DAILY POST.

The Union as it was:
The Constitution as it is!

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 13.

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☞ Reading matter on every page.

NEW ORLEANS AND RICHMOND.

Official intelligence has been received of the capture of New Orleans, and the fall of Richmond is reported. The details of the reduction of the rebel capital will afford the most pleasant chapter in the history of the rebellion. One year ago, the rebels thought that the capture of Washington City, the driving out of legitimate power, and the possession of General Scott, would be the means of having them recognized as the government by France and England. The failure of that modest enterprise forced them to sojourn for a while in Nashville, prior to taking up a permanent abode in Richmond. The pressure of events has forced them from that pleasant location, and it is quite difficult to perceive at present where the Confederate government will next assemble. Her Congress dispersed some days since; and, according to Richmond papers, they left in canal boats, in a very decorous and orderly manner. Indeed, the Fathers of the Confederacy appeared quite thoughtful and oppressed at their departure from Richmond. Whether this was occasioned by the recollection of pleasing reminiscences, or the fear of being captured by the Union forces, is a point which our Richmond cotemporaries have not yet decided. That they are gone, however, never to return in an official capacity, is quite enough for present consideration. If they ever hoped to return, the news of McClellan's triumphant occupation of the city will dissipate that pleasing though preposterous conception.

The press of New Orleans seems to take their misfortune with much Christian resignation; the *Picayune* of April 28th, plaintively says: "The circumstances, sad and melancholy as they are, in which we are now placed, require on our part, the exercise of the utmost wisdom and forbearance." The *Crescent* of the same date, less forbearing, says:

"While we counsel order and discretion with our citizens—that no act be committed tending to insult or to exasperate the enemy in our front—yet our people should quietly await with unflinching spirits, the time when the free, unfettered soul may send forth its natural and patriotic impulses. Let that day be near or far off, it is not of our knowledge at this time to say; but the hope and belief is strong within us that their triumph, yet incomplete, will be of short duration, and this city soon again breathe the pure air of the free.

"It is with feelings of the deepest pride that we point the federal officers to the fact that no Union sentiment exists in our midst; that almost with one voice and one tongue this community entirely repudiates all allegiance to the old government, and warmly and devotedly adhere to the new. And we respectfully but firmly assert that this sentiment, this feeling, is so firmly implanted in the breasts of our people *that no time, no circumstances, no change can serve to eradicate it, or still their free souls in their struggle for their independence.* They have suffered, they may suffer unspeakably in the future, but we hazard nothing in saying that no sacrifice, even to the last life, will be too much to accomplish the one great, mighty and glorious undertaking. This we honestly believe, and while we do not utter our convictions in a vain-glorious spirit, we will not shrink from their free and independent expression."

GENERAL McCLELLAN.

Forney's Philadelphia *Press*, alluding to General McClellan, says that, "no public man in the country, at the present time, has so much reason to cry save me from my friends." This is in reply to some New York journal, which has been defending the General from the malignant persecution of his enemies.

The *Press* may felicitate itself upon not being one of those friends from whose friendship Gen. McClellan may wish to be preserved; for, although, that paper did not assail him with the fury of the *Tribune* it did endeavor to damage him by silken, sly and insinuating slander. It endeavored to prove the task before him one that could be easily accomplished, when undertaken, thus depriving him, in advance, of any credit for the achievement. Last weeks' business in Virginia therefore is nothing in these gentlemen's estimation, because they informed us, at the beginning, that they would be satisfied with nothing less than has been accomplished. Exacting as the task was, however, it has been thoroughly performed: it is so brilliant and overwhelming as to alarm the cabal of conspirators in Washington, who have been plotting McClellan's destruction. His triumph has been so magnificent as to extort commendation from the very set who have been laboring to destroy him. These individuals it seems carried their designs against the young commander a little too far; the game was beginning to attract public attention, and the public were beginning to form an opinion which had its effect, in alarming them for their political future. Accordingly, we find the meanest of the crew, Mr. Lovejoy, seizing time by the forelock, by offering a resolution in Congress, which was unanimously adopted, returning thanks to the "Almighty and General McClellan for" our late successes in Virginia. This is a triumph well worth recording. The very men who have devoted so much time to remove McClellan, and even create suspicion of his loyalty, are now compelled, by the rushing force of public opinion, to take back their calumnies, and become his eulogists, for fear of being crushed by a just and an indignant people. From this time forth, M'Clellan will not need to cry save me from my friends, unless, indeed, these conspirators should persist in passing complimentary resolutions upon his performances. Such friendship he could by no possibility survive.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Important Political Movement.

Meeting of the Conservative Members of Congress—Preliminary Steps for the Formation of a Patriotic Union Party—Speeches of Messrs. Mallory, Crittenden, Steele, Menzies, Sheffield, Cravens, Kellogg and Richardson.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1862.

In accordance with previous notice, there was a meeting of the Conservative members of both branches of Congress, in the Hall of Representatives, this afternoon, for the purpose of consulting as to the best means to defeat the secessionists and abolitionists.

Shortly after the hour appointed for the meeting, Mr. MALLORY, of Ky., arose and stated the reasons that had induced the call for such a consultation. It had been made in the hope that there might be some concert of action to destroy the enemies of the Union, South and North, and with a view to future results that were not only expected, but also needed and demanded by the people of the country. The object was to do good service in this time of peril, when we were threatened with destruction by abolition and secession, and to unite against all schemes which are imperilling our republic.

On motion of Mr. SHEFFIELD, of Rhode Island, Hon. J. J. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, was chosen Chairman.

On being escorted to the chair, Mr. Crittenden said:—

We are assembled, as I understand, for a patriotic purpose—none other than to consult on the best mode and manner to preserve and promote the vital interests of the country, and adopt some wise plan of action to secure its redemption and everlasting welfare. This is the object, and the only object, of the meeting. In such a council I am glad to be. Our acts are not to be influenced by any party purpose, much less is it our object to organize any new party. Our country is the only object to claim our attention, while we are to give that attention to the performance of such duty in the most wise and efficient manner. He had heretofore taken his part in politics: we all had; but now he wished to devote the remnant of his life to the great purpose of saving our republic. We should take such action as men and patriots.

On motion of Mr. CRAVENS, of Indiana, Mr. COX, of Ohio, was chosen secretary of the meeting.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, said we had better have some unity of action, for the purpose of declaring the object of the meeting, and suggested a committee. He moved for such a committee.

Mr. MALLORY suggested that, in the formation of the committee, to get the largest expression of the people of the United States, one from each state present be selected.

Mr. WICKLIFFE accepted the suggestion.

Mr. STEELE, of New York, said there was no desire on his part to give this meeting a partisan character. The meeting had not been called, as he understood, with a view to party policy of any kind whatever, although many of us have been mixed up during our lives with party matters, party predilections and party prejudices. But we are in a time when all personal and party consideration pales before the immense and momentous events that have transpired, and the immense subjects and great questions submitted to our judgment and action. We meet here to-day with but one desire and purpose, and that is to rise above all party consideration, that we may act wisely for ourselves and our posterity, and the present and future good of the country.

Mr. WICKLIFFE—I think I made it distinct, that this meeting was not for the purpose of the organization of any party, but to have the effect of uniting our own and the people's sentiments upon the great questions before the country, and the best mode of preserving this Union and restoring universal harmony in all things, so far as our action can make it practicable. I did not come here to organize any political party, but for action to meet the public expectation and hope everywhere.

After a reference to the Democratic party, Mr. RICHARDSON said—I do not despair of the people of the Northern States coming up to the full measure of this occasion. For the State of Illinois I can especially say this—I am satisfied that when we again assemble here, in a future Congress, the extreme abolition party will not have enough members on this floor to make a roll call. I agree in what has been said about the country and its good. We are to preserve the Constitution as it is, and restore the Union as it was. It is not to be tampered with or impaired by any mere political party. I protest against and I denounce anything of that kind. Though we all have different views on certain subjects, still our first and main purpose is to preserve the Constitution. We have plenty of power within the limits of the Constitution to prosecute this war, and for its entire preservation. I, for one, am ready to help.

Mr. MENZIES, of Kentucky, discussed the war question, and its causes and effects. He was for a unity of action to defeat and overthrow those who had caused and were maintaining this rebellion. He said—I am ready for this purpose to unite upon some basis of action against the rebels. It is my first and earnest desire to overthrow everywhere those who are and have been striving to change our frame of government. I want to unite with every man who is for putting down this rebellion. I am for meeting the traitors of the South, and the other enemies of my country known as abolitionists. I am for ignoring all party distinctions.

Mr. SHEFFIELD, of Rhode Island—I suppose that the object of this meeting is to organise a plan of action to meet and defeat certain propositions before Congress. I am in favor of the administration of the constitution according to its spirit. I am opposed to those who are opposed to it, whether they come from the North or the South, whether they are in arms against the government or not.

Mr. CRAVEN, of Indiana—This is certainly an extraordinary meeting, in some respects. I do not remember of ever having attended any meeting of this kind. We see here gentlemen representing different parties, and yet all united on one great basis for action. We have been notified that it is not for party purposes, and we see here men who voted for Mr. Breckinridge and Mr. Bell and Mr. Lincoln. We have met here as conservative men, for the whole country's good, and to direct the force of public attention, consideration and opinion. We are to rise above party, to the height and dignity of full grown statesmen, to meet the requirements and necessities of these times. I am opposed to the agitation of subjects prejudicial to the interests of this Union.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois—I am happy and thankful to see so many gentlemen here, and I am sure there would have been many more present had they only known the true object of the meeting. Party has fallen below our consideration in the effort to successfully combat this mighty storm. I am not prepared now, for one, to take the preliminary steps for a party organization. Sir, we have a higher mission. We should meet together, we should consult together, we should act together, to secure the benefits of a wise and statesmanlike policy. What I desire is this—to have some concert of action, to meet these measures that are injurious, and as injuriously thrown before Congress. If we only act together, we can break down and overthrow all those wild, mad schemes, which go to make the life of party excitement, in the same ratio as they injuriously affect the life of our once peaceful country. I am for a union of all conservative men.—My position is just this—I am for putting down this devilish rebellion, but in restoring the constitution and Union. I am for respecting and securing [illegible] and individuals.

FROM NEW ORLEANS,

REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE.

Speaches of Pierre Soule and Gen. Lovell.

The *Delta*, of April 26, contains a long account of the capture of New Orleans, giving the following account of what occurred after our officers entered the city:

The Mayor received the officers in his office with proper dignity. Capt. Bayles stated the purport of his mission. He had been sent by Captain Farragut to demand the surrender of the city and the elevation of the flag of the United States over the Custom House, the Post Office, the Mint and the City Hall. The Mayor replied he was not the military commander of the city, that he had no authority to surrender it, and would not do so, but that there was a military commander now in the city and he would send for him, to receive and reply to the demand.

A messenger was despatched for Gen. Lovell. In the interval a number of citizens who were present got into conversation with the United States naval officers. The Lieutenant seemed to be a courteous and well-behaved gentleman, who bore the testimony with apparent earnestness to the vigor and valor of the defense of our forts, and was quite communicative. The senior officer was more reserved, but still made large professions of peaceful intents. It was difficult, however, for him to conceal the bitter sectional hate of a Massachusetts man against a true Southern community. In the course of the conversation, however, this officer remarked that Capt. Farragut deeply regretted to see the spirit of incendiarism which prevailed in the city in the destruction of cotton and other things. The Mayor remarked that he differed from him that the destruction was of our own property, and did not concern outsiders. Capt. Bayles replied *that it looked like biting off one's nose to spite his face.* The Mayor replied that he judged differently.

After awhile General Lovell arrived in front of the City Hall, and was greeted with loud cheers by the crowd outside. On entering the Mayor's office Captain Bayles introduced himself as second in command of the United States squadron in front of the city. General Lovell replied "I am General Lovell, of the army of the Confederate States, commanding this department." The officers then shook hands, and Captain Bayles stated his mission to demand the surrender of the city and the elevation of the United States flag over the Custom House, Mint and Post Office—adding that he was instructed by Captain Farragut to state that he came to protect private property and personal rights; that he had no design to interfere with any private rights, and especially not with the negro property.

General Lovell replied that he would not surrender the city, nor allow it to be evacuated; that he was over powered on the water by their superior squadron, but that he intended to fight them on land as long as he could muster a soldier; that he had marched all of his armed men out of the city; that he had evacuated it, and if they desired to shell the town, destroying women and children, they could do so.—That it was to avoid this he had marched his troops beyond the city limits, but that a large number even of the women of the city had begged him to remain and defend the city even against shelling. He did not think he would be justified in doing so.—He would, therefore, retire and leave the city authorities to pursue what course they should think proper. Captain Bayles said that such purpose was entertained by Captain Farragut, reiterating the expression of his regret at the destruction of cotton. *General Lovell interrupted him by saying that it was done by his authority.* Captain Bayles said that he had no doubt General Lovell had done his duty, and they were doing theirs. It was then concluded that Captain Bayles and the other officers would return to their ships, and the Mayor would call the Council and lay before it the demand of Captain Farragut. The officers requested to be protected in their return to their ships, and General Lovell directed Colonel Lovell and Major Jones to accompany them. The officers accordingly proceeded to the rear of the City Hall, where they took a cabriolet proceeded to the wharf.

During the interview an immense and excited crowd of people had congregated about the City Hall, who alternately hurrahed for Jeff Davis, for Gen. Lovell, and most vigorously groaned for "Lincoln and his squadron."

To calm this multitude, Pierre Soule addressed them in a few eloquent and effective words, counselling moderation, self-possession, fortitude, and confidence in their cause, declaring that the honor of the government and city was in safe hands, and that Gen. Lovell's answer to the demand to surrender was worthy of the commander of a brave people.

General Lovell, on appearing on the steps, was also loudly cheered. He addressed the multitude in a short speech, declaring his purpose not to surrender the city, but to retire with his army and fight the Lincolnites, whom they could always whip on land. He briefly sketched his course in the preparation for the defense of the city. That he had done all he could do with the means at his disposal. That he came here six months too late. That it was beyond his resources to contend successfully against the enemy's power on water.

He advised the citizens to bear themselves manfully, never to stoop or submit to the Lincoln dominion, and to wait with patient fortitude for the deliverance from bondage which must soon come to them. The General, then mounted his horse, and accompanied by his staff, rode to the Jackson Railroad, where he took the last car, having already sent his army ahead of him.

Rebel Editors Submissive to the Surroundings, and Asking for Small Favor.

From the New Orleans Bee, April 28.

Our readers will make the proper allowances for the comparative meagreness of intelligence and lack of interest in our columns. It is almost impossible to get up a newspaper when its conductors are debarred alike from mail and telegraphic facilities. For several days past the press of this city has been compelled to perform its onerous labors without having access to a single exchange sheet. This, we trust, is not to continue. *Whatever may be the extent of authority the federals feel disposed to exercise over our unfortunate city, we hope they will permit the arrival and departure of the usual mails,* so that the inhabitants shall not be completely isolated from every other portion of the country.

Thievery Rampant Amid the Confusion.

From the New Orleans Picayune, April 28.

During the confusion incident to the events of yesterday, license was taken by many persons to possess themselves of articles of private property, from the levee, and stores and warehouses in the vicinity. The Mayor has issued a proclamation warning all such to restore these articles to his office, upon the penalty of being proceeded against to the full extent of the law.

Great Suffering for Want of Provisions—The City in a Starving Condition.

From the Picayune, April 27th.

We are sorry to say that the supplies in the markets yesterday were very scanty, and that, with very rare exception, the grocery and provision stores were still closed. The failure to furnish the usual supplies to the markets and to open the grocery and provision stores, occasioned unnecessary distress in the city, especially to those whose means do not allow of their having a stock of the necessaries of life on hand more than their daily consumption. We do hope, for the good of all—vendors and purchasers—that supplies will be forthcoming to-day, and, if successful, in sufficient quantities to meet the demand, and at reasonably moderate prices.

First Edition.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

The Occupation of Norfolk.

DESTRUCTION OF GOSPORT NAVY YARD.

BALTIMORE, May 12.—The Old Point boat has arrived, bringing the following details of events at Norfolk:

NORFOLK, May 10, 6 o'clock p. m.—Gen. Wool has just entered the city, in company with the Mayor, W. W. Lamb, and a committee of the city government. The last of the rebel troops left this morning, and the city was left, by Gen. Huger, in the care of the Mayor, as the representative of the civil power. On the approach of our troops the Mayor went with a flag of truce to the city limits, and arrangements were soon made between the Mayor and Gen. Wool that the city should be given up, on the promise of Gen. Wool that private property should be respected.

During the march on Norfolk three regimental cavalry camps were found deserted, apparently only a day or two since.

General Weber's regiment, New York Twentieth, was advanced on the landing, to reconnoiter, and some six miles from the beach, at the half way house, so called, found a place which had been prepared with considerable care for a battle field; the trees and bushes had been felled and rifle pits built, and early in the morning it was ascertained that several guns were placed in position. At this point some recruits of the 1st Va. regiment were captured. They reported that Sewall's Point had been abandoned on the preceding night by four companies which had garrisoned the place for some weeks past.

A negro was also captured at this place, who stated that it was the intention of the rebels to destroy the bridge over Tanner's creek and then to evacuate Norfolk.

Part of Max Weber's regiment was pushed forward on the road to the bridge, and the enemy was found at about noon posted on the opposite side of Tanner's creek, with three guns. The bridge had been set on fire and was still burning. Some six or eight shots were fired, without effect, and our men, being without musket range, did not reply.

The creek being about a quarter of a mile wide our force was withdrawn, and started on another road considerably longer and reported to be defended by a strong battery. Not the slightest opposition was made, and the fortifications, which were a mile and a half from Norfolk, were found to have been evacuated, after spiking the guns. They were extensive works, and finely constructed.

We arrived at Norfolk after a tiresome march at five o'clock, without firing a gun, and found that the whole rebel forces had departed—the last of them this morning.

Mayor Lamb, with a committee of the city authorities, having been authorized for the purpose, met Gen. Wool with a flag of truce at the city limits, and after a brief consultation the city was surrendered to the United States forces. Gen. Wool then proceeded to the City Hall, in company with the Mayor and followed by a large crowd, where he issued the following proclamation:

HEADQ'RS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
NORFOLK, May 10.

The city of Norfolk having been surrendered to the Government of the United States, military possession of the same is taken in behalf of the National Government by Major General John E. Wool. Brig. Gen. Vielle is appointed Military Governor for the time being. He will see that all citizens are carefully protected in all their rights and civil privileges, taking the utmost care to preserve order, and to see that no soldier be permitted to enter the city except by his order, or by the written permission of the commanding officer of his brigade or regiments, and he will punish summarily any person or soldier who shall trespass upon the rights of any of the inhabitants.

JOHN E. WOOL, Maj. Gen.

Gen. Vielle immediately appointed M. Z. R. Davis, Secretary.

The very first parties who entered the city were four newspaper correspondents.

Gen. Wool returned to his camp outside of the city, and will probably go to Fortress Monroe to-night.

After the departure of Gen. Wool several thousand persons assembled near the City Hall, to hear a speech from the Mayor.—He said, in substance, that in his negotiations with Gen. Wool he had secured a pledge for the protection of private property and the safe continuance of all private business.

The Gosport Navy Yard and public property was burned by the enemy to-day, together with most of the steamboats and other vessels on the Elizabeth river. The conflagration afforded a brilliant spectacle, which continued all the evening. The people are in a great state of excitement. A strong police force is on duty to-night, and it is hoped that no violence will be committed. Confidence in the Government will doubtless soon be re-estoblished.

Numbers of Union are flags flying on Portsmouth dwellings, which place was occupied by the 16th Massachusetts regiment. General Vielle has established his headquarters in the Custom House, formerly occupied by General Huger. The national flag was raised for the first time at 10 o'clock this morning, saluted by the guards and enthusiastically cheered. The Monitor and Naugatuck have just arrived, and a number of other vessels of the fleet are coming up. The night passed very quietly. At present, everything is perfectly tranquil, order entirely restored, and all the public property is occupied. The first national flag raised in Norfolk was the regimental colors of the 10th N. Y. regiment, being hoisted on the Custom House. The regiment has just started for Fort Norfolk, which they will garrison for the present. General Wool and Commodore Goldsborough have just arrived in the Baltimore. General Vielle transacts an immense amount of business. The policy of the authorities is to allow every thing to go on with as little interruption as possible. A general feeling of confidence seems to prevail, and the union sentiment begins to show itself. 52 guns were found on Craney Island by Captain Case, the fleet captain who landed on the passage of the fleet up the river. The naval vessels here are the Susquehanna, flag Seminole, San Jacinto, Mount Vernon, Dacotah, Monitor and Naugatuck. The following proclamation has been issued:

NORFOLK, Va., May 10.—The occupation of the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth is for the purpose of the protection of the public property, and the maintenance of the public laws of the United States. Private avocations and domestic quiet will not be disturbed; but violations of order and disrespect to the Government will be followed by the immediate arrest of the offenders. Those who have left their homes under the anticipation of any acts of vandalism may be assured that the Government allows no man the honor of serving in its armies who forgets the duties of a citizen in discharging those of a soldier, and that no individual rights will be interfered with. The sale of liquors is prohibited. The office of the Military Governor and Provost Marshal are at the Custom House.

[Signed] EGBERT L. VIELLE,
Brigadier General, U. S. A., and Military Governor.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 11.—At four o'clock this morning a bright light was observed from Fortress Monroe in the direction of Craney Island, which was supposed at first to be a signal to a [illegible] from the [illegible]

Precisely at half past four an explosion took place, which made the earth and water tremble for miles around. In the midst of the bright flames which shot up through the distant blaze, the timbers and iron of a monster steamer could be seen flying through the air, and no doubt was entertained that the veritable Merrimac ceased to exist.

Flag Officer Goldsborough, on receiving this report, ordered two armed naval tugs, the Zouave and Dragon, to proceed towards Craney Island to make a reconnoissance, and ascertain the truth of the rumor. Immediately after they had turned the Point, the Monitor and F. A. Stevens steamed up in the same direction, followed by the San Jacinto, Susquehanna, Mount Vernon, Seminole, and Dacotah. It was a most beautiful sight, and attracted a throng of spectators along the whole line of Old Point. Some were disposed to discredit the announcement that the Merrimac had been destroyed, and as they passed up towards Craney Island the excitement became intense. In the meantime the two tug boats were seen coming on towards Fortress Monroe, each apparently endeavoring to outvie the other; and when nearing the wharf the radient countenance of Captain Case, of the Minnesota, gave assurance that the news they brought was of the most gratifying character.

The report was true. He had met part of the floating wreck, and all the earthworks of the enemy appeared to be abandoned, though the rebel flag was still flying. Lieut. Selfridge from the Dragon, had landed with an armed crew and taken down the rebel flag, substituting the Stars and Stripes, amid the hearty cheering of the crew.

Capt. Case immediately reported the fact to the President and the Secretary of War, who received the confirmation of the report of the packet boats with great satisfaction.

At the request of the President, Capt. Case immediately proceeded to Craney Island, to ascertain if the works were evacuated. In company with the fleet which was then advancing, your correspondent, with Mr. Farrel of the New York Herald, and the Paymaster of the gallant little Zouave, Capt. Phillips, which figured so nobly in the fight with the Merrimac on her first appearance, were courteously invited to accompany him on the expidition. We were soon on the way, and in a short time overtook and passed all the vessels of war that had started in advance of us except the Monitor and Naugatuck, which were moving ahead on their way to Norfolk, having passed by Sewall's Point and Craney Island. As we neared Craney Island we found this immense fortress apparently abandoned, though three rebel flags were floating from very tall flagstaffs at different parts of the works. Capt. Case when within half a mile of shore, ordered a shot to be fired to test the fact of the evacuation. The only signs of life that the shell produced was the appearance of two negro men on the shore. A boat was immediately ordered off, and through the courtesy of the commander, I participated in the honor of lowering the rebel emblem, substituting the pride of America in its place. Capt. Case was the first loyal man that pressed his foot on the soil of this treasonable stronghold. Without a thought of torpedoes or infernal machines, the gallant commander rushed to the flagstaff and the halliards being in good order, the old flag was soon given to the breeze.

The forts on the island are in four or five separate sections, constructed with the best engineering skill, and of most admirable workmanship. They were left in admirable condition, and they were left in admirable haste, as were also the extensive barracks which had accommodated during the winter a garrison of over 4,000 men. There were supplies of ammunition in the sheds near each of the forty heavy guns mounted in different parts of the works. On the main point of the island commanding the approaches of the river channel, the works was casemated. Many of the excasemates were finished, in each of which were 9 or 10-inch guns, principally Dahlgrens, and the work of erecting five more were in progress at the time of the evacuation, in one of which a gun was mounted.

The fort at the head of the island, called the citadel, was not casemated, but mounted with five heavy guns. The whole number of guns mounted was thirty-nine, of which two were Parrotts and a number of rifled Dahlgrens; also about six guns in the works that had not yet been mounted. None of them had been removed. After spending an hour on the island, we proceeded towards Norfolk. Immediately at the upper part of the island was found a mass of blackened wreck floating on the water, some of it proceeding from the sunken portions of vessels. We had also passed large quantities of floating timber on our way up, all of which have been torn and rended into pieces.

From the men found on the island we ascertained that the Merrimac had laid during Saturday at a point nearly a mile below the position at which the fragments were observed. During the night, however, she had been brought back and run ashore. Her entire officers and crew were landed on the island, and a slow match applied to her magazine. She was rendered to fragments by the time the crew were out of reach of the falling fragments. The negroes state that the officers and crew passed through the adjoining county on the main land about 8 o'clock in the morning, to the number of over 200. They said they were on their way to Suffolk.

The Skirmish Near Farmington, Tennessee.

PITTSBURG, Tenn., May 11.—The following has just been received at headquarters:

Army of the Mississippi, near Farmington, May 9th.—To Maj.-Gen. Halleck: The enemy, 20,000 strong, drove in our pickets beyond Farmington and advanced against the brigade occupying the farther side of the creek, in front of my camp.—The brigade held on for four or five hours, until, finding themselves heavily pressed in front and on the flank, and that I could not sustain them without passing the creek with my whole force, which would have been contrary to your orders, and would have drawn on a general engagement, I withdrew to this side in good order.

The conduct of the troops was excellent, and the withdrawal made by them very reluctantly. The enemy made a demonstration to cross, but abandoned the movement. Our loss is considerable, though we cannot tell yet how great. The enemy, being much exposed, suffered very severely, one of his batteries being completely disabled, and his infantry line driven back several times. My command is eager for an advance.

JOHN POPE,
Major-General Commanding.

Farmington is five miles northwest of Corinth. The only forces engaged in the action were Plummer's and Polner's brigades. Weather warm and pleasant. All quiet in front, the enemy having retired.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
Pittsburgh, April 14th, 1862.

☞ NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that "SEALED PROPOSALS" accompanied by proper guarantees according to forms to be furnished on application at this Office, will be received thereat, until 12 o'clock, meridian, on the FIRST TUESDAY OF JUNE NEXT, for the supply of Provisions, Medicine, &c., enumerated in said forms, for one year, commencing on the first of July next, and ending on the thirtieth of June following. The quantities stated are estimated with reference to the usual number of patients in the Hospital; but the United States reserves the right to take more or less of said articles, accordingly as they may be required. If the articles delivered at the Hospital are not in the judgment of the Physician of the best quality and adapted to the Hospital, he will be at liberty to reject the same, to purchase other articles in their stead, and to charge the contractor with any excess of cost over the contract prices. The United States reserves the right to accept the proposals for the whole or any portion of the articles specified.

CHAS. W. BATCHELOR,
ap15:td Surveyor and Agent of Marine Hospital

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THE VERY LATEST TELEGRAPH.

PARTICULARS OF THE RECOUNTER BETWEEN THE GUNBOAT FLEETS.

Rebels Repulsed with Heavy Loss

They Lose Three Gunboats.

IMPORTANT FROM THE TENNESSEE.

ANOTHER UNION VICTORY.

CAIRO, May 11.—The desperation of the rebel cause in Mississippi culminated yesterday in an attack on the flotilla. Early on Saturday morning eight of their gunboats came around a point above the fort and boldly advanced towards the flotilla.

The Cincinnati, which was stationed at a point where the rebels came up on Friday, did not attract their attention until the fleet had passed above her. As soon as she was seen a simultaneous attack from the whole fleet of gunboats was made upon her, with but little effect, as the guns were poorly aimed.

The Cincinnati, meantime, had hauled into the stream, when an iron-clad ram, supposed to be the Mallory, advanced in the face of a continued broadside from the former, until within forty yards. Being a fast sailer, she succeeded in moving between the Cincinnati and the right hand shore, when men appeared upon her decks preparing to board, with grapnels thrown out, which design was frustrated by throwing hot water from the steam batteries of the Cincinnati.

In the meantime, but four gunboats had arrived at the scene of action, and engaged the rebel fleet. The Mallory, undaunted by failure, attempted to board, and crowded on a full head of steam, and came towards the Cincinnati, evidently intending to run her down.

Capt. Sternbel, in command of the latter, waited until the rebel monster was within twenty pards, when he fired a broadside into her from his Parrott guns, which did fearful execution.

The two boats were so close together by this time that it was impossible for the gunners of the Cincinnati to swab their guns, and it was only by bringing the steam batteries to bear upon her again that the Mallory was compelled to haul off. Capt. Sternbel shot her pilot with his revolver, and was himself wounded by a pistol shot fired by the pilot's mate of the Mallory.

While the engagement between the Mallory and Cincinnati was in progress our shots had exploded the boilers on one of the rebel gunboats, and set fire to another, burning her to the water's edge. The air was very heavy, and under cover of a dense smoke, which hung over the river, the rebel fleet retired, and was pursued until they gained shelter under the guns of Fort Wright.

None of our boats were injured, except the Cincinnati, and the damage done to her was so slight that it can be repaired in twenty-four hours. Four men on her were wounded, including the master's mate.—No other casualties are mentioned.

When the smoke cleared away, a broadside from the flag-ship Benton was sent after the Mallory, and shortly afterwards she was seen to careen and went down with all on board.

The steamers Courier and City of Alton arrived this afternoon from Pittsburg Landing, with news to noon of Saturday, up to which time no general engagement had taken place.

On Thursday the second battalion of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under command of Major Appleton, accompanied General Paine from Farmington, on a reconnoissance of the enemy's position. When about two miles out, the scouts, who had been sent in advance, came back and reported a force of rebel infantry in ambush in the woods, on both sides of the road leading from Farmington to Corinth.

After a consultation, the Federal force advanced for the purpose of ascertaining the rebel strength, and were surrounded; but they cut their way through the rebels, who had formed on the road, and made their way back to camp, bringing off the body of a Major, who killed four of them. A wounded deserter, who came in subsequently, says the rebels lost forty-nine in killed, wounded and missing, of whom a Lieutenant Colonel and Captain were killed.

On Friday the rebel General Bragg's division attacked General Paine, in his position, two miles beyond Farmington. A sharp engagement followed, our men fighting bravely, and making several bayonet charges on the enemy, who were repulsed with great slaughter. Large reinforcements of rebels having arrived, our troops retired to Farmington. We lost nearly two hundred killed, wounded and prisoners. No particulars.

Ejecteing &c.

NEW MARKET, Va., May 11.—The news of our success at Norfolk and Portsmouth, and the destruction of the Merrimac was received with intense enthusiasm among the troops. The army bands played the National airs, and the loud and prolonged cheering awoke the mountain echoes which were heard for miles along the beautiful valley. The only regret expressed were that each officer and soldier was not present to participate in accomplishing such glorious results.

Two privates of the Vermont cavalry were captured yesterday by guerrillas near the spot where the Ira Harris Guard's were shot.

The regimental clerk of the 2d Massachusetts regiment, was mortally shot yesterday from the woods near Mount Jackson. It is believed that many countrymen who come into camp to settle accounts with the Quartermaster, are giving information to the rebels, if not in active service themselves.

Several arrests have been made to-day of suspicious persons, among others a youth of fifteen, said to belong to Harper's Ferry, whose brothers are in Ashby's cavalry. The result of the investigation was not divulged. The ladies who were examined yesterday for complicity in the murder of two of the Harris Guards, are reported to have deserted their house last night.

The Pennsylvania Wounded.

HARRISBURG, May 12.—The wounded Pennsylvanians in charge of Surgeon General Smith from Williamsburg and Yorktown, will arrive in Philadelphia on the 14th inst., where Hospitals are prepared to receive them.

One hundred and eighteen sick arrived in Philadelphia to-day, in charge of Commissary General Irwin and A. W. Sees, Esq. Thirteen were left at Bedloe's Island and fourteen in New York hospitals in charge of a Pennsylvania Surgeon, and are well cared for. These will be removed as soon as they are in a proper condition.

The conveyance of the wounded from New York to Philadelphia was by water.

Names will be published as soon as received.

The Late Naval Battle.

CHICAGO, May 12.—A special dispatch to the Tribune from Cairo, says that the Skylark has just arrived from the fleet with nothing but news regarding the naval battle on Saturday. When the [illegible] heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of the Fort, which was plainly distinguished till after the steamer passed up. [illegible] expected that [illegible] the Fort [illegible] the Rebels, and the [illegible]

[illegible] Miles of Richmond.

NEW YORK, May 12.—A dispatch from Baltimore to the Times says:

Gen. McClellan is now within twenty miles of Richmond.

Nothing definite had been heard from the Galena and the gunboats on the James River. One of the latter was reported to have been lost.

A dispatch from Parkersburg to the Times, says: The two guerrillas recently captured were hung at Chester on the 9th inst.

General's Schenck and Milroy are safe.

HEADQUARTERS, CUMBERLAND, VA.,
Sunday Evening, May 11.

There has been no movements of troops to-day, as General M'Clellan was desirous of observing the day and giving his men an opportunity to rest.

The reports to-day, brought in by scouting parties sent to the Chickahominy on the left, a distance of thirteen miles, confirms the burning of the Jones and the bridge across that river. The enemy was seen in considerable force on the opposite side.

A strong picket of the enemy made its appearance about two miles from the white house to-day. They were not interfered with until becoming too bold, when a gunboat, which arrived about one o'clock, shelled them out. The noise must have been heard at Richmond, as it is only twenty miles off.

Latest from Pittsburg Landing.

CHICAGO, May 12.—A special from Cairo to the Times, says, the Medora arrived from Pittsburg Landing Sunday morning. There had been no general engagement, although the two armies were threatening each other more than at any previous time. The enemy is strengthening his defenses to defeat our army.

An immense force of negroes are at work felling trees and strengthening the earthworks.

It is now known that General Lovell has reached Corinth, bringing with him an army of thirty thousand men. Beauregard is preparing his army for a desperate struggle. Our reconnoitering parties invariably meet the enemy, go where they will, and on the hills, in the woods, and along the roads, the rebels seem present in overpowering numbers.

Our forces are strengthening the post, and preparations for battle are being made on a grand scale. Roads are being cut in the woods to Fairlittle to move the different divisions, and guns are mounting in great numbers. Nothing is wanting on our part to win the contest.

Latest from Europe.

NEW YORK, May 12, 1862

The steamship Etna, from Liverpool, arrived at this port at 8 o'clock to-night.

The Paris correspondent of the London Herald, writes that a strong feeling has grown up there in favor of intervention in America. The impression is so powerful as to cause considerable uneasiness among northern parties in Paris. It is believed that serious overtures have been made by the French Cabinet to Lord Palmerston, with a view to the joint action of the two governments, to put an end to the war, which according to official information just received here, was as far from its termination as ever.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News gives a similar rumor, derived from French and American sources, and says the two Governments are seriously thinking of an intervention in common.

The London Times adopts, as its own, the recent remarks of Mr. Gladstone on the American question in his speech at Manchester. It admits that the circumstances, of the secession of the Southern States, were a sufficient excuse for the rashness of rushing into the war without considering the consequences. It was always ready to make allowances for the Northerners if they would only have made some allowance for England's position as a neutral power. It claims that England has observed a most disinterested and self-denying course, and concludes by asserting that the real question rests entirely on whether the heart of the South is set upon separation.

The New York correspondent of the London Times treats the battle of Pittsburg as a drawn battle.

The screw steamer Hero, which cleared from Hull, for Nassau, had sailed from Queenstown. It was believed for some Southern port.

The West India mail steamer brought over several Confederates, who ran the blockade. It is reported that their mission is to purchase warlike stores.

The great exhibition was to be formally opened on the day the steamer left Queenstown. The circumstances looked auspicious, but the Foreign Departments were only partially represented. The palm in sculpture is accorded by the Times to Storey, the American.

The English Parliament had resumed its session, but the proceedings were unimportant.

The news from France was unimportant. The Bourse was declining. Rentes were quoted at 74f. 40c.

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, May 1st.—The Journal, of St. Petersburg, doubts the probability of the Western powers interfering with America.

PARIS, May 1.—The French Press states that negotiations with the object of a diplomatic intervention of maritime powers in America, and the recognition of the South by the principal States of Europe, have been carried on between Paris and London throughout April, and instructions in this sense had been sent to M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, when the late battle is said to have decided France from intervention at the present.

LIVERPOOL, May 1.—The steamship City of Baltimore, from New York, arrived at this port to-day. The rumors of French and English intervention in affairs of America continue, but are not of a very authentic character. One report says the two governments have agreed, and that the mission of the French Minister to Richmond was connected with the affair.

The Times learns by private letters that Gen. McClellan's object is to land a regular siege train under the most difficult circumstances. His troops are greatly irritated by the conduct of the