The Press.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1864.

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

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

The Palmerston Administration.

It is true that we have had cause to complain of the policy of England towards this country during the first two years of the Rebellion, but as that policy has been altered during the last ten months, (as is made evident by the seizure of the Alexandra, the detention of the war-rams, and the general precautions taken to prevent the building and fitting out of any more pirates like the Alabama, the Florida, and the Georgia,) we may rest satisfied that the Palmerston Government, under all the circumstances, is as friendly to us as it fairly can be, with regard to its great political and personal purpose of continuing in office. We do not despair of finding Lords RUSSELL and PALMERSTON, when the day of adjustment shall arrive, frankly confessing that England ought to make fair pecuniary compensation for the damage done to American commerce by the depredations of the Alabama and other British war-vessels buccaneering under the Confederate flag. Lord RUSSELL has publicly declared, in the present session of Parliament, that he considered the piratical course of the Alabama as monstrous, and that he lamented that such a vessel, for such a purpose, should have been built in England. After this admission, we do not see how Lord RUSSELL *can* refuse to entertain Mr. SEWARD'S question of ultimate compensation. It will be put to him, no doubt, at the proper time and in the proper way, and with the result which we anticipate.

If there be cause to expect fair play from the Palmerston Government, there is reason to look for hostility from the Derby-Disraeli Opposition—nearly every leading man of which is openly antagonistic to the United States. Mr. DISRAELI himself is the chief, perhaps the only exception, and, as yet, has not joined in the outcry against the Unionists of this country. Lord DERBY, at the opening of the present session, and frequently since, has exhibited marked and vehement dislike to this country, and his myrmidons in the House of Commons have followed suit. The most eager of these is a certain gentleman, M. P. for the borough of Horsham, who is commonly known as "Alphabet Fitz-Gerald," inasmuch as he rejoices in the baptismal names of WILLIAM ROBERT SEYMOUR VESEY. He is an Oxford man by education, a lawyer by profession, and a politician by choice. In fifteen months, in 1858-9, this Mr. FITZ-GERALD held office, under Lord DERBY, as Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and this taste of official life has ever since made him, like THERSITES,

"Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue."

Expecting to return to office, should the present Government fall upon evil days, this Mr. FITZ-GERALD has taken the initiative in the Commons, this session, in attacking this country. On the 23d ult., he assailed the Ministry for seizing the Rebel iron-clad rams in LAIRD'S ship-building yard on the Mersey, and sturdily demanded that all papers and correspondence relating to such seizure should be produced and printed—a demand resisted by the Government, on the equitable ground that proceedings had been taken to test the legality of the seizure, and that, *pendente lite*—while the case was undecided—it would obviously be improper to publish the documents which would probably become evidence ere a decision was arrived at. The Commons sustained this view, and Mr. FITZ-GERALD'S motion was defeated by a majority of *twenty-five*.

Considering that the House of Commons consists of 658 members, it is evident that a majority in it of only 25 shows a pretty even division of party, and that a Government retained in office by so small a majority must be considered essentially feeble. Exactly so—if *all* the members voted. But, on Mr. FITZ-GERALD'S motion, only 331 members, or about one-half of the whole numerical strength of the House, voted at all. The small majority of 25, therefore, is no test of the strength or the weakness of the Palmerston Administration. If Mr. FITZ-GERALD'S motion had been regarded as a trial of strength, all parties would have brought up all their respective forces. Whenever a really important vote is to be taken, the Commons muster very strong. As a matter curious in itself, and bearing on the question before us, we shall mention a few instances.

In 1831, when the first Reform Bill was before the House of Commons, its second reading was carried by a majority of *one*, 608 members then voting. When this measure was in committee, an amendment damaging to it, proposed by General GASCOYNE, was carried by a majority of *eight* in a House of 590 members. The second reading of the second Reform Bill, in July, 1832, was carried by a majority of *a hundred and twenty-six*, as many as 598 members voting. The third Reform Bill was finally passed, in September, 1832, by a majority of *a hundred and sixteen*, in a House of 594 members.

Sir ROBERT PEEL first met Parliament as Prime Minister on the 9th February, 1834, and the Opposition at once proceeded to measure strength with him, on the election of Speaker of the House of Commons, the most dignified position a private gentleman can hold in England, carrying with it $30,000 per annum as salary, with a splendid official residence, and a pension of $20,000 for two lives, with his own elevation to the peerage, on retirement from office. Here 622 members voted, and the Opposition candidate was chosen by a majority of *ten*. An amendment against the Peel Government was carried, three weeks later, by a majority of *seven*, in a House of 611 members, and soon after the Ministry were driven out of office, by a majority of *twenty-seven*, in a House of 542.

The Melbourne Ministry, installed in office by this last vote, gradually lost their popularity. In April, 1839, this was proved by the votes upon a Government proposal to suspend the Constitution of Jamaica for five years, for, out of 568 members in the House, 294 voted with the Ministry, and 289 against them. This small majority of *five* caused the Cabinet to resign, but it resumed office, on Sir R. PEEL'S refusal to have the wives and daughters of his political opponents officially attached to the Queen's person. In May, 1841, the Ministry had a majority of *thirty-six* against them, in a House of 598, but, as they still clung to office, a vote of want of confidence was given against them by *one* majority—623 members participating. This led to a dissolution of Parliament, and, in August, 1841, an amendment on the Address was carried by a majority of *ninety-one*, in a House of 629 members.

PEEL became Premier, and carried his Corn Law Repeal Bill, in 1846, by a majority of *ninety-eight*, in a House of 556, and, the day after that measure became law, was himself driven from office by a majority of *seventy-three*, out of 511 members who voted.

The Derby-Disraeli party assumed the reins of government in February, 1852, in consequence of Lord JOHN RUSSELL having a majority of *eleven* against him, in a House of 361, on PALMERSTON'S amendment on the Militia Bill. In the following December, in a House of 591, the Derby Ministry were thrown out by a majority of *nineteen*. In January, 1855, Lord ABERDEEN'S Government was broken up, by a hostile majority of *one hundred and fifty-seven*, in 453 members, on ROEBUCK'S motion of inquiry into the condition of the British army before Sebastopol, and Lord PALMERSTON became Premier. Two years later, a motion by Mr. COBDEN, censuring the Government for the war in China, was carried by a majority of *sixteen* votes out of 510, and led to a dissolution of Parliament. In the following February, an adverse majority of *nineteen*, on the bill to amend the law of conspiracy, was given in a House of 449, and caused Lord PALMERSTON'S retirement, and the formation of Lord DERBY'S second administration. In March, 1859, when their Reform Bill was thrown out by *nineteen* votes out of 621, a new Parliament was called, the first vote of which left the Derby Ministry in a majority of *thirteen*, 633 members voting, being the fullest House that ever voted, upon any occasion. Of course this compelled the defeated Ministry to resign office.

These votes, which we have carefully collected from official documents, establish two points: first, that in the British Parliament there has scarcely even been an instance of the Government being broken up, except by a hostile vote in what may be considered a *full* house, and next, that the almost general practice, on such defeat being sustained by the Government, (except when given by a new Parliament,) is to appeal to the country by a general election. Now, the present House of Commons was elected, five years ago, during the ministerial rule of Lord DERBY, and, therefore, must contain many elements of hostility to Lord PALMERSTON, and it has now nearly reached its close, for though it nominally may continue for the full septennial period, it rarely is allowed to pass into its sixth year.

All circumstances fairly balanced, the conclusion must be—even beat the present British Government upon any great question, and, instead of accepting the defeat, and resigning office to the Derby-Disraeli party, PALMERSTON will dissolve Parliament, and try what a new election may do to renew his political strength. The present British Government is not unfriendly to us now, and its Tory successors would be hostile. We may safely calculate on the endurance of the Palmerston Ministry while its chief maintains health of mind and body, and his remarkable personal popularity, outside of his political position.

The Stratford Jubilee.

The time is approaching for the celebration of the Shakspeare Tercentenary. A very great amount of discussion has been going on over the water. A very great amount of nothing has been done, and the arrangements at present do not seem to promise any supernatural degree of energy. The British public acknowledge the interesting fact that the three-hundredth anniversary of SHAKESPEARE'S birth will be celebrated (*the Bulletin* to the contrary notwithstanding) on the 23d of April next. Ever so many years ago a jubilee was got up in honor of SHAKSPEARE, GARRICK being the mover. If GARRICK were living now he might, with some show of justice, recur to his Ode on the erecting of a Shakspearean monument, and summon up the hair-splitters and contentious in London, in the very same words he used, in a different sense, on that occasion, and exclaim:

"Ye guilty, lawless tribe,
Escaped from punishment by art or bribe,
At Shakspeare's bar appear;
No bribing and no shuffling there!"

And, viewing the principle of procrastination on which the rival committees appear to proceed, GARRICK might continue these self-quotations with

"Can British gratitude delay
To him, the glory of this earth,
To give the festive day,
The song, the statue, and devoted pile
To him, the first of poets, best of men!"

Mounted in a sort of pulpit, GARRICK was accustomed to deliver his Shakspearean Ode on the off-nights of the Shakspearean *mélange* he produced at Drury Lane. In the celebration at Stratford, GARRICK, in harmony of action, went far ahead of the Tercentenary London Committee. He centralized the influence. Wishing to do all honor to the poet of the world, he erected a spacious rotunda, after Ranelagh. Upon the 5th of September, 1769, the jubilee commenced. It lasted until the 9th, when it came to an untimely end in consequence of a storm of wind and rain, which persuaded the London audience to beat a hasty retreat. In the Garrick-Shakspeare celebration the spiritual and the temporal world were united. Public worship was attended one day and a magnificent ball the next. There may have been some twaddle about the Shakspeare Jubilee in GARRICK'S time, nearly one hundred years ago. There has been plenty of twaddle about the tercentenary, and whether a corresponding amount of work will be done before the 23d of April, the interval between this and then will prove. One noticeable feature in the celebration of 1769 is that an actor and author, GARRICK, took the lead, and that, so far as the lapse of time will enable us to judge, the affair progressed smoothly. In the tercentenary, both authors and actors take the lead, and are involved in an inextricable wrangle.

From all that we can understand of the affair, (which appears to be a literary Schleswig-Holstein,) the conflicting parties do not seem likely to settle it amicably at all. Mr. FECHTER is wanted to play "Hamlet," and Mr. PHELPS, who seems to entertain a rare opinion of his own dramatic genius, will by no means consent to this sacrilegious intrusion. Mr. PHELPS thinks he is as good a *Hamlet* as Mr. FECHTER any day. Mr. PHELPS has produced SHAKSPEARE'S plays ever so many thousand times, and therefore Mr. PHELPS is a great Shakspearean performer. This is truly a logical reason, and is so self-evident that we wonder PETERSON & BROS. do not arrogate to themselves the genius of Mr. DICKENS, on the ground of having published so many impressions of "Boz," or that TICKNOR & FIELDS do not set up as twin TENNYSONS, because of their blue-and-gold editions of that poet. The very charming example of modesty and retirement set by Mr. PHELPS has not been followed, only because it has been previously set by members of literary cliques.

In a subject so worthy of reverence as the Shakspeare Tercentenary, it is indeed humiliating that so much frivolous discussion should be indulged in. That, in an affair of this kind, some circumstances will occur of not the most pleasant nature, can readily be believed. As long as prejudice and malice, and ignorance and impudence prevail, men, distinguished and cultivated men, too (in but a few cases, let us hope), will war against social amenities. The history of the tercentenary affair, however, is a history of unpleasantnesses. There has been some talk of a tercentenary celebration in this country. Let us at least set an amicable, honorable example. There need be no bickerings and petty disputes. We have need only to remember the large heart of SHAKSPEARE to feel largely ourselves; to cease all the twaddle which minds of a low level glory in, and to sink self in honest reverence to the poet who deserves the reverence of all ages.

In connection with the subject we might remark upon the various representations of SHAKSPEARE which have agitated the minds of the Honorable Secs. who conduct the Stratford Jubilee. There are only three representations of SHAKESPEARE upon which any degree of solid reliance is to be placed. These are the Chandos portrait, the Stratford bust, and the Droeshout etching. The bust, the etching, and the portrait are all unlike each other, and *The Spectator*, the London weekly from which we glean some of our intelligence, thinks that neither ought to be implicitly accepted. The Stratford bust represents the poet as a jolly, round-faced, gossiping, Stratfordshire clerk, with a nose which, if it be true to *The Spectator's* definitive epithet of "squatty," must be somewhat Socratic of aspect, and an upper lip which traverses an extensive plane before completing its journey from the nose to the mouth, and which would not seem to argue much intelligence. The Chandos portrait seems to better deserve the studious attention of the Honorable Secs. Still, the eyes and brow are all that is admitted to be good about it. The mouth is pronounced as sensual and even treacherous, and the hair as black and wiry. The ears are embellished with rings, whose presence may perhaps be accounted for through the exigencies of a theatrical garb. The Droeshout etching is no less unsatisfactory. It is a poor engraving even for DROESHOUT; the eyes are at odds with each other, and the features are blank and mindless. If these criticisms be just, the Jansen portrait, which is not accepted as authentic, is more acceptable than any other to the prepossessions of SHAKSPEARE'S admirers. Its intellectuality and refinement exhibit the poet in a delightful phase, although they fall to depict those Protean powers which one is apt to look for in authentic likenesses. The Chandos portrait is the only one possessing a genuine pedigree. It was owned by JOSEPH TAYLOR, an actor, and one of SHAKSPEARE'S cotemporaries. The execution is attributed by some to BURBAGE, the actor, and by others to JOHN TAYLOR, the artist, whose mode it is said to resemble. In choosing from these three nearest approaches to certainty, some embarrassment may be felt and we do not feel that the consolation is permissible that it is better after all that we have no likeness of SHAKSPEARE in whose fidelity we can unhesitatingly confide. We need a truthful representation of SHAKSPEARE as much as we need one of any other poet. Mr. J. HAIN FRISWELL has brought out, in London, a history of the various representations of SHAKSPEARE, together with a collection of photographs from the originals. He complains modestly that he has been prevented using more than one-fourth of his materials. But if among all his materials, published or unpublished, one faithful likeness of SHAKSPEARE could be found, we are sure Mr. FRISWELL would receive the thanks of the Honorable Secs. who, on that, if on no other occasion, would sink self in enthusiasm for the poet and his year of Jubilee.

IN appointing Mr. CHARLES GILPIN to the post of United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Government has given this community an able, loyal, and upright officer. Several other gentlemen had been suggested for the position, and that Mr. GILPIN was chosen from a number of candidates so greatly distinguished for ability is a compliment that needs no addition.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1864.

The Conduct of the War.

Major General MEADE has suffered from a severe attack of pneumonia, and, yielding to the advice of his physicians, may not enter upon active duty for some time to come. As the army must immediately prepare for the new campaign, the statement has arisen that a new commander will be appointed.

Among the new arrivals here are Major Generals LEWIS WALLACE and THOMAS L. CRITTENDEN. Report assigns the former to the command of the Middle Department. Lieut. Gen. GRANT has gone back to the Southwest, armed with full authority. Troops are hurrying to the front.

General HALLECK, it is stated, has been assigned to special duty by Lieut. Gen. GRANT.

McClellan and Lee.

A report has been circulated that FRANCIS WALDRON, the Marylander who made the recent statement regarding General MCCLELLAN, at the battle of Antietam, is addicted to strong drink, and is very disordered in mind. He has been in the Maryland Legislature, but is a schoolmaster by profession. The letter which he recently published is very sensible and rational in tone, and its statements are originally given to the Government, is not like insanity. We must await further developments to understand the true facts of the case.

Admiral Wilkes.

The proceedings, thus far, in the case of Admiral WILKES, contain but few interesting matters. At the opening of the Court Martial, the accused plead objection to the appointment of members of the court by the Secretary of the NAVY, on the alleged grounds that the Secretary being the prosecutor, and having preferred the charges in his own name, and the subject-matter of the charges relating to matters and correspondence between the Secretary and the accused of a personal as well as public nature, the Secretary was thereby entirely debarred, by reason of supposed bias, from naming the members of the court, and that they should have been detailed by the President. The court overruled this objection. By his counsel, Hon. O. H. BROWNING, the Admiral pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges, and moved to quash the charges relating to his official conduct while in charge of the South Atlantic Squadron in 1862, on the ground that a court of inquiry had not been previously called, nor any explanation demanded of the accused in relation to those charges, as required by the naval regulations, to which the court again decided adversely.

Naval Captures.

The commander of the United States bark Roebuck, on blockade duty off Indian river inlet, writes to the Navy Department, under date of February 26th, to the effect that on the night previous he captured the British sloop Two Brothers, from Nassau, bound to Florida, laden with salt, liquor, and nails.

QUINCY A. COOPER, commanding the United States steamer Clyde, off Key West, writes that on the 26th ult. he sent two boats, with armed crews, up the Suwannee river, for the purpose of capturing a quantity of cotton.

On the morning of the 27th the boats returned, with an old scow laden with sixty-seven bales of cotton, which was put on board the Clyde and sent to Key West.

The Navy Department has also received information of the capture on the 6th instant of the steamer Mary Ann, by the Grand Gulf, off Wilmington, N. C. The Mary Ann is a new side-wheel steamer, built on the Clyde, and despatched from Glasgow in June, 1863. She is reported to be a fast vessel, like the Giraffe, alias Robert E. Lee, and to have made nineteen statute miles per hour on her trial trip. The Mary Ann has been running the blockade on the coast of Florida, sailing from Havana.

The Mails for the Northwest Territories.

The Post Office Department has just concluded contracts for mail service in Nebraska, Washington, Idaho, and other far-off Territories.

Among them is one privilege, that from the 1st of July next the mails shall be carried thrice a week from the intersection of the overland mail route at Salt Lake city, in Utah Territory, by Boisse city and Auburn to Walla Walla, in Washington Territory, in 25 days, in lieu of sending them via Placerville, California, to Portland, Oregon.

This saves 1,200 miles of travel and 10 days in the expedition of the mail for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Territories. This important mail service is let to BENJAMIN HOLLIDAY at $156,000 per annum.

The mails for the newly-discovered gold mines of Idaho and Boise city will be sent here three times a week from Salt Lake city, and the contract is awarded to Mr. E. S. ALWOOD, commencing at Fort Hall and intersecting the Walla-Walla route at this point.

The Chesapeake Bay Raid.

Reports from the Chesapeake are to the effect that the rebels are preparing another piratical expedition from some of the small inlets of the Virginia shore. The utmost vigilance is required of our gunboats, and the belief is entertained that the next party attempting the experiment cannot fail of falling into our hands.

Gen. Burnside.

General BURNSIDE has arrived here, and will make but a short stay, previous to starting on a tour to the Northwest.

A Distinguished Visitor.

Among other prominent visitors in Washington is Gov. SMITH, of Rhode Island.

The Return of Gen. Grant to Washington.

It is said in military quarters that Lieut. Gen. GRANT will return to Washington in the course of the next two weeks.

Removal of Indians from Kansas.

The Indian Bureau is taking preliminary measures for the return of the Indian refugees in Kansas—about 8,000 in number—to their own country, from which they were driven by secession hostilities; but the removal will not be immediately effected.

Military Dinner Party.

The sudden return of Lieutenant-General GRANT to the West prevented him from participating in the military dinner at the Executive Mansion last evening. Nearly all of the major and brigadier generals now here were present, including Generals HALLECK, MEADE, SICKLES, and MCDOUGH, together with the Secretary of War.

Negro Regiments.

Of one thousand seven hundred and eighteen applicants before the Negro Examining Board for commissions in negro regiments, seven hundred and eighty-four have been rejected.

The Blockade of Schleswig and Holstein.

The State Department has been officially notified of the blockade by the Danish Government of all the ports and inlets on the coast of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein from the 26th of February last, with the exception of Neustadt, and the islands of Als and Arroe, and such other places as are actually under the authority of his Majesty the King.

Another False Rumor—Our Relations with France.

There is no foundation for the statements in regard to the arrival of Mr. DAYTON'S son with important despatches from France in reference to prospects of recognizing the Southern Confederacy. No special bearer of despatches from Mr. DAYTON has arrived here, nor is there any ground for the absurd rumors built on his supposed fact.

Governor Hicks.

It became necessary, on Friday, to amputate the leg of Senator HICKS to save his life, as mortification was about to take place, resulting from a remarkable phase of erysipelas.

The Battle of Chickamauga.

The presence of Generals MCCOOK and CRITTENDEN here is in relation to official inquiry into their conduct at the battle of Chickamauga.

Dahlgren.

It is untrue, as stated, that Admiral DAHLGREN has received the remains of his son from Richmond.

Bragg.

The Atlanta *Register* says that "Mr. DAVIS could not devise any measure which is so largely calculated to weaken his own position in the public confidence, and derange the *status* of military affairs and opinions, than by creating General BRAGG the practical commander of our armies." It regards the appointment as "boundless for ill."

Returned Prisoners—Revised Story of Rebel Barbarity.

Colonel JOHN M. SANDERSON, who arrived at Annapolis with over forty officers and six hundred men from Richmond, emphatically denies the exaggerated stories of the cruelties of the rebels hitherto published by returned prisoners. He discredits the report that one hundred kegs of powder were laid to blow up the Libby, but other officers and soldiers assert the contrary, on authority of the rebel officials themselves and an article in the Richmond *Enquirer*, which states that the commandants of the prisons had taken *efficacious* measures to prevent the chance of capture and escape. The blood-thirsty editorials in the Richmond papers are generally corroborative of this theory. Our prisoners are treated cruelly enough, but there is no need to represent matters worse than they are. "DICK TURNER," brother of the commandant of the Libby, and not MAT. THOMAS P. TURNER, is the real tyrant of Libby, but neither are quite so bad as pictured, and the commandant of Belle Island, Lieut. BOSSIEUX, is praised for some high qualities. On the contrary, some of the prison subordinates are as low and vindictive as the jailors of the French revolution. The story of mule meat rations is altogether untrue.

The following Pennsylvanians are among the returned:

J. Ferris, Co. E, 7th Pennsylvania; C. H. Robr, F, 54th; J. Williams, E, 118th; J. Kern, H, 143d; O. Dorelly, K, 11th; W. Milligan, C, 72d; S. Bowden, A, 12th; W. Blane, I, 20th; J. Eston, K, 73d; H. Steel, H, 23d; D. Fairbrother, C, 133d; A. Jackson, G, 145th; C. K. Demars, F, 26th; Jno. Beers, D, 11th; W. Michels, 23; C. Schrunck, D, 3d; H. Cobel, I, 20th; J. Kirg, F, 20th; C. Wilson, H, 20th; G. W. Hiller, F, 20th; J. Savage, G, 99th; D. Wilson, G, 6th.

Lieut. Gen. Grant's Reply to the Invitation to Visit New York City.

Lieut. Gen. GRANT, before he left, on Friday, for the West, answered the letter written on behalf of a large number of the loyal citizens of New York, who desire to evince their appreciation of the signal services he has rendered to the country in a brilliant series of successes in arms, and respectfully soliciting the favor of his presence as their guest at some period during his stay in the East. This letter was signed by fifty of the most prominent citizens of New York, and in reply to it General GRANT says:

"While highly appreciating the kind order of the hospitalities of the city, I will not be able to accept of them. My duties," he adds, "call me immediately to the West, for which I start by the most expeditious route this evening. For that part of your letter complimentary to myself I accept my thanks, and receive my assurance that all in my power will be done, that your expectations shall be realized. The men and money you patriotically offer for the prosecution of the war are all that will be required to insure its early termination, in the re-establishment of the whole Union, stronger than it has ever been."

United States Supreme Court.

The United States Supreme Court will during the coming week hear the following-named cases:

No. 164. The United States, appellants, vs. JOSE DE JESUS VALLEJO; from the District Court of California.

No. 165. JAMES WALLINGFORD & Co., appellants, vs. LIVINGSTON, COPELAND, & Co.; from the U. S. Circuit Court of Western Pennsylvania.

No. 168. The United States, appellants, vs. G. L. FOLSOM'S executors; from the District Court of Northern California.

No. 169. SANTIAGO BRIGUANDILLO et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. MATILDA C. GRAY et al; from the Circuit Court of Northern California.

The Chesapeake Case.

Secretary SEWARD'S communication to the English Government on the Chesapeake piracy, leaves that Government nothing to complain of. The following candid statement deserves remembering:

"The ship was designed in order to assure her Majesty's Government, in the spirit of a former communication of the undersigned to his Lordship, relating to the capture of the Chesapeake in British waters, that the President disapproves the unlawful act, even of force, power, and authority which was exercised by the officers of the Ella and Annie, in British waters, on the mentioned, as a violation of the rights of the law of nations, and of the friendly relations existing between the two countries, no greatly to the satisfaction of the United States, and to the advantage of both nations. The President has reason to believe that the proceedings thus disapproved were taken by the officers concerned in the full confidence of a patriotic and commendable zeal to bring to deserved punishment outlaws who had offended against the peace and dignity of both countries.

"The President, while he recognizes this circumstance as modifying the character of the transaction and so lessening the offence to be atoned, nevertheless freely concedes that it does not constitute a justification for the violation of the sovereignty of Great Britain, which those officers have committed. He has, therefore, directed that they shall be censured for this violation, and he will take such other means as may be necessary to prevent a recurrence of the grievance complained of. Fully determined to make all the amends that are due to Great Britain in the premises, the undersigned will await the disposition of her Majesty's Government upon the case as it has now been submitted."

The Election in Arkansas.

The following letter of the President is published in the *Unconditional Union* of Arkansas:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1864.

To William Fishback:

When I fixed a plan for an election in Arkansas, I did it in ignorance that your convention was at the same time framing a State constitution. I have been constantly trying to yield my plan to theirs. I have sent two letters to Gen. Steele, and three or four despatches to you and others, saying that he (Gen. Steele) must master, but that it will probably be best for him to keep the convention on its own plan. Some single mind must be master, else there will be no master, and nothing will be done. Steele, commanding the military and being on the ground, is the best man to be that master. Even now citizens cannot vote in charge of rebels, and a time to a later day than either fixed by the convention or me. This discord must be silenced.

A. LINCOLN.

Mr. Chase and the Presidency.

Another letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, antecedent to his letter of withdrawal, is published as follows:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR: Your kind note is just received. As it has been so long on the way, I have telegraphed you that I will reply by mail.

At that time I was informed that the public interests would be promoted by my election to the Chief Magistracy, a committee, composed of Senators, Representatives, and citizens, has been organized here to adopt measures to promote that object. This committee, through a sub-committee, has conferred with me, and I have explained to them the objections which seem to me to exist against any use of my name in that connection. They have taken these objections into consideration, and assure me that they think I ought not to refuse its use, and I have consented to their wishes, assuring them, however, that whenever any consideration by them, or by my friends of our cause, should be satisfied to weight, should indicate the expediency of any other course, no considerations of personal delicacy toward me should be allowed to prevent its being taken.

If I know my own heart, I desire nothing so much as the suppression of the rebellion and the re-establishment of union, order, and prosperity on sure and safe foundations, and I should despise myself if I felt capable of allowing any personal objection to influence me to any action which would effect by one jot or tittle injuriously the accomplishment of those objects; and it is a source of real gratification to believe that those who desire it on public grounds alone, and will not hesitate to act in any matter which may concern me upon such grounds, and such grounds only.

Of course, under these circumstances, I desire the support of Ohio. If, however, it shall be the pleasure of a majority of our friends in Ohio to indicate a preference for another, I shall accept their action with that acquiescence which is due from me to the friends who have trusted and honored me beyond any claim of merit of mine.

Very truly, your friend, S. P. CHASE.

Hon. JAMES C. HALL, Columbus, Ohio.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Retaliation for the Killing of Dahlgren.

REBEL CAVALRY ROUTED, AND STORES DESTROYED.

FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 12.—General Butler sent a portion of Kilpatrick's cavalry (Colonel S. Onderdonk and Spears' cavalry) to King and Queens Court House, to deal with the citizens claiming to be "non-combatants," who ambushed Colonel Dahlgren.

General Kilpatrick sent forward Col. Onderdonk's command. The latter reports that the 5th and 9th Virginia Cavalry, with the citizens of that place, twelve hundred in all, were driven from camp near Carollin's store. The camp was taken, and a number killed. Twenty prisoners were captured. The enemy were also driven from the Court House, and a large amount of grain, mills, and storehouses were burned.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 11.—The steamer New York, Captain Chisholm, arrived here last evening from Point Lookout, with 600 privates and 45 officers, who have been released from the rebel prisons.

Three of the prisoners are reported to-day as having the small-pox, and they were taken ashore to the hospital.

The New York sailed for City Point this afternoon. The rebel General Fitz Hugh Lee was sent up on the flag of truce to be exchanged.

The steamer Warrior has arrived here from New York. The fog is so dense that the Norfolk boat has not made her usual trips to-day.

Admiral Dahlgren is still at Fortress Monroe.

PORT ROYAL.

NEW YORK, March 13.—The U. S. steam transport Fulton, from Port Royal, with dates to 2 P. M. on the 10th, arrived to-night. Among her passengers is Brig. Gen. J. W. Turner, bearer of official despatches to the War Department.

The steamer Daniel Webster arrived at Port Royal on the 10th, with a regiment on board.

The quartermaster steamboat Harriet Wead, previously reported lost in the St. Johns river, arrived at Port Royal without injury.

Captain Ketchum, of the Island City, captured two large torpedoes, near the mouth of the St. Johns river; evidently intended for the destruction of our blockading squadron.

Affairs at Jacksonville remain quiet and unchanged.

The Fulton brings home the 56th New York Volunteers.

Lieutenant J. J. King, of the 6th Connecticut, has been announced as assistant provost marshal at Port Royal.

The small-pox is very prevalent at Port Royal and Beaufort, but is mostly confined to the colored troops.

KENTUCKY.

Governor Bramlette vs. The President.

LOUISVILLE, March 13.—General Burbridge has ordered the arrest of Col. Frank Wolford for disloyal sentiments, uttered in a speech made at a sword presentation to him at Lexington, on Thursday last.

Brig.-General Hugh Ewing, brother-in-law of Major General Sherman, has been ordered to this city, probably to supersede General Burbridge in command of the Federal forces in Kentucky.

Officers who left Chattanooga day before yesterday report all quiet there and at Knoxville.

A despatch from Frankfort, Ky., says it is understood that Governor Bramlette has addressed an earnest remonstrance to the President, respecting the enlistment and enrolment of slaves in Kentucky, and has notified him that he, the Governor, will execute the laws of Kentucky against all who attempt to take slaves from their owners without their consent. He claims that Kentucky has furnished more than 50,000 of her sons to defend the Government, and is willing to furnish still more, and all that is allotted to her, and that she has proven her loyalty, and must be treated accordingly, and her laws and constitutional privileges must be respected.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Loss of the U. S. Steamer Peterhoff.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 12.—The steamer Spaulding, from Beaufort, N. C., on the 10th, arrived here to-day. She brings the officers of the Peterhoff, sunk off Wilmington, by a collision with the steamer Monticello, on Sunday last. She also brings the officers of the blockade-runner Don, captured March 4th by the steamer Picquot; the officers of the blockade-runner Scotia, and three of her passengers, and Thos. Wallace, of the captured steamer Mary Anne. All the officers of the blockade runners were turned over to the provost marshal.

Newbern was quiet when the Spaulding left.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

GEN. SHERMAN ARRIVED AT NEW ORLEANS.

THE INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR HAHN.

Death of the Wife of Gen. Beauregard.

NEW YORK, March 13.—The steamship Morning Star, from New Orleans on the 6th inst., via Havana on the 9th, has arrived.

The Creole arrived at New Orleans on the 3d, the Havana on the 5th, and the George Washington was passed going up the river.

The Morning Star brings 1,200 bales of cotton.

A part of General Lee's cavalry has left New Orleans for the Red river.

Gen. Sherman arrived at New Orleans on the 3d, on the gunboat Diana. His late expedition is called by himself a "big raid," in the course of which he reached a point ten miles east of Meridian without any opposition worthy of the name, and returned with 1,100 mules, 4,000 contrabands, 600 prisoners, and a large amount of supplies.

Transports are rapidly bringing troops back from Texas. Governor Michael Hahn was inaugurated on the 4th inst. with imposing ceremonies, at New Orleans. General Banks delivered an address, in which he predicted the reduction of the insurrection to three or four States on the Atlantic coast by this season's campaign. He said: "Let us remember that the re-inauguration we celebrate has the basis of a century, for we have achieved deeds of a century in the past two years, and, so long as the people are faithful and true to themselves, so long will stand Louisiana, the first returning State, in which every man is a free man."

Governor Hahn's inaugural address regards slavery as the cause of the present unholy attempt to break up the Government, and its universal and immediate extinction as a public and private blessing. "From every light before me," he says, "I am constrained to believe that the cause of rebellion is *in extremis*, and it seems to me not extravagant to look upon this year as the final one of the most senseless, causeless, and most murderous rebellion that ever occurred in a civilized nation. The loyal men of Louisiana have suffered much and deeply, but, with the blessings of God upon our exertions, all will be soon right again, and peace, happiness, and prosperity will smile upon our thresholds as of old."

A grand ball at night concluded the galeties of the occasion. All the people were in the streets during the day, and there was unquestionably a sincere feeling of satisfaction shown than on many of the more boisterous days of the Secession madness of 1861.

Cotton has slightly improved, and commanded 73@74c. for middling. Exchange on New York firm at 1¼@2c. discount for sight. Gold 63@65c.

General Beauregard's wife died on the 2d instant. The funeral, on the 4th, was the largest ever seen in New Orleans. Over 6,000 persons attended it, and the cortège was over a mile in length. Gen. Banks kindly extended to the family the use of the steamer Nebraska to convey the remains a few miles up the river, to her father's plantation. The body was followed to the levee by thousands of ladies, who wished to take a last farewell of one who was loved and esteemed by all.

The Natchez *Courier*, of the 4th, reports heavy firing on the Ouachita river, near Harrisonburg, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A magnificent service of silver has been presented to Gen. Dwight by his friends in New Orleans.

The prize steamer W. B. Gillmore had arrived at New Orleans from the White river. The prize schooner Henry Gilchrist, captured off Galveston, had also arrived.

Gen. Butterfield was in New Orleans on the 2d, and was to return to Vicksburg on the following day.

The papers contain no news from Admiral Farragut.

THE ENEMY CONCENTRATING IN WEST LOUISIANA.

ST. LOUIS, March 12.—Advices from Natchez, Miss., to the 2d instant, say that reliable information has been received that a force of 15,000 rebel force in West Louisiana was between five and six thousand men, under command of General Dick Taylor, Colonel Polignac, and Colonel Harrison.

The enemy were fortifying Fort Dernalee, Black River, and Trinity, on the Ouachita. There was only a provost guard at Shreveport. Three rams were building below that point.

The rebel gunboat Webb recently showed herself at the mouth of Red river. We have quite a fleet of iron clads and rams collecting here.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

APPARENT MOVEMENT OF LONGSTREET INTO NORTH CAROLINA.

THE REINFORCEMENT OF JOHNSTON.

CINCINNATI, March 12.—A despatch from Chattanooga, dated the 11th, says that the exact force of the enemy at Dalton, on Sunday, was six divisions. It is believed that Longstreet has reinforced Johnston.

The rebels have, at three times, threatened to attack our position at Nickajack Gap, but they retired without a fight.

Our army is rapidly filling up with recruits.

LOUISVILLE, March 12.—The *Democrat* has information from an officer who has just arrived from Knoxville, which place he left on the 6th, that Longstreet had sent his wagon train to Richmond, and was massing his entire force, and that was the general impression at Knoxville was that Longstreet had been ordered to North Carolina.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.

CINCINNATI, March 12.—Some additional particulars in reference to General Sherman's expedition have been received. This report is to the effect that his entire loss will not reach three hundred and fifty men. Few, even of that number, were killed or wounded.

GENERAL GRANT.

BALTIMORE, March 12.—General Grant came as passenger on the train from Washington in early this morning. He changed cars at the Relay House, and proceeded west on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

THE LATE EXPEDITION.

CAIRO, March 10.—The following clear account of the march to Meridian is received from an officer:

The expedition left Vicksburg on the 30th of January. The next day it crossed the Big Black river, as before stated, with Wirt Adams' cavalry drawn up in line of battle. Col. Potts' brigade advanced, and were strongly resisted by the enemy, who began to retreat after a fight of an hour and a half. Our troops pushed on to Decatur, following them five miles, and by night had driven them beyond Jackson. They drove a squad of rebel cavalry out of Jackson and occupied it. The rebels standing in good condition, and not burned, as has been reported. In the night some soldiers burned down a number of bonnets. The next morning the pontoon bridge was thrown across Pearl river, and the army marched to Brandon, where they skirmished with rebel cavalry and drove them out.

On reaching Morton they encountered a division of Loring's and French's. They had been throwing up defences and evidently intended to fight, but as our forces came up slowly, they retreated without firing a gun.

On the 14th General Hulburt's command entered Meridian, the remainder of the expedition following the ensuing day, having destroyed the town of Hillsboro', in Scott county, on the way. In Meridian we encountered some rebel cavalry and drove them out, after some skirmishing, and then took possession of the town and held it four days. At that time four days were sent out which destroyed fully 100 miles of road on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and on the railroad leading to Selma. This includes over 30,000 feet of bridges and a large amount of rolling stock was also destroyed. We found that the rebels themselves had destroyed much rolling stock to prev