left upon the field after the enemy had held possession of it upwards of twenty-four hours."

A General Debate.

Mr. ALLEN (Dem.), of Illinois, opposed the Republican party measures, and denied that the Democrats are disloyal. They were the only Union party, and always have been the only party fighting Abolitionism and Secessionism, which are alike despicable. The people of his State would fight to the last drop of blood for the restoration of the Union and vindication of the Constitution; but they do not think this should be a war for the abolition of slavery. The Democracy of Illinois have always been in the ascendency when not cheated. If the Republicans seek to inaugurate trouble in Illinois and come out second-best, they will have themselves only to thank for it.

Mr. THOMAS (Union), of Massachusetts, defended New England from the ungenerous and unjustifiable attack which had been made upon her character and policy, and eloquently spoke of the sacrifices and perils the Puritans endured. In England they might have enjoyed the tranquility of despotism, but they left the scenes and associations of childhood to pray in the wilderness, as the spirit moved them. They preferred to the royalty of England the favor of the King of Kings. They had, as they argued, the character to fit men to be the founders of an empire—namely, firmness, prudence, courage, prophetic sagacity, and an unfaltering trust in God. He claimed that we owe to them a great debt for personal liberty. He knew that they had their weaknesses and superstitions, but he claimed for them that they apprehended the dawning light and wove the golden threads into the political fabric. Therefore, we should be to their faults a little blind, and to their virtues very kind. He also claimed that the germ of the Union of these States was found in the confederation of the New England colonies, with its checks, balances, and protection, and alluded to her continued love of liberty and never-varying patriotism.

Mr. PERRY (Dem.), of New Jersey, argued that the theory of this Government condemned the alleged usurpations of the Executive. He opposed the confiscation bill and the President's emancipation proclamation as having aggravated the war and caused the shedding of more blood and loss of treasure than any other act since the commencement of the rebellion.

Mr. BLAKE (Rep.), of Ohio, replied to the former speeches of Mr. Vallandigham, saying that the consistency of his colleague in opposing every measure for the suppression of the rebellion was a jewel; whether done honestly or not, he would not say. His colleague claimed to be honest. So did Judas; but yet betrayed his Divine Master, and claimed to be honest while committing great crimes. Mr. Blake then quoted from what he claimed to be the speech of Mr. Vallandigham in favor of the South.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM said it was a false report.

Mr. BLAKE denied this, and advised his colleague to keep cool.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM replied that he could not keep cool when such a falsehood was uttered. He wanted no more forgeries.

Mr. BLAKE. It is not a forgery.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM. It is.

Mr. BLAKE further quoted from his speeches to show that his colleague held the doctrines of revolution and Secession such as South Carolina claimed, and upon which the rebels were now acting. He also remarked that his colleague's speech at Newark was as bold a declaration of treason as was ever published. A man who expressed such sentiments should not hold a seat here.

A question of veracity was raised between Mr. Blake and Mr. Vallandigham as to what Mr. Vallandigham said in a meeting of the Ohio delegation several years ago.

This brought out Messrs. Pendleton, Cox, and Ashley in explanation.

Mr. BLAKE proceeded to argue to show his colleague's consistency in favoring the rebellion and persistent efforts to form a Confederacy with New England "left out in the cold," in accordance with the desires of the great bull-dog, Jeff Davis, and repeated by every sympathizing cur in the free States.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM referred to the *Globe*, to show that while he was there correctly reported, the paper from which Mr. Blake quoted misrepresented him. He said Mr. Blake was expelled from his seat in the Ohio Senate for misconduct.

Mr. BLAKE replied that this was not true.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM said he could not condescend to get down so low as the level of his colleague.

Mr. BLAKE trusts in God his colleague would never come nearer to him than he now was.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM continued his remarks.

Mr. BLAKE interrupted—Will my friend yield the floor?

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM. I am not your friend?

Mr. BLAKE. I am glad you are not.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM referred to the speech in question, to show that he at that time declared himself a United States man, with United States principles. Had his advice been followed in the north, south, and west, this country would never have been involved in a civil war.

Mr. STEVENS spoke in favor of the resolutions heretofore introduced by him, declaring that the Union must be and remain one and indivisible forever; that if any person in the employment of the United States, in either the legislative or executive branch, shall propose to make peace, or should accept or advise the acceptance of any such proposition on any other basis than the integrity or entire unity of the United States and Territories, as they existed at the time of this rebellion, he will be guilty of a high crime; that this Government can never accept the mediation or permit the intervention of any foreign nation in this rebellion in our domestic affairs, and that no two Governments can ever be permitted to exist in the territory now belonging to the United States, and which acknowledged their jurisdiction at the time of the insurrection. He argued principally that it was not legal for one State to interfere with another. The right of interference cannot be claimed even by an ally, much less by a stranger.

Mr. JOHNSON (Dem.), of Pennsylvania, was happy to announce, as the best item recently noticed, that two years of the President's time will expire with the termination of the present Congress. Napoleon said "there was but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous." In November, 1860, Lincoln was elected as an experiment, and a fatal leap was taken from the rock of the Constitution into the quagmire and slough of Abolitionism. He reviewed, in terms of condemnation, the course of the present Administration, and defended the Democratic party.

Several gentlemen obtained permission to print their speeches.

Mr. WEBSTER (U.), of Maryland, made a brief speech in favor of prosecuting the war, which was now a sort of a necessity. When we could reach the South he was for holding out the olive branch.

Mr. YEAMAN (Dem.), of Kentucky, raised a point that the gentleman was making a speech without talking about the negro. [Laughter.]

Mr. WEBSTER thanked his friend for the suggestion. We hear the negro, we smell the negro. He liked the negro in his place, but the negro will not make a good soldier; and he would say more, his (Webster's) regiment will not fight with him.

At 12½ o'clock the House adjourned.

FOREIGN.

Arrival of the Africa—The Relief-ship George Griswold—Sympathy with America—The Rebel Mason Ridiculed—Speech of the Prince of Wales—The Revolution in Poland.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The Africa has passed Sandy Hook, with Liverpool dates, via Queenstown, to the 15th.

The steamer Gibraltar, late Sumter, has arrived at Liverpool.

Lord George C. Manners was returned, on Saturday, from Cambridgeshire, to Parliament, without opposition.

It is not expected that the budget will be introduced until after Easter.

The action against the British Columbia Overland Transit Company has resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff of £160 against the directors.

The Italian Minister of Finance, in a report to the Chamber, states that the deficit on the 31st of December was £374,000. The Minister proposes that the budget for 1862 shall be regulated by extraordinary credits, to be opened by royal decree. He also proposes certain measures, including a loan, which were favorably received by the Chamber. The debate upon the financial scheme will commence at the next sitting of the Chamber.

The Parliamentary proceedings are of little interest.

Sir L. Palk gave notice in the House of Commons in favor of the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the best means of obtaining a permanent supply of cotton.

Mr. Gladstone obtained leave to bring in a bill to reduce the duties on cigars to 5s., snuff 3s. 9d., and other manufactured tobacco to 4s. per pound.

Sir William Armstrong has resigned his office as Engineer of the War Department.

The monthly statement of the Bank of France shows an increase in cash of over 26,000,000 francs.

Some students have been arrested in Paris for a demonstration in favor of the Poles.

Rentes at the Paris Bourse, 70f. 55c.

SYMPATHY WITH AMERICA.

The Liverpool mass meeting for the adoption of an address in support of President Lincoln's Emancipation policy was to be held at the Amphitheatre in that city on the 19th of February.

THE RELIEF SHIP GEORGE GRISWOLD.

The address prepared by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in response to the contributions for the relief of the distress, received by the ship George Griswold from New York, was to be publicly presented to the commander of that vessel in the Concert Room of St. George's Hall on the 16th of February. Some of the leading men of Liverpool were expected to take part in the proceedings, and a gratifying demonstration was looked for.

THE FRENCH INTRIGUE IN TEXAS.

The London *Times* discusses the story of French intrigue in Texas which was developed in the intercepted rebel correspondence recently published here, and copied in the English papers. The *Times* declares that Benjamin's long dissertation on Theron's proposal is "almost as stupid as the conduct of the consuls," and adds that "the most singular part of this dispatch is where Mr. Benjamin tells Mr. Slidell that he may make use of this discovery to excite the jealousy of the British Government, and thus hasten recognition."

MASON RIDICULED BY HIS FRIENDS.

The *Times* also has an article ridiculing James M. Mason's speech at the Lord Mayor's dinner. It says: "The Lord Mayor drew the 'lion,' and the 'lion' roared with a vengeance. In fact, Mr. Mason availed himself of the opportunity to say at the Mansion House *what he had not been permitted to say at the Foreign Office or upon any official occasion.*

"Mr. Mason has received no assistance or encouragement in this country, except from those gentlemen who, like the Lord Mayor, are under no responsibility to weigh their words and keep their predilections to themselves. It is a sad pity; but we cannot help lord mayors doing very much what they please, and there is nobody in this country who can. There are people who are privileged to say and almost do whatever comes into their heads. Kings, queens, and princes have been brought into good order, but the Lord Mayor is still at large. Unfortunately, this is not always understood abroad; but we beg to assure the Americans, on both sides of the Potomac, that what is said or done by the Lord Mayor is considered here, not exactly insignificant or indifferent, but really as beginning and ending in the Mansion House."

The temper of the *Times* is evidently becoming mollified.

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Morning Star* gives the following account of the feeling in France towards the United States:

"The debate on American affairs has not elicited any further information as to the intentions of Government in relation to the American question. Neither did it call out any strong demonstration for North or South from the left side or the right of the Chamber, with the exception of M. Anatole Lemercier's speech. The Emperor, it is known, desires that the seceding States should effectively secede, and Texas, as well as California, form themselves into separate nations, so as to act as a kind of barrier between the North and the South and Mexico. The belief is generally entertained that the amendment proposed by M. Arman has been the subject of discussion at the last ministerial council which was held at the Tuileries. M. Rouher there proposed that the French Government should, through its diplomatic agents, exert all its influence with the great maritime Powers to prevail on them to have a revision of the maritime code effected. The declaration of the parties who signed the Treaty of Paris, as well as the rejected amendments of Mr. Marcy, should, he was of opinion, be the basis of all the proposed reforms. He also impressed upon the Emperor and his colleagues the necessity of creating cotton plantations in Africa and Madagascar. One of the ministers (report says Count Persigny) was for the immediate recognition of the South, and for the Government doing something which would have the effect of throwing open once more the Southern ports to European traders.

"There is a good deal said by the adherents of the Government concerning the quantities of cotton that can be supplied by Mexico. But it is hardly possible that the Emperor will allow his attention to be diverted from the more feasible scheme of raising that precious commodity in the countries of which he is already in possession. It would, were M. Favre's calculations correct, be a very hopeless case were the Rouennais manufacturers to be kept waiting for a supply of cotton till Gen. Forey should have subjugated Mexico to enable the Mexicans to plant the fibre and transport it to the coast."

A French paper says:

"One point mooted in the correspondence of the French minister at Washington is, that it is necessary to the continuance of the cultivation of cotton that hostilities should be suspended between the present month and the end of March. If, in this interim, says the Emperor's representative, in a despatch dated the 18th November last, peace has not become a probability, the culture of cotton will cease, and it is impossible to say whether it will ever be resumed."

PRINCE OF WALES' SPEECH.

The Prince of Wales had been formally presented with the freedom of the Fishmongers' Company, London, and acknowledged the compliment in the following terms, in response to an address from Mr. Cubitt:

MR. CUBITT AND GENTLEMEN: It is with the greatest pleasure that I find myself called upon to return my sincere thanks to you, sir, as prime warden, and to you, gentlemen of the court of assistants, of this honorable and ancient Company of Fishmongers, for the complimentary and kind terms in which you have expressed yourselves toward me on the occasion of my taking up my freedom, and on your enrolling my name as a citizen with those illustrious personages and relatives who stand recorded in your annals. It cannot be otherwise than a source of pride, and of a still deeper feeling, that of affection, when I look on these walls and see the portraits of those whose son and grandson hopes to form one of your distinguished body; and to be thought worthy of occupying the place of that lamented parent whose loss the whole country has united in deploring, would be in itself an object of my highest ambition. Gentlemen, let me also tender to you my warmest acknowledgments for the manner in which you have offered your congratulations to me on my approaching marriage, and to the young Princess who hopes so soon to adopt the proud title of an Englishwoman, and to prove herself a comfort to the Queen in her affliction.

Cheers followed the conclusion of this address. The Prince then retired, and the ceremony terminated. A curious incident occurred during the delivery of Mr. Cubitt's speech. He forgot the name of the Princess whose virtues he was extolling, and, amidst the titters of the ladies, had to be reminded of it by some of the gentlemen who were sitting near him.

THE REVOLUTION IN POLAND.

From letters published by the German journals it appears that the Polish movement, though stopped at some points, has at others assumed very serious proportions. The tactics of the Poles are to avoid serious engagements with the Russian troops, and to allow them to exhaust themselves in difficult operations, and then unexpectedly to strike a blow.

The National Committee at Warsaw has appointed a president, to whom exclusive authority is given.

In consequence of the shooting of some insurgents, the committee of insurrection in Plock have informed the Grand Duke that they will resort to reprisals, and shoot all Russian superior officers who fall into their hands.

Almost the whole of the railway between Warsaw and Cracow is in the hands of the insurgents.

The Russian and Prussian Governments show great irritation against the Austrian press, which manifests remarkable sympathies with the Polish cause.

A band of two thousand insurgents had occupied Dibienka, upon the frontier of Lublin.

The statement that the insurgents, under Langeweiz, had suffered considerable losses, proved exaggerated. His chief force, consisting of five thousand men, was posted in the mountains of Krzyz.

The Russians occupy a very strong position at Kieke, where they can watch the movements of the insurgents; but the latter, having the command of the frontiers, are continually receiving reinforcements, and they expect to hold out until the spring.

The Very Latest.

STETTIN, Feb. 7.—It is stated that the Poles had intercepted letters to the Russian Ambassadors at Berlin and Paris, accusing Austria of encouraging the Poles in their insurrection. It is also stated that the Poles had intercepted letters from the Grand Duke Constantine, stating his intention to pursue the same course of action he has hitherto pursued in the government of Poland.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—A convention between Prussia and Russia, in reference to the Polish insurrection, was signed on the 8th inst.

Commercial Intelligence.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 14.—The sales of cotton on Saturday were 6000 bales, including 2500 bales to speculators and exporters, the market closing firm and unchanged.

BREADSTUFFS.—The market closes quiet and steady. Wheat dull and declined 1@2d. Corn dull and declining. White has declined 1s. ⅌ quarter.

PROVISIONS.—The market has a downward tendency. Beef easier, and has declined 2s 6d. Pork quiet and steady. Bacon declining. Butter steady. Lard easier. Tallow dull at a decline of 1s.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Consols closed at 91¾@91⅞ for money. After official hours consols were quoted at 93.

HAVRE COTTON MARKET.—Sales for the week 3,500 bales. Orleans *tres ordinaire*, 235f.; *bas*, 296f. The market firm with an upward tendency. Stock 58,000 bales.

PARIS, Saturday Evening. The Bourse closed heavy; Rentes, 70f. 50c.

CALCUTTA, Jan. 30.—Shirtings higher; mule twist active and advancing. Indigo declining and Copper unchanged; Linseed quiet; Jute advancing. Exchange 2s ⅜d; freights 102s. 6d.

BOMBAY, Jan. 30.—Cotton 20 rupees higher. Piece goods 2 annas lower. Linseed lower. Freights for Cotton 60s.

CANTON, Jan. 15.—Shirtings dull. Teas upwards. Exports of Tea 88,125,000 lbs.

SHANGHAE, Jan. 10.—Shirtings and Silk higher. Freights for Tea 65s. Exchange lower.

Mr. Jewett's Farewell to Mediation.

The following is a copy of a special despatch sent from this city last evening, by Mr. W. C. Jewett, to the New York *Herald* and *Tribune*:

CONTINENTAL HOTEL, March 1, 1863.

Mediation Adieu! The *Herald's* advocacy of "mediation," in connection with Mr. Seward's Southern representation in Congress proposition, is highly important. France, the Administration, you, as the leading American press, the people, in an undercurrent sentiment for peace, thus pledged to mediation, ends my independent mission. The people, thank God! will not echo the Senatorial committee report, that the war alone is between freedom and slavery. It is simply for Southern allegiance, thereby the Union perpetuated under constitutional slave guarantee. I press upon Congress the coming few days, Colorado as a State, thence immediately to the Rocky Mountains, for practical action, in connection with a European trip for the development of the gold interests of Colorado. God secure to America speedy peace and Union, with national prosperity to France, as a reward for "mediation" efforts in behalf of humanity and the interests of nations.

WM. CORNELL JEWETT.

Public Entertainments.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The German opera season of six nights will commence next Wednesday evening. An operatic variety is promised, part of which is entirely new, and all of which will be more than merely acceptable. The last season of German opera was more than ordinarily auspicious. The singers were capable and in good voice, and performed their duties with a comprehensive and conscientiousness fully appreciated by their audiences. The chorus was well regulated, and the orchestra ably directed. No performance was marred by the inadvertencies and confusion which frequently disfigure the execution of less unpretending managements. All who love the art and science of music will warmly welcome the rentrée of the good vocalists and thorough musicians, who on Wednesday night will inaugurate the short season of German opera.

NEW CHESTNUT-STREET THEATRE.—This evening, for the first time, Edwin Forrest is announced in Payne's tragedy of "Brutus." At this period of Mr. Forrest's triumphant career it is useless to indicate, by allusion, the innumerable excellences which he evinces in each and every character he portrays. During the week he has appeared twice in "Hamlet," once in "Richelieu," and once as "Damon." The brimming houses and the irrepressible applause were genuine and sufficient comments upon his wonderful genius. In the picturing of passion, in the delineation of quiet emotion, in subtle discriminations of tact and feeling, he stands not only unparalleled and alone, but likewise unapproachable.

BENEFIT OF THE ACADEMY.—To-morrow evening "A Night in Grenada" will be presented, for the benefit of the Academy, in aid of the "Renewal and Repair Fund." In addition to this being one of the most charming of the German operas, the object for which it will be presented is certainly a great inducement to our citizens. The Academy of Music, which has so often contributed to our comfort and pleasure, will not be neglected either by its habitués or friends. An increased orchestral and chorus have been promised for the occasion.

Miss Lucille Western, an actress elsewhere of some repute, has been performing during the week on the off-nights of Mr. Forrest. She is young, good looking, devoted to her profession. She has studied her part hard, and executes it with ardor. The audiences have been good, and the applause enthusiastic.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—Mr. E. Eddy and Miss Kate Denin have been starring it for the past fortnight at this establishment. They will continue to star it for a week longer, or until they unmistakably discover that their presence is not an absolute necessity. If they wish to be at all successful, they must strictly confine themselves to those regions of the country, and to those regions of the drama, wherein a certain prestige would follow their efforts, not that their acting is altogether bad. They use all the ability they possess, and would make most respectable stock performers. The houses have been very good, and the applause plentifully bestowed. Though not at the very top of the profession, these two performers deserve the success which they have already secured.

ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—The announced engagement of John Wilkes Booth was frustrated by the painful event of the death of Mrs. Edwin Booth. He will appear this evening in "Richard the Third." He has been well received elsewhere, and in various circles is mentioned in the language of commendation. During the week Edwin Adams has played to good houses and favorable audiences.

MUSICAL FUND HALL.—Mr. Hartmann's Concert is announced to take place this evening. It is in aid of societies of great utility to the soldiers. The programme is varied and attractive, and the performers deserved favorites with the public.

SOIRÉE AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—On Saturday night the third Classical Soirée of Messrs. Cross and Jarvis came off in the foyer of the Academy of Music. The attendance was very full and the entertainment brilliant in the extreme. In delicacy of discrimination, in sweetness of touch, in completeness of method, the two artistes of the evening cannot easily be equalled.

Carlotta Patti will give a farewell concert next Friday evening previous to her departure for Europe. She will be assisted by Mr. Castle, Signor Scola, Mr. Behrens, and other artistes.

SIGNOR BLITZ—ASSEMBLY BUILDING, TENTH AND CHESTNUT.—Like viewing some heavenly luminary, the more we witness the marvellous transformations of this incomparable magician the more we are bewildered and he admired. His ventriloquism is of a mirthful character, and develops the immense powers of the human voice.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—A meeting of the stockholders and friends of the Academy of Music will be held in the Foyer of the Academy, this afternoon at 4 o'clock, in relation to the benefit to take place to-morrow night.

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF AN UMBRELLA MANUFACTURER, FRENCH GOODS, &C.—The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large peremptory sale, by order of an assignee, of the entire stock of an umbrella manufactory, with an assortment of 700 lots French, German, and British dry goods, embracing a large and general assortment, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, for cash and part on four months' credit, commencing this morning at 9 o'clock, at 413 Market street, to be continued at the auction store the remainder of the day and part of the evening, without intermission, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

AUCTION NOTICE—SALE OF BOOTS AND SHOES.—The attention of buyers is called to the large and attractive sale of 1,000 cases boots, shoes, brogans, balmorals, &c., to be sold this morning by catalogue, at 10 o'clock precisely, by Philip Ford & Co., auctioneers, at their store, No. 525 Market and 522 Commerce street.

NEW CARTES DE VISITE.—McAllister & Brother, Chestnut street, have just issued a number of new card photographs of notable men of the time. Among them we notice Generals Hooker, Banks, Bayard, Foster, Sherman, McClellan, and Fremont, and Commodores Goldsborough and Farragut.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—We have the March number from J. B. Lippincott & Co.

SALE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The United States marshal caused to be sold at public auction on Saturday the steamer Princess Royal, recently captured off Charleston. The highest bidder was the United States Government, the vessel being purchased at $112,000. A portion of her cargo, consisting of 400 bags coffee, sold at 32½c. per pound; 450 packages tea sold at 83, 100, and 120c. per pound; 150 bags pepper sold at 23½c. per pound; 500 boxes tin sold at $14.37 to $28 per box; and 50 bbls codfish at 6¾c. per pound.

CITY ITEMS.

JOHN B. GOUGH AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—We know our readers will thank us for the intelligence that they are again to be favored with a lecture from the world-renowned orator, John B. Gough. His former lectures in this city, and in fact everywhere else, are quite sufficient to make his reappearance, on any subject, a subject of general congratulation. It is, therefore, with peculiar pleasure that we announce the fact that on Thursday evening, the 5th of March, Mr. Gough will repeat, at the Academy of Music, his great lecture on "Eloquence and Orators"—one of his grandest histrionic efforts, combining all its author's humor and pathos with a profound philosophy. The proceeds of the lecture will be for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. The sale of tickets will commence at 9 o'clock this morning, at Martien's, 606 Chestnut street. Of course, there will be a great rush for seats, and those, therefore, who apply for them earliest will act wisest.

FINE GROCERIES.—Our readers will at all times find the largest and choicest stock of fine family Groceries at the popular old stand of Mr. C. H. Mattson, Southwest corner of Arch and Tenth streets. For many years a large proportion of our first citizens have patronized this establishment for everything used by them in the grocery line, and we may safely say that the stock it now contains fully sustains this high reputation.

GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, in great variety and in excellent style, can be found at Messrs. Charles Oakford & Son's, under the Continental Hotel.

MR. HIPPLE, the popular Photographer, No. 820 Arch street, has the best facilities for taking superior pictures, in all weathers, at his admirable ground-floor Gallery. All who visit his rooms are charmed with his specimens. Give him a call.

MILITARY FURNISHING GOODS, of every description, suitable for army and navy officers, can be found, in the best style and at moderate prices, at Oakford & Son's, under the Continental Hotel.

THE NATIONAL DEBT OF ENGLAND.—While we are disposed to whine over our expenses, let us cheer ourselves by seeing what other nations have to bear to maintain their nationality. The first King of England who borrowed money on the national credit was Charles II. in 1660, so that, on the accession of William III. in 1688, the debt amounted to £660,000; at the end of the "Seven-Years' War," 1703, it was £139,000,000; three years after the "American War," 1786, it was £268,000,000; at the close of the war against Bonaparte, 1814, it was £685,000,000; at the close of the Russian war, 1856, it was £800,000,000. This immense debt of about four billions of dollars ($4,000,000,000) has been accumulated mainly by war. This country need fear nothing from our present debt; with *eight times* the ability to pay, the debt has not reached one-sixth that amount. Economy in the individual will make the nation rich. This can be accomplished, in a measure, by buying your clothing at Charles Stokes & Co.'s "one-price," under the "Continental."

SHINPLASTERS.—Specie is scarce about this time, and shinplasters are becoming plentiful. But specie is unknown in Secessia, and shinners are worthless there. A Richmond writer says: "The pursuit of the shinplasters has come to be a pain and their possession has ceased to be a pleasure. The god of Mammon is held by no affinity to the shinplaster. It lacks the essential of sound—the clear jingle of the silver dollar, the "thud" of the gold eagle, and the modest "clink" of the copper penny.' We have the satisfaction of having a sound governmental-shinplaster currency in the North, and our readers can test the readiness with which they pass current by procuring a new suit at the Brown-Stone Clothing Hall of Rockhill & Wilson, Nos. 603 and 605 Chestnut street, above Sixth.

HOW TO MAKE A FORTUNE.—Take earnestly hold of life, as capacitated for, and destined to a high and noble purpose. Study closely the mind's bent for a labor or profession. Adopt it early, and pursue it steadily, never looking back to the turned furrow, but forward to the new ground that ever remains to be broken. Means and ways are abundant to every man's success, if will and action are rightly adapted to them; and they display good sense in purchasing their garments at the popular one-price clothing depot of Granville Stokes, No. 609 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY MARKET.

PHILADELPHIA, February 28, 1863.

The demand for money is quite active at six per cent. Gold fluctuated between 172@170, closing at 171¼—some sellers getting a fraction better. Old demands were likewise unsteady, closing at 171¼. Government securities fell off on account of rumors of disaster to our arms at Vicksburg, the market closing very weak. The finance bill is still hanging between the two houses, but its provisions are pretty well known. The proposed tax on gold operations of ½ per cent. is having the effect of checking speculation, as it will not only cause trouble, but cuts into the profits.

The Stock market was active at the first Board, and prices generally strong, but at the second Board the market was a little flat and prices were weak. Governments declined ⅜ ⅌ cent.; State fives closed at 104¼; City sixes fell off ¼.

Pennsylvania Railroad mortgages and Reading sixes were steady. Wilmington Railroad sixes brought 137¼; Camden and Amboy sixes, 1883, 106½; North Pennsylvania Railroad sixes rose ¼. Elmira sevens were offered at 115: for the chattel tens 79 was paid. Second and Third-streets second mortgages brought 112½; Long Island sixes, 104½; Allegheny-county sixes, 65. Schuylkill Navigation sixes rose to 73¼. State Coupon fives brought 107.

Pennsylvania Railroad shares fell ¼, Reading ¼; Little Schuylkill rose ⅜; Catawissa preferred rose ¼; Beaver Meadow sold at 66, Minehill at 54, Norristown at 60¾, Long Island sold at 40, North Pennsylvania at 12¾, Camden and Amboy at 160. Passenger railways improved. Arch-street rose 1, Spruce and Pine 1, Thirteenth and Fifteenth, 1¼.

Canals were active. Schuylkill Navigation preferred was steady at 18, Delaware Division at 43¾, Lehigh Navigation at 60, Chesapeake and Delaware at 37.

Bank of Northern Liberties sold at 62½, Mechanics' at 25¼, North America at 137½, Philadelphia at 120, Bank of Kentucky at 94. $150,000 in bond, and 4,600 shares changing hands.

Drexel & Co. quote:

United States Bonds, 1881	100 @101
United States Certificates of Indebtedness	98¾@ 99
United States 7 3-10 Notes	104½@105¼
Quartermasters' Vouchers	3 @5 d.
Orders for Certificates of Indebtedness	1½@1¾d.
Gold	71 @71½p.
Demand Notes	71 @71½p.

Jay Cooke & Co. quote Government securities, &c., as follows:

United States Sixes, 1881	100 @100¼
United States 7 3-10 Notes	104½@105
Certificates of Indebtedness	98¾@ 99
Quartermasters' Vouchers	95 @ 95½
Demand Notes	170 @171
Gold	170½@171½

The statements of the banks of the three principal cities of the Union for the last week compare with the previous one and the corresponding time of 1862 as follows:

	Loans.	Deposits.	Specie.	Circul'n.
New York	178,325,880	170,103,758	37,981,310	8,752,536
Boston	78,782,746	34,955,475	7,623,819	8,002,338
Philadelphia	37,720,460	29,342,596	4,276,761	3,772,781
Total	294,886,086	234,401,829	49,881,890	20,527,655
Last week	294,245,589	231,383,227	50,492,926	20,645,474
Last year	231,284,647	149,371,604	43,085,266	14,300,306

The New York *Evening Post* of to-day says:

The market opened without much animation, Governments for the first time this week sympathized to some extent with the prevailing dullness. In United States registered, 1881, we note a small amount of business at yesterday's quotations. At the close 99 was bid, without transactions, while for coupons, 1881, 101½@101⅝ were the final quotations. Seven-thirties are also slow, and for the one year certificates there is a light demand at yesterday's inside rates.

	Sat.	Fri.	Adv.	Dec.
U. S. 6s, 1881, reg	99½	100	..	½
U. S. 6s, 1881, cou	101½	102	..	½
U. S. 7-30 p. c.	104	104⅜	..	⅜
U. S. 1 yr. cert.	98¼	98⅜	..	⅛
American gold	171½	170½	1	..
Demand notes	171⅞	170½	1¼	..
Tennessee 6s	62¾	62⅜	⅜	..
Missouri 6s	64½	65¼	..	¾
Pacific Mail	167¼	166	1¼	..
N. Y. Central	118⅜	118⅛	¼	..
Erie	78⅞	75½	..	⅛
Erie preferred	101½	101¾	..	¼
Hudson River	97¼	97½	..	¼
Harlem	36⅛	35¾	⅜	..
Harlem preferred	76½	76¼	¼	..
Mich. Central	96⅝	97	..	⅜
Mich. Southern	60⅞	61⅛	..	¼
Mich. So. guar	104½	104½	..	..
Illinois Central scp	92½	93	..	½
Clev. and Pittsburg	68⅜	69½	..	1⅛
Galena and Chicago	93¼	93¼	..	..
Clev. and Toledo	94	94	..	..
Chicago and Rock Ilsd	93¼	93	¼	..

Gold has been vibrating this morning between 170¾, the closing price of yesterday, and 173¾ the closing quotation at the board. As we go to press the momentary point of rest is 171.

Exchange is quoted at 189½@190, at which rate some considerable business has been done, though we find that 188½@189 was accepted at a later hour.

Phila. Stock Exchange Sales, Feb. 28.

[Reported by S. E. SLAYMAKER, Philadelphia Exchange.]

FIRST BOARD.

20000 U S 6s reg '81......100	4000 U S 7.30 Tr N..blk. Ap&Oct..105
50 U S 7.30 T N..blk.105	3500 N Penna 6s....lots 89⅞
2500 do.........blk.104¾	2100 Schl Nav 6s '82.....73
30 Phila Bk....s5wn 120	6000 do............b5 73
30 do..............120	300 do.............73¼
55 Penna R......lots 67¼	2500 U S 5-year 6s......100¾
113 do.............67¼	5500 Penna 6s..........115
106 Little Schl R..lots 46¾	8000 Penna R 2d m.....115
3 Cam & Am R......160	75 13th & 15th R. lots 28
150 Delaware Div....43½	60 Lehigh Nav.......60
55 do..............43¾	10000 Penna Coup 5s....107
500 U S Coup 6s '81....102¼	100 Schuyl Nav.......7
1000 do.............102	860 Susq Cnl 6s Scrip. 38
10000 do.............101¾	3 Reading R........46
8 N Penna R.........12½	1 Minehill R........54½
20000 Penna 5s.........104½	29 do..............54
50 Schl Nav Prf.cash 18	1 Cataw R Prf cash 23
250 do..............18	4 Arch-st R.........29
200 do..........b30 18½	50 Lehigh Zinc....b5 53
150 do...........b5 18	2000 Elmira Chat 10s . 79
100 do...........s5 18	14 Bk of N Liberties. 62½
50 do..............18	8 Cam & Atlantic... 10
200 17th & 19th-sts R..11	125 New Creek........⅝
2 Norristwn R.cash 60½	1000 2d & 3d-sts 2d m..112½
8 do..............60¾	2000 City 6s......New.114¾
100 Long Island R....40	2000 Wilmington R 6s.137¼
56 Arch-st R........28¾	56 Far & Mech Bk...53¾
2000 Harrisburg 6s.....110	
2 Ches & Del.......37	

BETWEEN BOARDS.

1000 Cam & Am 6s '83...106½	37 Bk of Kentucky.... 94
162 Minehill R......lots 54	100 Delaware Div...... 44
112 Man & Mec Bk 2dys 24½	

SECOND BOARD.

25 Norristown R......60¾	150 Lehigh Scrip...lots 33½
75 13th 15th R.....lots 28½	8000 N Penna 6s........90
25 do..............29	55 Little Schl R.......46⅞
27 2d & 3d R.......lots 82	37 do..............47
2000 City 6s.......New.114¼	100 do...........b15 47
6000 do.............108¾	2000 U S 5-year option..100¾
600 do..........New.114½	3000 Reading 6s '86 2dys.105¾
1000 do.............108	100 Spruce & Pine..b10 16¾
152 Minehill R.........54	67 Arch-st R..........29
20 Beaver Meadow...66	35 Lehigh Nav.........60
9 Bk of N America..137½	200 Schuyl Nav.........7½
35 Mechanic's Bk.lots 25¼	30 Delaware Div.......43¾
50 Cataw R Prf..2dys 22¾	73 N Liberties Bk.....62½
100 do....Prf. 2dys 22¾	3000 U S 6s '81 reg.......100
1000 U S 7.30 Tr N...blk Ap&Oct..105	10 New Creek..........⅝
300 do.........end.103	1000 Long Island 6s.....104½
200 do.blk.Ap&Oct.104¾	2000 Alle Co 6s Val Iss.. 65
250 do.........end.102¾	100 Schl Nav Pref...b5 18
	4000 Penna 5s...........104½

AFTER BOARDS.

2000 Cam & Am 6s '83....103¾	100 Spruce & Pine R..b5 17
33 Arch-st R..........29	

CLOSING PRICES—STEADY.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U S 6s cpns '81	101¼	101¾	Catawissa R	7	7½
U S 7-30 D blk	104¾	105	Do prfd	22½	22¾
American Gold	171	171¾	Beaver Mead R	60	66
Phil 6s old	107¾	108¾	Minehill R	54	54¼
Do new	114¼	114¾	Harrisburg R	65	68
Alleg co 6s R	60	65	Wilmington R	..	..
Penna 5s	104¼	104½	Lehigh Nav 6s	..	..
Reading R	45¾	46	Do shares	60	60¼
Do bds '80	114	115	Do scrip	38	38¾
Do bds '70	109	110½	Cam & Amb R	160	162
Do bds '86	105½	106	Phila & Erie 6s	109	111
Penna R	67¼	67¾	Sun & Erie 7s	..	..
Do 1st m 6s	118	119	L Island R	39¾	40
Do 2d m 6s	114¾	115	Do bonds	104	105
Morris Canal	63	65	Delaware Div	..	..
Do prfd 10s	133	135	Do bonds	..	..
Do 6s '76	112½	..	Spruce-street R	16½	17
Do 2d mtg	107	..	Chestnut-st R	61	62
Susq Canal	..	..	Arch-street R	29	29¼
Do 6s	..	..	Race-street R	10	11
Schuyl Nav	7	7¼	Tenth-street R	40	41
Do prfd	17¾	18	Thirteenth-st R	29½	29¾
Do 6s '82	72¾	73	W Phila R	65	66
Elmira R	39	39½	Do bonds	..	..
Do prfd	52	53	Green-street R	43¾	44
Do 7s '73	113	115	Do bonds	..	..
Do 10s	78	80	Second-street R	81	82
N Penna R	12¼	12½	Do bonds	112	..
Do 6s	89¾	90	Fifth-street R	60	62
Do 10s	111	112	Do bonds	112	..
Phila Ger & Nor	60	61	Girard College R	26	26¼
Lehigh Val R	60	..	Seventeenth-st R	10¾	11
Lehigh Val bds	..	116	Little Schuyl R	46¼	47