

New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1864.

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

Terms of the Tribune. DAILY TRIBUNE. Single copy... 3 cents. Mail subscribers, one year (12 issues)... \$3.50. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE. For year (24 issues)... \$7.00. WEEKLY TRIBUNE. For year (52 issues)... \$12.00. Payable in advance.

To Correspondents. No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatover 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.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

We have Port Royal dates to the 26th. There had been no new movements of importance. A large hospital at Beaufort was burned on the 26th. No one was hurt. On the 19th the Rebels made a weak effort at Fort Royal Ferry to do us some damage—but they failed utterly. Next day they tried several points on Jenkins's Island, and also failed. From Florida, dates are to the 22d from Jacksonville. The Rebels have made a raid upon Magnolia, and burned two large huts, which were soon to have been taken by our side for hospitals. Two negroes who had run away from their owners more than a year since were finally caught, brought to Plakka, and, without trial of any kind, elevated by the necks to a branch of a tree—an admirable crowd of cavalry looking on while they were choking to death. One of the black, nigger, slave, chattel rascals did not die soon enough to please the delicate ladies who had come forth to see the black fool who loved freedom kick and squirm; so some of the Cavalry took the pertinacious rogue down, had a pig dug, put him in, buried him up to the neck, so that every one of the "born aristocracy" could see that there was a real, live "nigger" in the hole; and then finished the entertainment by scrunching his infernal wail head with the butts of their muskets, scattering his brains (for, strange and foolish as the ways of God may seem, even "niggers" have brains, all over the concerted ground. Then the chivalrous owner wiped the brains off his musket with his lady love's perfumed handkerchief, ordered his boss nigger to make out a bill against the County for the loss of a slave, destroyed in case of absolute necessity, and the crowd departed, to drink eternal prosperity to the "patriarchal relation."

Mark Tapley has just arrived at The Express office, and is very jolly. That jovial journal says "our informant" came from Atlanta, Ga., only a fortnight since, that everything was lovely in the Confederacy; lots of provisions; abundance of foreign luxuries; hosts of skilled workmen turning out arms and war material; cotton cloth manufactured in large quantities; paper-mills being established; full confidence in Jeff. Davis, and a belief that Lee, Johnston, and Longstreet will not only be able to hold their lines, but to make occasional forays into the North. So far, the story runs smoothly, but the silly inventor upsets his dish in the next sentence by saying: "Nevertheless, there is under these professions a conviction that they will have to eventually succumb before the superior numbers, wealth, and resources of the North."

Gov. Bramlette and ex-Senator Dixon will return at once to Kentucky. It is understood that they had a free interchange of opinions with the President and the Secretary of War, and both parties are in accord and harmonious as to the enforcement of the draft in that State under the amendatory enrollment act.

Lieut.-Gen. Grant yesterday reviewed some portions of the Army of the Potomac. SENATE, March 29.—A bill was introduced to establish a Navy Yard and Naval Depot on the Delaware River. Referred. A bill was referred appropriating \$200,000 to pay expenses in suppressing Indian hostilities in 1862. The proceedings of the House on the death of the Hon. Owen Lovejoy were communicated to the Senate, and, after remarks by Senators Trumbull, Pomeroy, and Sumner, the resolutions were adopted. Adjournd.

HOUSE.—Mr. Washburne reported a bill, which was passed, providing for the collection of hospital dues of vessels sold or transferred in foreign ports. The collections are to be made through Consuls and commercial agents. Mr. Stevens said several gentlemen desired to deliberately consider the proposed amendment to the Constitution introduced by him, he would move its postponement for two weeks. Agreed to. Mr. Rice reported a bill, which was passed, that persons between 20 and 30 years of age may be appointed Assistant Paymasters, provided that the number is not thereby increased; and that examinations of students for admission into the Naval Academy shall take place when they are between 14 and 18 years of age. Mr. Rice reported a bill regulating and changing in some particulars the method of making promotions in the Navy. Passed. Mr. Rice also reported a bill for the classification of Paymaster's Clerk in the Navy, making four classes at the following salaries: \$1,200, \$1,000, \$800, and \$500 per annum. Mr. Rice also reported a bill fixing the date of the loss of the brig Baldrige at the 21st of August, 1863, in order to fix the pensions to the families of the deceased officers and sailors. Both these bills were passed. Mr. Pike reported a bill, which was passed, authorizing, during the present war, the appointment of Acting Lieutenant-Commanders and Commanders, at the same rates of pay as are allowed to such grades in the regular Navy. Mr. Pike also reported the Senate bill regulating Courts-Martial, which was passed, after striking out the first section, which provides that volunteer appointments in the Navy shall be subject to the action of the Senate the same as regular appointments. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the bill amendatory of the National Banking law, which was discussed up to the hour of adjournment.

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE, March 29.—Reports were made against the Brooklyn Fire Department bill; recommended. Against the New York Alcoholic Tax Levy bill; agreed to. Against the petition of the Staten Island Ferry Company for a new ferry slip; recommended. Against the bill for a market in Eighth avenue, New-York; agreed to. Against the Brooklyn Park Avenue bill; agreed to. Against amending the charter of Brooklyn; agreed to. Against incorporating the Long Island Water Works Company; recommended. Relative to Surrogate's Courts and the Surrogate of the County of New-York. Against amending the act relative to the Loan Commissioners; agreed to. To amend the charter of the French Benevolent Society, incorporating the Wire Drawers Society of New-York. Bills were introduced to amend the charter of the Life and Limb Insurance Company. For the safe keeping of old records in public offices in New-York. Incorporating the Mediterranean Company. The following bills were advanced to a third reading: The General Appropriation bill for the support of the State Government. For the payment of the interest on certain canal drafts and awards. Incorporating the Central Park Hotel Company. Referred. After recess, reports were made incorporating the Grand Hotel Company of New-York; extending the charter of the Port Richmond and Bergen Point Ferry Company; prohibiting persons from devising more than half of their property to charitable or other corporations or organizations, and to be valid such bequests to be made at least six months before the death of the testator; for the removal of the Cane-street Church Cemetery of Brooklyn; for the improvement of Grand street, Brooklyn;

incorporating the National Savings Bank of New-York. Adjournd.—Bills were passed to legalize certain acts of the New-York Common Council. To amend the charter of the Sixth Avenue Savings Bank. To incorporate the New-York American Club. Referred. At the Evening Session reports were made to incorporate the Young Bachelor's Social Union of New-York; against granting additional powers to the New-York Police Magistrates; authorizing the City of Troy to borrow money; relative to the New-York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb; relative to boarding-house keepers; relative to fire-limits in Brooklyn; for a railroad in Lexington avenue; to amend the charter of the Columbian Insurance Company. The bills for the extension of the Chenango Canal, and for the improvement of the Champlain Canal, were ordered to a third reading. Adjournd.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

By the arrival of the City of Manchester from Liverpool March 16 via Queenstown March 17, we have one day later news from Europe. Semi-official papers of Vienna assert that Denmark is disposed to accept the armistice and conference propositions in their essential points. The London Times and Star strongly recommend this course to Denmark. The King of Sweden has opened the Storthing (Diet) of Norway, and announced a bill for an extraordinary credit, to give material aid to the Danes in certain emergencies. The Prussians have captured the island of Fehmarn, with the entire Danish garrison. The three Prussian men-of-war which were at anchor in the harbor of Brest have been placed under the command of the Austrian Admiral.

Serious conflicts have taken place in Rome between the Papal and the French soldiers. The populace sided with the former. We have now an official announcement that the Japanese Government will send fresh Embassadors to Europe to obtain from the European Governments a modification of the treaties.

GENERAL NEWS.

The New-York Trade Sale of Books commenced at Cooley's rooms, No. 49 Broadway, on Tuesday morning, George A. Leavitt, auctioneer. The invoices of W. H. Appleton, Teggart & Thompson, C. T. Evans, S. P. Putnam, A. K. Loring, A. J. Davis, D. Thomas, James Redpath, Roberts Brothers, and Theodore Bliss, brought satisfactory prices. The attendance was good and the bidding lively, considering it was the first day of the sale. Little & Brown will offer among other attractions their editions of the Poets.

The Cincinnati Gazette learns that the Hon. George E. Fugh, who was nominated as one of the Presidential Electors for the State at large by the Democratic Convention at Columbus, has sent in a letter of resignation to the State Central Committee, declining the proffered honor. Gold opened at 164 1/2 and closed very soon at 165. From this point it fell to 164 1/2 and 164 1/4. The Sub-Treasury rates for Certificates to-day are 164. Stocks upon the street were dull. At the Stock Exchange Government bonds were strong. Coupons of 1861 at 112 1/2 to 113; 5 1/2% of 1861; April 7-30 at 114; Bond for State Stocks steady. The Stock Market has been irregular, and during the early part of the day had a decided downward tendency. At the Second Board prices were firmer and more inclination shown to purchase. Money was more active at the close of the day, and 7 1/2 cent was readily obtained. Some of the banks complain of a growing scarcity of plain legal tenders, and have paid over their counters 5 1/2 cent notes with nearly a month's interest. Sterling bills are nominally at 129 for bankers.

We are glad to announce that a movement is started in this city on behalf of the plundered and suffering people of East Tennessee. It is not to the credit of New-York that she is just beginning in a cause to which Boston has already contributed \$74,000, and to which Philadelphia has also given largely. But better late than never, and let her make up now by her activity and generosity for lost time. While we delay a whole people are starving, and standing idle for want of the implements of labor; or, at least, only partially relieved by the efforts of those who have been more mindful of their condition than ourselves. A meeting is called by some of our most prominent citizens at the Chamber of Commerce to-day at 3 o'clock, which is to be addressed by Col. Taylor. Let the attendance be large and the work taken hold of with spirit.

PRISON DISCIPLINE.

A book before us, which is entitled "The Nineteenth Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New-York," certainly affords opportunity for more careful observation than we have time or space to devote to it. It is safe to say that it is a book which could have been written and printed in no age of the world except our own; for it indicates the existence of a broad Christian philanthropy, which it is no flattery to ourselves to call a distinguishing mark of the present era. The founder of our faith did, it is true, indicate the visiting of those in prison as a religious obligation, but this injunction, like too many others from the same source, was long practically neglected altogether, or made merely a branch of professional and priestly duty. Yet if the rescue of mankind from practical error be the work of religion, it is clear that the most unpromising provinces of labor are those which should be most persistently and enthusiastically invaded, since they offer opportunities for the noblest harvest. In such philanthropy there is, it is true, danger of rendering punishment too lenient, and thus subversive of its original object; but even this error would be practically more tolerable than the total and uncharitable neglect of fallen men and women. The succor of the errant is not a pleasant duty, but it is among the most impery services which we owe to our brethren; nor can there be any limitation of its certain and infinitely desirable result. How this work is going on in our own State is shown in the report before us, of which we propose to give a brief abstract.

The objects of the Prison Association are: 1. "To give such counsel and aid as may be judged requisite and suitable to prisoners, whether simply arrested and held for trial, or finally convicted or detained as witnesses." 2. "To encourage and assist discharged convicts." 3. The improvement and perfecting of prison government and discipline. During the past year, 5,250 persons in the detention prisons of New-York and Brooklyn, who were poor and comparatively helpless, many foreigners, ignorant of our language and laws, have been visited, conversed with, and counseled. The agent has carefully examined 949 complaints in which extenuating circumstances appeared to exist, with the gratifying result that 351 of these complaints were abandoned, as too frivolous for prosecution, or the result of prejudice, malice, or revenge. Discharged convicts to the number of 854 have received board and pecuniary aid till employment was found for them; and clothes have been fur-

nished to 128 released criminals. For 171 discharged convicts, permanent places of labor have been obtained. All the prisons in the State have been visited and inspected. The Committee deprecate as "the grand defect of our State Prison system, instability in the tenure of office, and a want of permanence in the executive administration, resulting from the controlling influence of partisan politics on that system." They complain that good prison officers, well skilled in the intelligent discharge of their duties, are obliged, upon a change of administration, to give place to those who are at least inexperienced. The Association reiterates and emphasizes its views in reference to "the contract system" of prison labor, considering it objectionable on many grounds, and liable to a variety of grave and pernicious abuses. It is especially noticed that "it is, in its very nature, cruel and relentless in its exactions upon the time and toil of convicts." Great regret is expressed that the statutes intended to diminish the period of imprisonment of convicts, as the reward of good behavior, have, through difficulties in their construction, been of little or no avail to the prisoners. There are many excellent suggestions in regard to the internal economy of prisons as affecting the comfort and health of their inmates; and the system at present followed of secular instruction is pronounced wretchedly inadequate. Rewards of good conduct are warmly advocated, as well as the establishment of a Commission or Board of Pardon. The Committee speak at length and with great warmth of the condition of our county jails, and call for a radical reform, or rather a revolution. The accommodations are too limited—the prisons are insecure—they are not sufficiently isolated—their internal arrangements are inconvenient, unsatisfactory and demoralizing. Such a thing as the separation of prisoners into classes is impossible, and the evil of this is so strongly felt "by some of our wisest and best magistrates, that they sometimes actually let young offenders go free rather than send them to jail, judging such a disposition of them the least of two evils." The ventilation of the county prisons is, with scarcely an exception, declared to be most imperfect, and the greater part of them "are horribly infested with vermin of various name." In some of the jails "neither wash-basins, soap, towels or combs are provided for prisoners, and in a still greater number, there is no requirement that they wash themselves daily, but the matter is left to their own taste." In none of the county prisons, except the Oswego, is work required of the prisoners. There is great deficiency in the means of intellectual enlightenment and culture. In some prisons "not a solitary book was found—not even a Bible, hymn-book, tract, or scrap of printing of any kind." There is said to be the same lack of religious efforts and influences, and the law requiring religious services on the Lord's Day is, it is stated, little better than a dead letter.

The county penitentiaries are also considered in the Report. Of these there are five in the State, viz., at Flatbush, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo. These prisons, says the Report, "are really admirable institutions, and for the most part conducted with prudence and ability." These in Albany and Rochester pay their own expenses and yield a considerable sum. There are some interesting and valuable suggestions in the Report upon the length of sentences in many instances, and their pernicious shortness in others. It was the opinion of the Standing Committee of the Association in 1846, when the late John Duer, Benjamin F. Butler, Theodore Sedgwick and Willis Hall were members of it, "that the periods of imprisonment might be advantageously shortened," and in 1849 the opinion was forcibly reiterated. The causes of crime are adverted to in the Report, and these, as our readers may imagine, are sadly familiar. It is the old story told over again. Intemperance habits. Ignorance. Unprotected orphanage. Licentious habits. Lack of mental and spiritual culture. The classification of the Committee is rather remarkable, and is as follows: "The steps in the downward road seem to be generally as follows: First, absence of parental restraint and instruction; this, almost invariably, is followed, secondly, by association with bad company, this, in like manner, nearly always leads, thirdly, to Sabbath-breaking, and, fourthly, to the formation of intemperate habits, which prepares the way for, fifthly, a connection with bad women; the expenses incurred by this connection conduce to, sixthly, robbery, forgery, and other crimes against persons and property."

This is a curious as well as a sad sequence, and a literal moral descent, upon which volumes of philosophy might be written. Here we have, in a very few lines, a startling epitome of all possible crimes against society, and an indication of the dreadful chain of depravity which binds them in a hideous association. At all this mass of misery, of disappointed hopes, of unkept promises, of cruel disregard of natural affections and domestic relations, it would be easy to sneer, and to ask if our boasted common nature can bear no nobler fruit, but only this blasted, withered, and noisome progeny. But it is better to pity than to scoff. It is better to remember how many of these social outcasts might, with more genial opportunities, have trodden far different paths, leading them, not to the felon's cell and the convict's shame, but to public honors and domestic enjoyments. It is better to remember that even these distorted natures may, by care and kindness, be restored to symmetry. This is the work which the Association has undertaken, and every kindly heart will thank its benevolent members for the labor which has thus been voluntarily given.

THE METROPOLITAN FAIR.

As the day fixed for the opening of the Great Fair approaches, the zealous interest which has attended its preparation grows stronger among those who are working for, as well as wishing, its success. Among those immediately concerned with its management there is no lack of enthusiasm or of effort; nor is there wanting on the part of the public a gentle glow of excitement, or even, perhaps, a slight feverishness of expectation. To the latter—that is, to the public—we beg to suggest that their duty will begin in earnest when the Fair is opened, and that they may profitably bethink themselves how they can do the most—not merely something, but the most—for the success of this noble charity. That it will succeed, we all know. Its revenue will in any event be reckoned by hundreds of thousands of dollars—we hope will exceed a million. But we are sure the sum might be largely augmented by a little thought and a little self-denial in the next weeks among those who are going to attend it. Suppose everybody should thoughtfully consider how large a part of his income he could rightly spend at the Fair while it is open, and would put himself to some inconvenience in order to spend there rather than elsewhere—would a hundred or two hundred thousand dollars cover the increase of receipts? The duty of the people is not done when they have gone once or twice to the Fair for the sake of seeing its attractions. It is not done when they go in search of good bargains, nor when they buy carelessly what they can easily afford. It is not done till each man and woman have spent or given all they can afford to spend or give; and the total of that is not to be computed till they have calculated and saved for this purpose especially. We may add that one other duty remains, and that is to keep all our friends mindful of their duty. With such a general co-operation and practical enthusiasm, the Fair can be made to accomplish more than its most sanguine friends expect. Let us all go

to work with the resolution that no failure on our part shall diminish by one dollar its possible income. OSSINGEN, Westchester Co., yesterday elected F. C. Burrhus (Union) Supervisor—the first time that town ever elected a Republican. It gave in '62 Seymour 527 to Wadsworth 331; and in '63 St. John 488 to Depew 337. If all Westchester County had but gone like this!

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 29, 1864.

THE QUICKSILVER MINE CASE.

The Judges of the Supreme Court held a consultation in the Quicksilver case last Saturday week without agreement, and again last Saturday, likewise without agreement. The stock of the Company has gone up in New-York on the false intelligence that the Court had decided the title to the mine to be in the Company. It is not probable that the Court will agree but it has got to decide the case, and it will decide it by a vote, if necessary. M'CLELLANISM. Postmaster-General Blair is pressing Gen. Grant very hard to place Gen. McClellan in command of the defenses of Washington. It was his influence that procured the cancellation of Frank Blair's resignation, and his re-assignment to a Major-General's command under McPherson. NAVAL OFFICERS. A bill passed the House to-day, authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to appoint Acting Lieutenant-Commanders and Commanders, who shall have the compensation allowed to naval officers of similar grade. It also repeals the provisions of the act of 1852 to establish and equalize the grade of line officers of the Navy, and in its stead, provides that any person who shall have received or shall hereafter receive a temporary appointment as Acting Volunteer Lieutenant, or Acting Master in the Navy, from civil life, authorized by act of July 24, 1861, may be confirmed in said appointment, and placed in the line of promotion from date of confirmation, if upon the President's recommendation he receives the thanks of Congress for highly meritorious conduct in conflict with the enemy, or by extraordinary heroism in the line of their profession may be promoted to forward warrant officers or acting master's mates upon the recommendation of their commanding officer, approved by the Flag Officer and the Department, and upon such promotion shall receive \$100 and a medal of honor.

SITES FOR NAVY-YARDS.

The House Naval Committee, and a part of the Senate, will start from here next Thursday for St. Louis, via Pittsburgh and Cleveland, to examine sites for navy-yards at St. Louis, Cleveland, and perhaps Cairo. They will witness, by appointment, the casting of a mammoth gun at Pittsburgh. TRADE ON THE SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND GULF. Col. Frank C. Howe, sent to New-Orleans by Secretary Chase to inquire into the condition of trade and the operations of the trade regulations on the Southern Mississippi and Gulf, and to inquire what burdens were imposed upon commerce by military orders, and, if possible, to secure uniformity and as much relief as possible, writes back that Gen. Banks will not obstruct the proposed reforms, and that there is reason to expect improvement, both in trade and public feeling. THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. The reorganization of the Army of the Potomac places Gen. James S. Wadsworth in command of the 4th Division, 2d Corps. SCHEME FOR A U. S. JUDGESHIP. Two bills, of kin to each other, nominally to get Brooklyn, N. Y., set off in a separate judicial district, in reality to make a new one, were introduced by W. Charles, Jr. His conservative persuasion, show signs of death in the Senate Judiciary Committee room. GEN. FREMONT. The visit of Gen. Fremont here (which is unexpected) to-morrow, is understood to be in compliance with a request of the President, to which he was urged by warm political friends. THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. Gen. Grant is enthusiastic in the expression of his admiration of the Army of the Potomac—men, discipline, morale, material—all. To the Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. CHANGE IN COMMITTEES. Representative Grinnell of Iowa has been appointed a member of the Committee on Territories, and Representative Beaman of Michigan a member of the Committee for the District of Columbia in place of Representative Lovejoy, deceased. CONNECTION OF OUR LAKES AND RIVERS. The President, to-day, communicated the report of Charles E. Stuart, Consulting Engineer, upon the improvements to pass gunboats from tide water to the Western Lakes. The engineer assumes that upon the connection of those lakes with tide-water depend the jurisdiction of our Government, and the common defense as well as welfare, and that the Mississippi River should likewise be connected with the lakes; urges that the food-producing region uses this chain of lakes for the transit of exports and imports, which is a line of communication at present utterly defenceless; leaving the lake cities at destruction by English gunboats on declaration of war by Great Britain, inflicting damage to which the cost proposed by the improvements would be utterly insignificant. He makes various recommendations, and gives as the total estimate for improved gunboat locks for the Erie, Oswego, Champlain, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canals, with seven feet of water, over \$18,000,000, and with eight feet of water \$20,500,000, and the cost of a canal around Niagara Falls at from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000. NAVAL ORDER. Lieut.-Commander Samuel Magraw has been ordered to the command of the U. S. steamer Cambridge. Robert Hallowell Gardiner. The Hon. Robert Hallowell Gardiner, who died on the 29th inst., at the age of 82, was an eminent and wealthy citizen of Maine, and the founder of the town which bears his name. The whole of his territory, with other land adjacent, was originally his estate by inheritance, descending to him when he was but five years old. Most of his many life was devoted to the management of this vast property—always with a wise and generous regard to the welfare of those who became settlers upon it, and to the prosperity and improvement of the town. A church, a lyceum, and a library owe their existence to him; and to his influence can be traced the enterprise, intelligence, and good morals which are the characteristics of the people who gathered about him. He died, says The Gardiner Home Journal, "surrounded by all his family, attended in his retirement by the veneration of all his fellow-citizens, in the full possession of his faculties, and in the most serene enjoyment of a long-tried Christian faith."

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The House Naval Committee, and a part of the Senate, will start from here next Thursday for St. Louis, via Pittsburgh and Cleveland, to examine sites for navy-yards at St. Louis, Cleveland, and perhaps Cairo. They will witness, by appointment, the casting of a mammoth gun at Pittsburgh. TRADE ON THE SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND GULF. Col. Frank C. Howe, sent to New-Orleans by Secretary Chase to inquire into the condition of trade and the operations of the trade regulations on the Southern Mississippi and Gulf, and to inquire what burdens were imposed upon commerce by military orders, and, if possible, to secure uniformity and as much relief as possible, writes back that Gen. Banks will not obstruct the proposed reforms, and that there is reason to expect improvement, both in trade and public feeling. THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. The reorganization of the Army of the Potomac places Gen. James S. Wadsworth in command of the 4th Division, 2d Corps. SCHEME FOR A U. S. JUDGESHIP. Two bills, of kin to each other, nominally to get Brooklyn, N. Y., set off in a separate judicial district, in reality to make a new one, were introduced by W. Charles, Jr. His conservative persuasion, show signs of death in the Senate Judiciary Committee room. GEN. FREMONT. The visit of Gen. Fremont here (which is unexpected) to-morrow, is understood to be in compliance with a request of the President, to which he was urged by warm political friends. THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. Gen. Grant is enthusiastic in the expression of his admiration of the Army of the Potomac—men, discipline, morale, material—all. To the Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. CHANGE IN COMMITTEES. Representative Grinnell of Iowa has been appointed a member of the Committee on Territories, and Representative Beaman of Michigan a member of the Committee for the District of Columbia in place of Representative Lovejoy, deceased. CONNECTION OF OUR LAKES AND RIVERS. The President, to-day, communicated the report of Charles E. Stuart, Consulting Engineer, upon the improvements to pass gunboats from tide water to the Western Lakes. The engineer assumes that upon the connection of those lakes with tide-water depend the jurisdiction of our Government, and the common defense as well as welfare, and that the Mississippi River should likewise be connected with the lakes; urges that the food-producing region uses this chain of lakes for the transit of exports and imports, which is a line of communication at present utterly defenceless; leaving the lake cities at destruction by English gunboats on declaration of war by Great Britain, inflicting damage to which the cost proposed by the improvements would be utterly insignificant. He makes various recommendations, and gives as the total estimate for improved gunboat locks for the Erie, Oswego, Champlain, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canals, with seven feet of water, over \$18,000,000, and with eight feet of water \$20,500,000, and the cost of a canal around Niagara Falls at from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000. NAVAL ORDER. Lieut.-Commander Samuel Magraw has been ordered to the command of the U. S. steamer Cambridge. Robert Hallowell Gardiner. The Hon. Robert Hallowell Gardiner, who died on the 29th inst., at the age of 82, was an eminent and wealthy citizen of Maine, and the founder of the town which bears his name. The whole of his territory, with other land adjacent, was originally his estate by inheritance, descending to him when he was but five years old. Most of his many life was devoted to the management of this vast property—always with a wise and generous regard to the welfare of those who became settlers upon it, and to the prosperity and improvement of the town. A church, a lyceum, and a library owe their existence to him; and to his influence can be traced the enterprise, intelligence, and good morals which are the characteristics of the people who gathered about him. He died, says The Gardiner Home Journal, "surrounded by all his family, attended in his retirement by the veneration of all his fellow-citizens, in the full possession of his faculties, and in the most serene enjoyment of a long-tried Christian faith."

FROM KENTUCKY.

Division of the State into Two Military Districts—Disgraceful Surrender of a Train Guard—No Signs of Longstreet's Force Four Miles Beyond Bull's Gap—Reported Intentions of the Rebels. LOUISVILLE, Ky., Tuesday, March 29, 1864. In pursuance of directions from Gen. Schofield, and in accordance with Gen. Grant's orders, Kentucky has been divided into two Districts. The Western district comprises all between the Nashville Railroad and the Cumberland River, under Gen. Ewing, with headquarters on the railroad. The Eastern district comprises all between the Nashville Railroad and Big Sandy River, under Gen. Hobson, with headquarters in the field. The whole is to be under command of Gen. Burbridge, with Headquarters at present in this city. That part of Kentucky west of the Cumberland River, belongs to the Department of Tennessee. The express train which left Louisville Monday morning for Lobanov was captured by ten guerrillas, and the two passenger cars of the train were burned. A guard of seventeen Union soldiers on the train surrendered without firing a gun. This guard has been ordered to Louisville under arrest. Union scouts have proceeded four miles beyond Bull's Gap, and report no signs of Longstreet's forces. Gen. Yang has been appointed Provost-Marshal of Louisville, vice Major Fitch, who rejoins his regiment. The Chattanooga Gazette says the Rebels claim to have 50,000 men at Dalton and vicinity, and that they will capture Chattanooga and occupy Tennessee, when Longstreet moves into Kentucky, which they say he will do forthwith with 26,000 men. All the heavy artillery is being removed from Kingston to Altoona. The Rebel Gen. Johnston has restricted his officers, from Major-Generals down, to one horse.

The Paducah Affair.

CAIRO, Monday, March 28, 1864. Our forces under Col. Hicks at Paducah comprised the 1st battalion of the 14th Illinois, numbering 300 raw recruits under Major Barus, three companies of the 122d Illinois, 190 strong, under Major Chapman, and 250 of the 1st Kentucky heavy artillery (colored) under Lieut. Cunningham. The steamer Dakotah, burned at the marine railroad, was owned by Capt. Johnson, and was valued at \$20,000. Wolfe & Co. estimated their loss by plundering at \$25,000. The steamer Bell has arrived, bringing 300 bales of cotton for St. Louis.

The State Canal Board.

ALBANY, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. At a meeting of the Canal Board, to-day, on motion of Controller Robinson, the report heretofore made to the Legislature in favor of enlarging the Canal to gunboat capacity, at an estimated cost of \$9,000,000, was read.

Marine Disasters.

FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. The schooners Neptune and Bruce of New-York, from Key West, were arrived in distress, with low-water and foremast gone. Non-Arrival of the North Americans. PORTLAND, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. MIDDNIGHT.—No signs of the North Americans. Counterfeit "Fives." BOSTON, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. Counterfeit "fives" on the Canton Bank of Bangor, Me., are in circulation. Disaster to the Fishing Schooner Alice. BOSTON, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. The steamer Eastern Queen ran into the fishing schooner Alice early this morning, drowned one man and damaged the schooner badly.

From Halifax.

HALIFAX, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. The steamer to visit Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island under one Command, without giving notice to the House of Assembly last evening unanimously. Court of Appeals. ALBANY, Tuesday, March 29, 1864. The day Calendar for Wednesday, March 30, 1864, in the Court of Appeals is as follows: Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33 and 34. New-York Trade Sale. The regular New-York Trade Sale of books, stereotype plates, stationery, &c., commenced yesterday at the New Trade Sale Rooms, No. 49 Broadway. The invoices are very heavy, embracing a great variety of works and filling a catalogue of 360 pages. The catalogue is arranged by the auctioneers, with the advice of the Committee on Sales, for the benefit of all parties interested in the sale. Some but not all the contributors agree to contribute to no trade sales in New-York except those authorized by the Committee. The books involved in the catalogue are to be sold without reserve, and no alteration can be made in the catalogue without giving notice to the auctioneers. Each line of the catalogue must include a sufficient number of books to amount at the retail price to \$25, excepting only lines of duplicates in different bindings, and also books of which the trade price is \$1 or less, such as such must contain at least twenty-five copies of each book. Each lot sold (except in cases of balance) must amount at the retail price to \$5, except for books the retail price of which is 75 cents or less, of which the smallest lot must amount to \$1. All the books offered for sale must be in the hands of the auctioneer before the sale commences. All additional quantities sold must be in the hands of the auctioneers within twenty days after the close of the sale. After the sale the books may be supplied, the books may be put up again for competition. When balances are sold at a lower price, the sale will be doubled, the third time, quadrupled, and so on until they are all disposed of. Some but not all the contributors agree to contribute to no trade sales in New-York except those authorized by the Committee. Contributors may duplicate their publications at will, and they agree to deliver to the auctioneers all books sold, and the auctioneers agree to deliver the same to the purchasers. Books may be insured by the auctioneers in their hands, if the owners so desire it—the owners, of course, paying the bill. Accounts of sales must be rendered within 30 days after the close of the sale, and to be payable to the books of the auctioneers. The last day of the last day of the year, subject to a charge of 7 1/2 per cent for commission and guaranty, or in cash (at the option of the contributor), subject to a commission of 9 1/2 per cent. All goods not settled for within 30 days after the sale may be charged back to the contributors. One per cent additional is charged for boxes, packing, and shipping. The attendance at the sale is fair, not large; the bidding about the same as usual. Many of the leading book firms of New-York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other large cities of the United States are represented. The sale commenced with the invoice of W. H. Appleton, New-York. The invoice occupied 193 pages of the catalogue. The Center Table, a new gift book, in Gray's Elegant Illustrated Scott's Lady of the Lake, in new and fine bindings. Blue and gold editions of the poets, elegant and attractive juvenile books, holiday books, standard works, photographs, albums, and pictures. Were among the attractions presented to purchasers. The invoices of Taggard and Thompson of Boston, Chas. T. Evans and G. P. Putnam of New-York (the books from the house of G. P. Putnam sold readily and commanded handsome prices), A. K. Loring of Boston, A. J. Davis & Co. of New-York, Philadelphia, W. O. McKean, Rhode Island, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel. To-day a larger attendance of buyers is anticipated. Little & Brown of Boston have a choice assortment of books, which will be offered at auction, the same way as sold of Messrs. Roberts, Merrim, Tilton & Co., Desilver, Dentet, Coady, Childs, and others. CUDJO'S CAVE.—We publish in another column a long advertisement embodying the opinions of reviewers on this popular and successful novel.

Hotel Arrivals.—Gen. E. F. Folger, Albany; Hon. S. R. Moore, Pennsylvania; Dr. W. Douglas, Quebec; Chas. A. Benson, Philadelphia; and E. A. Richards, Massachusetts, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Ex-Assistant Secretary of War, Hon. Thos. A. Scott, Philadelphia; Hon. J. Lane, Ohio; Major Diven and Rev. lady, Elmira; and Hon. J. M. McKean, Rhode Island, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Col. Cesario and Capt. E. Dillingham, recently from Libby Prison, Richmond; Lieut. J. F. Wade, T. G. Eaton and D. P. Slattee, U. S. Army, and Col. Z. H. Boston, Philadelphia, are at the Astor House. Count de Giorgi, Austrian Minister to the United States, and Wallace F. Randolph, U. S. Army, are at the Clarendon Hotel.