

Daily Telegraph



HARRISBURG, PA.

Monday Afternoon, February 24, 1862.

THE DESOLATION OF THE SOUTH is the result of the vandalism practiced by the rebels themselves. They have destroyed their own railroads, burned their own bridges, ravaged their own cities and laid waste their own fields. The federal troops thus far have advanced into the south, without burning or destroying a single article of personal property. As they proceed on their march, it is rather their business to restore what the traitors have destroyed, and to succor a people who have been pillaged and plundered by their own neighbors, the professed upholders of southern rights and principles. And all this desolation has come, not while the rebels were in the act of resisting the progress of the federal troops. They did not destroy their property after endeavoring gallantly to defend it from capture. They destroyed it before an enemy was in sight, and have been flying before the advance of our troops, refusing to give them battle, and thus refusing, too, to put to the test that boasted superiority of the people of the south over the people of the north. These facts will some day be quoted with terrible effect against the originators and leaders of the rebellion. They will prove to the deluded people of the slave states, that, instead of delivering blows to vindicate their social and political rights, they were striking blows to weld the chains of that vassalage in which the system of southern slavery demands that all labor shall exist in its relations to capital. The bitterest lessons which the free white men and mechanics of the south have yet to learn, are those which will be taught by the facts and results of the rebellion to which their support now contributes force and numbers, and it is in these lessons that we hope these same men will derive that knowledge which is hereafter to render them peace loving and law abiding citizens.

Who mourns with the mothers of the soldiers slain in battle? Who consoles with them at the humble fire-hearth—who has sympathy for those mothers in their widowhood, unprotected, as they weep for the loss of those who went bravely forth at the call of their country, full of hope, full of ardor, and full of patriotic desire to do or die for their country? The loyal states are full of these mothers. They totter along the high and by-ways. Some of them are homeless and friendless—cheerless and nameless to the world. Yet their hearts are full of sorrow, and they are utterly bowed down with grief. Humble though these mourners are, they are still American matrons—the equal of those in any station, however exalted it may be for the present—the mothers of those who have died in battle, or who are still arrayed against the enemies of the Union. We must not forget them in their sorrow or their loneliness. They do not ask that Senates shall adjourn or that Cabinets must pause in their work to pay respect to their sorrow. They do not desire that a whole nation shall represent its joy or the feeling of victory, because that victory has been to them the loss of so many heart jewels. They have right to ask the gratitude of the nation, and this we bespeak for them richly garnered in the hearts of the American people. It will come to them in such shapes as will be the more acceptable because it is neither prompted by egotism or controlled by deceitful self-interest. It will come in the offerings of honest and Christian sympathy—such sympathy as mothers feel for mothers who really love their country, and who lost sons whose deaths were signalled by a rifle crack or a sabre thrust. It will be rendered by the whole nation. It will be increased and encouraged by that God, who, to His approbation of a just cause, gives His approval of those who die that Truth, Liberty and Justice may survive. Let none of us, then, forget the mothers of the soldiers who are daily dying in battle.

THE GREEKS were in the habit of erecting wooden monuments to commemorate any event in their history which partook of a political triumph; so that as the asperities of that political rivalry diminished, and a better feeling began to prevail among the people, the monuments which thus sought the commemoration of the superiority of one party over the other, also perished or crumbled to pieces. In this manner, the Greeks never perpetuated their feuds—and in this manner the antagonized citizens of the United States must conclude to do honor each to their own triumphs. Let us, therefore, erect our monuments in wood, so that as the asperities of the present pass off, and a better feeling begins to prevail among a new order of citizens, the monuments of our victories of one over the other will dwindle away as the race follows in the march of that grand army whose steps lead on to the grave. We neither must bequeath our troubles or the monuments of our humiliation and disgrace to posterity. Let us rather so purify and ennoble the government, as to make its history and its future administrations both objects of the veneration and loyalty of those who are to come after us. It will be sufficient to permit the deeds of the present to pass off in monuments of wood, so that, as national animosity in time decays, the remembrance of it may perish also.

HUGH TOMPA, Esq., Editor of the *Times* Reporter, has declined the appointment of Consul to the Danish West Indies. He prefers to remain at home, and intends to devote himself to the duties of his profession.

DELAY.
Four months since, the people of the loyal states evinced great impatience at what they considered the delay of those who had in charge and controlled our military organization and operations. On to Richmond was the standing motto of newspapers, the repeated sentiment of the people, and the urgent advice of Congressional orators. When the delay was broken by a hasty and ill-conceived assault on the works of the enemy near Manassas, the disastrous result seemed for a time to check the impatience of the people; but it was only for a brief time, when the same intolerant disposition strove again to dictate to the better judgment of those who were straining mind and muscle to perfect the raw recruit, consolidate the incongruous mass, and bring our armies to a condition of discipline and order such as would render them invincible in the field, when that great encounter occurred which has been impeding so long between their foes and themselves. But the sequel to this delay begins to startle the American people with emotions different from those with which they contemplated its monotonous continuation from day to day. As our troops now advance from one position to occupy new points or more advantageous ground, it is accompanied with the order of trained soldiers and the precision of tried veterans. They meet their foes steadily, sternly and persistently. They force victory from them as they are entrenched in almost impregnable strongholds, and dictate terms of capitulation to traitors at the mouths of their own cannon. Had these same armies been precipitated on the traitors, immediately after their organization, who can estimate the disasters that would have followed? Had they been organized into expeditions and landed on the enemy's shores, who can question their ultimate overthrow and complete extermination? No man who has any judgment now doubts the sound policy of that delay which has enabled our troops to gain the discipline and perfection to which alone our victories can justly be attributed. It was not the delay of supineness, indecision, or faltering imbecility. It was a delay dictated by a judgment which was sustained by a full knowledge of all our weakness in numbers and discipline. When our numbers were augmented to the required maximum, and the discipline of the army had reached its proper standard, the word to advance was given, and a victory immediately achieved, such as was due to the reputation of the country, the cause in which these armies were engaged, and the peace they hoped thus signally to render perpetual.

In proportion as we have been impatient with the operations of the army, we have also become petulant with the proceeding of legislative bodies. Our impatience is expressed in harsh words and often harsher accusations, because Congress has not at once and perfectly legislated on the subject of the currency. In this particular, as in reference to the army, we cannot understand the necessity of delay. We imagine that it requires neither thought or digestion to create a paper currency—that an immense debt can be incurred without the necessity of calculating how that debt is to be sustained—how its interests are to be met and satisfied, and finally as to how the principal is to be secured and honorably liquidated. These questions must be as fairly pondered and as deliberately considered, as it was necessary for those who controlled the raw recruit to secure his thorough training and perfect discipline before he was led to battle. When this is attained—when the Representatives have fairly considered and perfected their measures of a currency and their system of taxation, the country will doubtless be as much surprised and satisfied as they have been with the movements and victories of the army after it had expended its ridicule at the incompetency of its officers and its wrath on the unaccountable delay of its marches. We will have a sound currency in a few months, that will be as secure and popular in the state of Maine, as it will be acceptable and satisfactory in the far off state of California. We will have a system of taxation, too, that will equally impose the duty of contributing the means of supporting the government, until by taxation, production and economy, the nation pays the last dollar of its indebtedness. Then those who now complain at the tardiness of Congress, will hail and commend the wisdom which thus provided for the maintenance of the national integrity—while the confidence and credit thus established will forever exist to aid the government in any future embarrassment that may arise in its progress or in the exercise of its just authority. Delays, that may be dangerous in most cases, have proven salutary effect and influence in the instance of our present military operations, simply because they were the delays dictated by judgment and a patriotic desire to guard against all emergencies and circumstances that would either cast doubt on the integrity of our cause or imperil the success of our arms. Let us then be less prompt to denounce what we cannot appreciate, and more patient to bide that which we do not understand.

LINCOLN AND CAMERON.
The editor of the *Brownsville Weekly Clipper* responds to a stern truth when he declares that the enemies of the late Secretary of War—for there never was a man, however great or good, without his enemies—were exceedingly busy for some time after Mr. Cameron's resignation, in striving to create the impression that he was "dismissed" by the President, without his previous knowledge or consent. How much truth there is in this assertion, may be inferred from the correspondence between the President and the late Secretary, and which we desire our readers to peruse, who are willing to do justice to a patriotic, faithful, and laborious public officer. We are behind no one in our admiration for the energy, earnestness and ability of Mr. Stanton, the present Secretary of War; but at the same time, we cannot forget, nor will the country forget, the different circumstances under which Mr. Cameron and Mr. Stanton entered, respectively, upon the duties of that office. The one was compelled to invent, construct, and set a-going, the complicated machinery which armed, equipped, subsisted, disciplined, and brought into the field, an army of more than half a million of men, in the incredibly short space of a few months, from raw, crude, undisciplined material, and amidst difficulties and embarrassments, such as no other man in the history of the world, encountered; while the business of the other is merely to keep that machinery properly oiled, adjusted, and in motion. The day will come when not only impartial history, but a grateful people will do justice to Simon Cameron. Read the correspondence referred to, and see how easy it is to be mistaken.

ARRIVAL OF THE RELEASED UNION PRISONERS AT BALTIMORE.
BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.
The released prisoners just marched up Baltimore street, escorted by a detachment of the Fifth New York Zouaves with their fine band, and were enthusiastically cheered along the route.

BY TELEGRAPH.
FROM FORTRESS MONROE.
ARRIVAL OF RELEASED PRISONERS.
THE INAUGURATION OF JEFF DAVIS
No Enthusiasm on the Occasion.
Official Rebel Announcement of the Fall of Nashville.
Interview Between Gen. Wool and Gen. Howell Cobb.
TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH FORTRESS MONROE.
Release of Three Hundred and Ninety Union Prisoners.
NO PRISONERS REMAIN AT RICHMOND.
BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.
The Old Point boat which left Fortress Monroe yesterday arrived here this morning. She brings fourteen United States officers who were released by the rebels, including Col. Wood of the New York 14th regiment, who was wounded at Ball Run; Col. Blair of the 20th Massachusetts, taken at Ball's Bluff; Col. Cogswell, of the Tammany regiment, and Capt. Kaffer of Baker's regiment. Col. Wood was on parole, and had the liberty to move about the city of Richmond previous to leaving. He was present, out of curiosity at the inauguration of Jeff. Davis, on the 22d inst., and says that no enthusiasm whatever marked the occasion. Hardly a cheer could be raised during the ceremonies. Col. Cogswell, of the 20th Massachusetts regiment, says that before leaving, on Saturday evening, he was taken aside by a distinguished officer of the rebel government, who privately assured him that an official despatch had just been received of the fall of Nashville. The Adelaide, from Baltimore, did not arrive until ten o'clock last night. The Georgiana came in at the usual time this morning. Both return to Baltimore to night. The Adelaide brought down the balance of the Sixth Wisconsin regiment, and conveyed them to Newport News this morning. Gen. Wool with Col. Cannon and Major Jones, of his staff, went with the steamer Raccoon this morning under a flag of truce to meet, by appointment, Gen. Howell Cobb of Georgia, on the island for the purpose of opening negotiations for a general exchange of prisoners. The Raccoon became disabled, however, after proceeding some distance and having put back, the Baltimore steamer Adelaide, was taken for a substitute. The Adelaide was not met by the William Seldon, and Gen. Wool having stepped on board the latter a consultation of about an hour in length took place between the General. The result of the interview was not known. The Hoboken with the submarine cable to be laid across the bay did not leave until about half-past two o'clock this afternoon. A connection having been made between the cable and land wire at its terminus on the beach above the fort, constant communication is had between the Hoboken and Gen. Wool's headquarters. Everything was progressing satisfactorily up to one o'clock this afternoon, when Mr. Heiss telegraphed that he had proceeded about five miles out. There is no doubt about the line being successfully laid and if the weather is favorable will be open to-morrow forenoon. The George Washington left at half-past nine o'clock this morning for James river, to receive about three hundred and ninety released Union prisoners. She has just now (five o'clock) returned. The released prisoners go to Baltimore to night. Among them are Col. Cogswell, Lee and Wood, Major Revere, Captain Kaffer, Lieut. Harris and about a dozen other officers. Also the crews of the schooner *Ocella*, captured in the Gulf of Mexico on the first of November, and brig *Elsinore*. The largest number of prisoners belong to the first California and Tammany regiments, a large proportion were captured at Ball's Bluff. There are now no Union prisoners remaining at Richmond. The prisoners left Richmond last night, but the boat ran aground and did not reach the rendezvous till about three o'clock this afternoon.

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THE FORT WARREN PRISONERS.
Boston, Feb. 24.
The following Fort Warren prisoners have not been released, having declined to accept their liberty unless on unconditional terms:—William G. Harrison, William H. Winder, Henry M. Warfield and W. H. Gatel.

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Late Southern News from Rebel Sources.

WINTON DESTROYED BY THE FEDERAL TROOPS.
Reported Battle in Arkansas between Gen. Price Army and the Union Troops.

The Richmond Whig Denounces Jeff. Davis' Administration.

PRIVATE MEETING OF UNIONISTS IN RICHMOND.

RUMORED SURRENDER OF SAVANNAH.
BALTIMORE, Feb. 24.
The whole number of prisoners is about three hundred and ninety.

LATER.
The enemy lost seven hundred, our loss is one hundred. Another great victory. [Signed] ALBERT PIKE.

The Richmond Whig of Friday has a bitter article on the Davis administration. It says judging by the results so far, it is the most lamentable failure in history, and suggests to reflecting minds that the most signal service which that Government can now render to the country, is the surrender of the helm to abler and better hands. In view of the past, the present and the probable future, the payment of tomorrow is a bitter mockery and a miserable compensation for the ruin of a free people. A child with a bauble, and an old man with a young wife, are partial illustrations of the deplorable folly.

Prisoners say the Union men had a meeting privately on Friday night, and was well attended. The Dispatch is landing Price for his great victory in Arkansas as announced in Pike's Dispatch. The Dispatch contains a programme for the inauguration ceremony; also the proclamation of Jeff. Davis appointing Friday, the 28th as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. Nothing in the papers from Savannah. The surrender was rumored at Richmond.

FROM WASHINGTON.
CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.
Ten million dollars is the sum appropriated by Congress for the complete construction and equipment of iron clad vessels for river, harbor and coast defense, and for which the Navy Department invited propositions. It has determined to furnish no plans, but to leave the submission of them to the constructors in order to develop the latest ingenuity in design best calculated for the effective purposes, and the department will make its selections accordingly.

FROM NEW YORK.
ARRIVAL OF STEAMERS.
New York, Feb. 24.
The new gunboat recently launched at Mytic, has arrived here. The steamer North Star, from Apiahuall, with the San Francisco mails of the 1st instant, has been signalled before. She will be up at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

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Flour rather dull, but prices unchanged.—Sales—1,000 barrels sold at \$5 3/4 for superfine, and \$5 7/8 for extra family, at which figure it is freely offered. Rye flour is steady at \$3 25, and corn meal at \$3. The offerings of wheat are small, but the demand is limited.—Sales of 5,000 bushels of fair and prime rye at \$1 33@1 35. 2,000 bushels Pennsylvania rye sold at 78c. In corn there is some activity, and ten thousand bushels of yellow sold at 55@57c. Oats are steady at 38@39c. Coffee is firmer, but there is not much doing; small sales of Rio at 18@21c. Provisions are firmer; sales of mess pork at \$13 60; and 280 tierces lard at 84c. Clover seed is steady at 4 1/2@4 1/4. Whisky is unsettled; sales of Ohio in barrels, at 25 1/2@26 cents.

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