The Press.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1863.

☞We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞Voluntary correspondence solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

It is recorded in the history of France that when the enemies of the people failed to accomplish the designs against their liberties they sought the interference of foreign despots and intrigued to bring an army of mercenaries into their own country to destroy its happiness and desolate its homes. History has dealt sternly with the fanatical Republicans of the Revolution, but it tells with exultation how they united and repelled the foe, and how they answered the menaces of kings by hurling the head of a king at their feet. This sublime example suggested itself to us as we read the recent correspondence of Lord Lyons, the English Minister to the United States, with the Earl Russell, the English Minister for Foreign Affairs. Lord Lyons tells us that immediately upon his recent arrival in this country he was waited upon by several leaders of the Democratic party, who conversed with him upon the subject of the interference of Great Britain. The time was after the dismissal of General McClellan, the country was in a condition of anxiety and excitement; the elections had passed over; the armies in the field had wearied the public patience with their delay and inefficiency, and a spirit of demoralization seemed to affect the public virtue. They were the dark days of the Republic. The friends of the Administration had endeavored to impress upon the minds of the people the real designs of the "leaders of the Democratic party." They had charged upon them the very conduct that the Lord Lyons records, but in vain. It seemed, however, as if the people were heartsick and apathetic. They would not believe. It looked as though they were about to surrender the life of the nation.

Lord Lyons had returned from Europe. He had received the full instructions of the English Government. There had been signs of mediation, and it was supposed that he was prepared to lend his counsel, and give them the encouragement of Great Britain. "Many of them," says Lord Lyons, "seemed to think that mediation would come at last; but they appeared to be very much afraid of its coming too soon." They were anxious for mediation, but they desired to have it at a time best adapted to their wicked design. You will see the infamy of their proposal by reading closely the language of his Lordship. They held it to be essential to the success of any proposal of mediation "that it should be deferred until the control of the Executive Government should be in the hands of the conservative party." Now mark these words! They desired to have such a proposal made; but knowing the patriotism and loyalty of the Administration, they felt that any such a proposal would be regarded as an insult to the Republic. *The overthrow of that Administration was their deep design, and they looked to England's arm to aid their usurpation.* This is the real meaning of the plot which the letter of Lord Lyons reveals. You will remember the tone of the leaders of the Democratic party at that time. The overthrow of the Administration was their favorite scheme. Mr. Wood proclaimed it in his speeches. Mr. Reed elaborated it in his suppressed pamphlets. In the army there were men who secretly nursed it, and Gen. McClellan was looked to as the probable leader of a military usurpation. You will remember the dismissal of Major Hatch, his strange declaration, and how he wonder fully prophetic it was of military events; how the army slept during the delicious months of the Indian summer, and permitted a conquered army to recruit its strength in the Shenandoah Valley. Recall these events in the light of Lord Lyons' declaration; their constant efforts to embarrass the Government; their constant declarations of a desire to overthrow the Administration; and their hope for foreign mediation when their treason was accomplished! This is the plot from beginning to end, and from its dreadful consequences the courage and the fortitude of the Administration have saved us.

The country in an agony of war, the capital of the nation menaced by a rebellious foe, a hungry army eager to lay waste and destroy our Northern cities, and the leaders of the Democratic party at the feet of an English minister imploring his interference for the overthrow of the country! Is it not terrible? Does not the cheek crimson, and the heart thrill with shame at the spectacle of American statesmen intriguing with English aristocrats, to bring their country to ruin? This is the last and most degrading evidence of their treason. I commend it to the people, and ask them if they will continue longer to listen to the counsels of men who look up on the honor of their country as something to be sold to a foreign enemy to aid their own ambitious and treasonable schemes. Let these traitors be marked. Let them be branded with the curse of Cain—for more infamous than the man who sheds the blood of a brother is the citizen who seeks by a foreign hand to take the life of his fatherland. OCCASIONAL.

THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ASKING THE INTERFERENCE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following is Lord Lyon's narrative of the efforts of the Democratic leaders to induce the intervention of England, as written to Earl Russell:

"Several of the leaders of the Democratic party sought me, both in this city and Philadelphia, on the arrival of the intelligence of General McClellan's dismissal. The subject uppermost in their minds, while they were speaking to me, was naturally that of foreign mediation between the North and South. Many of them seemed to think that this mediation must come at last; but they appeared to be very much afraid of its coming too soon. I cannot conceive that they apprehended that a premature proposal of foreign intervention would afford the radical party a pretense of reviving the violent war cry, and so defeating the peaceful plans of the conservatives. They appeared to regard the present moment as peculiarly unfavorable for such an offer, and, indeed, to hold that it would be essential to the success of any proposal from abroad, that it should be deferred until the control of the Executive Government should be in the hands of the conservative party.

"I gave no opinion on the subject. I did not say whether for not I myself thought foreign intervention probable or advisable; but I listened with attention to the accounts given me of the plans and hopes of the conservative party. I at first thought I perceived a desire to put an end to the war, even at the risk of losing the Southern States altogether; but it was plain that it was not thought prudent to avow this desire. Indeed, some hints of it, dropped before the elections, were so ill-received that a strong declaration in the contrary sense was deemed necessary by the Democratic leaders.

"At the present moment, therefore, the chiefs of the conservative party call loudly for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, and insinuate the Government with slackness, as well as with want of success in its military measures. But they repudiate all ideas of interfering with the institutions of the Southern people, or of waging a war of subjugation or extermination. They maintain that the objects of the military operations should be to place the North in a position to demand an armistice with honor, and with effect. The armistice should (they hold) be followed by a Convention, in which such changes of the Constitution should be proposed as would give the South ample security on the subject of its slave property, and would enable the North and South to reunite, and to live together in peace and harmony. The conservatives profess to think that the South might be induced to take part in such a Convention, and that a restoration of the Union would be the result. The more sagacious members of the party must, however, look upon the proposal of a Convention merely as a last experiment to test the possibility of a reunion. They are no doubt well aware that the more probable consequence of an armistice would be the establishment of Southern independence; but they perceive that if the South is so utterly alienated that no possible concessions will induce it to return voluntarily to the Union, it is wiser to agree to separation than to prosecute a cruel and hopeless war.

"It is with reference to such an armistice as they desire to attain that the leaders of the conservative party regard the question of foreign mediation. They think that the offer of mediation, if made to a radical Administration, would be rejected; that if made at an inappropitious moment, it might increase the virulence with which the war is prosecuted. If their own party were in power, or virtually controlled the Administration, they would rather, if possible, obtain an armistice without the aid of foreign Governments; but they would be disposed to accept an offer of mediation if it appeared to be the only means of putting a stop to hostilities. They would desire that the offer should come from the great Powers of Europe collectively, and in particular that as little prominence as possible be given to Great Britain."

A NEW STORY BY THE AUTHOR OF "AURORA FLOYD." The *Saturday Evening Post*, of this week, contains the opening of a new story called "Eleanor's Victory," by the celebrated author of "Aurora Floyd." The *Post* also contains stories, at present, by Mrs. Wood, author of "East Lynne," and Marion Harland, author of "Alone," &c. For sale by all the newsdealers. Price, 4 cents.

GILLETTE & SCOTT.—We would call the especial attention of our readers to the sale of very fine shirts, collars, and neck-ties, this morning at 11 o'clock, by Gillette & Scott, No. 619 Chestnut street. They are arranged in lots and sizes to suit persons desirous of purchasing for their own use, and any one can make selections to suit by examining the goods before the sale.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

The Fight in Washington Territory.

Official information has been received of Col. CONNER's severe battle and splendid victory on Bear River, Washington Territory. After a forced march of 140 miles in mid winter, and through deep snows, in which 76 of his men were disabled by frozen feet, he and his gallant band of only 200 men attacked 300 Indian warriors in their stronghold, and after a hard-fought battle of four hours destroyed the whole band, leaving 224 dead upon the field. Our loss was 14 killed and 49 wounded. These Indians had murdered several miners during the winter, and were part of the same band who had been massacring emigrants on the overland-mail route for the last fifteen years, and the principal actors and leaders in the horrid crimes of the past summer.

During Col. CONNER's march no assistance was rendered by the Mormons, who seemed indisposed, he says, to divulge any information regarding the Indians, and charged enormous prices for every article furnished his command. [A detailed account of the work of this expedition was published in this newspaper, Feb. 26.—ED. PRESS.]

Internal Revenue Decisions.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has made the following decisions: Warrants of attorney accompanying mortgages, and checks drawn against State funds in bank, are exempt from stamp duty. Pawnbrokers' checks are liable as agreements, to a stamp duty of five cents. Whenever the receipts of an insurance agent or broker, as compensation for services performed for or on account of the company or companies he represents, amount to the sum of $600, in any one year, he is liable to assessment for a license under the amended excise law.

Short & Duer's Greek Fire.

Mr. G. RUSH DUER, one of the patentees of "the liquified and solidified Greek fire," gave a private exhibition, last night, in the presence of the President of the United States, General MARTINDALE, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Fox, and others. The rebels will soon have an opportunity of judging of its efficacy.

Fight Near Jacksonville, Fla.

The Savannah *Republican*, of the 25th, reports an engagement to have taken place between the rebel light batteries and United States gunboats, on Monday. The particulars are given, except that the rebels pounded shot and shell into the enemy for a considerable time. The locality of the fight appears to have been in the vicinity of Jacksonville.

Union Meeting in Washington.

A large and enthusiastic Union meeting is now in progress at the Capitol. Admiral FOOTE and ANDREW JOHNSON, of Tennessee, are among the speakers. The President and members of the Cabinet are present, and the proceedings are interesting and gratifying to all loyal men.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the City Councils. The Hall of the House of Representatives was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the lobbies leading both to the galleries and to the floor, were thronged by those who could not obtain even standing room inside. All the heads of the naval bureaus and other naval officers, together with a fair representation of the military, occupied prominent seats. A large number of ladies were in the dense assembly.

The Mayor of Washington, who presided, said, in his opening speech, that Washington had always been true to the Constitution and the laws, and would ever be found loyal to the Government.

The full Marine Band was in attendance and performed during the intervals in the proceedings.

The resolutions read to the meeting declare that the people of Washington swear allegiance to the great Republic, one and indivisible; that they will rally around the constitutional authorities, come life or death, while any traitor, North or South, dares plot sedition, plant a flag, or fire a gun; that while New England is not left out in the cold, South Carolina and all the Gulf States are to be plucked as brands from the burning; that more than half the battle is fought and won, and that to parley with treason is to dismember the nation. There is no middle ground for half-way men to stand upon. It is liberty or treason, liberty or tribunitian anarchy or despotism. They tender to President Lincoln and his Administration the full confidence and admiration for stemming the tide of treason, and allaying dissension at home, and holding at bay the friends of treason abroad, and striking at slavery, which is the main stay of the rebellion; note deserving the considerate judgment of mankind and receiving favorable comment from Gen. McClellan.

The resolutions also declare that they will sustain our brethren-in-arms by sea and land, and that they will never despair of the American Union and the Constitution.

Alderman Sargent offered an additional resolution, to the effect that there are two classes of persons in this city, loyal and disloyal—those who are determined to put down the rebellion at every cost, and those who give the enemy all the aid and comfort in their power. It is due to every loyal man in the country that these disloyalists should be sent to their friends in Richmond, and for vigorously enforcing this policy in Baltimore we tender our thanks to Major General Schenck.

The reading of the resolutions was repeatedly interrupted by applause. They were unanimously adopted amid great enthusiasm.

The Hon. Green Adams said that, while he was proud of being a native of Kentucky, he was proud of being a citizen of the United States. He was loyal to our country, to our Union, to our Government, to our Administration, to our President, and to our God. We cannot serve God and Mammon. The man who is not willing to sustain the Administration and the President in their efforts to put down the rebellion is not a loyal citizen. Those who are not loyal are traitors to the Union, the Constitution, the Administration, and the President. A traitor was a more heinous sinner than God, in his wisdom, permitted to live on earth. He defined the different classes of traitors, the meanest of whom were those who claimed to receive pay from the Government, which at the same time they would endeavor to damage and stabbing it. The citizens here should rid themselves of such traitors, and it should be their most imperative duty to send them to Richmond, where they belong, and where they would have kindred company. They should have no social or business associations with any such enemies. Loyal Kentuckians do not believe that traitors are entitled to life, liberty, or property, which should be taken from them, negroes and all. The President has not violated the Constitution in any respect whatever. When Gen. Jackson could not hang a traitor under one statute he did it under another, and this is what the President ought to do. The masses believe that the President has the right to do anything to put down the rebellion.

This last sentence was vociferously applauded, as was his speech throughout.

At the time the President of the United States entered the Hall, accompanied by Secretary Chase, Secretary Usher, and Postmaster General Blair, there was a general shout of greeting, huzzas, waving of handkerchiefs, and music from the band. Three cheers concluded the intensely enthusiastic greeting. The distinguished guests were conducted to seats in the area directly fronting the speaker's chair.

Admiral Foote was introduced much to the general delight of the audience. He said one of the oldest officers of the navy, and from South Carolina, was to have appeared on this occasion. He alluded to Admiral Dupont's letter, and said he had a paper to read from him, but after looking into the contents of his pockets, he found himself in the condition of the clergyman who took to church the wrong sermon. The substance of the paper was, however, that action, as a general rule, should express the sentiments of a military man rather than words. He (Admiral Foote) took that stand here as a politician in the party sense of the term. He had never voted in a Presidential election since the death of the old Whig party. He had always been called a conservative man, but was always sufficiently progressive to keep up with the wants of the service, and to meet evils just in proportion as they increased in magnitude, and such was now the case, and we must use shell, shrapnel, round shot, and grape to crush forever the tremendous evil now upon us. He was in favor, and he believed he could say of his brother officers, that they would fight as heroically their own States as they would a foreign foe, should they be engaged in rebellion. He would fight his own State, Connecticut, if she attempted to withdraw the star from the Union, the emblem of that State. He was happy to find this sentiment so well received by the meeting. Although he had not had the honor of voting for the President, he had full confidence in his integrity and wisdom. No President, King, or Emperor ever had so many difficulties with which to contend. He trusted that there was no man so base as to think of shrinking back in this time of trial and trouble. The officers of the navy, and he might say the same of the officers of the army, can be relied upon. They will rally around the Government, under no circumstances will they shrink from their duty. They consider their lives and sacred honor embarked in this cause, and they will never give it up. He concluded by rejoicing that the President had issued a proclamation recommending a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and saying, "God grant that bless you, and let no disloyal sentiment proceed from the mouth of any one who enters this temple of liberty."

His speech was applauded throughout.

A Quartet Club then sung with spirit, "Hail to the Hero Hunter."

The Hon. David K. Carter, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the District of Columbia, said he had inaugurated as the first rule of the new court that every man who appeared in it as an attorney must bow his knee in allegiance to the sovereignty of the United States. No loyal man shall be punished for that reason, and no traitor shall escape unpunished. As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he arraigned Jeff Davis as a traitor against the sovereignty of the United States, and not only as a traitor against progress but in behalf of despotism. He maintained that the prosecution of this case was in perfect harmony with overwhelming numbers and, in the course of his remarks, said that at the inauguration of President Lincoln he had some doubts whether the immense multitude would not part in blood. The previous Administration had been Democratic, and the national resources wasted. President Lincoln found nothing but a miserable, superannuated old man, who was better fitted for the gallows than the Presidential chair, and who had been surrounded by traitors. We must fight for the triumph of liberty or die the slaves of despotism. There is no such word as peace, cry as the enemies of the country will.

The Hon. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, paid a compliment to the loyalty of the city of Washington. Every working man here was for the Union and the flag. He had asked a citizen how it was with the working classes, men of talents and education? He would not give the answer, but leave it to the audience to answer for themselves. What was true of Washington was also true of Baltimore, Nashville, and St. Louis, the two principal towns of Kentucky, and uniformly true of the entire region of the South. The men who labor are in favor of a good Government. It is the old contest repeated, the snatching of power from the many to place it in the hands of the few. It is for the entire country to say whether our liberties shall be taken away, or whether we shall succeed in maintaining them to the last extremity. He could not say how long the war will last, weeks, months, or years, but let it last till the principles of the free government of the people is established beyond a peradventure or attempt at overthrow—so firmly established that no power can again venture to shake it. The great good is to result from success—the great evil to result from disastrous overthrow.

The Hon. Andrew Johnson was received with prolonged applause. He said he two years ago proclaimed in the Senate that the object of the Southern traitors was to establish an aristocracy, and was then met by denunciation, not by argument. He proclaimed himself a Democrat of the Jeffersonian and Jackson school, and like them would hang those who would attempt to overthrow the Government. He maintained that this was a struggle for free government. If he had any objection to the President, it was because he had not done enough, and in this connection he approved of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, for in Washington, as well as other places, there are traitors, and it was a duty to put them out of the way. He argued that the rebels do not want compromise, they had already rejected it. They wanted usurpation, rebellion, and a monarchy. We might as well ask Deity to compromise with the devil. He would never compromise over the graves of Washington and Jackson. Never. It might seem paradoxical, but the Constitution of the United States was his compromise. Let the rebels lay down their arms, disband their legions, and acknowledge the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws, and then he would compromise, and not before. There could then be no difficulty in settling the question. We could have peace in forty-eight hours.

Mr. Johnson continued his speech for nearly two hours, and was frequently applauded. The President and members of the Cabinet retired on the conclusion of Governor Johnson's speech.

District Attorney Carrington, of Washington, made a brief and eloquent speech, when the meeting adjourned.

There was also a large assemblage in the Senate chamber. Speeches were made by General Martindale, Messrs. Chittenden, L. A. Whitely, Maynard, Admiral Foote, and others.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA.

More Rumors of the Intended Evacuation of Richmond—Another Disgraceful Surprise of our Garrison at Williamsburg—The Rebels Becoming Demonstrative Again.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 30.—Refugees from rebeldom, and deserters from the rebel army, are almost daily coming into our lines at Suffolk and Yorktown, and giving themselves up. Generally, the deserters bring their arms and equipments with them.

They report that movements strongly indicate the early evacuation of Richmond, though it is intended to be accomplished by a slow and sure process.

One entire division of the rebel army arrived in Richmond last Tuesday, as is supposed, to protect the insurgents from any attack that may be made while the evacuation is taking place.

The rebels have already commenced to remove their large guns and also their machinery from the machine shops at Richmond, from that city to Chattanooga.

YORKTOWN, March 30.—Yesterday morning about one hundred rebel infantry stole past our pickets in front of Williamsburg, and quietly occupied the place before daylight. At dawn their cavalry in front attacked our pickets, who fell back upon the town. Here the infantry fired upon them, killing two and wounding five. They finally cut their way through, and escaped to Fort Magruder, except eight or nine, who were made prisoners.

Our force numbered about forty; that of the enemy three hundred. Before our reinforcements came up the enemy seized whatever they could, and made good their escape.

There have been a number of night alarms at Gloucester Point the past week, but no engagements have ensued.

DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO.

Gen. Carter Driving the Rebels out of Kentucky—The Rebel General Pegram Falling Back, &c.

CINCINNATI, March 31.—The rebels are retreating from Kentucky rapidly. Gen. Pegram was, at the last accounts, south of Stamford, being hotly pressed by General Carter. It is reported that he was compelled to abandon his cattle and train.

The Louisville *Journal* has a report that two divisions of rebel infantry crossed the Cumberland river, south of Somerset, on Saturday, to reinforce General Pegram. The report is not credited in military circles.

On Sunday night General Carter's advance was at Stanford, and by this time he has probably driven Pegram south of the Cumberland.

The report that Humphrey Marshall is near Mount Sterling is absurd. He is in the mountains. The force near Mount Sterling is Cluke's old division retarded.

THE LATEST.

LOUISVILLE, March 31.—Major Clarence Prentice, with two subordinate officers of the Confederate army, came into Louisville early this morning, were arrested this afternoon and sent to Camp Chase this evening.

The Federal forces are closely pressing the rebels. One hundred and forty prisoners were captured, near Stanford, and two thousand head of cattle recaptured, which the rebels were taking from Kentucky.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Reported Advance of the Rebel Forces—Gen. J. H. Morgan Seriously Wounded.

CINCINNATI, March 31.—The *Commercial's* advices from Murfreesboro say that on the 29th inst. the left wing of Gen. Polk's corps, consisting of Cheatham's, Withers', and McOwan's divisions, advanced to Guy's Gap, nineteen miles south of Murfreesboro. It may signify merely observation, or it may be a movement to give room for troops in the rear, and to concentrate the rebel army. The scouts affirm that the rebels must either attack or fall back immediately on account of their scanty subsistence.

The previous reports that Morgan was wounded in the late affair at Milton are confirmed. He was shot in the shoulder and also lost two fingers.

ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Two Union Rams Attempt to Run the Blockade—One is Sunk and the Other Crippled—Return of the Sunflower River Expedition—No News from Gen. Ross and the Yazoo Pass Expedition.

CHICAGO, March 31.—A Cairo special despatch says last Wednesday evening the rams Lancaster and Switzerland undertook to run the batteries at Vicksburg, and as soon as they came within range the rebels opened a tremendous fire. The Lancaster was struck thirty times. Her entire bow was shot away, causing her to sink immediately, turning a complete somersault as she went down. All her crew except two escaped. The Switzerland was disabled by a 64-pound ball penetrating her steam drum. She floated down, the batteries still firing and striking her repeatedly, until she reached the Louisiana ran alongside and towed her to the lower mouth of the canal. The loss of life on her is not ascertained.

On their way up the river the Hartford and Albatross encountered batteries at Grand Gulf more formidable than those at Port Hudson. The Hartford was struck fourteen times, and had three men killed. Both vessels continued the fire vigorously, and both were more or less injured.

It was stated that the expedition under General Sherman, to the rear of Haines' Bluff, by way of Steele's Bayou and the Sunflower, had returned to Young's Point.

Nothing definite is received from the Yazoo Pass expedition under Generals Ross and Quimby.

A train between Memphis and Grand Junction was captured by guerillas on Saturday, and forty persons were taken prisoners and paroled. A Federal force started from Moscow in pursuit.

THE MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 31.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of yesterday reports the story of a Federal repulse at Vicksburg, as follows: On the morning of the 25th four Federal boats were advancing toward our upper batteries at Vicksburg. A vigorous fire was opened upon them; two of them were disabled, and two were passed under a raking fire. One received a shot from which she sunk. Part of her crew escaped to the opposite shore. The Benton was disabled and the Albatross towed her out of danger of our gunboats. [As the Albatross is the tender that accompanied the Hartford up from New Orleans, and was below the batteries, this is a confession that the Benton passed below Vicksburg.]

The enemy has appeared again in front of Fort Pemberton. On Monday afternoon heavy firing was heard. The result is unknown.

The reported capture of General Curtis' brigade, by Humphrey Marshall, is not confirmed.

General Morgan had a fight on the 20th instant lasting five hours near Milton, driving the enemy two miles, when they were reinforced. Morgan says his loss of officers was heavy.

CHATTANOOGA, March 27.—General Forrest captured yesterday, at Brentwood, nine miles in the rear of Franklin, eight hundred prisoners. He destroyed a house full of commissary stores, burned the railroad bridge, torn up the track, and captured seventeen loaded wagons.

DEPARTMENT OF THE KANAWHA.

Capture and Recapture of Point Pleasant, West Virginia—A Union Victory.

WHEELING, March 31.—Colonel Lowe, Governor Pierpont says that yesterday seven hundred rebels, under General Jenkins, captured Point Pleasant, Virginia. The town was subsequently recaptured, and the rebels driven back with the loss of twelve killed and fourteen prisoners. Our loss was one killed and one wounded.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC.

The Precautions Against a Secession Demonstration.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31.—There is nothing new regarding the threatened demonstration by Secessionists on Mare Island Navy Yard and Benecia Barracks. The precautions are informal circumstances which warranted the alarm manifested by the authorities, although all commend their disposition to take every precaution to guard against a possible danger.

There are many Secessionists in Lapa country, though not presumable enough to encourage the most distant idea to take up arms against authorities. With ordinary vigilance in guarding the fort, armory, and public property, no one apprehends dangers from Secessionists within the State.

The steamer Saginaw remains at Mare Island.

Sailed, ship Prima Donna, for Callao.

The National Fast.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation:

And whereas it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the unity and peace of our national confederation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate, and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship, and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in humility and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

[L. S.] ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

EUROPE.

The Steamship "Hansa" at New York, with Dates to the 18th ultimo—The Anglo-Rebel Navy—The Confederate Cotton Loan—A Great Battle Imminent between the Poles and Russians—The Rebellion Spreading—Dictator Langiewicz Issues National Paper Money—Commercial Intelligence, &c.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The steamship Hansa, from Liverpool on the 18th, arrived at this port this evening.

The royal mail steamer Canada arrived at Liverpool on the 15th.

The ship Gil Blas, which arrived at Havre on the 14th inst., reported that she spoke the pirate Alabama on February 23d. She put on board the Gil Blas two Frenchmen from the ship Olive Jane, from Bordeaux for New York, which the Alabama had burned on the 21st. She burnt on the same day a very large vessel bound from California for Queenstown.

The ship Plata, which arrived at Southampton from the West Indies, reports the Alabama off St. Lucia, where she had captured two vessels.

The Sumpter has been thoroughly repaired in England, and is ready for sea.

The Southerner, a screw gunboat, has been launched. She is to be used for the Confederate service.

The ratification of the Confederate 7 per cent. cotton loan of three million pounds sterling has arrived. It will be introduced on the London Change on the 19th. The bonds are issued of ninety dividends in sterling, and a sinking fund for their redemption, at par, in twenty years.

It is rumored that an important despatch has arrived from Poland.

Intelligence has been received that a great battle was expected to be fought between the Poles, under Langiewicz, and 15,000 Russians.

A debate on the affairs of Poland was commenced in the British Parliament on the 17th inst., but there were no important developments made. The Parliamentary session closes on the last of March, but will re-open immediately.

The views of the Emperor of Austria on Poland are said to coincide with those of Napoleon.

On the Paris Bourse, Rentes are quoted at 68f 90c. Garibaldi's wound shows symptoms of aggravation.

The proportion of the Italian loan taken by the Italians was 71,000,000; by the Bank of France, 79,000,000; and by Rothschild, 380,000,000 francs.

The Bucharest Chamber, in the Principalities, has been dissolved in consequence of the Deputies refusing to vote the budget.

In Greece the National Assembly has recalled the chief of the French party, excited by the Provisional Government.

POLAND.

The Russians are being everywhere reinforced.

The insurgents are in force at Kenin.

Eight of the Warsaw committees have resigned. The municipal officers have followed their example.

An insurrection has broken out in Podolia. Several thousand of the insurgents are posted at Bar.

The Duke Constantine has quitted Warsaw.

Dictator Langiewicz has ordered the issue of national bank notes.

The Russians have sacked and plundered the town of Michalowice, and committed massacres at Goraka and Glebulkow.

A thousand of the insurgents had organized at Lublen and proclaimed the National Government in several places.

AUSTRIA.

At the first sitting of the Venetian delegates, a schedule was presented granting a Provincial Constitution to Venetia.

FRANCE.

The debate on Poland took place in the Senate on Tuesday. M. Boujean contended that the Government "to acquire immortal glory by daring to accomplish a great act of justice and humanity."

The debate will continue on Wednesday.

The Paris *Union* says that the opinions of the Emperor of Austria and Napoleon are identical. Prince Napoleon at Paris, with regard to the diplomatic questions which have arisen from events in Poland.

THE DIPLOMATS AND THE POLISH REVOLUTION.

Diplomatic despatches, relating to Poland, were laid before the French Senate on March 18th. Among them is a despatch from M. Drouyn de l'Huys, dated March 26th, 1855, addressed to Walewski, ambassador in London. The despatch calls to mind that in 1815 Emperor Nicholas released himself from the obligations towards Europe, imposed on him by the treaties of 1815, with regard to Poland.

The Great Powers fully understood the danger which might arise from the attitude of Russia, and the advantages to be derived from returning to the treaties prohibiting Russia to possess the kingdom of Poland otherwise than as a constitutional State. The despatch continues:

The Russia appears to have arrived for reminding Russia of the obligations she has contracted towards Europe in reference to Poland.

Count Walewski is requested to ascertain the opinion of Lord Clarendon on the subject.

Another despatch addressed by Walewski to Persigny, on October 15th, 1855, states that Lord Clarendon entertained similar views upon the expediency of taking advantage of the war to draw a Russian fleet from the Baltic, some changes in favor of Poland. His Lordship, however, did not think it necessary to impose such an arrangement as an absolute condition for the re-establishment of peace with Russia.

Another despatch from M. Drouyn de l'Huys to M. de Talleyrand, dated February 17th, 1863. M. Drouyn de l'Huys recapitulates the purport of his despatches of the 15th and 26th of March, and enumerates as inconvenences likely to result from this resolution, that the Polish question has thereby acquired a character of international complication between the different populations of the ancient kingdoms of Poland, and been revived; that a really national insurrection has sought shelter in the Prussian Government had, by this means, cast itself into serious embarrassments; that it is to be feared the Russian situation already a cause of grave uneasiness, and likely to prove the source of future complications for the Cabinet.

Another despatch is from M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Duc de Montebello, February 18, 1863.

This document states that the Polish question possesses above any other, the privilege of exciting in France the sympathy of all classes. He recapitulates the negotiation with the Baron de Budberg, from which he says he did and could not hide from himself the fact that it would grow embarrassing, and the pressure of public opinion become greater as the gravity of circumstances increased.

He comments upon the hopes aroused upon the accession of Alexander II. to the throne, and considers that if they should not be realized, Russia would create embarrassment for herself and place France in a disagreeable position. He concludes by requesting the Duc de Montebello to lay the question in this shape before Prince Gortschakoff.

The diplomatic documents communicated to the Senate also include a circular of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, dated March 1st, addressed to the Diplomatic Agents, with reference to the Russo-Prussian Convention, and stating that the Emperor of Austria is ready to fire vigorously, and both were more or less injured.

GREECE.

A telegram from Athens, of March 16, says: The National Assembly has, by 89 against 70 votes, recalled the chief of the French party. We had been called by the Provisional Government.

ITALY.

The Turin *Stampa* says: The actual proportion of the loan which will be raised from the Italian public by national subscription, will exceed 70,000,000. The Bank of Paris will contract for 70,000,000, and the Rothschild for 380,000,000. The commission upon the contract is 1 per cent. Of the 380,000,000 francs, 200,000,000 have been secured, but these will not be issued immediately. An order decree has been published, fixing the issuing price of Rentes at 65.75. *The Gazetta di Torino* says: Numerous arrests have taken place at Palermo, in consequence of the discovery of a conspiracy to establish the Sicilian Government upon Mazzinian principles. The police, and the judicial authorities have commenced an inquiry.

In the Chamber, the Minister of the Interior declared that the prisoners at Fenestrelle had been accused of participating in a conspiracy partly of a Bourbon and partly of a Mazzinian character.

HOLLAND.

A despatch dated Warsaw, March 13th says: Langiewicz has been proclaimed Dictator of Poland. The insurgents have taken possession of Kielce, Sandomirzka, and captured two guns. Another body of insurgents were also victorious near Wladowi on the 9th; on the 7th; on which day the Russians sustained another defeat near Ralaji, although in considerable force at Ostrowiec.

A telegram from Cracow of March 18th says: General Langiewicz's proclamation has been posted in Kielce and Miechow. Skirmishes with the Russians took place yesterday in the immediate neighborhood. The Russians have Olkiewicz, Wolomin, and Okrzeszyce, in reinforcements. Considerable bodies of insurgents are in the field in Sandomirzka and Podlachia.

A telegram from Cracow of March 15th says: 12 only of the 36 members belonging to the Council of State at Warsaw are present, the others having resigned either posts nor salaries. Six have tendered their resignations, 16 others are still undecided. The municipality have resolved upon sending in their resignations.

A telegram from Leinberg of March 14th says: The greater part of the Russian troops have left Lublin and Miechow, where engagements between the Russians and Poles took place. The insurrection is gaining ground in the Government of Kalisch.

It is asserted that the insurrection has broken out in Podolia, and in the Government of Thorn, near second near Bar.

A telegram from Thorn of March 15th says: A state of siege has been proclaimed in the cities and districts of Rinek, Sluck, and Novogrudek, in the Government of Minsk.

A telegram from Warsaw of March 14 says: The Grand Duke Constantine has left Warsaw. It is ready to 100,000,000f. The last monthly account of the Bank of Poland shows a satisfactory state. The profits during the month are calculated at 2,500,000f. Some of the cotton bonds of the Confederate States have been offered at Warsaw. The Bank of Poland has not been issued by the Government of the Confederacy to create money and pay the expenses of the war in remains in the country. They stipulate that, in forty days, after notification shall have been made by the holder to the Confederate Government, the quantity of cotton specified in the bond shall be placed at his disposal in whatever port of the may select, subject to the charges that may be not at the time in the power of the Federal States. These bonds are generally for 25,000-lb weight of cotton, the value to be paid in cash, calculated at 6d. per lb. weight. The purchaser may receive the cotton in the port he chooses, or export it on his own risk and peril.

The Paris Corn and Flour markets were firm. Rentes closed heavy on Monday at 68f 91c.

PRUSSIA.

A telegram from Berlin, of March 16th, says: The Military Commission of the Chamber of Deputies has the amendments to the law on the military organization of the country. None of the ministers were present.

Paragraph 3 is worded as follows:

"The strength of the army in time of peace shall be fixed by special law, and the budget for the military expenses shall be based upon this law." This was agreedto.

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