MORNING TELEGRAPH.

BY GEORGE BERGNER. HARRISBURG, PA., MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1862. PRICE ONE CENT.

THE TELEGRAPH

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY.

GEORGE BERGNER,

TERMS.—SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH is served to subscribers in the city at 6 cents per week. Yearly subscribers will be charged $4 00, in advance.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

THE TELEGRAPH is also published twice a week during the session of the Legislature, and weekly during the balance of the year, and furnished to subscribers at the following cash rates, viz:

Single subscribers per year	Semi-Weekly	$1 50
Five subscribers " "	"	12 00
Ten " " "	"	22 00
Single subscriber, Weekly		1 00

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Eight lines or less constitute one-half square. Eight lines or more than four constitute a square.

One square, one day	$0 25
one week	1 00
one month	2 00
three months	3 00
six months	5 00
one year	8 00
Quarter square, one day	50
one week	2 00
one month	3 50
three months	5 00
six months	10 00
one year	15 00

Business notices inserted in the *Local Column*, or Marriages and Deaths, FIVE CENTS PER LINE for each insertion.

Marriages and Deaths to be charged as regular advertisements.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The Rebel Steamer Merrimac and the Gunboats Yorktown and Jamestown.

ATTACK ON OUR FLEET.

REPORTED SINKING OF THE U. S. FRIGATE CUMBERLAND.

The U. S. Frigate Congress, Captured. and Burned.

The U. S. Frigate Minnesota Aground

THE PARTICULARS OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

The Rebel Fleet Engage the Batteries at Newport News.

REPORTED FLIGHT OF THE GARRISON TO THE WOODS.

The Merrimac Supposed to be Aground,

PROBABLE EXPLOSION OF ONE OF HER BOILERS.

FEARS FOR THE SAFETY OF FRIGATES MINNESOTA AND ST. LAWRENCE.

The Iron-clad Steamer Ericsson Arrives at the Scene of Action.

She Engages the Monster Merrimac and Gunboats Yorktown and Jamestown.

FIVE HOUR'S BATTLE.

The Rebel Fleet Driven Off.

The Merrimac in a Sinking Condition.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 8.

The dullness of Old Point was startled at 10 o'clock to-day by the announcement that a mysterous vessel, supposed to be the Merrimac looking like a submerged house with the roof only above water, was moving down from Norfolk by the channel in front of Sewall's Point batteries. Signal guns were also fired by the Cumberland and Congress to notify the Minnesota, St. Lawrence and Roanoke of approaching danger, and all was excitement in and about Fortress Monroe.

There was nothing protruding above the water but a flagstaff, flying the rebel flag, and a short smoke-stack. She moved along slowly and turning into the channel tending to Newport News, steamed direct for the frigates Cumberland and Congress, which were lying at the mouth of James river. As soon as she came within the range of the Cumberland she opened on her with her heavy guns but the balls struck and glanced off having no more effect on her than peas from a pop gun. Her ports were all closed, and she moved on in silence, but with full head of steam. In the mean time, as the Merrimac was approaching the two frigates on one side, the rebel iron-clad steamers, Yorktown and Jamestown, came down James river, and engaged our frigates. On the other side, the batteries at Newport News also opened on the Jamestown and Yorktown, and done everything in their power to assist the Cumberland and Congress, which, seeing the sailing vessels were at the mercy of the approaching steamers. The Merrimac in the meantime kept steadily on her course, and slowly approached the Cumberland, when she and the Congress at the distance of one hundred yards rained full broadside on the iron clad monster. The shot took no effect, glancing upwards and flying off, having only the effect of checking her for the moment. After receiving the first broadside of two frigates, she run on to the Cumberland striking her about midships and literally laying upon her sides. She then drew off, fired a broadside into the disabled ship, and again dashed against her with her iron clad bow and knocking in her side, and left her to sink while she engaged the Congress, which laid about a quarter of a mile distant. The crew on board of her seeing the hopelessness of resisting the iron clad steamer, at once struck her colors. Her crew had been discharged several days since, and three companies of the Navy brigade had been put on board temporarily until she would be relieved by the St. Lawrence, which was to have gone up on Monday, to take her position as our blockading vessel on the James river. On the Congress striking her colors, the Jamestown approached and took from on board her, all the officers as prisoners, but allowed the crew to escape in boats. The vessel thus cleared was fired by the rebels, when the Merrimac and her two Iron clad companions opened with shell and shot on the Newport News batteries. The firing was briskly returned.

Various reports have been received, principally from the frightened sutlers and clerks.—Some of them represented that the garrison had been compelled to retreat from the batteries to the woods. Another was that two smaller rebel steamers had been compelled to retreat from their guns.

In the meantime the steam frigate Minnesota having partly got up steam, was being towed up to the relief of the two frigates, but did not get up till too late to assist them. She was also followed up by the frigate St. Lawrence, which was taken in tow by several of the small harbor steamers. It is however rumored that neither of these vessels had pilots on board them. After a short engagement both of them seemed to be, in the opinion of the pilots on the point, aground. The Minnesota either intentionally or from necessity, engaged three steamers at about a mile distance with only her two bow guns. The St. Lawrence also poured in shot from all the guns she could bring to bear, and it was the impression of the most experienced naval officers on the point that both had been considerably damaged. These statements it must be borne in mind are all based on what could be seen by the glass at a distance of nearly eight miles, and by a few panic-stricken non-combatants whoaled at almost the first gun from Newport News.

In the meantime darkness approached, though the moon shone out brightly, and nothing but occasional flashing of guns could be seen. The Merrimac was also believed to be aground, as she remained stationery at a distance of a mile from the Minnesota, making no attempt to attack or molest her.

Previous to the departure of the steamer for Baltimore, no guns had been fired for half an hour—the last one being fired from the Minnesota. Some persons declared that immediately after this last gun was fired, a dense volume of vapor was seen to rise from the Merrimac, indicating the explosion of a boiler, whether this is so or not, cannot be known, but it was the universal opinion that the rebel monster was hard aground.

Fears were of course entertained for the safety of the Minnesota and the St. Lawrence in such an unequal contest, but if the Merrimac was really ashore, she could do no further harm to them.

It was the intention of the Minnesota with her picked gallant crew, to have run into close quarters with the Merrimac, avoid her iron prow and board her. This the Merrimac seemed not inclined to give her an opportunity to do, being afraid of the crew approaching her at close quarters when aground.

At eight o'clock when the Baltimore boat left, a fleet of steam tugs were being sent up to the relief of the Minnesota and St. Lawrence, and an endeavor was to be made to draw them off from the bar on which they had grounded. In the meantime the firing had been suspended, whether from mutual consent or necessity, could not be ascertained.

The rebel battery at Pig's Point was also enabled to join in the combined attack on the Minnesota, and several guns were fired at her from Sewell's Point as she went up, none of them, however, struck her, but one or two passed over her.

The Baltimore boat left Old Point at eight o'clock last night. About half an hour after she left the wharf, the iron clad Ericson steamer and Moniteur passed her going in, towed by the large steamer Moniteur, and undoubtedly reached Fortress Monroe by 9 o'clock and may have immediately gone into service. If not, she would be ready to take a hand early on Sunday morning.

WASHINGTON, March 9—seven o'clock, P.M.—[Telegram from Fortress Monroe.]—The Ericsson arrived at Fortress Monroe last night.—Early this morning she was attacked by the three vessels, the Merrimac, Jamestown and Yorktown, and, after five hours' contest, they were driven off, the Merrimac in a sinking condition. The above is official.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE REBEL BATTERIES AT COCK-PIT POINT ON THE POTOMAC CAPTURED.

THE REBELS FIRE THEIR TENTS AND OTHER EQUIPPAGE AND RETIRE.

Stars & Stripes Waving over their Works.

The Destruction of the U. S. Frigate, Cumberland----Capture of the Congress---and grounding of the Minnesota.

MILITARY AFFAIRS ON THE RIO GRANDE.

Important Reconnoissance from Fort Craig.

No General Engagement with the Enemy,

The Recent News from Denver Discredited

WASHINGTON, March 9.

The stars and stripes wave over Cockpit Point. About 2 o'clock P. M., to-day, the rebels commenced to fire their tents and other property difficult of removal. They also burned the steamer Page and all the other craft in the creek. Our gunboats opened fire on Cockpit Point battery about 3 o'clock P. M., and at half-past four landed and ran up the glorious old flag.

The government has received information from Fortress Monroe, that yesterday the iron clad steamer Merrimac and the gunboats Jamestown and Yorktown attacked our fleet, sunk the Cumberland and took the Congress. The Minnesota was aground when the Fortress Monroe boat left.

Judge Watts, the delegate from New Mexico, has advices of an authentic character from Fort Craig to the 4th of February, and Santa Fe to 5 o'clock, evening, Sunday the 16th. At that date, the advance guard of the U. S. forces 500 strong, under Capt. Wingate, were on the west side of the Rio Grande, eight miles below Fort Craig, being at Barajos.

On the driving in of our pickets, Col. Canley marched in force to that point, and after anxiously waiting until night without any appearance of the enemy, returned to Fort Craig, leaving his camp fires burning. Col. Canley's spy, Grayden, had captured the principal spy of Gen. Sibley, and from him it was ascertained that the forces under Sibley consisted of 1,500 troops at Alamass and 1,500 behind under Sibley with 8 cannon and 300 beeves, and that he expected reinforcements soon of 1,100 lancers. Under these circumstances Judge Watts is confident that no general engagement had taken place, but perhaps only skirmishing of the advance guard which resulted in the falling back of our troops on Fort Craig in order to prevent the Texan cavalry from getting between our forces in the advance and the fortifications at Fort Craig.

The recently published despatch from Denver to Jubesburg is not on its face authentic, and must have been verbally communicated through a line of express riders, over a distance of seven hundred miles; and Judge Watts has other information which satisfies him that the account is, to say the least of it, highly exaggerated, and some parts of it untrue.