The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & CO.

Office....Corner of Texas and Market Streets,

IN WATSON'S BUILDING—UPSTAIRS.

SHREVEPORT:

WEDNESDAY.....MARCH 5, 1862.

The river opposite this point is rising slowly. Since our last, the Countess, Col. Terry, Ela No. 5, and Texas, from New Orleans, have arrived.

THE WEATHER.—Since our last the weather has shown as much fickleness as a young lass of "sweet fifteen." Thursday, Friday and Saturday, were days of lovely spring and summer. During the revelries of Saturday night, the wind suddenly blew very hard from the north-west; the maidens deserted the amusements of the dance, and buried their faces in mamma's bosoms. Their places were quickly filled by old hags and scolds, who vented peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning. Sunday was windy and cold, with a small bastinading of round snow. Monday morning presented our ponds completely covered over with ice! Who would have thought it the Saturday previous?

Monday and Tuesday proved clear and windy, the dust flying as if all the wind-mills of the universe were in full blast scattering dust for powder.

PRESIDENT DAVIS' INAUGURAL.—This document will be found in another part of to-day's paper.

CADDO GUARDS—Capt. Robson's company—The Caddo Guards, numbering upwards of 100 fine able bodied men, assembled yesterday for the purpose of electing officers. The following was the result:

Wm. Robson, captain, (by acclamation.)
S. C. Head, 1st lieutenant, (by acclamation.)
H. S. Howell, 2nd lieutenant.
R. B. Smith, 3rd lieutenant.

The company will leave on Friday next for New Orleans. They will do good service.

CADDO FENCIBLES.—We received a few days ago, a letter from Capt. R. H. Lindsey, dated the 17th ult., at Corinth, Mississippi. It certainly was a long time in reaching us. Captain Lindsey says: "The 16th regiment arrived here safely—the Caddo Fencibles all well. The 19th regiment, two miles from this place, had all their ammunition and the garrison and camp equipage of the Marshall Guards burnt up. We will camp here, awaiting orders."

TO MAIL CONTRACTORS.—Persons wishing to bid for conveying the mail in Texas, Arkansas or Louisiana, can, by calling on our postmaster, see all the various routes for which proposals will be received at the general postoffice department, Richmond, Virginia, until the 17th of May next.

Late Havana papers state Gen. Santa Anna was expected at that port by the next steamer from St. Thomas, and would immediately sail for Mexico.

TO TAX PAYERS.—Our sheriff, I. W. Pickens, Esq., has kindly handed us for publication, the letter below from the auditor. The people have not the money, and cannot meet this additional burthen. We have always boasted of being good law-abiding citizens, but on this occasion most "secede," and recommend our tax-payers to hold a public meeting at the court-house and resolve not to pay this onerous extra tax until the "blockade is raised." To illustrate the "tightness" of the times, it is only necessary to relate one circumstance: A few weeks since we forwarded our account to a subscriber for four year's subscription. He wrote word back that money was out of the question, but that he had 131 bales of cotton under sheds—he had oxen, cows and calves, etc.—any of these were at our service. We returned for answer, that his paper should be regularly forwarded to him.

"AUDITOR'S OFFICE, BATON ROUGE, Feb. 10, 1862.

To I. W. Pickens, Esq., sheriff and tax collector in and for the parish of Caddo.

"SIR:—In accordance with section 8th, of the act entitled "an act to raise money for the State treasury," approved 23rd January, 1862, and for the purpose of paying the current interest on the bonds issued under said act, maturing in 1863, you are hereby notified that a tax of one-tenth of one per cent. on the assessed valuation of taxable property in the State for the year 1861, has been levied under said act, to be collected in the same manner as is now or may be hereafter provided by law for the collection of other taxes. You will, therefore, proceed at once to levy said tax on the total amount of taxable property, according to the assessment rolls of your parish for the year 1861, which will give $7,582 10, for which you will please furnish bond under existing laws. In making returns to this office, you will designate the same as the "war tax."

Very respectfully, H. PERALTA, auditor.

The Rockingham (Va.) Register says, the accounts from Manassas represent everything as fast stuck in the mud. Some one from there says he saw in the space of a day, five horses shot, it being impossible to extricate them from the mud into which they had sunk. There were no incidents of interest on our lines beyond the report (adopted of fifteen members of Capt. Williams' Virginia cavalry, who were on picket duty in the vicinity of Dranesville.

The Abingdon Virginian says that the yankee cavalry, which had been, as we thought, run out of the Sandy valley by Gen. Marshall's forces, made an advance up Sandy river, again lately, and succeeded in holding possession of Prestonburg and Pikeville.—Several of our citizens of Prestonburg, hearing of the approach of the enemy, escaped to Pikeville, but ere they had been there a day, they discovered that the town was surrounded by Marshall's forces, who had come by the way of John's creek, and they were compelled to surrender themselves as prisoners of war.

The Houston (Texas) papers say there is great complaint throughout the State because of the non-payment of debts contracted by government agents, which latter excuse themselves on the ground that the necessary funds have not been forwarded from Richmond.

The Wilmington (N.C.) Journal says, there is a report that after the bombardment of Beaufort City and the firing of the town, the federal troops landed with fire engines, extinguished the flames and occupied the best dwellings in the place as hospitals for their own sick and wounded.

President Jeff. Davis states that the whole expense of the Confederate government for the first year, amounted to the round sum of $170,000,000. That's nothing for property holders to pay.

At the late term of the Confederate States district court, held at Tyler, Texas, a decree was entered for the sequestration of a tract of 40,000 acres, valued at $150,000.

LAUDABLE.—We perceive by our exchanges that a planter in Mississippi proposes, if one hundred others will unite with him, to fit out a company, and give each man one bale of cotton per month. Another proposes that each slave-holder shall give to support the war, one negro out of every ten he owns. A third proposes that all office-holders shall give one-half of their salaries to support the Confederate government. Are our friends ready to respond?

A Washington dispatch says there are not ten republican members of the house who are prepared to advocate the immediate and unconditional emancipation of slaves, and the administration programme of preserving the Union and constitution, and enforcement of the laws, is said to be omnipotent in the house.

Louis Napoleon regrets our civil war, but intimates that it is the duty of France to remain neutral.

The emperor of Russia says, speaking of our present distracted state of affairs, "now, the two nations, in addition to all former ties, were bound by a common sympathy in the common cause of emancipation."

The Hon. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, it is said, declines to serve as senator in the Confederate congress.

The Vicksburg Whig of the 27th ult., says the telegraph this morning announces that all the steamboats at Memphis have been ordered to Columbus, but for what purpose is not stated. We fear the object is to prepare to fall back from Columbus to Island No. 10, forty-five miles further down the river. We do not say that Columbus is being evacuated now, but from the present light before us, it will be done soon, unless heavy reinforcements are sent there; and the boats now ordered to that point may be called upon to be in readiness at any time.

A committee had been appointed in Vicksburg to prevent the destruction of private property.

Reports reached Shreveport on Monday night that Columbus had been evacuated.

A Candid Statement of Facts.

No one who has read the Natchitoches Chronicle for the last ten years, can doubt for a moment the attachment of that paper to the democratic cause, or its devotion to secession. Colonel Levy, the editor and proprietor, is at the head of a regiment in the battle-field, thereby manfully showing that he was unwilling, like many others, to "shirk" it, after having contributed to bring about the present state of affairs. His pro tem. editor, whoever he may be, wields an able pen, and displays more real military talent and foresight than any other writer in Louisiana. He says:

"We know very well that men remote from the scenes of war, and whose education has never been of a military character in the least degree, cannot, without presumption, arraign the conduct of those whose lives have been devoted to such matters, and whose presence on the field of action, makes them better judges of what they have to do and what is necessary to do it with.

"But while conceding the truth of this, as an abstract proposition, yet we do not altogether decline to accept the opinion of civilians, who are men of good sense, on the subject, merely because they are civilians and have not had the advantage of a personal contact with the facts they are called on to grapple with.

"There are two facts which have been prominently presented to the public, by the press, as an exponent of public opinion, the truth of which every day's experience establishes, and this popular opinion does not appear to be the less worthy of notice, simply because it does not appear to have received such consideration from our military men as to induce them to adopt it. These two facts are our acknowledged inferiority in number of troops for land service and our deficiency of boats for river service. They, who are at the head of affairs, seem to have resolved to see with how small means they could beat back the advancing foe; to rely on that disparity of force which has so often successfully carried us through the encounters of last year—to trust to a protecting Providence to avert the natural consequences of insufficient forces; to believe that the superior fighting qualities of our men on all occasions and at all times, made them equal to three or four times the number of their foes. The experience and changed fortune of the battles of this year go very far to prove that all these ideas are delusions, weak supports and threaten to bring about future catastrophes which the successes of last year cannot compensate. The sense of the whole community is that we have not sufficient men in the field, and have no means whatever to repel the fleets of the enemy, notwithstanding our government has not thought proper to call a single additional regiment to the field or build a single gunboat for service. This may be said to be an exaggeration of fact, and so it is perhaps literally speaking, but still is substantially true and is a justifiable statement. We do not know of any call for more troops made by the general government nor of one boat they have built, from the keel, for home service. The only navy they have, was or is the remnant and charred remains of the federal ships at Portsmouth, if we except the Nashville and Sumter in foreign waters. The few gunboats that have so far been supplied, we believe, have been put in commission by the State authorities, within whose waters they were intended to do service. Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas have each recently, very recently, called for State levies, to resist immediate aggression within their own limits.—But there has been no general call, no spontaneous demand by the government or by State common accord for an increase of the whole army. All the efforts in this way are casual, partial and disconnected. Our opinion and the opinion of most of our citizens, who have been forced to form one from apprehensions created by recent events, are, that our whole army, in every quarter, must be largely increased, to avoid being cut up in detail. We all wonder why our officers in command should so persistently withhold their orders on this subject. Unless this policy is immediately and promptly changed, we do not believe it will be possible for us to succeed in our revolution."

"We firmly believe the enemy's fleet can easily pass all obstructions placed at Columbus, with the river at high flood. Then all the Missisippi coast, from that point down to the defences at New Orleans, and all its tributaries, including our own river, can be visited and ravaged without obstruction or stint. This is not half so unlikely to happen, as was the late incursion up the Tennessee as far as Florence. We venture to say, that he, who would have foretold the enemy's boats traversing the entire breadth of that State, and penetrating to the northern part of Alabama, as has actually been done, would have more readily incurred the odium of being a false prophet, than he, who now, especially with the light of this new experiment, should decide it as possible or probable that the enemy would be able to repeat the experiment in our own waters. Yet such is our conviction of the strength and capacity to resist of the gunboats, and the insufficiency of all other means to resist them other than boats of corresponding strength and capacity of resistance, that we do not hesitate to express our belief that the enemy will pass his boats beyond the batteries of Columbus, with an ease and exemption from injury, that will surprise those who place any reliance in the invincibility of the defences at that point. That the enemy will enjoy the advantages of penetrating with their heavily armed boats, below the defences at Columbus, must be conceded by every reasonable man. The fact thus admitted, the next question growing out of this fact is, what good will it do them? Another fact we must take as admitted, which none will deny, and that is, that the country below, as far as the defences above New Orleans is entirely defenceless. Will the enemy take advantage of these two facts in their favor? Will they possess potent, irresistible means of attack and offence, and an uninterrupted chance of using those means and still not use them? Who is fool enough to believe it? They will capture every boat of commerce and give protection to all fugitives that come within their reach. Baton Rouge, with its old arsenal and with our State-house, will fall with the rest. How will this be done? The fleet of the enemy might be entirely employed or partially so, say partially to the extent of half their force, which would be, say, twenty armed formidable vessels, to sweep the river. If two boats could reach Florence, twenty can clean out the lower Mississippi. Can this be done without the support of a large force? Yes, for the boats contain within themselves, all the elements of offence and support, that may be necessary to lay waste and desolate the coast within the range of their guns. A gunboat on a river is like an armed vessel on the sea coast with the same capacity of injury. In the pursuit of our inquiry, we may reasonably go a step further and believe the enemy can, not only temporarily take possession of the river coasts, but hold them for an indefinite period. We are not possessed of a military knowledge to demonstrate how this could be done, but we give our opinion for what it is worth, in this wise."

"If an army could march to fight the battle of Belmont, opposite Columbus, a larger army might pursue the same road to reach a point below Columbus. What is in the way to stop them? Not a battery or army that we know of. Reaching a point below the Columbus batteries, they are joined by the gunboats, which, we assume, can make the descent. They thus have a communication land-ward supporting the operations of the fleet to operate lower down and as far down as they please up to New Orleans. But, we may be asked, how does this force keep up its own communications with Cairo, its base of operations? We reply, if necessary by holding the road with a further large army. Can it be suggested that this will require more men than the north can furnish? When was it known that they wanted men and did not find them in any number. The boats of commerce plying on the lower Mississippi would be captured and used by the enemy as transports ready to their hands and in the right place where they wanted them. Thus, they could refurnish their fleet on any part of the river below and carry men to hold the places they choose to occupy. This plan appears reasonable to us, and based on military rules as far as we understand the necessity of adopting rules in the management of the war."

"The conclusion of all we have said amounts to this: first, that the Columbus batteries present no certain obstacle to the passage of the gunboats; secondly, that the boats have the full capacity to destroy every place and thing below the batteries by a temporary occupation, or by an indefinite occupation, as they see proper. Our own coast may be the object of a visitation. Those gentlemen who rely on sharp-shooters on the banks to repel such an invasion, had better ask themselves why such a course has not been resorted to in other similar cases.

The Capture of Roanoke Island.

THE ENEMY'S ACCOUNT.

The following dispatches were sent from fortress Monroe, on the 13th ult., to the associated press of Lincoldom:

The gunboat Stars and Stripes arrived at noon, from Gen. Burnside, with a bearer of dispatches for the government. He reports the rout of the rebels complete, three thousand prisoners captured, and all their gunboats burnt or captured except two, which escaped up a canal. The federal loss was 42 killed, and wounded about 140. The rebel killed was about 20, and their wounded less than 100. The advance from Hatteras took place on Wednesday morning. The expedition consisted of about sixty vessels. The fleet anchored off Stumpy point on the same night, and on the next day proceeded to the entrance of Croton sound. After a reconnoissance, the attack was commenced on Friday morning, the Underwriter leading the column. The rebel fleet was attacked and dispersed in half an hour by a portion of the navy, while the remainder attacked the land batteries. The fight continued until dark.

During the night 10,000 men were landed, and on Saturday morning 7000 were advanced. A masked battery of three guns was soon discovered by the skirmishers and was attacked in front and on both flanks. The fight lasted only two or three hours, when the battery was abandoned. Our troops pursued, and surrounding the rebel camps, took nearly the whole command prisoners. O. Jennings Wise was wounded, and was shot twice while endeavoring to escape in a boat. Col. Russell, of the 10th Connecticut, was killed at the head of his regiment. Lieut.-Col. Vigier de Montil, of the D'Epineuil Zouaves, whose services were voluntarily rendered, was also killed. No other officers were killed above the rank of lieutenant.

Our total loss of killed and wounded is less than 200, and the number killed is less than 50. We took between 2000 and 3000 prisoners. They were about being sent to New York by the steamer Spaulding and other steamers. Among them are about fifteen colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors.

On Sunday afternoon a fleet of fifteen gunboats started for Elizabeth city. The place was shelled and having been evacuated and partially burned by the troops, was occupied. All the rebel fleet was sunk or burnt except two, the Roanoke and Beaufort, which escaped up the canal.

Elizabeth City was about half burnt by the rebel soldiers. The people sent a deputation to Com. Goldsborough, asking him to send a force to assist in extinguishing the flames.

Edenton was taken possession of on Wednesday by Col. Goldsborough. No opposition was made.

The following is the official report of the federal naval commander:

OFF ROANOKE ISLAND, Feb. 9.—Roanoke island is ours. The military authorities struck to us yesterday. Their means of defense were formidable, and they were used with the determination worthy of a better cause. They consisted of two elaborately constructed works, mounting together twenty-two heavy guns, three of them being 100-pounders, rifled; four other batteries, mounting together twenty guns, a large portion of them being of large calibre, and some of them rifled; eight steamers, mounting two guns each, and each having a rifled gun with a diameter of a 32-pounder; a prolonged obstruction of sunken vessels and piles, to thwart our advance; and altogether a body of men scarcely numbering less than 5,000, of whom 3,000 are now prisoners.

The fighting commenced on the morning of the 7th inst., at 11 o'clock, and was continued until dark. The following morning it was resumed at an early hour, and it lasted until late in the afternoon, when, by a bold charge by our army, the rebel flag was made to succumb and our own was hoisted everywhere on the island in its place. No attack could have been more completely executed, and it was carried out precisely in accordance with the arrangements made before the expedition left Cape Hatteras inlet. J. M. GOLDSBOROUGH, flag officer.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Just as I closed my dispatch of yesterday, I received reliable information that the rebel steamers which escaped had gone to Elizabeth City, and thereupon I immediately ordered Com'r J. C. Rowan to take thirteen of our steamers under his command and go in pursuit of them, and also, if practicable, to execute another service, namely, the destruction of the North river, a link of the Albermarle and Chesapeake canal. The way he has already accomplished the first part of it, his own preliminary report, a copy of which I herewith inclose, will inform you. I am, &c., J. M. GOLDSBOROUGH.

U. S. STEAMER DELAWARE,
Off Elizabeth City, Feb. 10.

Sir—I have to report that I met the enemy off this place at 9 o'clock, and after a very sharp engagement I have succeeded in destroying or capturing his entire naval force, and silencing and destroying his battery off Coff's point. The only vessel saved from destruction is the Ellis, Capt. J. M. Cook, who was wounded and is a prisoner on board this ship. I have other prisoners, and am happy to say that our casualties are few considering the warmth of the enemy's fire, say two or three killed and some wounded.

The conduct of the gallant men I have the honor to command is worthy of all praise.

None of our vessels are severely injured.

I shall leave here a small force to visit the canals, and take a look into other places before I return. I have the honor, &c., J. C. ROWAN, U. S. N.

THE CAPITULATION OF FORT DONELSON.—Late Saturday night the intelligence was received that the enemy had received large reinforcements, and would renew the attack next day in numbers five to one. A council of war was immediately held by Gens Pillow, Buckner and Floyd, and it was determined that they should surrender, as our troops were wearied and worn out for want of sleep and rest, and the labors of the four previous days.

Accordingly, Sunday morning, the 16th inst., at 5 o'clock A. M., Gen. Pillow and staff crossed the river and proceeded up to Clarksville on horseback. Soon after Gen. Floyd and 800 of his brigade took the steamer Anderson and went up the same point, leaving Gen. Buckner behind to make the surrender.

On Sunday the mere resemblance of resistance was made by the forces at the fort, a few guns were fired and the capitulation made, nearly the whole army, some 12,000 strong, falling into the enemy's hands. Gen. Buckner and Gen. Heiman, with a portion of their own, Floyd's and Pillow's brigades are among the prisoners.

It was reported at Nashville that 2000 of Gen. Buckner's command, being unwilling to surrender, had cut their way through the enemy's lines and escaped. This however is a mere rumor.

Col. Forrest's command escaped with a loss of about 50 men, and when last heard of were ten miles below Clarksville.

The battle of the 16th was the bloodiest and most terrific of the war.

Our loss is estimated by Maj. Haynes to be 500 killed and 1500 wounded—1100 having been brought from the field. The enemy's at 1500 killed, and about 4000 wounded.

Gen. Floyd was commander in chief of the Confederate forces, Gens. Grant, McClernand, and Wallace commanding the federals.

The Bee exhibits some interesting results from a tabular statement prepared by a correspondent of the Crescent, showing the volunteer companies now in active service from the several parishes of this State. According to this statement, the contributions of volunteers from the several parishes have been very unequal. "In some instances," observes the Bee, "the devotion of the people has been extraordinary."

For example, Caddo has enrolled eleven companies; Carroll, six companies; East Baton Rouge, seven companies; Madison, four companies; New Orleans, one hundred and thirty-seven companies; West Baton Rouge, two companies. In proportion to the population of these parishes, the numbers enlisted offer most gratifying evidence of the public spirit, patriotism and courage of the citizens. In other respects we are grieved at the necessity of acknowledging the existence of an apathy and indifference which are truly surprising. The large parish of Jefferson, adjoining our city, is said not to have sent a single company to the war—a statement which almost seems incredible, knowing, as we do, the respectability, intelligence and patriotism of many of its inhabitants, who being in immediate connection with New Orleans can hardly have escaped the enthusiasm and ardor manifested by her. We are inclined to the opinion that Jefferson has really sent a tolerable contingent of volunteers, but that they have been confounded with those of New Orleans in consequence of the two parishes. The parishes of Calcasieu, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany and Vermillion have not contributed a single company to the service. Jefferson can poll a thousand votes; Calcasieu from four to five hundred; St. Bernard three hundred; St. Charles two hundred; St. John the Baptist two hundred and fifty to three hundred; St. Tammany five hundred, and Vermillion two hundred and fifty. It is undeniable, observes the writer, that there is not a single parish in the State but what has a white population sufficiently large to allow it with all ease to furnish at least one volunteer company of eighty or more men; yet no less than seven parishes have no contributions whatever to the volunteer force of the State; and no less than five of those parishes have more white inhabitants than West Baton Rouge and Concordia, which have each furnished two companies, and Tensas and Madison with respectively three and four companies. Then again the large and populous parishes of Assumption, St. Martin and Terrebonne have given each but a single company, when near half a dozen apiece can well become their number, and Lafourche and Ascension, with but two companies each, Lafayette and Plaquemine, with one each, Avoyelles with three, and several additional parishes, all leggards in the volunteer cause, should by all means contribute much more than they have done; and in fine St. Landry, the second largest parish in the State, with twice the voting population of East Baton Rouge, should not stop short of a regiment and a half.

Upon the force of these facts the Bee concurs with the Crescent's correspondent in holding that the proper method of securing the additional force required for the Confederate service is to apportion the five and a half regiments called for among the different parishes, in such away as to compel the delinquent to contribute. To do this it would be necessary for the governor to resort to draft.

It is believed in St. Louis that Gen. Siegel was killed in the recent engagement near Springfield.

Fireside Braves and Croakers.

As a faithful chronicler of events passing around us, we feel called upon to notice a certain class of persons in the south who should justly be styled fire-side or petticoat braves. Indeed, it is to be regretted that the country should be deprived of their valuable services, since they possess singular capacities, which would forever immortalise their names on the field or in the cabinet. Had they command of the ship of State, they would, to judge from their criticisms on this and that general, with their brilliant genuiness, put to rout the whole federal army, and end the war by subjugating the north in less than no time. They would prevent the federal triumphs and have no more Confederate defeats or retreats. So superior is their sagacity that they could see the precise spot on our four or five thousand miles of sea-coast where the enemy intended to strike, and by some pre-ordained faculty would, in a few hours, send fifty thousand men from a point where there was but ten thousand, and strike the enemy a blow that would make him reel and stagger like a drunkard. And by the same wondrous dexterity they could hold fort Donelson, Bowling Green and Nashville, and under no combination of circumstances would they surrender a fort as Donelson was surrendered. They never think for a moment that Johnston, Beauregard, or any other accomplished soldier, is incapable of performing impossibilities—that nothing of the kind was expected of them, and that Manassas or Gibraltar itself could not have been successfully sustained unless adequately provided in munitions and men. This class of persons, however, belong to no particular section of our Confederacy. They can be found in every city, village and hamlet, ever ready to "pomes" upon some government attache at Richmond—to point out incompetency in the command of the former and oversights in the orders of the latter, which reflects a disgrace upon the entire country.

These fireside Napoleons are injurious to our cause while they remain at home, and in order that their talents may not be wholly wasted, we would suggest that all our present generals, and those who have been chosen to preside over our affairs at Richmond, resign their respective positions, and give these naturally and supernaturally qualified individuals an opportunity to save the country from defeat.

Another class of persons, with brave hearts and weak legs, styled "croakers," are to be found in every community, ever ready to acknowledge our losses are past retrieving, and who evince a readiness to submit to be bound down by abolition things at any moment. The time has come when such people should be taken in hand. "There is no retreat but in chains and slavery," and he who refuses to do his duty should be forced to do it.

It is true our situation is most perilous one, and it is also true that the enemy have carried out their programme to a letter, and that they have accomplished precisely what they universally published as the object of the campaign. But no man whose bosom contains an iota of patriotism, or who feels any of those noble aspirations which have prompted the general uprising of our people, can believe otherwise than that we will carve out our way to ultimate success, despite all obstacles, and be a great, free, enterprising and independent nation. We may often meet with reverses—and what struggling nation has not?—may be defeated by overwhelming numbers, as we have been in Tennessee, but as the flowers of victory spring from the thorns of disaster, so will we rise far above the despotic car of tyranny, and rest upon the dry land of peace and plenty—the full fruition of the patriot's hope.

Our late disasters have been serious; our loss of men, arms, and lines of communication are to be regretted; yet the loss is not of a character to cause grave apprehensions of any more serious damage, more than to encourage the ruthless invader, who is governed by no principle but the mercenary purpose of profit and plunder, to persevere in his work of mischief upon our soil. As an evidence that our defeats are not regarded with gravity in Richmond, the telegraph announces that the resolution of Hon. H. S. Foote, of Tennessee, urging aggressive war, was laid on the table, and the efficacy of prayer recommended and adopted, as being more potent. The philosophical equanimity at the seat of government will serve to allay the excitement and doubt which prevails throughout the country, nor when no undignified alarm pervades in the cabinet or halls of Congress, we may rest assured that those who preside over our destinies there see clearly the means by which we are to be rescued from the dangers that environ us.

The age has past when freemen will consent to go under Grecian, Roman, Carthagenian or American yokes and if the fireside warriors and timorous croakers will but take an active part in the defence of the country we can easily hurl back the dangers which menace us. We have been vain-glorious and arrogant; and now that we have been chastised, let us go forth with due reverence to the power and forces of the foe. Let us go forth with invincible determination, imposing forces, powerful fortifications, and a willingness "to sacrifice everything, even life itself," and we have no fears of the result. Let the levy of the south be en masse, and we will emerge forth from the gloom and darkness into a land filled with everything necessary to human happiness, and challenging the admiration and eliciting the respect and fear of every nation on which the sun shines. [Vicksburg Whig.

We copy the following letter from the Galveston (Houston) News. Prof. Forshey is too well known, both here and in Texas, as a gentleman, for a doubt to exist as to the truth of his statement:

SALURIA, Jan. 25, 1862.

EDITORS NEWS:—Early this morning the report of a gun came from the eastward, along the Matagorda peninsular, putting Maj. Shea's command on the qui vive for a repetition of the impertinent visits recently made at Velasco and this pass, by the enemy's vessels. A few hours later I discerned, from the forty balcony of the lighthouse, the approach of two vessels, bearing down upon us. They proved a bark and a schooner, supposed at first to be the same that exchanged courtesies with our battery at Velasco. They anchored off our bar, with a French tri-color on the bark and a Confederate flag on the schooner's mast. The movements were very interesting; for the schooner was soon recognised as the McNeel, running from Matagorda to Vera Cruz with cotton, and due now on her second return trip.

The bark signals for a pilot! Morning comes, still the French flag flies from the masthead of the bark and the stars and bars float over our adventurous shooner. A powerful current into the bay, through Passo Cavallo, prevents the pilot boat from getting out, and a report reaches us from up the peninsula, a few miles, a Lincoln bark captured a schooner near the shore, after firing across her bow—the shot we had heard, doubtless—and this is the same craft, lieing off the bar with a French flag desecrated and prostituted to the vilest imposition.

The McNeel has fallen into their hands, and on board some very estimable citizens are supposed to have been made prisoners. Judge Talbot, chief justice of Matagorda county, went out, and was expected to return with her. Capt. Collin, of Indianola commanded her. As evening come on, (Sunday,) the schooner, after communicating by a small boat with the bark weighed anchor and set sail off towards Key West, bearing doubtless, another contribution of our good citizens to a Bastile, and thus "piling the gory debt."

The bark may be fool enough to try an experiment with the heavy batteries and long range of Saluria ordnance. She will be welcome. It grows daily more interesting along the coast. Yours, C. G. FORSHEY.

THE KANSAS BRIGANDS' EXPEDITION.—We have before published several accounts of the preparations that are being made by Gen. Lane for a grand expedition from Kansas southward into western Arkansas and northern Texas, the government permitting him to conduct the operations of the campaign upon his own principles. The number of troops composing this expedition, their composition, how they are to subsist, and what their leader expects to accomplish, is thus stated by the Memphis Appeal:

"Lane's force, we are enabled to state upon northern authority, will consist of 15,000 cavalry, 10,000 infantry, 1,000 flying artillery, 1200 fusileurs, 4000 Indians, and 10,000 negroes, making a total of 52,000. The negroes are to be taken from the fugitive slaves in Kansas, and will be used as drivers of wagons and carts, and to perform other drudgery deemed too degrading for the yankee hands.

He expects to obtain seven regiments from Illinois, four from Wisconsin, three from Iowa, three from Ohio, two from Indiana, and five from Kansas. One of the regiments will be made up of miners, and another will be composed entirely of mechanics, such, as railroad and bridge builders, wagon-makers, blacksmiths, iron foundrymen, harness makers, boat builders, etc., who will be equipped with all needful tools and implements—the Lincoln government having appropriated $210,000 for that purpose.

The most remarkable feature of this expedition is the manner in which it is expected to subsist during the progress of its movements. It is generally understood that Lane has given Lincoln as ultimatum that the government shall be subjected to no expense in supporting his army, beyond furnishing the outfit, as it is his intention that his men shall feed themselves from the resources of the country and the rebels' granaries" while on the march. In evidence of his candor in this matter, the brigand chief proposes to carry with him a horse-power saw-mill and five hundred portable hand flour mills, thus pillaging as he goes and feeding his men from hand to mouth.

The field of operations assigned this Vandal expedition by Lincoln is stated to be Kansas, south-western Missouri, Arkansas, the Indian territory, and as much further south as it chooses to venture. The Cincinnati Gazette says that it is Lane's intention to quarter his forces at New Orleans by April next, and that he expects to reach that point by way of Red River thro' the north-eastern pass, thence into Louisiana on the gulf of Mexico. This programme is certainly a Napoleonic one in its conception, and is quite as apt to be realised as the onward move of Scott to the same point of destination via Richmond and Montgomery, which was so confidently assigned him by the New York Times previous to the battle of Manassas.

SOMEBODY HAS BLUNDERED.—There is no disguising the fact, if our Virginia cotemporaries can be relied upon, that "somebody blundered" fearfully at Roanoke. The Norfolk Day Book establishes very clearly the inadequacy of our preparations for defence at that point, notwithstanding the timely notice given of the enemy's intentions. An investigation into affair is thus emphatically called for by the Richmond Enquirer, on the 13th:

We take it for granted that an investigation, such as will do general justice, will be instituted by the authorities into all the circumstances of the Roanoke disaster. We assume, with entire confidence, that this investigation will be searching, and made without favor or prejudice.

General Intelligence.

BOSTON, Feb. 21.—Two regiments leave to-day for Ship island.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Cotton market irregular. Sales middling uplands, 23½ to 24.

The Herald is delighted with the queen's speech, and said it extinguished the last glimmering of intervention—and urges the southern people to rise in general revolution and put down the rebellion. Washington is to be illuminated on the night of the 22d inst., at the expense of the yankee government.

The capture of Gen. Price was announced in the house, causing uproarious applause.

The yankee accounts says 12,000 stand of arms were taken at fort Donelson; also, 1200 boxes of beef, with other stores.

A great number of the dead were unburied on the 18th inst.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Reinforcements are being sent Burnside to increase his force to 40,000 men. The prize schooner Major Barbour, has arrived.

LINCOLN CONGRESS.—In the senate, a petition from the citizens of New York was presented, asking that the name of South Carolina be expunged from list of States, that it be made a territory, and the territory be divided between Georgia and North Carolina.

In the house, resolutions were offered by Hickman, directing the judiciary committee to inquire into the allegations against Vallandigham for disloyalty, who vehemently denies the accusations. The resolutions were withdrawn.

The culture of cotton is disappearing from Dutch Guiana.

RICHMOND, Feb. 20.—In the house, Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, introduced a resolution stating that whatever propriety there may have been in the original adoption of what is known as the defensive policy, in connection with the prosecution of the pending war for southern independence, recent events clearly demonstrate the expediency of abandoning that policy henceforth and forever, and that it is the duty of the government to impart all possible activity to our military forces to assail the forces of the enemy wherever they may be found, either on land or water, with the view of obtaining the most ample indemnity for the past, and the most complete security for the future. The resolution was opposed by Jenkins, of Virginia, and advocated in a powerful speech by Foote, which consumed all the session. The resolution was tabled.

In the senate, nothing of importance transpired.

RICHMOND, Feb. 21.—The northern papers of the 20th are received. The Herald says the federal agents in Paris declare the seceding States will approve a constitution of monarchy in the south if it can be attended with any prospect of success.

RICHMOND, Feb. 22.—Both houses took a recess this morning to attend the inauguration in the [illegible]. Subsequently Mr. Foote introduced a resolution [illegible] a committee of one from each State to [illegible] the secretary of war to furnish the fullest minute particulars in reference to the condition of our armies on the field and on our seaboard and river defences, or elsewhere, and report with a view to enable congress to pass such measures as will facilitate the establishing our national independence and a sense of security, peace and safety. The resolution was tabled for the present. In the senate the business was unimportant.

RICHMOND, Feb. 27.—The president has issued a proclamation declaring martial law in Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the surrounding country.

It is understood that congress to-day passed an act authorising the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in certain cases.

The senate has confirmed A. P. Hill, and J. J. Pettigrew, both of North Carolina, as brigadier generals.

A resolution has unanimously passed to entertain no peace propositions excluding any portion of the Confederate States, and declaring that the war will be continued until the enemy are expelled from the Confederacy.

In the house, Mr. Miller, chairman of military committee, reported a bill creating the office of commanding general of the Confederate army during the war.

Indications were strong that the bill would be passed. Pending its adoption the house went into secret session.

NORFOLK, Feb. 20.—Northern papers of the 19th have been received here, from which the following late foreign intelligence is gleaned:

The steamer Edinburg, with Liverpool dates to the 5th, has arrived.

When the Kangaroo arrived at Liverpool the Confederate steamer Nashville had left Southampton. The last seen of her was outside the Kneedles, steaming down the channel, having passed the Tuscarora in Cowe's road, on the 4th.

The queen, in her speech, said that the relations of all the European powers were friendly and satisfactory; that the Trent affair had been satisfactorily settled, and that therefore friendly relations with America were uninterrupted.

NORFOLK, Feb. 21.—The federal forces ascended Chowan river again yesterday, to Winton, in several gunboats, with a large number of troops. The Confederates opened a heavy fire on them, killing and wounding a number. Some of the yankees landed and burnt the town, when the southerners retired. Our loss is said to be two men and two horses. Humbug C. H. Foster is among the yankees killed.

LYNCHBURG, Feb. 23.—There have been thirteen land-slides on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. One culvert has been destroyed, and 150 feet of the crib work gone, in consequence of the recent heavy rains. In three or four days the repairs will be completed.

PAWPAW, VA., Feb. 14.—Major-general G. B. McClellan: The railroad was opened to Hancock this morning, also the telegraph.

We had an important forced reconnoissance last night which was completed to-day. We broke up the rebel nest at Bloomery gap. We ran down and captured seventeen commissioned officers—among them colonels, lieutenant-colonels, captains, &c. I will forward a descriptive list.

We engaged them with four hundred cavalry. Our infantry were not near enough to support the cavalry, and the enemy were retiring. We have in all seventy-five prisoners, and killed thirteen of the enemy. We lost two men and six horses at their first fire. I led the charge myself in person. It was a most complete surprise.

Col. Carroll, commanding the fifth and eighth Ohio, made a very daring and successful reconnoissance immediately afterwards, to Unger's store.

Major Frotmpigham is entitled to great credit for building, under my direction, in four hours, in the dead of night, a complete bridge across Great Cacapon, at an unfrequented mountain road.

Two columns of 2,000 each marched thirty-two miles—one column forty-three miles—since 4 P. M., yesterday, besides bridging the river.

Papers taken, and my own reconnoissance to the south, prove the country clear, and Jackson and Loring in Winchester.

We made a move and occupied the Bloomery gap and Point mills east, on the belief (by information obtained from deserters,) that Gen. Carson's brigade was there.

General Dunning has just arrived at New creek, from Moorfield, forty miles south of Romney. He has captured two hundred and twenty-five beef cattle, and broken up the guerrilla haunt there. Two of his men were badly wounded. He killed several of the rebels.

The enemy have thus been driven out of this department. (signed) F. W. LANDER,
Brigadier-General.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 25.—Schley's cotton and wool factory near Augusta, was burned last night. The loss is heavy. Nearly two hundred people are out of employment in consequence.

The Savannah Republican, of this morning, says communication with Pulaski is effectually closed by the federals, who have three batteries of heavy guns commanding the river.

ST. LOUIS, Feb 16.—Gen. Halleck has received dispatches from Gen. Curtis stating that Price's rear guard was overtaken in pursuit from Springfield, and after a brief resistance the rebels fled, leaving the road strewn with their wagons and baggage.

Gen. Curtis reports having taken more prisoners than he knows what to do with. "It never rains but it pours."

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 19.—Capt. Stubbs has captured Gen. Price, Col. Dorsey, Col. Cass and judge Capt. Budge, of Price's staff. The companies under their command escaped. The myriads of northern fanatics who became maddened with excitement over the account of the great slaughter of yankees at fort Donelson are slowly recovering their senses. Stanton recommends the speedy execution of Col. Ansslize, on the charge of cowardice by Gen. Lander, who is sustained.

The Price reported taken prisoner is not Sterling Price, the great Confederate leader of Missouri. Five thousand infantry and three batteries of artillery left St. Louis on the 16th for Cumberland river. The attacking force of federals at Savannah is 16,000 strong.

Lucius H. Chandler is appointed consul to Matanzas.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 21.—Nearly all the fort Donelson prisoners have arrived. The officers will be sent to Columbus.

Halleck has telegraphed McClellan that Curtis has taken Bentonville,