New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1864.

To Correspondents.

[illegible]

To Subscribers.

[illegible]

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Advertisements for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE must be handed in to-day.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The bill reported on Tuesday by Mr. Stevens for the support of the army for the year ending with June 1864 appropriates $[illegible], of this $3,000,000 for advance bounties to volunteers, $8,000,000 for raising and organizing volunteers, nearly $10,000,000 for the pay of the army; $[illegible] for the pay of volunteers, $80,000,000 for the subsistence of volunteers, $60,000,000 for quartermasters supplies, and $[illegible] for horse rentals, $21,000,000 for cavalry and artillery horses, $[illegible] for transportation, $3,000,000 for commissary supplies for officers, $[illegible] for clothing and equipage, $[illegible] for medical and hospital department, $2,000,000 for armament of fortifications, $20,000,000 for ordnance and stores; $2,500,000 for the manufacture of arms, $2,000,000 for the purchase of gunpowder and lead, and $2,000,000 for repairs of arsenals.

Advices from Meade's army say that Rebel pickets in front are frequently changed, this is supposed in consequence of dissatisfaction and want of confidence in some of their regiments. All reports concur in stating that food is scarce; a quarter of a pound of salt pork and little flour are given daily to each man; tea, coffee and sugar are unknown. No clothing has been distributed to Lee's army since the movement of Mine Run. Intercepted letters state that of 3,000 Rebel cavalry sent into the Shenandoah Valley during the recent cold weather, not over 500 had returned. Many were frozen to death, many others frost bitten, and the whole movement was a perfect failure. At last accounts (by these intercepted letters) Early was on Middle River near Mt. Crawford, having abandoned his enterprise.

On Saturday last Capt. Sheetz's detectives having obtained information that a Rebel officer had returned to Maryland, and was living quietly at his home, about four miles from Fort Washington, they proceeded to the place designated and arrested the accused, who proved to be 1st Lieut. Semmes of Stuart's cavalry. The prisoner is a cousin of Commander Semmes of the pirate Alabama, and served with Stuart in the battles of Yorktown and Bull Run. Semmes was brought to Washington on Monday and turned over to the proper authorities.

On private information we learn that several of the best regiments in Gen. Gillmore's Department are being removed elsewhere, and that others are in a forward state of preparation to follow. The General has intimated where these regiments are going, but we deem it advisable not to make public their destination. Gen. Gillmore is located at Hilton Head once more, and everything there seems to have settled down into the old routine. Gen. Gillmore expects to come North in a couple of weeks.

Maine leads off in action under the new call for troops. On Tuesday, Gov. Cony sent a special message to the Legislature, urging immediate action. An order has been passed by the Legislature looking to the payment of a uniform State bounty of $300. Major-Gen. Howard addressed a Convention of both branches of the Legislature on Tuesday morning on the state of the country.

A dispatch from Cairo says: The steamer Mary E. Forsyth arrived here on Monday from Memphis, with 567 cabin passengers and 500 others, mostly refugees. Many wives of our officers also come, and a large number are waiting at Memphis for boats bound southward.

The rumor about the invasion of Pennsylvania by Imboden proves, as we intimated, entirely unfounded. No official intelligence to that effect has been received at Harrisburg, or anywhere else.

Mr. Kitchen, unadmitted Member of Congress from the Martinsburg (Virginia) district, was driven from his house on Sunday last by an incursion of Rebel raiders.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, Feb. 2.—George Read Riddle from Delaware appeared and took the oath of office. Mr. Sumner presented the petition of Richard Yates, Governor of Illinois, praying Congress to exercise its constitutional power for the immediate abolition of Slavery throughout the United States. Resolutions of thanks to Gen. Rosecrans and Gen. Thomas were passed. The Lieutenant-General bill was received from the House and referred. Mr. Doolittle's resolution requesting the departments to send a person to represent them before the Committees of Investigation was taken up. Debate ensued, in which Messrs. Hale, Doolittle, Trumbull, and Grimes participated, discussing particularly the affairs of the Navy Department. The resolution was postponed until Monday. The Enlistment bill was taken up, the amendment of Mr. Henderson limiting the boon of freedom to the wives and children of enlisted slaves of loyal owners only being under consideration. Mr. Sherman spoke at some length in favor of freedom for all. Without vote the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The Secretary of the Navy was called upon to inform the House whether supplies for that Department during the past year were purchased upon contract. If not, what proportion thereof and of what kinds were purchased in open market, &c., &c.; and that he inform the House what alteration in the law is necessary. Mr. Stevens reported the bill of appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending with June, 1864. The House passed the bill to facilitate the payment of bounties and arrears of pay due to wounded and deceased soldiers. [It provides that, on the death of officers, non-commissioned officers, privates, and other enlisted men, it shall be the duty of the proper officer to furnish to the Second Auditor a critical statement, date of death, and full particulars of the military history of the deceased, together with the amount of arrears of pay, bounty, clothing, etc., to be paid in certificate by any Paymaster of the Army. The same course to be pursued in case of the person dying in hospital. All pay and bounties, under the act of March, 1863, due to persons discharged, or who may be discharged from the army within two years, by reason of wounds, shall be adjudicated by the Commissioner of Pensions, under the rules governing invalid pensions, and on the certificate issued by him payment be made by any Paymaster of the Army.] The Ways and Means Committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing duties on articles of luxury, &c., not manufactured in this country, so as to produce a revenue from customs of $120,000,000 per annum; also, as to increasing internal revenue tax on articles of luxury, &c., so as to produce $200,000,000; also, as to restricting Bank circulation to $300,000,000; also, as to authorizing the issue of $300,000,000 in bonds, at discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, to redeem legal-tender notes. The House resumed the consideration of the bill amendatory of the Confiscation act. Mr. Broomall made a speech in favor of the confiscation of Rebel estates. The House went into Committee on the Senate's bill ameliatory of the Enrollment act. Mr. Schenck explained the difference between the Senate bill and the substitute recommended by the House Committee on Military Affairs. Mr. Chanler made a speech against the Conscription bill, and so far as he could account any support of the Government whatever. He was sharply replied to by Mr. Davis of New-York, who denounced his sentiments and his course in very plain terms. Mr. Aughinbaugh of Kentucky replied to charges made some time since by Mr. Allen of Illinois that he (Anderson) owed his election to Federal bayonets. Mr. Anderson's speech was in the plainest sort of Anglo-Saxon, and characterized Allen's assertion as unmitigated falsehood, and Allen himself as a disloyal man. Mr. Allen repeated the charge about Federal bayonets, and went on to explain. Adjourned.

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE, Feb. 2.—Bills were noticed relative to arrears, taxes and assessments in the City of New-York; to alter the plan of the City of New-York; to encourage volunteering by paying a State bounty of $300 in lieu of all local bounties; authorizing the construction of a railroad on the Bloomingdale road and on certain avenues and streets of New-York; relative to the New-York District Courts; to regulate the use of wharfs and slips in New-York, closed to Steamboat lines. Bills were passed amending the charter of the New-York Bible Society; legalizing the bounty ordinances of the Board of Supervisors of New-York—but—a motion to reconsider the vote tabled; amending the charter of the Brooklyn Fire Department, incorporating the Brooklyn Yacht Club; amending the Brooklyn water act—ordered to a third reading. (Recess.) After recess the Senate took up the Governor's Message, which was discussed until adjournment.

ASSEMBLY.—The Speaker presented the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Several local bills were considered in Committee of the Whole and ordered to a third reading. (Adjourned.)

GENERAL NEWS.

At an early hour on Tuesday, three colored men entered the saloon of John H. McKinley, at the corner of Fulton and South streets, and called for drinks. The bar-keeper, Wm. Smith, declined serving them on account of their color. A difficulty ensued, and during the fracas one of the party drew a pistol and shot the bar-keeper in the breast, the ball passing through the right lung. The wounded man was conveyed to the New-York Hospital, where he now lies in a precarious condition. One of the assailants was arrested about a block from the scene of the occurrence, and later in the day, at an ante-mortem examination held by Coroner Naunton was recognized by the wounded man as the person who shot him. He was committed to the Tombs to await the result of his victim's injuries.

The Chicago Zouaves, under command of Maj. E. I. Brand, visited the Navy-Yard on Tuesday, by invitation of the United States authorities. They will dine at the St. Nicholas to-day (Wednesday) at 2 o'clock, when a complimentary dinner will be served up by the proprietors of that house. A collation will be served at the armory of the 71st Regiment on Thursday, after which the Chicago boys will march down Broadway to the City Hall and be reviewed by the Mayor and Common Council. Maj. Brand and all his command express themselves highly pleased at the treatment they have received from the boys of the 71st Regiment. Had it not been for their assistance some difficulty would have been experienced in transferring the Rebel prisoners from the train to the Brooklyn Navy-Yard.

At the special election on Tuesday for Alderman of the Tenth Ward of Brooklyn, Alexander L. Van Buren, the Republican Union candidate, was chosen over Francis Kelly, Democrat, by a majority of only seven votes. The poll was: Van Buren, 1,041; Kelly, 1,034. There was much anxiety about the result of this election, as, if the Democrats elected their candidate they would have one majority in the Board of Aldermen. As it is there is a tie—Republicans 10, Democrats 10.

The inclement weather of this Winter, and dearth of employment for laborers, during the suspension of internal navigation as well as general commerce, is very hard upon the poorer classes of working people and their need and suffering from sickness is very great. The Commissioners of Charities have already relieved the necessities of about 8,000 families, with very many more cases under consideration.

We have already chronicled the reported adjournment of the Kentucky Legislature. Now we are told, by a dispatch from Frankfort, dated Feb. 1, that "there was no ballot taken for United States Senator, in the Kentucky Legislature, to-day. Great exertions are making to remove the seat of the Government hence to Louisville."

The bark Jenny Ford, which sailed from San Francisco on the 31st of January for Puget Sound, was wrecked on the North Breakers a few hours after leaving port, and will, it is feared, prove a total loss. Twenty lives were lost by this disaster.

The steamer Minna, a prize to the United States steamer Cleopatra, was sold at Boston on Tuesday to private parties for $71,00[illegible].

The survey of the Schenectady and Catskill Railroad commenced at Schenectady on Tuesday morning.

Gold is quoted 157[illegible]@157[illegible], and has not varied materially during the day. The Sub-Treasury is accumulating gold rapidly. Saturday and Monday yielded one million, and to-day the Customs duties are over $[illegible]. Stocks upon the street were all strong and in demand. Stocks are steady only, and there has been no strong movement in any direction. Sellers are getting very cautious, and some of the most determined bears have closed their short interest under the conviction that large war expenses and a free issue of paper money are sure to advance prices materially. Money is decidedly easier, and at the close of business there was a good deal of capital which could not be used at 7 [illegible] cent.

Mr. Theodore Tilton, who has recently made a very successful lecturing tour in the New-England States, is to deliver an address in the Church of the Puritans—Dr. Cheever's—this evening.

The House was the scene of an intemperate discussion yesterday, brought on by a previous personal attack of Mr. W. J. Allen from the Egypt district of Illinois on Mr. Anderson of Kentucky. Mr. Anderson defended himself and Mr. Allen rejoined, taking occasion to make the singular boast that he was elected by a majority of 6,000 from a district which had sent a larger quota to the war than any other—elected, that is, by the Peace Democrats who had *not* gone to the war. The reporter—with a good sense Mr. Allen will do well to imitate in future—suppresses a large portion of the personalities which were uttered.

The speech of Mr. Sherman of Ohio on the Enlistment bill, in the Senate yesterday, will attract general attention for its ability and independent views. The author has ranked on many questions among the more Conservative members of the Republican party, and his present radical declarations on the rights of negroes and on the rights of Rebels will have a proportionate weight. He will not consent that the mother, or wife or child of a colored soldier shall remain the property of another, and he recognizes the faith of the nation as pledged to every black man who has worn its uniform that he and his shall be free forever. The right to free the slaves of Rebels is a right of war, and Rebels have no other rights than those of belligerents. He declared that if he were asked what were their Constitutional rights, his answer is that they have none. They have appealed to force, and renounced Constitution, laws, connections, and compunctions. As against them we were no longer restrained by the Constitution.

SURPLUS ENERGY.

We print, from time to time, accounts of meetings to open the Presidential canvass—usually in favor of our present worthy Chief Magistrate; and we have chronicled the formation of "Lincoln Clubs" in various Wards of our city. Those who choose have a perfect right to engage in these movements and organize these Clubs. This is a free country; and we would maintain the largest liberty in selecting as well as supporting candidates for office. But we do not happen to have received any intimation, public or private, that the President is desirous of a renomination; while we *have* heard and chronicled his loud and earnest call for the prompt and ample replenishment of the Union armies preparatory to their final advance upon the desperate, famishing cohorts of Slaveholding Treason. Conceding, then—nay, insisting on—the largest liberty of political action, we respectfully suggest that all existing or embryo political clubs, of whatever name or nature, devote their best energies for the ensuing month to the recruiting of the Union armies, and that we all take a fair and equal part in a public canvass for the Presidency so soon as we shall have been officially advised that the ranks of our armies are full, and that our Generals are moving forward, strong-handed and confident, to the certain and final triumph of the National cause.

We may be mistaken; but we have a very strong conviction that the back of the Rebellion may surely be broken before the next 4th of July. We do not say that it *will* be; for we know that concentration of effort is requisite to this end—that the Rebellion will not suppress itself—and that, if the attention of our loyal millions is distracted, while their energies are frittered away on various objects throughout the three months just before us, July may find us no farther advanced than at present. But there *need* be no such result; and there *will* be none if the one paramount object of the early and thorough suppression of the slaveholding revolt be kept absorbingly in view, and all merely political or personal ends be subordinated to this.

We appeal, then, to the friends of all the prospective or possible candidates for President to postpone any public discussion or popular agitation touching their respective 'claims' or merits for a brief season. We are manifestly on the eve of great events. We are certainly in urgent need of full ranks and concentrated efforts. Let us postpone all public contention as to our candidates for next President until we shall have fully provided for breasting the approaching shock of rampant treason and insuring the speedy restoration of unity and peace to this distracted country.

AUSTRIA, PRUSSIA, AND DENMARK.

We have explained on former occasions that in the progress of the German-Danish difficulty the movements of Austria and Prussia must be well distinguished from those of the Frankfort Diet, which is at present under the control of Bavaria, Saxe, and Wurtemburg, and happens for once to be in sympathy with the national aspirations of the German people. Austria and Prussia, as Great Powers of Europe, wish to abide by the London Treaty of 1852, to thwart the designs of the Prince of Augustenburg, and to aid as much as possible in the recognition of King Christian IX. as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. As members of the German Confederacy, and in view of the great power which the national aspirations of the German people have already acquired, they wish to preserve the appearance of patriotism by preventing the Danes from obtaining a greater influence in the Duchies than they had in 1852, and from uniting them more closely with the other parts of the Danish monarchy.

In order to attain this end, they requested the German Diet to demand of Denmark the immediate withdrawal of the Constitution by which Schleswig was incorporated with Denmark proper, and, in case of refusal, to decree the occupation of Schleswig. The German Diet refused to accede to this request, because it would have implied a recognition of the King of Denmark as Duke of Schleswig. Upon the the rejection of their motion, Austria and Prussia declared that they would take the matter into their own hands. This news was immediately followed by the announcement, that Austria and Prussia, in their own name, that is, as Great Powers and as parties to the treaties of 1852, have given to Denmark as an ultimatum, the choice either to withdraw the obnoxious Constitution or to see Schleswig occupied by Austrian and Prussian troops. This ultimatum has been rejected by Denmark; consequently the Embassadors of Austria and Prussia have withdrawn from Copenhagen, and both Powers are making warlike demonstrations on a larger scale than ever before.

It will be seen from this brief review of the latest stages of the complication, that no new turn has been given to it by the recent steps of Austria and Prussia. They only announce that as European Great Powers they will now carry out alone what before they intended to carry out as members of the German Confederacy in union with the other German Powers. They claim that Denmark, by international treaties, is bound to respect the rights of the Duchy of Schleswig, and that in case of a violation of these rights, both the German Confederacy and each of the Grand Powers have a right to interfere in behalf of maintaining the former state of affairs.

This last step of Austria and Prussia is not yet in itself an act of opposition to the Federal Diet. Both States have the right to carry on foreign wars of their own accord, and no law prevents them from interfering in behalf of Schleswig before any decision on the part of the Federal Diet. The war, in this case, would be of a much less contagious character, as none of the great powers would be likely to aid the Danes. But the aspect of the war will change the moment the Federal Diet comes to a final vote on the succession question in Schleswig. Then, but not until then, the real crisis in the Schleswig-Holstein question will have come. Then Austria and Prussia must make up their minds whether they will fight with Germany against Denmark and perhaps against a number of other European Powers, or defy the Federal authority, and carry on a war which will arouse against them the popular feeling in Germany no less than that of Denmark. In such a case, they would undoubtedly hasten hasten to conclude peace with Denmark on almost any terms. Perhaps we shall have to wait only a few days, to learn which of the two alternatives has been chosen.

THE DESPAIR AND THE HOPE OF THE REBELS.

The Southern papers continue to exhibit evidences of discontent, of suffering, and of despondency. Better evidence than theirs is the order of Lee, which exhorts his soldiers to endure patiently the hardships occasioned by the reduction of rations. That order is dated so late as Jan. 22, at a time when his army is in Winter quarters, and within easy distance of Richmond and of Lynchburg, both of which places have until lately been depots of provisions. It comes close upon the refusal by the Rebel authorities to receive supplies from the Government to feed and clothe the 12,000 prisoners suffering then as now from hunger and cold. Yet the refusal was accompanied by an ostentatious declaration of their ability and intention to furnish full rations to our men. What must be their condition to-day when a cry of distress—almost of famine—comes even from Lee's army, which has always been better cared for than any other Rebel force? Lee's soldiers get little meat even now. "Can't we live on half rations, so that they may at least have quarter rations?" asks *The Richmond Whig*. And if we are entitled to infer from this that Lee has not even quarter rations for his men, where is he to look for a supply in future?

The Richmond Examiner furnishes an equally remarkable comment on the prevailing destitution. It declares that the time has passed for offensive military operations on the part of the Southern armies; that the war must henceforth be one of defense purely; and this for the reason that their means of subsistence have been too far exhausted to admit any other than defensive tactics. Fabian strategy only for the future. And this very poverty of resources and the barrenness of the country are relied on as affording a protection against the advance of the national arms. On the lines along which our forces must approach there are no longer means of subsistence even for the people. Whatever army marches there must carry its own supplies, and must move with the difficulty and slowness that large trains and the necessity of maintaining communications occasion. Whether the fortitude of the starving inhabitants will support them in Rebellion longer than the overflowing commissariat of our armies will supply means for campaigns, *The Examiner* forgets to consider.

If in the midst of this gloom any ray of light falls on the downward path which the Rebellion treads, it comes from the hope of continued Democratic opposition to the Government, and of a Democratic successor to President Lincoln. With a certain exultation *The Examiner* cries out that "Lincoln's term draws rapidly to a close," and declares that "any change will be beneficial to the South. Lincoln and his party are so irrevocably committed to, and so indissolubly linked with, the continuance of the War, that we can hope for no peace from them save by utter exhaustion of the means of prosecuting it." Peace speeches in Congress by men so disloyal as Fernando Wood, and such hostility to the draft as Seymour, his "friends," and his personal organ in this city exhibit, and the repeated marshaling of the Democratic forces under leaders thus committed to the cause of their Southern allies, are what keeps the Rebellion in heart at this moment, and what will sustain it, if anything can sustain it, through the coming struggle in the Spring.

THE NEW STAPLE.

Our fossils are making the nation rich. It is surprising how suddenly a new discovery is made to take rank as an important staple. No other country in the world has been so ripe for such extraordinary transitions. The Romans knew that England abounded in tin, but centuries elapsed before it rose to the dignity of a commercial staple, and it was exactly so with her iron. North America seems to be in all respects an exceptional region. Coal and iron rose here, within a single lifetime, into national importance. The gold of California became a gigantic staple within a twelvemonth. The last of these extraordinary eccentricities is petroleum. Four years have been sufficient to elevate it from the worthless condition of a floating pellicle on the surface of an obscure creek to the rank of a prime staple, of which the world cannot get enough. There is nothing in the history of industrial development to equal the progress it has made. When the country first heard that an adventurer in Western Pennsylvania had dug a well from which gushed out a thousand gallons of oil daily, the multitudes refused to believe. Many of those who did believe were sure the flow would quickly fall off—it was impossible such luck should last. It not only did last, but has been matched by hundreds of others.

In this country development is in proportion to the crowd that can be collected. As in the gold mines, so in the oil region. The latter was already within a day's ride of a dense population, who, amazed at the discovery almost at their own door, flocked in to see, to be satisfied, and to bore wells. Outsiders, a thousand miles away, became similarly affected. Presently Oil City was founded, and population flowed in as rapidly as the oil flowed out. Thousands took to boring; it was, in fact, a community of borers. The rush was in a small way equal to California itself. Within a single year petroleum became an important staple. Its boiling place in the caverns beneath us has been penetrated, only to prove that the supply is inexhaustible. It has already founded new cities and given prodigious vitality to old ones—even quickening the trade of such as this, and built a railroad twenty-seven miles in length, over which, in the fourteen months ending with 1863, there were carried 430,684 barrels of oil, 22,727 tuns of freight, and within thirteen of 60,000 passengers. The receipts were $384,705, and the dividend 25 per cent. All these wonders have been wrought within four years in a wild region, into which strangers never penetrated, where the land was of little agricultural value, and where population had never gathered.

Up to 1863 the progress of the petroleum trade astonished everybody. But that of the past year has exceeded all expectation. It is evident the wells have no bottom. What the product for the year has been we cannot say. It may be that in the excitement of a highly prosperous business no accurate account has been kept. But the Custom-House figures give some indication. Petroleum is exported to every country in the world. In 1861 we shipped 1,112,476 gallons; in 1862 it rose to 10,887,701 gallons, and in 1863 it reached the extraordinary quantity of 28,000,000. Of this total, 19,544,604 gallons were shipped from this port. In addition to this foreign export, the home demand is enormous. Though the whole business is strictly a new one, yet it has already assumed shape and stability. Ships for conveying it to England are constructed oil tight, and the barrels emptied directly into the hold, thus carrying it in bulk. The export of last year employed what was equal to 252 ships of 1,000 tuns each, and was worth near $15,000,000 if refined, or about $12,000,000 if crude. The export for this year is estimated at 40,000,000 gallons.

Refined coal oil is now as colorless as water, and quite as free from smell. It is burned in lamps in tens of thousands of families, and fortunes have been realized by the inventors of lamps and the manufacturers of shades and chimnies. The consumption for illuminating purposes is only just begun. As the pleasantest and cheapest light, next to gas, it is destined to supercede all but the latter. Like iron, gold and coal, no one can fix the limit of consumption. It can only be arrested by failure of the wells to yield. Of this geologists assert that there is little probability. The petroleum wells of Burmah have yielded uninterrupted supplies for thousands of years. How long our coal mines may last has been frequently calculated, but no calculator has ventured to predict that they were likely to give out. The iron and gold they give up as inexhaustible. If they abandon petroleum to the same extended term, it may justly claim to take rank beside them as an equally enduring staple.

WHERE ARE YOUR TEARS?

For the last two years, the Copperhead press has resounded with groans over the sufferings and miseries of the poor, afflicted slaves whom "the Abolitionists" have seduced from the paternal guardianship and nurture of their masters to the fancied delights of freedom, and the sad reality of dying by famine and disease in the rear of the Union armies. And, as though this almost necessary incident of a desolating civil war were to be accepted as the natural result of Emancipation, the public has been called to weep over the approaching and inevitable destruction of the entire Negro population of our country, doomed to perish for lack of masters.

But a late dispatch from St. Louis has advices from Texas by way of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as follows:

"Over 40,000 negroes have been concentrated in the various towns in the interior of Texas, *numbers of them are now dying of disease and starvation.*"

—These, be it noted, are neither freemen nor freedmen, but *slaves*—negroes abundantly supplied with masters, but lacking everything else. They have been removed by their owners from the older Slave States to Texas to escape conscription to construct Rebel batteries, and to keep them out of the way of Yankee liberators; and here they are "dying of disease and starvation." What Copperhead can be induced to drop a tear for them? What Pro-Slavery journal can be impelled to sympathize with their woes?

LOYAL CHURCHES IN THE RECOVERED SLAVE STATES.

We learn that important movements are going on in the Pro-Slavery Churches of that portion of the Seceded States which has been recovered by the National armies. All the citizens who have either remained loyal to the Union cause, or have become Unionists since the reestablishment of the Federal authority, are desirous to separate themselves from those Pro-Slavery Churches which have been the most ardent promoters and supporters of the Rebellion. A large number of them are expressing a wish to connect themselves with the Church organizations of the Free States. To promote this movement, the War Department has transferred a number of Methodist and Baptist Churches, which have been abandoned by their Secession pastors, to the care of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the American Baptist Home Missionary Society. Both are now exerting themselves to plant loyal Methodist and Baptist Churches in the Slave States. Bishop Ames of the Methodist Episcopal Church has recently visited New-Orleans, and temporarily supplied three churches in New-Orleans, one in Memphis, one in Little Rock, one in Pine Bluff, one in Vicksburg, one in Natchez, and one in Baton Rouge. It is, obviously, highly probable that this ecclesiastical movement will go hand in hand with the Free State movements in the Slave States, and it deserves therefore to be recommended to the special attention of all the Anti-Slavery Churches of the North. Combined and energetic efforts on their part might greatly aid in extirpating not only Slavery but Pro-Slavery sentiments in the Slave States.

In the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday before Judge Daley, a jury found a verdict against the county, in favor of two colored persons whose houses had been invaded and their property destroyed in the July riots, for the full amount claimed. We believe this is the first of the riot cases decided in our Courts. Judge Barbour having held recently that the city was not liable for these damages, the Controller refuses to pay the claims of the sufferers. As a Jury of common-sense people have now decided otherwise, will the Controller have the goodness to reconsider his decision, and pay those whom the Supervisors and the Courts decide have lawful claims for reimbursement, at least until a permanent injunction shall seal the City Treasury against the righteous claims of these unfortunates?

CUSTOM-HOUSE MATTERS.

If any one imagines or suspects that any other than an impartial and thorough overhauling is to be given to our Custom-House by the House Committee of Expenditures, to whom that charge has been committed, we must be unacquainted with the gentlemen composing that Committee, and especially with its Chairman, Calvin T. Hulburd of our State. We do not mean to imply that his associates are not equally upright and faithful; but we happen to know Mr. H. better than the rest, and we know that there will be no whitewashing, no covering up, so far as *he* is concerned; and we presume it is the same with the others. Four of them (Messrs. Le Blond of Ohio, Lazear of Pa., Rogers of N. J., and Harris of Ill., are Democrats; three, (Messrs. Broomall of Pa., Julian of Ind., and Rollins of N. H.) were chosen as Republicans, while the ninth is Mr. J. B. Blair (Unconditional Unionist) of West Virginia. We understand that this Committee will depute a part of its members to visit our city and here take depositions and scrutinize records and vouchers so far as may be found necessary. That it will "hew straight to the line, let the chips fall where they may," we are confident; and whoever is conscious of guilt may wisely set his house in order, while no one else need feel any apprehension. The facts are sure to come out.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1864.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The following confirmations were made in Executive Session to-day:

Edward A. Rollins, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in place of Edward McPherson, elected Clerk of the House; J. L. Doty, Governor of Utah; John M. Goodwin, Governor of Arizona; Newton Edmunds, Governor of Dakota; O. Reed, Secretary of Utah; David D. Porter, Rear Admiral; John Rodgers and S. C. Rowan, Commodores.

ENLISTMENT OF REBEL PRISONERS.

Trustworthy private advices from Point Lookout state that 500 Rebel prisoners have been enlisted in the United States service by a recruiting officer from Fortress Monroe. About 2,000 more have petitioned to be allowed to take the oath under the Amnesty Proclamation.

The letters received by the prisoners from their comrades in the Rebel armies are filled with expressions of increasing disgust at the Rebel service and of hopes that peace will be speedily brought about.

A CANARD EXPOSED.

There is not a word of truth in the silly story published in a New-York paper, that the Marine Band had been furnished by the President, and flowers by Mrs. Lincoln, on the occasion of Fernando Wood's ball.

THE FRENCH SPOLIATION CLAIM.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have decided to report the bill in payment of the French Spoliation claim, amounting to $5,000,000.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The Finance Committee of the Senate reported back the House bill to increase internal revenue with amendments. They drop the tax on whisky on hand, but increase the rates to sixty cents for all manufactured from the passage of the bill to May 1, seventy cents on all manufactured from May 1 to July 1, and eighty cents for all manufactured thereafter.

THE VIRGINIA CONTESTED SEAT.

The Committee on Elections will to-morrow report in the case of Kitchen agt. McKenzie, contestants for a seat from the VIIth Virginia District, and recommend that neither of these gentlemen be admitted. This is regarded, from the circumstances of the case, a judicious conclusion.

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENT.

The resolutions introduced by Mr. Freeman Clarke of New-York, in the House to-day, to secure, beyond a contingency, the permanent payment of interest on the public debt in coin, and prevent an undue increase of debt, and to restrict the paper circulation of the country, were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, to investigate the expediency of reporting a bill for this purpose, providing that the duties on foreign imports, on articles of luxury not manufactured or produced in this country, shall be increased so as to produce a revenue of $120,000,000 per annum; also as to increasing the internal revenue tax upon luxuries and such articles of domestic manufacture as come in competition with importations, to produce a revenue of $200,000,000; also, to restrict the bank circulations of the country, State and National, to $300,000,000; also, to authorize an issue of bonds to the amount of $300,000,000, the whole or any portion to be disposed of at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, when he may deem it expedient to use the proceeds for the redemption of legal-tender notes.

The intention of this resolution is to have the State-Bank currency, now in circulation, amounting to two hundred million of dollars, replaced by the National-Bank Currency, for which three hundred millions can be issued. In other words, the State Banks to reorganize as National Banks, placing the currency upon a firmer basis, with the view to the resumption of specie payment. It is understood that these propositions are indorsed by many of the most prominent banking men in the country, and are not regarded unfavorably by the Secretary of the Treasury.

TWO SCREW SLOOPS ORDERED TO SERVICE.

The United States steamers Ticonderoga and Sacramento, belonging to the class of screw sloops about which so much discussion has been raised, have been ordered to active service, and will probably leave the United States before many days, in compliance with their orders. These vessels were built at the Navy-Yards, and not by contractors, as stated by a New-York paper. They will probably be sent to the Wilmington or Charleston blockade.

THE PIRATE ALABAMA.

It is said, on semi-official authority here, that two vessels of the United States Navy, which have just proved to be very fast, are under orders from the Navy Department to proceed to the Eastern Hemisphere for the purpose of chasing the pirate Alabama. One of these, it is said, will leave here this week, and the other soon after. Since the arrival of the Vanderbilt, information has been received at Washington of further movements of Semmes, and it is confidently expected that the next chase will not be so devoid of profit as the last.

ORDERED TO CHARLESTON.

The United States steamer Kensington, which was recently blockading a home port, has been ordered by the Navy Department to proceed to Charleston, and her commander has been instructed to report to Admiral Dahlgren for future instructions. The Kensington is a purchased vessel, but is reported to be very fast.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1864.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The public meeting held to-night in the Hall of the House of Representatives in celebration of the second anniversary of the United States Christian Commission was largely attended. Vice-President Hamlin presided, and delivered the opening address. He was followed by George H. Stuart, esq., of Philadelphia, President of the Christian Commission, who gave a