

Business Notices.

BLACK YOUR BOOTS, SIR!

IT WILL POLISH quickly, dry polished, and keep the leather softer than any other blacking.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The advertiser, having been restored to health in a few weeks by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe Lung Affection, and that dread disease, CONSUMPTION...

Elsewhere in this morning's paper will be found a list of sick and wounded from the Burnside Expedition.

We print to-day Com. Dupont's official report of the taking of Fernandina, Fla., and Brunswick, Georgia.

A long debate took place yesterday in the Senate on the Confiscation bill; Mr. Carlisle took up much time in talking against it, but no vote was had.

Our North Carolina correspondent gives us an interesting letter, in which he exposes the panic into which the Rebels have been thrown by the events of the past few days.

The House of Representatives yesterday passed Mr. Conkling's resolution concerning pecuniary compensation to States abolishing Slavery, in accordance with the suggestion of the President, by a vote of 88 against 31.

The mails for Great Britain and the Continent by the steamer Arabia will close this morning at the Post-Office at 9 1/2 o'clock.

Apprehensions are expressed that the Rebels who have left Manassas will be precipitated with overwhelming force on Gen. Burnside. It is to be hoped, however, that, even if his troops should be exposed to a land attack, the Rebels will be so closely followed that they can do him no serious harm.

We print on another page the comments of some scores of our cotemporaries on the President's Message recommending National aid to the States which may be disposed to rid themselves of Slavery.

By the North American, from Liverpool and Londonderry on the 27th and 28th ult., we have one day's later news from Europe.

The splendid victory in Arkansas, the official report of which has reached us, is fully treated in another article. This, in connection with the retreat of the Rebels from their positions, made all faces yesterday to shine, and caused all the bunting in town to be hung to the breeze.

It shows that the Rebels are really disheartened, is received with joy; it causes much chagrin, however, to those who would have been glad to chastise the traitors who have cost us so much. On Thursday morning, our troops entered and occupied Manassas, from which place, as it is now generally understood, the Rebels began to retire three weeks and more ago.

They left behind them at the last a great quantity of hospital and commissary stores, clothing, equipments, baggage wagons, locomotives, cars, tents, ambulances. The forts there are of great strength, but the guns are removed from them. The place had excellent accommodations for an army of 100,000.

It is believed that the enemy has retired to Gordonsville Junction, a point where the Virginia Central joins the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, thus placing themselves where they can fall still back upon Richmond at short notice.

Concerning the time at which the evacuation of Manassas began there is some conflict of opinion, though the weight of testimony shows that it has been a work of some weeks. The whole subject will doubtless be thoroughly investigated.

From Leesburg we hear that Gen. Geary yesterday made a reconnaissance southward; the trail of the retreating Rebels was marked by the ruins of granaries, hay-stacks, and crops of various sorts.

Gen. Geary and some of his officers recently rode to Ball's Bluff and decently interred the remains of our soldiers, who had barbarously been laid unburied by the Rebels.

We print this morning more letters and news items concerning the recent naval fight at Hampton Roads. A partial list of casualties is furnished. As the ship's papers went down with the Cumberland, it is impossible to ascertain the names of the lost. Full and accurate lists will soon appear.

It is not known how seriously the Merrimac is injured; the stories, even from Union sources, are conflicting. The slowness with which she returned to Norfolk, however, would seem to indicate serious injuries. Lieut. Selfridge, late of the Cumberland, has been placed in command of the Monitor; Lieut. Worden, the gallant hero of the recent fight, though still laid up with his wounds, is doing well, and will doubtless

recover. The commanders of the Merrimac on the first and second days—Buchanan and Jones—were both seriously injured.

In the Rebel Congress, at Richmond, on Monday, the question of the state of Affairs in Tennessee being under discussion, one of the representatives stated that nearly every member of the Legislature of that State had signed a petition for him to be deposed from his command of the department.

THE GREAT BATTLE OF ARKANSAS. On the same day that President Lincoln submitted to the national Congress at Washington his glorious scheme of Emancipation, a battle commenced in the extreme north-west portion of the State of Arkansas, which has had, we believe, no parallel as to its duration, and probably few as to its desperate character, since the opening of the rebellion.

We have to look over a long range of history to find a struggle between such an army as that under Generals Curtis and Sigel on the National side, and McCulloch and Van Dorn on the other—extending, as it did, over three whole days; every inch of ground contested with terrible and unyielding energy; pluck, pride, honest conscience and a brave cause, against armed treason, maddened to an extremity of fury by the lowering, deepening shadow of its approaching doom.

That three days' death-grapple among the ridges and hills which link together Missouri and Arkansas at their western boundary must have been a picture of rare, almost of inconceivable grandeur. Sigel to the right, Asboth to the left, Osterhaus and Acting Brig.-Gen. Davis in the center; the right wing now sustaining gallantly alone the attack of the combined Rebel forces; then, turning the left of the enemy and crossing-fring on his center with the enemy pressed into the arc of a circle; anon a steady, glorious charge of the National infantry, extending along the entire line; and finally, late in the third day, the break in the enemy's lines, the rout and retreat in broken and disordered sections through the defiles of the mountains, with the brave Sigel and a cavalry force in pursuit. Such is the broad outline of the picture as we see it in the rigidly subdued report of Gen. Curtis.

It was on Thursday last, early in the day, that Gen. Curtis was attacked by the Rebels. His right, under Gen. Sigel, was the first point for the enemy's fire, and the General seems to have gradually withdrawn his men toward the main lines, under the protection of a rear guard. Toward 4 in the afternoon on Thursday, the junction between the right wing and main body of the National forces appears to have been effected, and the enemy, finding himself unable further to pursue the fight, at once ceased firing, resolving, as it appeared, to deploy during the night, and get, if possible, to the rear of the main force; on the morning, therefore, of the 7th, Gen. Curtis, with admirable skill, at once changed his front, his right (now changed into his left) resting still on a stream called Sugar Creek, with his new right (or former left), under Gen. Asboth, extending toward the mountainous ridge eastward, which at this point appears to run north and south. Meanwhile, the National cavalry under Col. Osterhaus, endeavoring to make an advance with the view, if possible, to break the enemy's line; and while this order was being executed the Rebel forces made a dash at Gen. Asboth on the right. From this hour, then (which was 11 o'clock on Friday forenoon), the enemy's attack was mainly directed throughout the day to the right wing; and several of our positions appear to have been temporarily occupied by him, until Acting-Brig.-Gen. Davis pressed forward to the Rebel center, where McCulloch led the attack. At this point the notorious leader seems to have fallen—a sad discomfiture alone to his followers, which was nobly improved by the energy of Col. Osterhaus and Col. Carr—so that before nightfall the enemy was repulsed.

In this way closed the second day of the battle. Under cover of night, it was Gen. Curtis's business to strengthen his right, which had been so sorely pressed by the combined Rebel force. It was, therefore, reinforced before morning; and, from the new position which it was found the Rebels occupied, another change of front forward was ordered. While this was being made, the National forces on the right and center opened fire at sunrise on Saturday. The fire was briskly returned along the entire line; Gen. Sigel on the left wing, moving forward with unflinching steadiness along the defile and up the hills, forcing the enemy from one height after another until the National center and right were brought to the brave man's aid, when the simultaneous fire of our infantry forces broke the staggering line of the enemy, and left him the inglorious resource of a rout in disorder and confusion through the narrow passes of the mountains.

In this decisive battle—among the most memorable that has ever been given to history—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri, each won laurels of imperishable worth. The dash and fire of sudden attack, and speedy victory, were eclipsed by the coolness and the resoluteness by which the enemy was ultimately forced into flight; and we find the conditions of merited success so well fulfilled in every part of the prolonged struggle, that it is a pleasure to linger over the story as it comes to us in the simple language of the Commanding General. Bitter as the unreported incidents must be,—terrible as the losses are admitted to have been, it is in such ways the Nation is asserting its manhood before the world, so that its power shall be held indisputable at home, and hereafter, for all time, respected abroad.

The question, just now, in view of the depressed condition of property, and the stagnation of business, is how to ease the public burdens of the people, by reducing the rate of local taxation for the current year. The Controller suggests a plan whereby the sum of at least two millions might be raised, relieving the tax-payers to that extent. The Councilmen concurred in his proposition, and appear to be honestly desirous of cutting down the tax levy. Not so with the Aldermen. That Board seems to be bent upon bankrupting the Corporation.

The unobjectionable table of the proposed tax levy shows how recklessly they are going about the business:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes items like Gross amount recommended by the Controller, Gross amount adopted by Councilmen, etc.

From our political adversaries, we neither ask favor nor expect justice. THE TRIBUNE is a thorn in their side which we can neither expect them to regard with complacency nor forego any chance to assail.

For he knows very well that THE TRIBUNE has said very much less than is calculated to shake public confidence in Gen. McClellan than we have uttered to the prejudices of Secretary Welles, with whom we not only agree in politics, but whom we personally like, and whom we certainly do not "fear" as a candidate for the Presidency.

Our objection to the General is precisely the same as to the Secretary—this, namely, that we do not deem him so energetic and effective as he might be in the prosecution of the War for the Union. That is our objection, and the whole of it, to either. Mr. Welles, we are sure, means to do his best; Gen. McClellan, we fear, has been too much under the influence of our old Breckinridge politicians like Mr. S. L. M. Barlow, who are more anxious for the preservation of Slavery than for the exemplary crushing out of the rebellion.

We cannot explain otherwise the delays and procrastination, the neglect of opportunities and submission to such damaging indignities as the closing of the Potomac, whereby the Republic was, through the threatened interposition of European Powers, brought to the very brink of ruin. We believe the Rebels might have been compelled to evacuate Northern Virginia in December as surely as in March, and that they ought to have been made to leave half their guns and a good many prisoners behind them. The retirement of an army in the face of a decidedly superior force is apt to be one of the most difficult, perilous and costly movements known to warfare: at all events, it was so in other days. In the case of our Rebels, it seems to be particularly easy, smooth and safe.

ability, and the introduction of wholesome economy in the City Government. We doubt the propriety, however, of making the Corporation Council a creature of the Mayor, for with a corrupt man at the head of affairs, and his tool in the Law Department to give legal advice according to his wishes, the Common Council might have a pretext for passing pretty much anything they pleased.

THE DISASTER AT HAMPTON ROADS.

When we consider the possibilities of disaster involved in the unexpected attack of the Merrimac, at Hampton Roads, we are overwhelmed with the magnitude of the danger which was impending over our unconscious heads.

The first success of the attack, and the utter destruction of the Cumberland and Congress, show what it was possible for an iron-clad vessel of this kind to accomplish. Obviously no vessel of our navy, and no combination of them, had the smallest chance of success in a conflict with her.

Cased in impenetrable armor, she was invulnerable by her weapons; and strengthened for dashing in by her prow the sides of any ordinary ship, it would seem difficult for such vessels to escape destruction in a conflict with her.

It seems almost certain that the Minnesota and Roanoke must have fallen victims to her second day's assault; and that nothing but the opportune arrival of the Monitor saved them from the same disasters which had so speedily destroyed the frigates the day before. At the best, the Minnesota might perhaps have escaped by superior speed. Nothing more than this could have been hoped for, while the Roanoke must inevitably have surrendered.

The possible results of the escape of the Merrimac from harbor for Norfolk to the open ocean it is impossible to contemplate without a shudder. In whatever direction her force was applied it must have proved overpowering. If she had turned her course southward against the blockading squadrons of the coast, the whole of them must have either fled or fallen victims to her terrific fire.

But the most terrible result would perhaps have followed an attack by the Merrimac upon Washington. Proceeding up the Potomac, there would have been nothing to resist her, since the means by which New-York could have been protected against her—sinking vessels at the entrance to the port—would there have been unavailing. The capital itself might have been bombarded, the bridges connecting Washington with the Virginia bank of the river destroyed, the communications of our army broken, the crossing of reinforcements and supplies interrupted, the Cabinet and Congress put to flight; and had a simultaneous advance of the Rebel forces taken place from Centreville, a victory might have followed that would have gone far to secure the recognition of the Confederacy at home, and raised shouts of exultation among our enemies abroad.

From this terrific alternative of disasters we have been saved by the interposing hand of Providence; saved at the last moment in which salvation was possible by any human agency.

Now that the immediate urgency of the danger is temporarily removed, we may recal with advantage the circumstances which have given occasion to it. Prominent among these is the policy of delay which has prevailed at Washington. Such a policy is always hazardous; and the hazards of it in a case like the present are tremendous. Not to speak of the accumulating burden of debt, growing by millions every day, the danger of some unforeseen circumstance occurring to change the state of affairs, is real and serious. It is not too much to say that Virginia should have been occupied and Norfolk taken, three months ago. The possibility of such a fatal disaster should never have been allowed to occur. Once, in consequence of that policy, we have been involved in complications which seriously threatened a foreign war. Again we have been threatened with the loss of our blockading squadrons, the assault of our principal cities, or the demolition of our capital. When all possibilities of this kind be effectually and forever precluded by the occupation of the Rebel ports in which such fatal engines of war are manufactured? Even now we know not what efforts are making at New-Orleans for the production of similar armed and mailed vessels; nor do we know the moment when the Merrimac, repaired with the utmost ingenuity, and resources of the Rebels, may again attempt to escape. The demonstration of the extraordinary success of this, the first conflict of such vessels in the history of naval warfare, will stimulate the Rebels to unwonted effort; and the hopelessness of every other method of warfare available to them will lend new energy to their exertions in this direction. Norfolk, it seems to us, should at once be attacked in force, and captured at all hazards; while the command of the Mississippi River to its mouth, should be at once secured by the most prompt action of the army and navy of the West. Every port at which it is possible for such a vessel to be fitted out by the Rebels, should be an early object of attack, till no further possibility of such effort on their part shall be left.

We trust, too, that there will be no delay in recognizing the efficiency of the new mode of warfare; or the merit of the men to whom it is due. From disasters which are beyond all estimate we have been preserved by the genius and patriotism of Ericsson; and no reward which a grateful people can bestow can surpass his desert or our obligation. He should be placed at the head of the Department of Construction in our navy, with the highest rank, and his extraordinary talents thus secured to the country for life. His feelings of pride and joy at the news of his invaluable achievement can be but faintly imagined, and make the congratulation, which we feel impelled to offer, impotent and vain. Worden, too, whose zeal and efficiency betoken the highest skill and devotion, should receive prompt expression of the public approval.

Our safety, in one important respect, is owing to the mistake of the Rebel commander. Buchanan is a man of great energy of character. Overbearing and exacting to a degree

which made him constantly odious to his subordinates, he yet possesses an efficiency and zeal which, under good guidance, would render him a formidable foe. His eager impulses, however, seem to have misled him, in the present instance, into a false line of action. Had he, instead of originally assailing the inefficient frigates, or the scarcely more active steamers, that so feebly guarded their important post, steamed directly up the Chesapeake toward Washington, there was nothing to impede his departure. Had he, after the first day's battle, avoided another collision, and made his escape at once to assail us elsewhere, the result, instead of being the barren success of a day, might have been almost decisive of the fate of the war. As it is, a great opportunity has been lost to the Rebels, which it should be our business to prevent their ever regaining. For this purpose the utmost promptness and efficiency should be infused into our action. All delays should be rebuked with a sternness which should render their recurrence impossible. Every element of vigorous warfare should be seized upon, and used with the most decisive effect. Every energetic commander should be brought into the most active service. Nothing should be entrusted to time, and nothing be risked in the hands of dilatory, timid, or unenterprising Generals. The old officers of our Army and Navy in the Rebel ranks seem fighting with all the energy of hate against us, like Milton's evil angels against the Most High. We cannot afford to dally with such adversaries, to encounter the hazards of prolonged inaction, or to forego a single advantage in the life-and-death conflict which we are waging.

We casually alluded, a few days ago, to the difficulties and uncertainties which the manufacturers of England would encounter in obtaining a regular and economical supply of cotton, even though the "Southern Confederacy" should achieve its independence. We find that an English journal—the sweet, courteous, amiable, and good-natured Saturday Review—has dumpy misgivings upon the same point. That engaging paper (Feb. 8th, 1862) says: "Those who look upon the crisis from a national point of view will rejoice if the decision of Manchester should be in favor of more energetic efforts than she has yet made to re-establish our staple industry upon a foundation somewhat less uncertain than the 'slave labor of the Confederate States.'" Which is as much as to say:

"Let us be cautious! Do not let us be found bemoaning ourselves for nothing! Let us be sure, before we resort to violence and injustice, that one or the other will answer our purposes! Let us ask ourselves the question: Will interference pay? Can we be certain of the fidelity of the knaves we are to deal with?"

It is curious—this poor John Bull dilemma. In this very paper we have an assortment of staple doubts and state vaticinations, most of them long since settled or contradicted by the facts. The United States are bankrupt, have been defeated, will be again defeated, must be finally defeated; we are consigned to anarchy, nakedness and starvation, while the Southern Confederacy is brave, shrewd, dauntless and indomitable. It compensates us, however, for all this castigation to read the tail sentence of the article. We must, says the weekly truce, re-establish our staple industry upon a foundation somewhat less uncertain than the "slave labor of the Confederate States." Exactly so! Bothering, isn't it!

The N. Y. Times, which of late has specially distinguished itself as a laudator of General McClellan as the greatest of strategists and commanders, in its yesterday's impression thus deprecated every attempt to urge him against Manassas before he should be fully ready, meaning, no doubt, that the final attack should be made early in April, according to a plan which it is understood he lately laid before the President:

"He is fairly entitled to the continued confidence of the whole country and to the undisturbed prosecution of his unfulfilled designs. Nothing is more certain than that he formed a plan for the expulsion of the Rebels from Centreville and Manassas, and for their capture. It is not enough that they be driven away, or forced to abandon those points. They must not be suffered to escape. And General McClellan must be allowed to complete his plans for cutting off their retreat before he is forced to disturb them in their present position.

"When all things in all quarters are ready, no one can doubt that the grand concerted movement will be made. To compel the Commanding General to make it before, would be only to sacrifice success to the demands of a temporary and a doubtful sentiment.

"In spite of all the detraction which he has been the object, General McClellan has thus far proved himself abundantly competent to his high responsibility, and adequate to the duties of his high command. He has shown himself a superb strategist—competent to the largest combination and the most extended operations in the field. His plans are now upon the very eve of consummation. But a few days can elapse at the furthest before they will be put to the test. He is a rash and an unwise man who would, from any feeling of ingenuitance, force them to execution before they are fully ripe."

This, let us remember, was published on the very morning when it was ascertained that Gen. Joe Johnston and his army at Manassas had slipped through Gen. McClellan's fingers, and gone off, just as the same General slipped through Gen. Patterson's fingers at Winchester last Summer. But in the afternoon, after this surprising escape of the Rebels, The Commercial Advertiser, another thorough-going adulterator of our commander on the Potomac, holds up this very event to public admiration as one of his chiefest achievements. We quote:

"Every event only proves how thoroughly Gen. McClellan is a master in strategy, and how completely and humanely he is conquering victory."

What a lucky man is McClellan! No doubt The Times will at once drop its own unintelligent opinions of yesterday, and receive the delight of its brother organist. So goes the world.

The Boston journals are discussing with a good deal of feeling the presence of Dr. Charles Mackay in this country, that personage, it seems, having arrived here by a recent steamer. He has of late identified himself with Secession intrigues in London, and with Secession agents of the most disreputable sort, such, for instance, as Mr. Hiram Fuller, formerly of this city. Very properly Mackay is now here as an agent of Jeff. Davis, the fact that he is a fool not rendering him any the less eligible for that purpose.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS. The splendid victory in Arkansas, the official report of which has reached us, is fully treated in another article.

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