

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- THE GARDEN, Broadway—JANE SHORE—BLACK STAR. WINTER GARDEN, Broadway—NARAD QUEEN—MARRIED LIFE. WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway—TOWN AND COUNTRY. LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway—OUR AMERICAN SOLDIER. NEW KERRY THEATRE, Bowery—YANKEE JACK—THE BURNING—MILITARY MARCH.

New York, Saturday, February 8, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The well matured plans of General McClellan are being worked out in rapid succession by the able officers who command the different divisions of the army and navy in the interior and on the coast. The capture of Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river, at two o'clock on Thursday, by the gunboats under command of Commodore Foote—of which we publish an official account from the Commodore to the Navy Department to-day—is a most important success. The fort was defended gallantly by the commandant, General Lloyd Tilghman, and his forces. The fort mounted twenty guns and seventeen mortars. General Tilghman and his staff, together with one colonel, two captains and sixty men, were taken prisoners. The battle was essentially a naval one, the troops of General McClellan and Grant not having been called upon to participate. The gunboats Essex, Carondelet, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Taylor and Lexington, did the whole business. After a fight of an hour and a quarter the fort surrendered unconditionally, and Commodore Foote handed it over to General Grant immediately upon the arrival of that officer—half an hour after the flag was struck. The Essex was the only gunboat seriously injured, a shot having gone through her boilers, causing death to many of her crew by scalding. The Cincinnati received thirty-one shots, wounding eight men and killing one. General Halleck announces the victory in a brief and graphic despatch, in these words—

Fort Henry is ours! The flag of the Union is re-established on the soil of Tennessee. It will never be removed. By command of Major General HALLECK. A despatch from Cairo yesterday announces that our troops have taken possession of the bridge on the Memphis and Ohio Railroad. If this be true we have got hold of a most important point, by which Columbus is completely isolated from Memphis, and Bowling Green is cut off from the same point. It is true there is a railroad indirectly connecting Bowling Green with Memphis by way of Nashville, but if our fleet can get up to Florence they may be able to destroy the last connection between Memphis and all the leading points east of it. The map of the vicinity of the late victory, which we give to-day, will show the importance of the position our army has attained by the capture of Fort Henry. If we may judge from the statements of the rebel journals, Fort Henry was considered almost impregnable. The Memphis Appeal of the 31st ult. says that the troops in that fort and in Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland river, were adequate to resist any attack from the enemy. Our gallant river sailors, however, have taught them a different lesson.

By our latest reports from Paducah, it appears that Gen. Grant and Gen. Smith were pursuing the flying rebels, to the amount of four or five thousand, on each side of the river, and it was reported that many of the garrison of Fort Henry abandoned the fight, leaving the artillery corps alone to defend it, not having much sympathy with the cause of rebellion. Several gunboats left Paducah yesterday for the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, and Gen. Grant was to attack Fort Donelson to-day. It is thus evident that the blow struck at Fort Henry is to be vigorously followed up by our generals. The details which we give of this brilliant affair from various sources to-day will be found of the highest interest.

Not only has this battle resulted in a victory in Tennessee, but it has achieved a second victory for the country in Congress, for the bill appropriating ten millions of dollars, to build twenty iron-clad gunboats, which had previously passed the House, was immediately passed in the Senate yesterday upon the arrival of the news from Tennessee. Hitherto the Senate objected to the bill on the ground that iron-clad gunboats were as yet only an experiment in England and France, and as well in this country, and that ten millions was too much to pay for an experiment; but on the news of the victory won by our iron-clad gunboats at Fort Henry, all objections were settled, and the bill, which should have been passed two months ago, at once became a law.

By the arrival of the United States steamer Savannah at Fortress Monroe from Barnstable's fleet on Thursday, we learn that the expedition was going inside Hatteras Inlet the day before. An attack on Roanoke Island was contemplated on the 2d inst., where General Wise commands the rebel forces of over 5,000 men; but later intelligence, up to the 5th inst., informs us that it was postponed to Thursday or yesterday. Some striking news from that quarter may there-

fore be expected in a day or two. The Norfolk Day Book of the 6th says that the steamer Arrow, which arrived at Norfolk from Roanoke Island, with dates of Wednesday morning, reports that Commodore W. F. Lynch, with a fleet of rebel gunboats, is awaiting the arrival of the Union vessels, but that none of his boats have ventured into Pamlico Sound for the past two weeks. The Day Book further announces that General Wise is lying very sick at Nag's Head, and says that it would have been well for the country (the South) if he had been appointed to the command several months ago. It hopes, however, that "it is not yet too late!"

Letters received in Augusta, Ga., from Savannah, on Tuesday, state that heavy firing was heard on Monday in the direction of New river, on the South Carolina side of the city, which lasted over four hours. Information reached Augusta the same day by a person who stated that he heard from a rebel officer in Savannah that the batteries on New river had been attacked by some Union gunboats, one of which had been destroyed. The Charleston Mercury of the 4th says that the firing was over Red Bluff, and that the enemy had destroyed several houses in that vicinity.

The arrival of the Savannah on this port from Fort Royal yesterday may throw some light on this reported attack. The Savannah left on the 30th ult., and she reports that a formidable expedition, including all the light draught vessels, several gunboats and a large land force had sailed from Fort Royal for the South on the 26th. Their destination was not stated, but it is highly probable that it is this portion of Commodore Dupont's expedition which is operating at New river and Red Bluff.

General Beauregard arrived in Nashville on the 3d inst. The War Department received information yesterday that the rebels had evacuated Romney, Western Virginia, and that General Lander now occupied it with our troops. This is another good strategic point gained.

It will be seen by our extracts from the Southern papers that the rebel leaders are devoting much attention to the subject of new railroads. Jeff. Davis recommended to Congress in secret session the completion of the Mississippi and Alabama road, so as to connect Selma, Alabama, with Meridian, in Mississippi; and Congress proposed to appropriate \$150,000 for that purpose. The New Orleans Picayune also notices the fact that the road from Mobile to New Orleans, via Jackson and Meridian, has been complete, and remarks that it is most opportune, as "the Yankees" have possession of the Sound, and may destroy the coast line at any moment. A million of dollars, it is said, has been estimated by Mr. Davis to construct a railroad between Danville, Va., and Greensboro', N. C., as a matter of military necessity.

We are informed that a letter has been received at Albany by a Senator from Thurlow Weed, dated in Paris, January 21, stating that the Emperor Napoleon would announce to the Corps Legislatif, on the 23d ult., his intention to interfere with the affairs of this country. While this information is not very definite, yet we may find some possible ground for the rumor in a fact which we give to-day from rebel sources at Norfolk. It appears that a gentleman claiming to be a French citizen, resident in Wilmington, N. C., has just arrived at Norfolk from Fortress Monroe, under a flag of truce. This person, M. De Behan, the report says, "was arrested last summer at the North and confined in Fort Lafayette. Through the interference of the French Minister he was released, but he was refused permission to return to Wilmington. He then applied for a passport to go to Europe, and obtained it; but Mr. Seward endorsed on it, 'It is understood M. De Behan is not to enter into any of the insurrectionary States.' He went to Paris and had an interview with the Emperor Napoleon, and showed him Mr. Seward's endorsement on his passport. The Emperor promptly replied that he should be allowed to return to his place of business. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs prepared the necessary papers for the French Minister at Washington, and Mr. De Behan returned to the United States. He called on Mr. Seward for a passport to enable him to return to Wilmington, but he was refused it. On the next day the French Minister called on Mr. Seward, exhibited some documents, and asked for a passport for Mr. De Behan to return to Wilmington, and Mr. Seward very cheerfully granted it."

This story may probably have some connection with Mr. Weed's statement. The papers to hand from the East Indies canvass the prospect of a war between England and the United States with great anxiety, more particularly with reference to the influence of such a contest on the infant cotton trade of that country. The Bombay Times of India of the 27th of December says:—"The news that war was imminent with America for the seizure of the Southern Commissioners reached us by telegraph via Galle on Monday last (the 23d), and, as might have been expected, has paralyzed the Bombay cotton market. We are looking with great anxiety for the advices of the next mail or two. Should war break out between the countries, the American crop will no doubt be liberated almost immediately, when shippers from this port may prepare to encounter the most crushing loss. Happily, the gains of the last twelve months have been very large, and few houses in the place probably are unprepared to meet considerable reverses."

CONGRESS. The news of the recent successes of the Union land and naval forces in Tennessee was announced in both houses yesterday, and received with applause. In the Senate, the bill appropriating ten millions of dollars for the construction of twenty iron-clad gunboats was passed. The Treasury Note bill was received from the House, and referred to the Finance Committee. The bill authorizing an additional issue of ten million dollars of demand notes was passed. The Civil Appropriation bill was passed. A joint resolution for the payment of the awards of the Western War Claims Commission was adopted. Resolutions of the Legislature of Rhode Island, urging the propriety of permanently locating the Naval Academy at Newport, were presented. The report of the Naval Committee, with reference to Mr. Morgan's purchase of vessels for the navy, and censuring the Secretary of the Navy for his action

in the matter, was discussed. Mr. Wilson moved, as a substitute for the report, the declaration "that the employment of an agent to make purchases for the government, whose compensation depends upon commissions on purchases, is unwise, inexpedient and never to be resorted to, except in cases of imperious necessity." Pending this motion, the subject was laid over till Monday. A joint resolution giving the thanks of Congress to Captain Dupont and his officers and seamen for the victory at Port Royal, was adopted. The Judiciary Committee reported that Mr. Starke, the Senator from Oregon, whose loyalty has been questioned, was entitled to take the constitutional oath. A minority report was, however, presented, and the papers were ordered to be printed.

In the House of Representatives, the Treasury Note bill was by consent amended so as to allow the Treasury Department, at its option, to pay the interest on government bonds in coin or paper. The Committee on Contracts reported in favor of authorizing the Secretary of War to make an equitable arrangement with the Hannibal and St. Joseph and Pacific Railroad Companies for the transportation of troops. The report of the Committee on Government Contracts was taken up and discussed. At the conclusion of the debate, Mr. Holman, of Indiana, offered a resolution, censuring Mr. Cameron, the late Secretary of War, and Mr. Welles, the present Secretary of the Navy, for their action in employing Alexander Cummings and George D. Morgan, but without coming to a vote the subject was postponed till Friday next. The report of the Conference Committee on the bill providing for the completion of the defenses of Washington, and the employment of Home Guards in Missouri and Maryland, was agreed to. Several private bills were passed. Both houses adjourned till Monday.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS. The negotiation between the government and the Merchant's Exchange Company has been brought to a successful issue. The building is hired for a Custom House on a three years' lease, at \$65,000 per annum, with the privilege of two renewals, each for the same term, at same rent, and of the purchase at any time during either term for \$1,000,000. The government are to take possession on the 1st of May, when the Treasury will be removed to the present Custom House. The correspondence on the subject between Mr. Secretary Chase and Mr. Cisco, the Sp. Treasurer at this port, will be given in to-morrow's HERALD.

The glorious Stars and Stripes wave now in every State except Alabama, Arkansas and Texas. Captain Gregg, of brig F. R. Curtis, which arrived at this port on the 7th inst., from Matanzas, reports that on the 28th ult., off the Double Headed Shot Keys, was chased by an armed bark. When he hoisted an American flag she showed Mexican colors, and bore away under easy sail. The United States gunboat Quaker City arrived at St. Thomas about the 20th ult. from a cruise. The gunboat Iroquois sailed from that port on the 16th ult.

In the Senate at Albany yesterday, favorable reports were made on the bills amending the laws governing the incorporation of life and health insurance companies, and organizing the Asylum for Insane Convicts. Bills were notified for amending the Excise law of 1857; making additional regulations for punishing murder and arson; amending the Revised Statutes in relation to banking and brokerage institutions, and relative to actions brought by receivers of insolvent insurance companies. Among the bills introduced was one making provision for examinations of the accounts of the Canal Department Treasurers and one amending the act altering the map of this city. In the Assembly a large number of petitions was presented. Among them was one from this city, praying for legislation in regard to the Hackley street cleaning contract, and other alleged frauds. The bill providing for the public defense was reported upon favorably. Several bills affecting the interests of the people of this city were introduced, among which were those for railroads in Spring street and in Broadway, amending the city charter, relative to taking private property for public uses, relative to the various city courts, regulating the fees of the Register of Deeds, and increasing the number of Judges of the Common Pleas Court. Bills were also introduced to restrict the dividends of fire insurance companies, providing for freehold exemptions, and for various other purposes. The bills appropriating the proceeds of State tax to the support of schools, and amending the act regulating the purchase of sites for lighthouses and fortifications, were passed. Bills were notified to repeal the South and West streets railroad grants of 1850, to divide the Twelfth ward, providing further regulations for pawnbroking in this city, and to punish mock auctioneers. The Senate adjourned over till Monday evening. The Assembly will be in session to-day.

We have received a copy of a letter sent by Mayor Opdyke to Captain Ringgold, of the frigate Sabine, conveying resolutions passed by the Common Council of this city, complimenting that gentleman for his bravery in rescuing four hundred marines from the transport Governor, off Charleston, some time since. The response of the gallant commander to the Mayor is also in our possession. A skating match is to come off on the first fine day Monday next, between the following competitors, the prizes being handsome medals, to be given by Messrs. Black and Kalkand:—Fast Skating—Chas. Jones, of Vermont; John Engler, of Jersey City, and John Gage, of Newark. Fancy Skating—Chas. Jones, of Vermont; P. Griffin, of New York, and John Engler, of Jersey City. The ladies' skating match is to take place this afternoon, weather permitting.

There were only two jury trials yesterday in the General Sessions, resulting in the conviction of the accused. District Attorney Hall conducted the prosecution. Thomas Henry was convicted of receiving a valuable gold watch, knowing it to have been stolen by Sarah Campbell. She abstracted it from the pocket of John W. Whelan on the 17th of December. The prisoner was remanded for sentence. Alexander Druon, who, together with confederates, succeeded in circulating a number of counterfeit \$5 bills on the Blue Hill Bank of Rochester on the night of the 15th of January, was tried and convicted of forgery in the second degree, and Recorder Hoffman sentenced him to imprisonment in the State prison for five years and two months.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines, widow of Gen. Gaines, left Baltimore on the 5th inst. for Fortress Monroe, where she expects to be sent to the Southern lines by a flag of truce. The North German Lloyd's steamship Hansa, Capt. H. J. Von Santen, did not leave Southampton before half-past nine A. M. on Friday, January 24, and not on the 23d or 24d, as erroneously stated in the daily papers. She arrived here on the night of the 5th at nine P. M., making the passage in twelve days and nine hours.

There was more tone in the cotton market yesterday and prices closed firmer. The sales totaled up about 600 bales, mostly in speculators, closing within the range of 50c to 51c for middling uplands. The four market was less buoyant and active for common and medium grades of State and Western brands, while the higher grades were rather firmer. Good to choice lots of whites were firm and in good demand, with moderate sales. Corn was easier, but more active, and closed at 55c. A 50c for Western mixed, in store and delivered. Pork was firm and in fair demand, with sales of new mess at 12 1/2 to 13, city prime mess at 13 1/2 to 14, and old mess at 12 1/2 to 13 1/2. Sugar was more active, and closed for some grades 1/2c better; the sales embraced about 1,300 hhds, and 121 boxes. Coffee was in some better request, and sales of 500 bags of Rio were made at 18c. Freight was steady, with rather more activity, while engagements were to a fair extent.

Another Union Victory in the West—Our Circle of Fire Closing Round the Rebels.

We congratulate our readers upon another important Union victory in the West. Our splendid Western soldiers, under Generals Grant and McClellan, who, in their first encounter with the rebels at Belmont, exhibited the fighting qualities of Napoleon's Old Guard, have marched into the occupation of the valuable strategic defenses of Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river. To show the importance of this position, we refer the reader to the illustrative maps on the first page of this paper.

It appears that the work of reducing Fort Henry was accomplished by the gunboats of Flag Officer Foote before our land forces came up, but not without a serious disaster. The capabilities, however, of those iron-clad gunboats for the heavy work for which they were intended has been proved, and from this experiment they can now be moved down against the rebel batteries of Columbus, with that invaluable knowledge which makes veterans of young soldiers, who have sustained the brunt of their first hot, experimental battle.

Our troops occupy a good position at Fort Henry from which to advance westward upon Columbus, or eastward upon Bowling Green, in the rear—the two strongholds of the rebels in Western Kentucky, and upon the maintenance of which depends the rebel cause, not only in Kentucky and Tennessee, but along the whole line of the Mississippi down to New Orleans. This is why Beauregard has been transferred from Manassas to Columbus or Bowling Green, for the rebels have discovered that their immediate danger is more pressing on the line of the Mississippi than on the line of the Potomac. We suppose that the next thing in order by our troops at Fort Henry will be the reduction of the supporting Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland river, at Dover, some ten miles across the hills at this point from the Tennessee; and, next, that those railroads will be occupied which connect the rebels on the Mississippi with the rebels in Virginia; and that then, as all that section of Kentucky lying between the Cumberland and the Mississippi is attached to the department of General Halleck, there will be, under his direction, a combined movement of all his disposable forces from Fort Henry, Mayfield, Paducah, Smithland and Cairo, including Commodore Porter's gunboats, upon Columbus, in front, flank and rear, and that it will not be long before we shall have the pleasure of announcing a crushing defeat of the rebels in that quarter.

Meantime, in accordance with the instructions of Gen. McClellan, the army of Gen. Buell is steadily encircling the great rebel camp at Bowling Green. This is a strong defensive position, the village being surrounded by a circle of abrupt and commanding hills, which are occupied by rebel forts and batteries. We are assured, however, that the programme of General Buell for the capture of Bowling Green is one which cannot fail. Before the expiration of the present month, therefore, with any improvement upon the late blockading snows, thaws and rains, we expect to hear the glorious news of the expulsion of the rebels from both Columbus and Bowling Green. A rebel army, including both places, of over a hundred and twenty thousand men, will thus be cut up and dispersed, Kentucky and Tennessee will be instantly liberated, and the sustaining spirit of this rebellion will be completely broken.

In the interval, however, we do not imagine that Price and his guerrillas will be left on the soil of Missouri; or that the Burnside expedition will be confined to reconnoissances of the inland waters of North Carolina; or that the powerful fleet of Dupont and the co-operating land forces of Sherman will be idle; or that our land and naval forces in Florida and on Ship Island, within convenient distance of New Orleans and Mobile, will remain resting upon their oars; or that Gen. Wool will be limited to the daily routine of Fortress Monroe; or that our great Army of the Potomac will be continued much longer in the monotonous service of an army of observation. On the contrary, we expect that this whole immense circle of fleets and armies will very soon open in a circle of fire against this beleaguered rebellion, the echoes of which will be heard from the Mississippi overland to the Potomac, and from the Potomac to the Carolinas, and thence along the seaboard and Gulf coast to the swamps of Louisiana.

Our land and naval forces are at length so admirably distributed and so thoroughly equipped and provided for active work, and are so well drilled and so ably commanded by such approved officers as McClellan, Buell, Halleck, Wool, Burnside, Sherman, Dupont, Goldsborough, Foote, Porter, and others, and the rebellion is so manifestly in the last throes of exhaustion, that our faith is stronger than ever, and strengthens every day, in the conviction that before England and France can agree to interfere there will be an end of Jeff. Davis and his spurious Southern confederacy. In this view we are powerfully supported by the patriotic action of Congress, in its seasonable legislation to relieve the financial embarrassments of the government and the country.

The cause of the Union, in the overwhelming majority it has secured in the House of Representatives against semi-secessionists and disunion abolitionists, has done much to inspire the confidence of our loyal States in the speedy suppression of this rebellion, through the harmonious co-operation of the President and his Cabinet and Congress, the army and the great substantial mass of our loyal people. The good work goes bravely on. We have the rebels hemmed in by an impassable wall of steel; we have our abolition disorganizers upon the hip; the sound Union policy of "Honest Abe Lincoln" is predominant, and the Union will surely be saved, and our revolted States will be reclaimed, with their constitutional rights; and all this will be done before the end of the month. Union, harmony and activity will do the work; for the men and the means are in the field.

THE STATE SHODDY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.—The sessions of the State Shoddy Committee held in this city have at length closed, and we are informed that the result of the investigations has been a great deal of very curious evidence about the transactions in shoddy last spring, and that several new parties are implicated by the testimony. This is decidedly encouraging. It only remains now for the committee to range the evidence and report to the Legislature as soon as possible. Not to mention the satisfaction which the report will give to the public at large, Speaker Raymond really needs its information to assist him in arranging his new lobby. Let us have the report, then, at once.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL PASSED.—The passage of the Treasury Note bill by such a large majority in the House of Representatives is a triumph of the Union sentiment. The secessionists have been long since used up, and the abolitionists who opposed the bill are now in the same predicament. Old parties are broken up, and new political combinations are formed. The new parties are the Union party and the disunion. That is the issue. The disunionists chiefly consist of the abolitionist faction. They have been overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 93 to 59. We regret to find from the proceedings of yesterday that the insertion of the words "payment of the interest on the bonds semi-annually in coin" in the bill occurred by inadvertence, and was accordingly stricken out. Now this ought by all means to have been retained, and we trust that the Senate will amend the bill by its insertion. This will be absolutely necessary to prevent a depreciation both of the notes and bonds. Payment of the interest in specie is the polar star by which Congress ought to steer, in order to avoid financial shipwreck. It will be false economy for the government and for the country to pay in any other kind of money. It will cost more in the end than specie, while the national credit will be seriously impaired. Provision for the payment of the interest in specie is far more important than provision for the payment of the principal in any kind of money. As long as the interest is paid in specie nobody will want the principal paid at all. It will be a safe investment, assuring high interest punctually paid in coin or its equivalent, and all who desire to invest their money in good securities will be glad to get these bonds. But if the interest be not paid in specie the case is changed. The national credit will be materially impaired, and we fear it will be impossible to prevent depreciation. The clause making the notes a legal tender is not sufficient, without specie payment of the interest, to prevent depreciation. On the contrary, that clause renders the payment of the interest in coin the more necessary, because otherwise the obligations of contracts would be impaired, and debts contracted with the understanding that gold should be paid if demanded would be reduced to the injury of the creditor and the unfair gain of the debtor. The bill takes a retrospective action, and makes the notes a legal tender for debts incurred in the past as well as those to be contracted in the future. The Senate will commit a great blunder if it do not insert in the bill the words, "payment of the interest on the bonds semi-annually in coin." It is the certain payment of the interest in coin upon the stocks of the English government that causes them to be so much sought after as an investment. During the wars with Napoleon the interest was not so paid, and hence their depreciation. But on the return to the specie payment of the interest those stocks went up, and now nothing depreciates them but the fear of a war in which England might be so pressed as not to be able to pay the interest in gold. Now the United States government is not so pressed, and such an impression ought not to be allowed to go abroad. The interest ought to be paid in silver and gold.

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This bill is one of a series of connected measures, comprising the Loan bill, the Banking bill, the Bankrupt bill and the Tax bill—in all. Of these the most important and the most necessary to be brought forward immediately, in order to inspire confidence in the notes and bonds, is the Tax bill, which is the basis of the whole superstructure. With a comprehensive tax measure, reaching the whole property of the country, amounting to sixteen thousand millions, and raising therefrom \$150,000,000, and with the payment of the interest on the bonds in coin, there need be no fear of the depreciation of the demand notes. They will be as good as gold to the holder, and the fact of thus keeping them at par will be the best refutation of the disparaging and insulting comments of the British press upon the present and future financial condition of the country.

THE ABOLITION WAR ON GENERAL McCLELLAN.—The abolition organs have been taking a remarkably deep interest in the reconstruction of the English War Department lately. They have been circulating a report that the Duke of Cambridge is about to resign, and that it has been determined to abolish the post of Commander-in-Chief and vest it in the Secretary of War. Simultaneously with this appeared a statement in the Washington correspondence of one of them that the President and Mr. Stanton had determined upon assuming the complete direction of the affairs of the army, and confining General McClellan to the command of the Army of the Potomac. In yesterday's Tribune we again find a paragraph which was followed up by an attack on the General-in-Chief in the Post. The Tribune says:—

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S NEW NAME.—The bitter opinion is that General McClellan will not resign in consequence of the change which the censor allowed us partially to indicate last night, but will strike in the Department of the Potomac to rival General Buell in Kentucky and General Halleck in Missouri, on a level with whom the new arrangement places him. It is understood that he has consulted with several of his generals respecting the course proper for him to pursue.

Now this is the nearest kind of journalism. Failing to directly affect General McClellan's position with the President and the country, it seeks to curtail his functions by raising an agitation in favor of a change in our present army organization, which many might be disposed to favor, under the mistaken notion that it was based on the results of English military experience. We need not say that not only is there no truth in the assertion that any limitation of General McClellan's present power is contemplated, but that in the manner described it would be impracticable. Neither the President nor the Secretary of War being military men, it would be utterly beyond their competency to conduct important strategic movements, such as are now impending. To do so they would be obliged to call in the aid of some accomplished military tactician, like General McClellan or General Halleck, who would thus virtually be Commander-in-Chief. There is no ground of expediency, therefore, for such a change; and it is less likely to be tolerated by the country, seeing the happy results which are daily developing themselves from the masterly strategic combinations of the present head of the army.

Nothing can be meaner or more contemptible than this covert mode of striking at the man upon whom, under God, the safety of this republic now depends. It is worthy of the faction which has been throwing every obstacle in the way of the reconstruction of the public finances in Congress, in order to consummate its wicked projects of disunion and dismemberment.

THE ROMANISH DEFEAT IN MEXICO.

By way of San Francisco we have a report that the Spanish army had suffered a defeat at the National Bridge, over the Rio Aniqua, thirty miles above Vera Cruz. The battle which took place is said to have lasted five hours, and was doubtless hotly disputed. The position was one very much exposed, and, if the Mexicans posted themselves, as we have reason to believe, in the surrounding hills, the odds from the first must have been greatly against the Spaniards. If the report be true, the Mexicans will have gained considerable prestige from the circumstance of their winning the first battle ever their invaders, and the hopelessness of the Allies attempting to subdue the country, or of Spain re-establishing her old authority over it, will become more apparent. It would be premature, however, to speculate very far upon its character and results at the present moment, when our information is so vague and meagre; but that Spain will have a hard time in Mexico we feel convinced, and that she will be finally compelled to abandon it with considerable loss to herself seems inevitable.

ANOTHER CASE BELLI.—No sooner is the Mason and Slidell difficulty concluded with England than we have on our hands a similar affair with France. Louis Napoleon complains that our travelling Americans, be they shoe-makers, tailors, shabby contractors or oddish aristocrats, walk into the Tuilleries with a little ceremony as Captain Wilkes walked into the Trent. His Imperial Majesty, who, by the by, is not quite so particular about his republican visitors when he first took up his residence at the Elysee Bourbon, is exceedingly indignant, and M. Thouvenin has had a correspondence with Mr. Dayton on the subject, which will be laid before the public in a few days. It is not improbable that these fresh aggressions of the Yankees may lead, as in the case of the Trent, to joint remonstrances from the other European courts. Mr. Seward will have in connection with this affair another splendid field for the exercise of his abilities. Although diplomatically not very successful as a people on questions of international law, we can pride ourselves on being some pumpkins in controversies relating to knee breeches and cocked hats.

SAD EFFECTS OF THE WAR UPON NEWS-PAPERS.—We have it upon the highest authority, no less than that of the Tribune itself, that that journal has been losing money ever since the beginning of the war. We now learn that the owners, some thirty of them, all with long, lank hair and shaggy beards, except Greeley, have held a meeting, to take into consideration the propriety of suspending publication till the war is over, as the rapid rate at which they are losing their capital just now will soon clear them out, whereas by suspending they could save something out of the wreck to start afresh with when peace is restored. Now instead of this we would strongly recommend an amalgamation of the Tribune and the Independent—that the Tribune swallow up the Independent, which the Independent Tribune—it makes no matter which. By this arrangement both will probably disappear some fine morning before the end of the war, and never be heard of again.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW LOBBY.—How is Speaker Raymond getting on with his new lobby organization? Is his committee all most ready to report? Come, push along a little faster, Master Raymond. You must have your new lobby done before the Broadway Railroad bill comes up; for every lobbyist wants a finger in that pie. Hurry up your cakes, please; for, between indictments and no work, the lobby is getting anxious.

NEWS FROM PORT ROYAL.

Arrival of the Sloop-of-War Savannah—Sailing of a Large Naval and Military Expedition from Port Royal, &c., &c. The United States sloop-of-war Savannah, Commander John S. Mearns, arrived at this port last night from Port Royal, S. C., making the passage in eight days. The Savannah went into commission in June last, and since has been engaged in arduous blockade. Her crew are suffering from her efforts, on which account she has been ordered home. The holding of Tybee Island by the sea-men of the Savannah, and gunboats at the Savannah river, until relieved by the New York Volunteers, was a signal service. The Savannah brings news of importance from Port Royal, except the sailing of the expedition for the South on the 28th ult., including all the light draught steamers, several gunboats and several thousand troops. Everything remained quiet at Port Royal. The following is a list of officers of the Savannah:—Commander—John S. Mearns. Lieutenant—A. W. Johnson. Surgeon—Henry C. Mayo. Paymaster—A. W. Russell. Assistant Surgeon—John Corbin. Adjutant—Samuel P. Gray, Wm. F. Shackford and Chas. W. Zimmerman. Ensigns of Marines—W. McKean. Captain's Clerk—W. McCallum. Paymaster's Clerk—Wm. J. Lattinjoan. Boatman—Wm. Winchester. Gunner—N. White. Carpenter—Amos Chick. Sailmaker—R. L. Eaton.

Reported Riot at Norfolk—Development of the Union Sentiment. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 7, 1862. The Inquirer of this city has a despatch saying that a riot occurred at Norfolk on Tuesday night; that it was supposed that martial law would be proclaimed, and that during the disturbances cheers for the Union were given. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 7, 1862. The despatch about the reported riot at Norfolk is incorrect. It was stated that the riot occurred at Richmond, not at Norfolk.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The "Travista" will be given at this establishment to-night. We trust that the directors will meet in force upon the occasion, so good an opportunity of collecting the moral sentiment of Brooklyn may not present itself again. On Monday the "Sonnambula" will be given at the New York Academy with Miss Kellogg (first time) in the principal role. This will be positively the last night of the present short season.

NEW ASSOCIATE PATRON OF THE BRICK CHURCH.—A meeting of the congregation, pastor, elders and deacons of the brick church, corner of Thirty-seventh street and Fifth avenue, was held in the church on Thursday evening, for the purpose of electing an associate pastor in the place of the Rev. Wm. Hoag, who, it will be remembered, resigned some time ago, in consequence of his sympathy with the South. The meeting was quite full, and the venerable Dr. Gardner Spring, together with most of the prominent members of the congregation, was present. After the appointment of a moderator and Secretary, the minutes of a previous meeting of the trustees were read, commencing with the Rev. Dr. Shedd, of Vermont, as a suitable candidate for the choice of the congregation. Some discussion followed as to the regularity of this proceeding, and one of the members quoted from the Book of Discipline to show that the people of the church should be afforded a better opportunity to look around and select a pastor for themselves. Another member expressed himself as not convinced of the soundness of Dr. Shedd on Presbyterian doctrine, and asked Dr. Spring to inform on the subject. Dr. Spring explained at some length that he was fully satisfied that Dr. Shedd was strongly attached to Presbyterian principles, and also that the usual course had been followed in calling for the present election. After some further conversation on the subject, great harmony prevailing all the time, a vote was taken, and Dr. William Shedd was unanimously chosen. Dr. Shedd is at present a professor in the Theological Seminary at Andover, Vermont.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES. ARRIVALS. St. Thomas—Ship City of Mobile—Leat City and Abraham Lincoln. U. S. Sloop-of-war—S. C. Mearns. St. Thomas—Ship S. C. Mearns—R. J. Richardson. DEPARTURES. St. Thomas—Ship S. C. Mearns—R. J. Richardson. St. Thomas—Ship S. C. Mearns—R. J. Richardson.