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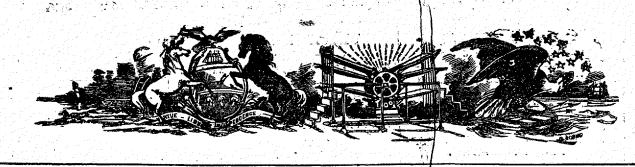
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VOL. 8.—NO. 177.

FINANCIAL.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1865. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

PROGRESS OF GEN. SHERMAN'S ARMY CAPTURE OF BRANCHVILLE.

THE 15th CORPS REPORTED NEAR TO CHARLESTON. THE FIGHT AT RIVER'S BRIDGE.

MOVEMENTS OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT

WINGS.

AFFAIRS NEAR POCOTALIGO. Another Incendiary Plot in Savannah DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS TO THE FREEDMEN.

Epecial Correspondence of The Press. 1

REAUFORT, S. C., Feb. 12. THE CAPTURE OF BRANCHVILLE. Sherman's army, which for the past three weeks has been variously moving in South Carolina—whither, the public have only speculated—has at length given some report of its progress. The prime conclusion is that Sherman has taken Branchville, which the news from that vicinity leaves us little from Branchville or its immediate neighborhood give this statement. It is to be supposed that our troops have ere this been active at their old pastime of tearing up railroads, and that Branchville is no more unlimbed, despoiled leaf and twig, and all her fair connections lopped away -South Carolina, as it were, severed from Charleston. This achievement can scarcely be said to hint the real object of the army, whatever it may be, whether a march upon Wilmington, giving Charles ton the go-by, as unworthy of a siege, and of itself certain to fall, or, for the present, a descent upon the mother city of Secession, and another open-ing out at sen-water. It is a matter of proverb broughout the army, and, in fact, it is the opini of General Sherman, that to none has the object of the present campaign been confided except the general commanding. The army started with the expectation of a thirty-days' campaign, and with the prospect of more fighting and hardships than all endured in the tramp through Georgia. It was mobilized according to Sherman's practice, and stripped for the work—a campaign, with blankets, rations, ammunition, and the aid of Sherman's favorite plan of subsistence, but no more. Let it be set down that Branchville has been taken.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE—THE FIGHT AT RIVER'S The fight on the 3d took place at River's Bridge, on the west side of the Saltchatchie or Salkehatchie river, a branch of the Combahee, running west o Branchville. Up to this point the progress of the Army of the Tennessee may be briefly stated. The 17th Corps moved from Pocotaligo Bridge on the 30th, and moved on the road parallel with the Salkehatchie, followed by the 15th from Beaufort, which marched from Pocotaligo in the same direction by a road on the left of the 17th. Skirmishing began immediately after leaving Pocotaligo. On the 1st of February the 17th left Ridgeville, and skirmished for ten miles, obstructed by rebel cavalry, felled trees, and flooded rice swamps. On the 2d twelve miles were marched, and stronger oppopelled to form line and charge to dislodge the rebels. On the 3d an advance of one mile was made, and the enemy found in considerable force at River Bridge, guns, and a mile of swamp in front. The bridge across, and fought and charged in the swamps beyond, many receiving wounds while in mire and water nearly waist deep. A fort was captured with four guns, The 15th Corps were supposed to have prossed the river at another bridge below, and bot corps were on the march toward Branchville and the Branchville and Charleston road. The credit of the small but severe and gallant action at River's Bridge belongs to the division of General H. Mower, a celebrated fighter. The 3d Brigade of the 1st Division bors the brunt of the com. bat, and a gallant charge was made by the 43d and 68d Ohio, supported by the 63d and 27th About 150 were killed and wounded, many of the latter severely. Col. Swain, of Ohio, and Col. Kirby, of Gen. Blair's staff, were placed hors du combat, but will recover. Lieut. Taylor, of How ard's staff, was also shot slightly. Captain E. A. Walker, of the 10th Illinois, received a gunsho wound through his left shoulder, but is now doing well, along with other wounded in the Beaufort hospital. Of these you have no doubt heard. River's Bridge is stated to be but fifteen miles from

Branchville, whose occupation is placed at date of THE LEFT WING.

The left wing of the army, consisting of the 14th and 20th Corps, under Gen. Slocum, marched into Carolina by Sister's Ferry, across the Savannah, about one week and a half ago, and were doubtless equally well advanced upon their line of march. operating north of Branchville. With this column Ben. Kilpatrick's cavalry have gone, and were probably the force heard of from Barnwell, on the road toward Augusta. Sherman is supposed to be with the 15th Corps, along with Gen. Howard, a portion o

whose military household still remains at Beaufor, in charge of Captain and Adjutant General Tag The line of railroad from Pocotaligo, whose occur now guarded by Gen. Hatch's forces of Gilmore's mand, who have been in frequent skirmish, as far as Ashepoo, with the enemy's few but trouble some swamp-fighters. Between Hatch's command and the great army no clear communication was open. Troops and supplies reached Pocotaligo by Broad river and what is now called Blair's Land-

ing, on the Pocotaligo. THE 15TH CORPS ON THE MARCH TO CHARLESTON As a postscript to the foregoing, we have credible rumors that yesterday the 15th Corps were eighteen miles from Charleston. This corps marched directy toward the railroad between Charleston and ranchville, leaving the 17th to occupy Branchville after date of the crossing of the Salkehatchie. Firing was heard in the direction of Charleston, and a joint attack by the army and navy in front or the purpose of arresting the enemy's attentio and favoring the movement of our forces in the rear, was supposed to be in progress. BRANCHVILLE AND THE EDISTO

Branchville captured may prove a convenie point of junction and base and direction for the grand army. The Edisto river, which is navigable through toward Branchville, is thus opened. We may not be surprised if, while the enemy is held in Charleston by sufficient forces menacing front and rear, Sherman secures the railroad running north

Both here and in Savannah the black people are making satisfactory improvement under Gen-Saxton's leadership and advice. The new island of Edisto is being populated with returning runaways, who speak cheerfully of its climate and rate its fruit and cotton-growing properties higher than those of any of the sea islands in the vicinity. Gen. Saxton lately addressed a great and very enthusiastic meeting at Savannah, and under provisions of the féllowing orders (an imperfect sketch of which you received some time ago) has portioned out to the largest families lots of forty acres on the confiscated sea islands of Georgia. About five thousand of the blacks have taken lands:

HEADQUARTERS MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI; IN THE FIELD. SAVANNAH, Gz., Jan. 16, 1865. HEADQUARTERS MH. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIRID. SAVANAH, Ga., Jan. 16, 1866.

SPECIAL FIRLD ORDERS, No. 16.

I. The islands from Charleston South, the abandosed rice-fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. Johns river. Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes now made free by the acts of war and the preclamation of the President of the United States.

II. ArBeanfort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fennadina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, the blacks may remain in their chosen or aconstomed vocations; but on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established, no white person whatever, unless military officers and solders detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside: and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves, subject only to the United States military anthority and the acts of Congress. By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to concertption or forced military services, save the acts of togress. By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to conscription or forced mittiary service, save by the written orders of the highest mititary authority at the president or Congress may prescribe—aomestic servants. Each of the constitutions as the President or Congress may prescribe—aomestic servants. It is free to select their own work and residence, but the free to select their own work and residence, but the young and able bodied negroes must be encouraged to enlist as soldiers in the service of the United States, to contribute their share towards maintaining their own the United States. Negroes so exilated will be organized into companies, batalions, and regimente, under the orders of the United States military authorities, and will be paid, fed, and clothed according to law. The hounties paid on enlistment may, with the consent of the recruit, go to assist his family and settlement in procuring agricultural implements, seed, tools, boats, dichings, and other articles necessary for their livellhood.

III, Whenever three respectable negroes, beads of

procuring agricultural implements, seed, tools, boats, clothing, and other srticles necessary for their livelihood.

III. Whenever three respectable negroes, heads of familier, shall desire to settle on land, and shall have selected for that purpose an island or a locality clearly defined, within the limits above designated, the inspector of settlements and plantations will himself, or by such suborainate officers as ne may appoint, give them a license to settle such island or district, and affort them such assistance as he can to enable them to establish a presceable agricultural settlement. The three parties named will subdivice the land, under the supervision of the inspector, among themselves, and such others as mry choose to settle near them, to that each family shall have a plot of not more than (31) forty acres of titlable pround, and when it borders on some under thanker, with not more than eight hundred feet front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection until ruch time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title. The quartermater may, on the requisition of the inspector of settlements and plantations, piace at their title. The quartermater may, on the requisition of the inspector of settlements and plantations, piace at their title. The quartermater may, on the requisition of the inspector one or more of the captured steament, toply between the settlements and one or more of the capture of the commercial points herestofore named in orders, to saford the settlers the opportunity to supply their necessary wants and to sell the products of their land and labor.

10. Whenever a negro has enlisted in the military service of the United States, he may locate his family in any one of the settlements at pleasure, and aquatre ahomestead and at other rights and privileges of a settler at homestead and at other rights and privileges of a settler at home the appearance of the manuel negroes may settle their families and engage on board t

to 1st of property in any settlement, by virtue of these orden.

V. a order to carry out this system of settlement, a sener officer will be detailed as inspector of Settlements and intations, whose duty it shall be to visit the settlements, to regulate their police and general managements and who will furnish personally to each head of a famy, subject to the approval of the President of the Unite States, a possessory title in writing, giving as near a possible the description of boundaries, and who shall just all claims or conflicts that may arise under the she, subject to the like approval, treating such titles together as possessory. This same general officer will above charged with the enlistment and organization of the negro recruits, and protecting their interests while became from their retilements, and will be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the walls and regulations prescribed by the Marting of the rules and Plantaulons, and will at once the order of the dries. We change is inteded or desired in the settlement now on Beaufort is not, nor will any rights to property heretofore acquired to affected thereby.

By dier of faior General W. T. Shermau.

Major and Assistant adjutant General.

The passages italicised contain now and importal interests to the freedmen. The abolition of the ofrageous conscription practiced by moneyo isn of property in any settlement, by virtue of the

the ofrageous conscription practiced by moneymakin recruiters here, with permission of the military authority—the partition of lands for the native and loyal negroes and the security of all ghts of the enlisted blacks-are subjects of permited to reside on the islands to be colonized will bregretted. Unless the measure is only tem porari and intended for the safe settlement of the

black eneficial to the interests of neither. BAVANNAH. Dearance which in the early wooks of the occuption did so much honor to the intelligence and ampliness of the victorious troops has now the misfounce of the victorious trough as two winds from misfounce of being a protracted mildness too "long drawn ont." Secessionism vannts its opinions boldry and the old pro-slavery spirit jeers at the rigio. The distribution of lands to the blacks a timely lesson and warning. Georgia, like ther States converted by the bayonet, renuire a strong military government—certainly not intrior in vigor to that of more loyal Tennessee Only is firmest self-respect upon the part of our own Gvernment can create a wholesome reverence for the Union in the minds of the Secessionist Georne vio, like all the perverts and narrow-heads the ebellion, are probably unscrupulous to avail of the ebellion, are probably unscrupulous to avail themselves of every means allowed, and are not to be really trusted. Of course, the planters are now jealou of the newly freed and landed negroes. That pangit least, is salutary.

We ave just learned that another conspiracy to burn he city has been detected in Savannah.
About dezen men, reported by the guards as belongif to the poor Irish of the place, were found attending to cut the water-pipes. They were to be trie by regular court-martial, in default of the OUNED IN HOSPITAL AT BEAUFORT FROM Sile W. Golden, E, 10th Illinois, gunshot wound

of tigh.

Corbral Charles Emory, E, 39th Ohio, left thigh.
Joh McCann, K, 32d Wisconsin, scalp.
Abrham Durth, K, 43d Ohio, left foot.
Win Ford, E, 39th Ohio, left thigh.
Win Ecord, E, 39th Ohio, left thigh.
Win Eke, G, 10th Illinois, sacrum,
Frad Vergille, K, 32d Wisconsin, right neck,
Corbral Jno. H. Mause, K, 63d Ohio, right thigh,
Win Quearman, B, 25th Missouri, right thigh,
Corbral J. V. Hornor, K, 63d Ohio, foot.
Cot bral Azro Young, K, 32d Wisconsin, fractured
eft fobarm. Oot frai Azro Young, K., 32d Wisconsin, fractured left foparm.
Jess Lee, E. 32d Wisconsin, left thigh.
Wni Snyder, H., 32d Wisconsin, left thigh.
Cha Gurr, B., 25th Indiana, amputation fingar.
W. L. Jennings, G., 43d Onio, fracture right ulna.
Frebrick Burmer, K., 10th Illinois, right hand.
Antony Roche, F., 12th Wisconsin, right foot.
Edund Henry, F., 32d Wisconsin, right shoulder.
Cerioral Wm. Hill, F., 30th Ohio, left arm.
Selon O. Baker, K., 39th Ohio, right face.
Main V. Rice, D., 32d Wisconsin, soalp.
Wn. Mack, I., 43d Ohio, toe.
Thi, C. Green, I., 43d Ohio, neck.
Edg W. Oherry, A., 32d Wisconsin, nose.
Sereant Shepard Sheldon, G., 32d Wisconsin, left wist.

eft wist. . The J. Walker, A. 39th Obio, right hip bruised. K. tuart, D, 31st Illinois, left leg. oh Smith, C, 32d Wisconsin, right leg. orioral M. Monaghan, K, 10th Illinois, right Jeurgai muscio. Ranford Morgerty, B, 39th Ohio, right leg. Joh Jasper, E, 39th Ohio, glubal region. Wn Kright, 63d Ohio, left thigh. Whatight, out onto the tangar.
Fraklin Wicks, K. 10th Illinois, left hip.
Jos.W. Saunders, K. 10th Illinois, right thigh.
Corpral O. K. Booth, 10th Illinois, left knee.
Danel Siders, A., 83d Ohio, right leg.
W. J. Simmons, B, 32d Wisconsin, right leg.
Corpral Michael O'Brien, G, 10th Illinois, left

Mgh. Aifid Preston, G. 10th Illinois, right hip. Jaco Gulis, G., 10th Illinois, left leg. Thosas L. Delap, B, 32d Wisconsin, femural Middeton F. Nelson, E. 43d Ohio, right leg.
Middeton F. Nelson, E. 43d Ohio, right leg.
Timchy Toby, K. 32d Wisconsin, right arm.
Albet Smith, B. 32d Wisconsin, left hip.
O. W. Cleer, K. 32d Wisconsin, right leg.
W. H. Prost, A. 32d Wisconsin, amp. left thigh.
Sergent John Cramer. H. 25th Indiana, left foot.
Corporal John Fetzer, B. 25th Indiana, right leg.
Octooral John Fetzer, B. 25th Indiana, left footlouden. houlder, Antony King, H., 25th Indiana, right leg. Bavid Shotwell, E., 127th Now York, 1st thigh. John Wison, D. 81st Illineis, toe frosted. Leroy M. Scofield. A., 25th Ohio, fore finger. Christopher Hughes; A. 25th Ohio, scalded foot. John M. Hind. C., 25th Ohio, scald right foot. Matthew E. Baldwin, I, 127th New York, right high.

John Buckris, C, 6th Missouri, left thigh, John W. Church, A, 25th Wisconsin, right foot. Wm. Compton, G, 25th Ohio, amputation right m, above albow. m, abeve elbow. John Douglass, A, 43d Ohio, right side face. /Oliver Olson, K, 25th Wisconsin, contusion right g. Bartholomew McNames, I, 63d Ohlo, amputation let finger. | William A. Murray, K, 32d Wisconsin, sprained shoulder.

Corporal Henry R. Campbell, H, 25th Wisconsin, nght foot.

Oliver B. Gardner, H, 25th Wisconsin, right hand.

Wm. Jessup, G, 127th New York, bruised hand.

George Jarvis, L, 29th Ohio, left hand.

THE GIFTS OF PHILADELPHIA TO SHERMAN'S ARMY—THANKS TO OUR CITIZENS FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL. o the Editor of The Press: SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 12, 1865. The General Commanding has requested me to eturn his sincere thanks, through your journal, to hose citizens of the Quaker City who so kindly The pickles were very acceptable, and were much relished by the "boys." To Capt. Geo. H. Smith, or his very arduous labors and kindness, all join sending good wishes; he will ever live in the menory of the brave fellows who presented this city as a Christmas gift to the nation.
You will confer a great favor by inserting this in cur paper, so that your citizens may know that their efforts in trying to add to our health and com-

fort are duly appreciated by those who were the recipionts of the articles purchased with the means which were kindly donated. The whole command oins in wishing you long life and happiness. Very respectfully, O. J. Hinds, A. A. General. Department of Savannah.

Other papers will please copy. . The Army Signal Corps. OF THE CORPS. A member of the United States Signal Corps contributes the following to the Boston Traveller:

"I think it about time that something relating to
the Signal Corps was published in your paper, and
with your leave will mention some of the duties of
this branch of the service.

"Probably no class of men employed in the army
are more useful than those engaged in the duty of
sending army despatches from one point to another,
by means of signal flags. These flags are of different colors, white, black, or red, to suit the circumstances of the case. They are either four or six feet
square, fastened to pointed poles, the length of
which can be increased or diminished as required.
The officers in charge of a station are furnished with
field glazzes and powerful telescopes, by means of ributes the following to the Boston Traveller:

der of the despatch.

"On Monday morning, General Sherman may make use of a 'key' that he discards in the afternoon. The afternoon key is known to General Howard by the word that accompanies the message. If General Sherman wienes to speak with General Logan, who may be stationed miles away, his arrangement of 'key' words may be totally different from those used in communicating with Howard.

"Signal officers, by long practice, are often able to abbreviate messages, especially when they know that the station beyond is commanded by an officer familiar with the abbreviations. A bystander looking on, when a message is being sent, will see the flags in the hands of the men near him waving rapidly, and strain his eyes in every direction to see where the persons are who are taking notes. He will see no one, unless favored by a sight, through the telescope, at the station. The great merit of this system of signalling consists in the secrecy with which messages may be sent, and answers returned, although it is equally advantageous in an engagement, when secret messages are not required and orders are rapidly conveyed from one point of the field to another.—It is at this time that the signal efficers and men are in the greatest danger. The rebels have an offensive way of intercepting despatches with Minle bullets, sent by the rific of some sharpshooter detailed to pick off the flag men and jothers engaged at the signal statton. Signal men's generally moninted on horses, and armed with sabres and Remmington's six-shooters.

The New York World, referring to the proposed tax on crude petroleum, says: If our national legislators would act the part of wisdom, they should at present reject any and every proposition looking to the imposition of a tax of any kind, light or heavy, upon crude petroleum. They should reject such a suggestion, not alone because of the vast capital now embarked in the petroleum business, not because of personal, individual, or sec-tional interests, but for the most weighty national reasons. By an amendment to the internal revenue bill it is proposed to levy a tax of six cents per gallon upon crude petroleum, equal to about two dollars and forty cents per barrel. It is demonstra-

ble, we think, if this amendment becomes a part of the law, and is enforced, that an injury will thereby be inflicted upon what promises to become ultimately the first commercial interest of the nation, equal to its reduction to a merely nominal standard. A tax of six cents per gallon on crude petroleum would inevitably add ten cents per gallon to the cost of the refined article, which already pays a duty of twenty cents per gallon. In this event, the export trade will almost entirely cease, for the coal oil now manufactured in Great Britain is furnished ation. That white persons shall not be at a cost of about twenty-five cents per gallon, in gold—much cheaper than our oil could, under the circumstances mentioned, be offered in the same or in any other European market. Again, the petroleum business is in its infancy.
True, it now gives signs of becoming the most gigantic commercial interest of this great continent;
but unwise legislation will so bind it about, oramp

but unwise legislation will so bind it about, oramp and cripple it in its adolescence, that it will be utterly unable to applicate oven half its natural and proper growth. If a tax must be placed upon petroleum, good sense dictates that its imposition should be postponed until it acquires that commercial strength which will enable it to bear the load. It should be remembered that America does not stand alone in the markets of the world as the producer of rock oil. In half the countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa it either exists naturally or is artificially evolved, is either manufactured or mined. In the United States, it is true, the indica-tions are that the supply is boundless. But if our vast interior seas could be transformed into so many mighty pools of petroleum, we should not be one posit the oil in foreign markets at a cheaper rate than any competitor. We can undersell all rivals : we can, and we must do it, in order to secure the monopoly. Let our capitalists proceed in the work of securing this : let us make, as we can, the United

States the vast oil well of the universe, and set all the nations pumping, and then—tax.

The following items of oil news possess interest:
Oll has been discovered in large quantities on Fish Creek, West Virginia, one of the tributaries of the Ohio river, and savans declare that it will prove the most valuable territory yet discovered.

The Sandusky Register says that the oil company boring at Hosmer's brewery, for some days past, has just struck oil, and have already commenced tubing. The oil seemed to be in a crevice, and at a dept f sixty feet, but in what quantity the Register is un-

able to say.

The existence of petroleum in large quantities throughout the Russian Empire has led to the grant of a concession by the Czar to a French company, organized by Marquis la Rochejaqueleln for the athlization of this mineral oll in the production of gas, and the lighting of St. Petersburg on a more The excitement in Butler and Lawrence coun ties, Pennsylvania, is on the increase, and Dr. Eg-bert, the old millionaire, has leased thousands of cres of lands on Slippery Rock Creek. Alwell yielding two barrels per hour, by pumping, was opened on the 2d inst. The lands on this creek have nearly There is great activity on Fishing Creek, in Wet-

zel county, West Virginia, where parties are boring for oil and preparing for operations. Oil has been struck on Middle Island Oreek, at Hissam's Mills in Tyler county, West Virginia, five miles from the Ohio river, and nearly all the lands in the county are bought or leased. An old salt well near Clarksburg, Harrison county, Virginia, was lately opened, and threw out a large stream of gas and petroleum. The name of a new and beautiful color, which is derived from petroleum, is called garofile. The oil excitement at Mecca. Ohio, is rapidly increasing, and heavy Eastern capitalists have lately purchased large tracks of real estate at high prices for oil purposes. A Philadelphia company has leased all the land they could obtain on the Maboring for coal, oil, or salt. Oil indications have een discovered at Leavittsburg and in Howland township. The price of land there is getting up to Oil Creek figures. A well in Athens county, Ohio, owned by a Cincinnati company, yields eight bar-

rels of lubricating oil per day. This is said to be the only Cincinnati company that has received any-thing from its wells. There is great excitement at Milan, Ohio, over the "show" of oil, and specula-tors are taking up the lands. How the Southerners Destroy their Pro-The Southern people do not exhibit great anxiety to prevent the march of Union armies by the sacrifice of their own property. The New York Times refers to the subject as follows: refers to the subject as follows:

"Nor would it seem that everything was laid waste in Sherman's front, as he marched through the State. We do not read that he found Orangeburg in fiames, or Columbia in sahes, or anything of the sort. Nor does it seem that the provisions and supplies and forage were destroyed. The article from Saturday's Richmond Dispatch, which is forwarded by General Grant, says: "The general opinion is that he (Sherman) will go to Charleston and establish a base there; but we confess that we do not see what need he has of a base. It is to be presumed he is subsisting on the country." All this is wonderful, and especially in view of the proclamation of the Governor, ordering universal destruction. He cried out in his proclamation only a few days ago:

tion. He cried out in his proclamation only a few days ago:

"Remove your property from the reach of the enemy, carry what you can to a place of safety; then quickly rally and return to the field. What you cannot carry, destroy. Whatever you leave that will be of use to your foe, what he will not need, that will he destroy. Indulge no slokly hope that you will be spared by submission; terror will but whet his revenge. Think not that your property will be respected, and afterward recovered. No such feeling prompts him. You leave it but to support and sustain him; you save it but to help him on his course. Destroy what you cannot remove. He will make you return to your homes over a charred and blackened road; propers you the same way for him as he advances. Let him read everywhere and in everything that in this State, from one portion of it to the other, there is but one purpose and fixed resolve—that purpose is to meet him at every point; fight him at every road; that resolve is to undergo all suffering, submit to every sacrifice, welcome any fate, sooner than subjection by his army or submission to his terms."

The Mexican Empire. DENIAL OF THE REPORTED CESSION OF SONORA [Reuter's Telegram] PARIS, Feb. 5.
The news of the cession of certain Mexican provinces to France is wholly without foundation. [From the Monitour.]
All reports which have been circulated in reference to a cession made to France by Mexico of Sonora and other provinces, are absolute fabrications.

tions.

England repuses to accept the denial—napoleon's former "denials" quoted. [From the London Times]
The question of the cession of Lower Californi
to France is not considered to have been settled even b The question of the cession of Lower California to France is not considered to have been settled even by the unflushifed assertion telegraphed from Paris, that the news on the subject is wholly unfounded. Indeed, it can be positively shown to have had some foundation, whatever may be the ultimate extent of its realization. Mr. Gwin, after the Southern Seession, of which he was an advocate, visited France, and energetically laid certain plans before the Emperor, which, according to advices from Paris, were, at all counts, received with very great attention. It is likewise believed that means were furnished to him to proceed upon the wistion which has led to the present announcement. In any case, the public, remembering the number of formal statements and contradictions that preceded the transfer of Savoy to France, will, for a considerable time, regard the matter with reserve. According to some impressions, the most probable arrangement is that France will not immediately take an absolute cession, but will guarantee a new loan to Mexico on the security of the provinces named.

be with her son in his last moments.

cheey' that he discards in the afterlemon key is known to General
a word that accompanies the mesrise! Sherman wishes to speak with
the with her son in his last moments.

The Philadelphia Ledger has the largest circulation of key' words may be totally difloss used in communicating with
ore; by long practice, are often able
lessages, especially when they know
beyond is commanded by an officer
the abbreviations. A bystander
the abbreviations. A bystander
is a message is being sent, will see
shands of the men near him waving
can his eyes in every direction to see
ons are who are taking notes. He
e, unless favored by a sight, through
at the station. The great merit of
signalling consists in the secrecy
sages may be sent, and answers regin it is equally advantageous in an
hen-secret messages are not required
of their.— It is at this time that the sigd men are in the greatest danger.

We an offensive way of intercepting
the Minie bullets, sent by the rifle of
other detailed to pick off the flag man
gaged at the signal station. Signal
lally, mounted on horses, and armed
Remmington's six-shooters.

Alberth T., S. C., U. S. A.

Discourted that accompanies the messages
be with her son in his last moments.

The Philadelphia Ledger has the largest circulation of any daily paper in the United States, if we
except the Herald. There are about 70,000 houses in
Philadelphia ; and the Ledger prints about 70,000
copies, which is just one copy for each house. The
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except the Herald.

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for litina

FOUR CENTS

He spoke briefly, too, of the extending sphere of woman's influence.

Miss Dickinson, who was attired in a scarlet slik dress, with black waist, commenced by relating the anecdote of Madame De Stael, who, when asked by the great Empéror of France why women meddled with politics, replied, "Sire, while you behead women, we will ask the reason why." So to-night, if the were asked why she spoke of this subject, she would say that, while women starve, body and soul, and sink into untold depths of degradation and despair, she would ask the reason why. The toiler is a person to be envied. The laborer is one-to be admired and honored. But society says it is right for a man to work, but wrong for a girl to work. Suppose a boy and girl starting in life. The boy may labor, may achieve, and society cries "Bravo." But suppose agirl goes out and works—it may be she works for an old mother or a sick sister, does society urge her on, and praise her? No; it says she has lost all her chance for a comfortable sottlement for life. But suppose she lives in a tolerably comfortable house, and her father is tolerably well off. She still may have a liking for comfortable things, "and she may desire to earn money to obtain them. Society warsher that it is not proper; and if, despite that, she still persists, and obtains a fine house with nice furniture, society sees and smells all over it the stain of work, and they put their hands into their husbands' pockets, and say how much better if this girl had been satisfied with the. His she was living, and waited until she got married. There is no place nobler or happler for a woman than that of a wife and mother. But there is one numarried and the world over, and there are thousands of these that priefer to go out and labor instead of staying at home to starve.

INEQUALITY IN PRICES.

A man is paid twice or three times as much as a woman for his labor. Take the schools of Philadelphia for instance. The male principal of the male grammar school receives \$1,600 per year, and the female principal of the female grammar school, passing the same examination, receives \$800 per year. But it is said that the man has others to support, and the woman has not. That is not true. The man may be single, with no one to support, or may have a mother and father, wife and children, to support, and he still receives the same \$1,000. The woman may be single, or she may have a father, mother, or children, or even a husband—for such things happen—to support, and she still receives only \$800. Miss Dickinson referred to an incident in her own history, when she was teaching school in Western Penneylvanta. She was applied for to teach in a neighboring place, and everything was satisfactory until they told her that they had been paying \$28 per month for a male teacher, and proposed now to pay her \$16 per month. She scouted the offer. That winter she went home, doing nothing, with others depending upon her, to some extent, for support; and she had not enough money to spare to buy a two-shilling handkerchief; but she would have swept at the street-crossing rather than have taken that school at a less price than a man would have received for precisely the same work.

WORK FOR WOMEN.

would have received for precisely the same work.

WORE FOR WOMEN.

The speaker referred to the availability of girls instead of young men as clerks for stores, and especially in dry goods stores, where the men know nothing about the goods they are dealing in, and the women do. Still, it is true, women do not receive the same education for their work as men do. The women purchasing treats the young lady clerk with rudeness and analycince, where she would treat a young man with respect, and so the young lady clerk with the restoration of the Church and the girls get married now 2-doys for a home. If they were able to tupport themselves, then a young man and woman would get married because they loved each other, and couldn't help it. This matter rests in woman's own tands. Never yet did a worn and elermine to do a thing than the did it. Never man determine to do a thing than the did it. Never did she make any rule of society than that it would become a keary rule of society than that it would become a keary rule of society than that it would become a keary rule of society than that it would become a keary rule of society than that it would become a keary rule of your child to morrow. Women in this matter is ommitpotent? It may be, you say, a matter of no moment to you; but, it may be, the discount of business transacted was too limited to establish any change of 'quotations. The Gold Room wag it may be such to your child to morrow. Women will not propose this work; possibly they will oppose young men who are not young men at all, but merely vegetables—forked radishes; and other men with old prejudices, and other men, of whom we may pray that their sons may not be brutes like their mothers. But there are men and women with noble, generous heart, who will add in this process more attending and prejudices, and other men, of whom we may pray that their sons and women with noble, generous heart, who will add in this work, and by and by, through the force of its own power, it will mould the usages of society to its own WORK FOR WOMEN.

There are thousands and tens of thousands of young girls to-day whose honor is resting by a needle's point, and hanging by a single thread, and year by year they are crushed down, until perchance the honor slips from the needle's point, and the tiny thread, breaking strand by strand, gives way at last, and drops these women into infamy and shame. Miss Dickinson referred to some of the prices paid now to sewing-girls. These women meet this question of the death of the body and the death of the soul with stavvation, destitution, and despair, diving them on, and so; falling into this life, are, perchance, drivon into it, saving the body at the expense of the soul. Society sweeps on, no matter how hard these women strive to do better—no matter how they may long—no matter how they may long—no matter how they may long—no matter how they may row—no matter how they may row—no matter how they may rescent to this gulf of degradation and despair—society, sweeping on, tears loose the clinging hands, and presses them down, down, down! eternally down! into this frightful living, breathing, enduring death!

MERCY TO THE FALLEN WOMAN, OR JUSTICE TO MERCY TO THE FALLEN WOMAN, OR JUSTICE TO HER BETRAYER.

MERCY TO THE FALLEN WOMAN, OR JUSTICE TO HER BETRAYER.

I do not ask you to be kind to these women; it is no more than justice of which the world stands in need. All that I ask you is, you, madam, you who perchance swept aside your spotiess garments lest even in touching this poor woman they would be solled and hurt—all that I ask of you, madam, is that you do not turn away from this girl, may be with a heart torn and wrung and quivering; and so turning away from her open wide your door and welcome into your parlor, place by the side of your young and innocent daughter, the man who, perchance, has betrayed her; taking his hand and clasping it cless, not seeing upon it the stain of a murdered and lost soul, not seeing between you and him the ghost of a spirit driven down through untold depths through life, and all of the eternity yet to come. I ask you simply that the same law shall hold good for one as it does for the other. But what I want to ask of you is, that you save other women from going into this life. Out of the cruel and terrible necessities of this war there are hundreds of thousands of women flung upon their own resources for their own support. It is absolutely necessary that there women have more work and better pay, if you would save your sidewalks from being crowded with young girls, who to day are spotless and pure and innocent, mother, as the young girl sitting at your side.

Will you let me tell you a little story to illustrate the whole matter! Some time ago, I was going

at your side.

A STORY OF A GIRL'S LIFE.

Will you let me tell you a little story to illustrate the whole matter? Some time ago, I was going home one night, just as the shades were closing round; it commenced to rain, and I saw walking before me a beautifully dressed woman unsheltered. Frent up to her and said: "Madam, will you have part of my umbrella; will you walk with me up the street?" She, looking at me and shaking her head slowly, said, "I don't think you know what you are saying." "Oh, yes," I responded. "I say will you walk up the street with me under my umbrella?" She said again, "I don't think you know what you are saying. You don't know who I am." Still I said, "that makes no difference; I don't care whether you know me or not; shall we go up the street to gether?" "No," she said, "I don't think you would care to have anybody who knows you meet you walking up the street twith such a woman as me;" and I turning, looking into her face as the gaslight struck across it, saw there the traces of a life that always leaves its traces, knowing that the young and beautiful woman standing beside me was one upon whom society had branded "outcast" and "abandoned," and I said, "No matter, we will go on together." And as we walked Isaid to her, "What could have brought you to such a life; you are young, you are pretty, you look well; what could have brought you to such a life;" She toil due there her story; and I, questioning thereafter, found that the story was strictly true. She was a daughter of a clergyman in West Pennsylvania, who had died, leaving his widow and herself benniess and unprovided for. The girl tried to find something to do. It was the tried to find something to do. It was the tried to find something to do. It was the tried to keep school, but they preferred young men; she tried to keep school, but there was only one in the village, and that had its

are more useful that those engaged in the duty of sending sarry depathes from so point to another, or sending the sending sarry depathes from so point to another, received the very great affection. It is encouraged to the control of the sending sarry depathes from so point to another, received the way great affection. It is considerable to the control of the sending sarry depathes sarry depathes the sending sarry depathes the sendi

this little room, poor, starved, wretched, miserable; looking round it into one corner, there, she said, I saw my poor, poor mother, dying of hunger and cold. Oh, what marvel, what marvel that she fell! And so she had gone on lower and lower, step by step. I said, "you must stop this life; you shall go with me; maybe I can find something for you to do—nay, I will find something for you to do. You shall stand an honored and respectable woman once more." "No, no," she said, "don't try it; you need not talk to me so; I have tried it again and am always discovered and driven back. You need not try to, help me. There is no hope, there is no help for such a woman as I," and then turning and looking at me—oh, men, oh, women, careless and indifferent, oh, that you could have seen the girl's face, and could have heard her say, "You are young, you are handsomely dressed, maybe you have wealth, maybe you have position, maybe influence, oh—I beg you, I pray you, to use them all to save other young girls. They are coming into this life, living it as I live it, suffering it as I suffer it, dying in it as I shall some day die." And So II promised her, and to keep that promise I come and put the matter before you to night. The speaker said: that girl's story had an ending. One Christmas eve, not long ago, in one of our elegant streets, in front of a beautiful dwelling, blasing with light from garret to basement, stood this girl

had been her employer, with a young girl resting her hand in his, promising to love and honor him for life; and it is said that up and down, up and down, in the night and cold, wandered this poor walf, this mistrable outcast, still; and when the Christmas morning sun roce and streamed up the street, there she rested, dead and at peace, And the day thereafter this ignit, daughter of a clergyman, gently and tenderly reared with a mother who had loved her, this poor girl westerried out and buried in the potter's field, with four miserable abandoned women following her as her coly mourners.

Oh, poor, tired, wronged, outraged soul, must thou have found the justice of God more infinitely tender than the mercies of men! And so, I ask you, father and mother, with daughters at home; I ask you, young man, with generous heart, loving a sister; I ask you, young girls, remembering the thousands of other young girls, whose innocease and purity and womanhood are as dear to them as yours to you; I ask you all, simply sind only, to carry a lesson home with you to night, to think of it as it deserves; not carelessly, not indifferently, but with the weight of these lost souls pressing upon me, I make this last plea, I put this last query, I offer this last prayer in their behalf, putting, it to you, and I ask you to deedde, as it should be decided, for them, for yourselves, for the world, with the susprayer in their behalf, putting, it to you and it is delivery many of the audience sheat tears.

The Constitutional Amendment. The Constitutional Amendment.

The Constitutional Amendment.

The amendment of the Federal Constitution, abolishing and prohibiting human slavery throughout our country, which was proposed in Congress and adopted by a two-thirds vote in either House, has already been aproved and ratified by the Legislatures of sixteen States (including loyal Old Virginia) as follows:

1. February 1. LLINDIE—Senate and House.
2. February 2. MICHIGAN—Senate and House.
3. February 2. MICHIGAN—Senate and House.
4. February 2. REODE ISLAND—Senate and House.
5. February 2. NEW YORK—Senate; 3d, Assembly.
6. February 3. MASSACHUSETTS—Senate and House.

THE WAR PRESS.

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7. February 3. Pennsylvania - Senate and 7. February 3. Pennsylvania — Sonate and House.

8. February 7. West Virginia — Senate and House.

10. February 8. Maine—Senate and House.

11. February 8. Virginia—Senate; 9th, House.

12. February 8. Minnesota and House.

13. February 8. Minnesota—Senate and House.

14. February 10. Indiana—Senate; 18th, House.

16. February 16. Neyada—Senate and House.

16. February 16. Neyada—Senate and House.

1. February 8. DELAWARE—Senate and House.
STATES YET TO VOTE.
Connecticut, | Iowa.
Vermont.

Iowa,
Wisconsin,
California,
Oregon,
Arkansas,
Louislana,
Alabama,
Mississippi
Texas—18.

Union of Methodists.—The indications are apparent that on the return of peace will come a reunion of all Methodists in the country. Previous to the breaking out of the war there were nearly two millions of communicants in the Methodist Church, which was only divided on the question of slavery. This evil abolished, the hope is indulged that all the Methodists in the country will be united at the approaching Centenary year. Already a movement has been inaugurated to this end in Tennessee, Rev. W. A. Oritchlow, of Murfreesboro, having published an address upon the subject, acknowledging the hand of God in using the rebellion to sweep away the pretext for the division of the Church and the dissolution of the Union, and declaring it proper, that with the restoration of the authority of the Government over the revolted States, efforts should be made to reunite the Church.

WASHINGTON KEITH, Esq., Assessor First District, Phi-ladelphia, Pa. ladelphia, Pa.

The absence of the usual excitement in the stock market lately has probably had a tendency to increase the speculation in gold, but from whatever cause it may have resulted, it is evidently now the principal business of large numbers, representing all classes in the community, and nearly all ages, from the messenger bey of fourteen upwards. Gold was formerly bought either for immediate use or to heard, generally through benefic as healthy and many large the stock of the second s bankers or brokers, and was a very simple transaction. But now-a days the operations are conducted in an entirely different manner, and with a different end in view. Those who buy generally intend to sell at an advance before the time comes for the gold to be delivered, and those who sell expect to purchase at a lower rate before the gold is called for. The result frequently in many cases, that no gold is actually said but the

ten million dollars will be realized by its sale. The lately increased supply of cotton has had a depressing effect on foreign exchange. It is stated that a large amount of the cotton selzed at Savannah was the property of the rebel authorities, and was to have been run through the blockading fleet, and therefore justly forfeited to the United States Government. That portion of it which can be proved to have belonged to Unionists will no doubt be paid for to those proprietors at a future time. It is avidently for the heads of the lately are time. It is evidently for the benefit of the loyal sec-tions of the country to get possession of this valuable commodity for home consumption and for export. All that may be obtained will help to keep the cotton mills supplied, and by furnishing a basis of exchange reduce the price of gold he price of gold.

Chicago Markets, Feb. 20. Boston Markets, Feb. 21.

Cincinnati Provision Markets Feb. 20th. Cincinnati Provision Markets ged. 20tm.

The Provision market on Srturday was in a decidedly hetter condition as regards bulk meats and lard. For the former there was an active foreign demand, principally on foreign account, and sales of 300,000 bs. were made at 16c for shoulders, 17%@18c for rib sides, 19c for clear rib, and 20c for clear, all 1000s. Nothing doing in Mess Pork, and prices are entirely nominal. Lardeless to the extant of fully 4,000 tieroes at 21%@22c for prime city, on orders from the East.

Whisky is held at \$2 17@2.18

LETTER BAGS PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

JOS. C. GRUER,

ROMUND A. SOUDER,

GRO. L. BUJEY,

CRO. L. BUJEY,

ARRIVED.

mes eve, not long ago, in one of our elegant streets, in front of a beautiful dwelling, blazing with light from garret to basement, stood this girl "Wil hamsement "With amazement "With amazement "With amazement "Bond is the cificer that testified afterward said looking in at those beautiful windows into this rare and elegant 100m. There stood the young man who

Woman's Rights and Dangers. REPORT OF A RECENT LECTURE BY MISS ANNA E DIOKINSON ON LABOR FOR WOMEN. Miss Anna E. Dickinson lectured, on Tuesday eve ning, at Henry Ward Beecher's church, Brooklyn, on the subject of Labor. The church was filled with a large and appreciative audience. The lecture was a noble, earnest, and elequent plea in behalf of labor for women. Henry Ward Bescher introduced the speaker at 8 o'clock. Woman, he said, had now become a power in the land, and power had no sex. e briefly, too, of the extending sphere of

prefer to go out and labor instead of staying a INEQUALITY IN PRICES.

Kentucky, Fennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,

is in many cases, that no gold is actually sold, but the whole transaction simply amounts to settling the difference between the two prices.

The Eavannah cotton fleet, so far as heard from, will bring about 16,000 bales, the bulk of it being upland cotton. Another fleet is loading at Savannah, and will be in New York in a short time. Estimating the weight of the thirty thousand bales of cottin at fifteen million pounds, and the price at seventy cen's per pound, over ten million dollars will be realized by its sale. The lately increased supply of cotton has had a demandar s in many cases, that no gold is actually sold, but the

the price of gold.

The New York Post of yesterday says:

Will street to-day is extremely quiet. Money is working more easily at 5 per cent. Surplus funds are offered on loan, and at 6 it is not easy for capitalists to lead their accumulating unemployed means. The only other feature of importance is the firmness of the prices of the best dividend-paying railroad shares, most of which show a tendency to advance.

To-day being a closs holiday, no business of importance is doing. The Stock Excharge is closed, as are also many of the leading brokers, except for the payment of drafts. For the same purpose most of the banks are open. In the street a small amount of business is along at quotations, which compare as follows with those of yesterday atternoon:

Wed. Trees. Adv. Dec.

Chicago Markets, Feb. 20.

The steady decline in gold is manifesting its influence in all brances of trade, and where values have not sympathized with the "great regulator" in its downward course prices are but little more than nominal. Wheat is moderately active under a speculative demand, but the sales show a decline on Saunday's figures of 3%@dc B bushel. Operations were principally confined to No. 1 spring at from 31.93%@1.41%, closing at the inside quotation. Small sales of No. 2 red winter were reported at 21 45; extra spring at 81.45, and No. 2 spring at \$1.25. There was nothing whatever done in Flour.

The demand for Corn is limited and the market receded 2c, with sales of rejected at 73@76c, in store, closing dull at the inside figure.

The market for Oats is quiet and easier, but closed firm at 68%@18%c for No. 1, after the receipt of New York despatches.

There is but little doing in Rye, and the market ruled easier, with light sales at 85c for No. 1, and at 96c for No. 2.

Boston Markets, Feb. 21.

The receipts since yesterday have been 532 bbls Flour, 16,672 bus Oais, 375 bus Bye, and 2 200 bus Shorts. The merket for Flour is firm with sales of Western superfine at 89.716 bit; common extress 4.50.756 bit; medium do at 511.25611.75; and 700d-sand choice, including favorite 5t. Louis brands, at \$11.76914 bbl. Southern Flour is quiet and remains the same. Corn is dull; new Southern yell, wat \$1.90 bus. Oats are selling at 17c @81 \$ bus for Northern and Canada. Rye \$1.76 \$ bus; @81 \$ bus for Northern and Canada. Rye \$1.76 \$ bus; @81 \$ bus for Northern and Canada. Rye \$1.76 \$ bus; @81 \$ bus for Northern and Canada. By \$1.76 \$ bus; @81 \$1 \$1.00 \$1.0

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 22. Sun Rises....6 43 | Sun Sets...5 45 | High Water.. 12 25 United States bark Gem of the Sea. George H Leinas, commanding, from Key West 2d inst, to the Navy Yard commanding, from key west at the state of the for repeirs.

Brig Vincent, Morrison, 7 days from Fortress Monroe, in ballast to Workman & Co.

Schr F E Baird, Irelas, 10 days from Charleston Bar, in ballast to captain.

FUT BACK.—It have been supported ashors on the pitch of Cape Henlopen, returned this morning, in a leaky condition, for repairs.

MEMORANDA.

Ship Island Light, McFee, cleared at Liverpool 19th inst. for this port,
Ships Philadelphia, Pool, and Coreair, for this port,
were loading at Liverpool 11th inst.
Ship Peerlees, Major, for Manila, sailed from Liverwell this transfer. Ship Peerless, Major, for Manila, sailed from Liverpool 10th inst.

Bark Houston, Ross, cleared at Port Royal 11th inst,
for this port,

Bark Princa. Harriman, for this port, sailed from
Port Royal 10th inst.

Bark Prorence Chipman, for this port, was loading at
Liverpool 11th inst.

Brig Daniel Maloney, Ireian, from Boston, at Port
Royal 10th inst. via Savannah
Schr John M. Broomall, Douglass, hence at Port
Royal 15th inst.

Schr Sallie B, Batemun, at Port Royal 15th inst, from
Wilmington.