

APRIL SETTLEMENTS.—As this general pay-day is approaching, and brings with it uncomfortable visions of obligations long delayed, we would make an earnest appeal to those of our friends in arrears, to liquidate. We ask for nothing but that to which we are fairly entitled, and, which in too many cases, has been long withheld. We are exceedingly averse to *dunning*, and seldom resort to it; but now we are sorely pressed, and *must have money*. Don't fail to pay us your little bill before April 1st.

Several articles which we prepared for this week, are crowded out, to make room for the important war news. If they don't split before next week, they shall appear.

MARYLAND U. S. SENATOR.—The Maryland Legislature, on joint ballot, has elected Hon. Reverdy Johnson United States Senator for the Western District of Maryland, to serve six years from March 4th, 1863, at which time the term of Hon. Anthony Kennedy expires.

THE CASE OF GEN. STONE.—Gen. Stone's friends are urging Gen. McClellan to bring that officer forthwith to a Court-Martial. As the Joint War Committee has not yet terminated its investigation into the crime or the blunder at Ball's Bluff, this Court will not be ordered at present. It will be convened soon enough, judging from the damaging testimony the returned Ball's Bluff captives are now giving.

A HARBOR REPORT.—First Lieutenant Henry Porter, U. S. Army, has now the exclusive charge of the "Pass Department" of the Provost Marshal's office at Washington City. Lieutenant Porter is a son of ex-Governor Porter, of this state, and a gentleman in every way qualified for the responsible position to which he has been appointed. A younger brother of Lieutenant Porter, is also a Lieutenant in the regular army, and connected with the Ordnance Department of the army now operating on the coast of South Carolina.

THE RICHMOND EXAMINER.—This describes the new line of defence taken up by the Rebel army that retreated from Manassas. It is "a line stretching from the Rappahannock by a grand curve to Cumberland Gap, in the extreme southwestern corner of the State, embracing the Central and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads, the chief cities of Virginia and the valley of the James, with its canals and railroads, within its circumference." The Examiner further confesses that this is "a purely a line of defence *assumed* now as a *temporary* view of the great force" which has been collected on the Potomac.

THE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS has reported a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the construction of an enormous iron-clad vessel to be used as a steam gun, \$12,000,000 for the construction of iron-clad gunboats, \$780,000 for the completion of Stevens' Iron Battery, and \$500,000 for the extension of the dock works at the Washington Navy Yard so that they may forge and roll plates for the armor of ships.

The Legislature of Massachusetts also proposes to have built two of Ericsson's Batteries for the protection of Boston harbor. Under the impetus given by the recent demonstration of the power of armored ships we shall probably in a year be invulnerable to attack by the navy of any power.

THE HOUSEBUILT BILL passed the lower House of Congress last Friday by about one hundred majority. The bill provides that on and after the 1st of next January, any person twenty-one years of age, who is a citizen or who has declared his intention to be such, and who shall enter upon the land and cultivate it for five years, shall be entitled to 160 acres, upon the payment of the Land Office fees and \$10 to cover the expense of survey. The same privilege is accorded to all men who have been in the military or naval service of the Government during the present war.

SLAVERY IN THE CAPITAL.—The Committees of the two Houses on the District of Columbia have substantially agreed upon a bill differing but slightly from that already reported to the Senate by Mr. Morrill, which, after being amended in conformity with the suggestions of the House Committee, will be passed and sent down to the lower House, where also it is sure of a majority. The bill is the special order for Wednesday in the Senate. It is now hoped that the national capital will be purged of slavery before April. It is not creditable to the Republican majority that they have let it pollute the capital this long.

ANOTHER PROPERTY.—In its issue of the 10th of February, the London Times devoted a long editorial to an argument intended to show that Burnside's expedition into North Carolina must prove a failure, and remarks: "We do not assert that the federal cause would and support an army sufficient to break through the rebel lines, and march on to New Market in North Carolina, but we do not doubt that it will be one of the most difficult and hazardous enterprises in military history, and that to begin the campaign with any chances of success, preparations must be made which will defer the long expected movement until far into the present spring."

Perhaps the Times will decide that the battle of Burnside, the occupation of Elizabeth City, Hatteras and other Carolina towns are mere delusions of the federal newspaper writers.

WAR NEWS.

Manassas Has Fallen.—The great stronghold of rebellion which has been regarded as the main protection of Richmond—the Manassas Junction—has been evacuated by the Rebels without a battle, and the Stars and Stripes are now floating over it. Like a small, great inscription is drawing in its horns, and tacitly confessing that it has not power to defend the extended frontier, which it has so long claimed as its boundary. How far our army will retreat before it makes another stand cannot be ascertained; but inasmuch as the railroads which connected the upper part of the Shenandoah Valley and Alexandria with Richmond, have been abandoned, and will soon be in possession of the Federal troops, it is most probable that they design to retreat to such distance as to cause the Government troops considerable delay in moving their supplies and munitions. In the immediate vicinity of Richmond, extensive fortifications have been erected, and it is not unlikely that the next great battle will be fought at that place.

In the meantime the Confederate Congress will emigrate to a more Southern latitude; and for a time they will live in the hope that the war may be so protracted that the warm weather, unhealthily to Northern troops, will come to their aid. Every day is now precious; and if our army be pushed forward with sufficient vigor before the end of May, nothing will be left to them but the rice swamps and everglades in which to elaborate their magnificent schemes of cotton empire.

McClellan's Plans.—We make the following extract from Gen. Burnside's official report of the taking of Newbern. It is a flattering tribute to the mastery strategy of McClellan, and fairly vindicates him from the aspersions of those persons, who "scouted with scorn and contempt pretensions of display of strategy."

I beg to say to the General Commanding the army that I have endeavored to carry out the very minute instructions given me by him before leaving Annapolis, and thus far events have been singularly coincident with his anticipations. I only hope that we may in future be able to carry out in detail the remaining plans of the campaign; the only thing I have to regret is the delay caused by the elements.

Democracy in its Present Aspect.—The Providence Post, a Douglas paper during the last Presidential election, now gives vent to the following treasonable sentiments: Slavery existed in twelve of the thirteen States when the Government was established, and did not at all interfere with our political harmony. We agreed to let it alone. If we had kept our agreement, there would have been no trouble. But what we do do is to legislate for the South, and the North resisted. Imagining that we meant to go farther than we had gone or really intended to go, she organized rebellion—just as we should have done, probably, if she had in like manner interfered with and threatened any of our peculiar institutions. It was interference, and threatened interference, or apprehended interference with State Rights, which caused the rebellion. And we frankly admit that we gave consent to stop this interference, and all show of suspicion of it, this particular Federal Government which we are now struggling to maintain, must have an end; and we must have two or three separate governments—no *United Republics it may be*—in its stead.

Treason more rank, remarks the Philadelphia Press, falsehood more brazen, has never appeared in the Charleston Mercury or Richmond Enquirer. The victories of our army and navy, the bravery of Burnside, and the self-sacrificing patriotism of Sprague, have not served to moderate these inhuman traits, who, under the name of Democracy, insult the loyal people of the loyal States, and clamor for a division of the Union, while our soldiers are fighting to maintain it. It is unnecessary to unmask malignant liars. They glory in their shame, and court the condemnation of their countrymen. Let us not be deceived by entrusting to them the reins of government.

The success of our armies seems to have so angered these secret sympathizers with secession that they are unable to hide their feelings, and they unmask themselves in many different ways, without intending it. We hope they will soon stand out in all their hideousness, that we may know them.

The Campaign—What It Has Done.—The following is culled up as the result of the campaign which began last April—when we of the North had but about 600 men in the field, and little or nothing in arsenals, etc.:

Square Miles.—The summer secured to us Maryland 9,000 Western Virginia 15,000 Missouri 37,700 Half of Tennessee given us 22,500 whole 22,500 Missouri of which we held at one time only St. Louis, Fort Leavenworth and one-third of Missouri. The compiler of these figures says: Here, then, is a result for a winter campaign; the first campaign, after the creation of the new States, enough to illustrate the pages of its history, and a territory of 156,000 square miles redeemed from an enemy who had at least an equal hold with ourselves on every inch of it, and entire possession of it, as exhibited by 3,000,000 people. Is this nothing? Louis Napoleon and Austria spent a season in preparation, set their hosts in array, 300,000 strong on each side, fought two pitched battles, and the result was Northern Italy changed hands. In two years of the Crimean war, 400,000 men took half of one town. I don't think we have done badly; and I don't think I think, will follow in due time and rapid course.

Missouri Methodist Conference.—The Missouri Methodist Episcopal Conference commenced its session in St. Louis on the 20th ultimo, Bishop Simpson presiding. On the first day of its session it passed a resolution inviting the Provost Marshal to come to the Conference and administer the oath of allegiance to the entire Conference. Gen. Farran, the Provost Marshal, complied and made a touching address to the body. Addresses were also made by the Rev. A. Poe, the venerable Dr. Elliott, Rev. H. Cox, and Bishop Simpson. The oath of allegiance was then taken by every member of the Conference.

AND JOHNSON'S PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE.—And Johnson accepts the appointment of Brigadier General and Provisional Governor of Tennessee, and will repair at once to Nashville to organize a State Government and arm and protect the loyal citizens of that State. He will be furnished by the government with fifty thousand stands of arms for that purpose.

A rush for Manassas by an eager and curious crowd of visitors is in preparation. The railroad will be constantly employed in this service, and it is not in order for the whole distance, it soon will be so under Federal protection.

Newbern was about ninety killed and four hundred wounded. Our men displayed great bravery.

REBELS CAPTURED.—An officer, bearing despatches from Gen. Burnside landed here on the arrival of the steamer Commodore. He arrived immediately in Washington. It is reported that 300 rebel prisoners were captured. Some of the reports make our loss from 50 to 60 killed, and 250 to 300 wounded. The fight took place on Friday last. There are rumors here that one of our Brigadier Generals was killed, but is not thought to be reliable.

LATER.—BALTIMORE, March 18.—Sergeant Major D. H. Johnson, of the 23d Massachusetts regiment, came a passenger by the steamer Commodore, and he reports the capture of 300 rebels, and the capture of the bodies of Lieut. Col. Merritt, of the 23d Massachusetts regiment, and Adj. Starns of the 21st Massachusetts regiment, who bravely fell while leading on their regiments, in an attack on the enemy's batteries at Newbern. From Major Johnson, who was in the fight, we gather the following interesting particulars of the battle: Our troops, under General Burnside, landed on Thursday evening, near the mouth of the river, on the west side of the river, fifteen miles below Newbern. The dense fog, the naval vessels did not participate in the fight. Early on Friday morning the fight commenced. Our troops advanced into the country, and running parallel with the Neuse river, but a mile or two in the rear. The road was skirted on the west side by a railroad and a dense swamp. All along the river side were a series of batteries, which were taken by our troops, one after another, after some bloody hand to hand contests.

Our troops were divided into three brigades, under the command of Generals Reno, Foster and Parks. The first brigade, consisting of the 5th, 6th and 7th regiments, was ordered to march towards Newbern, and on the morning of the 17th we reached a line of earth works extending across the road from the river to a swamp on the west, a distance of some two miles. These earthworks were not very strong. They were about one mile long, and were built on the river bank, and the city ran the Trent river. The country road and the railroad passed through these works, and crossed into the city by bridges. In front of these works the rebels had dug a deep ditch, and in some places, an almost impenetrable thicket. Here the flying rebels were rallied and made for a while a desperate stand. Our brave fellows fought until all their ammunition was spent, with an order to charge bayonets was given, and the works were finally taken at the point of the bayonet.

The enemy fled like frightened sheep leaving everything behind them. In their retreat they burned the bridges communicating with the city, and destroyed the railroad. As they had trains of cars in their rear, just across the bridges, they were of course able to carry off their wounded and dead.

THE BATTLE OF PEAK RIDGE, ARKANSAS.—St. Louis, March 13.—Further particulars of the great battle at Peak Ridge, Arkansas, have been received. The Rebel officer killed and wounded were: General Ben McCullough, killed; Brigadier General Slack, dangerously wounded; Colonel Herbert, of Louisiana, killed; and General Sterling Price slightly wounded.

Removal of Burnside's Headquarters.—St. Louis, March 17.—The headquarters of General Burnside have been removed to Newbern, and the rebels are reported to be in possession of Newbern. The rebels are reported to be in possession of Newbern. The rebels are reported to be in possession of Newbern.

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GOOD FOR MIDDLESEX!—The loyal citizens of Middlesex township, have by joint contribution, furnished the following articles to the Cooper Shop Hospital, Phila. For generosity and loyalty, Middlesex is not surpassed.

CHURCH AND COUNTY MATTERS.—FIRST OF APRIL CHANGES.—Subscribers to the Herald, who intend to change their places of residence on or about the 1st of April, will please give us timely notice thereof, always stating the place, as well as the place to which they remove. This will enable us to continue the delivery of our papers, either by mail or by carrier, without interruption.

WE take pleasure in calling the attention of Milliners, &c., to the Millinery and Sewing Goods house of H. Ward, Nos. 103, 105, and 107, North Second St., Phila., whose advertisement appears in this issue.

WEST WARD.—The collection of the St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia, for the support of the mission, will be held on Sunday, the 24th inst., at 10 o'clock, P. M., at the residence of Mrs. J. H. P. Porter, No. 10, North Second St., Philadelphia.

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