The Press.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 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 WAR.

KILPATRICK has just finished one of the most brilliant raids of the war, cutting Gen. LEE's line of retreat to Richmond, touching the outer works of Richmond, and joining the forces of General BUTLER at a convenient point. While KILPATRICK galloped, the Army of the Potomac has been marching from Culpeper to the vicinities of Madison Court House and James City. The two points threatened by these suggestive movements are, of course, Gordonsville, the immediate base of the rebel army, and the rebel capital itself. It will not be surprising if the rebel rulers are inspired with some apprehension, temporary at least, and are still urging the return of LONGSTREET on the tedious road from Tennessee to Richmond, though it is not probable that he has yet arrived within comfortable distance of LEE. By the line of railroad between Charlottesville and Lynchburg, LONGSTREET can reach LEE's army much sooner than he can reach Richmond. Charlottesville, about a dozen miles in the rear of Gordonsville, is the furthest point to which General CUSTAR penetrated, and now we can understand the nature of our twin cavalry movements, which in one case appeared to threaten the junction between LEE and LONGSTREET, and in the other broke up, we understand, forty miles of the railroad of General LEE's lines of supplies and retreat. The Virginia Central and Fredericksburg Railroads connect at Hanover Junction, and in this neighborhood General KILPATRICK has severed them both. One line of communication between the rebel capital and army, connecting Richmond with Lynchburg and Charlottesville, is still unbroken, but is over two hundred miles long, while the route direct to Gordonsville is but seventy-six miles. Our cavalry have taken the initiative boldly, and were the same success possible at an earlier period, its effect would doubtless have been even greater. We only hope that a fine stroke has been dealt at the right time, and that the rebels, now cut off at rear, and wanting LONGSTREET, if not threatened by BUTLER, are weak enough to be defeated.

Three points in the news of General SHERMAN's operations are prominent, namely, the reports that he was within forty miles of Mobile, had sent out a column to take Selma, and had torn up the road from Meridian to Jackson. Of the movement on Mobile we are still in doubt, while the tenor of our news entirely favors the supposition that SHERMAN's forces have penetrated to Selma. We see no reason to doubt that General SHERMAN has broken the roads in his rear, and we may dismiss the story which has arisen out of the contrariety of rebel telegrams, that he is marching back to Vicksburg. At the worst, General SHERMAN's movement will prove a very valuable reconnoissance. As it is, he has an army large enough, perhaps, to defeat any force that may be sent against him. Its main use, if not its entire purpose, is correlative with the operations of General GRANT.

Bounty and Quota.

The extension of the bounty period, or, in other words, the postponement of the draft till the first of April, is a wise measure, which should give a still greater stimulus to the cause of volunteering. In this city, bounties have been paid to over ten thousand men, and it is believed that by this time our quota is more than filled. A bill which has unanimously passed the Select Council declares that the proper quota of the city was twelve thousand, whereas it appears that fourteen thousand one hundred and sixty-eight men have been sent thus far. The large disparity between the quotas of New York and Philadelphia is complained of, though, according to the latest accounts, the quota of the neighboring city, as made out by the Albany commissioners, is 18,473, three thousand in excess of the figures lately given from the Provost Marshal General's office. From 39,061 the quota of New York and Brooklyn has been reduced to 24,810, an absence of 14,251. Philadelphia justly claims, in proportion to its abilities, to be the most patriotic city in the Union, and we trust that this uncertainty with regard to the draft will soon be enlightened.

Derby and Russell.

Earl RUSSELL has been closely pressed, in the House of Lords, by the Earl of Derby, on the subject of Mr. SEWARD's despatch of July 11th, giving notice that the United States would claim compensation from England, by and by, for the injury done to American commerce by the buccaneering of the Alabama and other British-built pirates. Lord DERBY, who used to be called "the Hotspur of debate," when a member of the House of Commons, is still too much for Lord RUSSELL—as he has always been. Both were members of Lord GREY's Government, and, on one occasion, when Lord JOHN RUSSELL (as he was then called) committed the Ministry by some statement touching their intended appropriation, to secular purposes, of the large temporalities of the Irish Church, Lord DERBY, (at that time Mr. STANLEY,) turned round to Sir JAMES GRAHAM, and exclaimed, *loud enough to be heard* in all parts of the House, "Egad, GRAHAM, Johnny has upset the coach." The remark, which has never been forgotten in England, was true—for RUSSELL's ill-timed frankness caused several changes in the Cabinet, as STANLEY, GRAHAM, and the Duke of Richmond resigned their respective offices at once, being decidedly opposed to any appropriation of Church revenue for State purposes. Ever since, there has been a strong antagonism to Lord RUSSELL, on the part of Lord DERBY, and the latter generally has the best of the encounter. Lord DERBY is perhaps the best speaker in the House of Lords—his eloquence being rapid, fluent, full, and expressive—whereas it would be difficult to find a worse debater than Lord RUSSELL, who hesitates and stammers, fidgets and repeats himself, rarely finishing a sentence, and perpetually under obligations to the newspaper reporters for putting his thoughts into readable language. It is certain that, if the Palmerston Ministry were broken up by Parliament, Lord DERBY would be empowered to form a new Government. If Lord PALMERSTON, now in his eightieth year, were to die, Lord RUSSELL would most probably be his successor. In the relative positions, therefore, of DERBY and RUSSELL, their antagonism has little chance of being abated.

The baiting on the American question, which Lord RUSSELL has lately received from Lord DERBY, has driven him into a declaration which, if not qualified, may place the Palmerston Cabinet at issue with our Executive and Administration. This declaration is that "the British Government considers itself in no way responsible for damages done to American commerce by the Alabama and vessels of that class, and will not be induced by any circumstances to change this determination." The event may prove different. We have no doubt that if, when the war is ended, this question of damages were submitted to the arbitration of a neutral friendly Power, even to King LEOPOLD of Belgium, though he is uncle to Queen VICTORIA, the decision would be against England. The question may have to be decided, either by arbitration or by arms. The former mode is preferable, but, if needs be, we shall not shrink from the fatal necessity of resorting to the latter.

IN Kentucky there is a law by which a free colored man coming into the State may be thrown into prison, and, unless his friends redeem him by showing proofs that he is a freeman, within a certain time, he may be sold into slavery. Under this law, a freeman of Indiana is now in jail. Barbary is not more barbarous than Kentucky in this respect. It is justly asked, If a free black of Indiana may be sold into slavery in Kentucky, why should not a white slaveholder of Kentucky be imprisoned in Indiana?

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1864.

A New Steamship Project.

Representative ALLEY, of Massachusetts, to-day reported a bill for a steamship line between the United States and Brazil, to perform twelve round trips yearly, the vessels to be of not less than two thousand tons burden, and the expense to be borne in part by Brazil, our own share being limited to two hundred thousand dollars per annum.

The Extension of Bounties.

The President having approved and signed the bill amendatory of the loan act of 1863, and the joint resolution extending the payment of bounties to the first of April, they have thus become laws.

Railroads and the Government.

It appears from official data, in the possession of the War Department, that since Feb. 25, 1862, the Illinois Central Railroad has received, for transportation of troops and supplies, $303,000, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad $3,500, and the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad only $40, making a total of $311,540. The accounts of the Illinois Central prior to March 4, 1863, were settled on the basis of the tariff of the road when such rates did not exceed those of the Scott tariff of 1861, and one-third deducted from the amount thus found due subsequent to March, 1862. The accounts accord with the regulations of that date made by the Quartermaster General, in accordance with the suggestions of railroad managers convened in Washington by the Secretary of War.

The Whisky Bill.

The whisky bill, as it has now passed both Houses of Congress and awaits the Presidents signature, imposes a tax of sixty cents a gallon on all spirits which may be distilled and sold, or distilled and removed for consumption or sale previous to the first day of July next. Any tax after this time is to be provided for by fautre legislation, and will doubtless be inserted in the supplemental tax bill now under consideration by the Committee of Ways and Means. The whisky bill imposes an additional tax of forty cents per gallon on imported spirits on hand.

The sliding scale of duties in both domestic and foreign spirits, and a tax on the stock on hand of domestic spirits, have no place in this bill.

Capture of a Blockade-Runner.

A despatch has been received by the Navy Department, from Admiral LEE, dated at Newport News, Va., stating that the small side-wheel steamer Scotia was captured by the Connecticut on the 1st inst., having run out from Wilmington on the night of the 29th of February. She has 105 bales of cotton on board. The prize arrived at Newport News yesterday, for coals, and is on her way to Boston.

The Scotia is a paddle-wheel steamer, of about 300 tons burden, and was built in the Clyde. She was purchased and sent out from Glasgow in the summer of 1863. She steams twelve or fourteen miles per hour, has eight guns, a crew of thirty, and one funnel. The Scotia belonged to the same company that sent out the Princess Royal.

The Naval Code.

The report of Hon. CHAS. B. SEDGWICK on the codification of the laws for the government of the navy, and upon which final action is yet to be taken, states that the ancient rules have been retained where they have been found to be sufficient and plain. No provisions of law have been added excepting in cases where necessity has proved their advantage. The most important changes and additions have been made in what relates to naval supplies, discipline, and courts martial. Many enormous frauds have been practiced in furnishing material for the navy; therefore additional safe-guards were required to insure reasonable economy and ordinary integrity.

The Draft Suspended.

It is ascertained, from an official source, that the orders requiring the draft to take place on the 10th inst., are suspended. A subsequent day for commencing the draft will be announced in time to make all the necessary preparations.

Arrival of Contrabands.

One hundred contrabands of both sexes arrived here this morning from the front. They bring their bedding, and a fair quantity of provisions.

General CUSTER's recent expedition opened the way for their escape.

Dahlgren.

Admiral DAHLGREN is at the Navy Department this morning. He is now paying a short visit to his family who live in Washington.

Pennsylvanians.

A meeting of Pennsylvania Republicans was held in the room of the Clerk of the House last night, to prepare for the Presidential election. Mr. MOORHEAD was chosen chairman.

Revolutionary Pensioners.

It appears from a letter of the Commissioner of Pensions that only twelve of the Revolutionary soldiers are now living; their ages vary from 94 to 105 years, and their pensions only from $24 to $96 per annum.

Illness of Assistant Secretary Seward.

Assistant Secretary of State F. W. SEWARD lies ill at home with pneumonia.

The Department of Agriculture.

The bi-monthly report of this department, to be issued this week, contains three leading articles, besides the usual items of statistics pertaining to imports and exports, stock, markets, tables of farm stock, and meteorology. The subjects of these articles are: *Agricultural Education; The Future of Cotton and Wool,* and *The Proposed Tax on Leaf Tobacco.* The last of these is followed by an article on the cultivation of tobacco, by L. J. Bradford, of Augusta, Ky.

1st. *Agricultural Education.*—The commissioner has given his views on this important subject in compliance with the request of several correspondents, and because the department needs the aid of the agricultural colleges. It will be remembered that the act of Congress of July 2, 1862, to more effectually carry into successful practice the trial and distribution of new seeds and plants, by means of the experimental gardens and farms of these colleges; to obtain through them reports of the experiments made by them, and to aid the agricultural classes in carrying out such systems of farming as would ultimately be regarded as best for the various sections of the Union. The principal questions for consideration in this article is—*What course of instruction should be adopted by these colleges?*

The commissioner maintains that it should not contemplate a preparation for the farm only, for in this country the son does not inherit the father's occupation, as in Europe, but all occupations are open and pursued by individual choice, and all persons have strong inclinations, at some period of their lives, to agricultural and horticultural pursuits, and hence, a system of education should regard the tastes and pursuits of all classes; that the American mind demanded full development, and not that partial one which a system of instruction having regard to but one pursuit only accomplishes.

The act of Congress has reference to this general development of the mind, for it declares that a leading object of the instruction in them shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts in such manner as the Legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical "education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." These industrial pursuits referred to in the act of Congress embrace the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant, and the miner, as well as the farmer, and all must be instructed in military training.

The commissioner contends that the industrial classes should have more direct control in the affairs of government, and that their education should fit them for equality with the professional pursuits in the military and civil service of the government, as well as in their respective industrial pursuits, and that a course of instruction may be adopted that is common to all occupations of civilized life. With these views, the course of instruction recommended is: First, Latin, with an opportunity to study the modern languages, but not compulsory. Second. Mathematics, as far as is essential to a knowledge of the laws directly connected with the mechanical and manufacturing arts, and to proper disciplining the mind. Third. Those studies relating to natural philosophy, as vegetable and human physiology, meteorology, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, botany, zoology, physical geography, &c., which lectures on the more practical subjects connected with the farm, as on manures, drainage, stock, and grain-raising, &c., &c. Fourth is a course of study suggested by Professor Richard Owen, brother of the late David Dale Owen. Fourth. Military training.

In connection with this course of study is particularized the museum, as essential to proper instruction, and the apparatus, library, &c., all which are repeatedly described by that thorough instruction needed by the industrial pursuits.

In order to make the grant of lands by Congress immediately available, the commissioner regards as good policy that existing State colleges should be merged in the industrial colleges, so that they would be no longer in opposition to other collegiate institutions in the several States under the control of private corporations; and their funds, being in this manner consolidated with those to be derived from the sale of lands, would be sufficient, it is supposed to establish these industrial colleges, with their museums, apparatus, libraries, and experimental farms, without which no instruction could be thorough for the industrial classes.

2d. *The Future of American Cotton and Wool.* In this article is shown the vast change which took place in the trade and production of cotton in consequence of the rebellion. In 1860 Great Britain imported 1,390,-966,752 pounds, of which 1,264,228,752 pounds were from the United States. The estimated import for 1864 is 1,066,000,000 pounds; of which there is estimated from India 660 millions; from Egypt, 120 millions; from Brazil, 76 millions; from the United States, 60 millions, and from other countries, chiefly from China, 164 millions. The difference in the prices of cotton to Great Britain is shown in the fact that, whilst in 1861 it paid $173,691,740 for 1,131,594,-976 pounds, in 1864 it paid $188,315,826 for but 473,-326,624 pounds. The commissioner maintains that, however great has been the increase of foreign cotton, the American product, on the return of peace, will soon force it from the markets of the world, on account of the greater cheapness and excellence of our cotton, and hence no one need fear to engage in its cultivation. He maintains that India, Egypt, Brazil, and China cannot become the great consumer of English and French manufactures that the United States is, and therefore these nations must buy from us, as they cannot long trade with countries demanding gold and silver; that it is this demand for their cotton which now makes the interest on money so high in Great Britain and France.

The present state of textile material is thus shown in comparison with what was in 1860:

	Pounds.
Cotton production of 1860	2,379,230,300
Estimated for 1864	1,166,000,000
Deficit in 1864	1,213,230,300
From which deduct,	
Increase in wool production	102,000,000
Increase in flax production	57,500,000— 159,500,000
Deficit in 1864 of textile material	1,054,730,300

From this deficit is shown the impossibility of a serious advance in the price of wool and flax until the rebellion is overcome, and the cotton lands of the United States returns to something like its former magnitude.

3d. *The Proposed Tax on Leaf Tobacco.*—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue recommended an ex-tax on Havana leaf of 10 cents per pound, and a "light tax, varying from five to ten or twelve cents a pound additional" on the manufactured article. Tobacco growers, regarding this recommendation as highly injurious to them, addressed letters to the Department of Agriculture asking the opinion of the commissioner on its probable effects, and, in reply, his views are given at considerable length against the proposed tax on the leaf.

1st. *Against its Policy.* He shows by statistics that, although the export trade of tobacco is very large, amounting to about twenty millions of dollars annually, yet it has increased slowly; that from 1840 to 1850 the prices of tobacco were so low that its production fell off from 219,607,739 pounds in 1840 to 199,736,836 pounds in 1850, and that the increase in 1860 to 425,864,761 pounds was attributable to better prices and the vastly-increased domestic consumption, occasioned by the prosperous decade ending in 1860; that ending in 1850 being one of the most disastrous ever known in peace; that, when an excise of 20 cents a pound would be laid upon it, it would at once encounter the rivalry of foreign tobacco, which, at all times, has been so strong as to keep down the increase of the export trade.

The commissioner then shows the extent of the production of foreign tobacco; that it is capable of an almost unlimited growth, so that it is not true, as suggested by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, that foreign nations are dependent on America for tobacco.

2d. *Against its Constitutionality.* In addition to his recommendation of the excise, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue advises "that no drawbacks be allowed on its exportation in the leaf, so that the cost to the foreign manufacturer may be increased to the extent of our excise."

This part of the recommendation the Commissioner of Agriculture regards as unconstitutional, because in violation of section 9, article 1, of the Constitution, which declares that "no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State." He refers to the opinion of Mr. Hamilton in the thirty-second number of the *Federalist;* to that of Mr. Kent in his twelfth lecture, and of Mr. Story in paragraph 1014. All these agree that Congress can lay no duty on exports, and the Commissioner of Agriculture maintains that an excise duty, with no right of drawback, has the same effect as an export duty, both raising the price of the commodity taxed so as to affect its export. "For the purposes of revenue, he says Congress may affect the domestic consumption of any commodity by taxing it, but there its authority ends. That cannot be continued so as to affect its export." Hence the recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue against a drawback of the excise, he regards as in violation of this constitutional prohibition on the power of Congress to lay taxes.

The *tables of farm products* relate to the amount and prices of stock. The general table in *tenths* is all that is now given, but in the next report their full numbers and value will be shown.

The *meteorological matter* in this is usually full and interesting, for it contains tables of annual returns and comparisons; the temperature of the human day from many places of observations, and the most striking phenomena of the month of December. The length of these annual statistics of the weather has elicited a notice of the meteorology of the month of January until the next report.

Secretary Chase on the Pay of Colored Soldiers.

The following letter has been received from Mr. CHASE:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 29.

"DEAR SIR: I have received the petition that Congress will pass such laws as will put the soldiers of our army on the same footing as to bounty, pay, and pensions, without regard to difference of complexion.

"I have no doubt of the expediency or justice of such legislation.

"Yours, very truly,
"VINCENT COLYER, Esq." S. P. CHASE.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Kilpatrick's Arrival in General Butler's Lines.

LEE'S COMMUNICATION WITH RICHMOND SEVERED.

The Outer Forts of the City Reached.

PANIC AND RUMORS OF EVACUATION.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The President has received a despatch from Gen. Butler stating that Gen. Kilpatrick yesterday arrived within our lines, with the loss of nothing less than one hundred and fifty men, having had skirmishes on the way.

Among the missing are Colonels Dahlgren, Cook, and Litchfield.

Dahlgren and Cook are supposed to be prisoners.

Kilpatrick destroyed a large portion of the Virginia Central Railroad, and several mills along the James river, as well as other valuable property.

He pushed to the suburbs or outer fortifications of Richmond.

BALTIMORE, March 4.—We learn from Norfolk that there was some excitement there yesterday among the rebel sympathizers, who profess to have intelligence of a great scare at Richmond owing to Kilpatrick's movements in the neighborhood of the city.

Some rumors were current that Richmond was being evacuated, but there is nothing definite. The telegraphic cable across the Chesapeake is not working, hence nothing can reach here except by regular boat or by sending despatches across to Cherrystone.

It was generally understood that a force had been sent up by Butler to co-operate with Kilpatrick, but nothing had been heard from this force at the time the boat left last evening.

ROW KILPATRICK UNDERTOOK HIS ENTERPRISE.

(Special Despatch to the New York Tribune.)

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Gen. Kilpatrick left Culpeper at 3 o'clock on Sunday morning. By the afternoon he was at Spottsylvania Court House, capturing as he went, with a small force, Fleur Spottsylvania he chased on Hampton's Cavalry, whom he vainly endeavored to coax into a fight. Call Ulric Dahlgren, with a force of 100, took advance, leaving Spottsylvania Court House. The column pushed on to Louisa Court House, which they reached on Monday evening. They then destroyed the railroad for several miles, and burned bridges. From Louisa Kilpatrick hurried toward the Peninsula, arriving evening before last he went. This is the *Tribune's* last intelligence from him. He was to have been in Richmond on Wednesday morning at daylight.

The latest despatch from Kilpatrick to General Pleasonton, dated Spottsylvania Court House, Sunday morning, 11 o'clock, states that he crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford at 4 o'clock A. M. Sunday, surprised the rebel pickets asleep, and captured a captain, lieutenant, and fifteen men. The concluding words of his despatch were: "Twenty miles nearer Richmond, and all right. Will double my bet of $5,000 that I enter Richmond."

Quite a panic existed in Lee's left wing, and most of the rebel cavalry away from Kilpatrick's proposed line of raid, and will surely give him twenty-four hours start of Jeb Stuart's Rice Station fight, and hurry back from Charlottesville in pursuit. Confidence in Kilpatrick's success here is weakened only by the march of Richmond recently and unexpectedly of Longstreet's formidable veterans. As a part of the history of this movement, result as it may, Kilpatrick entreated for permission to make it four weeks ago.

Hallock opposed it. Meade had to be sent for and consulted. He opposed it. Kilpatrick was ready to saddle two weeks ago, when permission to attempt was finally conceded. The delay in striking the blow gave time to the rebel Government to hurry Longstreet from Tennessee. Kilpatrick's force was but 5,200 picked men and several mounted batteries, and, for rapidity of motion, marches in three columns, and wastes as he goes right and left of each of the three lines. The Virginia Central Railroad is badly damaged.

LATER.—"Beta," who left General Custer's headquarters at Stevensburg this noon, reports the arrival there at that time of Kilpatrick's and Dahlgren's scouts. He reports having left our forces within fourteen miles of Richmond, and that a junction had been formed with General Butler's command. General K. had destroyed the pike and railroad bridges in his rear, and destroyed the tracks and telegraph. He was blowing up the Virginia Central conduct bridge, and his progress unchecked by any serious opposition. General K sent back three messengers, by different routes, but up to noon no other had arrived.

Two deserters came in this morning. They confirm the destruction of the railroad bridge over the Pamunkey river and telegraph. But how or by whom the mischief was done was not known when they left the rebel lines.

General Lee had despatched a formidable force of cavalry and artillery to see what was the matter. They also state that when General Custer was first ascertained to be in the rear of Richmond, the greatest consternation prevailed in the rebel camp.

Telegraphs were sent to Gordonsville and Orange Court House, and troops, and the whole of Ewell's corps was immediately despatched by cars, seven trains having been sent down to Charlottesville to resist our advance. General Custer commands this part of the statement, as they distinctly heard these trains while quietly returning.

The rebels claim to have been the whole of General Averill's force, and the deserters were surprised to find that it was any part of the Potomac Army which had thus completely surrounded them and advanced where no Yankee soldiers had dared venture before.

FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 3.—Rebel General Fitzhugh Lee arrived this morning on the Baltimore boat from Fort Lafayette.

The steamer Scotia, recently captured while attempting to run the blockade off Wilmington, arrived this afternoon.

Steamer S. R. Spaulding arrived from Morehead City yesterday. She reports the following:

NEWPORT BARRACKS, March 1.—The quartermaster of the Federal navy fleet in front of Newbern. The citizens of Newbern are all arming themselves, and are ready for any emergency.

OHIO.

The Riot at Dayton.

CINCINNATI, March 4.—The riot at Dayton yesterday commenced by a squad of soldiers attempting to destroy the *Empire* office. The Union citizens tried to pacify the soldiers, and Mr. R. G. Cornyn was addressing them as conservators of the Constitution and the laws, when a Copperhead, named Kimball, in the crowd, added, "and niggers, too." The soldiers made a rush for him, when Kimball drew a pistol and fired. At the same moment, a party of armed Copperheads deployed across the street as skirmishers, and commenced firing on the unarmed *soldiers and citizens. Some thirty shots* were fired. One man was killed and two were wounded. Had the Union men been armed, it is supposed probable that there would have been more blood shed. The attack on the *Empire* office was not more wanton than the assault upon the crowd.

COLUMBUS.

COLUMBUS, O., March 4.—A fire at Camp Chase, yesterday, destroyed the commanding officer's headquarters and endangered the lives of the rebel prisoners. It was subdued without much loss.

Ohio is now credited with 11,000 veterans. Already the number is being greatly increased by returns to the 10th inst.

New Orleans and Havana.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The steamer Matanzas, from New Orleans on the 26th ult., via Havana on the 28th, arrived here to-day.

An accident had occurred on the Matanzas Railroad by which twenty-two persons were wounded.

Matamoros dates to the 25th ult. have been received via Havana.

Cortinas has 700 men employed in protecting the highways and destroying highwaymen.

A large number of vessels at Matamoros were loading cotton for Europe, including several steamers. One of the latter took fire lately, and was totally destroyed.

The French were expected to attack the place, but Cortinas would hold out to the last.

The Juarez Minister of the Treasury was at Brownsville.

The small-pox had declared itself to an alarming extent in Brownsville.

There is no news from New Orleans.

Important Announcement.

BALTIMORE, March 4.—In answer to numerous letters from the North and West, it is announced that no cotton is to be purchased in Richmond, and express to Fort Monroe, to the care of Major Mulford, will go direct to their destination if the name and regiment of the prisoner is on the box, and if it is strong and hooped.

Port Royal.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The steamer Thames, from Port Royal on the 28th ult., arrived this evening with 3,300 bags of cotton.

She passed Charleston harbor at 10 o'clock on the evening of the 28th, and heard heavy firing.

The steamer Arago was detained at Port Royal, and would wait till the 4th of March for the return of Gen. Gilmore from Florida, to take in despatches to the Government.

The steamer Louisa Moore, from Newbern on the 1st inst., arrived here to-night.

Movements of General Hancock.

BOSTON, March 4.—General Hancock visited the State House to-day, and had an interview with the Governor. Subsequently he was formally introduced to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF SHERMAN.

RUMORED MARCH ON SELMA AND MOBILE, ETC.

The Railroad Between Meridian and Jackson Wholly Destroyed.

CAIRO, March 3.—An officer arrived here to day from Vicksburg, on the 28th ult., as a bearer of despatches from General Sherman, leaving his headquarters when thirteen miles east of Meridian, on the 11th.

He says the enemy numbered only seven or eight thousand men, and were much demoralized.

No fighting had occurred after passing Jackson, Miss.

General Sherman had sent a force to Meridian at that date.

CINCINNATI, March 4.—A despatch from Cairo states that when the steamer Mississippi, on her way up the Mississippi, arrived at Vicksburg, a gentleman, formerly the captain of the steamboat Scotland, had just come in from Mobile, having escaped from the rebels, into whose army he had been conscripted. He says that when he left Mobile, Gen. Sherman was within forty miles of that place, and could easily take it if he wanted to. The Mobile papers of the 18th give no later news than has already been published.

Gen. Sherman, on the 11th ult., was twelve miles beyond Meridian, and had sent part of his force to Selma. He had no fighting after leaving Jackson. The enemy in front numbered seven thousand men, and were much demoralized.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Intelligence has been received here that Gen. Sherman is back from his extended reconnoissance. He did not go near Selma, and never intended such a thing.—*Bulletin.*

GRANT'S ARMY.

NASHVILLE, March 3.—All is reported quiet at the front.

GEN. SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS.

CAIRO, March 4.—The 4th Iowa Regiment of veteran volunteers have arrived from Nashville, en route home. When General Sherman was at a point twelve miles west of Meridian, on the 11th, he sent a portion of his force to Selma, and not back to Meridian, as reported. Last night's despatches, from which the information is derived, being in answer to the question as to Sherman's occupation of Selma. The railroad between Jackson and Meridian has been wholly destroyed. The latest advices are that most of Sherman's forces are still at Selma, and the remainder had fallen to Meridian.

CALIFORNIA.

The Golden City Armed Before Sailing.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3.—Since the sailing of the Golden City, it has transpired that she took $773,000 in treasure for New York, instead of the sum before reported. Twenty soldiers went as guards, designing to return from Panama by the return steamer. She has no regular armament an extra 100-pounder Parrott gun was mounted on the forward deck, so that, considering her speed, even the Alabama would find it a difficult job to capture her. No armed passenger was allowed to go in her from this port.

All the cargo in the between decks of the ship Aquila has been discharged, and wreckers have commenced raising the cargo from the hold.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—Arrived—Ship Wm. Chamberlain, from New York. The dry weather has induced considerable speculation in breadstuffs; offerings are made at $1 80@1.90 per 100 lbs. for wheat.

The sudden and unexpected death of Rev. Thos. Starr King, on Thursday, at once surprised and saddened the whole community. Business was nearly suspended. The courts adjourned, and the public offices were closed, and flags placed at half-mast on every flag staff, including those on every church.

It is universally conceded that no man ever did so much towards making California loyal, while his untiring zeal in forwarding every benevolent enterprise made him generally beloved.

COLORADO AND KANSAS.

ST. LOUIS, March 4.—The Legislature of Colorado and many leading citizens of that Territory have petitioned Gen. Curtis to retain Colonel Chavington in command instead of General Ewing, who has been assigned to that district.

The Legislature of Kansas adjourned on the 1st inst. Meetings continue to be held in all parts of the State denouncing the late Senatorial elections.

Terrible Explosion in Quebec.

MONTREAL, March 4.—A fearful explosion of a laboratory, connected with the military magazine at Quebec, occurred at noon to-day. Captain Mahon and thirteen privates were preparing cartridges at the time. The building was completely blown up. The shock was terrific, almost every house in Upper Town being shaken from top to bottom. The windows and interior walls of stores from St. John's Gate to Palace street were smashed, and valuable goods were thrown into the streets. The ruins of the laboratory are still burning, in close proximity to a large powder magazine. Capt. Mahon and one or two of his men have been taken out of the ruins alive. From ten to twelve persons are still missing.

Destructive Fire in Erie.

ERIE, Pa., March 4.—A fire occurred in the Reed House this morning, and entirely destroyed the building, which was only partly insured. The furniture was uninsured. It destroyed the dry-goods store of Hays & Co., which was fully insured; also, L. Strong's drug store, insured; McConikoes & Shannon's hardware store, insured in Hartford; and two large brick buildings, which were not insured. The Catholic church was several times on fire, but the loss was trifling. The fire was first discovered in the ball-room of the hotel, and is supposed to have been the work of incendiaries. The total loss is about $200,000.

Great Fire in the Oil Region.

BUFFALO, March 4.—Passengers who arrived here to-night report a fire at Oil Creek, Pa., on the 3d inst. The Maple and other wells and some oil tanks were burned. It is estimated that from thirty to forty thousand barrels of oil had been destroyed, and more were burning.

Death of Rev. Thos. Starr King.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—The Rev. Thomas Starr King died at 8 o'clock this morning, after a brief illness, of diptheria.

The New Mexican Government.

NEW YORK, March 4.—A consul appointed by the Imperial Regency of Mexico has arrived here.

Arrival of a Gunboat.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The gunboat Queen, last from Pensacola, has arrived at this port.

Sailing of Steamers.

BOSTON, March 4.—The Africa sailed from Halifax at 4 o'clock this morning for Liverpool. The Canada will be due here to-night.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, March 4.—Flour dull and heavy; Ohio extra, $7.37½@7.50. Wheat steady; Southern red, $1.75@1.77. Corn dull, and yellow is one cent lower. Whisky is very dull, at 84@86c for Ohio.

The Armies in Mexico.

The following is an authentic statement of the armies in Mexico, on both sides, engaged in the contest at Morelia:

FOR THE FRENCH.	
Miramon—Neighborhood of Puebla, City of Mexico	4,000
With the French, at or near San Augustine:	
Margus	4,000
Mejia	2,000
French—Under General Bazaine	13,000
	20,000
French forces at City of Mexico, Puebla, Vera Cruz, Tampico, &c.	23,000
French and rebel forces in Mexico	46,000
FOR PRESIDENT JUAREZ.	
Regulars of the army of the Republic of Mexico, well armed and equipped:	
Under General Uraga	13,000
Under General Doblado (21,000 at San Augustine)	8,000
Under Gen. Negrete (with President Juarez at Saltillo)	3,500
Under General Comonfort	5,000
Under General Alvarez (11,000 at Carnavacas, about eighteen leagues from the city of Mexico)	6,000
Under General Cedrio Castiez	2,500
Total	38,000
The volunteer force of the Republic now under arms:	
Under Garay, at Durango	1,000
Under Trias, at Monterey	2,000
Under Pesshiera, at Sonora	3,500
Under Garcia Torza, at Mazatlan	2,000
Under Corona, at Guadalajara	1,000
Under Jalisco, at Guadalajara	1,000
Total	10,000
Volunteers and regulars of the Mexican army now in the field	48,000

POLITICAL.

— On Tuesday next the voters of New York State *will decide* whether their brothers, sons, and fellow citizens who are serving the Commonwealth in arms, shall have any share in deciding what men and what policy shall guide the country. It is an important question; nothing less than this: whether the most patriotic part of the population shall be disfranchised, and leave to the least patriotic the government of the State and the policy of the nation, in which all have so great an interest. Does Mr. Justice Woodward intend to canvass the State? We tell the soldiers of Pennsylvania, that no matter whether they want to vote for Abraham Lincoln or Vallandigham, that the Union Legislature will give them the *power* to vote by next November, for they already have the right.

— Harrington, the Opposition candidate in New Hampshire for the Governorship, was so elated at the news of the rebel victory at Bull Run that he gave vent to his feelings in the following speech, if it is ever made, which may the God of nations make impossible.

— The Union League in the United States numbers more than 800,000 members, who are not only thoroughly organized for the support of the Union, but they are almost unanimously in favor of contesting Mr. Lincoln in the Presidential office four years longer, in order to finish up the rebellion, perfect the work of reconstruction, and hand over to his successor a Union without a rebel and without a slave.

INTERVIEW OF THE COLORED FREEDMEN OF LOUISIANA WITH THE PRESIDENT.—WASHINGTON, March 4.—Messrs. Bretonneau and Rondonanez, the delegation appointed by the colored freedmen of Louisiana to wait upon the President, presented their memorial last evening, asking that the colored people in Louisiana who were free before the rebellion may be permitted to vote in that State.

The President received the deputation cordially, and replied that an impression had gone abroad that the people were irresponsible in the treatment of the rebel States; but it was wrong. He must finish the big job on his hands of crushing the rebellion, and, in doing that, if it became necessary to prevent rebels from voting he should do so.

If the recognition of black men as having a right to vote was necessary to close the war he would not hesitate. He saw no reason why intelligent black men should not vote; but this was not a military question, and he would refer it to the Constitutional Convention in Louisiana.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—1st SESSION.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1864

SENATE.

The VICE PRESIDENT presented a report from the Secretary of War communicating, in answer to a Senate resolution of January 11, 1864, information relative to the arrest and imprisonment of so many of the 8th Minnesota Regiment by the Minnesota authorities. The report states that the soldiers were immediately discharged. The report was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FESSENDEN introduced a bill to grant lands to aid in the construction of a military road and telegraph line from Portland City to Dalles, in Oregon. Referred to Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. POMEROY offered the joint resolutions of the Kansas Legislature in favor of a donation of money and bond to aid in the construction of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. Referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroad.

The Revenue Bill Amendments.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the revenue bill, stated that after a full and free conference, they had been unable to agree. The disagreement, he said, seemed to be permanent, and an adherence on the part of the Senate to its amendments would cause the failure of the bill, and they would thus have to wait until a new bill was matured and passed by the House or appoint another committee of conference, from which nothing would result. The committee on the part of the senate, therefore, recommend that the Senate recede from its amendments. The bill then went back to the rate of six cents upon all domestic liquors manufactured after the first day next leaving any tax after that time to be provided for by future legislation. This proposition of the Senate would also leave in an additional tax of forty cents per gallon on spirits on hand. This was incongruous, and was only to be remedied by future legislation.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, the Senate receded from its amendment—yeas 22, nays 11, as follows:

YEAS.		
Anthony,	Harris,	Nesmith,
Chandler,	Hendricks,	Pomeroy,
Clark,	Howard,	Sherman,
Cowan,	Johnson,	Sumner,
Davis,	Lane (Indiana)	Van Winkle,
Dixon,	Lane (Kansas),	Wade,
Doolittle,	Morgan,	Wilkinson,
Foster,	Morrill,	Wilkey,
Harding,		
	NAYS.	
Brown,	Grimes,	Ramsey,
Sumner,	Harlan,	Saulsbury,
Chandler,	Howe,	Wilson,
Doolittle,	Powell,	

Mr. BROWN called up