Democrat and Sentinel.

THE BLESSINGS OF GOVERNMENT, LIKE THE DEWS OF HEAVEN, SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ALIKE, UPON THE HIGH AND THE LOW, THE RICH AND THE POOR.

EW SERIES.

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PORTRESS MONROE, March 9. one expected rebel steamer Merriouts had a French flag at the mast and the Merrimac had a flag at her which was described by some as a solore's blue flag. She appeared to be low in the water, her si les, bows and covered with sloping iron plates, water line, were two sharp

of her shaft some time since, was tow by the tug boats Dragen and ing America. At about the same time alaum gun of the Fortress was fired, and he Tenth New York was briefly address by Col. Bendix, and all testified the great delight at the prospect of an action er being under orders for some time, the nted. The rebel boats steadily pursuou ir way to Newbort News, and the Merrise song turned the point and was lost to n opened upon the Minnesota, which was using and the Sawver gun at the Ripe as realied with a few shots at Sewell's propositive that the Comberland and Marriac were in close quarters, as the latter apeached the Consberland she did not pay attention to the Congress, but after fig two guns struck he (the Cumberland) th her sharp bows, making a jagged hole her side, at the water line, seven feet in extent. The Comberland immediately comabcel to sink, when the Merrimac backing short distance run into her a second time, mking another terrible hole which admitted rater at a furious rate. She continued fi-

aground on the way up and could offer but Shortly before three o'clock the Jamesown and Yorktown arrived from up the James river. The latter was disabled early in the afternoon by the Comberland, and put on shore for repairs. After sinking the meriand, the Merrimae turned her attention to the Congress, and in less than an hour a white flag was hoisted on board the atter. The Confederate gan boat immedi-Mely went alongside her, the officers and matines being taken prisoners,-The seamen were allowed to escape to the shore.

e, and soon after she careened over slow

y, and finally sunk at about three o'clock.

the Combestand fired continually upon the

M rrimac, but no apparent effect was pro-

The United States frigate St. Lawrence strive | here during the afternoon, and without dropping anchor proceeded up the river-She followed the example of the Minnesota and Roanoke, in firing upon Sewell's Point. but like the other shot fell short. The gun boat Mystic was also towed up in the afternoon - At sundown the Roanoke, St. Lawrence and Mostic all returned. After four c'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shell into the comp at Newbort News, while the Jamestown and the other Confederate gunboats commenced firing upon the Min-Lesota. The latter replied as vigorously as possible, and the conflict was continued without any apparent effect until dark .-

ENGAGEMENT NEAR FORT- fire, and made a brilliant spectacle. At | they probally commenced falling back from midnight she was blown up with a tremendous explosion. During the evening the Moniteur arrived very opportunely, and at once proceeded up the river, although not prepared for action. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent to Newport News early in the afternoon. But little serious damage was done there, and no one was killed. This morning the conflict was renewed until the presence of the Moniteur was known to the Merrimac. The lat ter was engaged with the Minnesota, and they have abandoned their defences on both but for the fortugate arrival of the Moniteur | the right and left flank. The fact that they the Minnesota might have been lost.

The two iron clad vessels engeged each other for two or three hours at long and at short range. No perceptible effect was produced upon either. They went alongside lately. once or twice, and seemed almost to run each other down, but they soon reappeared. The Erricsson battery succeeded finally in forcing a large hole in the port side of the Merrimac, and with the whole Confederate fleet she retired to Norfolk at about one o'clock. The United States gunboat Oregon was struck by the Merrimac in her boiler, and was blown up this morning. The gunboat Zonave was also seriously damaged and was obliged to return.

The principal loss of life was on board the Cumberland, where it is thought as manv as 150 must have been killed or drowned. But six lives were lost on the Minnescta, according to one of her officers.

afternoon by the Camberland.

The crew of the Minnesota were brought ance of the Spaulding she has been got offnumerous shots, but no serious damage.

The Congress is supposed to have lost are without there, ver 100 men, including but one officer. The escaped of the crews of the Congress and Comberland have arrived here.

The Moniteur has come up to the expectations that were entertained of her, and has proved herself impregnable to the heaviest shot at close quarters. She behaved remarkably well en her passage from New York, and although the sea covered her decks completely at times, her speed did not seem to be at all diminished. To her presence here may be attributed the safety of the Minnes ota and other vessels in port, and the final lisabling of the Merrimac, which had previsually been proof against everything.

Cant. Worden, of the Moniteur, was woun ded in the head while looking out of the wheelhouse. No other accident of any kind securred to the battery or crew. We have not yet any list of the killed and wounded. Naval men here are generally of the opinion that considering everything, the rebels had the worst time of it. Without the Moniteur the damage might have been much more

REBEL LINES.

Many circustances have recently transpi og until the water began to enter her port to hold the Rebels.

The victories in Kentucky, Tennesse, sas was three days ago. he Newport News battery and the guns of North Carolina, and the demonstrations of the expedition of Major General Butler. they must fight under the influence of inwere the prelim pary constrictions of the lucal. The Minnesota unfortunately got anaconda that first convinced them of the wisdom of escaping its folds in this region,

They soon comprehended that their flanks had been turned at those distant points; that it was simply a question of very short time when those operations elsewhere would surely cut the Rebel army in Virginia off from any possible succor from other States

in insurrection. A striking effect of the successes of the Union arms of late, is the fact that on Friday last Confederate money, had fallen in New Orleans to fifty cents on the dollar, and to-day, probably to twenty five cents on the dollar : or, in other words, that their cause is financially ruined. They thus find themselves without the means to buy supplies. They were well aware that, especially under such circumstances as we detail above military preparations here, the moment it then our overthrow is certain. might be determined to set the coils of this postion of the anacouda in motion.

The advance of the division of the army under Gen. Banks, was, therefore more than | Sefferson Davis, After our Generals have they dared risk standing up against.

TRIMER FROM THE NAVAL During the evening the Congress was set on ces in this quarter on Thursday last, when been soundly whipped, then these inviciwere willing to risk a decisive battle there.

They made no contest at Leesburgh with the two or three companies of our troops that came down from Lovets gap on the day before yesterday. In retiring from there they doubtless struck direct for their Ma-

We find many incredulous relative to the fact that they are abandoning them also .-That, however is a military necessity, since are doing so is confirmed by ten or fifteen refugees and contrabands who, availing themselves of the withdrawel of the Rebel picket guards, have come within our lines

The cannot have spiked their guns and fled from their Potomac batteries and their camps and batteries from the mouth of the Occoquan up to Wolfrun Shoals-burning and destroying everything they could not carry off in a hurry, as they certainly have done-without thus leaving their right flank wholly at our mercy, as well as their Winchester defences-their left flank-with any intention of remaining a moment longer at Manassas than may be necessary to enable them to run their main force away from

A portion of the refugees and contrabands from whom the information received comes, believe that they intend to make a stand at A rebel gunboat was cut in two yesterday the Rappahannock river, twenty four miles in the rear of Manasses.

That is simply impossible, because the South of the Orange and Alexandria Railand is now on her way here. She received road is utterly untenable, even with properly constructed earthworks-which they

> The first range of country which they might make temporarily defensible, is at and around Cullpepper Court House, though its frequent eminences afford quite as good attacking as defending positions, and there are plenty of them too. So, we do not believe they will stop running until within sight of the smoke from the chimneys in

We deem it prudent to say whatever of the movements of our army that has thus fairly althought bemont of their only defensible position this side of their nominal capital, further than that its operation have brought about their anticipated effort to steal away from Manasses. The country may rely upon it that it is nobly carrying out its glorious work thus so admirably com-

The President and the Secretary of War and the General-in-Chief of course are as busy as bees, with the matter in hand, as well as every officer and man in the army of the Potomac.

We have further to add, that we do not OUR SITUATION WITHIN THE | believe that the Rebel army will attempt to hold Richmond for a week longer, judging their purpose to be to get back into the cotred to make their works in our front too hot ton States as soon as possble; Richmond being a less defensible position than Manas-

> At Richmond, if they dare fight there, tense panic occasioned by their pell mell retreat from their line of the Potomac, and without such sturdy works in their front as those they are so precipitately abandoning.

We sincerely believe that they will have entirely evacuated Virginia a fortnight hence -Washington Evening Star March 10th.

CONCENTRATION OF THE REB EL FORCES.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The last hope of the the Rebels now seems to be in the concentration of their hitherto scattered forces. They have had impressed upon them a salutary dred of the gun boats, and now propose to leave the banks of rivers and to find some high, rocky, inaccessa-

The feeble forces of Curtis, Grant, Buell, Thomas, Burnside, M'Clellan and Sherman will succumb at once to the Philistines of all waged up to their impregnable fortificaconclusion to abandon sheir elaborate defent the restrum of their pedagogue, and have prove equal to the task.

bles will swarm out of their defences and Winchester and Leesburg : the latter having march triumphant through the land from bad totally failed. long been untenably by them, unless they farthest South to extremest North, cuffing right and left all the cities, towns and villages that have dared to furnish aid and comfort to the invaders of the sunny South.

> There were, at the last accounts which we had from the bureau of statistics of the Rebel States, about three hundred and thirty thousand men in all enlisted in their army. Of these it were safe to say that thirthe casualities and exposure of the war .-Not less than eighteen thousand have been made prisoners, and are now in our hands. The army of Humphrey Marshall, and that of Crittenden, in Kentucky, have both been destroyed, making a loss of twelve thousand more. The last tidings from General Albert S. Johnston informs us that not more than one half of his original force is now with him at Mumfreesboro. It was estimated by the Rebels themselves as not less | brought the affair to the notice of the House | welve by mrchinery from below, so as to than eighty thousand. This must be counted, then, as a loss of forty thousand, The sum total-of these losses is one hundred thousand men. We have no means of computing the losses of the army of Bishop Polk, or of the army at Manassas. But the figures cannot be by any means encouraging since even Jefferson Davis deems it better not to give them to his people. We serious ly doubt whether to day the Rebels have two hundred thousand men in the field.

Now the policy of concentration may be very wise, but it is a problem which will be found too hard for even Davis or Beauregard | ly in excess of last year. to solve, how to concentrate two hundred sibly raise, so as to resist the beavy pre-sure thrown to any point which the Rebels may were rebuked by the Ministers. choose for either defensive or offensive oper-

In less than a week the whole of our army of the Potomac could be transferred to the banks of the Mississippi. How long would it take the Rebels to form a junction between the armies of the East and West ?

And where will they find a point at which they can make a permanent or successful stand? Our forces have evidently been arranged in view of such a contingency; and whatever point they may ccupy, they will find that the necessity for evacution will come sooner or later, even as at Bowling Green and Columbus.

LATER FROM EURPOE:

NEW YORK, March 10 .- The steamer City of Washington has arrived with Liverpool advices of the 26th uit.

that the rebel pirate Sumter still lay there with no signs of departure.

The U.S. steamer Tuscarora remained Spanish waters off Algeiras.

A telegram from Madrid, dated the 25th states that the Captain of the Sumter had been arrested at Tangiers at the instance of the American consuls by the Commander of the Tuscarora, who went to Tangiers for the purpose. It had been reported that the Sumter appeared off Hyeres, south of France on the 16th of February, which of course must have been incorrect.

The Americans at London celebrated Washington's bi-thday by a public breakfast. Dr. Mcllvaine, Bishop of Ohio, presided. Minister Adams, Consul Morse, the two Secretaries of Legation, Cyrus W. Field Dr. MacGowan and others were present.

Mr. Adams, in a patriotic speech to the memory of Wasnington, said that it was well for Americans to think of his course. At this time the country was in the midst of a crisis long foreseen and feared, but by im, itating Washington's great virtues, they would conquer and subdue the malign power which has sought to rule or ruin. The struggle is fearful, but there is no alternative. The assault upon the Government of the United States carries with it an aggress ble mountain region, which they can fortify | ive principle, which, if not defeated, must with such of their big guns as are left, and | in the end be fatal to freedom. It involves &c., and know that campaigns can no more | there wait until our land forces assail them. | the acknowledgment of the prescriptive be fought without money than without arms | They have an idea that our navy is to our | right of some men to rule over their fellows. army what the locks of Samson were to the and the Government must therefore fully re. and to render her formidable. strong man. If they can only get our army establish its fundamental doctrine at every THE MONITOR, OR, EXICSSON BATthey were at the mercy of the Government's to attack them when shorn of their locks, hazard. He concluded by again calling for that patience and perseverance shown by Washington, as the sure road to success.

The health of the Queen and President Lincoln were drank with enthusiasm. Dr. MacGowan, in speaking to the latter,

eulogised President Lincoln's Administration

Consul Morse denounced the curse of slav very as the sole cause of the trouble.

Cyrus Field proposed a toast to England and America, and spoke strongly in favor of ty inches thick, and covered with an armor the maintenance of friendly relations. He six inches thick, formed of six one inch iron explained away many irritating subjects, and asserted that it was the most earnest desire of the Washington Government to maintain amicable relations. He did not two thicknesses of inch plate iron, fastened ty thousand have died or been disabled by believe that England could, for a moment, to eight inch oak plank and ten inch oak recognize the Southern Confederacy-the timber, but twenty six inches apart. There corner stone of which is slavery.

> vened by a challenge from the O'Donoghue | ret, twenty feet in diameter and nine feet to Sir Robert Peel, for the expressions of high, and eight inches thick, made of plate the latter, which the former considered per- iron. sonally offensive.

and warned Sir Robert Peel against making | biads, and is also pierced for mysketry. The himself a party to a breach of privilege, and

but made some sarcastic remarks relative to | mova the ports from the enemy's guns while Sir Rebert Peel.

and some important votes agreed to.

on the 11th of March, move that the present state of national maritime law, as it con- come in contact. cerns belliggerents and neutrals, is undefined and unsatisfactory and calls for the early at- wheelhouse standing before the terret. The tention of the Government.

The Army estimates show a total of fifteen and a quarter millions sterling-slight- goods. When lowered, the top, which is

thousand, or any number that they can pos- on the address to the Emperor. Prince Na. The house is pierced for sharpshooters. of five hundred thousand men, especially ble attention. Some members gave utter- the propellor, rudder and anchor. The prowhen that large force can be so readily ance to strong anti-English sentiments, and polior is, of course, at the stern, and the

Nauplia had offered to capitulate and thus cannot be struck by a ball. The anchor is

and forwarded per the Hammondia.

merchants at London, had suspended,

Parliament will close about the 1st of June. are equally secured. THE MERRIMAC.

The Merrimae was built at Charlestown, Mass., in 1855, was one of the finest steam frigates in the United States Navy, thirtytwo hundred tens burden, and carrying forty large guns.

She was partially burned and sunk at the time of the destruction of the Gosport Navy Yard. The Rebels having succeeded in rais Advices from Gibralter to the 18th say, ing the vessel, cut down her huil to within three feet of her light water mack, and built a bomb proof house of wrought iron plates, three inches thick, on her gun deck.

She is iron plated, and her bow and stern steel clad, with a projecting angle of iron for the purpose of piercing a vessel. She has no masts, and there is nothing to be seen over her gun deck, with the exception of her pilot house and smokestuck.

Her armament consists of four 11-inch navy guns on each side, and two 100-pound er Armstrong guns at the bow and stern. THE JAMESTOWN.

The Jamestown is furnished with a heavy clumsy and ridiculous looking iron prow in front, the point of which barely projects above the water.

To all appearance the ship is not razeed at all, iron plated or pierced for broadside cons. Her batteries seemed to consist of a 32-pounder rifled gun, fore and aft. They are similar to the Parrot gua. The question was once asked of the Rebel officer, "Are those Parrot guns?" to which a negative answer was given.

The Rebel steamer Yorktown was formerly used on the New York and Virginia line of steamers. She is a side wheel steamer of 1400 tons burden, was built in New York in 1859, and her size is as follows:-Length, 251 feet; breadth, 34 feet; depth, 18 feet. She has been completely fitted out at Norfolk, her sides having been plated with iron, and other means taken to strengthen her

TERY.

This vessel is sharp at both ends, and consists of a lower and upper hull, the sides of the former inclining to an angle of fiftyone degrees, and coming to a point at each end at an angle of eighty degrees. The low er hull is iro : plated. The upper section is We believe that they only came to the tooks, like a string of naughty schoolboys to and expressed full confidence that he would five feet high, with perpendicular sides and the same sharp ends, and is forty one feet sas destroyed everything in their way.

George Thompson asserted that the efforts four inches wide, jutting over the lower hull to create in England a hostility to the North | three feet and seven inches on each side. The sides of this upper section are a little over three feet in thickness. First, there is an inner guard of six inch plate iron, and upon this a section of white oak timber, thir plates, lapped and firmly riveted together.

The deck or top of the battery is even with the top of the hull, and is covered with is no railing or other obstruction on the top Parliamentary proceedings had been enli- of the battery except a round tower or tur-

The turret has two port holes, each two Lord Palmerston got scent of the affair | feet in diameter, for two eleventh inch column turret is of immense weight, but made to re-The O'Donoghue apologized to the House, bring the gnns in any desired range, and to

The Navy estimates had been introduced | To support, protect and give efficiency to this turnet is the whole object of the battery, Mr. Horsefall gave notice that he will although its immense weight and power would sink any vessel with which it should

The battery is steered from the front, the wheelhouse is strongly built of iron, and can be lowered into the hold like a bale of dry bomb proof, is level with and forms a part The French Senate continued the debate of the deck. The joints are water tight.

The ends of the upper vessel preject over equipoise rudder behind that, and they are It is reported that the Green insurgents at | so protected by the upper vessel that they in front, and is short but very heavy. It is The India and China mails were received basted by a chain running into the hold, up into a place fitted for it, outside of the Jacob Bush & Co., American commission lower hull, but within the impregnable walls of the upper hull. The entrance to The Paris Moniteur's London correspond- the hold is by small hatchways, which, ence says, that the session of the English | when closed, form a part of the deck, and

The interior of the battery presents a novel an ? interesting study. In the bow are the cable and anchor chambers; next the cabin and quarters of the officers and men, and amidships the cookroom, and overhead the small engine which is to furnish ventilation and work the turret. Just abaft are the furnaces, and in the rtern the engine working the propeller. The bunkers for wood, coal and ammimition, and the water tanks occupy every conceivable vacancy.

THE WAR IN THE WEST,

Sr. Louis, March 9 .- A special despatch to the Republican from Cairo, says that Gen Pope's forces have reached New Madrid, and that heavy cannonading less been heard in that direction. The rebels are there in strong force, and our gunbouts will soon move down to assist Gen. Pope's attack on the rebel stronghold. The rebels have been en leavoring to drive the U.S. troops back by throwing shells among them from their gunboats. The total number of torpedoes found in the river and on its banks has been four hundred. Fxciting news from New Madrid and its vicinity may be expected immediately. Large gargs of negroes have been set to work on the rebel forts Randolph. and Pillow. The former mounts one hun-

THE WAR IN TEXNESSEE.

LOUISVILLE, March 10 .- An intelligent gentleman from Memphis, who left on Wednesday, reports the citizens there greatly alarmed, but are relying on Fort Pillow and Fort Randolph for defence. There are very few troops at Memphis. The Legislature has scattered, after several ineffectual attempts to transact business. Governor Harris is greatly excited, and is flying about from one Southern point to another, with little prospect of succeeding in his efforts to rally the people to his aid.

-A desperate and terrible battle took place at Valverde, ten miles south of Fort Craig, on the 21st of Pebruary. The fight was probably renewed on the 221. Both sides claim the victory.

A regiment of New Mexicans commanded by Colonel Paxton ran away, the fight being too hot for them.

.- The Rebels in retreating from Manage