The Press.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1865.

Sherman, Grant, Lee.

Gen. SHERMAN is the first of our generals who has led an army into regions whence no intelligence of its movements can be had. Twice has he disappeared. When he penetrated Georgia nearly a month passed before communication was reopened with his army, and now he has been lost two weeks in the Carolinas. Where he is is unknown to us. Rebel papers confess that he entered Columbia, but beyond this we are ignorant of his path and his progress. Nothing is more significant of the strength of our cause than the calmness with which the North endures its ignorance. There is a profound confidence in SHERMAN's ability to march where he will; fears for the safety of his army are unknown. Yet we have reason to believe that a large force is gathering in his front, and that he cannot continue to advance without finding his way disputed.

To SHERMAN is entrusted aggressive force; to GRANT, for the present, a confining power. The one holds, while the other strikes. GRANT astonished the nation in the campaign of last spring by the ferocity of his onslaught, and the terrible energy with which he fought his way from the Rapidan to Richmond. It should not the less admire the patient waiting of the past few months. This radical difference exists between the delays of MCCLELLAN and those of the Lieutenant General: McCLELLAN when he refused to advance assigned as his reason the want of a force sufficient to secure success; GRANT has awaited the results of other movements. From the day that SHERMAN left Atlanta, GRANT's policy has been the postponement of a general battle. Nothing but the extreme probability of a decisive, crushing victory could have justified him in attacking LEE. The value of the hard fighting of the overland campaign ended when LEE was forced into Richmond; then it was the object of our generalship to keep him there; and how great have been the results of this policy our recent victories reveal. GRANT, by holding LEE in Richmond, enabled SHERIDAN to sweep the Shenandoah Valley; made it possible for SHERMAN to march through Georgia; placed victory within the reach of THOMAS; gave back to the Union Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington, and now, by this stubborn investment or imprisonment of the principal army of the rebellion, he gives to SHERMAN an opportunity which is worth a reinforcement of fifty thousand men. So long as LEE and GRANT maintain their present attitudes there is no probability that effectual resistance will be made to SHERMAN, yet, unless he is repelled, the fall of Richmond is certain. Better management of our forces there could not be; all our armies are co-operative, and the strategy which has for its object, not the winning of isolated battles, but the destruction of the great armies of the rebellion, must triumph in the end. Until GRANT assumed command the war had so little organization that all our campaigns seemed scarcely more than exhibitions of brute strength.

Cardinal Wiseman's Successor.

The Archbishopric of Westminster (Catholic), which carries with it the Primacy of England, being vacant by the death of Cardinal WISEMAN, some interest is felt, in and out of the Catholic Church, in the question—who shall succeed him? It need not necessarily be a Cardinal. At present, as the English papers inform us, three persons are talked of—each being a man of mark. We shall name them in alphabetical order:

1. Dr. CLIFFORD, Bishop of Clifton, born on Christmas Eve, 1823. He was made Bishop in 1850, and was recommended by Cardinal WISEMAN himself. He is brother of Baron CLIFFORD of Chudleigh, who is also a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. Sir THOMAS CLIFFORD, a noted member of the "Cabal" Ministry, in the time of CHARLES II., and charged with being the originator of the practice of corrupting Parliaments in England, was raised to the Peerage in 1672. The family have long ranked among the leading Catholics of England. Bishop CLIFFORD, moreover, is grandson of the late Cardinal WELD. There is no *scan. mag.* in this, though it may seem otherwise. The fact is, Mr. THOMAS WELD, of Lulworth Castle, Dorsetshire, had an only daughter, married to the eighth Lord CLIFFORD, and, after the death of his wife, took holy orders in the Church of Rome, was consecrated Bishop of Amylxea in 1825, and created Cardinal in 1830; he died in 1837.

2. Dr. HENRY EDWARD MANNING, formerly Protestant Archdeacon of Chichester, was educated at Oxford; graduated there in 1830, as a "first-class" in classics; quitted the Church of England in 1851; is now head, as well as founder of a religious Order of secular priests, settled at Bayswater, entitled "The Oblates of St. Charles Borromeo," and is also Provost of the Chapter of Westminster. He is in his 53d year, and distinguished for his power as a writer as well as for his eloquence as a preacher.

3. Monsignor GEORGE TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, Chamberlain to the Pope, is a younger brother of Baron TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, one of the most ancient among the Irish families. The castle and lordship of Malahide, near Dublin, were conferred upon a TALBOT, by HENRY II., over 650 years ago, and have never gone out of TALBOT possession. Monsignor TALBOT is reputed to be a gentleman of great learning and tact.

It is very probable that the Pope may not appoint any of these three. At the same time, perhaps, Monsignor TALBOT has the best chance, though Dr. MANNING is "the favorite" in London.

We find various biographies of the late Cardinal WISEMAN in the latest English journals. They declare that the great experiment, made in 1850, by which England, assumed by the Papacy to have returned to "the Church," had been planned by Dr. WISEMAN himself, then Bishop, as early as 1848—"that the plan of parcelling out the land into provinces of the Roman see, and even the boundaries and names of the different dioceses, were then determined on; but that the untoward events in Italy, which compelled the Pope to fly in the disguise of a footman from his own capital, checked the ardor and postponed the schemes of the Vatican. But in 1850 brighter visions were in prospect. Thanks to the French arms, the Pope had been conducted back in triumph to his capital, there thoroughly and for ever to divest himself of all those sympathies with Italian freedom and independence which, at his accession to the Papacy, he had so warmly encouraged. In 1850, Dr. WISEMAN left London once more for Rome"—and, towards the close of that year, was fulminated from the Vatican the intimation that PIUS IX. had instituted a regular and full hierarchy for England, of which Dr. NICHOLAS WISEMAN, "Cardinal and Archbishop of Westminster," was the head, with full vicarial powers to act as the Pope's Legate.

Of Cardinal WISEMAN's successful administration there is no doubt. At the Congress at Malines, in 1863, the Cardinal gave the following statistics of what he called the growth of his religion in England: In 1830 there were 434 priests; in 1863, 1,242; in 1830 there were 410 meeting houses; in 1863, 872; in 1830 there were 16 convents; in 1863, 162; and of the new Roman Catholic chapels 42 have been built by "perverts." It will be difficult to replace such a man, who was popular outside his own Church.

Death of a Veteran.

The year 1769 is remarkable, in history, for the large number of eminent persons born within its limits. Among these may be enumerated JOHN QUINCY ADAMS; ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT; Sir THOMAS LAWRENCE (who succeeded our own BENJAMIN WEST as President of the Royal Academy of England); Sir JOHN MALCOLM, diplomatist and author; Mrs. OPIE; THOMAS FANSHAWE MIDDLETON, first Bishop of Calcutta; GEORGE CUVIER, the naturalist; Sir MARK ISAMBERT BRUNEL, who constructed the Thames Tunnel; WILLIAM SMITH, the geologist; TALLIEN, the noted anti-Girondist; MEHEMET ALI, Pacha of Egypt; DUPONT DE L'EURE, so distinguished in the French Revolutions of 1830 and 1848; Lord CASTLEREAGH, afterwards Marquis of Londonderry, whose craft destroyed the nationality of Ireland, by bribing the Irish Parliament to vote for the parchment Union with Great Britain; Marshals SOULT and NEY; ARTHUR WELLESLEY, Duke of Wellington, and, greatest of all, NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

Some little doubt exists as to whether NAPOLEON really was not born in 1768, and plausible reasons have been assigned, by French writers, in favor of fixing the date in that year. However, we are not now required to discuss that subject, but will accept NAPOLEON as one of the men of 1769—particularly as it enables us to remind our readers of a good *bon mot* on the subject, credited to LOUIS XVIII., who, a feeble monarch, would have been more in place, as well as happier, as a man of letters. The story goes that, once on a time, Lord CASTLEREAGH, dining with King LOUIS, asked him whether it was not a fact that the Duke of WELLINGTON and himself had been born in the same year with NAPOLEON? The answer was in the affirmative, whereupon, with that grace which accompanied the Bourbon compliments, his Majesty bowed and said: "It seems as if Providence, ever good and bountiful, had sent WELLINGTON and CASTLEREAGH as a compensation for having produced NAPOLEON at the same time."

In that same 1769, was born, at Llewenny Hall, Denbighshire, a very eminent Welshman, who outlived all of his contemporaries—dying, only a fortnight ago, *in his ninety-seventh year*. This was Viscount COMBERMERE, made Field Marshal of the British Army in 1855, whose closing years were as calm as his early career had been stormy. His real name was STAPLETON COTTON, and, though he won his peerage by his sword, he previously belonged to the rank intermediate between the nobility and the gentry, for he succeeded his father, in 1807, as 6th baronet. The COTTON family, who possessed large estates in North Wales and Cheshire—their principal estate in the latter place being Combermere Abbey—claimed to have been settled there since the Conquest, and frequently supplied Parliament with members for Cheshire. They were loyal to CHARLES I. during the Civil War, and, at the Restoration, the eldest of the race was knighted, being created baronet seventeen years later.

Entering the British army at the age of twenty-one, STAPLETON COTTON's first service was in Flanders, in 1793, where, my Uncle Toby said, the men swore frightfully. Money helps a man in the British army, for it can purchase the various steps in rank, and, by the time Mr. COTTON had been six years in arms, he commanded a dragoon regiment. He was gallant as well as wealthy, and sought to be employed on active service:—at the Cape of Good Hope and in the Indian War against TIPPOO SAIB, he distinguished himself; was Major General at the age of thirty, and was one of the first officers sent to the Peninsula, in 1807 (when he had succeeded his father as baronet), there holding command of a brigade of cavalry. He fought all through the Peninsular War to its close in 1814; was present at Talavera and second in command at Salamanca; was repeatedly thanked by Parliament for his gallant services; and, finally, when NAPOLEON was lodged on Elba, was raised to the peerage as Baron COMBERMERE, a pension of £2,000 per annum, for his own and two other lives, being also granted. He was not present at Waterloo, in 1815, but was employed immediately afterwards, by WELLINGTON, to command the cavalry of the army of occupation in France. In 1817, he was made Governor of the Island of Barbadoes. After that he was Commander-in-Chief in Ireland for three years, and in 1825 was sent to India, where his capture of Bhurtpore, a fortress supposed to be impregnable, and which Lord LAKE had besieged and failed to take in 1805, saved British India, and was rewarded with his elevation in the peerage, as Viscount, with an additional pension, "to support the dignity of his rank."

This ended his active service. He had then risen to be full General in 1825, and Field Marshal thirty years later—two grades of rank not known, as yet, in the American service. Since 1829, he commanded the First Life Guards, and the Constableship of the Tower of London and Lord Lieutenancy of the Tower Hamlets becoming vacant by the death of his old commander, WELLINGTON, Lord COMBERMERE was appointed to these offices in October, 1852, and retained them to his death. He also was "Gold Stick" at Court—a salaried office.

From 1805 to his being ennobled in 1814, he had a seat in the House of Commons. Few Parliament men have been so taciturn in the legislature. During sixty years' membership, first in the Commons and then in the Lords, it is doubtful whether he has spoken a dozen sentences in all. For years he was nowhere but well-preserved." In his ninetieth year he reviewed the troops in Hyde Park, managing his charger as well as if he had been half his real age, and, in or out of uniform, was one of the best dressed "men about town." Thrice married—the last time in his 70th year, to Miss GURBINS, a young Irish lady, who has lately written a very agreeable book—Lord COMBERMERE has left one son, a Colonel in the army, now forty-seven years old. We believe that as Lord C. has been called away, WINFIELD SCOTT, U. S. A., is now the senior general officer in the world.

The Funeral of Cardinal Wiseman.

THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF RESPECT FOR HIS MEMORY—THE RELIGIOUS EXERCISES, AND WHO ATTENDED THEM—A FUNERAL PROCESSION THREE MILES LONG.

We have received the latest files of European papers by the Canada, which arrived at New York yesterday afternoon, and in them find full accounts of the obsequies of this able and distinguished prelate of the Catholic Church. On the 23d ultimo his remains were interred at Kensal Green with great ceremony. The *Times* gives a long account of the obsequies, from which we extract the main facts. The body, after lying in state for three days at his private residence, was removed on the 22d to the Catholic church in Moorfields, that the humbler classes of his communion should have the opportunity of seeing the body of a prince of their Church lie in state. At York place the coffin was opened, and the features of the dead man were exposed to view, surrounded by the mitre, crozier, and other insignia of his high office. But the removal to Moorfields the lid was screwed down, and the solemn spectacle was therefore, deprived of much of its mournful interest. Nevertheless, it attracted immense numbers of the people, and from an early hour in the morning a long file extended from the church door half way round Finsbury-circus, men, women, and children patiently waiting their turn of admission to view the church. A strong force of the city police were in attendance, and were of great use in securing regularity of ingress and egress, but beyond that there was no occasion for their services, the utmost decorum being observed by the crowd, every member of which seemed to be deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion. Moorfields, one of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in London, has long since been eclipsed in dimensions and architectural splendor by the more recently-built churches of the same communion; but it still looks spacious and solemn. No daylight, except that which poured down from the roof on the religious paintings at the back of the high altar, was permitted to enter the spacious interior. The pillars were hung and the seats were covered with black cloth, and there were no lights except those wax candles which belong to the Roman Catholic ritual, and which in considerable numbers surrounded the bier. The coffin, which is of polished oak, stood upon a raised platform, under a high tressle, and covered with a pall, upon which, at the upper end, rested the cardinal's hat of the deceased. Around it on every side were numerous wax tapers, and two members of the congregation in white surplices preserved the quadrangular enclosure within which the coffin was placed from the too near intrusion of the crowd. The people passed along in one continuous stream, but slowly and without any confusion, and having each satisfied him or herself with a passing glance at the coffin, passed quickly on. It took about half an hour from the time the spectator took his place at the end of the queue until he had seen the coffin, and passed out of the church by the Bloomfield street.

On the 22d Moorfields Church was the scene of the first and most imposing ceremony in the day's proceedings. A "solemn Mass of Requiem," it was stated, was to be celebrated there at ten o'clock; and the announcement of this religious office brought together an immense congregation. The admission to the church was obtained by tickets, and the number of noblemen, members of Parliament, and other distinguished personages, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, English and foreign, who applied for this favor, left but little space available for the general public. Not fewer than between 300 and 400 clergymen were also present, including Archbishop Cullen, of Dublin, and many other archbishops and bishops. The Gregorian Mass, as arranged by Norello, was that which was throughout chanted, and at its conclusion a sermon was preached by Dr. Manning. This discourse naturally assumed the character of a review and eulogy of the late Cardinal, with a special notice of his intense longing and his unremitting labors for the conversion of England. "I have never," he said, "known a good man so misunderstood by the public. That misunderstanding, however, has, no doubt, to some extent, been attributed to his own character. This man, who was supposed to be so stately, and so self-sustained, was the shyest, the most modest, the most bashful man I have ever met. He had the gentleness of a boy with the bashfulness of a maiden. His tenderness and his benignity were perpetually manifested in his respect for women and his love for children. I never knew of a man speak of others, even when they deserved severity, with so much measured tenderness. With his large charity was united the most profound humanity. A greater humility in so great a man it has never been my lot to witness. Another remarkable trait in his character was, that for the misfortunes of others, while he gave them his deepest sympathy, he never shed a tear; but at the mention of any great act—of anything heroic or magnanimous—the tears sprang at once to his eyes."

The ceremony called absolution, which followed the sermon, over, the funeral procession was formed, and moved towards the Roman Catholic cemetery at Kensal Green. The procession was between two and three miles in length, and passed through Eldon street, City road, Oldstreet road, Coswell street, Euston road, Paddington, Harrow road, to Kensal Green. The road was kept by the city police, assisted by 800 of the Metropolitan reserve. In the procession there were fifty mourning coaches and upwards of 600 carriages, including those of the ambassadors, Catholic peers, and gentry. The body, covered with a pall of cloth of gold, was on a car drawn by six horses. The multitude that thronged the line of procession was enormous.

LECTURE BY REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE.—The reader will find the announcement, in another column, that a lecture will be delivered at Musical Fund Hall this (Thursday) evening, by the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, pastor of the Second Reformed Dutch Church of this city. The Rev. Mr. Talmage's oratory is admirably adapted to please a popular audience, and the euphonious subject selected by him for this occasion—that of "*Grumbler and Company*"—is certain to be handled in a manner that can hardly disappoint the most chronic grumbler. A full house and a rich treat may be anticipated. The proceeds of the lecture are for a most worthy and charitable object. Mr. Talmage will be followed in the course on Friday evening, March 17th, by Colonel J. W. Forney, on "Our Country, its Men and Measures."

"THE WAR OUR EMANCIPATOR" is the title of the lecture which Mr. J. Mercer Langston will deliver before the Social, Civil, and Statistical Association of the colored people of Pennsylvania, this evening, at Concert Hall. The subject is full of interest, and Mr. Langston has the reputation of a man able to treat it with power and eloquence. This fine course of lectures is drawing to a close, and has no doubt done much good.

SHERIDAN'S VICTORY IN THE VALLEY.

THE DEFEAT OF THE REBELS CONFIRMED

WASHINGTON, March 8.—It is stated that information has been received from Winchester, confirming the news brought into General Grant's lines by deserters, of a victory achieved by Sheridan over Early in the valley. The battle took place near Waynesboro, and resulted in the capture by Sheridan of 40 rebel officers, 1,500 men, 5 cannon, and over 100 wagons.

The report does not give the date of the battle Waynesboro is on the Virginia Central Railroad, at the west base of the Blue Ridge, about fifteen miles from Staunton and twenty-five from Charlottesville.

News from Richmond Papers.

The Richmond papers of Monday, March 6, are at hand. They contain no military news of importance either from North Carolina or Virginia.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of Monday, in the course of a long editorial, says: "The country turns in disgust from Congress. For four months it has sat in Richmond, and day after day witnessed the military strength of the Confederacy dwindling away, and though General Lee has appealed to it and implored it to use the great military strength of negroes for the defence of our country, yet to this date of the session it has wholly failed and refused to adopt this measure for the salvation of the country."

Again it says: "No convention has been held in Virginia. A convention will not fight, but it might run away. Aye, it might capitulate when that sad alternative shall come. Gen. Lee is the proper convention. He is the best judge of our situation. No convention is needed, for what does State sovereignty need in convention. Has not State sovereignty been the weak weakness of our cause? Our cause to-day needs power."

The Richmond *Sentinel*, of Monday, says: "Both Houses of the Virginia Legislature have concurred in resolutions of instruction to our Senators in Congress to support the policy of introducing negroes as soldiers in the field. The resolutions take the broadest grounds. We trust that the Confederate Senate will now act without delay."

In the rebel Congress the resolutions of the General Assembly of North Carolina, protesting strongly against arming slaves in any emergency without the consent of the States, were presented. A bill was passed in the rebel House to form volunteer organizations out of such persons as are not liable to military duty.

NORTH CAROLINA.

OPINIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA PAPERS.

Forty Thousand Union Troops Concentrating at Newbern.

NEWBERN, N. C., March 1.—Intelligence from North Carolina papers indicates that both the Unionists and rebels are concentrating their forces in her borders for the final struggle.

A Raleigh paper says the people of that city will hear the guns of the great and last battle of the American rebellion, and that "the traditionary grounds of the old North State will be the common grave-yard of State rights and State lines, without which no attempt at secession could have been made. It cannot be that State lines will always be a sufficient pretext to prompt the local interests of one section to revolt against the Government, if the other sections refuse to sacrifice their local interests.

"All history demonstrates the fact that personal interest is paramount to love of country, and even life itself. Hence, to obliterate these local dangers we must abolish State lines, which give us a central head, the magnet to which all local interest will be attracted; a republican government in which will lie the embodiment of free institutions; a country in which the people cannot run riot and plunge into extremes under the cloak of democracy."

The Raleigh *Progress* says that the Federals are concentrating a force of 40,000 at Newbern, which will soon be ready to strike Gen. Lee's army, in conjunction with Sherman's forces.

KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

EXTENSIVE FIRE—RECOVERY OF DROWNED—AN EXPEDITION AFTER GUERILLAS—COMMANDING OFFICER ASSIGNED.

MEMPHIS, March 6, via CAIRO, March 8.—A fire broke out in the process-room of the *Bulletin* office today, which was soon extinguished. The damage was mainly by water. The loss will probably reach $20,000, covered by insurance.

Eight bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the steamer Wilson, recently sunk near Napoleon. Twenty-seven persons are still missing.

Guerillas continue their outrages outside of our lines.

General Washburne has sent an expedition after them.

Major Hawley, 32d United States Infantry, has been assigned to the command of all the forces on the west side of the Mississippi, from Morganzia to White river.

REBELS OF GUERILLAS.

LOUISVILLE, March 7.—About half a dozen guerillas, supposed to be a portion of Wiggton's band, went into Elizabethtown this afternoon, representing themselves as supported by a much larger force in the rear. There was but little righting, and slight damage was done. The negro guard drove the guerillas out in two separate advances. Last evening, at Bridenburgh, about twenty guerillas attempted to make an incursion, and were repulsed by the Federal forces there.

The military commander at Cleveport has assessed certain citizens of that place for the damages done to the steamer Sarazoon and the passengers thereon.

THE FRESHET—A STEAMBOAT SUNK.

LOUISVILLE, March 8.—The Nashville steamer Imperial drifted against the railroad bridge and sunk to-day. No lives were lost. The boat is a total loss but the machinery will probably be saved in a damaged condition. The river has risen three feet. The Southern roads are being rapidly reconstructed for travel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

GEN. CANBY GOES TO MOBILE—DESTRUCTION OF THE WEST GULF SQUADRON FLAGSHIP—RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA—COTTON NEWS.

NEW ORLEANS, March 1, via CAIRO, March 8.—Gen. Canby and staff leave to-day for the vicinity of Mobile.

Acting Rear Admiral Thatcher arrived yesterday, and to-day assumed command of the West Gulf Squadron vice Commodore Palmer. The latter will command at New Orleans.

The steamer Arizona, which had just been fitted up as a flag ship, was destroyed by fire thirty miles below New Orleans, Monday night. Five of her officers perished and several officers lost all their effects. The Arizona was one of the finest vessels in the fleet, and her loss will be severely felt.

The rebel General Assembly adjourned on the 14th ult., after three weeks' session.

Manufactories are being started in different parts of the State, and measures are to be taken to relieve the people of the exorbitant prices imposed upon the necessaries of life by speculators.

CALIFORNIA.

THE OVERLAND RUSSIAN TELEGRAPH LINE.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7.—The United States steamer Shubrick, Capt. Scammon, sailed to-day with Colonel Bulkley and party, of the Collins Overland Russian Telegraph Company, bound for Sitka, Russian America. The Shubrick touches at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, to land a working party to commence building at Fraser river. The telegraph line will be working in two or three weeks between San Francisco and British Columbia.

Advices from Baker's Island say the ship Mary. L. Sutton went ashore on November 20th in a squall and is a total loss. The captain and crew were saved and remained on the island.

The Interruption to Travel Southward—The Ice-gorge at Havre de Grace.

BALTIMORE, March 8.—Travel northward is still obstructed by the ice in the Susquehanna river. We have reports of considerable damage along the river in the vicinity of Columbia and other points, but no particulars have been received. The ice is gorged below Havre de Grace, and there is no immediate prospect of the railroad ferry-boat being able to cross. Above Port Deposit the river is comparatively open, but the water is very high. Parties have been able to cross there to-day in small boats. A heavy rain is falling this evening, and the warm atmosphere will no doubt soon force the ice out below, and remove the present difficulty.

SHERMAN'S MARCH.

REBEL REPORTS OF A FIGHT AT CHERAW, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Alleged English Commissioner in Rebeldom—Affairs about Richmond.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

Full files of Richmond papers of the 6th have been received at this bureau. They are almost entirely destitute of news. The *Examiner* says there were two notable reports yesterday (5th) from Fayetteville, N. C.—one a telegram that there had been fighting at Cheraw, in which Sherman was defeated or invested, and was retiring towards Charleston. A verbal revision of this, brought by a railroad passenger, was that the affair at Cheraw was one of cavalry, in which Hampton had thrashed Kilpatrick.

The other piece of news was dated Fayetteville, and was to the effect that a supposed commissioner from England, Hon. Thomas Connelly, a member of the British Parliament, was there en route for Richmond. Mr. Connelly is the member from Donegal in the House of Commons. We know no reason to suppose that he has any other designs in the Confederacy than those of an ordinary tourist.

AFFAIRS BEFORE RICHMOND.

There is nothing important to report on the lines around Richmond and Petersburg. Grant is supposed to have sent his cavalry into the valley, and our scouts have been unable for some days past to find any of it beyond scouting and foraging parties sent from the rear.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 8.

THE CANADIAN PASSPORT ORDER RESCINDED—STATE CIRCULAR.

Mutual explanations have taken place between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, which have resulted in a rescinding of the passport order of the 17th of last December, so far as relates to the province of Canada, and in an understanding that under the present circumstances and notwithstanding the notice lately given in that respect, the naval force of the United States upon the upper lakes shall be the same which was stipulated by the treaty of April, 1817.

The following is the proclamation on the subject of passports:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, March 8, 1865.

Whereas, pursuant to the order of the President of the United States, directions were issued from this Department, under date of December 17, 1864, requiring passports from all travellers entering the United States, except immigrant passengers directly entering an American port as a people from a foreign country.

But whereas, information has recently been received which affords reasonable ground to expect that her Britannic Majesty's Government and the executive and legislative branches of the Government of Canada have taken, and will continue to take such steps as may be looked for from a friendly neighbor, and will be effectual towards preventing hostile incursions from the Canada territories into the United States—

The President directs that from and after this date the order above referred to requiring passports shall be modified, and so much thereof as relates to persons entering this country from Canada shall be rescinded, saving and reserving the order in all other respects in full force.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

SIGNIFICANT OMISSIONS.

Senator SAULSBURY, of Delaware, has been omitted from the Senate's standing committees, which were arranged in Republican caucus. He was previously on the Committees on Commerce, Pensions, and Patents. Senator MCDOUGALL, of California, formerly on the Committee on Foreign Relations, is also omitted from the committees.

THE STEAMSHIP BERMUDA CASE.

The Supreme Court to-day held under advisement and continued until the next term the steamship Bermuda case. She was a British vessel, and was captured off the coast of Great Abaca Island, one of the Bahamas, and, together with her cargo, contraband of war, condemned on the ground that she was the property of enemies of the United States and attempting to run a blockaded port. The plaintiffs denied the latter, alleging that she was bound to Nassau and was captured in British waters. Important questions are involved in the decision.

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY NOMINATED.

The President sent to the Senate to-day a large number of military, naval, and other nominations, including FREEMAN CLARK as Comptroller of the Currency. They were referred to the appropriate standing committees.

THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Notwithstanding the refusal of the Senate at the late session to recognize Arkansas, by the admission of her Senators, they confirmed the nomination of United States attorneys and marshals for the judicial districts of that State.

SENATE CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate has confirmed, among many others, the following nominations: Lieut. G. W. Doty, commander in the navy on the retired list, and Lieutenant Commanders H. N. S. Arnold, Thos. Patterson, Wm. N. Jeffers, Edward Simpson, and William G. Temple, commanders in the navy on the active list; Asaphael C. Geer, collector of Internal Revenue, Fifteenth district, New York; Caleb Cook Masonson, consul at Tuxpan; E. D. Neill' Minnesota, to be secretary to the President to sign patents; Victor D. Laud, Michigan, consul at Cadiz; E. T. Sanford, Maine, consul at Foo Chow, China.

ARRIVAL OF DESERTERS.

A hundred and twenty deserters, the greater part from North Carolina, arrived here to-day. A large number are at City Point awaiting transportation North.

Special Session of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, a Committee on Mines and Mining was added to the standing committees of the Senate.

ELECTION OF A CHAPLAIN.

Mr FOOT, of Vermont, submitted an order, which was agreed to, that the Senate will to-morrow proceed to the election of a chaplain.

Mr. ANTHONY moved that the Senate proceed to the election of standing committees, which was agreed to, and the process by ballot was dispensed with.

He submitted the following list, which was agreed to, the first-named gentleman on each committee being its chairman.

On Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Sumner, Doolittle, Harris, Foot, Wade, Davis, Johnson.

On Finance.—Messrs. Fessenden, Sherman, Howe, Cowan, Van Winkle, Lane, Doolittle.

On Commerce.—Messrs. Chandler, Morrill, Morgan, Sprague, Lane (Kansas), Nesmith, Doolittle.

On Manufactures.—Messrs. Sprague, Dixon, Pomeroy, Kidder, Wright.

On Agriculture.—Messrs. Sherman, Lane (Ind.), Harlan, Wilson, Guthrie.

On Military Affairs and Militia.—Messrs. Wilson, Lane (Indiana), Howard, Nesmith, Morgan, Clark, Brown.

On Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Grimes, Anthony, Willey, Ramsay, Cragin, Nye, Hendricks.

On the Judiciary.—Messrs. Trumbull, Harris, Collamer, Johnson, Williams, Henderson, Conness.

On Post Offices and Post Roads.—Messrs. Collamer, Dixon, Ramsay, Conness, Buckalew, Pomeroy, Van Winkle.

On Public Lands.—Mr. Harlan, chairman; Messrs. Pomeroy, Morrill, Sprague, Stewart, Sauls'ury, Ricks, and Wright.

On Private Land Claims.—Mr. Harris, chairman; Messrs. Sumner, Howard, Williams, and Riddle.

On Indian Affairs.—Mr. Doolittle, chairman; Messrs. Lane, of Kansas, Harlan, Nesmith, Foot, Trumbull, and Buckalew.

On Pensions.—Mr. Foster, chairman; Messrs. Lane, of Indiana, Lane, of Kansas, Grimes, Yates, and Buckalew.

On Revolutionary Claims.—Mr. Ramsay, chairman; Messrs. Chandler, Wilson, Nesmith, and Wright.

On Claims.—Mr. Clark, chairman; Messrs. Howe, Pomeroy, Anthony, Williams, Morrill, and Davis.

On Mines and Mining.—Mr. Conness, chairman; Messrs. Stewart, Chandler, Morgan, Fessenden, Buckalew, Guthrie.

Joint Committee on Printing on the part of the Senate.—Mr. Anthony, chairman; Messrs. Brown and Riddle.

Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills on the part of the Senate.—Mr. Howard, chairman; Messrs. Cowan and Nye.

Joint Committee on the Library on the part of the Senate.—Mr. Collamer, chairman; Messrs. Johnson and Howard.

On the District of Columbia.—Mr. Dixon, chairman; Messrs. Morrill, Wade, Willey, Henderson, Yates, and Riddle.

On Patents and the Patent Office.—Mr. Cowan, chairman; Messrs. Lane of Indiana, Clark, Morton, and Guthrie.

On Public Buildings and Grounds.—Mr. Foot, chairman; Messrs. Brown, Trumbull, Grimes, and Hendricks.

On Territories.—Mr. Wade, chairman; Messrs. Lane of Kansas, Pomeroy, Dixon, Nesmith, and Harlan.

On the Pacific Railroad.—Mr. Howard, chairman; Messrs. Johnson, Harlan, Sherman, Morgan, Conness, Brown, Yates, and Cragin.

To Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate.—Mr. Morrill, chairman; Messrs. Ramsay and Henderson.

On Enrolled Bills.—Mr. Lane, of Indiana, chairman; Messrs. Sumner and Willey.

THE ARKANSAS SENATORS.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the Arkansas question. Mr. Howard having objected to the reception of the credentials of Mr. Snow, claiming a seat from that State.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, addressed the Senate against the admission of Mr. Snow.

Several messages in writing were received from the President to-day.

Mr. SUMNER moved that the Senate go into executive session.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, said he would first like to have a vote on the question pending.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, suggested that the Senate go into executive session, and refer the communication from the President. They could then, in open session, resume the consideration of the Arkansas question.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, acquiesced in this suggestion.

The Senate then went into secret session, and after a short time passed, Monday night. Five of Sheridan's men perished and several officers lost all their effects. The Arizona was one of the finest vessels in the fleet, and her loss will be severely felt.

The rebel General Assembly adjourned on the 14th ult., after three weeks' session.

Manufactories are being started in different parts of the State, and measures are to be taken to relieve the people of the exorbitant prices imposed upon the necessaries of life by speculators.

CALIFORNIA.

THE OVERLAND RUSSIAN TELEGRAPH LINE.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7.—The United States steamer Shubrick, Capt. Scammon, sailed to-day with Colonel Bulkley and party, of the Collins Overland Russian Telegraph Company, bound for Sitka, Russian America. The Shubrick touches at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, to land a working party to commence building at Fraser river. The telegraph line will be working in two or three weeks between San Francisco and British Columbia.

Advices from Baker's Island say the ship Mary. L. Sutton went ashore on November 20th in a squall and is a total loss. The captain and crew were saved and remained on the island.

The Interruption to Travel Southward—The Ice-gorge at Havre de Grace.

BALTIMORE, March 8.—Travel northward is still obstructed by the ice in the Susquehanna river. We have reports of considerable damage along the river in the vicinity of Columbia and other points, but no particulars have been received. The ice is gorged below Havre de Grace, and there is no immediate prospect of the railroad ferry-boat being able to cross. Above Port Deposit the river is comparatively open, but the water is very high. Parties have been able to cross there to-day in small boats. A heavy rain is falling this evening, and the warm atmosphere will no doubt soon force the ice out below, and remove the present difficulty.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, March 8, 1865.

SENATE.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES.

Mr. DONOVAN, of property owners and occupants on North Second street (numerously signed), against the removal of the market stands on that street.

Mr. WORTHINGTON, from citizens of the Commonwealth, for the distribution of a portion of the public lands to two experimental colleges.

Mr. NICHOLS, a resolution of Philadelphia Councils, requesting the passage of an act relative to assessments.

Mr. GORNELL, a memorial from members of the Philadelphia bar, praying for the passage of an act providing for the election of an additional Judge of the Supreme Court.

BILLS IN PLACE.

Mr. SCHALL, one incorporating the Glenn Works.

Mr. CLYMER, one authorizing the assessment of coal and other minerals in the ground, for purposes of taxation.

Mr. WORTHINGTON, one to secure the records of patriotism of Pennsylvania soldiers and sailors who have died in service.

Mr. CONNELL, one to appropriate a portion of the public lands to the University of Pennsylvania.

Also, one amending the charter of the Philadelphia and Montgomery Railroad Company.

Mr. RIDGWAY, one incorporating the Salem Coal Company.

Also, one vacating part of Ash street, Eighteenth ward, Philadelphia.

Mr. NICHOLS, one vacating certain streets in Philadelphia.

Also, one to promote a more certain and equal assessment of taxes in Philadelphia.

Mr. ROGERS, one to continue in force the charter of the Pittsburgh Railroad Company.

Mr. BALL called up the resolutions offered yesterday, in reference to the seat of the Senator from Tioga. Mr. Wilson had read from a decision he had been made in a similar case, showing that a person was not a member of Congress until he had been sworn in.

On motion, the resolutions were defeated by a unanimous vote.

The following bills passed:

Allowing the Erie Mining Company to increase stock and build lateral railroads.

Authorizing the sale of certain real estate of Jacob Peters, deceased.

Incorporating the Brady Coal and Iron Company.

Incorporating the South Reading Market House.

Incorporating the Southwark Passport system.

Conveying certain real estate to the Hope Hose Company.

Incorporating the Upper Lehigh Coal Company.

Allowing the Black Diamond Coal and Iron Company to increase their stock.

Vacating part of Baist Lane.

Extending the provisions of the general mining act of 1855 to Schuylkill county.

Incorporating the Public Stock Exchange Company.

Directing that in proceedings by landlords in Philadelphia to recover possession of demised property the certiorari issued shall be a supersedeas.

The bill allowing the Farmers' Railroad Company to use certain roads in Venango was passed.

Mr. CONNELL called up the bill making parties witnesses in certain cases.

Mr. NICHOLS called up the act to promote safety on railroads and to punish the negligent agents and employees. This bill fines the employees by whose neglect accidents may occur, resulting in injury or death, in a sum not exceeding five years' imprisonment not exceeding five years.

Mr. LOWRY asked what had become of his bill compelling the publication of railroad accidents.

Mr. GRAHAM said that the two bills, that of Mr. Lowry and his own, were under consideration and had been referred to the Judiciary Committee, with the understanding that a new bill was to be framed from the two.

Mr. BALL said that the bill of the Senator from Erie was lame and impotent.

Mr. WILSON said that the bills were on different subjects.

Mr. LOWRY said that the reason given for referring his bill to the Judiciary Committee was to combine the two bills. This bill to punish employees was merely a rub to the whale thrown out to satisfy the public expectation. Corporations were always afraid of public opinion, and no better remedy could be found for the prevention of accidents than to compel their publication. The bill now under consideration gives the companies most control over their employees, and does not correct the evils of which we are now complaining.

Mr. BALL said that the