The Press.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

☞ 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.

French and English Politics.

The British Parliament commenced its annual session on the 7th inst., and the French Legislative body is to reassemble this day. NAPOLEON was to open the business, as usual, in person, with all the "pomp, pride, and circumstance" which the Parisians so much admire. What a theatrical manager he would have made! his *mise en scene* would have been astonishing! His speech, it is already known, will be pacific, and M. FOULD, his Minister of Finance, is prepared to propose certain reductions in the national expenditure, among which will be a diminished charge for the army. Still, though a military establishment of 400,000 men is one-third less than a standing army of 600,000 men, it is a large number to maintain in "these piping times of peace." In the outlay for naval purposes, no reduction is to be looked for, because NAPOLEON's avowed purpose is to place France upon an equality, at least, with England—once Queen of the Seas. Already, indeed, the iron-clads of France are equal in number and superior in force to those of England. We may add that, reports from rebeldom notwithstanding, it is impossible to believe that NAPOLEON's policy towards the United States will be different in 1865 to what it has been since our war was begun. The *show* of neutrality, at least, will be preserved, but it is impossible that NAPOLEON, at the head of one of the least responsible autocracies the world ever saw, possibly *can* have any sympathy with the free republican institutions of this country.

Queen VICTORIA was not to open her Parliament in person. The Ministerial document, commonly known as "The Queen's Speech"—though it is *read*, and not spoken, and though her Majesty never, by any chance, writes a single line of it—was read, no doubt, by the Chancellor. Lord WESTBURY, a genial, and at times what might be called a jolly old gentleman. It is known already that the Speech, which dimly shadows forth the policy of the Queen's responsible advisers, will be eminently pacific, and it may be expected, from speeches made and letters written by various members of the Administration during the recess, that the policy of neutrality will be very positively re-affirmed, coupled, it may be, with the stereotyped regret at the continuance of the war in this country.

Mr. GLADSTONE ought to be in good spirits, for, though he has reduced the taxes every year since he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, he can report that the revenue exceeds the expenditure. In 1865 he will have a surplus of about $15,000,000, and is supposed to entertain the idea of still further reducing such fiscal burthens as fall heaviest upon the mass of the population. This he will do in preference to reducing the Income Tax, an impost which, if levied upon just principles, is one of the fairest that can be imposed. Its great defect in England, as with us, is that it is levied without any distinction between *incoms* and *property*—between uncertain and certain means of living. Could Mr. GLADSTONE have his own way, he would cheerfully have the naval and military expenditure reduced to that of 1850, and England would save $50,000,000 per annum by that reduction. But England's excellent ally and nearest neighbor, NAPOLEON, is supposed to sleep with one eye open, watching for the unprepared moment when he can pounce upon England with a terrible invading army and avenge the defeat of Waterloo and the personal insults to the Rodolph of his line at St. Helena. It seems absurd, to a degree, to bestow serious consideration upon such an almost impossible contingency, but British statesmen seem to believe in it, and the British people have to pay largely for the credulity and the fears of their rulers. Besides, it gives an excuse for maintaining naval and military defences at vast cost, and of thereby providing for the cadets of the high aristocratic families. After all, a reduction of $15,000,000 in the national expenditures is what Mr. GLADSTONE, as a financier, may well be proud of.

Up to this time, the Palmerston Government have not indicated what their public policy is to be during the Session which commenced a week ago. Most probably, Lord PALMERSTON has no determined policy for 1865, but would be remarkably well pleased if Parliament were to confine its action to passing Mr. GLADSTONE's financial measures and voting the money-bills, without parley or delay. But that terrible JOHN BRIGHT, whose republicanism has obtained him the distinction of Queen VICTORIA's personal antipathy, threatens to disturb the Palmerstonian equanimity by commencing a grave agitation for Parliamentary Reform, which would give the right of voting to *five* millions instead of to the *one* million of electors as at present. He may not take much by his motion, but he can annoy and very effectually damage the Queen's Ministry.

The present Parliament assembled in June, 1859. The Derby-Ministry had proposed Parliamentary Reform, were defeated by the Opposition, and had to resign, Lord PALMERSTON and his friends, who succeeded them, publicly promising a Reform Bill. This promise has not been fulfilled to this day, though the measure has become more and more necessary, year after year. Let us see what the Ministerial strength is, in the House of Commons, at this moment. In 1859, the Tory Administration was overthrown by a majority of 13—the votes being 323 to 310. In 1861, the Tories in the House of Commons numbered 303, the Peelites 14, the Whigs 240, and the Radicals 94. This gave the Whigs a decided majority. In 1862, there were 307 Conservatives, 12 Peelites, 238 Whigs, and 96 Radicals. In 1863, the numbers were 312 Conservatives, 11 Peelites, 234 Whigs, and 95 Radicals. In 1864, 313 Conservatives, 13 Peelites, 234 Whigs, and 96 Radicals. In 1865, the count runs thus: Conservatives 317, Peelites 13, Whigs 231, and Radicals 95. The result is that, since the present Parliament first met, the Conservatives have gained 30 and lost 12, making a net gain of 18, while the number of the Whigs has had a decline of 9, and the Radicals have remained stationary. Therefore, were a division to take place upon an important question, the Palmerston Administration *must* be defeated. We should be sorry if this defeat were to occur, for the new Derby Ministry would be far less fair and friendly to the United States than Lord PALMERSTON and his colleagues have latterly been.

A rumor has crept into the English papers that a demand is to be made, during the present Session, for an increase of $150,000 per annum to the yearly allowance of $500,000 now paid for the support of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and that this augmentation will be justified on the ground of the expense thrown upon the Prince and his wife by being obliged to hold Levees and Drawing-rooms, and give dinners, balls, and concerts, during the prolonged withdrawal of Queen VICTORIA from social life in the metropolis. No doubt Mr. BRIGHT will oppose this money-grant, with his accustomed uncourtier-like and honest bluntness. Considering that, including her revenue from the Duchy of Lancaster, Queen VICTORIA's allowance is $2,000,000 a year, of which she does not now spend one-half, it may be suggested that the expense which her son and daughter-in-law are at, in performing part of *her* duty, ought to be paid out of her own income, and not thrown upon the people. The immense sum voted to the Queen, by Parliament, out of which to support the dignity and defray the expenses of her station, was not intended to have money hoarded out of it. The late Prince ALBERT, whose annual allowance of $150,000 was about doubled by the income of the many offices heaped upon him, saved $5,000,000 in the twenty-two years of his married life, and one miser is surely sufficient in one family. Mr. BRIGHT, should the increased grant to the Prince of Wales be proposed, will have something to say, no doubt, upon this subject. If pressed, it cannot fail to make Queen VICTORIA and her son extremely unpopular.

THE LEDGER looks well in its new type, better, we think, than it ever did. Its proprietor is keeping faithfully the promises he made to the public.

GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

ALL QUIET AT THE FRONT.

NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF A BATTLE.

THE REBEL POSITION NOT MATERIALLY CHANGED.

FALSE RUMORS—AN EXECUTION.

ANTICIPATED ATTACK ON OUR CENTRE.

The Rebels Reported to be Massing around Petersburg.

—Mr. C. Edmunds.—

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 11, 1865.

To-day we have the interesting news from the front that all is quiet. Affairs remain in statu quo. We hold every inch of ground gained in the late advance, and cannot be dislodged. The passage of Hatcher's Run was a great victory for us. This stream, though not wide, was deep, and if the enemy had fortified its banks, we could only have effected a passage with great loss of life and hard fighting. That they did not do so can only be attributed to the circumstance that they did not expect us to advance at this inclement season of the year. As it was, our operations were seriously retarded by the mud. Still, we accomplished everything that was anticipated at the first, and more than many of us anticipated. Having gone so far, we shall probably rest on our laurels a little while, till the sun shines brightly out and changes all the quagmires into clouds of dust. There seems to be no immediate prospect of a battle. The rebels can force us to an engagement whenever they feel so inclined, but they don't seem to so incline at present. They cannot drive us from our position on the left. According to past analogy, they would naturally endeavor to mass and pierce our centre, for our line is of immense length. The demonstration against our works opposite Meade Station, on Wednesday, might be considered as a preliminary reconnaissance having such an object in view; but wherever they come they will find us strong enough to meet them. We hold this important advantage: in lengthening our line we have not been compelled to weaken it materially. There has been no marked change in the disposition of the rebel army. They have withdrawn no troops from their left wing to strengthen their right, which indicates that Richmond will not be imperilled to secure Petersburg from danger. And, in fact, there is not the slightest military reason why it should, while there are a thousand political reasons which will make the enemy tenacious of their capital to the last.

To-day there have been reports afloat that the 5th Corps was about to return to its old camp, but the report has neither sense nor truth in it.

Yesterday at noon a private of the 32d Maine Regiment was executed by shooting, for the usual crime, desertion. The ceremony took place at Hancock Station; and, according to military etiquette, there was a grand display and countermarching of regiments, with gaily-fluttering banners, upon the occasion. The wretched man had deserted from his regiment some six months ago, preferring to abandon the joys and sorrows of a soldier's life for the sake of burning "partisan revenge" For six months he has kept himself out of our lines, living in caves and deserted bomb-proofs, and foraging for sustenance upon the hen roosts and corn-cribs of adjacent rebel farms. But the keen breath of winter drove him forth from his hiding-place. He came back a few weeks ago and gave himself into the hands of justice. His execution was identical in all respects [with others that have taken place and been described in these despatches, and a detailed account would have no interest for your readers.

ANTICIPATED ATTACK ON OUR CENTER—THE REBELS REPORTED TO BE MASSING AROUND PETERSBURG.

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 12, 1865.

From the reports of deserters, and from other sources of information equally reliable, it would seem that General Lee is contemplating an attack on our centre, and is making, or has made, the necessary dispositions for such a movement. I wrote you yesterday that if the enemy ventured any offensive movement at all, it would be most likely directed against the centre of our lines. The temptation to make the effort is very great, for, with our lines as at present so extended, the centre would naturally seem to be the weakest point, and if the enemy could gain any advantage here he might claim a decisive victory. We know from experience that it is a favorite species of tactics with Lee to mass upon our centre, and endeavor to pierce it. In the present campaign this seems to be the only plan of operations remaining to the rebel commander-in-chief. The Army of the Potomac no longer be flanked, and if it is to be dislodged it can only be by cutting it in two.

Accordingly, Lee is reported to be massing all his available troops around Petersburg, with the view of making an attack. The scream of the locomotive-whistles on the Southside road can be distinctly heard in our camps, and they have made the night unusually hideous of late. There is evidently something astir. It is accepted here as a certainty that the enemy will speedily attack us, and, likely enough, the point of attack may be somewhere in the vicinity of Meade's Station, where the late feigned assault was made.

Such an enterprise may seem rather bold and hazardous for the rebel army, but Lee is in a critical position, and must make some desperate effort before long, unless he designs to evacuate Petersburg. Whatever his designs, he will discover that they have been anticipated and prepared for.

GEN. LEE'S NEW COMMAND.

DESERTERS' STATEMENTS OF THE REBEL LOSSES.

FIFTEEN HUNDRED WOUNDED REPORTED FROZEN TO DEATH.

—Mr. J. C. Warner.—

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMY CORPS,
February 12, 1865.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 10th contains the following in relation to the new command of General Lee:

"General orders (No. 8) have been issued from the adjutant General's office. The following is an extract:

"I. General Robert E. Lee having been duly appointed commander-in-chief of the army of the Confederate States, will assume the duties thereof, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

"III. General Order No. 22, of 1864, is hereby revoked."

The arrivals of deserters within our lines have been in nowise diminished, but have rather been increased by the recent developments of war and peace. A rebel lieutenant who came into our lines on Friday night, with twenty-three of his men, reports that the rebel loss in Monday's fight amounted to three thousand, and that fifteen hundred of their wounded men, who were left on the field, froze to death during Monday night. Of course, these figures largely exceed the truth, especially in regard to the number frozen to death, but it is probable that many met their death in this manner.

THE CASE OF THE RAIDERS.

TESTIMONY OF GEO. N. SANDERS.

ARRIVAL OF A MESSENGER FROM RICHMOND.

MONTREAL, Feb. 14.—In the case of the St. Albans raiders, to-day, witnesses for the defence deposed as to the genuineness of the prisoners' commissions. George N. Sanders testified that an agent claiming ambassadorial powers, civil as well as military, Mr. Clay, informed him that he created the raid and promised to assume the responsibility. The witnesses knew nothing of the St. Albans or other raids until after they occurred.

The court adjourned until to-morrow. Cameron, the messenger from Richmond, formerly Morgan's chaplain, arrived this afternoon with documents proving the belligerency of the raiders. He left Richmond on the 4th inst, and was delayed by ice in the Potomac. Two others in his company were drowned.

FORTRESS MONROE.

NOTHING NEW FROM TERRY—EXCHANGE OF REBEL PRISONERS—ARRIVAL OF GRANT AT CITY POINT.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 11.—The steamship Atlantic arrived this morning with mails and passengers from Fort Fisher. There is no news to communicate from General Terry's forces. Captain Arnsworth is still at Fort Fisher, superintending the building of wharves for the landing of stores for our troops.

The flag-of-truce steamer New York, in charge of Colonel Mulford, left here this afternoon for Varuna with 1,100 rebel prisoners for exchange. Among them are quite a number of officers. She also carried about two tons of private stores for our Union soldiers in the rebel prisons, which have been here some time waiting an opportunity to be sent to Richmond.

The steamer Cahawba has arrived from Beaufort, N. C., and sailed this afternoon for New York.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 12.—The steamer Alhambra arrived this morning from Beaufort, N. C., with the mails. The steamer Escort sailed this afternoon for Beaufort, taking freight, mails, and passengers.

Lieutenant General Grant arrived this afternoon on the steamer Mary Brown, from Baltimore, and proceeded to City Point.

KENTUCKY.

A GANG OF GUERILLAS ROUTED.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 14.—There was a fight on Saturday night, in Garrison county, between the Home Guards, under Capt. Bates, and a gang of guerillas, said to be a part of Lyon's command. The latter were routed, with the loss of six killed. Bates lost one killed, and one man wounded.

SHERMAN'S ADVANCE.

DESTRUCTION OF THE RAILROADS TO BRANCHVILLE.

Important Progress—Part of our Army near Columbia.

Admiral Porter Acting in Concert—Successful Expeditions on the South Carolina Coast Line.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Richmond papers of Monday, the 13th inst., announce the tapping of the railroad by Sherman's forces, north of Branchville, and between that place and Kingsville, thus destroying every road centring at Branchville.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—It is stated that the substance of a despatch from Lieut. Gen. Grant to the Government, received to-day, is that the Richmond papers of Monday (February 13th) say that Sherman has crossed the Edisto, which was the line held by the rebel General Hardee in defending Branchville. According to the same rebel authority, a portion of Sherman's forces are two thirds of the way from the Edisto to Columbia, an important point, forming the junction of the Charlotte and South Carolina and Greenville and Columbia railroads, connecting with the railroads to Richmond.

Admiral Porter has forwarded to the Navy Department the following:

U. S. STEAMER MONTICELLO,
OFF WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 7th, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I entered Little river, S. C., on the night of the 4th inst., and proceeding about eight miles, with four boats and fifty men, landed in a small town of All Saints' parish, on Little river. The town was placed under guard without the knowledge of its inhabitants, and I succeeded in capturing some soldiers and arms. I held the place all the next day, and discovered and destroyed about $15,000 worth of cotton. I also captured two flats at the mouth of the harbor, containing twenty-three bales of cotton, which had some time before been removed from a blockade-runner to lighten her. This we brought off, together with some negroes. The South Carolina planters, and all the men I met, professed to be willing to come back under the old Government, and most of them seemed to be loyal men, and only awaiting emancipation from military rule.

On the 6th inst. I sent two boats crews ashore in Charlotte inlet, under command of Acting Master C. A. Pettit. He surprised and routed a rebel force detailed to protect rice plantations, capturing six soldiers with their arms and equipments, and destroying the stores that had been gathered for the enemy at Flanderson. The soldiers lately stationed at Charlotte had been withdrawn to assist in the defence of Wilmington. A hundred vessels are still at Lockwood's Folly. The woods are full of deserters.

Very Respectfully, your obt't servt.,
W. P. CUSHING, Lieut. Commanding.

D. D. PORTER, Rear Admiral, Commanding N. A. B. Squadron Cape Fear River, N. C.

THE SOUTH.

THE QUESTION OF ARMING NEGROES.

A TEST VOTE IN THE REBEL HOUSE.

The Matter Referred to a Committee.

NEWS FROM RICHMOND TO YESTERDAY.

Premonitory Symptoms of the Evacuation of Charleston.

A LARGE UNION FORCE LANDED IN NORTH CAROLINA.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The Richmond papers of to-day contain nothing definite in regard to Sherman's progress through South Carolina.

They give up Branchville as captured, and consider the evacuation of Charleston probable. The *Dispatch* has a telegram from Wilmington that a large Yankee force had landed at Smithfield, and that they brought locomotives with them.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The Richmond papers of Feb. 11th contain the following: In the House of Representatives, Feb. 10th, Mr. Barksdale offered a resolution that the President be authorized to ask and accept from the owners of slaves the services of such a number of able-bodied negro men as he may deem expedient during the war, to perform military duty in whatever capacity the General-in-Chief may direct. The House, by a vote of 22 against 43, refused to reject the bill, which was then sent to a special committee.

[We append the proceedings in the House, as reported in the Richmond *Examiner*.—ED. PRESS.]

EMPLOYMENT OF NEGROES AS SOLDIERS.

Mr. Barksdale, of Mississippi, offered a bill "to increase the military force of the Confederate States."

The first section of the bill provides that in order to provide additional forces to repel invasion and to secure the independence of the Confederate States, the President be authorized to call for the services of the owners of slaves the services of such number of able-bodied negro men as he may deem expedient to perform military services in whatever capacity the General-in-chief may direct.

The second section provides that the President be authorized to organize the said slaves into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and to be commanded by such officers as the President may appoint.

The third section provides that while employed in the service, the said slaves shall receive the same rations, clothing, and compensation as are allowed by the act approved February 17, 1864, and the acts amendatory thereof "to organize a military force for employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities;" and the compensation so allowed shall be made to the owner of the slave, as in the act referred to, and, etc.

The fourth section of the bill provides that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any change in the relation which the said slaves shall bear towards their owners as property, except by consent of the States in which they reside, and in conformity with the laws thereof.

Mr. Miles, of South Carolina, moved that the bill be rejected. He wanted to test the sense of the House upon this subject of arming negroes. He wanted to have a vote on it.

Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky. Yes, let us have a vote on it. Let the country know where we stand.

Mr. Barringer, of Georgia, said he thought the vote on the rejection of the bill be taken by ayes and noes.

Mr. Barksdale moved that the bill be referred to a select committee of one from each State.

After what had been said by the chairman of the Military Committee (Mr. Miles) it was evident that he had prejudged the question. All he (Mr. B.) desired was a full investigation of the subject, and a report as the exigencies and the demands of the country absolutely require. He did not desire to enter upon its discussion now, but he would say that he had intended to make his mother a solemn conviction of duty to his country. It raised no irritating issue. It provided simply that the President should accept the services of slaves to be used as the General-in-chief, General Lee, might direct, in order to save our cause. Nor did he propose to interfere with the relation of master and slave. That question was left by the bill where it properly belongs—to the owners of slaves, to the sovereignty of the States and in pursuance of the laws thereof. Are gentlemen unwilling to let the negro have the privilege of contributing their slaves as a free-will offering to aid in repelling the savage foe, who is the common enemy of both races? The bill provided nothing more.

Mr. Wickham, of Virginia, moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. He was opposed to referring it to a select committee. If it went to any committee, it should go, in the regular channel, to the Committee on Military Affairs. He would, however, vote against the arming and making soldiers of negroes to be so disposed of, finally and forever. He would, if he could, decide whether negroes are to be placed upon an equality by the side of our brave soldiers who have faced the storm of battle for four long years? He would tell the world that if negroes were put into the army they would not be upon an equality with our soldiers. They would be compelled to. They would have to camp and bivouac together.

Mr. Wickham said that our brave soldiers, who have fought so long and nobly, would not stand to be thus placed side by side with negro soldiers. He was opposed to such a measure. The moment that such a bill passes Congress sounds the death knell of this Confederacy. The very moment a negro goes forth from the War Department authorizing the arming and organizing of negro soldiers there was an eternal end to this struggle. [Voices, "That's so."]

The question being ordered upon the rejection of the bill, it was lost—ayes 2, noes 65. As the vote was regarded as a kind of test of the sense of the House upon the policy of putting negroes into the army, we append the ayes and noes. The question being on rejection of this bill authorizing the employment of negroes as soldiers:

YEAS—Messrs. Baldwin, Branch, Cruikshank, De Jarnette, Fuller, Garland, Gholson, Gilmer, Lamkin, A. M. Lamb, J. T. Leake, Moore, Miles, Miller, Ramsey, Sexton, Smith of Alabama, Smith of North Carolina, Wickham, Wheelhouse, Wright—22.

NAYS—Messrs Akin, Anderson, Barksdale, Batson, Bell, Blandford, Boyce, Bradley, H. W. Bruce, Carroll, Chambers, Chilton, Clopton, Coles, Conkley, Conrad, Conrow, Darden, Dickinson, Dupre, Ewing, Farrow, Foster, Funkhouser, Goode, Gray, Hodge, Hatcher, Hilton, Holder, Holiday, Johnston, Keeble, Lyon, Machen, Marshall, Menees, Moore, Orr, Perkins, Pugh, Read, Rogers, Russell, Simpson, J. M. Smith, W. E. Smith, Snead, Swan, Triplett, Villere, Welsh.

THE CASE OF THE RAIDERS.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

INDIANA ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

NEBRASKA SPEAKS FOR FREEDOM.

NEW JERSEY.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—SLOW ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE—AN ELECTION FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR TO BE HELD TO-DAY (FEB. 15)—THE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION.

TRENTON, Feb. 14.—In the State Senate to-day Mr. Sovel offered a resolution and concurred with Mr. Buckley, requesting the Committee on Federal Relations to report on Wednesday their action on the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. After some discussion the motion prevailed, by a vote of 9 to 8, several Democrats voting in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Holmes (Democrat) has resigned his position on the Committee on Federal Relations, which has been accepted.

In the House, the resolution for immediate action on the Constitutional amendment was postponed for three days.

A joint meeting for the election of a United States Senator and State and county officers will be held to-morrow.

The Democratic member in place of Mr. Fowler, deceased, from Sussex, is expected this week.

The candidates for the Senatorship named are John P. Stockton, James W. Wall, and Gov. Parker, Democrats, and John C. Ten Eyck, Republican. The Democratic caucus is now in session. Mr. Ten Eyck has been nominated by the Republicans.

INDIANA.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 13.—The resolution endorsing the constitutional slavery amendment having passed the State Senate by a vote of 27 to 24, passed the House to-night by a vote of 57 to 29. A salute of one hundred guns is being fired at the State House in honor of the event.

NEBRASKA.

OMAHA CITY, N. T., Feb. 14.—The Territorial Legislature adjourned last night. A resolution was passed unanimously endorsing Governor Sanders and Secretary Paddock, and asking their appointment; also, approving the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, and pledging the vote of Nebraska to ratify it, if needed.

The New Secretaryship.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 14.—A memorial to President Lincoln, recommending the Hon. Thomas M. Howe, of Pittsburg, for the appointment of U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, signed by Governor Curtin, the heads of departments, members of the Legislature, etc., will soon be sent to Washington.

SOUTH AMERICA.

SETTLEMENT OF THE SPANISH-PERUVIAN QUESTION, AND THE TERMS—NO MORE FOREIGN TROOPS EXCEPT THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES TO CROSS THE ISTHMUS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The steamer Ocean Queen, from Aspinwall on the 5th instant, arrived at this port to-day with $250,000 in treasure.

The steamer Peru, from Callao on the 28th of January, had arrived at Panama with news that the Spanish-Peruvian question had been settled. The terms are said to be that Peru shall pay three millions of dollars for the expenses of the Spanish expedition.

Peru obtains possession of the Chincha Islands, admits a Spanish envoy, and admits the interests of the Spanish. The settlement has been forwarded to Madrid.

Richard M. Jessup, of New York, one of the California dancers, died of neuralgia at Aspinwall on the 4th instant.

The small-pox continues its ravages at Kingston, Jamaica.

The Government of Bogota has issued an order prohibiting the passage of foreign troops across the Isthmus in future. Exception is made with regard to the United States troops, owing to the situation of their territories on the Pacific.

The President of San Salvador, in his message to the Legislature, refutes indignantly the charge that he is in favor of annexing Central America to Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS.

BUSINESS NEWS—THE EVACUATION OF PASCA GOULA.

CAIRO, Feb. 13.—The steamer Missouri, from New Orleans, has arrived with dates of the 5th. She brings a large cargo of sugar and molasses for St. Louis and Cincinnati.

The burning of Pascagoula is contradicted, but the place has been evacuated by our troops. Several gunboats are off the coast, however.

Cotton in New Orleans was in fair demand with a limited supply, prices being in favor of the sellers. Middlings are quoted at 70 cents; low do., 66@68 cents. Nearly 1,000 bales of cotton have arrived here since Saturday morning for St. Louis.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, February 14.

ADMISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House Committee on Elections have reported in favor of admitting Mr. HONSALL to a seat as Representative from Louisiana, and have also decided to report in favor of admitting Messrs. JOHNSON and JACKSON as Representatives from Arkansas.

SENATE CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate held an exclusively executive session to-night, continuing for over two hours, there being between 1,400 and 1,500 nominations to be acted upon, nearly all of them of a military character.

The Senate confirmed about 1,300 nominations, including the following:

TO BE MAJOR GENERALS.

Alfred H. Terry, brevet major general, to be major general from January 15, 1865.

Brigadier General Peter H. Osterhaus, from July 28, 1864.

Brigadier General Joseph A. Mower, from August 12, 1864.

Brigadier General and Brevet Major General George Crook, from October 21, 1864.

Brigadier and Brevet Major General Godfrey Weitzel, from November 17, 1864.

Brigadier General Jacob D. Cox, from December 7, 1864.

Brigadier General Thomas J. Wood, vice Crittenden, resigned.

TO BE BRIGADIER GENERALS.

John D. Stevenson, of Missouri, from November 29th, 1864.

Gustavus A. De Russey, of Virginia, from May 23d, 1863.

William D. Whipple, of New York, from July 17th, 1863.

Alvin C. Gillem, of Tennessee, from August 17th, 1863.

Thomas H. Wilson, from October 30th, 1863.

Col. John B. McIntosh, 3d Pennsylvania Cavalry, from July 21st, 1864.

Col. George H. Chapman, 3d Indiana Cavalry, from July 21st, 1864.

Col. William G. Rose, 36th Indiana, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. Jos. A. Cooper, 6th Tennessee, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. John T. Croxton, 4th Kentucky, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. Charles C. Wolcott, 46th Ohio, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. John W. Sprague, 63d Ohio, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. James W. Reilly, 104th Ohio, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. Luther R. Bradley, 51st Illinois, from July 30th, 1864.

Col. Chas. R. Lowell, 2d Massachusetts Cavalry, and Brevet Brigadier U. S. Cavalry, since dead of wounds received in battle.

Col. Wm. H. Powell, 2d Virginia Cavalry.

Col. Thos. O. Devin, 6th New York Cavalry.

Col. Alfred Gibbs, 1st New York Dragoons, and captain U. S. Cavalry.

Col. Donald S. Mackenzie, 2d Connecticut Artillery, and captain U. S. Corps of Engineers.

Col. R. B. Hays, 23d Ohio Volunteers.

Col. James R. Slack, 47th Indiana Volunteers.

Lieut. Col. Joseph A. Haskin, major 3d U. S. Artillery, from August 5th, 1864.

Col. James D. Fessenden, from August 5th, 1864.

Col. Daniel D. Bidwell, 49th New York, from August 13th, 1864; died mortally in battle.

Col. E. Lyon, 4th Ohio Cavalry, captain 4th U. S. Cavalry from August 18th, 1864.

Col. Thos. W. Egan, 4th New York, from September 3d, 1864.

Col. Wm. H. Seward, Jr., 9th New York Heavy Artillery, from September 13, 1864.

Col. Isaac H. Duval, 9th West Virginia, September 24, 1864.

Col. Thomas A. Smith, 1st Delaware, October 1, 1864.

Col. Ferdinand Vanderveer, 35th Ohio, October 4, 1864.

Col. Thos. J. Lucas, 16th Indiana Mounted Infantry, November 10, 1864.

Col. E. J. Davis, 1st Texas Cavalry, November 10, 1864.

Col. Patrick H. Jones, 154th New York; Col. Joshua B. Howell, 85th Pennsylvania, September 12, 1864, since dead.

Col. Charles V. Doolittle, 18th Michigan; Lieut. Col. Wm. Hartsuff, Assistant Inspector-General 23d Army Corps; Col. James Gilbert, 27th Iowa, February 8, 1865.

Col. T. K. Scott, 68th Ohio, January 12, 1865.

The following brigadier generals in the volunteer forces were confirmed as major generals by brevet:

Charles R. Woods, John M. Corse, October 6, 1864.

Giles A. Smith, September 1, 1864.

M. D. Leggett, John W. Geary, John E. Smith, January 12, 1865.

A. S. Williams, Judson Kilpatrick, Absalom Baird, January 12, 1865.

William P. Barry, September 1, 1864.

Rufus Saxton, January 12, 1865.

Adelbert Ames, January 15, 1865.

John M. Brannan.

Robert C. Buell.

The following named colonels were confirmed to be brigadier generals by brevet:

Wm. B. Woods, 67th Ohio Volunteers, January 12, 1865.

Aris Pardee, Jr., 147th Pennsylvania, January 12, 1864.

Henry A. Barnum, 149th New York, January 12, 1865.

B. F. Fearing, 92d Ohio, December 24, 1864.

Amos Beckwith, additional A. D. C., January 12, 1865.

Smith D. Atkins, 92d Illinois Mounted Infantry, January 12, 1865.

G. A. Pennepacker, 97th Pennsylvania, January 15, 1865.

J. C. Abbott, 7th New Hampshire, January 15, 1865.

Cyrus B. Comstock, United States Volunteers, January 15, 1865.

A. S. Hartwell, 55th Massachusetts.

Morgan H. Christer, 2d New York Veteran Cavalry.

Benj. Harrison, 70th Indiana Volunteers.

Wm. T. Clark, United States Volunteers.

R. K. Scott, 68th Ohio.

Jacob L. Casement, 103d Ohio Volunteers.

George W. Schofield, United States Volunteers.

Nathan A. M. Dudley, 30th Missouri Veterans.

Geo. S. Dodge, chief quartermaster of the Army of the James, for valuable services at Fort Fisher, January 15th, 1865.

E. D. Osband, 3d Colored Infantry, October 5th, 1864.

Edwin L. Hays, 100th Ohio, January 12th, 1865.

Emerson Opdyke, 125th Ohio, February 7th, 1865.

For promotion by brevet in the army of the United States:

Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General, major general by brevet.

Col. Charles Thomas, assistant quartermaster general, to be brigadier general by brevet.

Brevet Col. James L. Donaldson, to be brigadier general by brevet.

Medical Inspector Gen. Joseph A. Barnes, to be Surgeon General, with the rank of brigadier general.

Robert F. Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, to be assistant adjutant general, with the rank of captain.

The Senate also confirmed Charles Peabody to be United States Attorney of the Eastern district of Louisiana; Linder, United States attorney for the Northern district of California; Bennett Pike, United States attorney for the Western district of Missouri; Cuthbert Bullitt, United States marshal for the Eastern district of Louisiana; William O. Stoddard, United States marshal for the Eastern district of Arkansas; John Gould, United States marshal for the District of Connecticut; John A. Bingham, solicitor for the United States, before the Court of Claims; John J. Weed, assistant solicitor of the United States, before the Court of Claims; Sidney A. Hubbell, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico; Charles H. Child, surveyor of customs for the ports of Warren and Barrington, Rhode Island; John H. McBride, of Oregon, to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Territory of Idaho.

The following consuls were confirmed:

James Hall, of New York, at Omoa.

George J. Abbott, of the District of Columbia, at Sheffield and Bradford, England.

J. H. Goodnow, of Maine, consul general at Constantinople.

Wilson F. Miner, of Connecticut, consul general at Havana.

Henry S. Wetmore, of Ohio, consul at Payta, Peru.

James H. McCelley, of Pennsylvania, at Callao.

Daniel K. Hobart, of Maine, at Windsor, Canada.

Jas. Weldon, of New York, at Prescott, Canada.

Augustus Porter, of N. York, at Clifton, Canada.

David Thurston, at Toronto, Canada.

William L. Raymond, of New York, at Leeds, England.

Charles H. Powers, of New Hampshire, at Coaticook, Canada.

A. P. Henry, of Kentucky, at Ancona, Italy.

Jacob Springsteed, New York, at Goderich, Canada.

Isaac J. Allen, of Ohio, at Hong Kong, China.

J. M. Bailey, of Kentucky, at Glasgow.

A. P. Thayer, at Trieste.

Sylvanus B. Hand, of Illinois, at Kingston, Canada.

Addison L. Clark, of Massachusetts, at Ningpó, China.

The Senate confirmed the following deputy postmasters:

Ayres Stockley, Rockland, Mich.

George M. Howlett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Alfred Marchner, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

George E. Jennings, Waupun, Wisconsin.

Stephen H. Brow, Woonsocket Falls, Rhode Island.

Josiah Hartzell, Canton, Iowa.

O. Abell, White Hall, New York.

James Kelly, New York city.

John D. Pickett, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Henry P. Davis, Mansfield, Ohio.

Henry V. Bevey, Paris, Illinois.

George E. McDaniels, Hammond, Wisconsin.

Hulings Cowperthwait, to be direct tax commissioner for the district of Arkansas.

Daniel Wein, to be direct tax commissioner for the district of Arkansas.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE.

POSITIONS FOR SOLDIERS.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, from the Military Committee, made the following report: The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom were referred several petitions praying for the enlistment of a band performing for employment in all inferior offices persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the United States, who shall have served for the period of three years during the present rebellion, or who shall have suffered permanent disability while in the service, or who shall have been held for one year as prisoners of war, and that the tenure of such office be for life or during good behavior, having considered the same, beg leave to report. That, in the opinion of the committee, it is the imperative duty of the National and State Governments to give the preference for appointments in the various civil offices to persons who have been honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the United States; or who have suffered permanent disability while in the service provided, they possess the qualification necessary to properly discharge the duties of such offices. The number of civil offices, however, in the various departments of the Government, though large at present, bears but a small proportion to the number of persons who have honorably served the country in the army and navy, and who must, of necessity, depend upon the varied occupations of civil life; while it is therefore the duty of the National Government, in its civil appointments, to give the preference to men who have been maimed by wounds or broken by disease, it is the sacred duty of bankers, merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, farmers, and all the various avocations, to give the preference, in all industrial pursuits, to soldiers who have been honorably discharged from the service of their country. The committee, therefore, present the accompanying resolutions as expressive of the sense of Congress upon the legislation prayed for by the petitioners:

A JOINT RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

Be it resolved, &c., That persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, should be preferred for employment in civil offices, provided they shall be found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices.

And be it further resolved, That in grateful recognition of the services, sacrifices, and sufferings of persons honorably discharged from the military and naval service of the country by reason of wounds, disease, or other disability, we earnestly commend the patriotic men recommended to bankers, merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, farmers, and persons engaged in industrial pursuits, to give them the preference for appointments to remunerative situations and employments.

The above was ordered to be printed.

ARMY RATIONS.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inform