Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, FEBRUARY 22, 1862.

The Coming Inauguration.

On Saturday, February 22d, Jefferson Davis is to be inaugurated President of the Confederate States of America. The ceremony is to take place at Richmond, Va. Hitherto the Government has been Provisional. Thenceforth it is to be established and permanent. So say the rebels. President Lincoln says, No. The United States embrace all the territory from Passamaquoddy to the Rio Grande, and he is sworn to support the Constitution and execute the laws, and he means to fulfil the trust.

It is probable that the pageant will take place, but their recent reverses must make it a gloomy occasion. There can be but little hope, and no joy. It is possible that by Saturday Gen. Burnside will be at Weldon, or at some other point on the great Southern railroad, thus cutting off Mr. Davis from his dominions, except one little corner, where his prospects of a long lease of authority are by no means brilliant. We await events.

The Situation.

Within the last two weeks the circumstances of the country, in regard to the rebellion, have improved vastly. The prospects are now bright for a speedy restoration of peace; not so speedy, however, but that we may have yet months of conflict, with great expenditures of money and loss of life. But it seems as though the rebellion had culminated. It has passed the acme of its power. It now is suffering defeat after defeat. And it is thus suffering at a most critical period. The Confederate enlistments were for a year, and that year, as to some of their regiments, expires with the present month; and as to most of them, it will expire with March, April, and May. Reënlistments, under the reverses which the rebel armies are now experiencing, are likely to be slow; and if drafting shall be their resort, the cause will become hateful, and the soldiers be easily beaten.

It is now becoming manifest that we have had a General at the head of our armies—a man of mind—a mind capable of reaching far, laying wise plans, adapting means to an end, preparing things needful, so as to execute in due time with energy and certainty. We do not profess to belong to the race of the prophets, and hence we do not abound in predictions; still we try to regard the signs of the times, and thus both provide against difficulties and rejoice in hope. And the present indications are, that our military affairs have been guided by wise counsels, and will result in an entire triumph.

A few weeks ago, the Washington correspondent of the New-York *Times* affirmed, on the "highest authority," that the plans of Gen. M'Clellan were comprehensive, and would be most effective, and that even the details of the campaign were thoroughly arranged and on the eve of realization; or, to use that writer's own expressive metaphor, "the folds of the constrictor were tightening around the rebellion, *and the coming month (February) would see it crushed out completely and forever.*" We do not expect to behold the unseemly thing "crushed out" so soon; but the month is only a little more than half gone, and the process is already tremendous.

But now for the situation.

In KANSAS, Gen. Hunter is collecting a large army and making strenuous preparations for an advance into Arkansas; then to descend either upon Texas or Louisiana.

In MISSOURI, Gens. Curtis, Seigel, and Asboth, under direction of Gen. Halleck, have advanced to Springfield, causing the mobile Price to flee again. All Northern and Middle Missouri is now pacified, except a few lurking bands, and Price is likely to be so driven from the South-West as not again to return.

Another part of Gen. Halleck's forces, under Gens. Grant, Smith, and M'Clernand, and the gunboats under Commodore Foote, have ascended the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, into the State of Tennessee, and captured the strongholds of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, taking some of the able rebel Generals and some ten thousand men as prisoners, cutting off important railroad communications, visiting Florence, Alabama, destroying the rebel means of river transport, and seizing vast military stores. The way is thus opened into the heart of Tennessee, and into Northern Alabama.

The movements of Gen. Buell's forces, in KENTUCKY, have been equally important and decisive. Humphrey Marshall was beaten and routed, Gen. Zollicoffer was killed and his army dispersed, thus relieving the Eastern part of the State. In the centre the main army of the enemy has been driven from his strong hold at Bowling Green, and is being rapidly pursued. Only a little strip of the State, from Columbus to Hickman, is now possessed by the foe.

When we come to the POTOMAC, we find a little movement even there. Gen. Lander has been reinforced and has driven the enemy from Romney and Hancock, and threatens his position at Winchester. Gen. Burnside, with fifteen thousand of the Potomac army, and a fleet under Com. Goldsborough, has achieved a splendid victory at Roanoke Island, taking four Forts, a fortified camp, and two thousand prisoners, destroying seven gunboats, capturing all the important places on Albemarle Sound, and threatening Norfolk in the rear; or otherwise threatening the connexion of Manassas and all Eastern Virginia with the South.

Going on South we find our army at Port Royal strengthened, and advancing on Savannah. And passing around to the Gulf, we find an army collecting at Ship Island, under Gen. Butler, whose destination may be either Mobile or New Orleans.

Verily our Commander-in-Chief, has a mind, comprehensive and energetic, and is aided too by Generals worthy the confidence of the nation. Secretary Stanton also seems to merit the nation's confidence. True, he did not enter the office as did Secretary Cameron, finding a perfect chaos. He found a large, well appointed, and well drilled army; immense quantities of arms, ammunition, and means of transport, with facilities for increasing everything indefinitely; a commissary rich and full; well laid plans nearly perfected; the Winter drawing to a close, and the day of movement near at hand. But he manifests abilities of the highest order, in the direction of affairs; and if he has entered into other men's labors, he is proving himself worthy. President Lincoln, Congress, and the country, may well feel happy in contemplating the character and capabilities of the public servants, (though some are faithless,) and the whole people may bless Him whose providence manifests so much benignance. We would not boast. We would not bless ourselves, nor trust in an arm of flesh. Alas, how soon may the brightest prospects be darkened, and the proudest of men be brought low! It is the humble whom God exalts; and it is the righteous whom he blesses. A truly Christian people will be reverential and grateful in their rejoicings.

England and America in 1813.

The following is from the London *Times*, of March 13th, 1813.

"The public will learn with sentiments which we shall not presume to anticipate, that a third British frigate has struck to an American frigate. This is an occurrence that calls for serious reflection—this and the fact stated in our paper yesterday, that Loyd's list contains notices of five hundred British vessels captured in seven months, by the Americans. Five hundred merchantmen and three frigates, (aye, and three sloops of war)! Can these statements be true, and can the English people hear them unmoved? Any one who had predicted such a result of an American war this time last year, would have been treated as a madman or a traitor. He would have been told, if his opponents had condescended to argue with him, that long ere seven months had elapsed, the American flag would have been swept from the sea, the contemptible navy of the United States annihilated, and their maritime arsenals rendered a heap of ruins; yet down to this minute not a single American frigate has struck her flag. They insult us and laugh at our want of enterprise and vigor. They leave their ports when they please, and return to them when it suits their convenience. They traverse the Atlantic; they beset the West India Islands; they parade along the coast of South America; nothing chases, nothing intercepts, and nothing engages them but to yield them triumph."

With such facts on their own records, will Englishmen talk of the inefficiency of our blockade of the rebel ports?

For the Presbyterian Banner.

From the Army of the Potomac.

FRIEND RIFLES, 1st Reg't Sickles' Brigade,
CAMP FARNUM, Feb. 11th, 1862.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Our company being from Pittsburgh, and a great many of our friends and relations there being subscribers and readers of your valuable journal, I, thinking that a few words in the shape of a letter describing our camp, manner of living, &c., would be interesting to them, have concluded to make the attempt. The rendezvous of our Brigade was, as is well known, on Staten Island. Gen. Sickles there experienced a great many difficulties in organizing his Brigade, and for a time we feared that the foolish and unpatriotic jealousy of his political enemies would prevail against him; but the battle of Bull's Run occurring—setting the whole country in a blaze—troops were hurried to the Capital from every quarter, and our Brigade amongst the rest. Our Regiment was the first of the Brigade to arrive in Washington, two days after the battle. The state of things at that time are familiar to all, so I will not recur to them. After our arrival in the cars, and as we were marching through the city to the place that had been selected for our camp, we met the famous 69th New-York Regiment, which suffered so severely in the Bull Run affair, and I must say that we felt very much discouraged at their dusty and fatigued appearance. However, the fact that we were recognized by Government, and possibly would have the opportunity of helping to retrieve the National honor, served to comfort us.

We arrived at Meridian Heights, and, tired and hungry, pitched our tents. Of our stay there, and at Good Hope, Md., across the East branch of the Potomac, I will pass over, as no events worth recording occurred while we were there. About three months ago, we were ordered further down the river, to the place we now occupy. As we were to go into the immediate vicinity of the rebels—the Potomac only separating us from them—the orders were received with joy, and obeyed with alacrity. Our camp is situated about fifty miles below Washington, in Maryland, three miles back from the Potomac. We are right among the rebel batteries, they being above and below us on the opposite side, and we always hear the sound of their cannon and the whistling of their shells, as they fire at vessels running the blockade. They have the guns, but their artillerists are very poor, as they do not hit one vessel in twenty that they fire at.

The country here is of a low, swampy nature, very thinly settled, and a person would think, very unhealthy; but there are only twelve out of our regiment in the Hospital, and not one of our company sick. Our company received the honorable position of the right of the first regiment at Staten Island, and has ever since held it, much to the envy and disappointment of other companies who aspired to that honor. By constant drill and attention to our duties, we have maintained our position. Our camp is, or rather was, in a vacant space, surrounded by a dense growth of scrubby pines. Since the cold weather set in, the boys have cleared a much larger space, using the wood for fuel. The Winter quarters we have built are very comfortable. Our chaplain is a Congregational minister, from New-Jersey. Our meetings have latterly been held in a large tent, and I am happy to say have been generally very well attended. I think our regiment will compare very favorably, in a religious aspect, with any other in the service. Our prayer-meetings are especially very interesting. The chaplain always invites any one who sees fit, to speak, pray, or sing, and these invitations are always responded to in such a manner as to render the services much more edifying and interesting. We have just finished a log chapel, capable of holding between two and three hundred persons. It is also intended to be used for a singing class, which is about to be formed, and any other innocent amusement the boys may desire. Wars and rumors of wars constantly prevail, and the most absurd reports are circulated every day, generally, finding many believers; but the fact is, we know no more, if as much, as you do at home.

But I have transgressed on your space and patience too long. If you consider this worthy of an insertion in your paper, I will feel much encouraged, and will continue to give you such items as would at least be interesting to our friends.

Trusting that you and they will remember us in your prayers, and that this unnatural war may soon end in the triumph of right and justice, I remain

Yours respectfully, J. C. L.

The Mercersburg Review.—We see is stated that this well-known Quarterly, the organ of the German Reformed Church, is suspended.

PERSONAL.

Brig-Gen. George H. Thomas.—Gen. George H. Thomas, the senior Union General engaged in the late battle at Mill Spring, and to whom, with the brave men under his command, should be awarded the honors of the recent victory, is a native of Virginia, and is one of those loyal officers in the regular army from the seceded States who resisted the lures of a false political theory. He graduated at West Point, in 1836, with the rank of brevet Second Lieutenant, of Infantry. In 1850, he was appointed Instructor of Artillery and Cavalry, which position he held at the breaking out of the present rebellion, when he was appointed Brigadier-General of volunteers, and placed in charge of a division in Gen. Patterson's command on the upper Potomac.—*National Intelligencer.*

Major-General Hitchcock.—The Senate, in executive session, on Monday, confirmed the nomination of Ethan Allen Hitchcock, as Major-General of volunteers. He was immediately ordered by telegraph to take command at Cairo, where he is probably by this time. Gen. Hitchcock is a grandson of old Ethan Allen, and was born in Vermont. The New-York *Tribune* says he was educated at West Point, and was Assistant Adjutant-General to Gen. Scott, in Mexico, where he reached the rank of Brigadier-General by brevet. Soon after Jeff. Davis, then Secretary of War, quarreled with him, and he was obliged to resign. Since his resignation he has resided in retirement at St. Louis. He is considered among the very ablest officers in the service; is a Green Mountain boy in all the noble senses of the word; is a thoroughly religious and anti-slavery man, one after the fashion, in a word, of the blessed fighting saints of Cromwell's time. His appointment was desired by Gen. Halleck.

He will outrank Gen. Grant, and take full command under Halleck. [We see it stated that Gen. Sherman is assigned to Cairo.]

Malcom Ives, the *soi-dissant* doctor who has been arrested as a spy, and sent to Fort Mc Henry, is a son of the late Dr. Ives, of Park Place, New-York. He engaged in mercantile pursuits, and at one time was employed in the banking-house of Charles McAllister, in Philadelphia, a position which he left, and went to Europe. In Rome he became a convert to Catholicism, and entered the College of the Propaganda, for the purpose of becoming a Priest. After being ordained, he was sent to the United States to convert his countrymen to the Catholic Church, and was sent to Milwaukee, where he officiated for a considerable time, and published a work in defence of the Spanish Inquisition. He had some difficulty with the Bishop of his diocese, which caused him to leave his charge, and he was appointed Vicar-General of the State of Mississippi, but he was restive under the restraints of his position and came to New-York, where he commenced his course as a journalist, by engaging in the editorial staff of the *Journal of Commerce*. His next engagement was on the New-York *Times*. Though of the same name with Dr. Ives, Episcopal Bishop, of North Carolina, who also turned Romanist, there is no relationship between them.

Malcom Ives was an active supporter of ex-President Buchanan, as he had been of his immediate predecessor. About three years ago, he left the *Times*, and has since been employed upon the *Herald*.

Secretary Stanton and the Congressmen.—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, relates the following:

Secretary Stanton seems to know nearly all the Senators and most of the Representatives; but few, however, called, there not being over half-a-dozen in his room at any one time.

Judge Kelley came in on Saturday, with a youthful looking officer, whose empty coat-sleeve hung from his left shoulder. He was introduced to the Secretary, as brevet Lieutenant Harry Rockafellow, of Philadelphia. "My friend," continued the Judge, "left a situation worth $800 per year, three days after the President's proclamation for troops, to carry a musket at eleven dollars a month, with his regiment, the New-York Seventy-First. After the term of his enlistment expired, he marched with his regiment to Bull Run. Early in the day he received that ugly rifle-ball in his mouth (pointing to a Minie ball that was hung to his watchkey) and for two hours and a half carried it in his fractured jawbone, fighting like a true hero, until a cannon-ball took off his arm, and rendered him powerless. He was captured, and for three months laid in a mangled condition in a tobacco warehouse, in Richmond, without proper surgical treatment. He was breveted a Lieutenant by a Colonel for his bravery, and is now filling a small clerkship. I beg of you to appoint him in the regular service."

"But where could I put him if I was to?" said Mr. Stanton.

The judge was about to reply, when the young soldier raised his arm, and said, with an imploring look:

"See, I have my right arm still, and Gen. Kearney has only his left; send me into the line, where there is fighting to be done! I have letters from—" he tried to draw a bundle of letters from his pocket.

Mr. Stanton stopped him—"Put up your letters, sir, you have spoken for yourself! your wish shall be granted! The country cannot afford to neglect such men as you!"

Ere the soldier could thank him for his kindness his case was noted.

He turned to leave, and remarked to the judge, as they left, "I shall be proud of my commission, for I feel that I have earned it! This day is the proudest one of my whole life." His heart seemed so light that we doubt if he then realized the loss he had met with, or remembered the weary nights, and the long, long days he had suffered in the vile prisons of the traitor crew.

Congressman Ely came in just as he passed along the aisle, and remarked, "There goes the noblest and most heroic of all our prisoners. He was the pride of the boys—all loved him as though he were a brother."

General News.

Promotion.

The name of Gen. Grant has been sent to the Senate as Major General. The nomination will doubtless be confirmed.

Savannah.

There are vague reports of a successful attack on this city by the Port Royal troops. Some have it that there was a hard fight; others, that the city surrendered at once. The intelligence is not reliable, as yet.

Kentucky.

The capture of Fort Donelson made a rebel retreat from Bowling Green a necessity. They destroyed the railroad as much as possible, including the bridge over Big Barren river, before leaving. Gen. Mitchell, with the advance of Gen. Buell's army, however, found the means of crossing, and occupied that strong-hold on Monday. He would follow up the retreating foe. Gens. Nelson and Thomas were also it pursuit, by the way of Glasgow. Col. Garfield has orders to clear out Eastern Kentucky. The whole State, except the South-west corner, may be said to be delivered.

Cornplanter Oil Company.

The Annual Report of this enterprising and successful Company, in the carbon oil business, is before us. The Company owns two hundred and twenty acres of land on Oil Creek, in the very heart of the oil-yielding region, which was purchased within the two last years for $16,000. From the few wells already sunk, the Company has realized 18,033 barrels of oil. A single well yielded 8,000 barrels, but at length became exhausted, and the daily yield of oil to the Company is now from 140 to 160 barrels. A portion of the property has been laid off in lots, which are leased to other parties, at bonuses of from $800 to $550 each. Thus far, after subtracting all expenses, the estimated gain has been no less than $51,233.02—certainly a most flattering result. The Directors are, Robert H. Davis, James L. Carnaghan, Theo. H. Nevin, Alex. Cameron, and John Irwin, Jr.

Congress.

Feb. 12.—HOUSE.—Much time was occupied with Henry Wycoff, who had surreptitiously obtained a copy of a portion of the President's Message and transmitted it to the New-York *Herald*, where it was published in advance of its being sent to Congress. Wycoff refused to inform the Committee of the House how he obtained it, and was imprisoned. (He has since satisfied the Committee and been released.)

Mr. Wilkinson, of Minnesota, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported the bill in relation to sales to Indians, forbidding the sale of spirituous liquors of any kind to Indians, at any place, and punishing the offence by fine and imprisonment. Passed.

SENATE.—The fortification bill was passed, appropriating $7,000,000.

The Treasury Note bill, from the House, was discussed.

Feb. 13.—SENATE.—A communication to the Vice-President, from the Union Defence Committe, of New-York, urging the immediate passage of the Treasury Note bill, with the legal tender clause, was received.

The Treasury Note bill was discussed and passed, retaining the legal tender, but having some amendments. It must hence go back to the House. The vote was, ayes 30; noes 7.

HOUSE.—The navy appropriation bill was discussed.

Feb. 14.—SENATE.—The bill in regard to the emolument of officers in the army was passed.

HOUSE.—The navy bill was again taken up.

The amendment appropriating $15,000,000 for building additional gunboats was then adopted—yeas 118; nays 25. Amendments were also adopted, appropriating $50,000 for an ordnance foundry at Washington, and for ordnance, $1,000,000. The bill was then passed.

Feb. 17.—Congress met to-day, but the telegraph brings us no account of proceedings, beyond the rejoicing at the capture of Fort Donelson. Our great men seem to have been carried beyond their gravity, even back to boyhood's days, in their demonstrations. They will work the better for it.

Feb. 18.—No important business transacted.

Fort Donelson.

This military station is on the West side of the Cumberland river, in Tennessee, and a few miles from the Southern line of the State. It was erected last Summer, and afterwards greatly strengthened, till it was supposed to be impregnable by any forces which our Generals could bring against it. In addition to its late garrison, it had received all the forces which had fled from Fort Henry, a few days ago, and large numbers from Bowling Green and other places.

This place was invested by General Grant, and assailed on Thursday, the 13th. The battle was continued through Friday and Saturday. On Saturday it was desperate. On Sabbath morning the following correspondence took place between the commanders:

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DONELSON,
Feb. 16, 1862, 5 o'clock A. M.

In consideration of all the circumstances governing the present situation of affairs at this station, I propose to the commanding officer of the Federal forces the appointment of Commissioners to agree upon the terms of capitulation of the forces at this post under my command. In that view I suggest an armistice until 12 o'clock to-day.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. B. BUCKNER,
Brigadier General C. S. A.

To Brigadier General U. S. Grant, commanding U. S. forces near Fort Donelson.

HEADQUARTERS, IN FIELD, at Ft. Donelson,
February 16, 1862.

To Gen. S. B. Buckner:—Sir: Yours of this date, proposing an armistice, and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I prepose to move immediately upon your works.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.
(Signed) U. S. GRANT,
Brigadier General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, Dover, Tenn.,
February 16, 1862.

Brigadier General U. S. Grant, U. S. A.:—Sir: The distribution of forces under my command, incident to an unexpected change of commanders and the overwhelming force under your own command, compel me, notwithstanding the brilliant success of the Confederate arms yesterday, to accept the ungenerous and unchivalrous terms which you propose.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
S. B. BUCKNER,
Brigadier General C. S. A.

Gen. Grant then marched forward and took possession. The loss of life has been severe. The numbers are not yet ascertained. They are probably 300 to 400 of killed on each side, and twice or thrice as many wounded.

Gen. Grant had, around the Fort, about 50,000 men. Gen. M'Clernand's division of Illinois Volunteers bore the hardest part of the fighting, and suffered most severely, so far as information has yet arrived. The enemy had in the Fort, and posted on the hills with redoubts and breastworks, about 20,000 men, as follows: Tennessee, eleven regiments; Mississippi, eight; Texas, one; Kentucky, two; Arkansas, one; Virginia, four. One battalion of cavalry each, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi. Of these it is thought about 5,000 escaped, with Floyd.

Gens. Pillow and Floyd planned and executed their escape during Saturday night, taking with them Floyd's brigade and a few favorites, occupying what few small steamers they had. The escape of Floyd is to be regretted, not for his great military worth to the enemy, but because of his superlative iniquity in robbing his country and bringing on the rebellion.

The gunboats took a prominent part in the battle on Friday, and doubtless contributed much to the result, though they failed of the success which has attended all the other naval engagements.

Com. Foote thus states the part he took in the action.

U. S. FLAG-SHIP, ST. LOUIS, NEAR FORT DONELSON, via PADUCAH, Saturday, Feb. 15.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

I made an attack on Fort Donelson yesterday, at three o'clock, P. M., with four iron-clad gunboats and two wooden ones, and after one hour and a quarter's severe fighting the latter part of the day, within less than one hundred yards from the fort, the wheel of this vessel, and the tiller of the *Louisville*, were shot away, rendering the two boats unmanageable. They then drifted down the river. The two remaining boats were also greatly damaged between wind and water. This vessel alone received fifty-nine shots, and the others about that number each.

There were thirty-four killed and wounded, in the attack, which we have reason to suppose, would in fifteen minutes more, could the action have been continued, have resulted in the capture of the fort bearing upon us, as the enemy was running from his batteries, when the two gunboats drifted helplessly down the river from disabled steering apparatus, as the relieving tackles could not steer the vessels in the strong current. When the fleeing enemy returned to the river battery guns, from which they had been driven, they again hotly poured fire upon us.

The enemy must have brought over twenty guns to bear upon our boats from the water battery and the main fort upon the hill, while we only could return the fire with twelve boat guns from the four boats.

One rifled gun aboard the *Carondelet*, burst during the action.

The officers and men in this hotly-contested but unequal fight, behaved with the greatest gallantry and determination, all deploring the accident which rendered two of our gunboats suddenly helpless in the narrow river and swift current.

On consultation with Gen. Grant and my own officers, as my services here, until we can repair damages by bringing up a competent force from Cairo to attack the fort, are much less required than they are at Cairo, I shall proceed to that place.

I have sent the *Tyler* to the Tennessee River to render the railroad bridge impassable.

[Signed,] A. H. FOOTE,
Flag-Officer Commanding Naval Force Western Division.

The Commodore has two wounds, but not decidedly dangerous. His iron-clad boats manifested a great capability of resistance. Ordinary vessels would have been riddled and sunk, under such a fire, in a few minutes. The knowledge gained by this experience will greatly aid in future constructions.

SECOND REPORT OF COMMODORE FOOTE.

CAIRO, Feb. 18.—Flag Officer Foote has sent the following official report to the Navy Department:

CAIRO, Feb. 17. 1862.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

The *Carondolet* has just arrived from Fort Donelson, and brings information of the capture of that fort by the land forces yesterday morning, with 15,000 prisoners.

Johnston and Buckner were taken prisoners.

The loss is heavy on both sides.

Floyd escaped with 5,000 men during the night.

I go up with the gunboats, and as soon as possible will proceed up to Clarksville.

Eight mortar boats are on their way, with which I hope to attack Clarksville.

My foot is painful, but my wound is not dangerous.

The army has behaved gloriously.

I shall be able to take but two iron-clad gunboats with me, as the others are disabled.

The trophies are immense.

The particulars will soon be given.

A. H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer.

The Johnston captured is not A. S. Johnston, but Bushrod Johnston, a Tennessee Brigadier.

Gen. Price Driven From Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—The following is a dispatch from Headquarters to Gen. McClellan, Washington: The flag of the Union is floating in Arkansas. Gen Curtis has driven Price from Missouri, cutting up his rear and hourly capturing prisoners and stores. The army of the South-west is doing its duty nobly.

[Signed.] H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General.

Movement of Troops and Prisoners.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—Five steamers left for St. Charles, Mo., to-day, where troops will embark for the Cumberland. Two regiments arrived by railroad, and will immediately proceed South. Most extensive and active preparations are being made for the transportation of troops.

Gen. Cullum, chief of Halleck's staff, will go to Cumberland for the prisoners captured at Fort Donelson. Seven thousand will be sent to Chicago, and the balance to Springfield, Ill., and Indianapolis. Five hundred of the wounded go to Cincinnati, and the balance will be brought here. The regiments which suffered most in the battle will be detailed to guard the prisoners at the places of their confinement. Some four thousand of these prisoners are now en route from Fort Donelson.

Gen. Halleck and Gen. M'Clellan.

ST. LOUIS, February 18.—Several reports have gained currency through the newspapers, in relation to Gens. M'Clellan and Halleck, which are calculated to mislead the public and create misunderstandings and jealousies. The *Republican* announces by authority of Gen. Halleck that he has at all times received the most hearty coöperation from Gen. M'Clellan, and that in all military operations of this department, he has the advice and approval of the General-in-Chief. The two Generals are in almost constant communication by telegraph.

From Gen. Lander's Command.

CUMBERLAND, Feb. 14.—Gen. Lander made a forced march on Thursday night, surprising and breaking up a rebel camp at Bloomery Gap, killing thirteen and capturing seventeen commissioned officers and forty-five privates, losing but two men and six horses. He led the attack in person at the head of the First Virginia Cavalry Regiment. This opens the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Hancock again.

Gen. Lander having cleared his Department of the enemy, he again renews his request to be relieved of his command on account of ill health.

A portion of Lander's command, under Col. Dunning, has occupied Moorefield and captured two hundred and twenty-five beef cattle.

Death by Poison.

The Hon. William Pennington, of Newark, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, died at his residence yesterday morning at six o'clock, from the effects of morphine, taken by mistake.

Washington.

Feb. 14.—The Senate went into Secret Session to-day, on a message from the President, the contents of which have not transpired. It is supposed to relate to the conduct of the war.

Whatever speculations may be indulged in concerning the sphere of the duties of the General-in-Chief, it is certain that the most cordial and friendly relations exist between him and the President and the Secretary of War.

Secretary Stanton has so far recovered from sickness as to be at his post in the War Department to-day.

The Senate, to-day, in Executive session, confirmed the nomination of C. T. Smith as Brigadier-General of Volunteers. This gentleman, it is known, is connected with the military operations in the West.

Orders were issued from General McClellan's Head-quarters to-day, to suppress all rum-sellers in Alexandria, and to repair and make comfortable the guard-houses in that city, of which complaint has been made in Congress.

Feb. 17.—The well known old man, Francis Dather, was taken sick suddenly in the War Department this morning, where he had for forty-two years been a messenger, and died just as he reached his home. He was appointed under Madison's administration.

General Fremont will probably leave here toward the close of the week. It is believed by his friends that he will soon be assigned to important military duties.

Brig.-Gen. Sedgwick, of Gen. Heintzelman's Division, has been assigned to the command of Gen. Stone's Division, and will enter upon his duties to-morrow. General Sedgwick's position in the regular army was that of Major of the Fourth United States Cavalry.

The highest military authorities of our Government believe the Confederate rebellion to be hopelessly overthrown. Gen. McClellan is expecting to hear, any hour, that the rebel army is in full retreat from Manassas, and when it breaks away from Manassas, it is doubtful if even Richmond will be a point in the next line of defense. The most probable policy of the rebel leaders, will be to retreat as expeditiously as possible from all points to the Gulf States, and try to make a stand there, hoping by their compact masses to resist our armies, until the fervid heats of Summer shall come to their aid, and help thin our ranks and demoralize our soldiers.

It is reported from Gen. Banks' headquarters to Gen. McClellan, that within the past week numbers of Virginians have got through our lines, reached Frederick, and presented themselves, desiring to be enrolled in the service of the United States.

Pennsylvania's Direct Tax.

Gov. Curtin has signed the bill passed by the Legislature for the assumption of that portion of the direct tax apportioned to the State of Pennsylvania. The fact has been officially communicated to the Federal Secretary of the Treasury, and as soon as the receipt of the Treasurer of the United States is forwarded, Pennsylvania's share of the current year's war-tax will be fully liquidated. All this is done without imposing additional taxation upon the people of the Commonwealth.—*Philadelphia Bulletin, Feb. 12.*

Gen. Hunter's Expedition.

LEVENWORTH, Feb. 11.—The greatest activity prevails at Fort Levenworth, in preparation for the expedition to start from here under General Hunter. Troops and supplies are being concentrated in the Southern portion of the State, and the indications appear favorable for an early advance. The General himself is working earnestly and unceasingly in perfecting the details of the expedition, and every department is pushed to its utmost capacity. Seven regiments of cavalry, four regiments of infantry, and three field batteries of artillery, with Parrot and Wiard guns, are now *en route* from the East, and are daily expected to join the expedition, which will be one of the most formidable yet organized during the war.

Foreign News.

The steamer *Asia* has arrived, brings Queenstown dates of the 23d ult.

The pirate *Sumpter* was still at Gibraltar.

Paris, Feb. 2.—The *Independence Belge* asserts that the Southern Commissioners have informed the English Government that in return for the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, they would establish absolute free trade for fifty years, abolish the external slave traffic, and emancipate all the blacks born after the recognition. These offers will, however, not determine Lord Palmerston to abandon the policy of neutrality.

The proposition of Mr. Gregory for the recognition of the South will be discussed soon after the opening of Parliament, but after an exciting debate its rejection is expected.

London, Feb. 1.—The Austrian *Gazette* mentions the reëppointment of the Arch-Duke Maximillian as Commodore of the Austrian navy, and contradicts the scheme to place him on the throne of Mexico.

A letter from Earl Russell, prohibiting the use of British ports to either belligerents, is published. The port of Nassau, and other ports of Bahama Islands, are especially mentioned. When vessels are driven in by stress of weather, provisions may be supplied, but only such quantity of coal as may be sufficient to take the vessel to the nearest port in their own country. No second supply to be allowed to the same vessel in the same port within a period of three months. It is presumed that this will stop the proceedings of the *Tuscarora* and *Nashville* at Southampton.

The comments of the French press on the Emperor's speech are generally favorable. The official documents laid before the French Chambers on American affairs express the regret of the French Government at the civil war and the friendly feeling of the Emperor toward the United States.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the American question claimed great attention. Strict neutrality was generally strongly urged. A proposition that the Chamber should open a conference with the New-York Chamber of Commerce in the interests of peace, met with approval.

Bombay, Jan. 13.—The exportation of saltpetre from India, except to British ports, is prohibited.

A large gold field has been discovered in Southern Mahiatta.

LATEST.

The *Edinburg* brings news to the 5th inst.

The rebel steamer *Nashville* left Southampton on the 3d inst. She passed the *Tuscarora* off Cowes, where the latter was anchored. The *Tuscarora* steamed up to start in chase of the *Nashville*, but the frigate *Shannon* was slongside to prevent their departure for twenty-four hours. The last seen of the *Nashville* she was steaming down the channel with all speed.

Vienna, Feb. 4.—Austria will accept the Throne of Mexico, for the Arch-Duke Maximillian, but will not cede Venetia in exchange.

Special Notices.

DENTISTRY.—Dr. C. SILL, No. 246 Penn Street, attends to all branches of the Dental profession. feb8-1y

Married.

February 6th, by Rev. J. C. Gillam, at his residence in Berlin, Ohio, Mr. ROBERT CUNNINGHAM, of Fayette County, Pa., to Miss MARIA JOHNSTON, of Wayne County, O.

At the house of the bride's father, February 11th, 1862, by the Rev. C. L. Ehrenfeld, Mr. Jos. W. MOORHEAD, of Ligonier, Westmoreland County, to Miss MARIA J. M'CORMICK, of Altoona, Pa.

On the 7th inst., at the "Robertson House," Coshocton, Ohio, by Rev. Wm. E. Hunt, Mr. OLIVER P. CHAMBERLAIN to Miss ELIZA J., daughter of Rev. John Moore, all of Coshocton Ohio.

On the 24th ult., by Rev. S. G. Dunlap, Mr. SAMUEL ARMSTRONG to Miss MARY J. DUNLAP, all of Wayne County, Ohio.

Obituary.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS, GRATIS; ADDITIONAL REMARKS, FIVE CENTS A LINE, NINE WORDS BEING A LINE.]

DIED—On Sabbath, the 2d inst., THOMAS STOCKTON, second son of Rev. J. D. and Mrs. A. L. Mason, aged 14 years and 1 month.

DIED—February 9th, of consumption, Mr. DANIEL COSPER, in the 63d year of his age.

Mr. C. had long been a consistent number of Unity church, Fredericksburg, Ohio. His latter end was peace.

FRUIT TREES FOR 1862.

Parties intending planting Orchards, Gardens, or Pleasure Grounds, this season, are respectfully invited to visit the SEWICKLEY NURSERIES, or send for a descriptive Catalogue, before ordering elsewhere. Our stock of Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Quince, Gooseberry, Currant, Raspberry, and Strawberry, is large, and of the most Select Varieties only. The new valuable varieties of the Hardy Grape Vines, viz.: Delaware, Concord, Diana, Hartford, Prolific, Rebecca, Union Village, Herbement, &c., &c. Strong Plants at reduced rates. T. L. SHIELDS & CO., Sewickley, Pa.
JAMES WARDROP, Agent. feb22-1t

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feb22-5t*

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ARMY, should not leave the city until supplied with HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT. For Sores, Scurvy, Wounds, Small Pox, Fevers, and Bowel Complaints, these medicines are the best in the world. Every French Soldier uses them. Only 25 cents per box. [211] feb22-1t

THE BOARD OF COLPORTAGE would respectfully inform the readers of the *Banner*, that in addition to the valuable books previously advertised, they have on hand THE SOLDIER'S LIBRARY, published by the Presbyterian Board, containing 70 volumes; THE SOLDIER'S POCKET-BOOK, CROMWELL'S BIBLE, and a good selection of Books and Tracts suited to Soldiers and Sailors, from different publishing houses in the Eastern cities. Through the benevolence of congregations and individuals, as noticed in this and last month's *Banner*, we have been enabled to send a large amount of religious reading matter to different camps, and the gratitude with which the eager soldiers and sailors, particularly the Germans, have received these works, would cheer the hearts of every donor, if known. We appeal to other congregations to send in their contributions, and thus embrace the present opportunity to occupy a vast missionary field among our own fellow-citizens, never before laid open to them.
FRANCIS G. BAILEY, Treasurer,
JOHN CULBERTSON, Librarian,
feb15-tf No. 57 Hand Street.

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THE PITTSBURGH WATER CURE ESTABLISHMENT is delightfully situated on the banks of the Ohio, ten miles West of the city. We have treated many hundred cases of nearly every kind of disease, and can refer to patients all over the country whom we have restored to health, *after everything else had failed.*
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INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Scrofula, every form of Skin Disease, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Constipation of the Bowels, Spinal Irritation, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Nervousness, all Diseases of the Reproductive Organs, Diabetes, Dropsy, &c., &c.
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GENEVA MALE AND FEMALE INSTITUTE.
"Geneva College," and "Geneva Female Seminary," located in Northwood, Logan County, Ohio, and for many years in successful operation, have been combined into one Institution, under the control of an entirely new Board, and will be opened early in April, under the above name.
The Seminary building is commodious and handsome, and is capable of affording accommodations for fifty boarders—is also provided with piano, stoves, beds, chairs, tables, &c., &c. The College building, some three hundred yards distant, is much superior to the generality of College buildings in the West. It is