New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1862.

*TO CORRESPONDENTS.*

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty for his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

# NEWS OF THE DAY.

## THE WAR.

—A dispatch dated Monterey, Monday, the 12th, says that on that day our pickets took possession of an evacuated Rebel camp three and a half miles from Corinth, and the Rebel pickets were driven in. *The Mobile Register* of the 8th states that five Union gun-boats had appeared off Don Pim Island, that Joe Johnston's army was as large as Beauregard's, and that the Rebels at Corinth are awaiting the attack. A later dispatch says our forces average from two and a half to three miles from the Rebel intrenchments; that although the advance thus far had been made slowly there is no doubt of an engagement during the current week.

—A Cairo dispatch dated the 13th says that in the naval engagement at Fort Pillow on Saturday last, the gunboat Cincinnati was more seriously damaged than was at first supposed, and that she had to be run ashore on the Tennessee shore. At the last account she had four feet of water on her gun-deck. A wrecking derrick had gone down to her assistance, and it was supposed she would be shortly afloat again. The Union gunboat, Mound City, did excellent service during the engagement. She was also struck, but escaped with less injury than the Cincinnati.

—We have a dispatch from Gen. Banks's division, dated Strasburg, yesterday, which says, that a North-Easter set in yesterday. It is a god-send to agriculture, and to the sanitary condition of the troops. Deserters and prisoners continue to come in, and several important cases have been forwarded to Washington.

—Cumberland, where Gen. McClellan is now reported to be, is a small town on the Pamunky River, in New-Kent County, five miles below the point where the Richmond and York River Railroad crosses the Pamunky. Cumberland is twenty-six miles from Richmond.

—We have a dispatch from Arkansas this morning by way of St. Louis, which says that a portion of the National troops under Gen. Davis and Gen. Asboth have left for the north; but an adequate force still remains at Batesville. Our advance has taken the road to Little Rock.

—A dispatch from Gen. Wool, dated Fortress Monroe, May 14, says: We have Suffolk. It was taken last evening by Maj. Dodge. All is quiet. The same dispatch says: Maj.-Gen. McClellan's troops are at Cumberland.

—The Rebel account of the battle of Williamsburg gives the number of National prisoners taken at 623. They admit a loss on their side in killed and wounded of only 220.

## GENERAL NEWS.

—By the steamship Niagara, which arrived last evening at Halifax, we have two days later news from Europe. The Niagara left Liverpool on the 3d and Queenstown on the 4th inst. The Hibernian arrived off Londonderry on the forenoon of the 2d inst. Vague rumors of threatened interference in the affairs of this country continue in circulation, and to these rumors are attributed the dullness and decline in cotton. The Paris correspondent of *The Daily News* alleges that the French and English Ministers at Washington have received similar instructions to attempt something like a moral intervention between the National Government and the leaders of the rebellion. The *Independance Belge* likewise reiterates its story to the same effect. These reports have additional coloring from the public meetings held in England to urge on the British Government an immediate recognition of the Rebel States. Russell, of *The London Times*, makes further complaint of the treatment he received at the hands of Secretary Stanton. The Liverpool Flour market is reported dull, and declined 6d. per barrel. It is believed by the Italians in Paris that Rome will soon be occupied by the Sardinian troops. The King of Italy was at Naples on his way to Palermo. Favorable reports are continued of the success of the International Exhibition.

—The shifts to which the Rebel officers are reduced for the means of sustenance is shown in a dispatch in *The Missouri Democrat*, which we publish elsewhere this morning. A person who arrived from Memphis on Saturday last says there were very few troops in Memphis when he left. They were sending all the recruits toward Corinth. The Rebel managers have taken all the cotton from Memphis and stored it at Fort Pickering, three miles below. They had thrown a large lot of sugar and molasses into the river. People were leaving Memphis very fast. They had arrested a number of citizens for expressing their opinion that the Rebellion was a failure. The Rebel officers had taken the merchants' goods, and promised to pay for them three months after a treaty of peace had been concluded with the Federal Government.

—There will doubtless be a large gathering at the Academy of Music to-night, to hear Parson Brownlow's story of his experience among the Rebels, and to give him all the practical encouragement they can in resuming his task as a public journalist. Gen. Carey of Ohio, one of the most popular of Western orators, will make one of the addresses, and Parson Brownlow will speak as to his views of the Rebels, and their cause. The complete arrangements announced in the advertisement reflect credit upon the Committee, and cannot fail to satisfy all who attend to take part in the reception.

—An entertainment was given last night at the Astor House to Col. Howe, the Military Agent of Massachusetts in this city. Parson Brownlow, Commodore Paulding, Capt. Boggs, Capt. Bailey, and Capt. Faunce of the United States Navy, and Col. Almy of Connecticut, were among the guests. We publish a report elsewhere.

—A meeting of citizens was held yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce, at which resolutions of sympathy with the heavy misfortune of fire suffered by the people of Troy were passed, and a Committee appointed to receive subscriptions. Parson Brownlow was present by invitation, and made one of his most characteristic speeches.

—The Chief Clerk of the House left Washington yesterday for Gen. McClellan's headquarters, bearing with him a handsomely engrossed copy of the resolution of thanks passed to the General by a vote of the House.

—A special dispatch from Washington informs us that the French Minister there has received notice from the French consul at Richmond that the Rebels have formally apprised him of their intention to burn the French tobacco stored there, in case they should find it necessary to evacuate Richmond.

—A bill to be made the special order for Tuesday next, reported in the House yesterday by Mr. Eliot (Mass) provides that all estates, property, and money of persons holding or hereafter holding office under the so-called Confederacy be forfeited to the United States, proceedings to be brought *in rem*, and the President required to issue proclamation giving sixty days' warning. The full particulars of this measure will be found in our Washington dispatch.

—Flag Officer Foote arrived yesterday at Cleveland. He is said to be quite feeble from his wound, and suffering likewise from disease.

—The ship Undaunted arrived yesterday at Boston with a cargo of cotton from Ship Island.

## STATE OF THE MARKETS.

—The reaction in the Stock market which commenced on Tuesday continued up to the opening of the market yesterday. The reaction, however, soon exhausted itself, and at the close of the Board there was a buoyant feeling at an advance of from ¼ to ½ ⅌ cent. At the Second Board there was a still further rally, with an active demand for shares. The closing quotations were: U. S. Sixes, 1881, 104¾@105. U. S. Sixes, 1881, Coupons, 105@105¼. Tennessee State Sixes, 59½. Missouri Sixes, 59¼@59½. In foreign bills there was little doing. The nominal rate for Sterling is 113¾@114. Francs, 5.00@4.92½. Freights are firm and fairly active. To Liverpool, engagements of 214,000 bush. Corn at 8½@9d. in bulk and bags; 37,000 bushels Wheat at 9d. in bulk and bags; 3,000 barrels of Flour at 3s. The business of the Sub-Treasury was: Receipts, $2,638,900—for Customs, $203,000; Payments, $2,100,186; Balance, $17,663,105. The market for gold was quiet, with a wide difference between buyers' and sellers' prices. The Sub-Treasurer received from Washington $500,000 in demand-notes—5s, 10s, and 20s. Western and State Flour opened with more steadiness, and with less offering and a good demand; sales of 17,500 bbls. at $4 45@$4 55 for Superfine State and Western; $4 70@$4 90 for the low grades of Western Extra; $4 70@$4 80 for Extra State. The Wheat market is more active, in part for future delivery, and is rather firmer for choice qualities; sales of 71,300 bush. Milwaukee Club, part to arrive, at $1 05@$1 12 for Soft and Prime Amber. The Pork market is dull and heavy for that on the spot, but a fair inquiry is noticed for future delivery. The opening of the Southern ports has caused a slight depression in Cotton.

## CONFISCATION IN CONGRESS.

The Select Committees of both Houses have introduced bills providing for the confiscation of the property of certain classes of Rebels, and the freedom of their slaves. The House bill for confiscation, which we publish in full, seizes and appropriates to the use of the Federal Government all estate and property of every kind belonging to persons who shall continue to hold office under the Confederates, together with that of all such as shall take up arms against the United States, or in any way aid and abet the rebellion. To carry this seizure and confiscation into full effect, the proclamation of the President, and the interposition of the Civil Courts are necessary.

We hope that if this law be passed, it will secure the end in view, though we fear it will be found cumbersome, because of the interposition of so much judicial machinery. We think it would be more effectual if the thing were done by a single stroke of the uplifted arm of military power. However, let Congress pass as good a bill as it can, and the people will see to it that it does not become a dead letter upon the statute book. Of course, the bill reported by the Committee might be far more sweeping in its terms as to the classes of Rebels affected by its provisions. It is so mild and moderate that no "Conservative," who is not at heart with the Rebels, can refuse to give it his support.

The second House bill relates to slaves. It is very moderate in its terms—we fear too moderate to effect the object which the Committee evidently have in view. It is prospective in its character, applying only to the slaves of persons who shall, "*after the passage of this act*," engage in armed rebellion against the Government, or aid and abet such rebellion, or adhere to those who foment it. The slaves of all such persons are to become forever free. This is good so far as it goes. We wish it went further. We doubt not the great mass of the loyal people of the country desire a more sweeping measure. But, if this is the best Congress can do, then we will rejoice over even so small an installment of the great debt due to four millions of bondmen. Let the bill be passed! Every "radical" can vote for it because it goes as far as it does, and every "conservative" must assuredly will because it goes no further.

Of the bill reported to the Senate we have received only an abstract. It covers, however, by a single bill, the object aimed at by the two reported to the House. There seems to be otherwise no essential difference in the proposed law. But this difference is one which may be speedily reconciled, if Congress is as earnest as it ought to be in putting an act upon the Statute book so imperatively called for as this.

## THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

*From The World of May 14.*

Our readers may remember that some few weeks ago charges of malfeasance in office and improper speculations against the Secretary of the Interior were current in Washington and in this city, and were repeated in this and other journals. We have made a careful examination into the truth of these allegations, and have been satisfied that the charges arose from a misapprehension of the facts in the case upon which they were based, and that the Secretary of the Interior has administered his Department with as much purity and economy as efficiency.

*From The Commercial Advertiser April 16.*

A few days ago we partially confirmed in these columns certain reports alluded to by a cotemporary reflecting upon the official fidelity of Mr. Smith, Secretary of the Interior. We did this in the full belief that certain statements made to us some time ago were to be fully relied upon. A strong censure directed at *The Commercial Advertiser* by a Washington cotemporary of high character awakened suspicion that we had been deceived, and had been guilty of a wrong to the Secretary, while we supposed we were only discharging a public duty. We thereupon instituted inquiries which have made conviction certainty. In accordance, therefore, with the principles which have always guided our editorial course—never intentionally to commit a wrong, and, if we commit one inadvertently, to acknowledge it fully and readily, it thoroughly—we withdraw our unfavorable comments upon the official conduct of the Secretary of the Interior as entirely unmerited on his part. And we do this the more cheerfully, as in the course of our inquiries we have learned that Mr. Smith is held in the highest personal and official estimation by his colleagues in the Cabinet and by the President.

When *The World* and *The Commercial* made the accusations which are now so fully retracted, THE TRIBUNE declared its disbelief in their truth. With regard to two subordinate officers in the Department of the Interior who were injuriously referred to, we spoke as follows: "We happen to know the head of the Patent-Office, Mr. David P. Holloway (late M. C. from Indiana), and should he prove a rogue, our faith in human nature must suffer considerably. And if Joseph H. Barrett, Commissioner of Pensions, is the gentleman of like name known to us as a citizen of Ohio, it will require something more than rumors to destroy our faith in his integrity."

In relation to the Secretary of the Interior himself, the testimony of those best qualified to judge is unanimous that the Cabinet does not contain a more upright, methodical, and energetic officer. While this is his character as regards the administration of the multifarious duties of his particular Department, the intelligence, decision, and ability contributed by him to the war counsels of the Government have been unquestioned, and fruitful of good results. In justice to the Secretary, we ought to add an acknowledgment of the important aid and encouragement extended by him to the law officers of the United States, here and elsewhere, in the series of prosecutions against the African slave-trade which culminated in the first capital conviction and execution under the laws for the suppression of that revolting crime.

## JOHN LETCHER.

The baleful tendencies and hideous results of that school of politics whereof Aaron Burr may perhaps be regarded as the founder—that school which regarded party success as an end, not a means, or as a means of gratifying personal aspirations, have seldom been more strikingly exemplified than in the career and character of the individual above named. John Letcher is a citizen of mid-Western Virginia, and has been a lifelong aspirant for office under the banner of what calls itself Democracy. Many men adhere to the Democratic party because they deem it the strongest bulwark of Slavery; Letcher, Anti-Slavery by original conviction and by the general sentiment of his vicinage, is now professedly Pro-Slavery, because that is the interest of Sham Democracy. Elected to Congress and to the Chief Magistracy of his party, he has tried to keep pace with it in its recent break-neck course; yet when the Southern bolt was made at Charleston, he recoiled and sustained Douglas to the end—with no other result, however, than to give the State to Bell. The Democratic leading-strings were in the hands of the disunion conspirators—Wise, Hunter, Mason, Bocock, Sedden, John M. Daniel, &c.—and Douglas, with the regular nomination and the support of the Governor, received but 16,290 votes in the State to 74,323 for Breckinridge—Bell beating the latter by barely 358 majority.

But Letcher was still Governor, with some years to serve. He could not well be set aside—his position rendered him worth conciliating—and he was ultimately roped or bullied into taking part with the Rebellion. Distrusted and hated by the early and hearty Disunionists, he is compelled to evince an extravagant zeal for their cause, and to favor measures of proscription and violence which in his calmer hours he must loathe. Hence *The Richmond Examiner's* intimations that he has become scandalously intemperate, and has recently exhibited himself in public gatherings in a state of gross intoxication, have an intrinsic credibility which the mere assertion of that journal would not give them. Seeing what Virginia was, what she is, and what has brought her to this state of squalor and misery, if any man on earth might be expected to seek refuge from the agonies of remorse in the stupor of drunkenness, that man is John Letcher.

This functionary on the 5th transmitted a Message to the rebel Legislature of Virginia, wherein he premises that the recent General Conscription ordered by the rebel Congress is unconstitutional—that is, unwaranted by the Montgomery Constitution of 1861—which it doubtless is. Letcher, however, does not propose to insist on this point, nor do we. The Rebel despotism will do whatever it deems expedient; and those who have, like Letcher, run their necks into its noose, may grumble if they choose, but must nevertheless submit. It is a very trite maxim that whoever seeks to enslave others surely enslaves himself.

After adroitly suggesting that *he* has had no share in the Military councils of the Confederacy—the Rebel State authorities having been completely absorbed or ignored by Jeff. Davis and his Cabinet—he insists that

"We have had some reverses recently; but instead of discouraging or dispiriting our people, they should produce exactly the opposite effect. They should stimulate us to increased efforts, to redoubled energies; and should arouse throughout the entire Confederacy, a more determined, uncompromising and unyielding spirit. If every man will determine that the South shall not be subjugated, the work will be half accomplished. A people such as we are, resolved to be free, can never be reduced to slavery."

If the past defeats of the Confederates ought to make them so much stronger, a few more such should render them perfectly invincible.

—Hogarth's picture of a shabby and seedy personage kicked out of his lodgings for inability to pay, with a scheme for paying off the National Debt sticking out of his pocket, has had many counterparts; but the Confederate notion that their leaders have made a grand mistake in fighting and getting whipped at home when they should have invaded and conquered the Free States, is one of the best of them. They might not to be sure, have been worse whipped in Ohio or Pennsylvania than in Tennessee; but one defeat here would have cost them more than several at home. But hear Letcher on this point:

"Our policy must be changed. We must make this a war of invasion, we must push it with a zeal and energy equal to that exhibited by our wily enemy. Maryland must be redeemed. Accomplish this, and the way will be opened to the invasion of the North; and as we progress thousands of armed men will arise on all sides, who will most cheerfully unite their destinies with ours, and will cordially co-operate in carrying our flag to those sections in which it has not yet been seen. We must increase our forces in the Valley of Virginia. Jackson must be largely reinforced. He must have the power to clear out the valley and make attacks at points in the enemy's territory most likely to inflict upon him the severest retribution. An invasion of their territory will bring the Northern people to their senses, and will enable them to feel and appreciate the disadvantages and evils of a war such as they have so unnecessarily brought upon the country. They must be made to feel these before we can hope for a permanent peace, and the sooner they are made to feel them the sooner peace will come.

"Let our Generals have an adequate force to loosen the tyrant's grasp upon Maryland relieve her subjugated people, and enable them to unite with those whose interests and institutions are identical with their own. This done, and thousands of her best citizens will at once rush to the standard of the Southern Confederacy, and will prove themselves as efficient soldiers as their brethren now in service in Virginia and other States of the Confederacy."

"Interests and *institutions*," do you mark? Maryland is claimed as a natural ally and adjunct of the Confederacy, not that the Union has wronged her in any way, but because she is a Slave State, and must of course sympathize with a Pro-Slavery rebellion. And if she were as thoroughly a Slave State as South Carolina or Mississippi, the logic would be quite staggering.

—But there is a large portion of old Virginia which, holding few or no slaves, has steadfastly repudiated and resisted the Rebellion—which has organized a loyal State Government, raised several regiments to fight for the Union, and driven out the Rebel hordes which have at different times attempted, under the lead of Garnett, of Wise, of Floyd, and others—to subject it to the sway of Jeff. Davis. Hear how Letcher talks of *this* Secession:

"Another result of not less practical importance will follow. The treasonable organization gotten up at Wheeling will fall. The dominion of the law will be again felt in that part of the State, and the loyal citizens will again enjoy protection for persons and property. This is a result greatly to be desired, and the policy which promises its accomplishment is worthy of a trial.

"Inaugurate an aggressive policy, and with a judicious use of the means which Providence has intrusted to us, our revolution will be a success, our connection with the North will be dissolved, and our government established upon an enduring basis."

—We trust this recommodation will be heeded. It is high time this war were brought to an issue. Hitherto, the Rebels have chosen to keep behind intrenchments, only coming out to fight on even ground when they could do so with a signal advantage in numbers. We don't expect to hear of Beauregard across the Ohio or Joe. Johnston this side of the Susquehanna very soon, unless as prisoners; but if they will only *try* to execute Letcher's programme, we shall soon have an end of the war. Gov. Letcher has little influence with his fellow-traitors, but we trust he may this once be heeded.

## GEN. GRANT.

We have for some days been trying to find room for a brief speech in the House by the Hon. E. B. WASHBURNE of Illinois in vindication and praise of his eminent constituent, Gen. ULYSSES S. GRANT, who commanded at the taking of Fort Donelson and during the first day's battle at Pittsburg Landing. As we cannot find room for the whole of it, we will condense its more essential portions into the limits of an article. Premising that Gen. Grant's bravery has never been questioned, we will briefly say that he is a native of Ohio, and graduated from West Point in 1843, entering the Army as a Second Lieutenant in 1845—that he participated in most of the battles of the Mexican war, and was honorably mentioned in four official reports of the action at Chapultepec. Returning after peace to private life, he was one of the first to volunteer for this War, and was at an early day appointed a Colonel of Volunteers. Mr. Washburne says that, on the 29th of January last, Gen. Grant and Com. Foote applied for permission to move up the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, which was granted. The captures successively of Forts Henry and Donelson were the fruits of that enterprise; the prisoners taken alone exceeded Sixteen Thousand. Gen. Grant has been charged with intemperance, but Mr. W. brands the charge as utterly unfounded. He does not use intoxicating drinks at all. And now to the vital matter, with regard to which we prefer to give Mr. Washburne's remarks *verbatim*:

"But to the victory at Pittsburg Landing, which has called forth such a flood of denunciation upon Gen. Grant. When we consider the charges of bad generalship, incompetency, and surprise, do we not feel that 'even the joy of the people is cruel?' As to the question of whether there was, or not, what might be called a surprise, I will not argue it; but even if there had been, Gen. Grant is in no wise responsible for it, for he was not surprised. He was at his headquarters at Savannah when the fight commenced. Those headquarters were established there as being the most convenient point for all parts of his command. Some of the troops were at Crump's Landing, between Savannah and Pittsburg, and all the new arrivals were coming to Savannah. That was the proper place for the headquarters of the commanding general at that time. The General visited Pittsburg Landing and all the important points every day. The attack was made Sunday morning by a vastly superior force.

"In five minutes after the first firing was heard Gen. Grant and staff were on board a steamboat on the way to the battlefield, and instead of not reaching the field 'till 10 o'clock, or, as has been still more falsely represented, till noon, I have a letter before me from one of his aids who was with him, and who says he arrived there at 8 o'clock in the morning, and immediately assumed command. There he directed the movements, and was always on that part of the field where his presence was most required, exposing his life, and evincing in his dispositions the genius of the greatest commanders. With what desperate bravery that battle of Sunday was fought! what display of prowess and courage! what prodigies of valor! Our troops, less than forty thousand, attacked by more than eighty thousand of the picked men of the Rebels, led by their most distinguished Generals!

"But it is gravely charged by these military critics, who sit by the fireside while our soldiers are risking their lives on the field of conflict, that Grant was to blame in having his troops on the same side of the river with the enemy. I suppose they would have had the river interpose between our army and the enemy, and permit that enemy to intrench himself, and then undertake to cross in his face. It was in the judgment of the best military men a wise disposition of his forces, placing them where he did. To have done otherwise would have been like keeping the entire army of the Potomac on this side of the river, instead of crossing it when it could be done, and advancing on the other side.

"After fighting all day with immensely superior numbers of the enemy, they only drove our forces back 2½ miles, and then it was to face the gunboats and the terrible batteries so skillfully arranged and worked by the gallant and accomplished officers, Wendorf and Callender, and which brought the countless host of the enemy to a stand. And when night came, this unconquerable army stood substantially triumphant on that bloody field."

—Having thus given Mr. Washburne's view of these matters, we feel bound to add that his reasons for landing our Forty Thousand men (originally much fewer) on the same side of the river with Johnston and Beauregard's Eighty Thousand, are to us inconclusive. Had the Rebels been masters of the river, there would have been a motive for taking that great risk; since we had undisputed control of it with gunboats and steam transports in abundance, and might have crossed a hundred thousand men in twenty-four hours, we do not see it.—As to winning the victory—our total loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners exceeded 13,000; and we have no proof that the Rebels lost so many. They probably carried off just about as many cannon as they brought into the field; but in tents and stores our loss was much the greater. True, we finally won the field, so that the honors are with us; but we think the balance of advantages a very even one.

On the question of surprise, we have printed every important statement that has thus far reached us. The following, from the correspondent of *The World* on the ground, seems to us candid and to the purpose:

"We have spent some time and have heard hundreds of opinions as to the responsibility of various commanders in the last great battle. The result is a little curious. The bulk of opinion is decidedly prejudicial to the honor of Gen. Grant. Very few can be found who have the desire to extenuate or excuse him for the disasters which befell us. His friends are anxious, however, to charge Gen. Halleck with tardiness, and to lay part of the blame upon his shoulders.

"Grant is primarily to blame for the surprise—for such it was, beyond controversy—a surprise more complete and fatal than any in our history. His distribution of the commands, placing the rawest troops in front, is faulty. His neglect to throw up anything in the shape of earthworks, and the scattered and exposed site of his camp is another shortcoming. His division commanders, it is alleged, are responsible for not posting a sufficient picket at the right distance—Gen. Grant pointing triumphantly to his order-book as his vindication. The commanders of brigades, on the other hand, say that the enemy was seen, felt, and discovered long enough before, and the reports which were sent in to headquarters were unheeded. The absence of Gen. Grant from the field is now accounted for by saying that he had gone down to Savannah, to confer with Gen. Smith. It may have been so.

"Testimony is unanimous that during Sunday, each division and brigade fought very much in its own way, and that there was little semblance of any movement in concert."

—We consider this last statement sustained by the fact that Gen. Prentiss's brigade was sacrificed to its own gallantry—its supports on either side having been overpowered and driven back, while Prentiss and his men bravely kept their ground for some time afterward. They should have been ordered to retreat so soon as they were thus isolated; in default of this, nearly all were killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. Gen. Grant fights bravely; but there are some qualities of a great commander which he has not yet developed.

## OREGON.

A Union State Convention assembled at Eugene City on the 9th ult. Judge Stratton presided. It was voted that candidates for Governor and State Printer be selected from the Democratic (late Douglas) wing, and candidates for other State Officers from the Republican. The balloting then proceeded, and resulted in the framing of the following ticket:

*For Congress*.....J. R. McBRIDE.
*For Governor*.....A. C. GIBBS.
*For Secretary of State*.....SAMUEL E. MAY.
*For State Printer*.....HARVEY GORDON.
*For Treasurer*.....E. M. COOK.

—The following platform was duly reported and unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, 1. That we will ever support the State Governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrators of their domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against Anti-Republican tendencies, and preserve the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad.

2. That we are in favor of the suppression of the present wicked rebellion—of a vigorous prosecution of the war, so long as necessary to frustrate the schemes of armed traitors.

3. That we are opposed to any peace other than the honorable one sure to come when Rebels and their sympathizers submit to the constitutionally elected authorities of the Republic.

4. That the General Government should exert its utmost energy to defend the Constitution, execute the laws, and preserve the Union, and that, in accordance with these resolutions, we pledge ourselves to support the nominees of this Convention.

We judge that Messrs. Stark and Shiel will conclude not to serve in the next Congress.

## THE PRISON-HOUSE OF SECESSION.

In the first fury of the Revolution through which the French nation succeeded in throwing off the tyranny which had oppressed them for ages, scenes of bloodshed and crime occurred which humanity shudders to contemplate. But it was reserved for a portion of the American people, in the Nineteenth Century, engaged in a desperate effort to overthrow the free institutions under which they have lived and prospered, to furnish examples of cruelty and outrage not to be paralleled in the history of the French Revolution. The civilized world has just learned with horror, through the report of Senator Wade, what sort of treatment the remains of our gallant dead, who fell at Manassas, met with at the hands of the victors, and as the Rebel hosts are swept back toward the Gulf the secrets of the tyranny which has for so many months crushed the spirits and broken the hearts of the loyal inhabitants of the South, are beginning to be divulged.

These remarks have been suggested by a letter published in a late number of *The Cincinnati Gazette*, from Mr. John McLean Collins, who was in Memphis at the time of the occurrences he describes, and was an eye-witness of them. We republish the following passage from his letter:

On the 25th of April, 1861, I was arrested upon the allegation that I was a correspondent of THE TRIBUNE, and thrown into a dark and loathsome dungeon, where the accumulated filth of years rendered existence for any length of time impossible. This arrest *The Avalanche* was exceedingly jubilant over, and had their counsels for summary execution been acted upon I would not now be writing this letter. While confined in that city, I was compelled to witness the enormities perpetrated in obedience to the behests of those who ruled the mob. One hour in the morning, from six to seven, was allowed me to stand at the window grate, and at such times their whippings and headshavings were indulged. *Here I saw, from the 27th of April to the 6th of June, eighty-five men whipped and their heads shaved, and forty-three hung, because they refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy. And on the 19th of May last, one of the most beautiful and accomplished young ladies this County can boast of, was stripped to the waist, thirteen lashes laid upon her back, and the right half of her head shaved*, simply because she had purchased a ticket for Cairo, and was congratulating herself that she would soon be in a land of freedom. These crimes, which make the blood curdle in our veins, "and rouse a vengeance blood alone can quell," were regarded as small matters by *The Avalanche*, altogether too insignificant to be noticed.

Mr. Collins has little faith in the new-born Unionism which begins to crop out in the columns of *The Memphis Avalanche*, this paper having been an unflinching and unscrupulous supporter of all the outrages perpetrated at the time referred to. Its repentant tone he very naturally attributes to the dread of retribution which begins to afflict it as the proportions of the Rebellion dwindle, and its military supports crumble away.

*The Express*—which speaks of Charles Henry Foster of North Carolina as "a noisy *Republican* politician" (said Foster having been a Breckinridge Editor in 1860, and never a Republican that we ever heard of)—says:

"THE TRIBUNE is not only a believer in Revolutions, but in a Southern Revolution. The Secessionists there it urges, only made a mistake in their mode of breaking up the Government, as the result could have been reached in a much more prompt and pacific manner."

—Yes, it could, *provided the great body of the Southern People had really desired it*—as they did not, and were plunged into Civil War *because* they did not. The Secessionists made *no* "mistake"—none at all. They could not have carried the People in a peaceful and patient agitation for what they desired; so they rushed them into Civil War in order that hostilities should preclude calm inquiry and thorough discussion. The "result" they contemplated *could not* have been "reached in a much more prompt and pacific manner," because a majority of the Southern People were opposed to it. Hence the necessity for rebellion, hostilities, and outrage, in order to "vice the Southern heart" and stifle the Southern love of country. Whenever the great body of that People—not a caste nor a portion merely—shall really desire a peaceful dismissal from the Union, they will find that far more easy to compass than a bloody revolution. *This* time it was necessary to inaugurate a Civil War, not to wring from the North a concession of Southern independence, but to impel the South to desire it.

*The Express* answers our request to be favored with the *names* of its correspondents with Gen. Halleck's army which swelled the number of that army to 165,000, as follows:

"We quote from a double-leaded editorial in *The Chicago Tribune* of the 29th ult.:

"'Our Cairo correspondent telegraphs (with the approval of Gen. Strong) that the consolidated morning report of Gen. Halleck's army, last Saturday, showed 165,000 effective men.'"

—This is as we expected. Somebody in *Cairo* (250 miles from Gen. Halleck) telegraphs as above; but no trustworthy correspondent or near Pittsburg Landing has done anything of the sort. We did not doubt that such a story had been afloat, but only that it came from Gen. Halleck's camps, or near them.

The two State Committees, the Republican and Union, which met yesterday at the Astor House, came to an agreement upon the basis of the recent Union Legislative Address. The first proposition from the Union Committee to unite with the Republicans, and "all other loyal citizens," was rejected as too general in its character, and the objection was acquiesced in as proper, and the proposition withdrawn. The most entire harmony and good feeling prevailed in both bodies, and all loyal men will unite in this inauguration of a new party upon the platform of the Union. What this means, and what it pledges all those to who adopt its principles, there can be no doubt. It is the beginning of the strongest and the purest political organization we trust ever known in the history of this State. The Committees meet again in Albany in July, when, without doubt, the organization will be perfected.

## *CULTIVATION OF COTTON IN VENEZUELA.*

We reproduce the following extract from the *Independiente*, published in Caraccas, Venezuela, for the consideration of cotton spinners and others interested in the cultivation of the article:

"ENGLISH COTTON COMPANY IN VENEZUELA.—It is well known by our readers that a company has recently been organized in London for the cultivation of Cotton in this country. The capital of this company is £200,000 sterling, divided into 40,000 shares of £5 each. Nine members compose its Board of Directors, who have the privilege of increasing the number. Among the members is Mr. Frederick H. Hemming, who has for some time been demonstrating in England the facilities and advantages of Venezuela for the cultivation of Cotton.

"The prospectus of the Company contains an official and scientific report by Mr. Linden (formerly a resident in Venezuela and director of the Zoological Garden of Brussels), in which he asserts that Venezuela is destined to be the most prolific in cotton of all countries upon the American continent. His opinion is confirmed by the Hon. Mr. Orme, the British Resident Minister, in a report to his Government. In addition to this, it is a well-known fact that cotton can be and is produced in this country at a much less cost by free labor than in the Southern States of the American Union by slaves; but it may not be equally well known that it commands a better price (excepting a kind known as Sea Island) in the English market.

"Be the result of the unfortunate contest now going on in the American Union what it may, no one can for a moment entertain an idea that the amount of cotton produced by the cotton-growing States will for many years equal the amount produced prior to the revolution. We may consequently entertain hopes of a constant demand in future."

In addition to the above we have seen a letter dated Caraccas, March 24, written by a gentleman extensively engaged in the culture of coffee and sugar-cane. He says: "The cultivation of cotton is engaging my most serious attention, even to the neglect of coffee and cane. By actual experiment, under ordinary circumstances, I find that a fanagada of land (about two acres) will yield 1,000 arobas (equal to 25,000 pounds) of cotton in seed, and that the cost of cultivation (not including picking) does not exceed $25 per fanagada. This may appear to be an exaggeration, but it is not so. You, however, who are familiar with the lands of our country, particularly with those of the Provinces of Aragua and Carabobo, will not be surprised at the result. Please send me promptly all the information you can obtain in relation to cotton cleaning, and *machinery, presses*, etc."

There can be no doubt that a good field is opened in Venezuela to persons wishing to engage in Agriculture. Good lands can be obtained at a low price, or rented for any term of years. The principal productions are cotton, coffee, cocoa, sugar, dyewoods, sarsaparilla, indigo, fruits, &c., &c. The principal ports of entry, situated in the Carribean Sea, are Maracaibo, Coro, Puerto Cabello, La Guayra, Cumana, Ciudad Bolivar. The capital, Caraccas, a beautiful city of 60,000 inhabitants, is elevated some 3,000 feet above the sea-level; is unusually healthy, the general range of temperature the year round being from 65° to 75° Farenheit.

The provinces that offer the most favorable conditions for the culture of cotton and best shipping facilities, are Caraccas, Aragua, Carabobo and Cumana. The cities of Maracaibo and Porto Cabello are both unhealthy and dangerous to the unacclimated.

## *BROOKLYN ITEMS.*

The anniversary of the Sunday-School attached to the State-street Congregational Church is advertised to take place this evening.

THE CHIVALRY OF THE SCRIPTURES.—Mr. Bassard, the artist, will lecture at Plymouth Church to-morrow evening on the "Chivalry of the Scriptures," for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. The lecture will be illustrated by large paintings of the battle-fields as they now appear.

## Providence Election.

PROVIDENCE, Wednesday, May 14, 1862.

Jabez C. Knight was to-day re-elected Mayor of this city without opposition. The other Republican municipal officers on the ticket with him were also chosen.

We shall lighten many hearts by the tidings which are entirely authentic, that Lieut.-Col. LEWIS BENEDICT of Albany and Capt. BEN PRICE of this city (both of the Sickles Brigade) are prisoners at Richmond. Lieut.-Col. Benedict is unwounded, and Capt. Price's wound is in the chin—not at all dangerous. They were taken prisoners near the close of the desperate hand-to-hand contest at Williamsburg wherein our men were greatly outnumbered—that is, just before the reinforcements came up which turned the tide of battle. A soldier, who was also a prisoner but has been paroled, and is now in this city, says them both some hours after the fight, and knows they are as above.

THE WIND DURING THE TROY CONFLAGRATION.—Mr. B. Bushnell of Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, sends us a leaf from a shoemaker's daybook which was blown from Troy to his village, a distance of 28 miles. The leaf is charred on all sides. Other bits of paper and some cinders were also carried by the wind from the burning buildings to Lebanon.

THE PRIZE-SHIP ALLIANCE.—The Prize Commissioners have taken possession of the prize-ship Alliance, captured while attempting to run the blockade. The Alliance had a "Confederate" clearance, and a letter was found on board of her from Mr. Bunch, the British Consul at Charleston, to Earl Russell.

CORRECTION.—The steamer which passed Cape Race on Tuesday was the Caledonia from Glasgow, and not the Glasgow, from Liverpool, as stated in Wednesday morning's papers.

AID FOR THE TROY SUFFERERS.—Messrs. Pullen, Virgil & Co., proprietors of the National Express Company, have generously offered to carry gratuitously any donations of money, or parcels or packages of goods and merchandise, that may be sent for the aid of the sufferers by the late fire at Troy. Mr. Virgil, one of the firm, resides at Troy, and will give personal attention to the delivery of the goods to the proper parties. Their office in New-York is at No. 74 Broadway.