The Shreveport News.

Jno. Dickinson, Editor & Proprietor.

☞JOB PRINTING of every description, plain or colored, executed on as reasonable terms as the times will admit.

For Terms of Subscription and Advertising, see first page.

Attention!—Persons arriving with, or receiving, late southern or northern papers, will oblige us and benefit our readers, by loaning them to the editor, if only for an hour.—Items of news also solicited.

We proposed some time since, our readers are all now probably aware of what we proposed to do. The *Semi-Weekly* speaks for itself.

Red River is falling at this point A heavy rise is reported above.

Rumor says that Sherman has has been cornered. We hope it is true.

Gen. Churchill's forces arrived in this city on last Thursday evening.

The Alexandria Democrat comes to us this week as a *Semi-Weekly*. We welcome it with pleasure.

The San Antonio News has resumed its Semi-Weekly visits. Good

We have made arrangements to publish a prices current of Shreveport regularly. Our readers can rely on the quotations as they are carefully prepared.

Just as we go to press we learn that a private dispatch has been received here to the effect that a fight has occurred near Charlotte, N. C., in which Gen. Beauregard was killed. Sherman was wounded, and died two days afterwards. Enemy's loss 20,000. Our loss heavy.

On last Saturday a lot of deserters from Hood's army, made their appearance in this place. They were well armed and mounted. They represented that they crossed the Mississippi in sight of two gunboats, and were not interferred with. There are a lot more, we understand, at Natchitoches.

The Houston *Telegraph* and the Houston *News*, are both published daily now.

The Weekly News, published on Tuesday morning, is made up principally from the Semi-Weekly, and contains the most important and interesting reading matter selected from the Semi-Weekly, besides such additional news intelligence as may be received up to Monday evening.

Thanks to Mr. Jas Burke, of Houston, Texas, for a paper of Umbrella China seeds. We intend to have some nice shade trees from them some days hence.

Our accomodating friend James Burke of Houston, has kindly sent us another package of assorted garden seeds, Persons needing anything of that kind should send to Mr. Burke, who will fill all orders promptly.

Yesterday morning while the 4th Missouri Battery were going up Texas street, they called on our worthy Governor, and were entertained by him with a few patriotic remarks. Just as we were arriving at the spot they commenced to move, lustily cheering his Excellency. We are pleased to note this good feeling between the soldiers and the Executive

The latest dispatches received since Tuesday appear in this issue; if true, though not seemingly of much importance, they afford much room for speculation. Hood, it is insinuated is to be assigned to some important command in this Department The old rumor of peace by recognition is again revived, under more favorable circumstances, as it emanates through the reliable gentleman, who has been assured by a foreign gentleman of high position, that Napoleon will assert our independence, and support his course, if requisite, by armed intervention. We are pleased to know all this, and our readers, no doubt, are overjoyed at the intelligence, as it is what a great many look for, yet we cannot forbear from throwing cold water upon the whole, as we think it looks very well as it is—in print. Don't grasp too eagerly at the intelligence. The only item in which we can confidently place confidence, and which gives us renewed hope as to our prospects being fair, is the defeat of the bill in Congress, of arming negroes and placing them in the field. This, we think, speaks volumes as to our true condition.

It is astonishing that people never know when they are well off. We are pained to notice an inclination to find fault with the commander of this district, on the part of some, who appear to be strong friends of General Taylor. Fault finding has never yet accomplished any beneficial results in any case. Gen. Smith, we believe, under the circumstances, and with the means at his command, has done as much as any other man could have been expected to do. On taking charge of this Department, composed of a large tract of territory, he had, comparatively speaking, no available troops. As a General, his past career speaks for itself. His campaign in Kentucky and his conduct at Manassas, are recorded, and future historians will dwell with pleasure on that part of their work.

Before any writer now attempts to assail the General, on his past career in this Department, he should lay aside all prejudice, and reflect over the probable result of poisoning the the minds of his readers, with his views, and causing a divided sentiment instead of confidence and unity of feeling. We feel confident that the General will yet show his enemies that they must acknowledge his ability as a military commander, and this he will assuredly do, when the time arrives.

We do not believe that the noted General Lee, were he in the same position, could give entire satisfaction. One thing is positive, the people of this Department who do not belong to the service, have no grounds of complaints so far as we know, and we venture the assertion, that, were they subject to the will of any other man, they would have had a harder time of it. The interest of the civilian, as also that of the military, appear to be the General's study, and no grievances were ever laid before him, but what redress was had. More than this could not be expected nor asked. Let us give our hearty and cordial support to the Commander, and we assist our cause and aid him in carrying into effect that for which he was placed in the responsible position. Do away with all ill-feelings and have but one mind, and let that be to do what is right, come what will. We have lately seen several articles censuring the General, and trust that the last has appeared. When he fails to perform his duty, it will be ample time to criticize him, but not until then.

A soldier writing to the Gazette, from Monroe, La., under date of March 8th, says "there has been two Yankee cotton boats at this place for the past two or three days. They have on board many things to entice the Confederates to trade to them cotton, an article which was once supposed to be King, but has lost its majesty though not all of its power. These boats have put ashore here a large quantity of bagging and rope. They have coffee, whiskey, &c., &c. And with shame be it said, some of our Confederate officers, some with stars on their collars, are constantly on these boats, imbibing their whiskey and eating their oysters, and are extraordinarily intimate with these Yankees, who have devastated our country, burned our homes, and made many of our women and children widows and orphans, and whom our gallant soldiers are still fighting over the blackened ruins of a once happy country."

We are sorry to hear this, and astonished to think that it is tolerated. Proper steps should be taken to put an immediate stop to such trafficng. It broods no good, and encourages our people to become intimate with the enemys of our country. The course to pursue, in cases of that character, cannot be too strict—even unto seizing them. What! are we to meet the enemy with open hand, and regale ourselves with his liquors and nick-nacs?

Our county friends are reminded that we will be pleased to receive provision for subscription. In the absence of money we are perfectly willing to barter.

From the tenor of our despatches, we may anticipate the receipt of intelligence of hard fought battles in the east. A few days, doubtless, will bring us particulars. A rumor was current that the noble Beauregard was killed in a late fight, but as he has been killed before by dame rumor, we need the papers to satisfy us on that point.

The communication signed "Old Texian," does not appear in our paper, for reason that the writer has neglected to furnish his name.

By reference to the advertisement it will be seen that at the Waco (Texas) University, in addition to the regular course of studies, boys can receive a military education.—The university is well known, and with this addition, it can justly be classed among the first in the country. Boys between the age of 17 and 18, of course belong to the reserve corps, but it will be seen that they are permitted to attend the university, and perfect themselves in the military school. No doubt, many will avail themselves of the opportunity when they become cognizant of the fact. The locality is one of the healthiest in Texas, and the faculty not surpassed.

On the strength of our eating "old roosters" our friend Dodson of the Henderson Times, promises in black and white, to send us some "pullets," when he gets his provision store in operation. We thank him kindly and hold him to his promise, provided he does not forward them by mail. We are always in for pull it.

We have just received the following letter from Hon T. J. Semmes:

SENATE CHAMBER,
Dec. 21, 1864.

Dear Sir: Please announce in your paper, that the Senate bill extending the time of exchanging old for new issue Treasury notes, to 1st July, 1865, passed on yesterday the House of Representatives, and will become a law as soon as it can be presented to the President for signature.

Very truly yours,
T. J. SEMMES.

MR. DICKINSON,
Editor of the News, Shreveport.

For the News.

Directions for Planting Tobacco Seed.

Select a rich piece of ground about twenty feet square, burn a brush heap or a pile of logs over it; sow the seed plentifully, then with a spade, or some flat piece of iron or wood, beat the ground hard and harrow it lightly. Then cover the whole space densely with brush, so as to prevent frosts from injuring the young plants after they make their appearance.

These facts are derived from an experienced Virginia tobacco planter, and their truthfulness and applicability to this climate and latitude are confirmed by the experience of many Texas tobacco raisers. It would be advantageous to the interests of all engaged in the culture of Tobacco, to have the experience of others on this subject, and also on the proper mode of the cultivation of the tobacco plant, and the curing of the tobacco after cultivation, and in fact the whole modus operandi, of sowing the seed, cultivating the crop and preparing for market.

The following we find in the San Antonio News. We would like to hear of the accomplishment of such a step, but doubt much whether the project is feasible at the present juncture of affairs There is nothing, however, like trying. We await further particulars:

Editor News: On last Thursday evening the citizens of Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso county, Texas, now sojourning in this city, met at the Court House, to take into consideration the propriety of taking immediate steps to retake possession of our Western Territories, and open a way to California.

The meeting was organized by appointing Gen Magoffin of El Paso county, President, and J. C. Murray, Secretary.—The design of the meeting was explained by the President, followed by interesting and highly favorable remarks from Col Shoalwater, of California. Major Coopwood also of California, and Dr. Owings, a prominent citizen of Arizona, but now a resident of this city. The speakers were all strongly in favor of the earliest possible steps being taken to open a way to California to secure a safe passage for our numerous friends now in that State, who are desirous of joining the Confederate service. It was the general impression of the speakers that at least ten thousand recruits could be readily obtained from that State, besides a large number from Western Arizona. One thousand men were believed to be amply sufficient to take possession of lower Arizona, open the way through to California and hold it; while the whole expenses of the expedition could be readily provided for with a reasonable supply of Confederate Treasury notes, united with such other facilities as would be furnished from private sources.

Before the close of the meeting, a committee, composed of Col. Shoalwater, Major Coopwood, Gov. Owings, and Col. Kennedy, was appointed to draft a series of resolutions expressive of the opinion of those present. The meeting then adjourned until the next Saturday, at 7, p m.

On Saturday evening, pursuant to adjournment, the citizens of Arizona, &c, again convened to listen to the report of the committee upon resolutions. The resolutions having been read, were unanimously adopted, after which, there being no other business for consideration, the meeting adjourned, to be reconvened at the discretion of the President.

The resolutions provided for the selection of a committee to confer with the General commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, upon the subject.

This committee were selected, and consists of Gen. Magoffin, Maj. Coopwood, Col Shoalwater, Col. Kennedy, Dr. Owings, and Major Jackson.

The Houston News says, that a letter dated Matamoras, February 25th says: "Goods are daily falling in this market. I can buy the best brass-wire sieves at 4.50 per dozen; best Sprague and Phillip Allen prints 20 cents; best twilled brown-linen, very many and fine for pants, 37½ cents per yard; cotton cards, $10 per dozen; quinine, best French, $3 per ounce; best glove kid ladies gaiters, $24 per dozen. I have filled a bill at these prices.

All of our Texas exchanges speak of heavy rains.

NEWS ITEMS.

We take the following from late New Orleans papers.

The Richmond papers are more frantic than ever. The Enquirer calls upon Jeff. Davis to arm the slaves without authority of law. It says these States and this cause stand to day in need of a man who will take the powers of the people and use it for their preservation. Farther on, it says: Sherman is rushing through the Carolinas like an avalanche, and reports say he has captured one hundred thousand bales of cotton at Columbia. Gen Grant is gradually, perhaps surely, extending his lines around Petersburg and Richmond, and threatening every moment to burst over the lines that intervene, and the Senate is doing nothing; conservative history furnishes no parallel to this.

New York, Feb 28—It seems by the Herald's Charleston correspondent that even in the hot bed of secession, love for the old Union survived all vicissitude. The remaining inhabitants of the city manifested the utmost delight at unfolding the old flag A small body of colored troops, the first to land, started up the principal streets, their officers scarcely being able to keep up with them, being met with a perfect ovation—men and women thronging the avenues, shouting and waving handkerchiefs, and cheering for the stars and stripes President Lincoln and the Yankee army. It also appears that a similar welcome was extended to Gen Terry's command when they marched into Wilmington; crowds lined their route of march and shouts filled the air.

The Times' Vicksburg correspondent of the 16th, gives some details of an expedition from N. Orleans to Pascagoula, where it would join Canby in the investment of Mobile. The first object will be the capture of Mobile; the second, Cahawba, Selma and Montgomery, Ala, and Columbus, Ga; and the third to destroy Hood's army, if every thing works well

Kirby Smith's Trans-Mississippi army will be attended to next summer

New York, Feb 28—The Charlotte North Carolina Democrat, of the 21st, has a vague rumor that Dix, Hill and Cheatham, of Hood's army, had struck Sherman's rear and captured eight thousand prisoners, besides a large number of wagons. A postscript says: it was Cheatham's corps that were engaged in the fight at Alton, S. C.

New York, Feb 28—Cotton dull at 83 to 84c.

Gold opened at 202 1-4, and closed at 202 1-2.

New York, Feb 10—The steamer Saxonia from Southampton the 8th, arrived this morning.

Parliament was opened by the Royal commission, February 7th. The speech said, her Majesty remains steadfastly neutral between the contending parties in the United States, and would rejoice at friendly reconciliation. The Queen has had great satisfaction in giving her sanction to the conference meeting of delegates from Canada assembled at Quebec. The resolutions which were adopted for a closer union of these provinces under a central government, it adopted by the provincial Legislature, a bill will be laid before parliament for carrying this important measure into effect.

Evening Picayune, 7th, has southern dispatches to the 4th, containing, however, but little news.

Major Gen Sam. Jones has assumed command of the district of Florida. Dick Taylor is praised by all the officers under his command, as one of the best military administrators in the service. The decision of the court martial in the case of Major Gen Gardner for drunkenness has not transpired, but it is whispered upon good authority that he will be discharged, and publicly exhonorated.

All the Trans-Mississippi troops in the Cis-Mississippi department, are being sent to Mobile. Warren Adams made his last trip from Houston to Mobile, in eleven days.

It is said that Gen Hood is to be assigned to an important command in the Trans Mississippi department. All quiet on the Big Black.

Augusta 24th—Government courier line has been established between Augusta and Columbia. Railroad between Branchville and Charleston undisturbed. Repairs on Road between Augusta and Branchville are being made. Wilmington Road beyond Wata river undisturbed.

Orangeburg is partially destroyed.

A citizen of Augusta reliably reports that Major McBeth of Charleston says, that the French consul assured him that he had advices from Emperor Napoleon saying, that he will assert the independence of the Southern Confederacy 4th of March, and if necessary, support his declaration with armed intervention. French vessels, says Major McBeth, are rendezvousing at convenient points on the coast and Gulf

Wade Hampton burned his own residence to prevent the Yankees from sacking it.

YANKEE DISPATCHES.—New York, Feb 28—The Commercial's correspondent from Hatcher's Run, 25th, says we are now under marching orders, having received instructions to move at a moment's warning We expect to have another tilt for South Side railroad, and look for a heavy engagement.

That something is going on along the lines in front of us is very evident. I do not believe that Lee is going to retreat though deserters, now coming in in great numbers, report that he is preparing to fall back on Danville.

Lee could not fall back to overwhelm Sherman without having Grant thundering at his ears in less than six hours.

Though rebel papers are silent regarding Sherman's whereabouts, enough is dropped to indicate that he was some days since within a short distance of Fayetteville, which is on Cape Fear river, 95 miles north-west of Wilmington, with water communication uninterrupted all the year.

Latest advices from Porter say he was pushing up the river with all possible despatch with his gunboats.

Schoefield and Sherman will probably form a junction at Fayetteville, where the largest arsenal in the Confederacy is established.

Bragg has taken his Wilmington force up to Goldsboro', followed by Terry

New York, Feb. 28.—Southampton dates of the 15th have been received. Peace news created great sensation in London.

The rebel pirate Shenandoah destroyed six vessels off Cape Good Hope.

The London Times says, we are assured from New York that Davis has the game in his own hands, and can secure the independence of the Confederacy either with assent or without it, according to his pleasure. The clue to this startling mystery is found in the statement formerly credited in America that the Mexican Emperor has conveyed in trust to Napoleon the northern portion of Mexico, to be held and administered by a French viceroy, in liquidation of French claims against Mexico. The cessation must entail the recognition of the South by France, England and Europe.

Cardinal Wiseman was not expected to live.

DELAYED DISPATCHES.—New York, Feb. 27.—The Tribune has Richmond papers of the 25th.

The Raleigh Confederate of the 22d says it is reported that Gen. Cheatham or Hill attacked the rear of the enemy, capturing eighteen hundred prisoners and some wagons.

Examiner of the 26th says the Yankee force east of Mississippi river does not exceed one hundred and twenty-five thousand men, and says that the South is being conquered by one-third of her number.

The Sentinel, on the negro question, says the bill was lost in the Senate, by a vote of 11 to 16. In official circles this is considered as disposing of the question of arming negroes, finally. The Sentinel is very indignant, and urges the Senate to reconsider its action.

Washington, March 1.—We have received Richmond dates of February 27.

The Examiner says that, in the absence of official information of military affairs in the Carolinas, we take news from other sources of intelligence, and omit the usual reference to our file of Southern exchanges. We do so at the request of the authorities, and with the understanding that the other city journals have been placed under obligation of reticence to the extent indicated above. The public will no doubt be properly patient in this interval of silence, and not take it as discouraging, for we are assured there are good reasons for it, which look to an early official announcement of favorable results.

Gens. Crook and Kelly, whose capture was noticed in these columns on Saturday, arrived in the city on that day, and were furnished apartments at Libby.

From the best information here (Richmond), it appears probably that a considerable conflagration occurred in the western portion of Columbia on its evacuation, caused, it is supposed, by cotton becoming ignited. It is reported the fire extended from Main to Charlotte depot, nearly three quarters of a mile. The information is positive as to the occurrence of a fire, but doubt is entertained as to its magnitude. Some of the refugees are preparing to return.

Woodville, March 1.—The New Orleans Times of the 25th says the rumor of the expulsion from Matamoras of Etchinson, the Federal consul at that post, is confirmed by his arrival at the mouth of the river on the steamer Patrone. The office of consulate at Matamoras is closed. The Times attributes it to the fact of the non-recognition of the Maximilian government by the United States.

Gold in New Orleans, 203.

New York, March 1. The Commercials' Hatcher Run correspondent of the 26th says: The order for the army to be ready to move at a moment's notice, was countermanded, owing to a storm, after the men had been under arms all night. Fresh orders, however, are effected.

The steamer Arago reports that when off Charleston harbor, on the 26th ult, she was informed that Columbia, S. C., had been burned, and Augusta had been captured by our forces.

Washington, March 1, 8 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

The following telegram from Gen. Gillmore has been transmitted to this Department.

E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

HDQ'RS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Charleston, Feb 26, 1865.

To Maj. Gen. Grant and Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, Chief of Staff:

An inspection of the rebel defences of Charleston shows we have taken over 450 pieces of ordnance, being over double what I first reported. The list includes 8 and 10 inch Columbiads, a great many 32 and 42 pounders, some 7-inch Brookes's rifles, and many pieces of foreign make were also captured. Eight locomotives and a great number of passenger and platform cars in good condition. Deserters say the last of Hardee's army was to have crossed Santee river yesterday, bound for Charlotte, N. C., and was afraid Sherman had already intercepted their march. It is reported on similar authority that the last of Hood's army, twelve thousand strong, passed through Augusta last Sunday, the 19th, on the way to Beauregard

Georgetown has been evacuated and is in our possession.

Deserters are coming in constantly. We have over four hundred already.

Q. A. GILLMORE,
Maj. Gen. Com'dg.

New York, March 2.—The World has the following additional particulars concerning the burning of Columbia:

When the Arago appeared off Charleston bar a dispatch boat met her with important news, which if true, illustrates unparalleled rebel treachery. The officer who brought the intelligence stated that soon after a corps of Gen. Sherman's troops had captured Columbia, the rebel citizens there endeavored, in every possible manner, to harrass our troops. The corps which entered the city after its capture at once left to join in Sherman's further advance, and was succeeded by another—Gen Slocum's. While the latter corps was marching through the principal streets to their temporary bivouacks, a number of citizens poured a deadly fire upon them from the windows and roofs of the houses they occupied. Insurrection was beginning to spread and our troops retired a short distance and subsequently fired the city, which is now in ashes. No further particulars were received.

Augusta is reported to have been evacuated by the rebels and was immediately occupied by Sherman in force. It was also stated that a large amount of rebel property had been captured, and that Sherman leaving sufficient force to garrison the city, proceeded on his way northward.—It is rumored that Sherman was probably proceeding to the cities of Florence and Charlotte in force, and that he had captured a large quantity of supplies on the route of his march.

The Herald's correspondent says Columbia was burned by order of Gen. Sherman, as a punishment for citizens firing on our troops when the city was in our possession.

Washington, March 2.—From the Richmond Whig of the 28th we take the following:

The Whig says reliable intelligence leads us to believe that on Friday and Saturday nights the enemy moved a number of pieces of artillery to his left; the rumbling of these trains could be distinctly heard.

Washington, March 3.—The Richmond Examiner of the 28th says, that Columbia is now free from the enemy. Only a small portion of the city has been destroyed by fire.

The Times' Washington special says, Richmond papers of Tuesday indicate that Sherman is making towards Raleigh, leaving Johnston's force in his rear.

Baltimore, March 3—The Richmond Sentinel of the 1st, says, the News from the South looks favorable, and we hope soon to gratify the public with pleasing intelligence from that quarter. It also says, the heavy rains and consequent muddy condition of the roads near Petersburg, prevent active operations at present. There was some shelling on the lines on Monday, but not as usual.

New York, March 3—The Richmond Examiner of Yesterday intimates that Sherman and Schofield have formed a junction at Goldsboro, N C, and says there is a fear that Hood, as well as Hardee, has been cut off from uniting with Johnston.

It was Hardee's force that shelled Charleston, and on evacuating it he marched Northward as rapidly as possible to join Beauregard, then at the head of the army now commanded by Johnston.

Correspondence from the army before the rebel capital presents everything quiet, but it is evident that on both sides the belief is that this state of affairs will not continue a fixed fact a great while longer.

Indications are rebels design another raid with their James river fleet, and Richmond papers give additional reports of heavy massing by Gen. Grant on his left, to which point they say he removed his cavalry and the main portion of his infantry, and a number of pieces of artillery.

All this means a desperate battle at an early day or as soon, at least, as the roads shall be in proper condition.

LATEST NEWS.

Philadelphia, March 3—A special dispatch to the Bulletin says the Richmond Whig of the 1st, contains telegraphic dispatches from Fayetteville, N. C., stating that no federal force had advanced in that direction. The Dispatch says that Gen. Singleton has arrived at Richmond. It adds that his mission is a commercial one He is proposing to exchange bacon for cotton. All other papers intimate that his visit is of a private character.

W. C. Rives, of Virginia, has resigned his seat in the rebel Congress.

Washington, March 3d. The Whig of the 1st says: The Petersburg Express of yesterday states that the advance which was threatened, two or three days since, has been checked, if not defeated, by superabundant rains, and, for the present, may possibly be abandoned; but the public need not be surprised to hear of the commencement of a battle at any moment.

The enemy has not withdrawn any of the forces he has moved to his left, but holds them in readiness for an advance at the earliest practicable moment. It is believed that he intends a flank movement some distance further down than the scene of his late operations.

We believe that our noble army is prepared to meet the enemy now, as it ever has been, and to give battle as of old—never having known, and determined never to know a defeat.

New York, March 4—Advices received here through private sources from Mexico, state that the war in the United States is attracting the special attention of the Imperial Government. The police are directed to arrest all who express their sympathy with the federal cause, and one man named Valdez, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, for speaking favorably about the United States and predicting a speedy end of the rebellion. The Imperial treasury is constantly getting lower. The hostility of the Church party to Maximillian, is on the increase. The friends of the Juarez cause here refuse to give credence to the reported defeat at Oaxaca.

The Chronicle of to-day says, in speaking of the reception at the Executive Mansion last night, that many colored persons appeared to pay their respects to the President and lady, among whom was Fred Douglas and wife.

Pluare de la Layne denies the statement, that the French Government had any war vessels in pursuit of the rebel ram Stonewall, and the Cabinet of the Tuilleries does not consider that it possesses the right to pursue the ram Glaide though, by completing and fitting out in French waters, it committed an audacious violation of our neutrality. We hope the result of the investigation made into the subject will not be null. It is impossible, indeed, for the affair to remain where it is.

The Tribune's Wilmington correspondent announces the arrival there, of eight hundred exchanged Union prisoners, sick, starved, emaciated and naked.

New York, March 5—The Herald's Washington special says, that authentic information, not from Richmond, has been received, that Sherman's advance has reached Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The dispatch also says that Porter's gunboats have reached that point.

The Herald's army of the Potomac correspondent says, that every fresh batch of rebel deserters that come within our lines reiterated the statement made by previous ones, that the rebels are preparing to evacuate both Richmond Petersburg.

The Times says that a letter from Winchester states that on the 25th ult., cavalry reinforcements and pontoon trains arrived there, and on the 27th Gen. Sheridan started with about 15,000 cavalry, it is said, to operate in the direction of Lynchburg. Sheridan and Sherman will meet and act together in that direction.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Journal of the 2d says, that as the train left Washington, our Whitworth battery, planted at the head of the market, was firing upon the enemy who had appeared up the western side of Cape Fear river; their main advance was then checked at Alligator Creek; some few skirmishes pushed forward but were driven off. It is believed that Hay good's brigade, with the exception of the 7th Battalion, has been captured. Some accidental cases may have escaped. They were stationed on the West side of the Cape Fear River.

The Richmond Whig of the 3d, says the Raleigh Conservative, alludes to Sherman's operations, and indulges the hope, if our plans are not thwarted, that our able generals and brave troops in that quarter will be able to bag him or send him howling back to the rear. If the report brought us by telegraph that the small forces left by him at Columbia has been expelled be true, then the repulse in front, should be suffer much, would probably render his affairs desperate in the extreme, but we will not speculate farther in regard to the matter, which must cease to be matter for mere speculation soon.

New York, March 5—The Panama Mercantile Chronicle of February 13th, has a report that the mission of Gen. Sickles is to procure from the Columbian Government a concession of lands, on which to form a settlement of ten thousand of the negroes emancipated by secession. The report said, but the Chronicle doubts it, that one million dollars will be paid for the privilege.

The Richmond Dispatch thus compliments the soldiers of North Carolina.

In the fall of Fort Fisher the troops of the Confederacy have lost a Fort, but not their honor. North Carolina in particular has reason to be proud of the prowess of her sons. This is not the first, the second, nor even the fiftieth time, that the soldiers of this State have proved the mettle whereof they are made. There are no better soldiers in the Confederacy or in the world. There is very little gas or humbug about North Carolina; but at the pinch of the bill she is always strong and true. We have no words to express our admiration of the stern and steadfast heroism she has exhibited in this war.

The Rev. J. P. Gardner, a missionary in Rupert's Land, gives the following word of eighteen syllables as an illustration of the peculiarity of the Indian language: "Keguwecheapetowkesinnemectesooinnennauawan"—"I will dine with you."—*Mobile Advertiser.*

The following syllables in English will be found very good as an answer—"notifiknowit."

Jeff. Davis' Speech at the African Church, Richmond.

President Davis appeared on the Speakers stand, and addressed the people for about half an hour. He said he would be pleased if the meeting had been called to commemorate a victory. But it was not only pleasant; he felt a proud and ecstatic joy to see his countrymen looking whatever disaster there had been in the face, and plucking from adversity new courage and resolution; and it was at this spectacle that his heart beat high with hope. It was well that there should commence here in Virginia that reactionary movement of the people in preparation for a new proclamation to meet the exigencies of the hour. *All must now be laid down on the altar of Country.* If such a feeling should now take possession of the hearts of the people, if they should give a hearty and unanimous answer to the demands of the present exigency upon them, then he could say we stood now upon the verge of successes which would teach the insolent enemy who had treated our propositions with contumely, that *in that conference in which he had so plumed himself with arrogance, he was, indeed, talking to his masters.* (Tremendous cheers.) He said he had never hoped anything from propositions of peace made to the enemy, unless accompanied with victories of our arms; that the true hope of the Confederacy was in brave soldiers in sufficient numbers to contest her claim in the military field; but he would have been more or less than man not to have yielded to a natural desire to testify, on every proper occasion, his anxiety, his yearning anxiety for peace. He had received a notice from Mr. Lincoln, opening the way for an unofficial conference on the subject. He did not feel at liberty to decline the invitation which it implied. In the note which passed between Mr. Lincoln and himself in the matter, there was one marked difference. He (President Davis) spoke always of two countries. Mr. Lincoln spoke of a common country. He could have no common country with the Yankees. His life was bound up with the *Confederacy*; and if any man supposed under any circumstances he could be an agent of the reconstruction of the Union, he mistook every element of his nature. With the confederacy he would live or die. Thank God he represented a people too proud to eat the leek or bow the neck to mortal man.—(Great cheering.) Although he anticipated that nothing in the way of peace would come out of recent conferences with the enemy, yet he was not prepared for such extravagance of insolence as they had shown. They had not so much as proposed that these States might come back even on those conditions which were the first occasion of their separation from the Union, but they were to come back as a conquered people, submitting to all the recent legislation of the Washington Government, including the abolition clause in the constitution recently enacted in Congress, and pushed with the greatest haste through that body, before the commissioners could arrive at Fortress Monroe. And but a few days before this, one of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet had sat at the feet of Beecher in Baltimore, gloating over the picture drawn by that Yankee artist of words, of a long procession of the public men of the Confederacy moving to the gallows to expiate the crime of "rebellion." Perhaps Lincoln's heart softened at the length of the procession, when he suggested that in case of our submission, he might be merciful. (Laughter.) He would never have occasion to show that mercy. Words of cheer and encouragement had recently come from the armies of the Confederacy. If only half the absentees were back in General Lee's Army, he was sure that Grant would be taught a lesson, such as he had never received even in his eventful route from the Rapidan to the James. Beauregard held another army in Sherman's path, and it might soon be shown that Sherman's march through Georgia was his last. (Cheers.)—If there had been mistakes in the past, let us accept them as lessons of wisdom for the future. (Cheers.) Let us improve the errors of bygones; let us unite our hands and our hearts, lock our shields together, and we may well believe that before the next summer solstice falls upon us it will be the enemy who will be asking us for conferences and occasions in which to make known our demands. (Great cheering.)

[From the South Carolinian.

The Gallant Louisianians—What the Soldiers of the State have Done for the Confederacy.

Among the States whose sons have uncompalainingly followed the Confederate banners into many a sanguine conflict, far away from their native soil, none stands out today more conspicuously upon this picture of the "carnival of death," than bleeding Louisiana. The valor of her sons has been no more illustrated in the ranks of the army of Northern Virginia, than their endurance has gained the admiration and love of their fellow-soldiers in the ill-starred army of the West.

Pre-eminently among the most dashing of our soldiers, the Louisiana chassieurs-a-pied, Zouaves and riflemen, have met the enemy in the front rank upon every battle-field, while the Washington artillery has now a name envied by every battalion in the service. Of fifteen thousand men belonging to the command of Gen. Lee, now barely six hundred remain to tell the story of their battles. This simple statement is more touching than any rhetoric could possibly be.

These six hundred comprise ten regiments, divided into two brigades. They are now commanded by Brig. Gen. Zebulon York, an officer who has fought his way from captain upward, who has seen thirty-six ensanguined fields, was thrice severely wounded, the last time losing an arm, and who thus, we need hardly say, has proven himself to be one of the most gallant from a gallant State.

We are glad to hear that this officer has received authority to recruit his command and that he has the most flattering prospects of increasing his brigade to five thousand before the Spring campaign opens. We trust every Louisianian will rally to that distinguished Louisiana brigade. Gen. York is on a short official visit to Columbia. We wish him welcome and a major-general's commission.

The Houston News says that cotton begins to roll through that place in a continuous stream, with the prospect of an increasing volume. Business is becoming somewhat brisk. Several new houses will shortly open large stocks of goods.