

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

THE TAX ON NEWSPAPERS.

BEN WOOD CATCHES A TARTAR.

THE WORK ON THE TAX BILL.

NEGRO SLAVERY IN OHIO.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE CORPS D'ARMEE.

Prohibition Against Correspondents.

THE DEPORTATION OF SLAVES.

GEN. FREMONT'S DEPARTMENT.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 2, 1862.

BEN WOOD CATCHES A TARTAR.

It is not too late to note a part of the proceedings in the House, yesterday, which seems to have escaped your regular reporter. Pending the Advertisement-taxing section, Ben Wood moved to amend, so as to exempt all newspapers "arbitrarily and unconstitutionally excluded from the mails."

THE ISSUE OF PASSES.

The Provost-Marshal has given notice that the only passes now issued are for officers and soldiers who wish to visit the south side of the Potomac and return, and the only authorized articles are figures and contraband of war. The order dispensing with passes for citizens is to restore matters as far as possible in this section of country to the condition in which they existed before the commencement of the war.

THE WORK ON THE TAX BILL.

To-day but little progress was made with the tax bill, the House being engaged for two hours on other matters. The clause taxing bank checks two per cent was struck out and then reinserted. No tax is however to be imposed on promissory notes, checks or drafts for less than \$50. The tax on conveyances was modified so as to charge those conveying land worth less than \$100, nothing; those of land worth from \$100 to \$500, 50 cents; worth over \$500, one dollar. There is little doubt that the Committee of the Whole will be through with the tax bill this week.

NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS PROHIBITED FROM ACCOMPANYING THE ARMY.

A reporter sent to the other side of the Potomac, assured us this morning that Secretary Stanton had issued an order forbidding newspaper correspondents, as well as all others not actually connected in some way or other with the service, from accompanying any of the corps d'armee. Very many correspondents are now with the army, and it is understood here that an order was dispatched yesterday, that the whole of them be cleared out and sent back, under the penalty of immediate arrest and confinement if they attempt to stay.

GEN. FREMONT'S COMMAND.

Blenker's Brigade has been assigned to Fremont's command. Carl Schurz is to have command of a division under Fremont.

RETIERS OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE.

One of Marshal Lamson's Aids, armed with the Marshal's warrant, of course, took a flight to the south of the 4th New-York Artillery's camp yesterday, and restored him to his master. It is not possible that this outrage can be permitted to pass without Congressional investigation. There are stories of other similar seizures made by Lamson's authority in favor of slave owners anxious to realize on their human property before the passage of the Emancipation act.

THE ISSUE OF PASSES.

All the "Union" world will hold Gen. Wadsworth in grateful memory for abolishing the pass nuisance on the north bank of the Potomac River.

THE DEPORTATION OF SLAVES.

There is no lawful relief from the outrageous spectacle of the nightly deportation of slaves from Washington, bound hand and foot, and taken in wagons to Maryland for hire or sale, to save them from the bloodless Toussaint L'Ouverture that is marching into the District through the two Houses of Congress.

SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT.

Garrett Davis prevented the Senate from voting to-day on the bill abolishing Slavery in the District. Other District business is set down for to-morrow. On Friday it is almost certain that a vote will be reached.

RESIGNATION OF COL. VAN ALLEN.

Col. Van Allen resigned his command of the 3d New-York Cavalry yesterday. Lieut.-Col. Mix will succeed him.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 2, 1862.

OUR TROOPS NEAR CORNETH, MISS.

Letters received here from Gen. Cornish say our

troops in that vicinity continue in healthful condition, and are eager for battle. A good report of them is confidently expected.

THE REBELS AT RICHMOND.

Intelligence has been received here from Richmond via Baltimore, that the Rebels are sending their tobacco to the interior, toward Danville and Farmville, and beyond Petersburg. It is added that private citizens have no control over cotton and tobacco, the military having assumed charge of them.

THE AFFAIRS OF THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT.

The Commissioners to examine into the affairs of the Western or Missouri Military Department, have made a voluminous report, in which they state they have examined 1,200 witnesses, and had claims presented to them amounting to \$8,000,000. They remark they have devoted the principal part of their report to an exposure of the abuses which characterized the late administration of that Department, and testify to the integrity which generally has been displayed by merchants, mechanics, and manufacturers when permitted to deal directly with the Government.

Wide-spread as has been the demoralization in official circles, and among their dependents and favorites, and startling as are the frauds which have been attempted and consummated, a large majority of the claimants have presented themselves before the Commission, unimpeded by imputations either on their loyalty or honor.

THE REBELS DISHEARTENED.

Among the many evidences daily transpiring of the Rebels losing confidence in their cause, it may be stated that an ardent Secessionist and admirer of Southern institutions who left Baltimore some months since to fill an editorial position at Richmond, has within the last few days returned to Baltimore, he is soliciting permission from the military authorities here to remain. As the prospect is that there will shortly be more such seeking safety under the shadow of the Government they have hitherto been so willing to see destroyed, it is the freely expressed opinion of loyal citizens here that such returning prodigals, if they are indeed repentant, should be required to show works meet for repentance, and purge themselves of their treason by taking the oath of allegiance to the Government they have so shamefully wronged.

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VISIT TO MOUNT VERNON.

The President, accompanied by a party of personal friends, visited Mount Vernon by steamer to-day.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Schleiflin, Minister from Bremen, is about to leave the United States on a visit to his home for several months.

THE LOSS AT WINCHESTER.

Our loss in the engagement near Winchester, on Saturday and Sunday the 23d and 24th of March, was 86 killed and 434 wounded. Fifty have since died. A portion of the wounded have been sent away, including 50 taken home by the Surgeon-General of Pennsylvania. In the Hospital at Winchester there are at present 192 wounded.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon all was quiet at Fortress Monroe.

REBEL PRISONERS.

Thirteen Rebel prisoners, who arrived here this morning, from Winchester, were sent to Fort Delaware this afternoon, via the canal line.

REBEL FORCES.

The gentlemen to whom we are indebted for the following statement of the Rebel forces has a certain source of information, which, though it cannot of course be made public, we believe may be implicitly relied on. It is not more guess work, but a positive return from a Rebel not likely to be mistaken. It is perhaps exaggerated, but even if 100 men should be deducted from each regiment, it would leave the Rebel force about 230,000 men. The estimate for Virginia seems certainly small enough.

Table with columns: Commanders, No. of men, Total. Includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE.

The following is the response of the city officials to the communication of Gov. Johnson requiring them to take an oath to support the Constitution and Government of the United States:

CITY HALL, NASHVILLE, March 27, 1862.

Gen. Andrew Johnson, Military Governor of the State of Tennessee.

Sir: Your communication of the 23d inst., regarding the Mayor, members of the City Council, Police, and other city officers, to take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, pursuant to the first section of the tenth article of the Constitution, has been received, and has been read and duly considered.

We respectfully beg leave to submit the following facts for your consideration:

Since we have had any connection with the City Government, which, in some cases, has been for several years, we have never before been required to take any such oath.

Under the existing laws, we are required to discharge our duties faithfully, and upon a reference to the records of the city, ranging back for twenty-five or thirty years, we find that no former Mayor or Aldermen have taken any oath to support either the Constitution of the State of Tennessee or the United States; but the understanding seems to have been that the provisions of the Constitution referred to, applied only to State and county, and not to Corporation officers.

We have also considered some of our best lawyers upon the subject, and the majority of them are of opinion that we, as Municipal officers, do not come within the purview and meaning of any section of the Constitution, but that the same applies alone to State and county officers.

Since we have never taken any such oath, and we having taken the only oath ever taken by or required of any of our predecessors, and never having been required to take any such oath, we are unable to do so, and we respectfully request that you will excuse our non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitution referred to, and that you will not be put into commission at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The U. S. steam transport Massachusetts is progressing rapidly. She is now taking wood on board for fuel. She is a first rate sailing vessel since she has been repaired and fitted up.

The propeller Diana is also progressing, and will shortly haul down the yards.

Since Gen. Harvey Brown took up his quarters at Fort Hamilton, a change has been observable at the Fort. The men are now less drilled three times a day—twice in light Infantry tactics, and once at great gun exercises. Lieut.-Col. Martin Burke retains command at Fort Lafayette, and also of Fort Hamilton, and the men are waiting rather impatiently for their pay for the months of January and February.

THE OPERATIONS NEAR SAVANNAH.

Official Report of Flag-Officer Dupont

DETAILED REPORT BY COM. GILLIS.

Skiddaway and Green Island Batteries Abandoned.

WASSAW AND OSSIBAR SOUND IN OUR POSSESSION

Interesting Statement by a Contraband.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 2, 1862.

The following dispatches were received at the Navy Department to-day:

FLAGSHIP WASSAW, OFF PORT ROYAL, MARCH 27, 1862.

SIR: On being boarded this afternoon, while entering Port Royal harbor by Commander Gillis of the Seminole, I have the satisfaction to hear that the formidable batteries on Skiddaway and Green Islands had been abandoned by the Rebels, the guns having been withdrawn in order to be placed near Savannah. The abandonment of these batteries gives us complete control of Wassaw and Ossibar Sounds, and the mouths of Vernon and Wilmington Rivers, which form important approaches to that city. I inclose the report of Commander Gillis, and also memoranda of information given by a contraband, which may be of some interest to the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, S. F. DUPONT, Flag-Officer, Commanding Squadron Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

To the Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, U. S. STEAMER SEMINOLE, March 25, 1862.

Alfred Skiddaway Battery, Wilmington River, Ga.

SIR: In obedience to your order dated 24 inst., we proceeded from Cumberland Sound to Wassaw Sound, Ga., to blockade as directed. Having waited some days for the weather to settle, we set sail on the 21st inst. At noon we were within the lead up the narrow channel, and the Wilmington River to the battery on Skiddaway Island, accompanied by the Norwich, Lieut. Comdr. J. M. Duncan, and Wyandott, Lieut. Comdr. W. D. Whiting. I sent our launch, with the howitzer and crew, under charge of Master McNair and Acting Master Steele, alongside the Norwich, and went on board of her. She, being the shortest vessel and of lightest draft, was sent ahead. After firing a shell or two at some distance, we made her haul on the left, and a picket guard at the fort as we approached. I proceeded in the gig with Paymaster Sands to the shore, followed by the launch, and found the battery a strong bastioned work for ten guns, with bomb-proof trenches, &c. The enemy had abandoned it, leaving imitation guns covered with canvas in position. The other boats from the Seminoles, on shore, were destroyed, the works, boats, lighters, &c., of the enemy, and, having hoisted the Union flag over the fort and house with the red capia, we returned on board our respective vessels. I learn that the Confederate battery on Green Island is abandoned. Several houses in sight are burning this morning, the red capia house included. I sent to Port Royal a prisoner taken in the marshes by the Release. His name is as follows:

NAME, S. F. DUPONT, Flag-Officer, Commanding Squadron Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

U. S. STEAMER SEMINOLE, March 25, 1862.

SIR: The following statement is derived from London Middleton, a contraband picked up this afternoon by the Norwich, and sent on board this ship:

His master was Wm. P. Fulton of Savannah. He left Savannah on the 1st inst., starting by way of White Bluff and Green Island to Raccoon Keys, from whence he expected to reach "a sawmill," which, it was said, we had on Wassaw Island, with 3,000 troops.

All provisions are scarce at Savannah, and very dear, particularly bacon, rum, liquor, and such like. The price of a barrel of flour is \$20, and 20 cents for what used to sell at 6, 8, and 10 cents per pound. Eggs were selling at 50 cents per dozen. Chickens \$1.00 per pair. Tea scarce; coffee selling at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per pound. "They are very bad off" for rum and liquor, and "almost have to give their traps, and these things are they expected to do the winter," some where the Unionists now hold possession.

Folks are going and coming. Some who had left are returning, and they are sending the "negroes and cotton" inland, and sending all the "cash money" to Macon, and threaten to burn the city if they should be unable to hold it, and in daily expectation of our attack. They had given up the idea of defending the Savannah River by torpedoes, because one of the principal men who was sinking them got drowned, while down in a diving bell, and they now talk of piling the river across. He knows of no raft near Fort Jackson, near which Tallant is on board the Savannah, late Everglade. When he was last near Thunderbolt, some time since, they had eight guns mounted. There is a battery north of the city, on the 2d inst., which is a battery built by some of the men known as Costan's Bluff, and they were mounting guns at the old fort, above Fort Jackson, below the gas-house, and near the first ferry wharf; but he knows but little of this part of the river, having been a fisherman around about White Bluff and Green Island, but more recently waiting on the soldiers.

All the approaches to the city, not only by the river, but also the by-roads, are being fortified, and they told him "that they had one hundred thousand men."

Green and Skiddaway Islands are abandoned except by a few cavalry. The guns from Green Island were taken to fortify Bewley, and those from Skiddaway to Montgomery, a part of Bewley, but the Wm. M. Garrison, which runs from Raccoon Key up, making Green Island, the first land to the north-east, going up, and thence running up to Bewley, Montgomery, and White Bluff.

They expect us to cross Skiddaway Island, and have guns and pickets at the two bridges to cut them away, and fight our forces on their arrival. The first bridge is reckoned to be five miles across from the Cupola House, but right burned by the Rebels, near the Skiddaway abandoned battery.

Respectfully, &c., JOHN P. GILLIS, Commander, Flag-Officer S. F. DUPONT.

SALE OF THE PRIZE BRIG HERALD.

PHILADELPHIA, Wednesday, April 2, 1862.

The prize brig Herald was sold to-day, at \$1,000. Her cargo of 1,000 casks spirits turpentine sold at 52 1/2 cts. per gallon.

ARMY AND NAVY.

The prebened guleat Fort Henry, having been armed and equipped, received her crew yesterday, and was tomorrow turned over to Lieut.-Commanding Joseph C. Walsh. The following is an authentic list of her officers:

Acting Lieutenant-Commanding, Joseph C. Walsh; Acting Master and Executive Officer, Geo. H. Lamson; Acting Surgeon, J. Stovener; Acting Assistant Paymaster, Daniel Whelan; 2d Assistant Surgeon, Michael Dundas; 3d Assistant Surgeon, James Ward and others.

The iron-clad sloop-of-war Galena was expected at the Yard yesterday, but up to a late hour in the afternoon she had not arrived.

A gang of caulkers has been set to work on the sloop-of-war John Adams, and it is reported at the Yard that she will be converted into a school ship.

She will probably leave to go to New-York to dock, and the dry-dock at the Yard is taken up by the Ronoke, and will be for some time to come.

A sloop-load of 13-inch shells arrived at the Yard yesterday, from the Springfield Armory, Mass., and was turned over to the Ordnance Department.

The gunboat Somerset is ordered, by Commodore Paulding, to be put into commission at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The U. S. steam transport Massachusetts is progressing rapidly. She is now taking wood on board for fuel. She is a first rate sailing vessel since she has been repaired and fitted up.

The propeller Diana is also progressing, and will shortly haul down the yards.

Since Gen. Harvey Brown took up his quarters at Fort Hamilton, a change has been observable at the Fort. The men are now less drilled three times a day—twice in light Infantry tactics, and once at great gun exercises. Lieut.-Col. Martin Burke retains command at Fort Lafayette, and also of Fort Hamilton, and the men are waiting rather impatiently for their pay for the months of January and February.

ADVANCE OF GEN. BANKS'S DIVISION.

WEAK STAND BY ASHBY'S FORCES.

THE REBELS UTTERLY DEMORALIZED.

They Run and Burn and Show no Fight.

WOODSTOCK, Va., Tuesday, April 1, 1862.

Gen. Banks advanced from Strasburg this morning toward this point. When approaching the town, Ashby, with his Rebel cavalry and infantry, disputed the passages to the place. We passed through the town, however, the Rebels frequently stopping and throwing shells at us, to which we responded with effect.

Gen. Banks pursued the Rebels to Edenburg, five miles south of this.

Ashby, in retreating, burned two turnpike bridges and one railroad bridge.

All the railroad bridges between here and Strasburg had been previously burned by the Rebels.

The only casualty on our side was one killed in the 22d Pennsylvania Regiment.

One of the 2d Massachusetts Regiment received a rifle-ball on his belt-plate, but it was harmless in its effect.

Our forces will build the bridge over the creek to-day.

All was quiet during the night.

It is not known whether any of Jackson's forces were engaged yesterday.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 3, 1862.

The following dispatch was received here to-day, dated Woodstock, Va., April 2:

We have driven the enemy to-day from Strasburg to Woodstock, a distance of 12 miles, and then to Edenburg, 7 miles beyond. He contested the march most of the way, and at a strong position at which he contemplated making a stand, as at Edenburg, quite a sharp contest occurred. He burned the bridges in his flight, except that at Narrow Passage, which we were enabled to reach in time to extinguish the flames. We lost but one man and had but one wounded. The enemy suffered more but I cannot state the extent.

Col. Ashby received a shot through his cap, which he exhibited with some satisfaction to the people of Woodstock. Others suffered more severely. The men behaved admirably.

During the advance yesterday, our vanguard and skirmishers were frequently fired upon by the rear-guard of Jackson's retreating force. We shelled them through the town, and as often as they appeared in range.

After passing the bridge over Stony Creek they set fire to it, but our troops arrived in time to save it. They also set fire to another pike bridge and the railroad bridge, all within two miles this side of Edenburg, and our artillery endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to prevent their destruction by pouring into the enemy showers of shells.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 27th places our loss at Winchester at 1,500 to 1,600, and theirs from 400 to 600. Among their casualties are mentioned Col. L. T. Moore of Winchester, T. H. Townner of the General Assembly, killed, and Col. C. Chok, of the 27th Virginia, wounded. The 2d Virginia Regiment lost 100 men.

Fourteen Rebel victims of Sunday's battle were seen to-day, at a house near Newtown. Six had died, the remainder were wounded. They had been deserted by their own physicians, but were cared for by us. Subsequently, two Rebel soldiers paid a visit to their wounded friends, and were captured.

WOODSTOCK, Wednesday, April 2—p. m.

The Rebels, when retreating, yesterday, attempted to burn the bridge over the creek, near Narrow Passage, but it was extinguished.

The magnificent railroad bridge, 100 feet high, over the same stream, was burnt by Jackson when retreating from Gen. Shields. A beautiful gray stallion, said by contrabands to be Col. Ashby's, was shot yesterday near this town. The ball must have wounded the rider in the left thigh. The current report, however, that Ashby was wounded, is not credited at headquarters.

Some of Ashby's scouts made their appearance this morning early on the high wooded ridge on the opposite side of Stony Creek, beyond Edinburg. They were fired on by some of the 22d Pennsylvania, when Ashby unmasked four guns and threw several shells into the camp. He subsequently retreated under the fire of our guns.

During the day they frequently interfered with our bridge-builders by shelling them at long range. The foot of the bridge, however, has been completed, and our Skirmishers and some of the Andrew Sharpshooters are now on the other side beyond the town.

Second Lieut. Duff and two privates of Ashby's Cavalry were captured yesterday. Duff admits that he was carrying dispatches, but arrogantly refused to divulge the contents or tell who they were from.

A late intercepted letter from a Rebel line officer speaks significantly of the anticipated rebellion in Maryland, but this is regarded as one of the means resorted to by Secession leaders to dupe their followers into continued resistance.

The extensive railroad bridge at Edinburg was burned by Jackson yesterday. There is only one locomotive at this end of the Manassas Road and no cars.

Ashby's artillery was re-enclosed to-day by two or more heavy guns, with which he practiced on us at long range. The firing of yesterday shows the accuracy of our cannoneers. In one field where Ashby made a stand were counted ten shells in a space of 150 feet at a mile and a half range.

The valley of the Shenandoah shows great neglect of agriculture, and is almost besieged by men, women, and children. They have unlimited confidence in the Yankee troops, and hold unrestricted intercourse with them.

Gen. Banks is here, and Gen. Shields is at Strasburg.

A division post-office has been established here, but the mails are irregular at present.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Wednesday, April 2, 1862.

Fifty wounded, from Winchester, arrived here to-day, and were placed in the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital.

MRS. BROWNLOW.

The Parson's wife has not heretofore been much heard of. Her husband told this story of her, however, in a speech, a day or two ago, at Cincinnati:

"One day a crowd surrounded my house and threatened to tear down my flag; but I warned them that they would have to do it in the face of six loaded muskets, which would be used by men who would never flinch from their duty. They took their second thought, and marched away, but presently about fifteen came back again, drunker than ever, led by a young officer, who was desired to tear the flag down by a flag down. In the meanwhile, I had let my horse, and went to the office, leaving my wife in charge. She came forward, and expressed her intention of shooting the first man who

attempted to haul down the flag. The officer was slightly scared, and said:

"Madam, you won't shoot, will you?"

"You had better try the experiment," said she.

"Go on—go on!" shouted the crowd, "she dare n't shoot!"

She instantly drew from her pocket one of Colt's revolvers and cocking it, leveled it at the officer's head. "Never mind her, she's only a woman!" cried the mob. "By God! look at her eye!" said the officer, as he made a low bow, scraped the ground, and toddled off, followed by the whole crowd.

THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOSPITAL CLOTHING AND STORES.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sir: Several calls have been made for contributions of hospital clothing and stores for the Burnside Expedition by gentlemen who seem, in each case, to be unaware that any systematic plan exists for this purpose. I deem it proper to state that before the expedition left Annapolis I consulted Gen. Burnside personally, as well as the Medical Director of the expedition, and made certain arrangements with the benefit of their advice.

In accordance with these arrangements each regimental surgeon received such a supply of hospital clothing, jellies, &c., as he thought it desirable to take with him on the transports. In addition to this a large general stock as large as the Medical Director was willing to receive, was supplied to the expedition before it left Annapolis.

On the receipt of the first telegraphic dispatch concerning the engagement at Roanoke Island, I called at headquarters in Washington, and learning that the report was confirmed, I telegraphed to Baltimore for the shipment of goods which had been stored there for the purpose. Four hundred dollars was expended for brandy, landanum, and chloroform, and these articles, added to sixty large cases of assorted hospital goods, were shipped in a Government steamer by a special order of the Quartermaster-General, and to secure all possible expedition and efficiency in their distribution, a skillful and experienced surgeon of New-York, who had resided at Newbury, and who was familiar with the whole coast of North Carolina was placed in charge of them. A further shipment was made the following day from New-York. The goods being also placed in charge of an enterprising, discreet and trustworthy supercargo. I have reason to believe that a large shipment was made the same day from New-York to the Rev. Vincent Colver, an agent of the Young Men's Christian Association. All these articles arrived safely, and were sufficient not only to meet any deficiencies at Roanoke Island, but to supply a large lot in advance for the Newbern expedition. The surgeon referred to was invited by Gen. Burnside to accompany this expedition, attached to his staff, and assisted the Medical Director in all his work both before and after the battle.

No intimation had been received from him that any additional supply of hospital clothing, jellies, etc., was found necessary. As in the former case, however, anticipating further movements, within twelve hours after the first intelligence of the battle of Newbern had been received at headquarters in Washington, a large additional supply was shipped from New-York to the Rev. Vincent Colver, an agent of the Young Men's Christian Association. All these articles arrived safely, and were sufficient not only to meet any deficiencies at Roanoke Island, but to supply a large lot in advance for the Newbern expedition. The surgeon referred to was invited by Gen. Burnside to accompany this expedition, attached to his staff, and assisted the Medical Director in all his work both before and after the battle.

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