THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

The Amendments to the Tax Bill.

IMPORTANT TAX ON LIQUORS.

THE TROY POSTMASTERSHIP

CONFISCATION AND EMANCIPATION

PAY OF CERTAIN ARMY OFFICERS.

GEN. BLENKER SUSPENDED.

Important Potomac Army Order.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

THE TAX BILL.

In the Ways and Means Committee, to-day, an important amendment was adopted to the Tax bill, imposing the same tax (15 cents per gallon) on all liquors on hand when the act shall take effect, to be collected of the owners when sold. This will seriously affect the speculators who have been laying in large stocks for a rise, and will also bring to grief the distillers who have been running their works night and day to get ahead of Congress and the Tax. This amendment excited a great deal of interest, and was carried by a vote so large as to indicate its adoption by the House. Another amendment imposes a tax of $12 50 upon the licensed to use small stills for the manufacture of cider brandy and peach brandy.

The tax on all other stills was reduced, in those licensed for twelve months to $50, and those less than six months $25.

Delegations of paper manufacturers urged an ad valorem duty, and also asked for a schedule revision of the lists of paper. The tobacco manufacturers represented that they could not live under a 3 per cent duty on the raw tobacco. The Maryland planters positively stated that they would have to discontinue the crop if this tax were retained. The Massachusetts manufacturers will be represented by a strong delegation from Boston to-morrow. A more careful study of the Canadian reciprocity free lists, and comparison with this tax bill, leads to the impression that flour will be the only important article to be seriously affected by the obnoxious treaty. It will be fish oil, and not petroleum oil, which will embarrass the oil tax.

THE TROY POST-OFFICE.

Senator Harris, though sustained by every Loco Foco vote in the Senate, failed to-day to secure the confirmation of his candidate for the Troy Post-Office. Thomas Clowes got the Senatorial sanction by one majority—a complimentary result, considering the combination made to defeat him.

THE CONFISCATION AND EMANCIPATION BILLS.

The Judiciary Committee of the House reported to-day, through their Chairman, Mr. Eckman, upon the Confiscation and Emancipation bills—a dozen or more—which were referred to it early in the session. The Committee asked to be discharged from their further consideration. Mr. Hickman submitted as a minority report from himself the following resolution:

A Joint Resolution relative to the Power of the President of the United States.

Whereas, The power of Congress to confiscate the property of Rebels is not doubted, and the power of the President is equally clear; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, may avail himself of all the means not incompatible with the laws of war to crush the said rebellion, including the secure and final disposition of all the property of all engaged in the rebellion, including slaves, and, in the opinion of Congress, decided measures on the part of the Executive have already become necessary.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, and Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, made another minority report recommending the passage of the following bills:

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE CAPTURE AND CONFISCATION OF ENEMY'S PROPERTY, AND TO INDEMNIFY THE UNITED STATES FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE SUPPRESSION OF REBELLION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any person or persons within any State or Territory of the United States shall, after the taking effect of this act, engage in armed rebellion against the Government of the United States, or shall aid or abet such rebellion, all the property, money, stocks, credits, and effects of such person or persons are hereby declared lawful subjects of prize and capture wherever found, for the indemnification of the United States against the expenses of suppressing such rebellion, and it is hereby made the duty of the President of the United States to cause all such property wherever found to be seized, to the end that the same may be confiscated and condemned, as hereinafter provided, for the use of the United States.

SEC. 2. That the property so captured or seized shall be condemned in the District Courts of the United States, and that the proceedings of the condemnation shall be in rem, and shall be instituted and prosecuted in the name of the United States in any District Court of the United States within any District to which the same may be carried or situate, or into which the same may be taken, and proceedings first instituted; and which proceedings shall conform as near as may be to proceedings in prize cases, or to cases of forfeiture arising under the revenue laws, and in all cases the property so seized and condemned, whether real or personal, shall be sold and the proceeds deposited in the treasury of the United States for the sole use of the United States.

SEC. 3. That the Attorney General, or any District Attorney of the United States, in which said property or effects may at the time be or into which the same may be taken, shall institute the proceedings of condemnation as hereinbefore provided.

A BILL TO MANUMIT AND LIBERATE THOSE SERVITORS THE SLAVES OF ALL PERSONS WHO SHALL ENGAGE IN, OR AID, AND ABET ARMED REBELLION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That if any person, or persons within any State or Territory of the United States, shall, after the taking effect of this act, engage in armed rebellion against the Government of the United States, or shall aid or abet such rebellion, every such person shall thereby forfeit all claim which such person may have to the service or labor of any slave or slaves, and the slave or slaves of such person shall be, and hereby are, declared free and forever released from such servitude, anything in the laws of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding. And whenever thereafter the person claiming such labor or service of such slave or slaves, shall seek to enforce his or her claim thereto, it shall be a full and sufficient answer to such claim, that the claimant or the person or persons through or by whom he or she claims the right to such service or labor of such slave or slaves, did engage in or aid and abet such rebellion as aforesaid, contrary to the provisions of this act.

Section 2 provides that a claimant of a fugitive from labor or service under any United States law, must prove before he can proceed to tender, that he is loyal, and that neither he or the person he claims has engaged in the rebellion or aided it.

PAY OF CERTAIN ARMY OFFICERS.

The bill which passed the Senate some days ago, defining the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army, is now before the House Military Committee, and almost entirely changed. Section 14, which authorizes the President to retire all officers who are 64 years of age, and who have been in the service 45 years, has been stricken out. The Committee have also struck out Sections 15, 16, and 18. The bill will probably be defeated in its present shape.

DUTIES ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARMS.

The Senate Finance Committee is maturing a general bill for refunding duties on imported arms purchased by the States to arm the militia or volunteers for the suppression of the rebellion.

MILITARY ORDERS.

Gen. Benham was to-day ordered to report without delay to Major-Gen. Hunter, who supersedes Gen. Sherman at Port Royal. Major Talbot as Assistant Adjutant-General and Capt. John P. Sherbourn have been ordered to report to Gen. Wadsworth, Military Governor of this District. Surgeon Hammond, U. S. Navy, has been ordered to duty in the Army of the Potomac, to relieve Surgeon Keeny.

GEN. FREMONT'S STAFF.

Gen. Fremont's Staff is nearly composed. It will probably number 17.

THE CASE OF CAPT. PALMER.

Capt. Palmer has not, as stated, been restored to the command of the Iroquois, from which vessel he was detached soon after the Sumter slipped through his fingers. Nor has a court of inquiry been called on his case. The Retiring Board, before which he came, having reported that he was not incapacited for duty, he is now awaiting orders.

THE CASE OF SENATOR STARK.

The Select Committee upon the loyalty of Senator Stark has been completed by the addition of Senator Sherman.

GEN. BLENKER SUSPENDED.

Gen. Blenker has been suspended from his command.

IMPORTANT ARMY ORDER.

The following important army order has been issued:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, Camp near Alexandria Seminary, Va., March 19, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 107.—I. Commanders of Army Corps have authority to grant leaves of absence for periods not exceeding fifteen days and furloughs.

V. Commanders of Army Corps may grant passes to the officers and men of their respective commands within the limits of the Army of the Potomac. Such passes must be signed by the Commander himself, or by not exceeding two members of his staff, specially designated for the purpose, whose names and signatures must be reported immediately to the Provost Marshal General and the Military Governor of the District of Columbia.

[illegible] proceedings, with a view to the condemnation of property, and Boards of Survey, will be ordered by the Commanders of Army Corps.

[illegible] appeal to the troops serving within the limits of the command not assigned to an army corps, the Military Governor of the District of Columbia will exercise the functions [illegible] to commanders of army corps.

[illegible] in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and on the eastern shore of Virginia, not assigned to an army corps, will immediately report to Maj.-Gen. John A. Dix, commanding at Baltimore, who will exercise in regard to them all the functions of army corps commanders.

[illegible] shall annually join the army corps to which they have been assigned, division commanders will exercise the functions of commanders of corps.

[illegible] The commanding officers of the artillery and cavalry reserves, and of the regular infantry, will have the same power as commanders of army corps, except that all applications for leaves of absence to officers of their commands must be forwarded for the action of these Headquarters.

[illegible] Commanders of army corps, separate divisions, and detachments will make to the Headquarters, every Sunday morning, a consolidated report of their commands.

[illegible] The following proceedings will be strictly observed, when not rendered impracticable by the distance to General Headquarters, throughout the active portion of this army.

First: Commanders of army corps, divisions, and detachments will send messengers to these headquarters at 10 a. m. and 5 p. m. daily for orders.

Second: Orderly hour at these headquarters will be 12 m., at which time only a staff officer from the headquarters of each army corps and separate command will attend at the office of the Assistant Adjutant-General at these headquarters for orders.

Third: After every march the commander of each army corps or separate command will either attend in person or send a staff officer to the office of the Assistant Adjutant-General at these headquarters for orders and to report the location of headquarters of his corps and each of its divisions.

Fourth: After every march the Chief of the Staff Department at these headquarters will attend in person, or send a staff officer to the office of the Assistant Adjutant-General for orders, and to report the location of their respective offices.

Fifth: Commanders of army corps, and separate commands, will use every means to keep themselves constantly informed of the location of General Headquarters.

10. Flags of the following descriptions will be used to designate the locations of General Headquarters, and the Headquarters of the Army Corps and Divisions: For General Headquarters, to be blue, 6 feet square, having a plain white star with 4 points, and 2 feet 6 inches from tip to tip in the center; for headquarters an Army Corps, red, 6 feet square, having a white star with 5 points, and 2 feet 6 inches from tip to tip in center, the number of the corps in black in the middle of the star.

For headquarters of divisions, six feet square, divided horizontally into three parts, the upper and lower parts blue, and middle third white; the name of the division commander to be borne in black in the center. The flags will be attached to a portable staff eleven feet long, made in two joints of eight feet each, and will be habitually displayed in front of the tent, or from some prominent part of the house or vessel occupied as the headquarters they designate.

In the movements of the army, and upon the field of battle, the position of the Generals will be designated by smaller flags of the same pattern, but four feet square, and attached to eight poles or staves 12 feet in length. The Quartermaster's Department will take immediate measures to supply these flags upon requisitions supplied by army corps commanders.

By command of Major-General McClellan.

J. WILLIAMS, Asst Adj't-Gen.

ARMY ORGANIZATION.

Mr. Wilson of Massachusetts has reported from the Military Committee the following bill for the organization of the army corps and staffs attached to corps and divisions of the army:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President be and he is hereby authorized to establish and organize army corps according to his discretion.

SEC. 2. That each army corps shall have the following officers attached to it, who shall constitute the staff of the commander: One Assistant Adjutant-General, one Quartermaster, one Commissary of Subsistence, and one Assistant Inspector-General, who shall be respectively the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and who shall be assigned from the army or volunteer force by the President. Also three aide-de-camp, one with the rank of Major, and two of them the rank of Captain, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate upon the recommendation of the commander of the Army corps.

SEC. 3. That each division of the forces of the United States, consisting of two or more brigades, shall have the following officers attached thereto, who shall constitute the staff of the commander of said division: One Assistant Adjutant-General, and one Assistant Inspector-General, who shall be assigned from the army or volunteer forces. Also three Aide-de-Camp, to bear the rank of Captain, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the Commander of the division (and the appointment to cease upon the expiration of his division command). The division Commander may detail an officer of the army of the rank of Captain, to act as Judge Advocate of the division, or a Lieutenant of said command, upon the recommendation of said Commander, may be assigned by the President, to act as such division Judge Advocate, who shall bear the rank of Captain while so assigned. Any officers of the regular army assigned and detached to said duty, as above provided, shall, upon the cessation of such service, resume their position in the regular army, with the same rank and promotion as if they had continued to serve in their own regiments or corps. The senior officer of artillery in each division shall, in addition to his other duties, act as Chief of Artillery and Ordnance at the headquarters of the division.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Whatever may be the shortcomings of the Navy Department, however much censure it may deserve for the original loss of Norfolk, it is certain that it has always been ready to cooperate with the army in its recapture. So long ago as July, Flag-Officer Stringham offered to silence the batteries which defend the approaches, if Gen. Butler would furnish troops to occupy the place after he had conquered it. On several occasions since July, once not very long ago, the Navy proposed the same thing, but the Army held back.

PATENTS FOR CLAIMS IN CALIFORNIA.

The General Land Office yesterday transmitted to the United States Surveyor-General at San Francisco, Cal., for delivery to the parties entitled, patents for the following private claims in California, viz:

Rancho "Las Aromitas y Agua Caliente," finally confirmed to E. A. McDougall et al., containing 8,659 69-100 acres, situated on the Pajaro River, in Township 13, S. Ranges 3 and 4 East of the Mount Diablo meridian.

Rancho "Locoalloni," finally confirmed to the heirs of Julian Pope, containing 8,822 79-100 acres, situated in Township 9, North Ranges 4 and 5 West of the Mount Diablo meridian, and

Rancho "Los Cameros," finally confirmed to E. A. McDougall et al., containing 1,628 79-100 acres, situated in Townships 12 and 13, South Range 3 East, Mount Diablo meridian.

THE GUNS CAPTURED AT COLUMBUS.

Most of the Rebel guns captured at Columbus were from Norfolk. Many frigates' chains and anchors were found among the spoils.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

The House Committee on Judiciary, in their report made to-day, examine at large into the censorship of the press. While they say, that from want of qualification or proper discrimination on the part of the censor, has sprung much of the complaint made by the press, they remark that the censorship seems to have been without any clearly-defined limits, after the departure from the general agreement between Gen. McClellan and the representatives of the press. The Committee give numerous examples to show that dispatches of a harmless nature have been excluded from transmission. No adequate measure seems to have been adopted to prevent the transmission of what the censor denominated "contraband" intelligence, through the telegraph offices at Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York, and other important points, while information on almost every subject was excluded from the wires in this city. The representatives of the press, who have testified before the Committee, have manifested no disposition to complain of the suppression of dispatches of a military character, which could in any manner be tortured into disclosures of information to the enemy, and might in the slightest degree embarrass the Government. They have uniformly expressed themselves as willing to submit to the rules established by the Government, between them and Gen. McClellan. The correspondents generally seem to have the same understanding of the rule by which the censor determined what may and what may not be sent over the wires to their respective papers. Very few dispatches reflecting on members of the Cabinet or other civil officers were found among those suppressed by the censor. The witnesses examined by the Committee explain this by stating that they seldom prepared such dispatches, as they understood they would not be permitted to send them over the wires. The Committee answer the points of inquiry directed by the resolution of the House, as follows:

First: A telegraphic censorship of the press has been established in this city.

Second: The censorship existing at the time the investigation was directed by the House was originally established upon the basis of the agreement between the representatives of the press and Gen. McClellan, but was enlarged in its scope by the Secretary of State.

Third: At the time the inquiry was directed by the House, and for some months prior to that time, and until the 25th of February last, the censorship was controlled by the Secretary of State.

Fourth: The original design was to prevent the publication of military information which might be of advantage to the Rebel authorities.

Fifth: Dispatches almost numberless of a political, personal, and general character have been suppressed by the censor, and correspondents have been deterred from preparing others because they knew they could not send to their papers by telegraph.

The telegraph has become a most important auxiliary to the press of the country, and should be left as free from Government interference as may be consistent with the necessities of the Government in time of war. These necessities cannot extend beyond what may be legitimately connected with the military or naval affairs of the nation, and to these should the Government interference with the transmission of intelligence be confined, for it is this character of information alone which can be of importance to the enemy, and which may be properly withheld from the press and public, in order that it may not reach the enemy. The Committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution by the House:

Resolved, That the Government should not interfere with the transmission of intelligence by telegraph, when the same will not aid the enemy in his military or naval operations, or give him information concerning such operations on the part of the Government, except when it may become necessary for the Government under the authority of Congress to withhold exclusive control of the telegraph for its own legitimate purposes, or to assert the right of priority in the transmission of its dispatches.

BILLS REPORTED AGAINST.

The bills and resolutions against which the House Committee on Judiciary reported adversely to-day are fourteen in number, providing for the confiscation, &c., of Rebel property, and had referred to them from time to time. Mr. Hickman made a report proposing to substitute for the bills and resolutions the following:

Whereas, The power of Congress under the Constitution to authorize the confiscation of the property of persons engaged in armed rebellion against the United States, or aid and abet rebellion is doubtless, and the power of the Executive to act in the premises is ample;

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the President should use all means not inconsistent with the laws of war which to his judgment may be deemed necessary to crush rebellion, including the seizure and final disposition of all the property, real and personal, of those engaged in armed rebellion against the Government, or aiding in such rebellion, including slaves, and that in the opinion of Congress, decided measures on the part of the Executive have already become necessary.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate to-day, in Executive Session, confirmed the following nominations: Alfred Guthrie of Chicago, Ill., Superintending Steamboat Inspector, in place of Isaac Lewis, removed; John Lellyett, Postmaster of Nashville, Tenn., in place of McMish, removed; John P. Usher of Indiana, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Charles Eaton, Marshal for Minnesota; Caleb B. H. Blood of Florida, Consul at Monterey; Thomas Clowes, Postmaster of Troy, N. Y.

MILITARY ORDERS.

The following official orders have been issued from the office of the Adjutant-General:

Brig.-Gen. H. W. Benham, U. S. Volunteers, is relieved from the operations of the instruction of March 17, 1862, to report to the Chief of the Engineer Corps, and will report without delay to Maj.-Gen. Hunter, U. S. Volunteers.

Surgeon J. P. Hammond, U. S. Infantry, will relieve Surgeon C. C. Keeney from duty in the Army of the Potomac. Surgeon Keeney will report to the Surgeon-General for orders.

Capt. John C. Sherburne, 1st U. S. Infantry, will report for duty to Brig.-Gen. Wadsworth, Military Governor of the District of Columbia.

ARMY HOSPITALS.

There are twelve general army hospitals in the District of Columbia and Alexandria; three in Baltimore; four in Annapolis, and two in Philadelphia. Those at Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Annapolis are for convalescents, until they sufficiently recover to join their respective regiments. The capacity of the smaller hospitals is for 225 patients, and of the larger, 800. The hospitals in this vicinity are tolerably full, in consequence of the recent military changes of position. Not more than one in ten is confined to his bed. All receive the best possible attention from the Military Department of the Army. One female nurse, and two male attendants are allowed to each twenty patients. The total number of deaths for the past year, 3,900, include the reports in these 27 hospitals, as well as in 257 regiments, including those of the Army of the Potomac.

INTEREST COUPONS.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed that the semi-annual coupons for interest upon the Oct. 1 three-years bonds, due April 1, shall be paid in coin at the offices of the Assistant Treasurers at Boston, New-York, and Philadelphia, and at the Treasury at Washington, and the designated Depositary at Cincinnati.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

The following prisoners were released by the Commission to-day, on giving their written parole to render no aid or comfort to the enemy in hostility to the Government of the United States:

A. J. Fleming, J. A. English, W. A. Taylor, Sumerfield Ball, W. B. Price, J. W. Burke, W. N. Brown, S. S. Hough, H. C. Field, E. J. Snowden, W. Cogan, and John Welch.

The following were recommitted for further consideration:

H. O. Claughton, Henry Peel, and E. H. McKnight, all of Alexandria.

MILITARY APPOINTMENT.

Capt. Chauncey McKeever, formerly assistant Adjutant-General to Gen. Fremont, has been appointed to a similar position in Gen. Heintzelman's corps.

THE BATTLE AT FORT CRAIG.

THE DISASTER FULLY CONFIRMED.

COMMUNICATION NORTHWARD CUT OFF.

Union Re-enforcements Going Forward.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The following dispatch was received here to-night:

KANSAS CITY, Tuesday, March 18, 1862.

George T. Beale, bearer of dispatches to Washington, brings advices from Santa Fé to the 3d inst., confirming previous accounts of the battle near Fort Craig on the 21st ult. The Union loss was 62 killed, and 140 wounded. The Texans captured six of our field-pieces. Col. Steele commanded the Texans. The Texans were at Socorro, 38 miles north of Fort Craig. Col. Canby's command was concentrated at Fort Craig. Nothing has been heard from them since the 25th, all communication being cut off. A large amount of Government stores were destroyed at Albuquerque, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

Four hundred and fifty teams, with two pieces of artillery, entered Albuquerque on the 2d. Major Donelson, commanding the District of Santa Fé, was preparing to abandon that place, and fall back to Fort Union on the 3d. Mr. Beale met three companies of Colorado volunteers, under Lieut.-Col. Tappan, at Hole in the Rock, fifty miles south of Bent's Fort, en route for Fort Union. Seven more companies had crossed the river above. They would meet at the Purgatory, forty miles south of Bent's Fort. Mr. Beale left this morning for Washington.

ST. LOUIS, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

A correspondent of *The Republican*, writing from the camp near Bent's Old Fort, New-Mexico, March 6, says, it is supposed that the Rebels, after their victory near Fort Craig, will march directly on Santa Fé and Fort Union. All the valuable property in the Department is being concentrated at the latter place, and all the available force is being rapidly forwarded there to defend it.

The property amounted, it is said, to several million dollars. Col. Slough's 1st Regiment Colorado Volunteers left this camp yesterday, and will reach Fort Union by the 12th March, in advance of the Rebels. Fort Union is a strong fort, and 1,000 man can hold it against the combined strength of the Rebels. Col. Canby is still supposed to be at Fort Craig with 1,200 regulars and a body of Mexican volunteers, who, however, are not relied on.

The Santa Fé Gazette says that Capt. McRae's battery was captured in the battle near Fort Craig in consequence of its support, consisting of two companies of regulars and two companies of volunteers, running away when the Texans charged on it, resisting the efforts of Col. Canby himself to rally them. Also, that Capt. Lord's dragoons refused to obey the command to charge the enemy.

The charge of the Texans on our battery is described as being very brilliant and terrible. They were armed principally with Colt's six-shooters, and although scores were killed by McRae's grape and canister, they marched steadily on, killing every gunner but one or two.

LOYALTY IN TENNESSEE.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The citizens of Gallatin, Tenn., a town which had been decidedly disloyal, met in town meeting recently, and were addressed by Baillie Peyton, esq., a loyal man, and voted to petition for a post-office there, and expressed a willingness to return to their allegiance. A post-office will be established there in a few days, according to their petition.

John Lellgett has been appointed Postmaster at Nashville. He wrote some of the best articles against Secession during the agitation of that subject in Tennessee. He was one of the refugees from that State, but now returns in that official capacity.

A special agent of the Post-Office Department, acting on the Tennessee and Kentucky borders, reports as follows:

"It is gratifying whenever I have been, to find there is a strong desire for the reestablishment of the mails, and a willingness among the people to return to their allegiance."

ARRIVAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND, WITH PRISONERS.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The Rhode Island, from Key West, arrived here last evening, with fifty prisoners from the privateer Beauregard and other vessels attempting to run the blockade.

EVACUATION OF ACQUIA CREEK.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

Three deserters brought by steamer Leslie this morning confirm the report of the evacuation of Acquia Creek. They say the Rebel forces there had been 9,000. Before the Rebels left they tore up a large part of the railroad, set fire to the station, wharves, &c., and burnt a large schooner.

A DAY OF HUMILIATION, FASTING, AND PRAYER.

Gov. Andrew has issued the following Proclamation for a day of humiliation, fasting, and payer, in the State of Massachusetts:

The time is at hand when the People of Massachusetts are wont to unite in their annual public and penitential offering to Almighty God, of Prayer and Humiliation.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the third day of April next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a day of public HUMILIATION, FASTING, and PRAYER.

From every altar may the flame of pure devotion arise to Heaven, and the sweet incense of contrition, penitence and humility ascend on high; so that worthily lamenting our sins we may humbly hope forgiveness of the same through the Infinite and Divine mercy and favor manifested in the life and doctrines of the blessed Savior of Mankind.

May our self-examination be sincere and faithful, searching out all the hidden causes in our selfishness, prejudices or ignorances, of every public disorder and evil, as well as every private disobedience and wrong.

May the trying experiences through which this people are borne lead them to a manlier as well as more Christian faith in the providence of God, and the power of His Truth. May they learn the wisdom of humble and constant obedience to duty and to reverence the rights and to value the happiness and serve the welfare of all that great family of immortal men, to whom the Gospel is sent and whom the inspiration of the Almighty has given understanding.

In tender sympathy with the bereaved, the suffering and the broken-hearted, with "all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate"—with a hearty and determined spirit of trustfulness and zeal, let us pray for their consolation and deliverance; while we also pledge ourselves in solemn vows to God, to our country, and to mankind, to stand always for the defence and maintenance of Truth, Justice, and Righteousness, in all the trials of life and in the work of duty.

And may the Divine Mercy be meted to us all, according to our several necessities; granting a happy focus to our country out of all the trials which beset the nation; restoring peace and good will between all her people, delivering the oppressed, rebuilding the waste places, and reviving the energies and hopes of busy enterprise, blessing us on the land and on the sea, in all the ways and arts of useful industry, in all efforts to cultivate the Intellect and to expand the heart. And while the voice of commanding duty shall continue to summon our sons and brothers to the fields of war, may Almighty God shield them from the arrows of the foe, cover their heads in the day of battle, support, strengthen and encourage them, and give to them constant deliverance and victory.

Given at Council Chamber, Boston, this eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-sixth.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

By his Excellency the Governor,

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BRILLIANT VICTORY IN KENTUCKY.

THE REBELS WHIPPED AT POUND GAP.

GALLANT DASH BY GEN. GARFIELD

The Rebels Leave Everything Behind.

CINCINNATI, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The Cattletsburgh correspondent of *The Commercial* says a boat has just arrived from Piketon, bringing the particulars of Gen. Garfield's expedition to Pound Gap, 40 miles beyond Piketon. There were 5,000 Rebels intrenched on the summit of the Cumberland mountains at Pound Gap.

Gen. Garfield ascended the mountain with his infantry by unfrequented paths, and while his cavalry, by advancing along the main road and making a vigorous attack in front, drew the Rebels a short distance down the summit, the infantry advanced along the ridge, and completely routed them, after a fight of less than twenty minutes.

The Rebels abandoned everything. Gen. Garfield pursued the Rebels six miles into Virginia, and after quartering his men over night in the captured camp, burnt their barracks, consisting of 60 log huts, with a large quantity of stores. The Rebels lost 7 killed and wounded. Nobody was hurt on our side.

OUR LOSS AT PEA RIDGE.

ST. LOUIS, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The official list of the Union loss at the battle of Pea Ridge, is as follows: Killed, 212; wounded, 926; missing, 174.

LAUNCH OF THE GUNBOAT JUNIATA.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

The gunboat Juniata was launched this afternoon at the Navy-Yard.

THE CAPTURE OF ST. MARY'S.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF LIEUT.-COM. STEVENS.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 20, 1862.

Extract from report of Lieut.-Com. Stevens of the Ottawa:

RECONNOISSANCE UP ST. MARY'S RIVER, U. S. Gunboat Ottawa, March 7, 1862.

SIR: Upon the arrival of the Isaac Smith at St. Mary's, I proceeded in this vessel, under your instructions, on a reconnoissance up the St. Mary's River, and reached a place called Woodstock Mills, about 50 miles from this place, landing at the plantation of a Mrs. Campbell and that of a Mrs. Downes, called the Brickyard, and at Woodstock, owned and occupied by a Mr. Alburti, notifying those whom I met (which seemed to reassure them) of your intention to protect all peaceable citizens in their persons and property, and inviting those who had fled to return to their homes.

I inclose herewith a copy of the communication I left with Mrs. Campbell and Judge Alburti, to signify the same to the people generally. Before leaving Woodstock Mills I learned through a negro that it was the intention of the Rebels to cut us off with their light batteries and infantry of the Mississippi regiment which had been stationed here.

When near the Brick-yard the enemy's riflemen attacked us in force from both side of the river, I opened upon them with our battery, using grape and canister, and small arms, killing and wounding a large number. The fire was kept up from both sides of the river (here about 100 yards wide), for about a mile after which we saw nor heard anything more of them until just above the plantation of Mrs. Campbell, when discovering a large body of cavalry about 1,200 yards ahead of us,

I threw a few second 11-inch shells among them, when they fled in great haste and confusion. Passing down, when about three miles further, just where it debouches into the marshes, we discovered in the ambush a body of the enemy, and before they had time to fire we gave them a round from the XI-inch, loaded with canister, the two 24-pound howitzers and the 12-pound howitzer of the Wabash (which I had taken on board before leaving), which was worked admirably, as, indeed, all the other guns were. Very few of the enemy escaped this destructive fire.

I inclose herewith a list of the casualties which occurred on board from the fire of the enemy, which was very accurate, as the various narrow escapes of both officers and men, and the numerous bullet holes in the sides of the vessel, will testify. I am informed that some distance beyond our point I reached, there are large quantities of turpentine on board of two steamers. The steamers cannot escape.

I saw also on the bank of the river the live-oak frame complete for a ship of 1,500 tons, ready for shipment, and a schooner, in very good order, of about 100 tons; but as the river is very narrow, and the turns following each other in quick succession, sharp and abrupt, I did not think it advisable to attempt to tow down with so long a vessel.

The live oak abounds for many miles along the river. I am quite confident that our visit will be productive of good both to those well-disposed and to our enemies, who have been taught a lesson they will not soon forget. From my observation, such a thing as free speech among them is a tradition, and the reign of terror rules everywhere. Still those I saw were very grateful for the assurances given, and I doubt not many of them will avail themselves of our protection.

Finally, permit me to commend to you the good conduct, uniform throughout, of both officers and men, and to thank, through you, Midshipman Pearson of the Wabash, who commanded her cutter, for the valuable assistance he was always, in fire and out of fire, ready to render.

Very respectfully,

T. A. STEVENS,
Lieutenant Commanding.

UNITED STATES GUN-BOAT OTTAWA, St. Mary's River, March 7, 1862.

Capt. Stevens, of the U. S. gun-boat Ottawa, is authorized by Flag-Officer Dupont to assure the peaceable citizens living on the banks of the St. Mary's River that they will be protected in their persons and property; that it is his desire they should return to their homes, where nobody will come near to harm them.

T. A. STEVENS,
Lieutenant Commanding.

U. S. GUNBOAT OTTAWA, ST. MARY'S, Ga., March 6, 1862.

Capt. T. A. STEVENS—*Sir*: The following is a report of those wounded in the action this morning by the Confederate riflemen: John De Cordy, master's mate, seriously (rifle shot through the upper third of left arm, the bone not being broken); J. T. Roberts, ordinary seaman, slightly (rifle shot in the right wrist, ball extracted); Michael Craig, ordinary seaman, slightly (rifle shot in the calf of right leg); Benjamin F. Ripley, ordinary seaman, slightly (rifle shot crashed his left thumb).

These men are all doing well.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES O. CARPENTER, Assistant-Surgeon.

To Capt. T. A. STEVENS, Commanding Ottawa.

THE OPERATIONS ON THE FLORIDA COAST.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE CAPTURES.

The Navy Department is in receipt of the following dispatch, dated

U. S. STEAMER PAWNEE, Fernandina, March 4, 1862.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 23d of March, I left at daylight on the next morning, accompanied by the following gunboats and other light draft vessels, viz: the Ottawa, Lieut. Commanding Y. H. Stevens; Seneca, Lieut. Comd'g D. Ammen; Huron, Lieut. Comd'g G. Downes; Pembina, Lieut. Comd'g J. P. Bankhead; Isaac Smith, Lieut. Comd'g J. W. A. Nicholson; Penguin, Lieut. Comd'g T. A. Budd. There were also with us three armed launches of the Wabash, and a company of sailors, all under the command of Commander C. R. P. Rodgers, on that vessel as well as the transports McClellan, Capt. Gray, on board of which was the battalion of marines of Maj. S. G. Reynolds; the Boston, with the 97th Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. Guss, and the armed cutter Henrietta, Capt. Bennett.

We proceeded at once down the Cumberland Sound. The navigation, however, proved to be quite intricate, and, beside the Pawnee, the Ottawa and Huron (the latter the only one with a pilot except myself) were alone able to cross the flats at the dividing line between the tides that meet in the Sound from the north and south.

With these I continued on, until, at 3 o'clock, and when only three miles distant from Fort Clinch, all except the Ottawa grounded, and, as the tide was falling, there was little hope of getting them off until its change. I determined, therefore, to push on in that vessel, with the three armed launches of the Wabash. On approaching Fort Clinch, it was so evidently deserted that I would not stop, but merely sent Lieut. G. M. White of the Ottawa on shore, with an armed boat, to hoist the American flag there, as a signal to yourself, at anchor outside in the Mohican. This he did, and returned to the vessel later.

On coming in sight of Old Fernandina a white flag was displayed by some persons on shore. Shortly after, and when passing New Fernandina, a few rifle shots were fired from some bushes, and a railroad train was perceived just starting as it was naturally supposed to contain soldiers escaping, I directed Lieut. Commanding Stearns to try and stop it; and the road, passing for some distance near the river, and we were going at full speed, there was an opportunity of firing several shots at the two locomotives attached to the train, which, however, did not prevent its escape across the railroad bridge, which is four miles from the town, and it was soon lost in the woods on the other side. We afterwards found on the track the bodies of two men who had been killed by our shot, one of whom was a soldier; and the report was that ex-Senator Yulee was on board one of the cars, and had also been struck, but this I think was a mistake.

In the mean time, a small steamer was discovered attempting to escape up the narrow creek over which the railroad bridge passes, the draw of which she went through very soon after the train had crossed. Several shots were fired at her without effect, and as the Ottawa could not go up the creek, Commander Rodgers followed her with two of his armed boats, captured, and brought her alongside. She was found to be filled principally with women and children, but also had on board a surgeon in the Confederate army, and a number of mules and wagons belonging to the Quartermaster's Department.

As everything had been done now that could be in this direction, and as it was quite dark, being near 8 o'clock, we returned off the town of Fernandina, where I left the Ottawa and went on board of the steamer that we had captured to bring up the Pawnee and Huron. Soon after, Commander Rodgers, with the Ottawa, proceeded to occupy the town of St. Mary's, Ga., a small town on the St. Mary's River, distant ten miles from here, and where we supposed some of the guns removed from Fort Clinch had been taken.

Owing to various detentions, I was not able to reach the Pawnee until midnight, nor to bring her up till daylight, when, with the Huron, I anchored off this town.

During the night an armed launch of the Wabash, under charge of Acting Master R. H. Lamson had been left for the protection of the railroad bridge, the draw of which had been opened. Toward morning, however, a number of soldiers came down, and under cover of the bushes, set the farther end on fire. They were repeatedly fired on, and driven off, but succeeded in very much injuring its western portion. On seeing the smoke, I sent the Huron up to prevent the remaining part from being injured, in which Lieut.-Commanding Downes was successful.

The batteries on and near Fort Clinch, on the southern part of Cumberland Island, and at New-Fernandina, although many guns had been removed, might have offered most serious obstacles to our approach, as will be seen by my detailed report of them. They were, however, being rapidly disarmed, in obedience to orders from the War Department, but it was determined to defend them from any attack by sea until the place could be regularly evacuated; and the bar being a very intricate one, and well under fire, they might have given us a great deal of trouble, had our advance been made from that side.

At 5 o'clock of the night previous to my arrival, however (the 2d) a telegram came from Brunswick, mentioning that 24 of our armed vessels were in Cumberland Sound. This news seems to have produced a perfect panic, as by 12 o'clock the next day, the garrison, which consisted of 1,500 men, as well as almost all of the inhabitants, had gone off.

Shortly after bringing up the Pawnee, and at about 7 o'clock this morning, I occupied the town with our marines, and the Wabash's company of Rifles, and endeavored as much as possible to quiet the few people left, and to prevent any injury to public or private property.

Midshipman M. L. Johnson pushed along the railroad with some of his men, and in the course of the day brought in two locomotives and three railroad cars.

He also collected and put a guard over a quantity of rosin, turpentine, and cotton, to prevent it from being carried off or injured. At 9 o'clock the Isaac Smith arrived, when I immediately sent her out to communicate with your vessel, which she met, however, on the way in.

The report of Commander Rodgers accompanies this, as well as a description of the defen