The Press.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1865.

The Secretary of War.

In the thrilling speech of Hon. JOSEPH HOLT, of Kentucky, pronounced at a public dinner given at the Charleston Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of the day when the old flag was raised by General ANDERSON over Fort Sumpter, he was made the following allusion to a scene which took place in Mr. BUCHANAN'S Cabinet, at the close of the last Administration, and incidentally paid a just compliment to Mr. STANTON, the present Secretary of War:

"In the world's history it has occasionally happened that wicked statesmen and rulers have made great and, for themselves, fatal mistakes in the choice of the instruments of their crimes; but of all the blunders of this class which have occurred, probably the most complete, the most disastrous for the plans of him who made it, was that committed by the traitor Floyd when he selected, then Major, now Major General, Anderson to command the forts of Charleston harbor. This was the more remarkable since Floyd rarely mistook his men, as is sufficiently shown by his assignment of Twiggs to the Department of Texas, and by other appointments and adjustments of the military service looking to a lubrication of the machinery of the rebellion, on which I will not pause to comment. Great, too, have been the surprise and terror of these wicked rulers when they have found their trusted instruments failing in their hands; but perhaps few of those exhibitions have equalled that which was witnessed at Washington when the unfaltering fidelity of Major Anderson and his little command was first fully manifested. When intelligence reached the capital that by a bold and dexterous movement this command had been transferred from Moultrie to Sumpter, and was safe from the disabled guns left behind, the emotions of Floyd were absolutely uncontrollable—emotions of mingled mortification and anguish, and rage and panic. His fury seemed that of some baffled fiend, who discovers suddenly opening at his own feet the gulf of ruin which he had been preparing for another. Over all the details of this passionate outburst of a conspirator, caught and entangled in his own toils, the veil of official secrecy still hangs, and it may be that history will never be privileged to transfer this memorable scene to its pages. There is one, however, whose absence to day we have all deplored; and to whom the nation is grateful for the masterly ability and lion-like courage with which he has fought this rebellion in all the vicissitudes of its career—your Secretary of War—who, were he here, could bear testimony to the truthfulness of my words. He looked upon that scene, and the country needs not now to be told that he looked upon it with scorn and defiance."

No public man since the outbreak of the rebellion has been more reticent than Mr. HOLT. He seems to have been content with discharging the responsible and trying duties of Judge Advocate General, without taking part in merely political controversies, and although frequently solicited to speak to the people, and gifted with the rarest eloquence and intellectual resources, he has steadily refrained. Hence, when such a man goes out of his way to speak on great issues, his counsels are well worth reading and remembering, and hence, too, when he uses the language of eulogy, it may be regarded as deservedly bestowed. His reference to Secretary STANTON is all the more just, in view of a recent incident. We refer to the prompt manner in which, when the unfortunate negotiations between SHERMAN and JOHNSTON were laid before the people, Mr. STANTON presented in brief terms the simplest and strongest replies that could be made to them. The nine propositions exposing the seven conditions of the so-called "basis of peace"—terse, strong, and well-considered—have furnished arguments to all men, and were particularly valuable coming at a time when the whole country was astounded by the extraordinary announcement that General SHERMAN was willing to give more to the rebels than they themselves had asked, and almost to conclude a peace without first consulting his Government. Had not Secretary STANTON published this information, we should have had the disloyal men justifying the understanding between SHERMAN and JOHNSTON, and thus a party would have been raised which it would have been necessary to contend with and difficult to put down. It is to the characteristic promptitude, energy, courage, and high-souled patriotism of Secretary STANTON that we are indebted for this, as we have been for many other exhibitions of devotion to his country.

A Happy Retired Statesman.

In the *Gazette* of the 14th of April, a so-called Democratic newspaper, published at Bedford, Bedford county, in this State, [illegible] the following passage. It has a [illegible] heightened look at the present time, [illegible] furnishes a somewhat suggestive supplement to the mournful history written in blood by the assassin, and read in tears by a horror-stricken people:

AN INTERVIEW WITH EX-PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.—C. Chauncey Burr, Esq., editor of the *Old Guard*, thus describes an interview recently had by him with ex-President Buchanan:

"We lately had the pleasure of spending a portion of an afternoon with the venerable ex-President, James Buchanan, at his home at Wheatland. At the age of seventy-four years, he is in the enjoyment of good health, with his faculties unimpaired, and his spirit apparently as fresh and vigorous as when we first saw him, the night before he sailed for England as minister to the Court of St. James, twelve years ago. There is no man that evinces a profound interest in the affairs of our country than Buchanan, and none who is so perfectly conversant with all the political movements of the day, even the local politics of the various States seem to lie, as in charts, before his mind. To those who are despondent of the ultimate redemption of our country from the Abolition spoilers, a visit to 'Wheatland' will prove a great relief. Mr. Buchanan entertains no doubts of the final triumph of the Democracy, and of the consequent salvation of our country; and he gives such reasons for his faith as will go far to remove the doubts of the most despairing. For our own part, we have never feared for the ultimate triumph of truth and liberty, *nor doubted the overthrow and punishment of Lincoln and the partizans in his government.* But we know of many who do doubt—a visit to Wheatland would go far to reassure them. Mr. Buchanan has prepared a documentary history of the latter part of his Administration, which will be published the coming summer. It will thoroughly explode the whole arsenal of lies which has supplied powder for the Republican party for four years, by the publication of documents, figures, and facts which will not, and cannot, be disputed. Such a history is most timely. It will do much to unmask the hypocrisy and crimes of the despots in power, and to save our country."

The Mr. BURR who so ecstatically describes his visit to the sage of Wheatland is a personage not unknown in Philadelphia, having borne here and elsewhere, within the last twenty years, the somewhat antagonistic characters of clergyman, clairvoyant, lecturer, and secession politician. It is refreshing to know that at the time he saw JAMES BUCHANAN the latter was in joyous spirits, "in good health," and "entertained no doubt of the final triumph of the Democracy, and of the consequent salvation of the country." We can fancy the merry twinkle of the blue eye of the ex-President at the pleasant prospect, especially in the Southern country—the glowing legacy, as it were, of his own sincere and successful labors in the Presidential chair. While others were fighting, dying, and toiling to staunch the bleeding wounds of the Republic, to save the loyal States from invasion and massacre, to ward off foreign complications, and to bring back the Union to its pristine purity, the ex-President, in his calm, easy, and undisturbed retreat, was writing a book to expose the Republican party and to prepare the way for "the final triumph of the Democracy." Should ex-President JEFFERSON DAVIS escape to some foreign country, he, probably, with equal equanimity, and with the same material, documents, and witnesses, will also be able to predict the "final triumph of the Democracy and the consequent salvation of our country."

THE first public meeting to promote the abolition of Slavery in the Spanish Colonies was held on Sunday, the 2d instant, in the Academy of Jurisprudence at Madrid. It had been called by the recently established Spanish Abolitionist Society, and was presided over by Don ANTONIO MARIA SEGOVIA, a member of the Lower Chamber of the Cortes. The meeting is reported to have been most crowded and enthusiastic, and resolutions were unanimously adopted approving the establishment of the Society, and nominating as its President one of the most influential leaders of the Progressista party—Don SALUSTIANO OLOZAGA. Five Vice Presidents of high social standing were elected, with a large and influential Committee, and the majority of the noblemen and gentlemen present inscribed their names as members of the new Society. Thus, the desire to abolish Slavery, which we have rid ourselves of by a cruel war that only approximates to its termination after a fierce and desolating struggle of four years, has now planted its foot upon the nation which first imposed its black and bitter curse upon the Empire it had first created in the West. The cause of Human Freedom, without distinction of race or color, is asserting itself everywhere—even in that country whose children first blighted the growth of the younger and western world by infusing into its national life the poisonous taint and corruption of modern Slavery.

Napoleon and His Son.

NAPOLEON is wise in his generation. There was a rumor, a short time ago, that his health was failing, but this has died away, not having received any corroboration from the foreign press. NAPOLEON must be called a middle-aged man, having completed his fifty-seventh year on last Friday. The reports which had credence for a time, after he became ruler of France, that he had injured his constitution by free living in his earlier years, have long since passed away, as unfounded scandal. Since 1848, he has been before the world, the observed of all observers, and his private life has been distinguished for its moderation and blamelessness. He has been very happy, to all appearances, in his domestic relations—and family men addicted to vice are not in the habit of enjoying that happiness. A great writer, combining truth with poetry, has said, of persons placed, like NAPOLEON, in exalted situations:

Hard is his fate on whom the public gaze
Is fixed for ever to detract or praise;
Repose denies her requiem to his name,
And Folly loves the martyrdom of Fame.
The fiercer enemy, whose sleepless eye
Stands sentinel, accuser, judge, and spy,
The foe, the fool, the jealous, and the vain,
The envious, who but breathe in others' pain,
Behold the host! delighting to deprave!
Who track the steps of Glory to the grave,
Watch every fault that daring Genius owes
Half to the ardor which its birth bestows,
Distort the truth, accumulate the lie,
And heap the pyramid of Calumny!

Even at his age NAPOLEON may reasonably expect to see his only son, heir to the re-established Empire, attain the years of opening manhood when he may assume the *toga virilis*. The child, at present, is only two months over the age of nine. The father, who has so ably and fortunately reared up anew the crushed and fallen NAPOLEON dynasty, and who is accepted by France as her imperial ruler, may calculate, pretty surely, on retaining that dignity and power to the close of his own life. Nothing short of revolution or conspiracy can dethrone him, as it seems, and neither one nor the other is to be anticipated. NAPOLEON'S [illegible] come it soon or late, will [illegible] an immense sensation, and there is no calculating what its effect may be, not only in France, but all over Europe. Should it occur while his son is yet too young to assume the purple, there may be serious difficulties in France. Prince NAPOLEON (JEROME) *might* be tempted to try and take the reins of empire into his own hands. His mother is very popular, however, and if appointed Regent would probably succeed in governing France with satisfaction and success during her son's minority.

Exercising that sagacious prevision which is one of his leading characteristics, NAPOLEON has determined, it is said, to devote a considerable portion of the next three or four years to visiting the principal cities and towns of France, accompanied by his son, with the object of presenting the child to the inhabitants, with a view to engage their personal interest in himself and his fortunes. The first of these tours is to be made, we hear, in the departments of the South—where, in September and October, 1852, NAPOLEON himself, then Prince President of the revived French republic, was first hailed by the population as Emperor. This year, should NAPOLEON carry out his intention of visiting Algeria, the tour with his son can hardly take place before the autumn, by far the most delightful season in the South of France. The general idea is good, worthy of its author's politic mind. Is it necessary to repeat that the statement, lately made with remarkable particularity of detail by the Paris correspondent of a New York journal, to the effect that the little Prince Imperial was immediately coming over, in great state with an imperial *cortege*, to make a tour through the United States, is nothing less than an unmitigated *canard*, which does not have even a truth-like aspect?

House-Rent.

At New York, thanks to the benign influences of returning peace, prices already have fallen considerably—not only the cost of living and price of clothes, but also house-rents. The leading hotels there have taken one dollar a day off their charge for board. We soon must follow suit in this city, and the public will be highly gratified when this is done. Food, clothing, and habitation are the foremost necessaries of human life, and excessive charges, raising their cost, are most reluctantly submitted to.

The fall of house-rent, which has commenced in New York, will be unsatisfactory, no doubt, to the persons who speculated, with more boldness than forethought, upon the maintenance of war-rates, in the face of evidently approaching peace. It was evident, when Savannah became restored to us, that what TALLEYRAND called the beginning of the end was within view. The occupation of Charleston and the capture of Wilmington were further steps towards the great consummation. Yet, in most, if not all of our great cities, house-owners, non-observant of the signs of the times above-mentioned, persisted in advancing rents, and, especially in New York, when the period approached for that change of residence which appears a Gothamite epidemic, the advance in price rose still higher,—the unhappy public, in despair, finally, of obtaining houses at all, consenting to pay almost any rent that was asked. They would most gladly not have moved, on the coming First of May, had they been allowed to remain where they were, but house-owners, inexorable, noticed them of such terrific advances in house-rent, that they could not afford to stay. All that they could do was to move into humbler habitations, for which they must pay considerably more than they used to disburse for superior residences.

Additional to this evil was "a plentiful scarcity" of dwelling houses. One result of the war, inevitable but natural, was the increase of general and local taxation, whereby real property was considerably affected. Thence ensued the general desire to part with real estate, which has caused the notice "To be Sold," to appear on about one house in every fifty in our great cities and large towns. Money being plenty during the war, and real property being still considered a safe investment, there was a general exchange of that property for money. Houses brought higher prices, of course, because everything else was dearer, and house-owners had to raise their rents. They did so, and the competition for dwellings kept the prices up. In Philadelphia the advance has been considerable, no doubt, but it is much smaller than in New York. Peace restored, and taxation put upon a better basis than it now rests on, local and general taxes, which directly and indirectly affect real property, will certainly not be increased, will most probably be diminished. In the face of this, any further advance in house-rent ought to be wholly out of the question, and, indeed, a reduction must generally be looked for.

During the last three months—actually from the time when the re-occupation of Savannah gave promise of an early termination of the war—the purchase of house-property has greatly been checked in our cities. Owners may have continued to part with their houses, but purchasers have become scarce, holding back, under the impression, very general, that with peace would come a return to moderate prices and reasonable rents. In a little time, we are sure, this return will be general, and, so convinced, we earnestly recommend persons who have houses to let or who want to rent houses, that the rates which have prevailed, with gradual increase, during the last four years, cannot be continued. At the same time, we are not willing to blame landlords for getting as much as they could. When the market price was high they were entitled to it, there is no plainer principle of supply and demand.

There has been a great deal of house-purchasing, but the reaction will throw a great number of houses back into the market; that will be the case with those who cannot afford to hold on to what they bought. Even those who can and do must expect rents to come down. Peace will have another effect upon this sort of property. There are numerous Southern families who have resided in our great cities, with tolerance from the Government, during the whole war. Peace restored and the Union re-established, there will be an immense exodus of these people, naturally anxious to return to the homes from which "treason most foul" had exiled them. Their departure from the great cities will leave numerous houses untenanted, and the supply thus thrown into the market must diminish rents.

If we might take the liberty of giving advice to house-owners and to tenants, it would simply be, that the former, accepting the necessity of the situation, shall be prepared to submit to fair reduction of rent, and the latter, who have received notice to quit or pay advanced rent, shall wait for a very short time, when there will be a general reduction everywhere.

It has been unanimously resolved, at a crowded meeting of the citizens of Carroll county, Maryland, after resolutions of condolence with the family of Mr. LINCOLN and of confidence in President JOHNSON had been adopted, that the young men of the county who went South at the beginning of the rebellion, and had cast their lot with it, should not be tolerated in the county again. This resolution is essentially conceived in the right spirit. The right hand of him who has once turned against us we ought never again to take in our own as a political equal.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

[From the Washington Chronicle of yesterday.]

PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1865.

If Secession makes men rebels to their country, it is also a sure way to prepare them for Delsm. The practice of offering prayers to the Almighty for the success of a cause founded entirely in a compound of the most odious sins, is a hideous mockery; and I was not surprised, while recently at Richmond, that the wrath of God seemed to have been specially visited upon the temples in which false priests had attempted to propitiate the favor of a Providence they had so long provoked. A violent Northern echo of these wretched traitors, resident in an adjacent State, openly declared, a few days ago, that he had lost all faith in a Supreme Being. Now this was a close and logical reasoner. The manifestations are all against his cause, and they are so marked as to produce startling effects. Let any one who has needed visible tokens, instead of the teachings of nature and the Gospel, to fix his belief in a heavenly power, study the course of events from the beginning of the war, and be satisfied. It is as clearly written as Revelation, that when the rebellion commenced, He decreed that it should be thoroughly crushed, torn up by the roots, and scattered to the winds. We were not to be made giddy by easy and early victories. Unspeakably vile as the rebels prove themselves to be, cruel as vile, they were even allowed to win many advantages to attract foreign support, and to send many precious souls to their long account. But we did not know, in the midst of our harder sufferings and grief, that we were only being steeled for harder and heavier tasks, disciplined, in fact, for war on an extended scale, and made ready for the most sweeping victories ever recorded. Was it Chance that we should have defeated the slaveholders at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, on the Fourth of July—the great anniversary of Freedom—the same day that saw Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe called to the mansions of the blessed? Was it Chance that the 19th of April should be the same day of the month that saw the first blood of the Revolution against Great Britain shed at Lexington, and the same that saw the first martyr fall in the present rebellion against liberty in Baltimore? Was it Chance that Good Friday, when the Saviour of Man was crucified on Calvary, according to the annals of the Christian Church, should be marked by the raising of the old flag on the walls of recovered Sumpter, and by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln? Let those who doubt and sneer at these signs read what Hamlet says when Horatio would dissuade him from the friendly yet fatal match with Laertes, and make the application:

"We defy augury; there is a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. *The readiness is all.*"

It was a special providence that led Sherman along fruitful fields in his march from Savannah to Goldsboro'! If ever, to use great Frederick's phrase, an army "crawled on its belly," or walked on well-fed legs, it was his column so bountifously provisioned from nature's own commissariat. It was "a special providence," that permitted Farragut to beat down stone ramparts with his wooden walls, when he attacked and captured the rebel fort and laid New Orleans under successful siege! But not to multiply cases, who cannot see the Almighty hand in the death of Abraham Lincoln? He had passed through four years of threats and conspiracies unharmed. He was inaugurated in a community in which Secession had crowds of followers. He walked and he rode alone at all hours, in town and country. He visited the sick, the wounded, the army, the navy, unguarded, and almost unaccompanied save by his wife or little son. He frequently left his guards behind him as he drove to the Soldiers' Home. He travelled on cars and steamboats to Baltimore and Philadelphia, and fearlessly threw himself among strange crowds. He spoke at night to immense masses, exposing his person to the deadly aim of the assassin. He visited churches, concerts, theatres, lectures, like the humblest citizen. He went to Petersburg and Richmond after their surrender, rode over the surrounding fortifications, walked the streets, with every house filled with enemies, and yet no hand was raised to harm a hair of his head. Struck down in the hour of victory won by his policy, and under his personal observation, he was called at the very moment when he was himself most happy and most belied. Is this not God's work? It is true he fell by the red-handed assassin; but those who crucified Christ did not hide his glorious example, or make him less potent as the Saviour of Man, because they were assassins. And in the manner of Lincoln's death we read a lesson only surpassed by that spoken from the holy cross—a lesson that teaches that the good work must go on, the rebellion must be crushed, and the hands of Government strengthened, until not a vestige of slavery or disobedience shall be left in all the land. And I am as firm in the belief that there is "a special providence" in the attempted "basis of peace" agreed upon by Sherman and the rebel General. This most unwarrantable arrangement was made in the belief that President Lincoln would sustain it; for it would be an unkind assumption to suppose that it was made in the knowledge of his murder. That he would have indignantly rejected it his orders to Grant sufficiently attest, and if from his honored dust a voice could speak, it would pronounce the same stern judgment upon that most calamitous convention that has been spoken by Andrew Johnson. But now that Lincoln is summoned from this troubled drama, the very manner of his death makes more eloquent lessons of his life, showing that there can be no more clemency to traitors, and that the leaders who rejected his offers of peace, running through months of victory to our arms, must submit to the rightful authority of the Government, OR ABIDE THE CONSEQUENCES. This is not only now the stern decree of the people, but it seems to me the no less imperative judgment of God. J. W. F.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1865.

The boast of the Southern disunionists, of being "the chivalry" of the country, was put to a severe test when they entered upon the bad business of the rebellion. It did not survive—save only to be contemptuously rejected and exposed—one year of the war. It is a very easy thing to *say* "I am a gentleman," but it is a very different matter to *establish* the claim. A gentleman does not lie, steal, or break his oath, much less take arms against his friend, or, what is worse, against his benefactor. So that when "the chivalry" deliberately committed these things, they lost all title to respect, and became a set of detested Robert Macaires or dilapidated *roues*; the more disreputable because, in the midst of their shame, they retained the pretentious manner of their better days. Excepting the political and moral vices bred of slavery and sloth, nothing has done so much to infatuate the weak heads of the Southern people as this miserable social disease, that they are "the chivalry," and superior to the Northern people. But now that the effort to destroy the Government has failed, the sensible men of this school must realize and act upon the idea that the day of the slaveholding "chivalry" has gone forever. We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that many of this class admit what they cannot prevent and will not deny. The murder of Mr. Lincoln has given to all such men a good opportunity to show their abhorrence of a crime too much in consonance with the early teachings of the old Secession leaders, and no doubt justified by the wretched assassin on the ground that he was one of "the chivalry." Indeed, all that we hear of this bloodthirsty savage proves that he acted under the impulse that he was vindicating the fame of a superior class of beings. Just so may others be incited to deeds of carnage and of death. It should be the duty of every true patriot to spurn this foul and monstrous pretension; to make it as infamous as the treason it has justified, and the Satanic atrocities it has provoked. And especially should this spirit be called out against those who are reckless enough to rejoice over the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. That there are such is unhappily too true to be doubted. Most of them do not rejoice openly at that infernal crime, but they show their feelings by other unmistakable manifestations. These are all of the so-called "chivalry;" are composed either of Northern politicians who have married into the families of rich slaveholders, and live upon the money got from the foul traffic in slaves or slave labor, or Southern idlers who reside in the great cities of the free States, and spend the wealth similarly acquired in the indulgence of the most luxurious tastes, and in sending secret subsidies to the armed traitors; or, finally, persons who call themselves "refugees," and claim the benefit of a protection they constantly abuse. Some of these latter coolly take an oath, and then as coolly break it. There are exceptions, of course; but the most heartless, active, and insidious of these sympathisers with treason, and the men who, in their hearts, exult in the foul murder of our GOOD PRESIDENT, are the constant eulogists of the "chivalry" of the South, and the beneficiaries of the traffic in human flesh and blood. OCCASIONAL.

ADVICES FROM PETERSBURG

THE RESULT OF "NEGOTIATIONS."

Johnston Said to Have Slipped Away from Sherman.

He is Believed to be Making for Georgia.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC TO BE DISSOLVED AND DISTRIBUTED.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1865.

A letter from Petersburg, Va., dated yesterday morning, 24th instant, says it is reported that JOHNSTON has slipped away from SHERMAN'S front, while the negotiations for his surrender were pending, and is making his way into Georgia. The writer also says the Army of the Potomac will shortly be dissolved; the 9th Corps was to embark yesterday (24th) from City Point, thence to Washington. It is expected it will be sent to guard the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which is to be thoroughly rebuilt by the Government and used for military purposes. General CUSTER'S division of cavalry and the 5th Corps have gone, it is supposed, to reinforce SHERMAN'S army. The 2d Corps will be sent into the central part of Virginia to guard the railroads. The 6th Corps will remain to guard the Southside and Richmond and Danville roads.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Arrival of Gen. Grant at Raleigh.

JOHNSTON NOTIFIED OF THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUCE.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 25—10 P. M.—A despatch has just been received by the Department from Gen. Halpine, dated Raleigh, 9 A. M., April 24th. He says: "I reached here this morning, and delivered to Gen. Sherman the reply to his negotiations with Johnston. Word was immediately sent to Johnston terminating the truce, and information that civil matters could not be entertained in any convention between army commanders." EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

EFFECT OF THE ASSASSINATION IN SHERMAN'S ARMY.

A letter from Raleigh says: "The sad news from Washington casts a gloom over the army that no series of victories can dispel. The officers and men all alike feel that Gen. Sherman, in his order, expresses their feeling, when he says, 'the assassination is the fruit of rebellion against rightful authority. It is the last phase of civil war, and woe to the people who inaugurate such measures.'"

IMPORTANT MILITARY ORDER.

Richmond Opened to Trade in all Articles Except those Contraband of War.

OTHER PORTS AND COUNTIES OF VIRGINIA WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED ALSO OPENED.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIV. OF THE JAMES,
RICHMOND, Va., April 26, 1865.
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2.

First. All restrictions upon domestic commerce and trade, except as to articles contraband of war, in the State of Virginia as insurgent territory, are, by the authority of the President, revoked in respect to all ports and counties of this State which have duly submitted to the authority and are in military possession of the United States.

Second. Arms, ammunition, all articles from which ammunition is manufactured, all [illegible] stores, cars, and railroad stock, all telegraph wires and apparatus, all rebel uniforms and gray cloth for manufacturing them, and all spirituous liquors are to be deemed contraband of war.

Third. The commanding general of the military division has authority to make such exceptions to the trade hereby authorized, as, in his opinion, circumstances may require.

By order of Major General Halleck.
Approved by order of the Secretary of War.
JAMES A. HARDIE,
Brevet Brig. Gen'l, Inspector Gen'l U. S. A.

THE RAID OF GEN. WILSON.

MORE PARTICULARS OF THE WORK HE DID AND THE DAMAGE HE INFLICTED.

ALL THE GEORGIA MILITIA CALLED OUT BY THE GOVERNOR.

CHATTANOOGA, April 24.—The Chattanooga *Gazette* has rebel news from General Wilson's raid up to the 20th inst. West Point, Columbus, Griffin, and, it is believed, Macon, fell into his hands.

The rebel General Tyler was killed, and one hundred and forty-two men captured at West Point. Two bridges, the depot, and all the rolling stock of the West Point and Montgomery Railroad were destroyed at the former place. One thousand rebels were captured in Columbus, and paroled.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has called out all the militia between the ages of sixteen and sixty.

On the 19th inst. a body of the raiders were on the West Point and Atlanta road.

General Wilson appeared to be heading westward, probably bound to Savannah. The rebel papers give no dates.

The Atlanta papers know of the assassination of President Lincoln, but make no comment. They deny the surrender of Lee's army, and say he was all right on the 16th inst., and that Grant had lost six thousand men in the battle at Amelia Court House.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 25.

[Special Despatches to The Press.]

"SHERMAN'S SURRENDER TO JOHNSTON" is the all-absorbing theme here. Many who have taken a charitable view of SHERMAN'S conduct are now asserting that the madness of the General has in it those methodical elements which are discoverable in the ambition of aspiring, selfish politicians—politicians of the Cromwell school. It is now positively said that there are proofs, heretofore deemed unworthy of notice, but now most significant in the light of recent events and the Sherman-Johnston "memorandum," which go to show that SHERMAN expected political preferment and high position as the reward of his diplomatic surrender to JOHNSTON. This morning, in discussing the probabilities of insanity on the part of SHERMAN, an eminent lawyer, recently our Minister to Mexico, was asked his opinion. "Well, yes," said he, "my opinion is that SHERMAN'S brain is affected seriously. I think he has White House on the brain." In this connection I may state that a letter in the London *Times* of April 8th has attracted much attention in the Departments and in the leading circles here to-day. The letter, which is deemed to be significant, is from the Richmond correspondent of the London *Times*, and is dated March 4, 1865—singular coincidence—the day of Mr. LINCOLN'S inauguration. Among other things the writer says:

"General Bragg informed him (the writer) that just before the breaking out of the war General Sherman (then recently president of the Louisiana Military Academy) told him (Bragg) that it was inevitable that a war must take place between the North and South; that he (Sherman) must go to the North; where he had relatives in Ohio, against whom he could not take up arms, but 'some wise man,' he added, 'no human consideration shall induce me to take up arms against the South.'"

The letter contains several passages which are equally as strong as this. They appear to mean that SHERMAN'S heart and sympathy were then with the South. The *Times* correspondent, whose intercourse with the leading rebels gives importance to what he says, as the probable reflex of their opinions and judgment, says "President LINCOLN has heretofore found in SHERMAN a friend; if I mistake not he will hereafter find him a dangerous enemy."

CAPTURED FLAGS.

To-morrow, at 10 o'clock, Captain GEORGE B. HALSTEAD, assistant adjutant general, now of the staff of Brevet Major General GRIFFIN, in company with the captors, will present to the War Department ten rebel flags, captured at Five Forks, Va., by the 5th Corps, then under command of General SHERIDAN.

TROPHIES FROM RICHMOND.

Col. MAX FRIEDMAN, of Philadelphia, has just arrived here from Richmond, bringing with him a magnificent silver tea-set, in shape of a railroad locomotive and tender car, presented by SLIDELL to JEFF DAVIS. Col. FRIEDMAN purchased this curiosity in Richmond, and last night presented it to President JOHNSON, who is delighted with the present.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT OF SECRETARY SEWARD.

PAINE, the alleged assailant of Mr. SEWARD, who was arrested, a few days ago, while entering the house of SURATT, in this city, attempted to commit suicide, last night, by butting out his brains against the iron walls of his prison. The bumping attracted the attention of his jailer, who found, on examination, that the prisoner had seriously injured himself. To prevent further injuries his hands were confined, and a cap, stuffed full and large, so as to act as a pad, was fastened upon his head.

[By Associated Press.]

HEALTH OF THE SEWARDS.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, April 25—9 A. M.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Secretary of State is convalescing rapidly. Mr. FREDERICK SEWARD speaks more distinctly this morning, and is better.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. BARNES, Surgeon General.

A DISLOYAL EDITOR KILLED BY CITIZENS.

JOSEPH SHAW, editor of the Westminster (Carroll county) *Democrat*, whose paper was mobbed and material destroyed the night after the murder of the President, on account of the disloyal sentiments expressed by the editor, and who was also warned away by the people, returned yesterday to Westminster. Last night he was again waited upon by a delegation of citizens, who knocked at his door. He appeared and fired into the crowd, wounding a young man named HENRY BELL. Upon this the enraged citizens killed SHAW on the spot.

BIDS FOR FLOUR.

Capt. BRIDGES, C. S. V., opened the bids for furnishing flour to the Government some days since. 24,300 barrels were bid for, exclusively by Georgetown and Baltimore merchants, at prices ranging from $8.75 to $9 per barrel. About 5,000 barrels were taken at $8.75.

MRS. LINCOLN.

It is thought that Mrs. LINCOLN will not leave Washington before the last of May. She is yet much depressed in spirits and is unable to leave her room.

RELEASE OF DRAFTED MEN.

By direction of the War Department all drafted men of this District who were in barracks and not actually in the field, have been released.

SURRENDER OF MORE OF LEE'S OFFICERS—WASHINGTON REBELS SENT SOUTH.

Within the past two days a number of officers and men of Lee's army, who were absent from their commands at the time of the surrender, have come into our lines and reported to the provost marshal here, asking permission to be paroled. To-day, four officers of the Virginia partisan rangers crossed the river and came to Washington. They claimed this District as their home, and desired to be paroled the same as LEE'S men, but they were committed to the Old Capitol, and their cases were referred to the Secretary of War.

The paroled men of the rebel Army of Northern Virginia, who were charged immediately and sent South, it having been decided that they claim that place as their residence. Those who return to their allegiance, however, by subscribing to the oath, will be allowed to remain.

VIRGINIA.

SOUTHERN MECHANICS ALLOWED TO COME NORTH.

The *Whig* of the 24th publishes an order, which directs that all among the paroled prisoners of the Confederate army there are any mechanics who desire to remove to the North with their families, for the purpose of obtaining employment, they will, upon taking the oath of allegiance, be furnished with transportation to Philadelphia, Boston, or New York, as they may desire.

PAROLED OFFICERS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—All paroled officers of Lee's army who are now in Richmond, and who wish to go to Europe, will, by direction of Major General Ord, be furnished with passports and passage to Halifax, N. S., on application at the office of the Provost Marshal General of the Department of Virginia.

GUERILLAS DECLARED OUT AROUND ALEXANDRIA.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The rebel guerillas in Alexandria and Loudon counties, Va., have been nearly all cleared out, and a considerable number of farmers, as far up as Wolf river shoals are putting in small crops this season. The rebellion, which has for the past four years pervaded this section, bids fair to speedily give place to peace.

FORTRESS MONROE.

A VESSEL FIRED BY ST. DOMINGO PRISONERS—THE LAWLESSNESS OF THESE MEN.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 24.—Intelligence was received here this morning of the destruction by fire of the schooner Ocean Herald, loaded with forage while anchored off the mouth of the Warwick river, a little stream about eighteen miles from here, on the James river. It is presumed that the schooner was set on fire by some of the paroled prisoners of Lee's army, who have been sent from Richmond to their homes in the various counties bordering on the James, Elizabeth, and Nansemond rivers, and who are said to be prowling around in small squads, intent upon some mischief.

Large numbers of these prisoners, unable to go North by reason of an order recently issued by the Secretary of War, are scattered all over Old Point and its immediate vicinity, subsisting upon Government rations, and wend their way in every direction over the country. The greatest care and diligence are being exercised by the military authorities in preventing these prisoners from committing acts of violence and depredation. This morning, at an early hour, one of the wharves at this point, on which is placed a large amount of ordnance stores, was discovered to be on fire, but, by the active measures of the guard stationed in its vicinity, was soon extinguished, otherwise the damage caused by the explosion of so large an amount of material would have been enormous. This fire is attributed to some of these paroled prisoners.

KENTUCKY.

DISTURBED CONDITION OF LABOR IN KENTUCKY—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL BRISBANE.

CINCINNATI, April 25.—General Brisbane, superintendent of organization of colored troops in Kentucky, has written a letter to Governor Bramlette, calling attention to the disturbed condition of labor in that State, and urging him to call the Legislature together and ratify the constitutional amendment. The General says the slaves are nominally free, and the masters can no longer depend on their labor, and points out the evils that must arise from the present half slave and half free condition of the State. He claims that the passage of the amendment would quiet the minds of the negroes, and cause them to remain at home and till the soil, now so much in need of their labor. More than twenty thousand of the most valuable slaves have already gone into the army; so that Kentucky must choose either to have her slave population abscond and freed by the army, or to save her labor to the soil by granting unconditional freedom to the slaves at home.

The Governor replies, concurring in the opinion that slavery can no longer be retained in Kentucky; that labor must be reorganized on a free basis, and says the war has exterminated slavery and revolutionized the public mind in regard to it. Slavery being ended in the rebellious States, the Governor thinks it should be ended in Kentucky by the most desirable and speedy means, and regards the constitutional amendment as the most practicable method; calls to mind the patriotism of Kentuckians, and says they were always for the Union, with or without slavery.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

A NEW LINE OF TELEGRAPH—HONORS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—Telegraphic communication with New Westminster, British Columbia, is now complete.

The news of the assassination of President Lincoln was received at Vancouver's Island and British Columbia with every evidence of public sorrow. The English residents closed their business and united with the Americans in observing the obsequies on the 19th inst. The loyal papers appeared in mourning, and everywhere the deepest sorrow was evinced.

THE MOURNING IN NEW YORK.

OUR SPECIAL ACCOUNT OF THE EXHIBITIONS OF POPULAR RESPECT.

THOUSANDS GATHERED ROUND CITY HALL, WHERE THE REMAINS REPOSED.

IMMENSE NUMBERS IN THE STREETS FROM DARK TO DAWN.

THE DRAPERY OF THE BUILDINGS AND THE HALL.

THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCES OF SORROWFUL RESPECT.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, April 25, 1865.

Never before has such a cloud of heavy and fearful gloom settled upon this city. The national heart, which has pulsated so sadly during the last fearful week, is still suffering as keenly and vividly as it did in the first moments that the atrocious blow widowed it of its just and honest, kindly and Christian, ruler. Our melancholy, as evinced in the wealth of honors paid to his departed form, commenced yesterday. It seemed as if a pall had fallen upon the throbbing vitality, and generally, perhaps, too feverish life of all who dwell within the boundaries of the island. Every store, of course, was closed. The wealthy merchant, the active politician, the preacher of the Gospel of Christ, the lady of fashion, and the Irish servant girl, he who had bled for the preservation of the Union bequeathed to us by our fathers, as well as the man who had given from his millions to support the Government—nay, those who had but a few weeks since derided the claims of the first martyr to the Constitution to our love and veneration, thronged in the streets, oppressed by the vast sense of their awful bereavement. The badges of mourning, the half-mast banners, the gloom upon every face, and the booming of the minute guns, on Monday morning testified to the intense depression which had seized upon the hearts of all.

DEPUTATION FROM JERSEY CITY.

At ten o'clock yesterday the funeral cortege entered the Jersey City ferry-boat, filled with the aldermen and Common Council of New York city, and those who had to take an immediate part in the grave and melancholy ceremonial. Major Generals Dix and Sandford, who attended the body of one whom they had personally so well known, impressed by their sad gravity even the most soulless individual who might perchance have been inclined to throw aside his share in the general gloom. The crowd who had surrounded the Jersey City depot, as well as those who had been admitted to the interior, were almost all bareheaded and mute as the beloved corpse was borne on board the boat, and tears might have been seen rolling down the cheeks of stalwart and bearded men, while women sobbed with the bitter sense that they had lost one who had been most emphatically the nation's Father.

The steamer was draped with mourning. Some four years since on that steamer he