

News Items.

Gen. Simon Cameron, Minister to Russia, with his wife and children—his private secretary, Kintzing Pritchett, wife and child—and Bayard Taylor, Secretary of Legation, and wife, started on their voyage, last Wednesday, in the Persia, from New York.

Before leaving Harrisburg, Gen. Cameron accepted a banquet tendered him by leading men of each party. Mayor Kepner (Dem.) presided, and Judge Pearson and Messrs. Cochran, Lambertson, Herr, Fleming, Munch, Mumma and Bailey gave patriotic and personal addresses. Gen. Cameron made a defence against certain allegations respecting him, which time will more correctly explain and decide.

Williamsburg, the scene of Hancock's brilliant achievement, is between ten and twelve miles beyond Yorktown, the same distance east of the Chickahominy, and near the middle of the peninsula—say three miles from the James and five miles from the York river. It is here that the rebel reserves have been encamped during the siege. The town occupies elevated ground. It was first settled in 1632, and was formerly the seat of the Colonial Government. It is regularly laid out with streets intersecting each other at right angles, and contains a court-house, jail, churches, stores, lunatic asylum, and 1,000 inhabitants. It is the seat of William and Mary College, founded in 1692.

The New York World says: "Government bonds at a premium when there is no taxation to redeem them or even pay their interest! The spectacle was exhibited in Wall street last Saturday for the first time since man has inhabited this planet." The Times says: "We take pleasure in repeating, from our Sunday edition, that when the United States stock of 1831 reach par on Saturday morning, on the Stock Exchange, three hearty cheers were given, by the whole Board, for the Government, and that the President of the Exchange immediately communicated this gratifying advance in the public credit, by telegraph, to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury."

THE TAX BILL.—We learn from Washington that the tax bill makes exceedingly slow progress, although the Committee are hard at work. Some of the changes made in the bill, as it first came from the House, have since been reconsidered, and the original impost re-established, so that it is impossible to say in what shape the bill may yet appear.

A contraband, claiming to have been Jeff Davis' coachman, has come into our lines, and represents that Davis and his wife are despondent, and give up Virginia as probably lost.

Beauregard's victory at Pittsburg Landing is very much like that described by "John Phoenix," who said, "I held the enemy down by my nose, which I had inserted between his teeth for that purpose."

It is claimed that no passenger was ever injured upon the Chattanooga railroad except by his own carelessness.

PREPAID NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.—We believe it is not generally known that the government has on sale at all the principal post-offices prepaid wrappers for newspapers, with the one cent die embossed on them. Large numbers of ordinary unstamped newspaper wrappers are also made, and have come into use throughout the country, especially for sending papers to our volunteer soldiers. It is said that nearly one thousand persons are employed in the manufacture of newspaper wrappers at this time, while six months ago they were not known as an article of manufacture. They are all made under a patent.

Another cattle disease, of the most fearful character, according to the Newville "Valley Star," has appeared among the cattle in that vicinity. It commences on the side of the head and nose, causing the animal to rub until the skin is rubbed off and the eye is rubbed out. Some eight or ten hours after the disease appears, the head commences to swell, and in two hours thereafter the animal is dead.

The Knoxville "Register," of the 13th ult., says there is little prospect of the cultivation of crops of any kind this year in Powell's Valley, one of the most fertile valleys of East Tennessee. The Union people are fleeing to Kentucky, while those who adhere to the Confederate Government are so harassed by the Federal cavalry from Kentucky that they cannot attend to the labors of the farm.

POTTSVILLE, PA., May 6.—The colliers of the several mines in this vicinity, on a strike to-day, committed many outrageous acts. The pumping engines of some of the largest collieries were stopped by them, causing a serious destruction of property. Heckescher's mines were the object of their united violence. The State authorities have been called on to furnish troops. Volunteer companies are organizing.

THE JOURNAL. Coudersport, Pa.

Wednesday, May 7, 1862. M. W. McCLARNEY, Editor.

The People's State Convention

The people of Pennsylvania, who desire cordially to unite in sustaining the National Administration in its patriotic efforts to suppress a sectional and unholy Rebellion against the unity of the Republic, and who desire to support, by every power of the Government, one hundred thousand heroic brethren in arms, braving disease and the perils of the field to preserve the Union of our Fathers, are requested to select the number of Delegates equal to the Legislative Representation of the State, at such times and in such manner as will best respond to the spirit of this call, to meet in State Convention at Harrisburg, on Thursday the 17th day of July next, at eleven o'clock, to nominate candidates for the offices of Auditor General and Surveyor General, and to take such measures as may be deemed necessary to strengthen the Government in this season of common peril to a common country.

A. K. McCLURE, Chairman People's State Committee.

Union for the Sake of the Union.

The call of the People's State Committee, summoning such delegates as the people of Pennsylvania may select, to meet in State Convention, appears at the head of our editorial columns to-day. We accept the union which that call proposes for the sake of the Union; and on the issue made, of giving the National Administration an undivided and patriotic support, we have a right to anticipate the most glorious success. In this contest there are two parties, as there are contending armies in the country. There is a party at the south which is battling to destroy the Federal Union, while there is another party in the north laboring to overthrow and demoralize the Federal Administration. There is no difference between the objects and designs of these cliques, though they seem to be marching in different directions and fighting under different banners. The one, with torch and sword was besieging the federal capital for months, while the other with vituperation and falsehood, has been traducing and assailing the federal Administration since the inauguration. It is to crush both these influences, that this union is now proposed. To crush rebellion by strengthening the hands of loyal men. To counteract treason, by shutting up the avenues of the government to traitors; and to give tone to that public sentiment which first aroused the masses of Pennsylvania in their devotion to the federal Union.

The People's State Central Committee have acted with a wisdom, a patriotism, and a judicious regard for the feelings and sentiments of the masses of Pennsylvania on this subject, which deserve our warmest approval and fullest confidence. Their action augurs success, and for the issue which they have made, we bespeak the hearty endorsement of the patriotic people of Pennsylvania. In the meantime our brethren of the press must not be idle. Let the word be spoken that while our armies are struggling with armed traitors, the people are nobly contending with those who are secretly in sympathy with treason.—Har. Tel.

Two confiscation bills are to be reported to the House. Between the two we hope the country will get a good one, and a strong one.

The Free Homestead bill passed the Senate on Wednesday of last week by the decisive vote of 33 yeas to 7 nays. This bill having previously passed the House, lacks only the President's signature to become a law. This is one of the most beneficent and liberal measures of the age, and its blessings will be felt upon generations yet unborn.

At Grand Rapids, Mich., at the recent charter election, a locofoco endorsed his ticket, thus: "I am in favor of Slavery in Michigan." When you hear a man expressing horror at the prospect of the blacks coming North, you may be sure he is only opposed to their coming as free men. He would be glad enough to have them come as Slaves.

A COLLECTOR FOR NEW ORLEANS.—It looks like "old times" to see a collector of customs for the district of New-orleans, yet such is the fact. The President yesterday sent to the Senate the nomination of Charles L. Lathrop, formerly of New Orleans, for that office, and the Senate promptly confirmed it. "The cotton ports," as promised, are now being opened.

The present season is said by those interested it is to keep "booked up" in such matters, to be an exceedingly fair one for the growing of the wheat crop. So far as we have heard, the wheat fields throughout the country present a promising appearance.

From Washington.

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY THE, 1862.

DEAR JOURNAL: In the midst of great historic events, how many of us realize the grand movements every day brings forth. A dispatch has just been read by the Clerk of the Senate, from Maj.-Gen. Geo. B. McClellan, of this morning, announcing an important victory over the enemy at Williamsburg. I think it is now safe to say that the backbone of the rebellion is broken. It may take some time to subdue all the armed forces of the slave-holders, but the chief work of the Army of Freedom, so far as fighting is concerned, is actually accomplished. I wish I could say that loss of life in the army will probably be very light henceforth. But I fear that sickness will increase as the army goes farther South, and that unless an immediate enlistment of contrabands is ordered, sufficient in number to perform all the necessary manual labor of the army, the loss of life among our brave soldiers will be greater hereafter, though there should be no battle, than it has been heretofore.

The overwhelming vote of the Senate yesterday, in favor of free homes for freemen, is another evidence that the power of Slavery is broken, and that the Nation has entered upon a new life, with better prospects and grander aspirations. I think every Senator who desires to perpetuate Slavery voted against the Homestead bill, with the exception of Edgar Cowan, of our State. His pro-slavery sympathies and his determination to defeat any measure calculated to weaken Slavery, is clearly manifested every time he addresses the Senate; which is much oftener than is to his own credit, or the credit of the State which he persistently mis-represents. Why he failed to vote on the side of Slavery on this bill, is difficult to understand, unless even the protegee of the traitor Bright, begins to feel the indignation of his outraged constituents.

I am well satisfied from what I see and hear every day, that the people might and ought to exert more influence over the Legislature of both Houses. For instance; there is scarcely a loyal man in the Nation but who feels that the property of Rebels ought to be confiscated, and its value put into the Treasury, to relieve in part, the burdens of loyal men in sustaining the Government. But notwithstanding this unanimity among the people, a majority of the Senate, after four months discussion, yesterday voted to refer all the Confiscation bills before that body, to a special Committee; and this after the Judiciary Committee had given much time and labor to perfecting a bill which would make another slaveholding rebellion impossible. I still think, notwithstanding the reference to a special Committee, that an efficient Confiscation bill will yet be passed by this Congress. But I believe such a bill would have been passed months ago, and thousands of lives saved by its effect on the war if the people had made themselves heard more frequently by letter and otherwise. It is not yet too late to do something, and I hope every reader of the JOURNAL who desires to shorten the period our soldiers will be required in the South, will write a letter to Senator Cowan and other Representatives, making known the demands of the people on this subject. The tenderness manifested by several Senators for the feelings and comfort of the Rebels, is humiliating as well as disgusting. Nevertheless the skies are brightening. The power of Slavery is broken, and if the people are only moderately alive, it will soon begin to pass away. I have endeavored, as opportunity offered, to aid in a humble way, the glorious work of overthrowing the Slave power of the Nation, and I thank God from the bottom of my heart, that he has permitted me to see this day of glorious promise. J.S.M.

The Richmond, Ky., Messenger, the publication of which had been suspended for some time, in consequence of secession, has been resumed, and the editor says it will in future be conducted upon these principles: "To restore the Union, to hang the leading traitors, to pardon the people, and to stand by the constitution." The planters of Louisiana and Texas are said to be feeding their molasses to their hogs, with the view of enlarging their pork crop. But few are planting cotton.

The Ithica Journal states that canal boats to the value of \$100,000 have been built at that village since the close of navigation.

THE MEANING OF "HURRAH!"—A great many people have shouted "Hurrah!" "many a time and oft," but comparatively few know its derivation and primary meaning. It originated among the Eastern nations, where it was used as a war cry—from the belief that every man who died in the battle for his country went to heaven. It is derived from the Scævonic word "Hurrag," which means "To Paradise."

The abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, say the patent democracy, is unconstitutional? If Congress can not abolish slavery there, no legal power on earth can. They are evidently sorry that the sale by auction of men, women and children, and those iniquities in the sight of God and man, slave pens, will no longer greet the eyes of visitors to Washington.

THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK.—It is a most interesting fact, says a secular paper, that the very first use to which the discovery of printing was applied was the production of the Bible.

For the Union!

FALL OF NEW ORLEANS.

Union advices* are that 20 mortar and 3 gunboats commenced terrible firing on the great Forts below New Orleans on the 18th of April, and on the 23d, they were so far reduced that Com. Farragut passed them with 13 steamers, and landed Gen. Butler, with 4,000 men. The Rebels lost their huge chain across the river, also 11 gunboats, 3 or 4 steamboats, 400 prisoners, and many killed and wounded, but the number is not known to us. Their celebrated turtle or "ram" Manassas, was sunk by the U. S. Steamer, Mississippi. They sent fire rafts down the river which were towed out of the way by our small boats. Our loss is stated at 26 killed, and 22 wounded. Our gunboat Varuna was engaged by the Rebel gunboat Webster, and both boats sunk together.

The Forts were to be surrendered, the 27th. A force of marines occupied New Orleans. Large amounts of Cotton, &c., were found. A large Union meeting had been held. The victory is complete—crushing.

Battle of Williamsburg.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC, Williamsburg, Va., May 6.

To Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War: Sir: I have the pleasure to announce the occupation of this place, as the result of the hard-fought action of yesterday. The effect of Hancock's brilliant engagement yesterday afternoon, was to turn the left of their line of works. He was strongly reinforced, and the enemy abandoned the entire position during the night, leaving all his sick and wounded in our hands. His loss yesterday was very severe. We have some three hundred injured prisoners, and more than a thousand wounded. Their loss in killed is very heavy. The victory is complete. I have sent cavalry in pursuit.

The conduct of our men has been excellent, with scarcely an exception. The enemy's lines are very extensive and exceedingly strong, both in respect to their position and the works themselves.

Our loss is heavy in Hooker's division, but very little on other parts of the field. Hancock's success was gained with a loss of not over twenty killed and wounded. Weather good, to-day, but great difficulty in getting up food, on account of the roads. Very few wagons have yet come up.

An I authorized to follow the example of other generals, and direct names of battles to be placed upon colors of regiments? We have other battles to fight before reaching Richmond.

G. B. McCLELLAN, Major General Commanding.

Battle of South Mills.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT NORTH CAROLINA, NEWBERG, April 29.

Gen. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War: Sir: I have the honor to enclose Gen. Reno's report of the movements made by him in accordance with my order, for the purpose of accomplishing certain objects already indicated in a former dispatch, the main order of which was most successfully accomplished. General Reno's report gives a detailed account of the movement, and I need only add, that I feel an increased confidence in the brave officers and soldiers who accomplished so much in so short a time.

Our loss in the engagement was fourteen killed and ninety-six wounded, and two taken prisoners. The enemy's loss must have been much greater, as the chaplain of New York, left in charge of the wounded, reports having seen on the field thirty killed, besides several wounded; the main body of the wounded having been taken from the field when they retreated.

Our forces drove the enemy from the field in a most gallant style, buried our dead, bivouacked on the field for seven hours, transported all the wounded except fourteen, so severely wounded that they could not be moved, but who were comfortably provided for and left in charge of a surgeon and chaplain.

Gen. Reno then in obedience to orders, returned to his fleet, and embarked his men. He felt less reluctant in leaving behind these fourteen wounded with the surgeon and chaplain, from the fact that I had but a few days before released some eighty wounded with the surgeons who were left by the enemy in Newbern; and the commanding officer in that neighborhood would be less than human were he to release these wounded, as soon as they could be transported safely. I beg to enclose my congratulatory order, with the report of Gen. Reno; also, the correspondence between the general and the commanding officer at South Mills.

I have the honor to be your obed't serv't.

A. E. BURNSIDE, Major General Commanding, Department of North Carolina.

CHICAGO, May 5.—A refugee from Memphis has reached Cairo. He confirms the report of the occupation of Baton Rouge by the United States forces and the passage of the Federal gunboats up the river.

The Union men of New Orleans had an enthusiastic meeting on the occupation of the city by the Federal forces. An immense amount of cotton had been discovered and seized.

The Kentucky mounted bandit, Morgan, captured a considerable Union force, but was afterwards badly scoured and routed, by a masterly attack of Cavalry, in which Wynkoop's Pennsylvania Regiment took a hand.

A Deluge of Victories.

We print this morning the news of the surrender of NORFOLK to a Union force from fortress Monroe, under Gen. Wool; the destruction by fire of the iron-plated Rebel steamship Virginia (formerly the U. S. steam-frigate Merrimac); the capture—though still to be confirmed—by the U. S. iron-clad steamer Galena, during an expedition up James River, of the Rebel steamer Jamestown, and the sinking of her consort, the Yorktown; the continued pursuit of the flying Rebel main army to New-Kent Court-House, barely twenty-seven miles from Richmond, while our extreme advance (consisting of the 8th Illinois Cavalry) was, at 3 p. m. of Saturday, five miles further ahead, or barely twenty-two miles from Richmond, while the Rebels, still retreating in good order, driving in all their stragglers and destroying all bridges, food, forage, and whatever else might be of service to our army, are in sight before them, and are expected to make a resolute stand at Bottom-bridge, at the head of the Chickahominy, fifteen miles this side of Richmond. Add to this that the Rebel flotilla on the Mississippi, under the exuberant Holms, made on Saturday a desperate attack on Com. Foote's fleet of gunboats, temporarily commanded by Capt. C. H. Davis, and were badly whipped after an hour's fighting, losing three of their eight gunboats in the encounter, and it will be realized that never was a day's news from so many and such remote points so auspicious to the speedy collapse of the rebellion.

Probably the most desperate, brilliant and thoroughly successful fighting of this war was that whereby the National fleet on the Mississippi assailed and passed the forts St. Philip and Jackson intended to bar the ascent of the river, broke the big chain thrown across the mighty current, captured, sunk, or disabled the iron-clad rams, fire-ships, and gunboats of the Rebels, forced their way up to New Orleans, took possession of that Rebel emporium, and compelled the forts left behind to surrender. Though not the most sanguinary, this was, as a whole, the most brilliant achievement of the war. But the fighting of the Grand Army of the Potomac has been splendid, and the recent generalship of McClellan commands universal praise. From the hour that Yorktown was evacuated by the Rebels as untenable, their retreating columns have been pressed with great vigor, and it seems with caution and judgment as well. An army retreating through a friendly and difficult country, breaking down the bridges as it passes, and destroying all that could serve its pursuers, can of course outstrip those pursuers, and by turning suddenly in force upon their advance, can engage them with a great advantage in numbers or push them back on their main body. Hence our advance under Hooker and Hentzleman had to fight against odds at Williamsburg or give ground disastrously; and so with Franklin's and Sedgwick's Divisions, hurried off by transports to West Point to intercept the flight of the Rebels. But in either case the Confederates were ultimately defeated and compelled to accelerate their flight, so that the moral effect of these combats is decidedly favorable, though their losses in action may not have greatly exceeded our own. An army of Seventy or Eighty Thousand effectives, retreating over its own ground without having fought and lost a pitched battle, has seldom been pushed back faster, or with smaller loss to its assailants, than the Rebel host since it stole away from its intrenchments at Yorktown. With reasonable good fortune Gen. McClellan will be in Richmond this week.—N. Y. Tribune, Monday, May 12th.

On Saturday afternoon a most destructive fire commenced in the city of Troy, originating in the covered wooden bridge across the Hudson. At the time the fire broke out the wind was blowing a furious gale from the west, and firebrands from the bridge were carried over various parts of the city; and a large number of the most valuable buildings of the city, including the Union Railway Depot, were destroyed. The area over which the fire extended is said to cover about fifty acres. The loss of property has further been attended with a serious loss of life.

We have a Washington dispatch purporting to show that the leading plauters in the Island of Cuba are in favor of immediate steps being taken for the gradual emancipation of the slaves, and with this view have made representations to the Queen of Spain.

Col. L. D. Campbell has tendered the Chaplaincy of his regiment—the Sixty-ninth Ohio—to Parson Brownlow. The Parson has accepted, and says he will pray and preach to the regiment till they reach Tennessee, when he intends to have a hand in any fight which they may be engaged in.

From Gen. Halleck's Army.

CAIRO, May 6.—The steamer Ella has arrived from Pittsburg Landing, which place she left at 9 o'clock last night. On Sunday afternoon Gen. Pope, by placing a battery of artillery in an open field, near Farmington, in sight of three regiments of Rebels, succeeded in luring them on to take the battery, when he captured the whole force of the Rebels, numbering 2,000 prisoners.

The prisoners and deserters report that great dissatisfaction exists in the Rebel army, both among the officers and men. Beauregard had made a speech to the troops, saying that he would make a desperate stand, and force the Federal army to retreat. He appealed to them to stand by him.

Orders had been issued to the United States troops to march on Friday night, but this was prevented by the condition of the roads, which the heavy rains here rendered impassable. MONTEREY, Tennessee, May 6.—In consequence of the horrible condition of the roads the army has not moved. The enemy are receiving large reinforcements daily.

On Sunday last General Bragg made a speech to the troops, assuring them that it was the intention of Beauregard and his generals to give the Federals battle at Corinth. Great dissatisfaction prevails among the twelve-month men, on account of the conscription laws. The roads are improving fast.

HOW THEY WERE TO FIGHT.—The following document, promulgated at Jackson, Miss., by Beauregard, just before the battle of Pittsburg Landing, explains why our soldiers were wounded to such an extent. It shows the author to be inhuman as well as shrewd:

I. Commanders of companies will instruct their commands that they must aim at the feet of the enemy; it is better to wound him than to kill. The enemy removes his wounded, and his force is thereby weakened.

II. No soldier will assist from the field his wounded comrade; the victory must be won, and to insure success we must not weaken our force by removing our wounded, for the wounded can be better cared for by our winning a victory. Any soldier disobeying this order must suffer instant death. Officers and file-closers will see the offender instantly shot.

CONVICTED.—The editor of an Abolition paper printed at Lambertville, has been convicted of libel, in accusing certain prominent Democrats of that place with being secessionists and sympathizers with Jeff Davis.—Tory Organ.

In New Jersey the law still holds that "the greater the truth the greater the libel," so the Lambertville Beacon had to suffer for telling a truth notorious throughout that neighborhood.

A correspondent from Constantinople writes that an American missionary, the Rev. Mr. Coffin, has been assassinated, while traveling on the route from Adana to Aleppo.

Legal and Court.

COURT PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Hon. Robert G. White President Judge, and the Hon. C. S. Jones and G. G. Colvin, Associate Judges of the Courts of Oyer & Terminer and General Jail Delivery, Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Orphans' Court and Court of Common Pleas for the County of Potter, have issued their precept bearing date the twenty seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and to me directed, for holding a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Orphans' Court, and Court of Common Pleas, in the Borough of Coudersport, on MONDAY, the 24th day of June next, and to continue one week: Notice is therefore hereby given to the Coronors, Justices of the Peace and Constables within the county, that they be then and there in their proper persons, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, with their rolls, records, inquisitions, examinations, and other remembrances, to do those things which to their offices appertain to be done. And those who are bound by their recognizances to prosecute against the prisoners that are or shall be in the jail of said county of Potter, are to be then and there to prosecute against them as will be just. Dated at Coudersport, May 12, 1862, and the 84th year of the Independence of the United States of America. WM. F. BURK, Sheriff.

LIST OF CAUSES FOR trial in the Court of Common Pleas of Potter county, at June Term.

- James O'Brien vs John Lannen. Christopher Evein vs James Barton. A D Corey vs Wm Corey. Potter & Brooks vs S G Lewis. Elyam and Fanny his wife vs J Mann & Graves. W T Jones use of H Cobbard vs G W Tyler. M H Nichols vs W G Sutherland. Hannah M Wharton vs R W McIntyre. W H Metzger vs A Strong vs W T & A F Jones. Rowland Owen vs L F Maynard. Crittenden & Langdon vs Stephen Horton. W T Jones vs Polly S Higley admrs. S W Payne & Co. vs W T Jones and A F Jones. James Shaffer vs K W May and M W Smith. S Reynolds & Benj. Rennells. M Matteson vs H Lord, sur. of Lord & Dwight. Peter & Dedrick vs Wm F Burt. G W Hollnbeck et al vs J W Rounds. A P Cone vs J B Smith & J F Burt. Fuller & Card vs A Deremer & C Thompson. I Benson vs Wm Ansel et al. Levi Dickson vs A Jones & Lewis Jones. Levi Dickson vs Wm Burleson. Lewis Wood vs Nelson Chandler. Lewis Wood vs Nelson Chandler. J L Raymond vs H H Gurnsey. Barclay & Brainerd vs H H Fuller. S R Decker vs Peleg Burcic. E F Dyalpny vs Oswayo township. W E Freeman vs Isaac Quick. Ingersoll, use of Mark vs E K Spencer. L Canfield vs Fred Brooks, Garnishee, &c.