The Press.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1864.

☞ 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.

The Presidential Nomination.

The *Independent* specifies the qualities the Union candidate for the Presidency should possess. They should be, in its opinion, a sublime allegiance to God, Liberty, and Human Rights; a native capacity to govern; will enough to break through common men's impossibilities, as through egg shells; incorruptible integrity. The man thus qualified should be the candidate, it argues; but while we admit the argument, we do not think the *Independent* has lessened the difficulty it assumes to exist. The very great number of first-class men who are thus universally gifted would embarrass the most sagacious of conventions. The *Independent* seems to take it for granted that all these fine qualities are very rare, but it will learn better by the time the convention meets. Mr. BEECHER, himself, would make no ordinary President—we have had several Presidents who have been, in every respect, his inferiors—and has no enemy bold enough to deny him the possession of those virtues the *Independent* eloquently enumerates. But this natural fitness for the position is not singular. Wait till the time for the Convention approaches, and we shall read in the newspapers of so many men perfectly fulfilling the conditions of the *Independent*, that we shall all be delighted and bewildered. Therefore, while we warmly approve of the spirit of the fine article in the *Independent*, we do not exactly see its practical value. The *Tribune* compliments it very highly and justly. Yet it seems to us that to gravely and elaborately announce that we should have the very best man we can get for a candidate, is much the same as assuring the world that it is virtuous it is sure to be happy. It will do no one any harm, however, to give respectful attention to the following impartial paragraph, for that two and two make four is none the less true because it is not new:

"We hope our many readers and our brethren of the press will give heed to these suggestions. If the time is ever to come in this country when, in choosing a President, we ought to take the wisest, strongest, bravest, best man, and no other, we believe that time draws nigh. And what shall hinder us from such a choice? Such is the comparatively unpartisan state of the old parties, such the general unanimity of purpose among all loyal and patriotic men, such the great desire to have the free nation making its nomination for the next canvass than for any previous presidential struggle for many years. With no old political favorites to be necessarily rewarded—no old debts to be settled with former placemen and continuous office seekers—no unavoidable bargaining to be made with the different factions—no needful consultations with the ancient and dry-rotted lobbymen of Albany and Washington—no enemy, domestic or foreign, to be conciliated—no one to be compromised with—no other body to be promoted than the interests of the country—why should there be a committal to any other candidate than the best man for the highest place? Nor, this time, can the usual plea of 'availability' be used as the apology for putting aside the best man for some more accidentally usable, because more politically influential. We believe—not over sanguinely, as we hope—that the loyal people of the country at the next election to carry its candidate, whoever he may be. The true Presidential campaign, therefore, will be waged before and during the Convention, rather than after the nomination. It will not be so hard to elect the best candidate as to nominate him. This is a reason which not only justifies but urges an early survey of the entire field. Let loyal men unite, speedily and heartily, upon the one and only object of choosing THE BEST MAN.

"Who, then, is he? Let sober-minded citizens ponder the question."

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18, 1864.

Who will be the Presidential candidate of the opposition to the war? We are only interested in this question as students of events, for it is very sure that no radical Unionist will be consulted in the selection. Never before has any party been put to such straits, not to count the odium that has settled like a thunder-cloud upon the so-called Democracy, which may burst anyone upon their ranks in a tempest of wrath, in consequence of the unbroken sympathy of their leaders with the rebellion. The difficulty of securing a really strong man to carry the fated responsibility of such a candidacy is patent and principal. A nominee may doubtless be found, for there are those always ready to accept such an honor, even if it is conferred in the face of certain defeat. But the shrewd ones hunger for a leader who will win for them the spoils, and become a plastic instrument in their hands. Unhappily, the engineers of such a movement are mainly partisans who have been the notorious and noisy enemies of the Government, and who, in order to smooth and make easy the road for the rebellion, macadamized that road with the bones and dust of the greatest heroes of Democratic principles of the present generation. These are somewhat awkward and ill-omened managers of the future of what still pretends to be a great party, and of what undoubtedly held within its limits many good but mistaken men. And the worst of it is, that, while these managers assume exclusive control of the destinies of the party to which most of them have only belonged since the rebellion began, they sternly exclude from all participation in their counsels every man, no matter how trusted and honored for his past adherence to Democratic principles, who now sees the image of his bleeding country, and earnestly supports the Government in its efforts to destroy the traitors. I forbear to name these men, lest such a liberty might provoke or furnish an excuse for renewed assault and persecution; but no intelligent observer can be blind to the bitter hatred which their patriotism excites among the dictators of the organization. They are neither few in number nor weak in influence. Who, then, shall be the candidate of the revealed sympathizers with treason now in command of the opposition to the war? A few months ago they inclined to General McClellan; but their ardor has evidently been cooling since the October ides of the Pennsylvania election, when he celebrated his adhesion to their cause by writing a letter in favor of Woodward, a candidate who refused to allow McClellan's own soldiers to vote! More recently they have turned their attention to General Grant. They have tried alternately to court and to caress him; but they seemed to be as doubtful of his acceptance of their coquetries as they are afraid of General McClellan's mistakes. Grant is reticent and cautious, and evidently regards them with a jealous eye. There is a fable of the sick lion, that may be used as an illustration of the favor of all military men who have entrusted themselves to the embraces of the Copperhead chief. The lord of the forest invited his friends to call and see him in his lair, and they came in crowds, all save the fox, who had some grave doubts as to the character and peril of the monarch's disease. He held off with characteristic caution, and when finally and most earnestly importuned to go in to the royal invalid, he replied by saying that he had been waiting at the mouth of the cave to inquire how the lion was progressing in his efforts to recover his health, but he had noticed that of all his friends who had visited the regal invalid, *not one had ever returned to give him any news.* After all, it may be that the only available Copperhead candidate for the Presidency will be Gov. Seymour, Justice Woodward, or C. Canada Vallandigham. OCCASIONAL.

The Keeper of the State House Clock. Formerly the State House clock was the standard time of the city, or, at least, was looked up to with much more confidence than of late by all interested in having the time. It is determined that a new keeper shall be appointed to the charge of this really venerable and meritorious time-piece, and we hope, for time's sake itself, that the office will be given to an understanding and careful old gen. Mr. Riggs, who is prominently named for this responsibility, is a practical watch and chronometer maker, doing business in Second street, and his authority in matters of chronometry is widely recognized by our most important offices and establishments. Few gentlemen are more learned and experienced in this particular, and his recommendation by many of our most respected jewelers gives a stronger character to his nomination. That the State House time should be an undeviating standard is a matter of public interest, apart from any political considerations. We trust that some such sensible and necessary appointment will be made.

WASHINGTON.

[Special Despatches to The Press.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.

The Confiscation Bill.

The telegram in the New York *World*, of the 17th, stating that the confiscation bill had come to an untimely end in the Senate Judiciary Committee, because Senator JOHNSON reported adversely to the joint resolution of the House, is calculated to mislead public opinion. It is not true that every member of the Senate committee believed the House resolution to be unconstitutional.¶

Even some who are opposed to the policy of confiscation beyond life estate admit its constitutionality. True, a majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee is opposed to the House resolution, but no doubt a very decided majority of the Senate is in favor of a much more stringent confiscation policy than that of the original law or that intended to be effected by the joint resolution of the House.

Repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law.

Not the slightest doubt exists that this statute, enacted and made more stringent by Congress at the time the compromises of 1850 were agreed upon to please the slaveholders, will be swept from the statute-books by the present Congress.

Fidelity of the Southern Negroes.

There is not an escaped Union prisoner among those who recently arrived here, after having evaded the horrors of Libby and the perils of recapture, who does not gratefully acknowledge the constant and fearless devotion of the negroes they met on their dangerous journey. Said one of these officers yesterday, "The war made me ashamed of the leaders of the Democratic party, to which I once belonged, and the slaves of the South have convinced me that they are a thousand times more true to my country than the Copperheads of the North."

Canard Corrected.

There is not the slightest foundation for the statement of the New York *Herald's* Washington correspondent that the President intends to issue a proclamation of "universal emancipation" on the coming anniversary of Washington's birth-day.

Another Great Fair.

The most extensive preparations have been made for the great fair for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers, to be held in the commodious halls of the Interior Department. It will be opened on Monday, the 22d of February. Some very interesting ceremonies will take place, among others the reading of an original poem by B. B. FRENCH, Esq.

Senator Riddle, of Delaware.

The resolution of Senator RIDDLE this morning, referred to the Naval Committee, had relation to the establishment of a navy yard at New Castle, in his own State.

Major General Sickles.

Arkansas will be the centre of the new department of General SICKLES, and he will leave for Little Rock in a day or two, probably by Sunday. The General is now in Washington arranging his plans and perfecting the organization of his staff.

Edwin Forrest.

Mr. FORREST opens at Ford's Theatre, in this city, about the middle of March. He will be honored by crowded houses.

Mineral Wealth of Utah.

Hon. JAMES S. DOTY, Governor of Utah, now in this city, gives the most interesting account of the enormous mineral wealth of that Territory. These treasures will rival the most rich mines of California. BRIGHAM YOUNG is exceedingly vigilant in his efforts to prevent any examination, but it is probable that the owner, Uncle Samuel, may sometime put in a pre-emptionary right and claim to examine into his own premises.

The Quicksilver Mining Case.

The *National Republican* this afternoon announced as follows: The Quicksilver Mining case will be tried in the Supreme Court of the United States next Monday. The question involved in the case is, whether the eastern line of the grant extends to the main sierra. If it does, this places the mine upon the Quicksilver ranche. Upon this question the commissioners appointed to settle land claims of California, the District and Circuit Courts of California, and the United States Court, have already passed, and in every instance decided in favor of the company. Attempts have been made by parties interested in the purchase of quicksilver stock to depress it, but they have signally failed. The success of the company in the present case is generally conceded by those who possess the most reliable information on the subject.

Condemned Horses.

Auction sales of condemned horses will take place at Mifflin, Pa., on the 4th of March; at Williamsport on the 8th of March; at Altoona on the 11th of March, and at Wilkesbarre on the 23th of March.

The Enrolment Bill.

The amendatory enrolment bill, as it to-day passed both Houses of Congress, and now awaits the President's signature, provides that the President of the United States shall be authorized, whenever he shall deem it necessary during the present war, to call for such number of men for the military service as the public exigencies may require. The quota of each ward of a city, town, township, precinct, or election district of a county, where the county is not thus divided, shall be as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of men resident therein liable to render military service, taking into account, as far as practicable, the number which has been previously furnished. In ascertaining and filling the quota, there is to be taken into account the number of men who have heretofore entered the naval service of the United States, and whose names are already returned to the office of the Provost Marshal General. If the quotas shall not be filled within the time designated by the President, the provost marshal is to make a draft for the number deficient, but all volunteers who may enlist after the draft shall have been ordered, and before it shall be actually made, shall be deducted from the number ordered to be drafted in any ward, town, township, precinct, or election district or county. If the quota of any district shall not be filled by the draft made in accordance with the provisions of this act and the law to which this is an amendment, further drafts shall be made and the proceedings had until the quota of such district shall be filled. Persons enrolled may furnish at any time previous to the draft an acceptable substitute who is not liable to draft, and such person thus furnishing a substitute shall be exempt from draft not exceeding the time for which such substitute shall have been accepted. Any person drafted may, before the time fixed for his appearance at the draft rendezvous, furnish an acceptable substitute, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

If any drafted person shall hereafter pay money for the procuration of a substitute, such payment shall operate only to relieve the person drafted on that call, and his name shall be retained on the roll, and he shall be subject to draft in filling that quota, and his name shall be retained on the roll in filling future quotas; but in no instance shall the exemption of any person on account of his payment of commutation money for the procuration of a substitute extend beyond one year, but at the end of one year in every such case the name of any person so exempted shall be enrolled again, if not before returned to the enrolment list under the provisions of this section.

The boards of enrolment are required to enroll all persons liable to draft whose names may have been omitted by the proper enrolling officer, all persons who shall arrive at the age of twenty years before the draft, all aliens who shall declare their intentions to become citizens, all persons discharged from the military service of the United States who have not been in such service two years during the present war, and all persons who have been exempted under the provisions of the second section of the enrolment act, but who are not exempted by the provisions of the present act; and the said boards of enrolment shall release and discharge from draft all persons who, between the time of the enrolment and the draft, shall have arrived at the age of forty-five years, and shall strike the names of such persons from the enrolment. Any marine, or able or ordinary seaman, who shall be drafted, shall have the right, within eight days after the notification of such draft, to enlist in the naval service as a seaman, and be exempt from the draft. Any person now in the military service of the United States, who shall furnish satisfactory proof that he is a mariner by vocation, or an able seaman, may enlist into the navy under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the President of the United States; provided that such enlistment shall not be less than the authorized term of his military service, nor for less than one year; and the bounty which any marine or seaman enlisting from the army into the navy may have received from the United States, or from the State in which he enlisted in the army, shall be deducted from the prize-money to which he may become entitled during the time required to complete his military service; and provided further, that the whole number of such transfer enlistments shall not exceed 10,000. Enrolments in the naval service are to be credited to the draft.

The following persons are exempted from the enrolment and draft, namely: Such as are rejected as physically and mentally unfit for the service; all persons actually in the military or naval service of the United States at the time of the draft, and all persons who have served in the military or naval service two years during the present war and been honorably discharged, and no persons but such as are herein exempted shall be exempt.

So much of the enrolment act as provides for two classes of enrolment is repealed, and they are now consolidated.

Any person forcibly resisting or aiding to resist or oppose the enrolment, etc., shall, upon conviction thereof, in any court competent to try the offence, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both of these punishments, in the discretion of the court. And in cases where assaulting, obstructing, hindering, or impeding shall produce the death of the officer or other persons, the offender shall be deemed guilty of murder, and, on conviction, be punished with death.

The Secretary of War is authorized to detail additional surgeons for temporary duty in the examination of drafted persons, and he is authorized to permit or require boards of examination to hold their examinations at different points within their enrolment districts, to be determined by him.

Provost marshals, boards of enrolment, or any member thereof, have power to summon witnesses in behalf of the Government, and to enforce their attendance.

Members of religious denominations, who shall, by oath or affirmation, declare that they are conscientiously opposed to the bearing of arms, and who are prohibited from doing so by the rules and articles of faith and practice of such religious denomination, shall, when drafted into the military service, be considered non-combatants, and shall be assigned by the Secretary of War to duty in the hospitals or to the care of freedmen, or shall pay the sum of $300, to be applied to the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers: *Provided*, That no person shall be entitled to the benefit of this section unless his declaration of conscientious scruples against bearing arms shall be supported by satisfactory evidence that his deportment has been uniformly consistent with such declaration.

No person of foreign birth shall, on account of alienage, be exempted from enrolment or draft who has, at any time, assumed the rights of a citizen by voting at any election held under the authority or the laws of any State or Territory, or of the United States, or who has held any office under such laws, or any of them; but the fact that such person of foreign birth has voted or held, or shall vote or hold office, shall be taken as conclusive evidence that he is not entitled to exemption from military service on account of alienage.

Any person drafted and liable to render military service, who shall procure exemption by fraud or false representation, is to be deemed a deserter, to be punished as such, and held to service for the full term for which he was drafted, reckoning from the time of his arrest; provided that the Secretary of War may order the discharge of all persons in the military service who are under the age of 18 years at the time of the application for their discharge, when it shall appear, upon due proof, that such persons are in the service without the consent, either express or implied, of their parents or guardians, and provided that such persons, their parents or guardians, shall first repay to the Government, and to the State and local authorities, all bounties and advance pay which may have been paid to them.

Any person who shall procure, or attempt to procure, a false report from the surgeon of the board of enrolment, concerning the physical condition of any drafted person, or a decision in favor of such person by the board of enrolment, upon a claim to exemption, knowing the same to be false, shall, upon conviction in any district court or circuit court of the United States, be punished by imprisonment for the period for which the party was drafted.

The fee of agents and attorneys, for making out and causing to be executed, papers in support of a claim for exemption from draft, or for any service rendered to the claimant, shall not in any case exceed five dollars; and physicians or surgeons, furnishing certificates of disability, and any officer, clerk, or deputy, connected with the board of enrolment, who shall receive compensation from any drafted man for any services, or obtaining the performance of such service required from any member of the board by the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not exceeding $500, and shall also be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year at the discretion of the court.

No member of the board of enrolment, and no surgeon detailed or employed to assist the boards of enrolment, and no clerk, assistant, or employee of any provost marshal or board of enrolment, shall directly or indirectly be engaged in procuring, or attempting to procure, substitutes for persons drafted, or liable to be drafted, and any surgeon making a false or incorrect report, or who shall wilfully neglect to make a faithful inspection and true report, and any member of the board of enrolment who shall wilfully agree to discharge from service any drafted person, who is not legally and properly entitled to discharge, are to be punished by fine and imprisonment.

All able-bodied male colored persons between the ages of 20 and 45 years, residing in the United States, shall be enrolled according to the provisions of the enrolment act, and to this amendatory act, and form part of the National forces; and when a slave of a loyal master shall be drafted and mustered into the service of the United States, his master shall have a certificate thereof. Thereupon such slave shall be free, and the bounty of $100 new payable by law for such drafted men shall be paid to the person to whom such drafted person was owing service or labor at the time of his muster into the service of the United States.

The Secretary of War shall appoint a commission in each of the States represented in Congress, charged to award to each loyal person to whom the colored volunteer may owe service, a just compensation not exceeding $300 to each colored volunteer, payable out of the fund derived from commutation, and to each such colored volunteer on being mustered into the service shall be mustered under the auspices of his Majesty the King of Denmark.

Her Majesty, moved by the same desire to preserve the peace which was one of the desired objects of all the Powers who were parties to that treaty, has been likewise pleased to instruct her Ministers to represent to them the differences which in the matter have arisen to equally applied to those who may be hereafter recruited, and men of color already enlisted, or who may volunteer into the military service, and who shall be credited on the quotas of the several States or subdivisions of States wherein they are respectively drafted, enlisted, or shall volunteer, shall not be assigned to State troops, but shall be mustered into the regiments or companies as United States colored volunteers.

The words precincts and election districts, as used in this act, are not to be construed to require any subdivision for the purpose of enrolment and draft less than the wards into which any city or village may be divided, or the towns or townships into which any county may be divided.

The Gold Sale Joint Resolution.

Before the adjournment of the House to-day, Representative STEBBINS, of New York, said the Committee of Ways and Means desired again to consider the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell surplus gold, and which Mr. Spaulding reported adversely, had previously reported with a recommendation that it do not pass. The consent was required for again referring the resolution to the committee, but Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, interposed an objection.

The Tax on Whisky.

The internal revenue bill, as it passed through both Houses of Congress, did not exempt foreign spirits in transitu or on shipboard from the new tax imposed by the measure, but it is understood that the joint committee of conference agreed, in the instance and through the influence of FERNANDO WOOD, of New York, agreed to amend the bill by exempting such spirits. The importers of New York have thus been saved large sums. The conference committee has not yet reported.

The Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has adjourned over till Tuesday next, when the California Quicksilver Mining case of Fossat vs. The United States, will be taken up, and will probably continue several days.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad Cut by General Sherman.

A BATTLE REPORTED AT ENTERPRISE, MISS.

RUMOR OF A REBEL MOVEMENT ON CHATTANOOGA.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19.—A special despatch to the *Gazette*, from Chattanooga, says that the weather has been very cold for the past two days, and the troops on the march and in camp have suffered considerably. A slight snow fell yesterday.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has ordered all the citizens, with their property, to move to the east side of the Chattahoochie river, on pain of having their property confiscated.

It is reported that the rebels are building an immense armory at Macon, Georgia.

General Stedman has assumed command of the post of Chattanooga.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19.—A special despatch to the *Commercial*, from Chattanooga, says:

"Adjutant General Thomas is here, organizing the colored troops.

"The statements telegraphed from here that the army was moving on Dalton, Ga., are false.

"Colonel Burke has returned from the rebel lines with two officers and twenty-six privates whose exchange he effected under a flag of truce.

"Guerrillas have successfully destroyed the bridges on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, thereby severing the connection between Polk's forces and Mobile.

"The rebel papers report a battle at Enterprise, Miss., with unknown results.

"The rebels have no hope of repelling the advance of Sherman.

"Information has been received that Johnston, thinking we have been sending troops from his front to reinforce Burnside at Knoxville, is preparing to attack Chattanooga."

REBELS LEAVING TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA BY THOUSANDS—THE PEOPLE STARVING—REBEL DESERTERS—REBEL SCRIP FIVE CENTS ON THE DOLLAR.

CAIRO, Feb. 19.—Reliable information from South east Tennessee says that refugees are leaving Tennessee and Georgia by thousands, many of them in a starving condition.

Large numbers of deserters from the rebel army continue to arrive at Chattanooga daily.

The Confederate scrip is now worth only five cents on the dollar.

The steamer O'Brien, in the Government service, was burned at the landing at Columbus, Ky., today. The boat and cargo is a total loss.

LONGSTREET IN FULL RETREAT.

Completion of the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad.

SHERMAN AT MERIDIAN.

Bishop Polk Outgeneralled.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 19.—Adjutant General Thomas and staff have returned here from Knoxville. Officers of the party report that Longstreet is in retreat beyond the French Broad river, to avoid a movement of our greatly superior forces.

Nashville and Knoxville are connected by railroad, with the exception of seven hundred yards at London, and passenger trains are running. The bridge at London will be finished before a week. Johnston has concentrated his forces at Dalton, and advanced his picket line to Ringgold, but is fearful of an attack, and cannot spare reinforcements for Polk.

The Mobile *News* says that Polk has been shamefully outgeneralled by Sherman, who had advanced beyond Meridian between the Bishop and Meatgomery; and the Marietta *Rebel* has rumors of a hard fight in Mississippi, on the 13th inst.

A tide of veteran volunteers is being sent to the front every car on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad being wanted for their transportation. Everything is quiet here, although we are in a condition to move immediately.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Capture of Part of Moseby's Gang.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 18. *Major General Halleck, General-in-Chief:*

General Pleasonton, Chief of Cavalry, reports that a scouting party, sent from General Gregg's command at Warrenton, captured, to-day, at Piedmont, twenty-eight of Moseby's men.

GEO. G. MEADE, Major General.

CAPTURE OF GUERILLAS.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Feb. 18.—Lieutenant Colonel Hall, commanding at Beverly, reports the return of a scouting party from Webster county, with seventeen prisoners, among the number the notorious guerilla chief Dan Dusky. Also, one from Pocahontas county, with five prisoners, of which one is Major Adams, of the 42d rebel Infantry.

B. F. KELLEY, Brigadier General.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—Gen. Ewing has been superseded as commander of the District of the Border by Colonel Ford, of the 2d Colorado Cavalry.

The 6th Missouri Infantry Regiment has re-enlisted.

Over 3,600 negroes have been recruited in this State during the past three months.

The Government awards to-day consist of the following: 100,000 bushels of oats at 97½c; 100,000 do. corn at $1.09; 3,000 tons baled hay (timothy), at $28 88@30 per ton. The markets generally are unchanged.

LATER NEWS FROM EUROPE.

THE DANISH WAR BEGUN.

A Six Hours' Battle at Nussundi.

THE GERMANS REPULSED BY THE DANES.

Address of the Queen of England.

BRITISH DECLARATION FOR DENMARK.

Threatened Difficulty between Austria and Italy.

MOVEMENTS OF THE ALABAMA, &c., &c., &c.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The steamer City of Manchester, from Liverpool on the 3d and Queenstown on the 4th inst., arrived here to-day.

The Glasgow and Sidon arrived out on the 3d, and the Teutonia on the 4th inst.

An engagement, which lasted for six hours, had taken place between the Germans and the Danes, at Nussundi.

The Danish outposts were driven in, but the assaults on the place were repulsed.

In the battle the Prussians lost 100 of their men. They had 74 guns.

The report of the destruction of the ship Montanan, by the pirate Alabama, is confirmed. She was formerly the American bark Texas Star.

The city of Manchester passed the Scotia on the morning of the 5th, seventy miles west of Fastnet, bound into Liverpool.

The French Corps Legislatif is prorogued till April 4 The Bourse fell at 66 70.

The Duchess of Parma is dead.

The Italian cloud is over the Moderate party.

The resigned Belgian ministry will reshape their portfolios.

It is rumored that Lord Derby and Disraeli will make a strong attack on Earl Russell's policy, and also that the Cabinet, with the exception of Russell and Gladstone, are prepared to support Denmark.

An embargo would be placed on the German shipping at Copenhagen on the 3d.

The *Times* says the question whether a state of war on the part of Austria and Prussia against Denmark, now certainly existing, is such as to imperil the ships of those nations at present in port in this country, if they should put to sea and meet Danish cruisers, has been the subject of anxious discussion on the part of Prussian interests. There is apparently little doubt upon the subject, and German commerce will likely soon pass into the hands of neutrals. Field Marshal Wrangel, in a proclamation to the Schleswigers, says he is here to protect their rights, and that the civil commissioners of Austria and Prussia will assume the administration of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

It is asserted that Napoleon is now resolved than ever to take no active part in the Danish question, but to waive the difficulty in Europe.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The following is the Queen's speech, delivered on the British Parliament:

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN: We are commissioned to assure you of the continuance of our satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of the Parliament. Her Majesty is confident that you will share her sorrow and that of her family and household on account of the Princess of Wales having given birth to a son—an event which, if it be called forth from the loyal people received demonstrations of devoted loyalty and affection to the Princess and her family. The state of affairs on the Continent of Europe has been the subject of great anxiety to Her Majesty. The death of the King of Denmark has given rise to immediate discussion and solicitude of the treaty of May, 1852, concluded by His Majesty, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Queen of Great Britain, the King of Sweden, and afterwards acceded to by the King of Hanover, the King of Saxony, the King of Saxony, the King of the Netherlands, the Queen of Spain, the Sultan, the Portugal, and the King of Italy. That treaty declared that it is conducive to the maintenance of the balance of power and the peace of Europe that the integrity of the Danish monarchy should be maintained, and that several territories which have formed part of the Danish monarchy for the space of two hundred years ought to continue to form part of the same monarchy. The Queen's sympathy with the late King and of his house, the Prince Frederick, with the Princess of Wales, and King Christian should be acknowledged as succeeding to the duchies which have been ruled under the sceptre of his Majesty the King of Denmark.

Her Majesty regrets that by the same desire to preserve the peace which was one of the desired objects of all the Powers who were parties to that treaty, has been likely to be frustrated by the conflicting pretensions of them differences which in the matter have arisen to equally applied to those who may be hereafter recruited, men of color already enlisted, or who may volunteer into the military service, and who shall be credited on the quotas of the several States or subdivisions of States wherein they are respectively drafted, enlisted, or shall volunteer, shall not be assigned to State troops, but shall be mustered into the regiments or companies as United States colored volunteers.

The words precincts and election districts, as used in this act, are not to be construed to require any sub division for the purpose of enrolment and draft less than the wards into which any city or village may be divided, or the towns or townships into which any county may be divided.

The Gold Sale Joint Resolution.

Before the adjournment of the House to-day, Representative STEBBINS, of New York, said the Committee of Ways and Means desired again to consider the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell surplus gold, and which Mr. Spaulding reported adversely, had previously reported with a recommendation that it do not pass. The consent was required for again referring the resolution to the committee, but Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, interposed an objection.

The Tax on Whisky.

The internal revenue bill, as it passed through both Houses of Congress, did not exempt foreign spirits in transitu or on shipboard from the new tax imposed by the measure, but it is understood that the joint committee of conference agreed, in the instance and through the influence of FERNANDO WOOD, of New York, agreed to amend the bill by exempting such spirits. The importers of New York have thus been saved large sums. The conference committee has not yet reported.

The Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has adjourned over till Tuesday next, when the California Quicksilver Mining case of Fossat vs. The United States, will be taken up, and will probably continue several days.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad Cut by General Sherman.

A BATTLE REPORTED AT ENTERPRISE, MISS.

RUMOR OF A REBEL MOVEMENT ON CHATTANOOGA.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19.—A special despatch to the *Gazette*, from Chattanooga, says that the weather has been very cold for the past two days, and the troops on the march and in camp have suffered considerably. A slight snow fell yesterday.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has ordered all the citizens, with their property, to move to the east side of the Chattahoochie river, on pain of having their property confiscated.

It is reported that the rebels are building an immense armory at Macon, Georgia.

General Stedman has assumed command of the post of Chattanooga.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19.—A special despatch to the *Commercial*, from Chattanooga, says:

"Adjutant General Thomas is here, organizing the colored troops.

"The statements telegraphed from here that the army was moving on Dalton, Ga., are false.

"Colonel Burke has returned from the rebel lines with two officers and twenty-six privates whose exchange he effected under a flag of truce.

"Guerrillas have successfully destroyed the bridges on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, thereby severing the connection between Polk's forces and Mobile.

"The rebel papers report a battle at Enterprise, Miss., with unknown results.

"The rebels have no hope of repelling the advance of Sherman.

"Information has been received that Johnston, thinking we have been sending troops from his front to reinforce Burnside at Knoxville, is preparing to attack Chattanooga."

REBELS LEAVING TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA BY THOUSANDS—THE PEOPLE STARVING—REBEL DESERTERS—REBEL SCRIP FIVE CENTS ON THE DOLLAR.

CAIRO, Feb. 19.—Reliable information from South east Tennessee says that refugees are leaving Tennessee and Georgia by thousands, many of them in a starving condition.

Large numbers of deserters from the rebel army continue to arrive at Chattanooga daily.

The Confederate scrip is now worth only five cents on the dollar.

The steamer O'Brien, in the Government service, was burned at the landing at Columbus, Ky., today. The boat and cargo is a total loss.

LONGSTREET IN FULL RETREAT.

Completion of the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad.

SHERMAN AT MERIDIAN.

Bishop Polk Outgeneralled.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 19.—Adjutant General Thomas and staff have returned here from Knoxville. Officers of the party report that Longstreet is in retreat beyond the French Broad river, to avoid a movement of our greatly superior forces.

Nashville and Knoxville are connected by railroad, with the exception of seven hundred yards at London, and passenger trains are running. The bridge at London will be finished before a week. Johnston has concentrated his forces at Dalton, and advanced his picket line to Ringgold, but is fearful of an attack, and cannot spare reinforcements for Polk.

The Mobile *News* says that Polk has been shamefully outgeneralled by Sherman, who had advanced beyond Meridian between the Bishop and Meatgomery; and the Marietta *Rebel* has rumors of a hard fight in Mississippi, on the 13th inst.

A tide of veteran volunteers is being sent to the front every car on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad being wanted for their transportation. Everything is quiet here, although we are in a condition to move immediately.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Capture of Part of Moseby's Gang.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 18. *Major General Halleck, General-in-Chief:*

General Pleasonton, Chief of Cavalry, reports that a scouting party, sent from General Gregg's command at Warrenton, captured, to-day, at Piedmont, twenty-eight of Moseby's men.

GEO. G. MEADE, Major General.

CAPTURE OF GUERILLAS.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Feb. 18.—Lieutenant Colonel Hall, commanding at Beverly, reports the return of a scouting party from Webster county, with seventeen prisoners, among the number the notorious guerilla chief Dan Dusky. Also, one from Pocahontas county, with five prisoners, of which one is Major Adams, of the 42d rebel Infantry.

B. F. KELLEY, Brigadier General.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—Gen. Ewing has been superseded as commander of the District of the Border by Colonel Ford, of the 2d Colorado Cavalry.

The 6th Missouri Infantry Regiment has re-enlisted.

Over 3,600 negroes have been recruited in this State during the past three months.

The Government awards to-day consist of the following: 100,000 bushels of oats at 97½c; 100,000 do. corn at $1.09; 3,000 tons baled hay (timothy), at $28 88@30 per ton. The markets generally are unchanged.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

The Florida Expedition—Report of General Gilmore.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The steamer Atlantic has arrived with advices from Hilton Head to the 16th inst.

Gen. Gilmore and staff arrived at Port Royal on the 16th. The expedition to Florida was a complete success. Several points have been captured in addition to Jacksonville, and our forces are pushing through the State of Florida. No part of the expedition had returned.

The Atlantic brings home the following detachments of veterans: 118 men of the 52d Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Hoyt; 275 men of the 10th Connecticut, Major Greff; 407 men of the 24th Massachusetts, Capt. Redding; 125 men of the 89th New York; 43 men of the 3d New York Artillery.

Among the passengers per Atlantic is J. J. Elwell, bearer of important despatches from Gen. Gilmore to the War Department.

Escaped Union Prisoners.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 19.—The following additional escaped officers have arrived here:

Captain D. S. Caldwell, 123d Ohio.
Captain R. R. Adams, 89th Ohio.
Lieutenant R. S. Scott, 89th Ohio.
Lieutenant E. J. Hagey, 123d Ohio.
Lieutenant W. A. Williams, 123d Ohio.
Lieutenant Ely Foster, 30th Indiana.

Five more are reported to have arrived at Wilmington.

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XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—1st SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1864.

SENATE.

Mr. CLARK presented a petition from Charles Deshne, and asked that the Committee on Claims be discharged from its further consideration, and that it be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The latter gentleman made no claim, but merely complained that the Senate had not done its duty in referring several, after that General Halleck had refused him an opportunity to join distinction on the field or an honorable death.

The committee was discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and the matter was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, announced his intention to introduce a bill for the admission of a State of the Union at the next session of Congress.

Mr. MORGAN introduced a bill for the establishment of a proper port of entry and delivery at Lake Ontario, plain, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. HENDRICKS introduced a bill authorizing the transfer of indemnents from district to circuit courts of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Renting of Abandoned Lands, &c.

Mr. FOSTER introduced a bill to provide for the renting of abandoned lands, and the seizure of property in insurrectionary States, and for the care and employment of the contrabands therein. It authorizes the President, which was referred to the Committee on Military and Freedmen.

This bill legalizes the action of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom the matter was referred by the Secretary of War, in appointing commissioners and making regulations for the employment of negroes and the letting of lands. It also provides for suitable military protection to be furnished by the Secretary of War, so far as may not interfere with the regular operations of the army, and for the protection of loyal citizens interested in the leases of the Secretary of the Treasury, and authorizes him to make such rules and regulations for the operations out of the profits arising from the labor of the use of the sale of confiscated property under a former act of Congress.

Proposed Navy Yard at New Castle.

On motion of Mr RIDDLE, the Committee on Naval Affairs was instructed by the Senate to report a proposal of establishing a navy yard at New Castle, in Delaware.

Mr RIDDLE briefly set forth the advantages of this location in respect to its facilities for coal and other articles required in naval construction.

The Enrolment Bill.

Mr. WILSON called up the report of the committee of conference on the disagreement to the enrolment bill.

Mr. SAULSBURY inquired how long the payment of the commutation money would extend.

Mr. WILSON explained that it would exempt for one year and no longer. The time agreed upon seemed to mean a bounty for a year only.

Mr. SHERMAN said that he could not understand the bill as it was before the Senate. As he understood it, the money provided to be paid as commutation was a bounty equivalent to a substitute.

Mr.