New Orleans Daily Crescent.
MONDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1861.

WHAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR.

A great truth is about to be told to the world. A new light is about dawning upon Europe. A mighty fact, in clear and unmistakable proportions, will soon compel its pathway throughout Christendom; and then the statesmen, students, political economists, merchants, manufacturers and bankers will lift up their hands and wonder why it was they never perceived it before.

It is difficult to make the world reverse a long-settled opinion. In fact, it cannot be done by ordinary means. But, in this instance, the sharp lance of revolution will accomplish the object. For a long time the belief has been prevalent among many of our own people that the North was the rich section of the country, and the South the poor section of the country—so poor, indeed, that she could not get along without the patronage of the North. We have controverted this false impression for years—produced facts and figures showing the exact condition of things—and have, on more than one occasion, been told that we were radically wrong by intelligent citizens of our own State. Across the water—in England, especially—the belief we have alluded to is so wide-spread that it may be termed universal. All this the Southern secession is about to set right, and the New as well as the Old World will soon begin to see through the spectacles of truth.

If the South was the poor country she has been represented to be, the rich North would not now be waging war upon her. She would be told to go in peace, and take care of herself hereafter. The contrary being the case, however—the North only being rich and prosperous on account of the patronage of the South, the withdrawal of which threatens her with ruin—a war of subjugation is set on foot, to carry out which successfully scores of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of money are to be sacrificed! Were ever such sacrifices before made by a (so-called) rich country to compel the trade of a poor country? History furnishes no parallel.

That the North will be comparatively ruined by the Southern movement is amply demonstrated by a letter from the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, writing under date of 20th inst. After referring to the spirit which seemed to prevail, the correspondent asked "a leading citizen what was the cause of New York having on her such an extra military fever?" That "leading citizen" replied in this wise:

Her bread and butter is in imminent danger now and hereafter. Successful secession of the Southern States would ruin her. She would not be one half what she is now with the Union divided. We all know that—all feel it—all see it. That is what makes our moneyed men "shell out" so freely. If rebellion is put down, New York is made forever. We could soon stop the war; but to stop it, and secession successful, would be our death.

All very true. New York's "bread and butter is in imminent danger," and so is the "bread and butter" of the entire North, as far as it depends upon Southern trade. The withdrawal of the trade, use of the products, patronage and money—events now as positively certain as anything can be with which the future has anything to do—of the South, will show them up the worst poverty-stricken people on the surface of the globe, while it will demonstrate the unequaled riches and boundless resources of the Confederate States.

Hereafter, New York must import in proportion to the exports of her own proper section, and New England must manufacture without regard to the Southern market, provided she can get the cotton.

"What are they fighting for!" Why, the use of cotton, the manufacture of cotton, and the Southern market! Of these they will be deprived in future; and if they lose their "bread and butter" thereby, the fault will not be ours.

From the Pass—Probable Blockade.

We are very much indebted to ex-Gov. P. O. Hebert, commander of the Military District of Louisiana, for a copy of the following dispatch, received from Col. Fuller, yesterday:

PASS A L'OUTRE, May 26, 1861—7½ *Col. P. O. Hebert:* At 2 P. M. sighted steam ship, supposed to be the Brooklyn, about twenty miles east from Pass. Can within three to four miles of her, yet colors and fired guns. No answer made. Came in, making preconcerted signals. Bar blocked with five ships. All low-boats inside.

C. A. FULLER, Lieut. Colonel.

P. S.—She is at anchor close to the bar, with American colors flying.

We suppose this is one of the great couriers of Lincoln's paper blockading squadrons, or perhaps there has been a heavy storm off Santa Rosa Island, and the Brooklyn, with the balance of the vessels there, had to "cut and run" or be stranded. However, as we have been looking for a paper blockade of the mouths of the Passes for some weeks, it is quite likely that Lincoln is endeavoring to put some of his ridiculous threats into execution. It matters not much to us anyhow, for we have bought about all we want to buy, and sold nearly all we have to sell, or will wish to buy or sell until next fall. In the meantime the fever will deal harder with the mercenaries of an Abolition Government than we would if we had them absolutely in our power. The ports will be opened just as soon as we desire them opened—that is, at the commencement of the next cotton season.

☞ We publish to-day a communication signed "A Citizen," to which we call the attention of our readers, particularly our merchants. The suggestions made seem to us to be good.

DOWN ON HIM.—The London Chronicle is down on Old Abe and his lack of statesmanship, as compared with the statesmanship of the South. It winds up a vigorous article as follows:

Mr. Lincoln is further now from success against the South than he was when he started from Chicago.

As regards Fort Sumter itself, he did the worst thing he could do. He intended to evacuate it in a few days; but sooner than consent to acknowledge that South Carolina was rebellious, he expressed his intention to send in provisions, by force, if necessary. He thus gave the South the provocation and opportunity of a brilliant victory, and had to submit to a mortifying defeat. The conduct of the Southern Government has, on the contrary, been marked by moderation and good sense. They clung to no fictions, and were hampered by no legal ignorance of plain facts. They wanted to leave the Union and they left it. They wanted to take Fort Sumter, and they took it. They wished the Border States to join them, and, by precipitating a collision, they seem to have got them—unless, indeed, some unexpected good sense at Washington prevent them at the eleventh hour.

GEN. BEAUREGARD.—The Northern papers are still discussing the question whether or not Gen. Beauregard was killed at the attack on Fort Sumter. The Boston Advertiser has half a column on the subject, ground-edge. Several letters have been written by people, who say they saw him killed, and some say they saw him buried. Nearly all the Northern papers incline to the opinion that he was killed, and that the report of the fight at Fort Sumter, to which his name was signed, was written by some one else.

We know they would be glad to believe him dead—but we have the satisfaction of saying that he "still lives," and that he is at Norfolk, Virginia, prepared to receive any calls that may be made upon him. He will make himself felt before this business is over, or we are much mistaken in the man.

Bennett's Herald says that, unless Harper's Ferry shall be taken this week, it cannot be taken at all, as it will be so strongly fortified as to defy any assault.

ARRIVAL OF JEFF. DAVIS PILLS.—The steamers Selma and Dorrance brought up the river yesterday, a large assortment of British shells, together with stores for the army at Pensacola. These huge "pills" are to be administered by Gen. Bragg, when his enemies get sick at Pickens; and his skill as an artillery doctor is too well known, and feared, to be doubted for a moment. They will be successfully administered.

[Montgomery Mail.

CRESCENT RIFLES—*Company B.*—You are ordered to attend a meeting of the company this evening, at 8½ o'clock. See notice.

CLAIRVOYANCE.—Those who desire to investigate the mysteries of Clairvoyance, are referred to the advertisement of Mme Capell, No. 127 Carondelet street.

NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

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TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

[BY THE SOUTHWESTERN AND AMERICAN LINES.]

NEW YORK, May 25.—The Times' Washington correspondent telegraphs that a gentleman has arrived, stating that the Fire Zouaves have commenced to avenge the death of their chief, Ellsworth.

Three Alexandrians have already been shot, and the friends of Jackson have fled for their lives.

The Federalists have destroyed the bridges on the railroad leading from Frederick to Leesburg.

The Southerners are concentrating fifteen miles below Alexandria.

Express Matter.

LOUISVILLE, May 25.—Express matter from the South bound Northward goes unmolested, but from the North, bound Southward, nothing is permitted to pass outside of Kentucky, and Kentucky packages are examined.

Money, and everything for the seceded States, are contraband.

Letters appear to pass this point intact. Some, under cover of envelopes bearing the Confederate flag, fall reaching their destination. To prevent this, it is necessary to make use of the plain envelop.

The express from here, Southward, goes without being disturbed.

Sailing of the South Carolina for Pensacola.

BOSTON, May 25.—The steamer South Carolina, with munitions of war and men, to relieve those whose enlistment has expired, sailed to-day for Pensacola.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Stopped

BALTIMORE, May 25.—No more trains are running on the Baltimore and Ohio railway.

Eleven engines and many cars have been detained at Harper's Ferry.

The Discontinuance of the Mails.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Western Virginia is an exception to mail discontinuance, on account of its loyalty to the Union.

Tennessee is also excepted, because secession is not absolute.

An immense amount of coal has been detained at Harper's Ferry by the Southerners.

Resignation of an Attorney-General.

HARRISBURG, May 25.—Attorney-General Purviance has sent in his letter of resignation to the Governor. He says: "For reasons which appeal to my self respect, I cannot continue any longer in connection with your Administration."

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—There has been no serious fighting reported.

The principal cause of alarm was the driving in of Federal pickets at Little Falls.

Departure of the Great Eastern.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The steamer Great Eastern sailed for Milford Haven to-day.

Louisville Races.

LOUISVILLE, May 25.—Mollie Jackson was the winner of the three-mile heats over the Woodlawn Race Course. Time—5:35¼, 5:34¾, 5:34¾.

New York Cotton Market.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The sales of Cotton to-day embraced 600 bales at 13½c. per lb.

[Something wrong, as mail no dispatches Sunday night.]

[From St. Louis Papers.]

ST. JOSEPH, May 21.—The Union flag over the Postoffice has been taken down. The flag over Turners' Hall was taken down by themselves.

LEAVENWORTH, May 23.—The Unionists are being driven from the borders, and are seeking refuge in Southern Kansas.

BALTIMORE, May 22.—The blockading squadron report that they have been fired into by the Virginia batteries, but without harm.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—The Government hourly expects hostilities at Fort Pickens.

The naval officers here believe that the assaults will be outlandish.

Gen. Butler says that a few days will put him in Richmond.

ST. LOUIS, May 25.—The steamboat J. C. Swon has been seized. It is probable that she will be confiscated, as she previously brought arms from Baton Rouge to the Confederates at St. Louis.

Five thousand pounds of Southward bound lead have been seized at Iron Mountain. Resistance was made, and several shots exchanged with harmless effect.

Gov. Black, of Nebraska Territory, passed through here en route for the East. He reports that Indian depredations are imminent there. He urges that he be backed by Gen. Harney's regiment in the disturbed Territory.

PHILADELPHIA, May 22.—Two Ohio regiments, under Gen. Cook, lately encamped here, started South this morning by rail.

Louisiana Intelligence.

CHOKED JACKSON PARISH.—The Jackson Patriot says:

From all sections of North Louisiana, we have never during our residence in the State, which has been twelve years, heard such favorable accounts of the crops of every kind. Wheat is almost ready for the sickle, which makes a plentiful harvest of that important grain almost beyond a doubt. Oats, corn and cotton are all doing remarkably well; if the season should continue favorable for six weeks, "Old Abe" may blockade as much as he pleases and it will not affect us.

Greeley concludes that the South can and will fight. As to which, see the following:

Let the folly be utterly hooted of supposing that the rebels will not fight. They will, they must fight, and that desperately. A peaceful adjustment is a sheer impossibility, and has been from the hour that the iron hail was first rained on the walls of devoted Sumter.

Nor will it answer to deprecate the military resources and efficiency of the rebels. Even cowards in their position would fight desperately, and they are no cowards. Most of them have been trained from the cradle to consider personal bravery the very first requisite of manly character, and skill in the use of arms the first necessity of a gentleman. The rifle and the revolver have been their playthings from boyhood, and the duel, or some "difficulty" involving peril to life, are with them themes of daily contemplation and frequent observation. And, while we are confident that a majority of the Southern people are at heart Unionists to-day, we judge that seven-eighths of the fighting force—the "Chivalry"—of the Slave States—the young, the daring, the ambitious, the desperate—have been drawn into the maelstrom of the rebellion. They have many of the very best of our late army officers, and their soldiers will at first be better led and handled than ours. Such are the advantages with which they will enter upon the contest, add to which, it must be fought mainly on ground which they know thoroughly and we very imperfectly, in the midst of their resources and at a distance from ours, while ten of the inhabitants of the seat of war will eagerly give information to their leaders where one will venture give any to ours.

GUNPOWDER FOR THE SOUTH.—Apprehension has been frequently expressed, lest the supply of powder at the South might prove inadequate to the demands of a protracted war. This apprehension, we think, is groundless; for, independent of whatever supply of the manufactured article, or of the raw article material, may now be on hand, the elementary substances of which gunpowder is made can be extracted in exhaustless amounts from our own soil and forests. It is well known by our older citizens that in early times they made their own powder from materials easily obtained. The numerous caves in this region abound in nitrous earth, and in many of them nitre has been made in large quantities. If crude sulphate cannot be obtained in sufficient quantity in our cities, the *sulphates* of copper and iron in East Tennessee can furnish an unlimited supply. Our willow, linwood and other trees can furnish the best charcoal.

In this connection, we will state that an enterprise has already been set on foot, having in view the production of gunpowder material. Messrs. G. W. Rice, John F. Anderson and John D. Horin have leased the celebrated Santa Cave, in Jackson county, Ala., and are making extensive preparations for the production of nitre on a large scale. It is also the intention of these gentlemen to extend their operations to include the manufacture of powder. This enterprise we regard as judicious, patriotic, and, we doubt not, will prove highly remunerative.

The powder mill near Nashville is in vigorous operation, and we expect to hear of many similar establishments springing up magically throughout the South; so that, instead of experiencing a want of this necessary element of warfare, we will, in fact, have enough, and to spare.

[Chattanooga Advertiser.

MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.—A friend, who is in constant practice with the rifle—and is not very particular whether he uses one of Happoldt's (Charleston make), an ordinary State rifle, or a Minié musket—informs us that the conical ball can be successfully used in any of the common rifles usually found in the South and Southwest.

If any of our readers will mould some of the conical shots, and experiment at three times the usual distance, the result will satisfy them of the increased range and accuracy.

[Clar. Mercury.

Important from Norfolk.

SIX MEN KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED.

AUTHENTIC PARTICULARS OF THE FIRING AT NEWKIRK'S POINT.

[Correspondence of the Petersburg Express.]

NORFOLK, May 20, 1861.—The ball has been opened in this neighborhood, and now it may be the war will commence in earnest.

Last Saturday the steamship Kalorama came down a number of negro laborers to complete a fortification that had been commenced on Newkirk's Point, which is situated immediately at the mouth of Elizabeth river, and from which the entrance into James river may be commanded. The enemy had no "inquiring visit" as usual, the Monticello, stationed off the Point. The Kalorama passed on, from certain demonstrations on the part of the Monticello, but it would be unsafe to proceed to her destination, based for men in Brooklyn hall, a point some two miles this side of Sewells, where a small battery had been erected. This had only been mounted before the Monticello came up and fired two shots, both of which passed over the ship without inflicting any damage. The fire was responded to by the battery at Sewell's Point, which had the effect of running the Monticello to windward, the chase of the Kalorama and carrying her for larger position. She opened her guns on the Confederate battery at Sewell's Point, with the intention of silencing the work. The fight lasted about thirty minutes, only two of which took effect, but no serious damage was done. Two companies of soldiers were at the Point, with about a hundred negro laborers. The soldiers and these negro laborers were in the woods full about them, but there was scattering among the laborers.

During the fight several heavy pieces of artillery and an additional force of laborers were sent down by land from Norfolk, Portsmouth and the navy yard. By Tuesday morning, three short 32-pounders and two rifle 8-pounders had been placed in position, and were ready for action. They had not long to wait, however, for the Monticello came up in the afternoon