



The Democrat.

HARVEY SICKLER, Editor.

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Close of Congress.

Before this article reaches many of our readers, the present abolition congress at Washington will have closed by constitutional limitation. The majority of those composing that body have been engaged, during the last two years, in pulling down and destroying what three generations of men before them, have been laboring and bestowing their talents, treasures and blood to build up and establish—a free Democratic form of government, limited by a written constitution and founded upon the consent of the governed. The fanatics and destructionists composing it have repeatedly, willfully, and intentionally violated not only their oaths to support the constitution, but the most sacred and inviolable rights guaranteed by and enjoyed under it. Private property and personal liberty have, with all their safe guards, been violated—a worthless paper currency has been substituted and declared a legal tender in lieu of gold and silver. Negro emancipation acts, and acts taking the bread from the mouths of thousands of white widows and orphans to buy feed, and clothes worthless vagabond negroes have been enacted. Laws confiscating property without trial, have been passed. Freedom of speech and of the Press have been violated. The writ of habeas corpus has been suspended.—The right of trial by jury has been denied.—The list of outrages upon the liberties of this people which have been perpetrated by this abolition congress, would fill volumes; to which might be added the useless sacrifice of thousands upon thousands of lives and millions upon millions of treasure. The whole forming an epitome of crimes, wickedness and folly, without a parallel in the history of nations.

The wisdom of the revolutionary Fathers in making one branch of the government amendable to the people, at least every two years was never more clearly demonstrated than at the present time. Had we yet to endure two years more of Abolition miss rule, the last spark of constitutional liberty would be extinguished and the dark cloud of despotism which has for a time brooded over us, would for ages rest upon our shore. God save the people from the scourge of another abolition President, cabinet and Congress!

A writer in the last Republican, who subscribes himself "Chaplain of the 171st Regt. Pa. M.," after quoting the following from our paper of some weeks since:

"John Webster, who joined the militia from this county, as a substitute for George Harding, a drafted man, has returned to this place, having lost his right eye, through the ignorance, or carelessness, or both, of the Surgeon of the 171st Regt., to which he was attached."

Says, we are "too personal!" and if we "wish to keep out of difficulty we had better attend to our own business," and that the article is "basely false, &c."

This Reverend sneak is hereby notified that we are now, and have been in times past attending strictly to our own business, and that his threats of getting us into difficulty we look upon as we do their author; with the most supreme contempt.

We have the authority of Mr. Webster—the victim, (which we regard as far better than that of any abolition, white handkerchiefed horse-jockey preacher in the army,) for saying that the article is strictly true.—If some other man, than the regular one was at the time, acting surgeon of the regiment, this does not disprove what we have said.

One fact is apparent, John Webster entered the service with two good eyes, before he left it, one of them, had run out of his head and the other was only saved through the most skillful treatment, after his return. He says that a foreign substance—ashes, got in his eyes by accident—slight inflammation resulted; and that in treating it, by the surgeon, his eye was burnt out, by nitrate of silver or lunar caustic. It matters little which surgeon did it, an acting assistant, or chief. The eye is lost! and no brainless quack Doctor, nor abolition hypocrite of a preacher can restore it.

We may hereafter, have something to say, in regard to this class of men—preachers who have been engaged for the past quarter of a century, in preaching treason and niggerism, instead of the gospel of Christ; men whose howlings from the pulpit and the stump have brought on this war, and who have now entered the army, as non combatants; with no other object, than the pay, and plunder incident to their positions.

"NEGROES PREFERRED."—The House of Congress recently made an appropriation of \$52,000 for medical attendance medicines for the contrabands now in the hands of the Government. How happy many a poor white man and woman in the North would be if their doctors and medicines could be provided by Uncle Sam.

A family in Lowell sold the cotton contents of their mattresses last week for \$600.

Loyalty.

The word loyalty, as defined by the Abolition administration, is about as vague and uncertain as its definition of treason. To gain the reputation of being loyal it does not seem to be necessary that one should be unconditionally for the war. Else this Abolition administration would hold the following extract, taken from a speech lately delivered by that arch-traitor Wendell Phillips, as disloyal:—

"Now I would accept anything on an anti-slavery basis; I would accept a separation; I would accept a compromise; I would accept a union; I would accept peace, and pay the whole Confederate debt at par on an anti-slavery basis."

So it does not seem to be an element of disloyalty, if one with Cameron believes that the "Southern Confederacy will be re-established," nor does it seem to be a "disloyal practice" for Wendell Phillips to say that "McClellan's guns never hurt any body," nor does it seem to be "discouraging enlistments," when Wendell Phillips publicly and advisedly slanders the whole Army of the Potomac in language as follows:

"Not that I distrust Hooker; he is a brave man and means to fight. But with that army two-thirds McClellanized, he will do all that is possible for a brave man to do?"

On the contrary, language of this kind seems to have the special sanction of this miserable Administration. For has not Wendell Phillips lately been at Washington? Was he not there closeted with Old Abe?—Was he not a short time ago introduced on the floor of the Senate to Vice-President Hamlin and entertained at the house of Speaker Grow? Fresh from Washington he seems to be the special mouth-piece of the administration to parade its views before the country. So too if one dares to express what he cannot help believe that the Emancipation Proclamation is a violation of the Constitution, or that negroes are unfit for soldiers and ought not to be placed side by side with white men in battle, or that the confiscation bill is unconstitutional and impolite, or that the conscription bill can never be enforced, or that the establishment of Western Virginia as a State is not according to law, or that legal tender notes are not the best money in the world, or that the President cannot supersede all law, arrest men without war rant, suspend the writ of habeas corpus and hold them in duress vile until it suits his pleasure to let them off, or if one is opposed to buying up negroes wholesale in the District of Columbia, in Western Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, or if one expresses the opinion that the war is mismanaged, that Cameron is corrupt, that Old Abe is an ignoramus, that Stanton does not wield the sword of Gilead and that Welles is not dead but sleepeth—all these rebellions and opinions are traitorous and rebellious in the extreme. The Woolly heads arrogate to themselves all the patriotism, all the loyalty of the country. It does not seem that fidelity to the constitution is required, nor an honest purpose of restoring the Union desirable. On the contrary, it is the rank treason to talk of the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was. Thad. Stevens is an intense loyalist according to the administration definition; so is Wendell Phillips; so is Henry Ward Beecher; so is Charles Sumner; and yet they openly oppose the restoration of the Union as it was; they call the Constitution a useless parchment; and they think our forefathers were egregiously fools for adopting such a form of government. The key to admittance to this precious set of loyalists is the negro. Whatever other opinions a man may hold, if he will but join the shout of the noble army of contractors: "Great is Old Abe and the idols he has set up for us," then in truth he is a loyalist and need have no fear of bastiles, chains or provost marshals!

There is however a large class of men in these Northern States—sometimes called Democrats, sympathizers with treason, traitors, Copperheads—who don't join in shouting Te Abrahamaud Laudamus, and who are for the "Constitution as it is and the Union as it was." They are quite a large class of men and are said to have carried the elections in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Delaware. They are found in large proportions in the army and navy. They are said to have filled the Lincoln bastiles because they exercised the right of free speech and free press. They are peace men, since the war has been turned into a negro crusade, and hope to re-unite the disevered States by enforcing the Constitution in the spirit which originated it and the decisions of the Supreme Court interpreting it. Of course Woolly heads call them traitors. The army of contractors name them Copperheads. The pimps of administrative favor look upon them as sympathizers with treason. Yet they still live and move and have their being. They intend carrying the elections in New Hampshire and Connecticut. They keep step to the music of the Union, and their flag has no fifteen stars erased; but its azure field and glorious stripes remind one of 1776, 1812 and 1846, when it was the escutcheon of the noblest, bravest, freest, best governed people on the face of the globe. Although much persecuted of late; their presses destroyed; their leaders imprisoned; their families intimidated; their private papers seized; yet they are the very law-abiding people; and in all their trials have dared their prosecutors to give them a fair and impartial hearing.—And it has so happened that where they have obtained such hearing, they have been acquitted, redeemed, and disenthralled! Their loyalty is to the constitution and the Union. They do not believe that Abe Lincoln is a Moses resuscitated. In their humble opinion the government of the United States, as it came from the hands of Washington, is of more worthy adoration, than this same government as usurped by Abe Lincoln. Their shibboleth is "the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was," "liberty and the Un-

ion, now and forever, one and inseparable," free speech, free press, and free men. Woolly heads call this disloyalty. Let them make the most of it.—Carbon Democrat.

Afraid to Trust the Government.

Evidence, abundant and conclusive, presents itself on all sides, that the people—men of all parties—have no confidence in the Government under Lincoln's Abolition Administration and are afraid to trust it.

If it is not so, why does it require \$172 in Lincoln greenbacks to buy \$100 in gold? If it is not so, why is it that moneyed men are unwilling to loan money to the Government at 6 per cent. interest? Thousands and millions of dollars are being loaned to individuals, corporations, and States at 5 per cent. interest. There is now on deposit in the banks of this country nearly a million of dollars—more than half a million in the Bank of Chester County—the most of it belonging to Republicans who know that the Government is begging for money, but they will not loan it a dollar?

Why, John Hickman, himself, who has contributed, by his speeches and votes, to push the country into its present ruinous condition, will not loan to the Government a red cent of the thousands he has pocketed as a member of Congress. He votes for laws to draw money from other people, but his own he prefers to invest in West Chester Gas Stock, where he has hope of getting it back, to letting it go to the Government, which he fears will never pay!

These facts speak for themselves. So far as Republican moneyed men are concerned, they show them to be acting most hypocritically towards the public, and disloyally towards the Government. As honest and true men, they should at once place themselves on constitutional ground, in favor of Peace and Union, or come forward and loan their money to enable Lincoln's Administration to carry on the war on the emancipation programme. Their conduct seems to say: "The country has gone to the devil; we are trying to save ourselves!"

This is truly an alarming financial condition of things. Issuing more "greenbacks" will not, cannot better it. Lincoln and his Congress call for men, but men and no money will not answer. "The last man" will be of no avail without "the last dollar." Why not, then, take money as they take men by conscription? It is just as certain that there are millions of money as there are thousands of men. And what is money in comparison to human life?

Is it not time for rulers and people to awake, when it is evident that the mounded men of the land, with millions lying idle, are unarming and afraid to trust the Government? Oh that God would inspire the minds of rulers with true wisdom, and the hearts of the people with the patriotism of the Fathers, that the country, the whole country, may be saved, and all the States be in unison as at the beginning. Then no one will be afraid to trust the Government.—Jeffersonian.

Pardoning a Mob.

"The quality of mercy is not strained," it seems, in the hands of Gov. Curtin, when he was called upon to exercise the pardoning power for the benefit of a gang of abolition mobsters. Last summer a number of these last worthies in Bloomsburg, maltreated and abused an old man by the name of Eyer, who changed to visit the seat of justice of his county. He is a Democrat, and in a time of fierce excitement, that was a sufficient cause to warrant them in chasing him with a rail, a rope, and threatening him with various other indignities unbecoming good and peaceful citizens. Mr. Eyer, after being thus roughly treated, appealed for redress to the law. He had all of the gang that he knew prosecuted, and at the last session of the Columbia Court they were convicted of riot, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 each and the costs. The Bloomsburg Republican rather exulting says, "The facts were forwarded on to Gov. Curtin, who at once made out and sent back an unconditional pardon."

Can this be possible! Is Gov. Curtin the guardian and protector of riots and mobs in Pennsylvania! Every newspaper in the State ought to publish the outrage. If Gov. Curtin is thus going to interfere and defeat the ends of justice, and destroy personal security, then there is no means left but for every democrat to prepare to defend himself when thus assailed. Curtin's term of office expires next fall, and he will be the last of his kind.—Democrat, Sunbury.

A Significant Appointment.

On the 15th of last month, the President nominated to the Senate, General John W. Phelps to the office of Major General, to date from December 4, 1861.

The inquiry very naturally arises, what gallant deed did Gen. Phelps perform on the 4th day of December, 1861? On turning back to our files, we find that this is the date of the memorable proclamation issued by this officer at Ship Island, in which he announced these sentiments:—

Slavery is as fit at this moment for the lumber room of the past as were, in 1793, the landed wealth, the exclusive privilege, etc. of the Catholic Church in France.

It behooves us to consider, as a self governing people, bred and reared and practiced in the habits of self government, whether we cannot, whether we ought not, revolutionize slavery out of existence, without the necessity of a conflict of arms like that of the French Revolution.

So extraordinary and ill advised was this document that the President was constrained to disclaim it, in the following emphatic language:—

"I need hardly say that the issuing of any proclamation was neither suggested nor authorized by me, and most certainly not such a one."

Soldiers as Politicians.

The Second New Hampshire Regiment is now in the Park barracks in this city, on its way home to recruit its thinned ranks up to a full complement of men. This veteran regiment deserves to be received with honor in every city and town it passes through, and we hope it will not be forgotten or neglected by our citizens. The Second New Hampshire has been in all the noted battles in Virginia, and the record it has made is a proud one. Its departure from the army was, however, we regret to learn, occasioned among the other old regiments, The Pennsylvania Reserves have actually mutinied, both officers and on Friday last refused to do picket duty. They claim that they were in the field as soon as the New Hampshire troops, and are even more reduced in numbers than they. The reason why the New Hampshire troops have been sent home in preference to other regiments is, it seems, because of the election soon to take place in that state. The officers and men are to be used to help the administration candidates. A very different result will, we firmly believe, follow. Proud as the people of the Old Granite State must be of their gallant representatives in the field, it will be regarded as little less than an insult that soldiers in the pay of the administration are to be used for merely political purposes. Military pipe laying of this kind must be discontinued. Soldiers are officered, drilled, and paid to fight battles and capture military posts, not to turn the scale or influence improperly peaceable political contests in a loyal state.—The attempt to do so is fraught with mischievous possibilities, and we hope that in the coming election the people of New Hampshire will give the administration a lecture on this subject it will not soon forget.—N.Y. World.

Minister from Hayti.

This Administration and Congress are going it loud on the nigger question. They have not only put Sambo on an equality with our brave white private soldiers in the army, but at New Orleans they have Captains, Lieutenants &c., of the same color. The latest novelty in this line is the announcement that a darky Minister and Secretary of legation, from Hayti, has arrived at New York. This is quite an innovation on old established customs. Fancy a big darky among the favored diplomatic corps, paying his respects to Abraham the First, while "the white trash" must stand back until "discolored gemman" retires. This last attempt to pile on Cuffee, don't go down so well, hence it is hinted that the abolition managers are keeping these representatives of the Pine and Palm back in some corner of New York City, fearful that if they trot them up to the White House at Washington before Congress adjourns, that it might complicate difficulties in the National Councils.

The Fredericksburg Massacre.

The feeling throughout the country against all to whom blame attaches for the useless slaughter of brave men at Fredericksburg is intense. Almost every county in this State lost some of its best sons in that fearful bloody massacre, and a feeling of vengeance, we fear, is cherished against the authors of the revolting tragedy. The Greensburg Democrat publishes a list of the names of killed and wounded from that county, and then remarks:—

"The lives of Lincoln, Stanton, Halleck, and Burnside are no more valuable than the lives of those whom they marched out to needless slaughter and misery. Why, then, should they be permitted to live and murder our people without mercy? I mean to make the Army of the Potomac go to Richmond, if they have to go on crutches," is the heartless declaration of a black-hearted murderer and scoundrel who is unworthy alike of the respect or regard of men or the mercy or blessing of Heaven. We wish to God that the men who caused the hellish butchery at Fredericksburg had been among its victims.

The old Joker in a Dilemma.

We heard it remarked in conversation, the other evening, that since Jeff. Davis had issued a certain proclamation, in which he commended the interests of the South to the care of the Almighty, we had not gained a single victory. This somewhat startled us, and we remarked that Father Abraham had intrusted the interests of the North to the care of the Almighty, also, and we could not understand why Jeff Davis should have the preference. A friend sitting near solved the mystery by remarking that "God did not know whether Abe was in earnest, or only joking."—Ex.

Col. Thomas H. Ford, who was cashiered for his disgraceful conduct in the surrender of Harper's Ferry, has been reinstated by the President. The President, on reviewing the testimony, reversed sentence in his case, and permitted him to resign his Commission. The man who lost us Harper's Ferry, and 11,000 men is restored—while Gen. Fitz John Porter, the hero of many a well fought field is cashiered! The difference between the two men is that Gen. Porter, is a Democrat, while Col. Ford is one of the ranting abolitionists of Ohio. What is this but politics in war?

CASSIUS M. CLAY GOING TO RUSSIA.—It is stated that Cassius M. Clay has finally determined to abandon his major general's commission and to return to Russia. He will start in a short time and will at once receive Bayard Taylor, who has been acting minister since Mr. Cameron's departure. Mr. Cameron it is stated is also relieved.

Letter from the Army.

CAMP NEAR BELLS PLAINS, VA. Feb. 14th 1863.

DEAR FATHER:

I received your letter about two weeks ago, and was glad to hear that you were all well. My health has been poor for some time. I am a little better today. I hope to be entirely well, soon, for it is a hard place to be sick down here, lying on the ground with no one to take care of me. A sick man is not noticed here, as long as he can stir. I will tell you what I think about this war, and the usage the poor soldiers have down here. When I enlisted I was to have one month's pay in advance, and then to be paid every two months. It has now been over five months since I enlisted and I haven't been paid one cent, except our bounty. Who would blame a soldier for deserting, who has a family at home starving, for want of six or eight months pay due from the government? Would it not be better to pay the soldiers the money the government takes to pay and clothe the negroes and send them back where they belong to their masters? I am no abolitionist. I came down here to put down the rebellion, but that is not what we are fighting for now.—When our President took his seat I thought him a good Union man, but the abolitionists have him now under their rule. The war will never end as long as there is so many of them in Congress. I say, let those who want the negroes free come and fight to free them. The soldiers say if they had known that they were to be used to free negroes, they would never have enlisted. I hear that another draft will be made in the spring, but I hope the men in the north have got awake enough to stand for their rights and not suffer another draft to be made, in such a war as this. No man can write half of the iniquities of this war or tell of half of the wrongs suffered by the soldier. Good bye to all. From your son

ELIAS HINKLEY.

Napoleon did not merge the Republic into an empire at one bold stroke, but gradually and surely he did his work.—Henry the Eighth did not absorb the liberty of the English people into his kingly prerogative openly and at once; but slowly and cunningly he accomplished his purpose. "History repeats itself," and a glance at the past may sometimes throw light on the future.—Exchange.

It cannot be done in this country. The people are wide awake, and jealous of their rights, and as each returning election comes they will "cast out Devils," and "perform other wonderful works." The curses which followed old John Adams' Administration will be in comparison to those which will follow this one, only as a mole hill is by the side of a mountain.

An upstart captain undertook to drive from his seat an old gentleman, muffled in a cloak, in the cars between Washington and Baltimore, not long since. The old gentleman bore the fellow's insolence as long as he could, when he threw off his cloak, revealing a major general's fig, and ordered the captain under arrest for ungentlemanly and unsoldierly conduct. The old gentleman was Gen. Couch.

STILL HANKERING AFTER THE NEGRO.—When the army appropriation bill, which amounts in the aggregate to over \$70,000,000 was before the House of Representatives, Mr. Mallory, of Kentucky, offered the following amendment:—

Resolved, that no part of the money appropriated shall be so expended as to encourage the escape of slaves from their masters, or to support and maintain slaves that do escape from their masters, or for any purpose of emancipation or colonization, or for any other object than re-establishment of the authority of the Constitution and the laws of the United States over the Rebels.

This was opposed by the Abolitionists in that body and defeated by a vote of 66 yeas to 33 nays. So it seems that we are not yet done paying taxes to keep niggers.

Some of the Abolition papers advise the Lincoln Administration, to have a secret police appointed over the whole country.—They alleged that no Black Republican is safe at his own fireside. The Democrats, they say, have all become members of some secret association, and Knights are prowling about to gobble up innocent Abolitionists who may be out after dark.

We have no idea that the advice has been taken but still some fellows try to get near to listen whenever they see two or three Democrats talking together. They watch where they go, and what they do. These Lincoln spies are contemptible but harmless beings. What if Democrats should practice such a contemptible business?

THE CHAIN GANG.—Last evening some thirty captured deserters, chained together in couples, were marched to the depot under a strong military guard, and put on board a train for Washington, from whence they will be sent to their respective regiments. There is something humiliating and disgusting in the exhibition of soldiers on the public street manacled like so many criminals, and the barbarous practice ought to be dispensed with.—Patriot & Union.

The Republican papers have not a word to say about this, but were the same thing to happen at Richmond they would injure their crazed imaginations in attempts to magnify the tyranny of the South.

The Richmond Whig of the 20th inst. urges that not a plant of tobacco be raised this year in Virginia or North Carolina, as to support their armies in these States it is absolutely necessary to cultivate the whole tillable area of such in breadstuffs, &c.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 26.—The Democratic caucus continued in Session till midnight, and on the 22d ballot, nominated the Hon. Wm. Wright of Essex county, for six years from the 4th of March. He was subsequently elected by the Legislature.

SCRAPS OF WAR NEWS

From the Daily Papers.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

PLAN TO ANNIHILATE OUR FLEET.

RESIGNATION OF GEN. JOHN COCHRANE.

THE VICKSBURG CUT-OFF COMPLETE.

THE GUNBOATS PASSED THROUGH.

The Capture of the "Queen of the West."

The Ship Jacob Bell Burned at Sea by the Florida.

LOSS—1,500,000.

CAPTURE OF THE U. S. IRON-CLAD INDIANOLA.

FORTESS MONROE, Feb. 28.

The British frigate Petrel arrived in Hampton Roads last night from Charleston. The officers report that the rebels have a strong net work across the channel to the entrance of Charleston harbor, and that the net-work is filled with torpedoes, designed to blow up any of the federal fleet that may attempt to enter the harbor.

The resignation of General John Cochrane has been accepted by the President, for the reasons by himself stated. He designs still in other fields to continue his support of the war for the Union. The officers of his brigade accompanied him in a body to the cars at Falmouth on his departure.

New York, March 1.

The Mercury has a special dispatch from Cairo, of yesterday's date, containing the following items:—

Cairo is full of startling rumors. It is stated that on the 26th the Vicksburg cut-off was completed, the dredging machine having been at work for several days. It is asserted that the gun-boats have all gone through and the transports are preparing to follow, after the rebel batteries at Warrenton are reduced. The whole force is to be sent against Port Hudson.

It is also stated that the small gun boat fleet have reached the Yazoo river, via Union Lake, and are playing mischief in the rear of Vicksburg. It is also reported that the boats have gone into Red River, via Lake Providence.

Cairo, Feb. 28.—Full despatches in regard to the capture of the steamer Queen of the West, by the rebels, have been received.

On the day before her capture she went down below Chalalaya a few miles, and captured a rebel train of seventeen wagons. Upon returning, those who captured the wagon train were fired upon by guerrillas near Semmesport.

On the next morning a force was landed, who destroyed all the buildings in the vicinity.

The Queen of the West is said to have been considerably damaged by the Rebel fire. The steamers which accompanied her were blown up in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Rebels.

DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR NEAR STRASBURG VA.

WHEELING, March 1.

The correspondent of the Wheeling Intelligencer at Winchester, under date of the 26th gives the following particulars of a disgraceful affair between a portion of our troops and the Rebels. On the 25th the Rebel cavalry scout, eighty strong, came inside of our pickets on the Strasburg road, and after a skirmish with the infantry, two were wounded on either side, retired, capturing a cavalry picket of twelve men. Five hundred of the Thirtieth Pennsylvania and First New York Cavalry were sent out in pursuit, and recaptured, beyond Strasburg, most of the prisoners and horses, and also took a number of prisoners.

The commander of our detachment transcribed his orders and pursued them beyond Woodstock, after driving in the Rebel pickets, where he stood paroling, without guarding against surprise. The enemy returned in force, and charging our men, threw them into confusion, killing and capturing two hundred in their flight of twenty miles. Our men made no stand, though outnumbering the enemy.

On the 12th of February, in lat. 24, long. 65 the Florida captured and burnt the ship Jacob Bell bound from China for New York. The Jacob Bell had sixteen hundred tons of tea on board. Her passengers and crew were transferred to a Danish vessel and arrived at St. Thomas on the 12th of February.

WASHINGTON, March 2.

The Navy Department had advice from Cairo that intelligence has reached there that the rebels have captured the iron clad Indianola. The dispatches are contradictory as to the manner in which she was captured, but there is no doubt of the entire truth of the matter. It is needless to add that the disaster has created considerable alarm at the Capitol, occurring as it does so soon after the more than sufficient calamity embodied in the loss of the Queen of the West. Speculation is rife as to the dire consequences which may result to all our undertakings with reference to the opening of the Mississippi. The project, which previously looked so feasible, of opening a passage to the Red river by way of the Tensas, is now regarded quashed, for the reason that the two iron-clads below are transformed from friends to enemies, against which the lighter fleet of Monitors to be floated through the new passage will find it impossible to compete. Thoughts of the river south of Port Hudson are also full of anxiety. What havoc might be caused among our inefficient Southern Mississippi fleet by the onslaught from above of the two splendid rams that have just come into rebel possession is a theme of serious and popular discussion. Only one of our rams, the Essex, is known to be attached to Farragut's fleet against which the Queen of the West, the Indianola, and the Webb would be overwhelming antagonists.

There are rumors of other and greater disasters, of which no particulars have been received.