New Orleans Daily Crescent.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1862.

FULL SIZE.

We resume the publication of the Crescent today on a full sheet. Circumstances we could not in any wise control compelled us to go down to a half-sheet, very much to our dissatisfaction. The scarcity and cost of printing paper has of late been frightful, but it was the impossibility of obtaining supplies, not the expense, which compelled us to contract the ample dimensions of the Crescent. Still, by aid of small but clear type, we have been able to present the public with almost as much reading matter as before, and we think our arrangements are such that hereafter our readers will have no reason to complain. At all events, we shall do our best, and we are sure none of our readers will expect more.

A GOOD LAW.

We believe the following is a correct copy of the most important law which has yet been adopted by the Congress of the Confederate States:

SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That the military authorities of the army are hereby authorized and directed to destroy cotton, tobacco, military stores, or other property of any kind whatsoever, which may aid the enemy in the prosecution of the war, when necessary, to prevent the same, or any part thereof, from falling into the hands of the enemy.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the owners of property destroyed under the operation of this act, as well as those persons who shall voluntarily destroy their property to prevent the same from falling into the hands of the enemy, are hereby authorized to perpetuate testimony of such destruction, in the manner prescribed by an act of the Provisional Congress, entitled "an act to perpetuate testimony in cases of slaves abducted or harbored by the enemy, and of other property seized, wasted or destroyed by them," approved 30th August, 1861; and such owners and persons shall be entitled to indemnity, out of the property sequestered and confiscated under the laws of the Confederate States, in such manner as Congress may hereafter provide.

To the heading we have pronounced the above a good law. It is a good one, but it does not amount to either desperation or recklessness. On the contrary, it is the embodiment of prudent, cool, calculating policy—in fact, of far-seeing statesmanship. Our enemies are fighting to subjugate us, not to restore the old Union, or the star-spangled banner, or anything of the sort, but to perpetuate, if possible, their ancient monopoly of our great staples, from which they derived most of their wealth and consequence. This is what they are fighting for. Let them know that the present crop of cotton will be destroyed—that it never shall be allowed to fall into their hands under any circumstances what ever, and that no cotton, except for domestic consumption, will be raised hereafter, and they will soon cease prosecuting a bloody and costly war, which, if there was the remotest possibility of their being successful, which there is not, would be bound to be barren of results. Without her great staples, the South is not worth expending much blood and treasure to conquer, even if it was worth ten down in the book of destiny that her people could be conquered.

We hope our military authorities, in the respective departments, will see that the above law is executed in letter and spirit. Let them look to our river valleys with especial attention. We do not wish to see any second Moscows, as they are not necessary for our protection; but we do desire to witness the destruction, utter and complete, of our great staples, sooner than permit them to fall into the possession and reclaimed to the advantage of ruthless foes. Let this example be set, and beneficial results will be sure to follow.

MARTIAL LAW.—The proclamation of martial law on Saturday last, by Major-General Lovell, was well received by our citizens, and has been productive of good results. Indeed, many who were at first opposed to such a stringent measure, now acknowledge its happy effects, and are perfectly satisfied. The appointment of Messrs. Wm. Pierce, Cyprien Dufour, Pierre Soulé and Henry D. Ogden, as Provost Marshals for the city, fully meets the expectations of the community, and universal satisfaction is the consequence. General Lovell could not have made better selections. The gentlemen named enjoy the full confidence of the good people of New Orleans in all respects, and they will discharge their duties faithfully, ably and patriotically.

☞ The Memphis papers, on which we mainly rely for late news, failed to come to hand yesterday, owing to misconnection of the cars. These things are becoming altogether too frequent. It is an outrage that a city like this should be deprived of news at such a time as the present, when, generally, it is the fault of some delinquent conductor of a train.

MILITARY.—Members of the Orleans Light Horse, Glenn Guards, Continental Guards and Citizens' Guard, and European Brigade, are referred to notices of special importance to them. Some of them are required to report forthwith.

The Crescent Regiment.

The following letter is from a member of the Crescent Regiment:

GRAND JUNCTION, Camp Crescent, in the woods, Tenn., March 8, 1862.

DEAR SIR.—We arrived here safe and well yesterday. The first six companies had been ordered back from Jackson to this point by Gen. Beauregard, and we found them here. The camp having been pitched in the woods, we have had a deal of work to lay it out properly. We have not yet finished, and I must abridge my letter to return to my labors. We do not know our destination, but it looks as if we were to remain here, as Col. Smith has been made Commander of the post, and martial law has been proclaimed, both by order of Gen. Beauregard. It looks as if we were expected to fight soon, as we are ordered to reduce our baggage to the minimum quantity, the officers diminishing theirs to one carpet bag. Our men are cheerful, and behave like veterans. Lieut. Col. McPheeters is in command of the regiment.

REV. COPPEE.—Many of our people are daily in the habit of using the phosphate as a substitute for guano, without being aware of the fact that the grain, when burnt, contains upwards of fifty per cent of *phosphoric acid*, which acts injuriously upon the whole bony structure. In the young it effectually prevents the full development of the osseous tissues; and, in the old, it leads the foundation for fatty degeneration. It possesses the power of dissolving the phosphate of lime, which constitutes upwards of fifty per cent. of the bone in man. The same power it exerts over ovro gestation, and thereby brings about all the cabominable evils of abortion. Cases of this kind have come under my professional observation during a few months past, and I think the facts ought to be spread before the people.

L. J. BONNER, M. D.

LaGrange, Ga. [Macon Telegraph.

THE VIRGINIA.—The following additional particulars with regard to the Virginia will be read with interest:

Once she was the pride of the Federal Navy, and considered the finest of her class afloat. Being at the Gosport Navy Yard when the frightened Hessians fled from that institution, they attempted to destroy her, but failed in the undertaking. Acting on the hint of the New Orleans "turtle," the Government determined to make a Norfolk turtle of the Merrimac, and workmen have been busily engaged on her for nearly six months, and a striking metamorphosis they have effected in her general appearance. From a first-class frigate she is razed down till the surface she presents above water is no greater than that of an ordinary canal boat, and on that surface no balls nor shells can take effect. Three feet below her water lines her iron plating, four inches thick, on solid oak twenty-eight inches in thickness, commences and runs upward from each side, sloping like the roof of a house, and being, in fact, an iron roof on a floating house. No spars, no mast, no upper works of any kind, are in sight. Even the chimneys are to be spiral entirely, "quashable" without injury, and the only place she can be struck is on her iron roof. The only way of getting into her is through a small hatchway, to which is an iron door, listening immovably on the inside, so that the enemy might as well attempt to board a loggerhead turtle as her. Her armament consists of heavy guns on each side, and one at the bow and stern. The iron cleaver in front is supposed capable of dividing a Yankee ship in two equal portions with great nicety and dispatch.

The Charleston Mercury advises the establishment of a Presidential in that city similar to the one we have here.

☞ We are requested to call attention to the succession sale of Dr. Harvey, at No. 56 Jackson street, of medical books, surgical instruments, chairs, furniture, etc. See advertisement.

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American Affairs in the British Parliament.

The opening of the British Parliament is usually an occasion of much interest. This year it has been particularly so. Immediately following the Queen's speech came the opening addresses, delivered by the most celebrated and leading men of the country. The moving address was by Lord Dufferin, an Irish peer, generally considered a representative of the more aristocratic clubs. He spoke with great severity against the Government of the United States, and mentioned its disruption as an accomplished fact. Capt. Wilkes he characterized as "a blundering sea captain, besotted with a vulgar lust for notoriety," and condemned the "unsound and exceptionable explanations which dimmed the grace of reparation" in the Trent affair. This address was seconded by the Earl of Sherburne, who bore at length upon the hostile feeling existing in the United States toward England, while he denied that either the English Government or the English people had given occasion for such animosity. The Earl of Derby was the next speaker, and he freely expressed his sentiments of the present war. In one instance he said:

I think it greatly to be regretted that, having made up his mind that separation and apology were necessary, the American Secretary of State should have waited until the formal demand was made, not privately, but officially and formally; thus waiting, not to consider how much reparation he should give, but how small a measure of reparation would satisfy the imperative demands of Great Britain. [Cheers—and cheers in the House of Lords mean something.] By the course which they pursued, the Federal Government have placed themselves and their people in an undignified and an unworthy position, and have shown that they apologized, not from a sense of justice, but in demand backed by force, and that they only gave the reparation we asked for because they knew that this country would be satisfied with nothing less. [Hear, hear.]

Earl Granville, the President of the Council, admitted, in so many words, that there was a possibility that England would pursue some other course besides that of neutrality, and declared that, in case of difficulty with the United States, "the first operation would be to land 10,000 men, and that in a month, or two at the farthest, all of that country, thereby putting a considerable and speedy check upon the American trade."

Earl Russell spoke earnestly, and at length, and his words expressly declare that he and his Government already recognize, privately, two distinct nations, the United States and the Confederate States. In one place he says:

"For my own part, and on the part of the Government, it is our earnest wish to be enabled to preserve unimpaired the neutrality which we have hitherto maintained. [Hear, hear.] It could be of no advantage to us to see, as we cannot but think that, before many months are over, it will be ascertained whether the Northern States are able to accomplish the task they have set themselves of reconstructing the Union with the Southern States of America. If they are not able to do so, I am convinced that the people of they themselves, their Government, their Congress and people, should be persuaded of the inutility of their efforts, and be ready to form a treaty by which the independence of the Southern States should be acknowledged. It is for better that this conviction should come to them from the failure of their own efforts, than from the interventeion of any foreign power. [Hear, hear.] * * * If they should be convinced that it was by foreign interference and force that the Southern States had established their independence, depend upon it, there would be a rankling feeling continued for many years, if not generations—an enmity and bitterness we might have to deplore for several generations." [Hear, hear.]

The Earl of Carnarvon, late Secretary for the Colonies, asked for the production of all evidence tending to show the inefficiency of the blockade. Such a demand could not have been prompted by mere curiosity. The debate was closed by Lord Kingsdown, a strong conservative, formerly known as the Hon. Pemberton Leigh. He was exceedingly bitter against the United States, and declared that, to his mind, the quarrel with America could be settled only by satisfactorily settling the question of slavery. Mason and Slidell had been unattended by an apology for the outrage committed on the British flag, or by the slightest compensation to the victims themselves. The noble barrister deeply regretted that the "doctrines of international law should have been wounded and violated by Mr. Seward on the part of the American Cabinet."

In the House of Commons the Hon. Mr. Portman, of Dorsetshire, moved the address, and in the course of it deprecated the existing feeling in the United States. Mr. Western Wood, of London, said that "the redress for the insults to the British flag had not been conceded as promptly as was consistent with the character of this country, and he would add with the character and dignity of the United States." Mr. Bazwell indorsed the action of his Government regarding the Trent affair, and, in conclusion, peremptorily insisted upon the immediate production of all the evidence relating to the inefficiency of the blockade. This demand, also, could not have been made out of motives of mere personal curiosity. Lord Palmerston sustained the Government in its course, and complimented the Cabinet on their "courtesy, consideration, firmness and decision."

Mr. Hatfield endeavored to say a few words in vindication of the course pursued by the United States, but *was hooted down*.

It would appear that Parliament, even if it should not recognize our independence, has no good feeling for the United States.

Honor to a Private Soldier.

[From the Montgomery Advertiser.]

In the Executive office at the Capitol in this city, may be seen the battle flag of a New York regiment, captured in December last by a private in Col. Winston's regiment, accompanied with a recital of the incidents attending its capture. The following correspondence relative to the flag may serve to show that the position of a private soldier is not without honor, and that by personal courage and daring he may win for himself an honorable name in the history of his country. Let no private soldier who reads this letter despair of obtaining honorable mention for meritorious and gallant conduct on the bloody field:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Montgomery, Ala., February 7, 1862.

Mr. A. H. Linebaugh, Hewan, Greene county, Ala.

My Dear Sir.—I have read with feelings of State pride an account of the personal heroism displayed by your son, William H. Linebaugh, a youth of eighteen years of age, and an honored private in the Selma Independent Blues, Eighth Alabama Regiment, in capturing the battle flag of the enemy in a skirmish at New Market Bridge, on the 22d December last.

Information has reached this Department that the flag, after it had been presented by the captor to his commander, Col. John A. Winston, was, by the Colonel, retained as his own personal trophy, and that your son had sent it home to his beloved father. My dear sir, I can well imagine with what satisfaction your eyes gazed upon this captured banner, once the ensign of a great and glorious Union, but now of a despotism hateful to Alabama, and last exciting the contempt of the civilized world, which had been torn down and triumphantly borne away by your intrepid son; but, as the Executive of the State, I beg to notify you that Alabama claims this noble youth as her son; and as the banner was captured by him from the enemy while in her service and in her name, Alabama claims the honor of being made the recipient of this memento of his worth and daring. I have, therefore, respectfully to request that you will surrender the banner to me, that it may be deposited in the State Capitol, with an appropriate recital, illustrative of the gallant act which secured it, to be preserved with other mementoes of a sacred and glorious period in the history of Alabama.

With great respect, I remain, dear sir, of esteem,

JOHN GILL SHORTER.

The Advertiser publishes the reply of Mr. Linebaugh. We regret that we have not space for it. The father yields cheerfully to the request of the Governor.

BITING ON LAWYERS.—A Cincinnati paper, speaking of the Confederate prisoners at Columbus, says:

Since their arrival, their names, rank, residences, regiments, occupation, age, size, color of dress, etc., have been taken down by Col. Campbell. To-day, when Tom Clay, grandson of Henry Clay, was asked for his occupation, a brother officer answered, "a lawyer;" to which young Clay replied, "Lawyer, I—!! I am a gentleman. Put down my occupation as a Southern gentleman."

EVADING THE BLOCKADE.—We understand that a half dozen or more vessels have left Charleston harbor within two weeks past, freighted with cotton. We think it a suspicious circumstance that they escape so easily, and unchallenged by the blockading vessels. The Lincolnites have cotton, and they may let it pass as an more securely to get possession of it at Havana, Nassau, and other convenient points. [Columbia (S. C.) Guardian.

A report is current that Brigadier-General Dan Sickles has been shot by one of his soldiers.

The Great Naval Battle.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

[From the Richmond Whig, March 11.]

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MERRIMAC.—The Day Book of yesterday contains a long and inflated account of the magnificent achievements of the Merrimac or Virginia, from which we condense.

The Virginia made her first assault upon the frigates sailing frigate Cumberland, fitted with the heaviest armament in the Yankee navy. She was "spouted" and sunk in fifteen minutes—most of her officers and crew going down with her.

The Congress, another frigate of equal size, was next taken in hand, and after a most destructive fire, raised a white flag. Some of her officers and crew were taken prisoners—her valuables were removed—and she was burned by our people.

The steam frigates Minnesota and St. Lawrence attempted to come to the aid of their brethren, ran aground, were riddled and rendered worthless.

The Ericsson Battery also suffered serious damage, and, we hope, is rendered unfit for further service.

Several Yankee gunboats were also destroyed.

Our loss was only 7 killed and 17 wounded. That of the enemy from a thousand to fifteen hundred, besides the unknown loss at Newport News.

This is a glorious beginning for a Virginia navy.

We subjoin the conclusion of the Day Book's article:

Early in the morning (Sunday) the Ericsson Battery, now called the Monitor, was discovered off Newport's News Point, she having gone up there during the night. A sharp encounter soon took place between her and the Virginia, during which time they were frequently not more than thirty or forty yards apart. Unfortunately, the Virginia ran aground, and the Ericsson, using her advantage, poured shot after shot into her, but without doing any serious damage. In a short while, however, the Virginia succeeded in getting off, and, putting on full head of steam, ran her bow into the Ericsson, doing, it is thought, great damage.

We are rejoiced to see that, notwithstanding the firing was much heavier than on Saturday, there were no casualties on either of our vessels—not a man being in the least injured by shots from the enemy or otherwise.

Several of the enemy's gunboats being within range, they were favored with a shot or two from the Virginia, with telling effect, and in every case disabling or sinking them. One of these, laying alongside the Minnesota, had a shell thrown into her, which, on bursting, tore her asunder, and sent her to the bottom.

Having completely riddled the Minnesota, and disabled the St. Lawrence and Monitor, besides, as stated above, destroying several of the enemy's gunboats—in a word, having accomplished all that they designed, and having no more material to work upon, our noble vessels left the scene of their triumphs and returned to the yard, where they await another opportunity of displaying their prowess.

The enemy's loss, killed and wounded, during the two days' battle, is exceedingly large, and estimated at from six to twelve hundred. The scene around the Congress is represented as being truly sickening. The officers of the Beaufort, who ran along side of her on Saturday night, and who boarded her for the purpose of removing the wounded aboard of her, and who were brutally fired upon by the enemy, while engaged in this work of mercy (their own kith and kin), represented the deck of the vessel as being literally covered with the dead and dying. One of these assures us that as he went from fore to aft, his shoes were well nigh boiled in blood and brains. Arms, legs and heads were scattered in every direction, while here and there, in large squads of dead, would be found poor deluded wretches, with their breasts torn completely out.

On the crew of the Cumberland, but few survived to tell the tale. As she went down her crew went with her, excepting some few, who were taken as prisoners by us, and a few others, who escaped in row-shoes. Out of the five hundred aboard of her, it is estimated that not over a hundred at most escaped—the remainder either being killed by our shot or drowned as the vessel went down.

Of course, the greater part of those on board the gunboats were also drowned, as there was not sufficient time for them to have made their escape. Added to this, very many in the camps of the enemy at Newport's News were killed by the shells which the Virginia threw among them.

On our side, the loss was indeed small, and when we consider the storm of shell to which, at times, they were subjected, we can but wonder while we rejoice, that so few of them suffered injury.

On the Virginia, there were two killed and eight wounded. Among the wounded, we regret to mention Capt. Buchanan and Lieut. Minor. These wounds, however, we are happy to state, are but slight.

On the Raleigh, Midshipman Hutter was killed, and Captains Taylor and Alexander wounded—the first mentioned quite severely.

On the Beaufort, Gunner W. Robinson and two seamen were wounded. This was all the damage sustained by this vessel among her men. Two Yankee prisoners died and were buried with the balls of their friends, one of them killed and the other severely wounded. The former was standing in the door of the wardrobe at the time the Beaufort was alongside the Congress, and one of the shower of balls sent by the enemy on shore from their Minnesota struck him on the forehead, penetrating his brain, and killing him almost instantly.

On the Teaser, one man was wounded very slightly.

On the Patrick Henry, four men were killed and three wounded. While the loss of the enemy is counted by hundreds—ours, as will be seen from the above, amounts only to seven killed and seventeen wounded.

This loss on our part, so small as it is, was not the work of the enemy's shots from their vessels, but the result, for the most part, of the fire of musketry from the shore.

During the contest, the mainmast of the Raleigh was carried away. The flag staffs of the Virginia were also cut down.

The report that the Congress was fired by the Federals to prevent her falling into our hands, is without a shadow of truth. She was fired by her own officers, by order of Lieut. Pope, in the afternoon, while she had a flag of truce at the time flying, after she had struck her colors and surrendered to us.

Among the prisoners taken off the Congress was the Hon. Sam. Pope, the property of Lewis Drummond, Esq., of this city, who escaped to the enemy some time in October last. He is now safe, having reached his home sooner, and under different circumstances than he anticipated.

On the arrival of the Virginia at the yard, her men were mustered and addressed by the commanding officer in terms of praise for their noble bearing during the engagement. They responded with hearty cheers, and expressed a desire to again reenact the scenes through which they had just passed whenever opportunity presented.

The injury sustained by the Patrick Henry was not as great as at first supposed—being so trifling that a few hours' repairs were sufficient to place her in readiness for action.

The officers of the Virginia are represented as having acted with the utmost courage and bravery during the contest. It is related of Capt. Buchanan that during the hottest of the fight he remained on the deck of the Virginia, and coolly discharged musket after musket at the enemy as they were handed up to him. It was while thus exposed that he received the wound of which mention is made above.

It is said that all of the batteries on Newport News were silenced except one, and that our shot and shell were thrown with such unerring aim and precision among the enemy that great numbers of them were killed and wounded.

The James river steamers arrived at the scene of action, it is said, about one hour after the engagement commenced. They easily passed the Newport News batteries, and, after joining in the fight, rendered very efficient aid.

By this daring exploit we have raised the James river blockade, without foreign assistance, and are likely, with the assistance of the Virginia, to keep open the communication.

Several small prizes were said to have been taken by our gunboats from the Yankees, one of which, the Reindeer, was brought up to the Navy Yard on Saturday night. Two others were said to have been carried over to Pig Point on Saturday.

From the Petersburg Express of the same date we take the following:

THE MERRIMAC FIGHT.—Several gentlemen from Norfolk came up yesterday afternoon who had conversed with parties who witnessed the naval engagement of Saturday and Sunday last in Hampton Roads. From these gentlemen we gather a few particulars not heretofore mentioned. The Captain, First Lieutenant and Surgeon of the Congress were among the killed. We ascertained the name of the Lieutenant only. It was Albert N. Smith, a son of Commodore Joseph Smith, of the Lincoln Navy.

The schooner Reindeer, which was lying at Newport News, and compelled to leave in consequence of the hot fire from the Merrimac, fell into our hands without trouble, and was taken up to Norfolk. The Reindeer had a very remarkable cargo for this latitude, viz: an immense tank of live cod fish. These were doubtless for the Catholic soldiers at Newport News, the being the season of Lent.

Not one of our men was killed by a ball from a cannon, which is somewhat marvellous, when we take into consideration the fact that the Merrimac was struck during the two days' fighting at least one thousand times. All the casualties were caused by Minié balls and escaping steam.

The powers of resistance which the Merrimac offers will be made apparent, when it is stated that the Ericsson carries cannon throwing solid shot of 180 pounds, and conical balls weighing 350 pounds. The Ericsson played upon the iron sides of the Confederate marine monster during much of the engagement, at a distance of only forty yards, and yet failed to penetrate through her iron casing in a single instance. But the Merrimac did seriously damage the Ericsson. The latter's revolving turret was so badly injured that it became inoperative, and one of the Merrimac's balls passed clean through her. She finally attempted the colliding game, which was accepted by the Merrimac, and the Ericsson forced to retire.

It is said that the Minnesota would certainly have been captured Saturday afternoon, but for the treachery of the Lincolnites, who fired upon one of our boats after the white flag had been displayed by them, and thus necessitated a renewal of hostilities against the Congress.

The Congress was the magazine ship of the squadron, and contained several tons of gunpowder, which would have been quite acceptable to the Southern Confederacy at this time, but the beleaguered ship lay too near Newport News for us to secure the ammunition.

Among the prisoners taken on the Congress was a negro fellow who escaped from his owner, Mr. Charles Drummond, of Norfolk, last October. He has been returned to his master, most unexpectedly to both slave and owner.

The Cumberland sunk in about fifty feet of water, and only the tops of the masts are visible. It is thought that she will never be raised.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr. Swan, of Tennessee, brought forward in the House of Representatives, Saturday, a resolution, the propriety of which is attested by the promptings of self-respect as well as policy. He proposes the immediate recall of our Commissioners sent to Great Britain, and the abandonment of all further efforts to conciliate the favor and secure the recognition of that Government. Our only regret is that the adoption of this course has been so long delayed, and that our people have been so long misled and so much humiliated by the fruitless, but persistent dancing attendance of our representatives at the doors of a heartless and supercilious court. It is high time that this farce ended. Insult and injustice are the only return which it has received. Under the pretended neutrality of Great Britain has so operated to confer all its benefits upon our enemies, and all its injuries upon ourselves.

The failure to recognize us as a Government, after we have been such *de facto* more than twelve months, is a most unjust concession of the rightfulness of the attempt to subjugate us, and is a violation of the law of nations, and the great principles of public equity. The acknowledgment of an illegal blockade, in direct and gross disregard of the treaty of Paris, has rendered it easy for our enemies to bring the most powerful enginery of war to bear upon us, just when we are weakest and most assailable. Not only that, but it has cut us off from all opportunity of obtaining arms and ammunition from abroad, while it has left the enemy free to procure all that were needed. It is intolerable that we should longer make suit in such a penile. We hope, therefore, that the resolution of Mr. Swan may be promptly adopted and acted upon, and that other Commissioners will be sent to France, with full powers to negotiate such commercial arrangements with that country as will give it the monopoly, at least for a series of years, of the vast and priceless trade of the Confederate States. [Richmond Whig.

THE NAVAL DEEDS OFF NORFOLK.—The grim Northern monster "Ericsson," which has come in conflict with the Southern leviathan "Virginia," is a hard subject to whip, and the fight between them is very pretty demonstration of the real problem of an irresistible force coming in contact with an immovable body. We don't see how either can whip the other, and it would be a sight for a lifetime to witness these two nondescript monsters of the deep blazing and butting away at each other. The "Ericsson" is the product of eccentric genius. When she goes into action the only thing exposed to the fire of an enemy is a circular iron tower, about ten feet high and twenty in diameter. This tower, made of nine inches thickness of rolled iron, revolves so as to bring the guns to bear. In it is the whole armament of the artificial monster, two enormous guns, which are discharged through circular port holes just large enough for the muzzle of the gun. The main body of the vessel on which this tower stands is submerged, so that the chances of damaging the concern, built entirely of iron, as it is, are very small. It is conceived by some that the telegraphic report that the "Ericsson" is a ram is a mistake error. We do not remember to have seen any statement that she was fitted with a beak attachment. If the "Virginia" destroys this strange and formidable contrivance, the eclat of the feat will ring over the world more loudly than any trump yet sounded by the war in America.

Indeed, the "Virginia" has already covered herself with glory by her doughty achievements in destroying three frigates, and doing no one knows how much other destructive work. Her last victim, the "Minnesota," is one of her old consorts when she was the "Merrimac," being a splendid steam frigate of the first-class, rated for forty-four guns. [Mobile Advertiser.

The Shreveport Southwestern makes the following excellent suggestions:

Most of our planters, with whom we have conversed, state that they intend to plant only one-third of their land in cotton. This we consider wise and prudent. Many persons are now turning their attention to the raising of hogs. This is perfectly right, but it will require a much larger supply of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, turnips, etc. Corn-fed hogs are almost worthless. To make good bacon, the hogs must be put into pens and fed on corn and peas for from six to nine weeks—then smoke well with corn-cob and hickory nubs. Let this be done, and we will make as good bacon as ever came from Smithfield or Westphalia.

Sweet potatoes are very prolific, and is excellent food for man and stock. Cornfield peas are even more nutritious. Large quantities of both should be planted. Spring oats should be sown without sloth. In fact, every exertion should be used to raise plenty of eatables, as many of our cultivators of the soil are absent in the wars, and there is no telling how long they will be absent, and if they are to do the fighting, most assuredly we ought to feed them well.

COMMANDING GENERAL.—A law has been passed by Congress creating the office of Commanding General of the armies of the Confederate States, and authorizing the President to call whatever officer he may choose to the discharge of its duties. The Commanding General, under the direction of the President, is to order the movements of our armies, to have charge of the discipline of the troops, the distribution of supplies, etc., and may, when he thinks proper, take command of the field. His usual headquarters are to be at the seat of Government, and he will fill the post at the will of the President. His pay is to be $260 a month, without allowances, and he is to have a military secretary, with the rank and pay of Colonel of cavalry, four aides-de-camp, with the rank and pay of Major, and four clerks, with the salaries of $1200. It is supposed the appointment will be made without delay. [Richmond Whig, 8th.

A new light brass cannon has been adopted by a Richmond infantry company. It shoots with great force, and accurately, too, it is said, over a mile. It weighs one hundred and seventy-five pounds. It has been tried with twenty, forty and sixty musket balls, and with the latter charge scattered thirty-seven feet. It is so light and so easily drawn that five boys can advance or retreat with it, as fast as infantry at double quick.

We have reason to believe that the plan on which the Virginia has been constructed originated in this city, with one of our ingenious workmen. Our workmen are still ready to devise and to work, and the times demand that they should be permitted to work. [Charleston Courier.

On the contrary, we thought it was generally admitted that the hint was taken from our "Turtle" here, on the model of which the Virginia was fixed up, and which is a Virginia on a smaller scale. We understand the blockaders at the Balize are in constant dread of our old Turtle.

THE WAY THE YANKEES WERE FOOLED ABOUT THE MERRIMAC.—The Lynchburg Virginian of the 10th says: "The Merrimac, now Virginia, which has been filling out at Norfolk, for many months past, made a glorious experiment on Saturday, as will be seen by our telegram. We may state now, what has been known to us for weeks, that the articles in the papers were written at headquarters in Norfolk, and designed to deceive the enemy, which they did effectually."

The New York Herald says that the Daily News of that city, on account some time ago for exposing the war, is about to be revived.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

DISPATCHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

From Memphis.

MEMPHIS, March 16.—The river is still rising slowly at this point. Our forces at New Madrid were compelled to evacuate in haste, leaving twenty guns spiked, their tents, baggage and some pickets. Our loss in provisions has not been ascertained. The retreating forces were divided, some going to Tiptonville, five miles below, and the rest to Island No. 10. The enemy are said to be planting a battery below Tiptonville. It is rumored that Island No. 10 is to be stubbornly defended.

[Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

FORT PIKE, March 16.—The body of Mr. Sullivan was found near Fort Macomb to-day and interred. Some papers and money were found on the body, and are now at the fort.

The body of a young man was found near Fort Pike this morning and interred. On his finger was a ring, with the letters L. G. or H. G. on it.

This afternoon the steamer Grey Cloud picked up the body of a young man on Lake Pontchartrain, and left it at Fort Pike.

Capt. Stevens, of the Grey Cloud, will bring up the ring of the former, and a button from the body of the latter.

Local Intelligence.

A TROPHY.—We have received from Tennessee a Minié rifle musket, captured last Sunday, the 9th, in a skirmish which occurred some eight miles from Nashville. A party of forty men of Scott's Regiment, commanded by Capt. Scott, started from their encampment at 4 o'clock in the morning, and in an hour's time came upon a body of the enemy encamped in a field. As the field was enclosed with a stone fence, our men dismounted, and leaving their horses in charge of a squad of fifteen men, climbed the fence and advanced on foot. The enemy were just calling the roll, and at the first rifle shot were seized with a panic. They were a hundred and forty in number, as was ascertained from the number of their tents, and the roll or some other document found, yet fled in the wildest dismay from twenty-five of our men.

We are informed by a participant in the conflict that the officers were the first to fly, seizing the wagon horses and appropriating them without ceremony. Only two or three men made a stand, and they were all killed. One of them, however, killed two of our men first. He took a stand behind a beech tree and fired twice as our party advanced, killing a man with each shot. He then attempted to escape, but was shot through the head and instantly killed. It is his musket which we have received as mentioned above, and with which, we hope, if occasion offers, good execution will yet be done in the ranks of the enemy, in retaliation for the fatal accuracy with which it was used on our brave men. Some thirty other rifles were captured, but owing to the urgency of the occasion were burned.

In the meantime, sixteen of the enemy were overtaken with the swift leaden messenger, and counted dead on the field. Many more, of course, were wounded, and some of them most have subsequently died, as the Nashville papers reported the loss of nineteen. The rest escaped to a body of troops two miles off, several thousand strong, and returned with supports enough to carry off their killed. They did not attack our men, however.

Accompanying the musket is the cartridge box, pretty well filled yet with exterminators. There is also a haversack, marked with the name—almost illegible—of a Lieutenant in the First Wisconsin Regiment. Of course it was not taken from the proprietor of the musket, but was sent as belonging to perhaps the only officer killed on the occasion.

THESPIAN.—Next Thursday evening, at the Academy of Music, a novel enterprise is to be essayed. We refer to the first appearance of our Thespian Association, formed by the boys and girls of the public schools, both high schools and primary. This idea is intended, to some extent, as a means of improvement in elocution and ease of manner in public, but especially as a means of raising funds for the Free Market.

The public need not suppose that it is to be a puerile, childish concern, without any artistic arrangement or ability. The fact that Mr. W. B. Chippendale, so well known in the New Orleans theatrical world, has charge of the undertaking is enough to guarantee its merit, in an artistic point of view.

Mr. Chippendale, now Lieutenant in the Sumter Regiment, is in the city, on a furlough, for the express purpose of bringing out the first performance. The bill, we hear, offers "Don Cæsar de Bazan," and "Grandfather Whitehead." We anticipate for them a fine audience and a brilliant success.

VOLUNTEERS GONE.—On Saturday last, two of our finest volunteer companies started for the scene of hostilities. Capt. Guy Drenx's cavalry company, from Jefferson Parish, left on the Golden Age, about 70 or 75 strong. Let them follow their leaders, and they will be apt to make some whirlwind charges.

The Orleans Guard Battery, Capt. Ducatel, were escorted to the Jackson Railroad depot by a company of the Orleans Guard and a large concourse of friends. They carried along their guns, but will have to stop several days at some point on their route for the purpose of training their horses. They will be followed, perhaps to-day, by four companies of the Orleans Guard Battalion, Major Queyrouze commanding.

BADLY CRUSHED.—Yesterday a German, a member of the Gulf Guards, stationed at Camp Chalmette, was badly injured, in consequence of falling off one of the platforms of the 1 o'clock excursion train of the Mexican Gulf Railroad, as it was on its way out from the city. He was sitting balanced on the rail of the platform, and a sudden jar threw him from his position in such a manner that all of his person escaped the wheels except the right ankle. That was completely severed, except a small portion of the tendon. The train was immediately stopped, and the unfortunate man picked up. A surgeon was on the train, who bandaged the limb very tightly above the wound, to stop the bleeding, and rendered every other assistance in his power. The sufferer was left on the side of the road, in charge of two men, until the train returned, when he was placed on board and brought back to the city. The train stopped to put him out two or three squares before reaching the depot, in front of his own residence, where his wife was sitting at the door, little expecting his return in that condition.

COURTS MARTIAL, ETC.—Some interesting information relative to courts martial, courts of inquiry and of assessment, will be found published to-day in an order of Gen. Lewis. These courts can be ordered by the Governor only, as Commander-in-Chief, though the members are appointed by the chief of the respective corps. All charges, also, tending to induce a court martial must, together with the specifications, be made in writing and transmitted to the Governor.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.—Arsene Kline, an employé of the Bee office, was accidentally killed on Saturday by falling from the second story through an open hatchway. At the time, he was engaged with others in raising some heavy articles by a pulley, when some of the machinery gave way, and he was precipitated to the lower story, being instantly killed.

FIRES.—About 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon last, a fire broke out in the building No. 91 Gravie Street, occupied by the firm of M. B. Brady & Co. It was immediately extinguished, however, with but slight damage.

Soon after, another fire was discovered in the two-story frame house at the corner of Clio and St. Charles streets, which was also promptly extinguished by the energy of our fire department. The damage, we hear, was slight there also.

INCENDIARY LANGUAGE.—A man named George Leopold has been arrested on the charge of using incendiary language. He didn't want to do militia duty; would rather fight for Lincoln than against him, etc. George is not the only one who talks strangely in this city, and is far from being the only one who acts strangely. All loyal men should come forward now and do their duty cheerfully, without waiting to be looked up.

WOUNDING WITH INTENT TO KILL.—Benjamin Brown has been arrested in the First District, charged with having assaulted and wounded Jno. Petrouski, with intent to kill.

FUGITIVE ARRESTED.—Herman Schoeppman has been arrested as a fugitive from justice, charged with having dangerously wounded one T. A. Scheelcke in Carrollton.

LETTERS to the following addresses, from our absent volunteers, may be had by parties applying in person or by written order, at this office, and if not called for within a week will be forwarded to the dead letter office, Richmond, Va.: O. E. Blaudio, Richard Britton, John Condon, Miss Maria Conklin, W. Cressy, J. A. Dompf, John F. Eagan, "E. M.," Miss Mary Gaven (2), Miss Lizzie Hooper, Miss Rachel Hertz, Chas. J. Hagood, Mrs. L. A. Hone, Mrs. Anna Higgins, John Holden (2), John F. Kearny, Patrick Keegant (2), Moses Tott, Mrs. Frank Mead (2), Mrs. E. D. Metz, Lieut. Geo. B. Mehan, Mrs. E. D. Metz, Mrs. Miller, Joseph Peirce, John W. Peyton, D. Rosenberg (3), John Sheckler, Mrs. Lena Schafer, Miss Ellen Tobin, Laurence Tisa, J. J. Tarneyham.

How the Confederates are Getting On.

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE REGIMENT, Camp Carolina, Meserie Ridge, March 15, 1862.

Ed. Crescent.—The incidents, inconveniencies and accidents of a camp-life are well known to those who have been inured to the service, and in the imagination of those who have read about it in books, but I can assure you this regiment, in its short experience, has already seen the elephant in its largest proportions.

When we left the city, on the 11th, clouds overcast the sky, and we expected to be drenched before we reached our destination, but fortune favored us, and we arrived all dry and sound. Tents were immediately pitched; and, in the course of one hour, the green turf was dotted with a city of white tents, and everything made comfortable; and it was well that such alacrity was displayed, for before dark down came a soaking rain, our first introduction to camp-life.

As so many unjust and acrimonious remarks have been made about this noble and patriotic body of men, I wish, as a pure matter of justice, and without any desire to see one word of flattery, to say that I am satisfied there is no event in the annals of our history which will be stronger marked than the alacrity and patriotism with which they have responded to the call of the commanding General; and if you could have seen the cheerfulness which actuated every one, from privates to the highest officer, in the discharge of the strict duties of the camp, any insinuation against their zeal and willingness, for any duty, would have been quickly dispelled—old men and boys, with one accord, putting their shoulders to the wheel, performing the most menial services with smiling faces and willing hearts.

Nothing occurred to interrupt the quiet of the camp until about the middle watch of the second night, when we were aroused by a terrific bellowing, and the call from the corporal of the guard, asking assistance to rep