Gazette and Democrat.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1862.

# WAR NEWS!

## FROM WASHINGTON.

## AN IMPORTANT PROCLAMATION.

### President Lincoln Repudiates General Hunter's Abolition Proclamation.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A PROCLAMATION.

*Whereas*, There appears in the public prints what purports to be a proclamation of Major-General Hunter, in the words and figures following, to wit:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 9, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 11.—The three States of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina, comprising the Military Department of the South, having deliberately declared themselves no longer under the protection of the United States of America, and having taken up arms against the said United States, it became a military necessity to declare them under martial law. This was accordingly done on the 25th day of April, 1862. Slavery and martial law in a free country are altogether incompatible. The persons in these three States—Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina—heretofore held as slaves, are therefore declared forever free.

DAVID HUNTER,
Major General Commanding.

Official—ED. W. SMITH, A. A. A. G.

*And, whereas*, the same is producing some excitement and misunderstanding,

Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, proclaim and declare that the Government of the United States had no knowledge or belief of an intention on the part of Gen. Hunter to issue such a proclamation, nor has it yet any authentic information that the document is genuine; and further, that neither Gen. Hunter, nor any other commander, or person, has been authorized by the Government of the United States to make proclamation declaring the slaves of any State free, and that the supposed proclamation now in question, whether genuine or false, is altogether void, so far as respects such declaration.

I further make known that whether it be competent for me, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, to declare the slaves of any State or States free, and whether at any time, or in any case, it shall have become a necessity indispensable to the maintenance of the Government to exercise such supposed power, are questions which, under my responsibility, I reserve to myself, and which I cannot feel justified in leaving to the decision of commanders in the field. These are totally different questions from those of police regulations in armies and camps.

On the 6th day of March last, by a special message, I recommended to Congress the adoption of a joint resolution, to be substantially as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the United States ought to cooperate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of Slavery, giving aid to such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

The resolution in the language above quoted was adopted by large majorities in both branches of Congress, and now stands an authentic, definite, and solemn proposal of the nation to the States and people most immediately interested in the subject matter. To the people of those States I now earnestly appeal. I do not argue, I beseech you to make the arguments for yourselves. You cannot, if you would, be blind to the signs of the times. I beg of you a calm and enlarged consideration of them, ranging, if it may be, far above personal and partisan politics.

This proposal makes common cause for a common object, casting no reproaches upon any one. It acts not the Pharisee. The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking anything. Will you not embrace it? So much good has not been done by one effort in all past time, as in the Providence of God it is now your privilege to do. May the vast future not have to lament that you have neglected it.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 19th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

By the President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

## THE VERY LATEST!

### General McClellan Within Five Miles of Richmond.

### Beauregard Reported at Richmond.

### The Rebels Ask an Armistice of Ten Days.

BALTIMORE, May 23.—The special correspondent of the *American*, at Fortress Monroe, says, under date of yesterday:

The steamer from White House this afternoon brings a number of passengers from the headquarters of Gen. McClellan, which were in proximity to Bottom's Bridge, over which portion of the army has already passed, a second division having passed the Chickahominy at New Bridge, seven miles further up, and within eight miles of Richmond.

It is rumored that a proposition for an armistice of ten days, had been made by the Rebels, but of course no such idea could be entertained.

The advance was understood to be within five miles of the city, to which point the enemy has fallen back, with but slight effort to check our onward movement. The advance by way of New Bridge enters the city south-west.

The passengers have a report that Beauregard arrived at Richmond on Tuesday. On being questioned as to their authority for this statement, they said that it was so announced and understood at Petersburg on Wednesday morning, but no one doubted the fact.

The number of the rebel forces at Richmond and the vicinity was generally believed to be fully 200,000, including the unarmed and poorly armed troops of recent levies, who were having pikes put in their hands for service.

Deserters from Fort Darling report that the infantry force in the vicinity of that work is nearly 30,000.

## FROM GEN. M'CLELLAN'S ARMY.

### The Advance Eight Miles from Richmond.

### Reported Trouble in the Rebel Camp at Richmond.

### The Citizens Resolve to Give Up the City.

FLAG OF TRUCE

AN ARMISTICE ASKED FOR.

NEW KENT COURT-HOUSE, Virginia, May 19, 1862.

The Third Pennsylvania Cavalry occupied this place on yesterday, and immediately sent out a squadron, Captain Jones commanding, to Bottom Bridge, on the Chickahominy, for the purpose of observing the movements of the enemy in that vicinity. His second company, in command of Captain Walsh, had a brisk skirmish with the enemy, across the Chickahominy, putting him to flight. Captain Jones reports Bottom Bridge [illegible]

A flag of truce came in from the enemy, today, accompanying a request for an armistice of five days. Of course, the request cannot be granted. The Rebellion, in Virginia, is evidently on its last legs. It is expected, here, that the citizens of Richmond have held a public meeting, of three days' duration, at which they resolved to give McClellan the city without another battle. It is said that the armistice asked for grew out of this meeting. Prominent Generals, here, give it as their opinion that the Army of the Potomac will march into Richmond before the close of the present week without a struggle.

WHITE HOUSE, Va., May 19.—The army commenced moving at an early hour [illegible]

and will encamp some miles in advance of this place. The advance of General Stoneman reached the railroad bridge over the Chickahominy yesterday. It is a long trestle-work bridge, two spans only of which are burned. It can be rebuilt in a very short time.

The enemy's pickets are guarding the whole line of the river in front of Richmond, making it very difficult to obtain any information from that city.

General McClellan went on a reconnoissance to the Chickahominy to day, and the programme of operations in front of Richmond will soon be decided upon.

The Chickahominy river, at the point where the railroad bridge crosses it, is only ten miles from Richmond. There are no other streams to cross after passing it.

TUNSTALL'S STATION, Va., May 20.

The advance under General Stoneman reached Coal Harbor, on the road to Richmond, by way of Newbridge, yesterday, where he found the enemy to be in force. He drove their pickets to within two miles of their main body, and encamped for the night. Everything indicates that the rebels intend to defend Richmond with all the available force they are able to bring forward.

Congressmen and Representatives from every Southern State are here, encouraging their troops by their presence and counsel in a determined resistance to an advance of the Union troops.

The two officers who came within our lines with a flag of truce about a week since, on a trivial pretence, were allowed to return yesterday.

Commodore Goldsborough paid a visit to headquarters last night, for the purpose of an interview with General McClellan.

The Richmond papers of the 16th have been received. They contain a correspondence between the Virginia Legislature and Jeff. Davis in relation to the recent movements of the rebel army. He stated that he had never entertained the thought of withdrawing the army from Virginia and abandoning the State; that if in the course of events the capital should fall, the necessity of which he did not see or anticipate, that would be no reason for withdrawing the army from Virginia. The war could still be successfully maintained on Virginia soil for twenty years.

The rebel General John B. Floyd has been appointed Major General of the Virginia forces, with authority to raise a force of 20,000 men, now conscripts, for the defence of Western Virginia.

The engagement on Thursday, at Drury's Bluff, seven miles below Richmond, between our gunboats and the enemy's batteries, on the James river, produced a great panic among the people of Richmond. They acknowledge a loss of 6 killed and 7 wounded.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Wednesday Afternoon, May 21.

The advancement of the advance of the army, under General Stoneman, is still at Chaise's Mills, eight miles and a half from Richmond, and one and a half from Chickahominy creek. The pickets of the rebels occupy the bank on one side, and those of the Union on the other.

Gen. Stoneman, in company with Professor Lowe, made a balloon reconnoissance this morning from Chaise's Mills, and reached an altitude of 500 feet. From their position an admirable view was had of Richmond and the surrounding country with a glass.

The camps of the enemy within the limits of the corporation were seen; also the arrival and departure of railway trains on the road between New Bridge and Richmond. Very few troops were visible, but to the left of the city, on the line of the mail-coach road leading to Botton's Bridge, a large number of troops were seen.

The smoke from numerous camp fires was seen coming from the woods in front, showing that they were occupied by a large force of the enemy.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday afternoon and this morning to the left of Richmond, which was probably caused by our gunboats endeavoring to force their way up the James river.

The weather is warm and pleasant during the day, with heavy dews at night. The health of the troops continues remarkably good. Two rations of whiskey and quinine are now daily issued.

## IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

### Fort Wright Evacuated by the Rebels.

### Retreat of the Enemy to Fort Randolph.

FORT WRIGHT, May 21, 1862.

Fort Wright, an outwork of Fort Pillow, has been evacuated by the rebels.

The enemy has retreated to Fort Randolph, twelve miles below, on the Mississippi river.

On Monday last a flag of truce was sent from the Union flotilla to Fort Wright, when the fact was first ascertained that the works had been deserted.

No person was found in the fort, and none of the enemy's gunboats were in sight.

The rebels came up with a white flag; but no explanations were given for their course.

Capt. Davis has not yet occupied the fort.

## THE EVACUATION OF PENSACOLA.

COMMANDER PORTER'S OFFICIAL REPORT—AFFAIRS AT MOBILE.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, May 21, 1862.

The following report concerning the evacuation of Pensacola, and the condition of affairs at Mobile, has been received at the Navy Department from Com. Porter, of the mortar fleet:

U. S. STEAMER HARRIET LANE, PENSACOLA, May 10, 1862.

SIR: On the 7th inst., I left Ship Island, with the steamers belonging to the mortar flotilla and the Sachem, for Mobile Bay, for the purpose of fixing on a place for the mortar vessels to lie, and to plant buoys for the ships to run in by when they should arrive. Great excitement seemed to exist within the forts on the appearance of our steamers. I have reason to think Fort Gaines was evacuated, and some were of the opinion that the troops were leaving Fort Morgan, but I think they were re-enforcing it from Fort Gaines.

One of our steamers, the Clifton, got ashore under the guns of Fort Morgan, which opened fire on her, and when they had got her range beautifully, and were throwing the shot over, they stopped firing. Lieutenant Commanding Baldwin went to work coolly, and got his vessel off just as I sent him assistance, and while I had to cover him from Commander Randolph's gunboats, which were contemplating an attack on him. Thinking better of it, the Commodore went up to Mobile.

The weather being bad I sent the steamers back to Ship Island, and staid myself to relieve Lieutenant-Commanding Febiger, while he went to Ship Island to coal. I cruised that night in shore to the eastward in hopes of picking up some vessel trying to run the blockade.

At 2 a. m. a brilliant light illuminated the sky, and I discovered that the Navy-Yard at Pensacola, Fort McRae, the Naval Hospital, Warrington, and some parts of Pensacola, were in flames. Fort Pickens, bombarding with shell, [illegible] stood for, and when light would permit, entered the Harbor of Pensacola. I found all the above mentioned places burning fiercely, and nearly in ashes. Without communicating with the fort, I proceeded to the town of Pensacola, where I found that Gen. Arnold had already sent Capt. Jackson of the army, in the schooner Wood, to call upon the town to surrender. I sent for the Mayor on board the Harriet Lane, who promised that the citizens would behave themselves peacefully.

I found that the rebels evacuated the place on hearing that our steamers, the day before, were going to run into Mobile Bay, and the squadron and mortar flotilla would soon follow them. A thousand Rebels were encamped five miles outside of Mobile. They had destroyed everything that time would permit. Fort Barrancas, the Marine Barracks, Muster-Office in the yard, one new stone building, the smithery, I believe, and the shears, are still in a fair state of preservation. The yard was so hot that I did not go into it.

Gen. Arnold having no steamer at command, and no means of transportation, I placed the Harriet Lane at his service, and at 3 o'clock had 400 men, two pieces of artillery, and horses and some luggage carts on the other side, when the troops took possession and hoisted once more the United States flag on the forts and Navy-Yard so long occupied by the Rebels.

We land 900 more men on the other side tonight, when I shall proceed to hunt up some steamers for Gen. Arnold to keep open communication between the United States troops and to cover them if attacked. He is without any support of this kind, so necessary to a General in [illegible]

[illegible] PORTER, Commanding Flotilla.
DAVID [illegible] WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

## FROM GEN. HALLECK'S ARMY.

SKIRMISHING [illegible]

HALLECK'S [illegible]

Thursday [illegible]

There was considerable skirmishing along the whole line yesterday. In every case the enemy was driven back with a loss of about 40 killed and wounded.

Deserters continue to come in daily in squads, mostly from the 13th Louisiana.

## THE JAMES RIVER EXPEDITION.

### Repulse of the Federal Gunboats.

### Official Reports of the Engagement.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1862.

The following reports have been received at the Navy Department, from Commodore Goldsborough:

UNITED STATES STEAMER GALENA, Off City Point, James river, May 16, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report this vessel, the Aroostook, the Monitor, and the Port Royal, with the Naugatuck, moved up the river, getting aground several times, but meeting no artificial impediments until we arrived at Ward's Bluff, about eight miles from Richmond, where we encountered a heavy battery and two separate batteries formed of spiles, and steamboats and sail vessels. The pilots both say that they saw the Jamestown and Yorktown among the number.

The banks of the river we found lined with rifle-pits, from which sharpshooters annoyed the men at the guns. These would hinder the removal of the obstructions, unless driven away by a land force. The Galena ran within about 600 yards of the battery, as near the spiles as it was deemed proper to go, let go her anchor, and with a spring sprung across the stream, not more than twice as wide as the ship is long, and then at 7:45 A. M. opened fire upon the battery. The wooden vessels, as directed, anchored about 1,300 yards below. The Monitor anchored near, and at 9 o'clock she passed just above the Galena, but found her guns could not be elevated enough to reach the battery. She then dropped a little below us, and made her shots effective. At five minutes after 11, the Galena had expended nearly all her ammunition and I made signal to discontinue the action. We had but six Parrot charges, and not a single filled 9 inch shell. We had thirteen killed and eleven wounded. The rifled 100-pounder of the Naugatuck burst, half of the part abaft the trunnions going overboard. She is therefore disabled. Lieut. Newman, the executive officer, was conspicuous for his gallant and effective services. Mr. Washburne, acting master, behaved admirably. These are selected from among the number. The Aroostook, Naugatuck, and Port Royal took the stations previously assigned them, and did everything that was possible. The Monitor could not have done better. The barrier is such that the vessels of the enemy even, if they have any, cannot possibly pass out, and ours cannot pass in.

I have the honor to be your obed't serv't,
JOHN RODGERS, Com. U. S. Navy.

REPORT OF LIEUTENANT JEFFERS.

The following is the report of Lieutenant Wm. N. Jeffers, commanding the Monitor in the late engagement near Richmond. It is addressed to Commander Rodgers:

U. S. IRON-CLAD STEAMER MONITOR, JAMES RIVER, Va., May 16, 1862.

SIR: I submit the following report of the movements of this vessel during the action of yesterday. Shortly after weighing anchor from our position near Kingsland Creek, a sharp fire of musketry was commenced from both banks on all the ships. At half-past 7 I discovered an extensive fortification on an elevation of about two hundred feet, with several smaller batteries, all apparently mounting guns of the heaviest caliber. At the foot of the bluff, in the river, there is an obstruction, formed of sunken vessels and steamers, secured with chains, and the shallow water piled across the river. The Galena having anchored at one thousand yards distant from the fort, and being warmly engaged, I endeavored to push ahead of her and take off some of the fire, but I found that my guns could not be elevated sufficiently to point at the fort. I then took position on the line with the Galena, and maintained a deliberate fire until the close of the action, when, in company with the other vessels, I dropped down to the anchorage. The fire of the enemy was remarkably well directed, but mainly toward this vessel. She was struck three times, one solid eight-inch shot square on the turret, and two solid shot on the side armor forward of the pilot-house. Neither caused any damage beyond bending the plates. I am happy to report no casualties. In conclusion, permit me to say the action was most gallantly fought against great odds, and with the usual effect against earthworks. So long as our vessels kept up a rapid fire, they rarely returned our fire, but the moment our fire slackened, they remanned their guns. It was impossible to reduce such works except with the aid of a land force.

REPORT OF LIEUT. CONSTABLE.

The following is the report of Lieut. D. C. Constable, commanding the steamer E. A. Stevens (Naugatuck) in the action. The report is dated May 16, and is addressed, as are the others, to Commander Rodgers:

SIR: I have the honor to report that in yesterday's attack upon the enemy's battery at Ward's Hill, near Richmond, Va., I placed the vessel under my command in the position assigned me by you in the line of attack, and opened fire upon the battery, which I continued until the bursting of our gun. While getting into position during the bombardment, and while falling back with the squadron, this vessel was under quite a heavy fire of musketry, which was returned by us with shell and cannister from our light broadside guns. I have likewise to report to you that two of my crew are wounded, one by a musket ball through the arm, and the other by a severe contusion. They have been sent on board the Port Royal for surgical treatment. My officers and crew behaved to my entire satisfaction. I would respectfully request that you appoint a board of officers to examine into and report upon the cause of the bursting of our Parrot gun.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The following is the report of Assistant Surgeon [illegible] of the Gibson, giving the accounts of the killed and wounded in the late action [illegible]

Killed—[illegible] Kelly, master's mate of the fort-top; [illegible] Wilkie, third class boy; Michael Maney, landsman; Martin Milbury, landsman; John Smith, ordinary seaman; Robert Boyd, ordinary seaman; Richard A. Adams, ordinary seaman; John Quigley, ordinary seaman; John Russell, landsman; W. H. Horton, ordinary seaman; Joseph Johnson, private, marine; Jared D. Bosrum, gunner; David Patterson, landsman.

Wounded—John O'Connor, third-class boy, burned and wounded in the ankle joint; William Stevens, seaman, not seriously; George McDonnell, seaman, slightly; Thomas Finnegan, seaman, arm seriously injured; Henry Watson, ordinary seaman, slightly; William Harrison, landsman, slightly; Thomas Clark, landsman, slightly; Diedrich Visser, seaman, slightly; Andrew McCleary, acting master's mate, not seriously; Owen Doherty, coal heaver, mortally; Frederick W. Johnson, first-class boy, not seriously.

*Port Royal.*

George N. Morris, commander, flesh wound of right leg.

*Naugatuck.*

James Wilson, musket shot, not serious; Peter Dixon, not seriously.

REPORT OF COM. GOLDSBOROUGH.

The following has been received at the Navy Department:

U. S. FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA, JAMES RIVER, Va., May 16, 1862.

SIR: In consequence of a report from Commander Rodgers, that there were two batteries on the south side of the river, one at Rock Wharf landing, and the other at Harding's Bluff or Mother Pine's Landing, which required reducing in order to open the river to get supplies up to him, of which he was about to stand in need, I moved up to them yesterday with this ship, the Washusett, the Decotah, Maratanza, and the tug Young America, but found that both had been recently abandoned, and left comparatively in a useless condition. At Harding's Bluff the guns were spiked, carriages burnt, and magazines blown up; but a little below it a solitary gun remained intact, and this we put out of use. At Rock Wharf Landing the guns were also spiked and the carriages burnt, but neither the magazines nor the bomb-proofs had been destroyed. This I ordered to be done, and it was effectually accomplished. The James river is now open from its mouth to Ward's or Drury's Bluff, or in other words, up to eight miles of Richmond, where, as you will perceive by Commander Rodgers' report of his fight, it is seriously obstructed. I am very respectfully,

Your obt. servt,
L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Flag Officer commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

## M. Mercier's Visit to Richmond.

### HOW AND WHY THE FRENCH MINISTER WENT TO RICHMOND.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, May 21, 1862.

Permission has been given to state the facts in regard to the French Minister's visit to Richmond, which has excited so much attention in this country, and in Europe. M. Mercier had no instructions from his Government, nor had it the least knowledge of his intention to go to Richmond.

M. Mercier, in conversing with Mr. Seward, [illegible] regret that he could not see Richmond [illegible] about the views and [illegible] Mr. Seward [illegible] his Government [illegible]

ment, or compromising his relations toward the United States. The President was previously consulted, and approved of his going. When he returned he called immediately on the Secretary and afterward upon the President, and communicated to them frankly the impressions that he received.

He allowed no one in Richmond to say anything to him that he should not be at liberty to communicate to the Secretary of State, and he neither communicated to the Rebel leaders anything from this Government nor anything from them to the Government. He held no official communication with any one, nor did he permit himself to receive official attentions. M. Mercier's whole conduct in the transaction was discreet, loyal and friendly.

## ADVANCE OF THE GULF SQUADRON.

### Our Fleet Above Vicksburg.

### MEMPHIS TO BE ATTACKED.

CAIRO, May 21, 1862.

Memphis papers of the 17th instant, announce the arrival of the federal fleet at Vicksburg, which had met no successful resistance. Fort Adams is 100 miles below Vicksburg, and the presumption is that a fight had taken place.

CHICAGO, May 22.

Deserters who came aboard the Benton on Tuesday, report that Commodore Farragut's fleet left Vicksburg on Saturday last, their destination being Memphis.

## DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, May 13.

*Senate.*—The Pacific Railroad bill was reported back by the select committee, and a motion was offered to make it the special order for Thursday next, which was disagreed to by a vote of 17 to 19. The bill providing for the protection of Indians who have adopted civilized habits, was passed. A joint resolution, was passed, to provide for the presentation of medals of honor to enlisted men and volunteers. The Military committee reported that General Smith was not drunk at the battle of Lee's Mills, and that he is one of the most efficient officers in the Army. The Indian Appropriation bill, and the bill prohibiting indirect traffic with the rebels, were discussed.

*House.*—The amendments of the Senate to the bill establishing a Department of Agriculture were concurred in. The Pension bill was passed, with an amendment authorizing the appointment of a special agent to detect and prosecute frauds. This bill provides pensions for disabled officers and men of the Army or Navy serving in the present war. The Committee on Roads and Canals reported a bill declaring the railroads and canals between New York and Washington post and military routes, authorising the companies to make their own regulations, build bridges, etc., and to use steam power in cities. This extraordinary bill was laid on the table by ayes 76, noes 49.

WEDNESDAY, May 14.

*Senate.*—Mr. Powell's resolution of inquiry as to arrests for alleged treason in Kentucky, was adopted. Mr. Clark, from the Special Committee on Confiscation, reported a bill. Mr. Trumbull offered a resolution, which was laid over, calling on the President for any information he may have of any design on the part of any foreign Power to intervene in the contest now existing, and whether any foreign nation has made any arrangements with the insurgents, or has it in contemplation to do so.

*House.*—A joint resolution, requiring the Superintendent of the Census to keep records of the names of adult males, heads of families and freeholders, was adopted. The Select Committee on Confiscation reported two bills. The first bill provides that all estates, property and money, of persons holding or hereafter holding office under the so-called Confederate government, be forfeited to the United States, the legal proceedings to be the same as in the case of prizes or forfeitures arising under the revenue laws; sixty days warning to be given by the President, by proclamation. The second bill provides for the forfeiture of the slaves of all persons engaged in the rebellion, said slaves to be declared free and forever discharged from servitude. The bills were made the special order for Tuesday next. A resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information as to what retrenchment can be made in the expenditures of his Department, was adopted. The Army Appropriation bill was passed. An amendment to the bill, prohibiting the arming of negroes, and their employment in the military service, was rejected—ayes 29, noes 96.

THURSDAY, May 15.

*Senate.*—The Committee on Territories reported back the House bill to provide a temporary government for Arizona. Mr. Brown, from the same committee, reported back the House bill to secure freedom to the people of the territories, with an amendment which changes the language of the bill to that of the ordinance of 1787. A message was received from the President recommending a vote of thanks to Capt. Farragut, and to the other officers commanding the expedition against New Orleans and the forts. Mr. Harlan, from the Committee of Conference on the Homestead bill, made a report, which was agreed to. A message was received from the House announcing the death of Hon. Goldsmith F. Bailey, of Massachusetts, and the customary resolutions were adopted.

*House.*—Mr. Ward, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill establishing a coinage department in the United States assay office, in New York, which was ordered to be printed and recommitted to that committee. The Senate bill authorizing the appointment of medical storekeepers for the Army, and hospital chaplains, was passed. Various local bills for the District of Columbia, were passed. One provides for the education of colored children out of the taxes paid by colored persons, and another requires voters to take the oath of allegiance if challenged on loyalty. The committee of conference made a report on the Homestead bill, which was adopted. The death of Goldsmith F. Bailey, a member of the House from Massachusetts, was then announced, and after the usual proceedings, the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 16.

*Senate.*—The Indian Appropriation bill was passed, with an amendment authorizing the President to apply the appropriations to certain tribes, when a part was disloyal, to the loyal portion, and where a tribe has taken up arms against the government, to abrogate all treaties with them. The Confiscation Bill was debated, various amendments rejected, a substitute offered and ordered to be printed, and an Executive session held. Adjourned till Monday.

*House.*—A communication was received from the Secretary of War, inclosing a report from General Geary concerning the homicide of two citizens of Fauquier county, Virginia, by two soldiers of the United States. Mr. Wood obtained leave to print a speech on the condition of the country, in which he charges the abolitionists with being responsible for the war, etc. After the consideration of private bills, the House adjourned till Monday.

MONDAY, May 19.

*Senate.*—Mr. Grimes introduced a bill for the relief of Robert Small and others (colored), who recently delivered the rebel vessel Planter to Commodore Dupont's squadron. The bill provides that the steamship Planter, with all the cargo, &c., be appraised, and that one half the value thereof shall go to Robert Small and his associates, who ran the Planter out of Charleston harbor, with the provision that the Secretary of the Navy may invest the same in United States stocks, the interest to be paid to Small and his associates or heirs. The bill was passed. The resolution providing for the presentation of medals of honor to soldiers who distinguish themselves in battle, was adopted. The debate on the Confiscation bill was then resumed, and Mr. Sumner made a speech in support of it. Mr. Powell, of Kentucky, moved to strike out the eleventh section of the bill, which authorizes the President to arm negroes, if necessary, to suppress the rebellion. This was rejected by a vote of eleven yeas to twenty-nine nays. Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, moved to strike out the ninth section, which authorizes the President, when he deems it necessary, to issue a proclamation freeing the slaves of all rebels. Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, moved to make it imperative on the President to issue a proclamation to that effect. The discussion was continued; but without taking the question the Senate adjourned.

*House.*—The special committee on the subject reported articles of impeachment against West H. Humphreys, Judge of the Court of the United States for Tennessee. Humphreys is charged with gross neglect of official duty, violation of the laws, endeavoring to excite revolt and rebellion, publishing the secession ordinance of Tennessee, combining with Jeff. Davis and others to overthrow the government of the United States, and other high crimes and misdemeanors. The report was accepted, and a resolution adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of five to conduct the impeachment. The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, made a sensible speech on the negro question. The Naval Appropriation bill was considered, and a proviso to the appropriation for the Naval Academy, declaring its present location at Newport, temporary, was rejected. The bill [illegible] appropriations [illegible] at $38,000,

TUESDAY, May 20.

*Senate.*—The Pacific Railroad bill was taken up, but its further consideration was postponed. The Confiscation bill was then considered, and Mr. Davis spoke at length in opposition to its passage. After having spoken for three hours and a half, Mr. Davis gave way for a motion to adjourn.

*House.*—Mr. Colfax, from the Post Office Committee, reported back the Senate bill providing that no person by reason of color shall be disqualified from carrying the mails, with the recommendation that it do not pass. Before disposing of the question, the Confiscation bill was taken up, and the subject was further discussed by Messrs. Eliot, Noell, Riddle, and Windom, who argued in favor of the passage of the bill.

WEDNESDAY, May 21.

*Senate.*—The Census report was presented, and a motion to print one hundred thousand copies referred to the Printing Committee. A joint resolution giving thanks of Congress to Flag Officer Farragut and the officers and men under his command, was adopted. Mr. Wright offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of reporting at an early day a bill providing suitable bounty for soldiers enlisted for three months and one year; also for pensions for the widows of soldiers who die in the service. A discussion then ensued as to the order of business, the Confiscation bill being the first subject in order; but it was laid aside and the Tax bill was taken up by a vote of 38 to 9, and several amendments proposed by the Finance Committee agreed to. The Senate held an executive session, and then adjourned.

*House.*—Mr. Sedgwick introduced a bill, which was referred, providing for the raising of a certain sunken vessel of war in Hampton Roads. Mr. Ancona offered a resolution that, the Senate concurring, the House of Representatives adjourn on Wednesday the 21st inst., until Monday the 2d of June. On motion of Mr. Rollins, the resolution was laid on the table—yeas 88, nays 46. The Senate bill removing all disqualifications of color in carrying the mails, was also laid on the table, by a vote of 85 against 43.—

*Yeas*—Messrs. Allen, Ancona, Babbitt, Baily, Biddle, Francis P. Blair, Jacob B. Blair, William G. Brown, Calvert, Casey, Clements, Colfax, Roscoe Conkling, Corning, Cox, Cravens, Crisfield, Crittenden, Diven, Dunlap, Dunn, Ely, English, Franchot, Granger, Grider, Haight, Hale, Hall, Hanchett, Harding, Harrison, Holman, Horton, Johnson, Kelley, William Kellogg, Kerrigan, Killinger, Law, Lazear, Leary, Lehman, McKnight, McPherson, Mallory, Maynard, Menzies, Nixon, Noell, Nugen, Odell, Patton, Pendleton, Perry, John S. Phelps, Timothy G. Phelps, Porter, Price, Richardson, Robinson, Sargent, Shiel, Smith, William G. Steele, Stratton, Francis Thomas, Trowbridge, Van Valkenburgh, Verree, Vibbard, Voorhees, Wadsworth, Wall, Ward, Webster, Whaley, Albert S. White, Chilton A. White, Wood, Wright, Yeaman, and Worcester—82.

*Nays*—Messrs. Aldrich, Alley, Beaman, Bingham, Samuel S. Blair, Blake, Buffinton, Chamberlin, Frederick A. Conkling, Cutler, Davis, Dawes, Delano, Duell, Edgerton, Edwards, Eliot, Fenton, Fessenden, Frank, Gooch, Goodwin, Hooper, Hutchins, Julian, Lansing, Loomis, Pike, Pomeroy, Potter, Alexander H. Rice, Riddle, Edward H. Rollins, Sedgwick, Sheffield, Sloan, Spaulding, Benjamin F. Thomas, Train, Van Horn, Wallace, Charles W. Walton, E. P. Walton, Wilson, and Windom—46.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Confiscation bill, and the debate continued till the adjournment.

## READING MARKET.

FRIDAY, May 23, 1862.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat (prime white) per bushel | $1 30 | Buckwheat Flour per 100 lbs. | 2 00 |
| Wheat, (prime red) per bushel | 1 20 | Pork ₩ 100 lbs. | 3 00 |
| Rye do | 62 | Beef (hind quarter) per 100 pounds | 8@9 00 |
| Corn (old) do | 60 | Beef (fore quarter) per 100 pounds | 7@8 00 |
| Corn (new) do | 60 | Hams per pound | 11 |
| Corn Meal do | 60 | Shoulders do | 9 |
| Oats do | 25 | Flitch do | 9 |
| Flaxseed do | 1 30 | Dried Beef do | 13 |
| Cloverseed do | 4 50 | Table Butter do | 16 |
| Timothy seed do | 2 75 | Lump Butter do | 18 |
| Barley do | 70 | Firkin Butter do | 12 |
| Potatoes do | 75 to 80 | Tallow do | 9½ |
| Sweet Potatoes do | 75 | Lard do | 11 |
| Salt per Sack | 1 25 | Hides, Raw do | 7 and 8 |
| Wheat Flour (extra family white) ₩ bbl. | 7 50 | Bot Old Rye Whiskey, per gallon | 76 to 1 00 |
| Wheat Flour (extra fam. white) ₩ 100 lbs | 3 75 | Common Whiskey, per gallon | 37 to 81 |
| Wheat Flour (extra family) per Barrel | 6 50 | Flaxseed Oil ₩ gallon | 80 |
| Wheat Flour (extra family) per 100 lbs. | 3 25 | Eggs per dozen | 14 |
| Single Extra Flour, per barrel | 6 00 | Bone Coal (stove, egg & broken, ₩ 2000 lbs. | 3 00 |
| Single Extra Flour, per 100 lbs. | 3 00 | Nut Coal do | 2 25 |
| Wheat Flour (superfine) per barrel | 5 00 | Limeburners' do | 1,700@3 00 |
| Rye Flour per barrel | 4 00 | Plaster per ton | 6 00 |
| Rye Flour per 100 lbs. | 2 00 | Timothy Hay do | 17 00 |
| | | Meadow Hay do | 12 00 |
| | | Hickory wood per cord | 4 00 |
| | | Oak wood do | 3 00 |
| | | Bark do | 7 50 |

PRICES OF GRAIN,
PAID BY P. BUSHONG & SONS,
May 23, 1862.

| | |
|---|---|
| Corn, (old), | 60 cents for 66 lbs. |
| Rye, | 70 cents for 56 lbs. |
| Oats, | 32 cents for 32 lbs. |

### Reading Lumber Prices Current.

*Reported for the Reading Gazette by JACOB H. DEYSHER, Lumber Commission Yard, South Third St., near the Lancaster Bridge.*

| READING, May 23, 1862. | |
|---|---|
| Hemlock Joist and Scantling, | $ 5 00@13 00 |
| Poplar Boards, | 10 00@30 00 |
| " Scantling, | 18 00@25 00 |
| White Pine Boards and Plank, | 9 00@33 00 |
| Cherry Boards and Plank, | 20 00@60 00 |
| White Pine Floor Boards, | 16 00@22 00 |
| Roofing Lath, | 2 50@4 00 |
| Oak Floor Boards, | 20 00@25 00 |
| White Pine and Hemlock Shingles, | 4 50@18 00 |
| Oak Boards and Plank, | 10 00@25 05 |
| White Pine Ceiling Lath, | 1 50@1 75 |
| Ash Plank, | 18 00@25 00 |
| Spruce and Pine Pickets, | 4 00@13 00 |
| Walnut Boards and Plank, | 20 00@60 00 |
| Lynn Boards and Plank, | 10 00@15 00 |
| White Pine Joist and Scantling, | 15 00@17 00 |
| Birch and Maple Boards and Plank, | 18 00@25 00 |
| 200,000 feet Green Butt Edged Clear Walnut from ¼ to 7 inches WANTED, Price paid in Cash | $30@$30 |

## PHILADELPHIA MARKET.

Friday, May 23, 1862.

IRON.—Holders of Pig Metal are firm in their views, with a small business doing in the way of sales, and only about 600 tons Anthracite found buyers, in lots, at $22 for No 1, and $21 for No. 2, on time. In manufactured Iron there is no change, and the mills generally are well supplied with orders. American Bars are quoted at $55@60, and the best Rails at $47 ₩ ton, the latter cash.

CATTLE MARKET.—The market for Beef Cattle was active and the prices rather better, the receipts and sales at Phillips' reaching about 1150 head, 300 less than last week, all of which were taken at prices ranging from 6¾c to 8¾c the 100 lbs., the latter for extra quality. The principal sales were at 8c and 8¼c. Cows and Calves—About 120 were offered and sold at from $18 to $30 each for springers, and $20 to $40 for Cows and Calves—about the same as last week. Hogs—Some 2800 were disposed of at rather lower prices, including 1570 at Thomas' at 5¾@4.50 for sell and $4 50@5 for corn-fed; and 1000 at the Avenue Yard, at from $5 to $5 75 the net 100 lbs, the latter for extra quality. Sheep—The offerings and sales reach about 5600 head, taken at 4@4½c ₩ lb gross for clipped Sheep.—*North American.*

## MARRIED.

In the Universalist Church, Thursday (May 22d), by the Rev. W. H. Barber, WILLIAM P. BAIR to MARY R., only daughter of Charles Boyer, all of this city.

## DIED.

Yesterday morning, May 23, in this city, JAMES AUGUSTUS FEATHER, aged 45 years, 8 months and 28 days.

His friends and relatives are invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his father, George Feather, Esq., in East Penn street, between 6th and 7th, on Monday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, to proceed to the Charles Evans Cemetery.

In this city, on the 21st inst., JAMES S. SCHIRFF, aged 47 years, 1 month and 10 days.

On the 20th inst., in this city, ADALINE, wife of Isaac Harvey, and daughter of Daniel Keeby, aged 18 years, 9 months and 16 days.

In Harrisburg, Penna., on Sunday, May 18th, 1862, Gen. WILLIAM H. KEIM, U. S. Volunteers, aged 48 years, 10 months and 24 days.

On the 16th inst., in Heidelberg, ELIZABETH, widow of the long-deceased Leonard Kohl, aged 87 years.

On the 16th inst., in Spring Crane, son of AMOS Hartman, aged 2 months and 28 days.

On the 10th inst., in Longswamp, DANIEL SITTLER, aged 24 years, 3 months and 18 days.

On the 14th inst., in Douglass, SUSANNA, daughter of Alexander and Lee Hummel, aged 1 year, 9 months and 21 days.

On the 13th inst., in Maidencreek, MARY ANN, wife of Solomon Kerby, aged 57 years, 9 months and 11 days.

On the