toasts followed. The late splendid victories at Fort Donelson and Roanoke Island, and assurance of equally dazzling triumphs by the army of the Potomac when their time for action comes, afforded abundant themes for oratorical effect. It was late when the company rose.

MRS. GENERAL HANCOCK'S ENTERTAINMENT.

Mrs. General Hancock gave a splendid reception on Wednesday evening at her residence in this city. There was a large attendance of army officers.

RUNNING THE POTOMAC BLOCKADE.

Several vessels availed themselves of the dense darkness last night to run the Potomac blockade. On Tuesday eighteen, bound upward, ran safely past the rebel batteries. Most of them, loaded with government stores, are now lying at Alexandria.

ERICSSON'S IRON-CLAD GUNBOATS.

Information received here shows that the iron-clad gunboats on the Ericsson plan are thus far satisfactory to the official inspector. A trial trip to Fortress Monroe is contemplated.

NO DESPATCHES FROM THE WEST.

No despatches of importance have reached headquarters to day from the West.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S REPORT.

General Burnside's official report is expected to-morrow.

SHIP CANAL BETWEEN CHICAGO AND THE MISSISSIPPI.

An important bill was reported in the House to-day by Colonel Blair, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. It provides that when the State of Illinois shall convey to the United States a perpetual lease of the Illinois and Michigan canal, Wm. H. Swift, one of the trustees of the canal, and an engineer appointed from the United States Topographical Corps, shall proceed to make a plan of enlargement of the canal and river between Chicago and the Mississippi, so that gunboats and other vessels drawing six feet of water may pass through it from the Mississippi to the lake. One million dollars is appropriated for the commencement of the work, twenty thousand of which may be expended in the surveys and other preliminary labor. The bill provides that when the tolls of the canal shall have reimbursed the United States government for the cost of the improvement, it shall be relinquished to the State of Illinois. The Western men regard the proposed canal as a great auxiliary to our Northern defences in case of a war with England.

PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING THE NEW TREASURY NOTES.

The Secretary of the Treasury will receive proposals for the engraving, printing, numbering and paper required for the new issue authorized by the Loan act now before Congress. It is required that the proposals state the party, firm or company offering the facilities for execution; the capital invested and models, must be submitted of bonds and notes. According to the terms of the bill, notes of one thousand, five hundred, hundreds and fifties in addition to these at present will be issued. Five days notice will be given to make proposals. Satisfactory bonds will be required. Parties can at once prepare themselves.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.

The Bankrupt bill elicits much attention in the House. The bill reported by Mr. Conkling, which emanated from the mercantile circles of New York, finds some favor but will require numerous amendments to render it entirely acceptable. It provides for a host of commissioners, which will certainly not be granted by Congress.

EFFECT OF MR. VOORHIES' SPEECH IN THE HOUSE.

The speech of Mr. Voorhies in the House to-day against the plan of reducing the rebellious States to the territorial condition, to be reorganized by Congress, produced a sensation. It is understood that the Judiciary Committee have considered this matter, and that in the Senate the reorganization scheme could be carried, under the lead of Senator Sumner, but that the conservative element in the House is strong enough to defeat it.

OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

The executive session of the Senate was chiefly occupied to-day with the consideration of our relations with Mexico. Without coming to any conclusion the subject was postponed till Tuesday. The report of Senator Sumner, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, on the existing Mexican imbroglio, and the resulting duty of our own government, is said to be an extremely clear and conclusive exposition of the whole position. It is believed that the recommendations of this report will be adopted by the Senate.

APPLICATIONS TO TRADE WITH SOUTHERN PORTS.

Numerous applications continue to be made for permission to trade at the several captured points on the Southern coast, but none of them have been granted.

PROHIBITION OF THE COOLIE TRADE.

The President has approved the bill to prohibit the Coolie trade by American citizens in American vessels.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1862.

THE ILLUMINATION.

The joint resolution from the House was received making an appropriation of one thousand dollars for illuminating the public buildings on Saturday evening, the 22d inst., and, on motion of Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., it was passed.

PETITIONS.

Several petitions were presented for emancipation.

EXCLUSION OF SENATOR POWELL OF KENTUCKY.

Mr. WILKINSON, (rep.) of Minn., offered the following resolution:—

Whereas, Lazarus W. Powell, a Senator of the State of Kentucky, after eleven States had published their ordinances of secession, by which to sever themselves from the government of the United States, had formed a confederation and provisional government, and made war upon the United States, did, on the 20th day of June last, at the city of Henderson, Ky., attend a large Southern States Rights Convention, over which he was called to and did preside, and, on taking his seat as President thereof, made a speech in which he stated the object of said Convention, and then appointed a committee which reported to said Convention a long series of resolutions that were unanimously adopted by it—among these resolutions are the following:—

Second—That the war being now waged by the federal administration against the Southern States is in violation of the constitution and laws, and has already been attended with such stupendous usurpations as to amaze the world and endanger every safeguard of constitutional liberty.

Third—That the recall of the invading armies, and the recognition of the separate independence of the Confederate States, is the true policy to restore peace and preserve the relations of fraternal love and amity between the States.

Sixth—That we hereby approve the refusal of Gov. Magoffin to furnish Kentucky troops to subjugate the South, and we cordially endorse his recent proclamation declaring the position of Kentucky, in accordance with the sentiments of her people, and forbidding the invasion of Kentucky by federal or Confederate troops.

Seventh—That though Kentucky has determined that her proper position at present is that of strict neutrality between the belligerent sections, yet, if either of them invade her soil, against her will she ought to resent and repel it by necessary forces.

The resolution then recites that portion of Governor Magoffin's Message relating to neutrality. The closing speech at this Convention was made by Senator Powell and the resolutions passed by it, and a summary of its proceedings signed by him its President. Again, on the 10th of September last, and while the Legislature of Kentucky was in session in the town of Frankfort, and after her territory had been invaded at two distant points by the Confederate armies, and while Humphrey Marshall was employed in organizing an armed body of rebels in the contiguous county of Owen, a large Southern State Rights Convention assembled and held its sessions in Frankfort, for the apparent purpose of overawing the Legislature, controlling its deliberations, and deterring it from passing measures to support the Union and the government of the United States. Lazarus W. Powell was a delegate to that Convention from the county of Henderson, and was appointed on a Committee on Resolutions. Among other resolutions which that committee reported are these:—

Resolved, That every material interest of Kentucky, as well as the highest dictates of patriotism, demand that peace should be maintained within her borders, and this Convention pledges the honor of its members to do all in their power to promote this end.

Second—That it is the deliberate sense of this Convention, and this believed of an overwhelming majority of the people of Kentucky, that the best and perhaps the only mode of effecting this great object, is by adhering strictly, rigidly and impartially to her chosen and oft-declared position of neutrality during the existence of the deplorable war now raging between the sections, taking sides neither with the government nor with the seceded States, and declaring her soil must be preserved inviolate from the armed occupation of either.

Ninth—That we consider it incompatible with the neutrality avowed by Kentucky to vote money for the prosecution of the civil war, or to tax the people of the State, or augment its debt, for a purpose so unwise and for a cause so hopeless as the military subjugation of the Confederate States.

This was a Convention of most intense secessionists, and was attended by John C. Breckinridge and many of the leaders of that party from generally all over the State. William Preston and R. W. Walley, Esqrs., made speeches to it, fraught with the rankest treason, and denouncing the fiercest war against the United States. Its resolutions were unanimously adopted, and its business closed with the following, offered by Senator Powell:—

Resolved, That Colonel William Preston, George W. Johnson, Esqr., General Lucius Desha, Richard Reeves and Thomas P. Porter, Esqrs., be, and hereby are appointed a Committee of Organization, in order to carry out the purposes of this Convention, and full powers are conferred upon them for that purpose.

These men were thus commissioned in the cause of conspiracy, treason and rebellion, by the warrant given them on the motion of Senator Powell. They went forth and organized or advised and assisted in the organization of armed bands of traitors, and soon thereafter led into the Confederate camps, where they are now struggling to consummate the destruction of the Union and the overthrow of the constitution and the laws of the United States. From the beginning of this great rebellion to the present time Senator Powell has neither said nor done anything in Congress or out of Congress to strengthen or sustain the United States in the mighty struggle for national life. While the true and loyal men of his own State were engaged in an arduous struggle to bring her to perform her duty to the nation and its government, he not only withheld from them all assistance and sympathy, but gave to the rebels the moral force of his position and opinions, and all the aid and comfort which he could render them short of the commission of technical treason. His purposes, if not his acts, have been treasonable. Being an ex-Governor of the State of Kentucky, and one of her Senators in Congress, his example and counsel have doubtless been potential with her people, and of mischievous tendency in other States. Under the false and delusive cry of neutrality and peace, and the absurd purpose to protect the soil of the State against invasion from the military forces of the United States, he has, doubtless, assisted to seduce hundreds and hundreds from loyalty and duty into rebellion and treason. He has not supported the constitution of the United States, but he has sounded the charge to his recruits and they have made the overt attack upon it.

Therefore be it Resolved, That said Lazarus W. Powell be and he is hereby expelled from the Senate.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

NATIONAL ARMORY AT ROCK ISLAND.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, a bill to establish a national armory at Rock Island was taken up.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., moved its reference to the Military Committee.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., had no desire to have it referred to that committee. He was not sure that the government needed another armory at this time; but it did need a foundry for making cannon, &c.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Ind., said he should move to refer the bill, with instructions to report, authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners, who were to examine and report on the most suitable location.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of N. H., said this very location was reserved by the government for about thirty years. He thought the country ought not to organize two ordnance departments—one for the army and one for the navy—but all ought to be connected together.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., from the Committee on Finance, reported back the Army Appropriation bill. He said the bill, as it came from the House, contained appropriations for 1862, also for 1863. The Committee had struck out the first section, making the appropriation for 1863, and reserved that for future consideration, as, before they adjourned, there might be such a change as to require further legislation. There were some large amendments to make by the committee for the deficiency of seventy-six millions, and one in the Ordnance Department for ten millions.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, called attention to those large appropriations, as showing the necessity for pressing measures for retrenchment.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., asked how many men they were providing for?

Mr. FESSENDEN said he did not know.

Mr. TRUMBULL said he thought there was a disposition to over estimate the number of troops. For instance; it had been reported in the newspapers that there were fifty thousand men attacking Fort Donelson, whereas, in fact, there were only about twenty-eight thousand men there. He thought this fact should be known for the honor of the gallant men who captured that fort, marching on intrenchments held by nearly their own number.

The amendments of the committee were adopted, with the exception of seventy-six millions for the Quartermaster's Department, which was objected to by the House.

Mr. HALE said it was no use to make such appropriations, as we had no money to pay. There were two hundred millions deficiency since last session, and now adding seventy-six millions, we might as well pass a bankrupt law, and let the government take the benefit of it.

Mr. FESSENDEN explained that the amounts were already due, and debts must be paid. The army was largely increased since the last estimates were made, and heavy bills were coming in every day, which must be paid. The Commissary Department of Tennessee had already spent their last dollar.

Mr. HALE said he should not oppose the amendment, but he considered it evident gross mismanagement in the department; and read an advertisement in the New YORK HERALD—"That a good looking, affable young man had just completed a large government contract, and wished to become acquainted with a young lady desirous of sharing the proceeds." That explains the matter.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., asked that the letter from the Quartermaster's Department might be read.

Mr. FESSENDEN also had a letter, received this morning, which he wished read. From the letters read it appeared that the costs of raising and furnishing the army in the Quartermaster's Department was about one hundred and twenty-two millions of dollars.

The amendment was adopted, and the bill was passed.

THE ILLUMINATION.

Mr. WADE, (rep.) of Ohio, said the report had gone abroad that the illumination was to be a sort of test of loyalty. He had been requested to make the statement that that was not at all the case. Many people could not afford it, and others who had lost friends in the war would not feel like it.

WOODEN BUILDINGS.

Mr. CARLILE, (Union) of Va., presented petitions from citizens of Washington asking Congress to prevent the construction of wooden buildings in the centre of the city for hospitals, &c., and that due regard to the health of citizens be had in locating such buildings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., the Senate went into executive session.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

After the executive session the Treasury Note bill was received from the House, with amendments.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN the Senate disagreed to the amendments, and a committee of conference was ordered.

Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1862.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

The House took up the report from the Committee of the Whole on the Senate's amendment to the United States Note bill.

Mr. HOOPER, (rep.) of Mass., briefly expressed his views. He said the object was to furnish a substantial and uniform currency, and he opposed the distinction proposed to be made in favor of the holders of the stock by paying the interest in coin.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., said he had a melancholy foreboding that they were now about to consummate a cunningly devised scheme, which will carry great injury throughout the country. At the instance of the brokers, the Senate has been persuaded to mangle and destroy what had cost the House months to digest, consider and pass. The bill has been so disfigured that its very fathers fail to recognise it. Instead of being a beneficial and invigorating measure, and affording a uniform and equal currency for all, it possesses positive and great mischief. It now has all the bad qualities which have been attributed to it without a single benefit. In its amended form it creates two classes of currency—one for bankers and brokers, and another for the people. It discriminates between different classes. Take away the legal tender clause, and the government will be in the clutches of the harpies. Assuming the public debt at twelve hundred millions, the interest fixed for the bonds—namely, seven and three-tenths—would require the payment of eighty-seven millions annually in coin, according to the proposed amendment. He earnestly expressed himself in favor of a uniform currency, doing equal justice to all parties. The interest could not be paid in coin without a large sacrifice of the bonds in the market.

The House proceeded to vote on the Senate's amendments, and disagreed to the following:—

Reducing to a hundred millions the notes not bearing interest.

Providing that the notes authorized by the act of July last shall be receivable in payment of all taxes, duties, &c.

Making the bonds redeemable at the pleasure of the United States after five years, and payable twenty years from date.

Requiring the Secretary to issue an equal amount of Treasury notes, or coupons, or registered bonds, for the notes authorized by this act, when presented in sums of not less than one hundred dollars, bearing interest at seven three-tenths per cent per annum.

Also the section setting apart the proceeds of the sales of the public lands and that of rebel property to the payment of the interest on the bonds and notes and the redemption of the principal, &c.

Among the more important amendments agreed to are the following:—

The notes to be receivable in payment of all claims and demands of every kind, except for the interest on the bonds and the notes, which shall be paid in coin. The vote on this was yeas 88, nays 55.

Authorizing the Secretary to dispose of the bonds at any time at their market value for coin or for any of the Treasury notes heretofore or hereafter to be issued, or for notes under this act.

Mr. HOOPER, (rep.) of Mass., after this vote, said that the bill had thus been rendered useless, and moved to lay the succeeding amendment on the table, which, if it had been agreed to, would have rejected the entire bill.

The vote on the motion to lay on the table was yeas 21, nays 120.

The House then agreed to the Senate's amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive notes on deposit for not less than thirty days, in sums of not less than one hundred dollars, certificates to be issued therefor, &c.

This, however, was amended by the House so as to include deposits of coin, and changing the interest to that which the Secretary may from time to time prescribe, not exceeding six per centum.

The bill again goes back to the Senate, owing to the disagreement of the House to some of the amendments.

BRANCH MINT AT DENVER CITY.

Mr. MAYNARD, (Union) of Tenn., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill establishing a branch mint at Denver City, Colorado Territory.

SHIP CANAL FROM THE MISSISSIPPI TO LAKE MICHIGAN.

Mr. BLAIR, (rep.) of Mo., reported from the Military Committee a bill establishing a ship canal from the Mississippi river to Lake Michigan, for the conveyance of military stores and troops.

DEBATE ON THE WAR.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Post Office Appropriation bill.

Mr. VOORHEES, (opp.) of Ind., argued that the Union will be restored by and through the instrumentality of the constitution, and a strict obedience to its letter and spirit, or that it will not be restored at all, and in this connection said that the policy of "universal emancipation," or abolition proclaimed at the commencement of the session, could not be carried out without intolerable bad faith to the Union men of the North and the South. If this was to be the policy of the government in the prosecution of this war, then a gross deception has been practiced on all loyal men, and an army has been raised by false pretences, more flagrant than had ever before been advanced to carry out a secret and unhallowed purpose. We must adhere to the Union as our fathers made it, not as capricious politicians would determine. Mr. Voorhies quoted from President Lincoln's Inaugural Address and messages to show that the latter had said that he neither had the power nor the inclination to interfere with slavery in the States, and that he would execute the Fugitive Slave law. Mr. Voorhies also referred to General McClellan's proclamation on entering Virginia, to the effect that the army will not only abstain from all interference with slavery, but with a strong hand crush out any attempts at insurrection. This was looked on as a pledge sanctioned by the Executive, that the army would not trample on State laws and States, but protect them from those who would overthrow them. There was at that time no protest from Puritan lips. In support of his argument, Mr. Voorhies referred, among other things, to General Butler's conduct and to the official despatches of Mr. Seward, in which the latter declared that whatever may become of the rebellion it is not the purpose of the government to interfere with the *status* of a single human being in the States or Territories. Infamy be (Mr. Voorhies) said would rest on the men who rejected peace when they could have obtained it on terms of honor. Now let the armies advance and bring this terrible struggle to a speedy termination. Let the war be waged in the name of the constitution, the laws and the Union of equal and honored members, and in the name of God, guided by an enlightened Christianity.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., said that the gentleman (Mr. Voorhies) had announced that the people of Indiana were ready to compromise with rebels; but he (Mr. Washburne) wished to remark that the people of Illinois were ready to compromise on the terms offered by Gen. Grant, of his (Mr. Washburne's) own State, to Gen. Buckner—namely, "An unconditional and immediate surrender." (Applause.)

Mr. VOORHEES wished to explain, but Mr. Shellabarger at the time having possession of the floor, and the committee rising, he was unable to do so.

THE ARMY BILL.

The House again went into Committee of the Whole, laying aside the Post Office bill and taking up the Senate's amendments to the Army bill.

Mr. RICHARDSON, (opp.) of Ill., said that the announcation made by his colleague (Mr. Washburne) a short time ago was a most delightful sign.

Mr. STEVENS, (opp.) of Pa.—I hope the gentleman (Mr. Richardson) does not expect me to yield the floor for general debate? This bill is for the army.

Mr. RICHARDSON—I will get on the army directly. (Laughter.) I want to do a good thing. I want to congratulate my colleague (Mr. Washburne.)

Mr. STEVENS—I hope no one will interfere with the passage of this bill, which is necessary to be passed without delay.

Mr. RICHARDSON—My colleague (Mr. Washburne) has endorsed General Grant.

Mr. WASHBURNE—Yes sir.

Mr. RICHARDSON—One of the most sensible proclamations was issued by General Grant when he entered Paducah. The General then made use of the following language:—

I have not come to fight opinions, but to resist treason and overwhelm it. I am for sustaining the constitution and the supremacy of the laws.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that he wished this proclamation could be written in letters of gold on the sky, that everybody might see the correct doctrine. There never would have been an army of six hundred thousand men raised if the object had been avowed to overthrow the constitution and create another government. The war never would have been begun but for two elements at the North, namely, the abolition party and the party headed by Buchanan, Toucey and Cushing, and that class of men. The latter were worse than the abolitionists because they were smart. These and other remarks of Mr. Richardson occasioned much laughter.

The Senate's amendments to the Army bill were read, and when the committee rose they were all concurred in.

Adjourned.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

OUR BALTIMORE CORRESPONDENCE.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 19, 1862.

How the Rebels at Richmond Feel and Talk About Their Recent Reverses—They Will Abandon Kentucky to her Fate, but Make a Stand at Nashville and the Cumberland Gap—The Line of the Potomac to be Held, if Possible—Virginia also, East of the Mountains, to be Held—Opinions of a Prominent Member of the Rebel Congress—The Original Preparations for the Inauguration of Jeff. Davis Abandoned and a Plainer Programme Substituted, &c., &c.

By the steamer from Fortress Monroe this morning, I have some news from Richmond up to the 17th inst. The confirmation of the news of the surrender of Fort Donelson (which was rumored there on Sunday) reached that city on Monday, by a despatch from General Albert S. Johnston at Nashville, the report of whose capture, therefore, is incorrect. It was stated at Richmond that on the 15th orders were sent to General Buckner to evacuate the position and retire on Nashville. But it is not certain that General Buckner ever received the orders. General Beauregard was fortifying Nashville, although the works at Clarksville and the great number of troops there were expected to keep the Union forces at bay at that point. It was admitted at Richmond, however, that, Fort Donelson having fallen, Nashville was in danger. There was no intention expressed at Richmond of evacuating Columbus; but it was admitted that such a course might become necessary. It was stated officially, however, that there was no probability that the line of the Potomac would be abandoned, and there was no doubt expressed as to the ability of the rebels to retain possession of the whole of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge and Cumberland Mountains, and to defend the Cumberland Gap.

The most extensive preparations had been made for the inauguration of Jeff. Davis as President on the 22d inst. The ceremony was to have been performed with all the pomp and splendor that could be devised. A military parade and banquet were to add to the attractions of the occasion, and a grand ball was to conclude the festivities of the day. Now, however, all this is changed. In view of the serious reverses that have happened, the ceremony is to be of the simplest kind, without pomp or parade, without any military display, without banqueting or feasting; and as to the ball, as one of the ladies said, "it would be disgraceful to be dancing and enjoying ourselves after such defeats, and while our poor soldiers are suffering." So the ball, too, has been abandoned.

On Sunday last the Spottswood House, and the pavement in front of it, were filled with excited crowds, discussing the news from Fort Donelson and the critical condition of the confederacy. A prominent member of the rebel Congress, whose relations to the rebel President give great weight to his words, declared "that the day had now come in which the Southern confederacy was to pass through the fire; that the events of the next three months would decide whether or not the Southern people are worthy of being an independent nation; that the fortune of war consists of alternate victories and reverses, and that, having had their day of triumph, they were now about to experience a period of defeats; *that the preparations of so skilful and scientific a General as McClellan made at his leisure, resulting in the formation of an army of 600,000 soldiers, with the discipline of regulars, must result in some successes on his part.* But these reverses," he said, "would try the temper, the powers of endurance and the patriotism of the Southern people. *If they became discouraged; if their soldiers, tired of one brief campaign, refused to re-enlist for the war, they might as well abandon the attempt to gain their independence, lay down their arms, return to the arts of peace, acknowledge themselves fairly vanquished, and submit to whatever terms the North saw fit to impose upon them.* But, if their troops re-enlisted, and the spirit of their people remained unsubdued, the victories which the Unionists had gained would be of no advantage to the victors, but would only be a salutary lesson to the South; that the topography and natural features of the Southern States were such that no armies, however numerous and well disciplined, could penetrate them, or take possession of any of their cities without being surrounded and cut off, either by regular or by guerrilla warfare; that the tide of fortune would soon turn again in their favor, if they would learn to rely on themselves alone. But they must put forth all their efforts, and give up the idea of foreign aid for the present."

I am satisfied that there can be no question as to the fact that the great bulk of the Southern troops have already re-enlisted for the war. Extraordinary inducements have been held out in many cases, and short furloughs granted whenever practicable. A letter, lately received in this city from a young Baltimorean in one of the regiments near Centreville, states that the whole army of the Potomac, with a very few exceptions, have re-enlisted for the war.

Union Defence Committee, of the Citizens of New York, New York, February 19, 1862.

A mass meeting of the citizens of New York, Brooklyn and vicinity will be held in this city on Saturday, the 22d instant, in honor of the Birthday of Washington, and to celebrate, in a fitting manner, the recent brilliant victories of the Union forces engaged in suppressing rebellion.

The meeting will be held at the Cooper Institute, at seven o'clock P. M. His Honor Mayor Optyke will preside.

A salute of thirty-four guns will be fired at sunrise, at noon and at sunset.

It is respectfully requested that the national flag be displayed on public buildings, the shipping in port, and private residences during the day.

The guests of the committee from other States will be received at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, from 3 to 6 P. M.

Addresses from several distinguished speakers may be expected. The committee trust that the health of Lieutenant General Scott will permit him to be present. Other arrangements will be announced hereafter. By order

HAMILTON FISH,

Chairman of Union Defence Committee.

WM. D. EVARTS, Secretary of Union Defence Committee.
S. DRAPER, Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.
P. M. WETMORE, Secretary of Committee of Arrangements.

THE CASE OF CAPTAIN GORDON.

No Hope for the Condemned Except from the Governor.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Before Hon. Judge Shipman.

FEB. 20.—*The United States vs. Nathaniel Gordon.*—Great excitement was manifested in and around the federal offices to-day respecting the fate of Gordon. It was currently reported that there was a flaw in the sentence, and that it could not be legally fulfilled. Some said that the federal government could not hang the prisoner at the City Prison without the sanction of the State authorities; that the Commissioners of Charities and Correction sent for the United States Marshal, to consult him on the subject.

The law of the State of New York, of 1860, has a section which reads as follows:—

No crime hereafter committed, except treason and murder in the first degree, shall be punished with death in the State of New York.

It then provides that no sentence of death shall be carried into effect until one year after it is passed, nor until the whole record of the proceedings shall be certified by the clerk of the court, under its seal, to the Governor, nor until a warrant for the execution shall be issued by the Governor, under the great seal of the State.

Ex-Judge Dean said—The sentence of Gordon is in the usual form in which sentences are pronounced in England, and which there—where they have but a single system of government, unlike ours, of States with certain sovereignties, and the United States having delegated powers only—would be entirely proper and could be executed without any question. The sentence, as entered in the minutes of the court, is—"The Court, thereupon, proceeded to pass judgment: That you be taken back to the City Prison, whence you were brought, and remain there until Friday, the 7th day of February, and then and there, at the place of execution, between the hours of twelve noon and three o'clock in the afternoon of that day, you be hanged by the neck," &c. I take it the place is intended to be fixed at the City Prison. I wish to raise before the Court the question whether this sentence can be carried into effect in the City Prison without the consent of the State of New York. This State, by its sovereign power, expressed within an act relating to capital punishment, has limited the places within which the life of a human being should be taken by process of law. I claim, in other words, that the States have prohibited the use of their jails to be appropriated to capital punishment; and as to the right of the State to do this, I think there can be no question. The State of Massachusetts, and, I believe, the state of Ohio and some others, have refused to allow their jails to be used for the purpose of confining fugitive slaves; and there is not at this time, I believe, any objection to that law of the State by which one portion of the statute of the United States is repudiated and nullified. And the legislation of Congress admits the right of that, because, in some one or two statutes that I recollect, they speak of what shall be done by the Marshal where the use of the jails is prohibited by the State. (Statute at Large, vol. 4, p. 777, sec. 5.) Other statutes of the United States recognise, on the part of the United States, the power of the State to make such prohibitions. I am not aware that any statute of this State authorizes the United States to send its prisoners to our jails or State prisons. I am informed that the practice has been heretofore to have executions on government property. The last execution that occurred here was on Bedloe's Island. But whatever the practice may have been, all these executions occurred before this statute of the State of New York, which, I contend, amounts to a prohibition of an execution in a jail, which the City Prison is for all practical purposes. This is a new question arising under this statute. The statute to which I refer is this. [The Judge read the statute as reported above.]

Now I admit that that cannot affect any property owned by the United States, and over which, by the laws of the State of New York, they have entire and supreme jurisdiction. I understand there are several places where the United States have such jurisdiction; and of course they have the right to confine their prisoners there and to inflict there the punishment of death. But if there is anything in State sovereignty that declaration is a prohibition by the Legislature of the State of New York of the use of its State prisons or its county jails by the United States to execute an offender, when the offence is not murder in the first degree or treason. Section five of this same statute fixes only three places of execution in this State—The State prisons, in Sing Sing, in the county of Essex, and in Cayuga. [Judge Dean read from the statute the various formalities required as to executions.] I cite these portions of the statute to show with what care, in this State, human life is regarded, and that before the execution they intend that all these formalities shall be gone through with, and that the prisoner shall only be executed after due time has been had for the examination of all the questions raised on the trial, or for the purpose of adducing new evidence, if it should be possible. This is a declaration by the Legislature that they will not have their property applied to any such purpose, except in the two cases of treason and murder.

There is another subject to which I desire to call attention. It is the fact that the process under which this execution is ordered is not under the seal of the court. I bring all these matters before the court because I have been anxious to prevent the execution of my client. I feel specially anxious that tomorrow, at any rate, when the whole nation is rejoicing, and when the next day is to be solemnized over every foot of loyal territory, these solemnities shall not be broken in upon by the execution, particularly when that execution is perhaps irregular.

The District Attorney—The position in which the United States government would be placed, provided the construction of this statute, for which my learned friend contends, were allowed, would be this:—In some districts where the United States has no land under its own jurisdiction it would be unable to punish a person in those districts. It cannot be supposed that the laws are in that condition. No fair construction of the statute of 1860, to which my friend refers, can enable the counsel or any one else to deduce prohibition against executing the laws of the United States. It is a fair supposition that the State of New York does not intend to forbid the United States from executing a law in the pursuance of a practice which has existed for many years—a practice which has been illustrated not only in the case of the sentence of the Parkhill murderers by Judge Nelson, but by the absolute execution of two persons for what the United States laws call piracy.

The District Attorney contended that the omission of the seal of the Court might be remedied, but that, according to the practice, it was not required.

The Court retired for a few hours, and, having consulted with Judge Betts, delivered the following opinion:—

The counsel for the prisoner has submitted certain facts to the Court, for the purpose of moving for a writ of habeas corpus, or of applying to the Court for some other mode of relief, should the Court be of opinion that the facts laid before it warranted its interference. After consultation with Judge Betts, the Court is of opinion—

First—That the prisoner was, at the time of his trial, conviction and sentence, with the assent of the authorities having charge of the City Prison, properly confined therein, and that was the place designated by the Court for the execution of the sentence. We see no occasion to interfere with the execution of the law in conformity to the judgment and sentence.

Second—That the law of the State of New York relating to capital punishment has no application to proceedings, judgments or sentences of the courts of the United States.

Third—The United States Attorney having moved to have the seal of this Court attached to the warrant, we are of opinion that such a formality is unnecessary and not required by the laws of the United States or the settled usage in such cases.

Meeting at the Merchants' Exchange for a Commutation of His Sentence.

The following call was conspicuously posted in the streets yesterday:—

"Citizens of New York, come to the rescue. Shall a judicial murder be committed in your midst, and no protesting voices be heard against it? Captain Nathaniel Gordon is sentenced to be executed for a crime which has been virtually a dead letter for forty years. Shall this young man be quietly allowed to be made the victim of fanaticism? Let the generous and humane, who are in favor of a commutation of the death penalty in his case, assemble at the Merchants' Exchange, Thursday, February 20, at three o'clock, and make themselves heard on his behalf at the White House.

In compliance with the above, quite a number of persons, composed principally of shipowners, ship agents, shipmasters and longshoremen, assembled in the Merchants' Exchange at the appointed hour; but owing to some mismanagement they did not convene until near four. The merchants, who were meeting for the transaction of their usual business, disclaimed all knowledge of the meeting or its object, and almost unanimously expressed themselves in favor of vindicating the law. Many of those in the meeting, although they were in favor of commuting the sentence, expressed themselves convinced that the meeting or anything that could be said or done would not influence the President in the prisoner's favor. It was also stated by some that they understood Marshal Murray returned from Washington the day before with the final decision of the Executive not to interfere with the execution of the law. But, notwithstanding all these assurances, Gordon's friends determined to make a last effort; and Mr. Theo. E. Tomlinson ascended a stand amidst the assemblage, who by this time had dwindled down to about one hundred and fifty. He stated that he came there unprepared, and prompted solely by humanity and pity for the convict's young wife and child. The President should be prompted by the same motives, and listen to the humble petition of his fellow citizens. He never heard of the meeting until a few minutes since, and both Gordon and the merits of the case were unknown to him. The poor man might be executed, but they ought to petition for a commutation of the sentence. It was not his wish to either justify or palliate the crime; but this moment, when we had national sorrows enough, the execution was not proper. The State of New York had abolished capital punishment, even for the highest crime; why should the President not follow this charitable example? It was no fault of Gordon's to be born an American, and a son of the Pine Tree State, which so nobly defended the cause of the Union. No blame could be attached to this audience for petitioning the President to commute the sentence, a step which would do more to break up the slave trade than the execution of Gordon. In conclusion the speaker offered the following resolution, which he declared carried unanimously, although several voted in the negative:—

Resolved, That we, the citizens of New York, in the Merchants' Exchange assembled, respectfully petition your Excellency the President of the United States to commute the sentence of Nathaniel Gordon, in the full belief that it will substantially justify the requirements of the law, and do more to suppress the trade, and that it is the policy of the government to prevent this execution.

Mr. BROADWAY next took the stand, and merely stated that he had pressing business to attend to, and therefore excused himself.

Mr. George W. Wiley here moved that the resolution be telegraphed to President Lincoln, and that a collection be taken up to defray the expenses of the same, which was carried.

The collections amounted to $11 77.

Messrs. A. A. Phillips, L. De Angelis, D. H. Haight and T. Woodruff handed despatches to Mr. Theo. E. Tomlinson, who read them aloud, asking mercy towards the prisoner.

The meeting here adjourned.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Three Days Later Intelligence from Roanoke Island.

Arrival of the Bodies of Union Heroes.

Trophies Captured by the Burnside Expedition.

Colonel Corcoran and the Other Prisoners Hourly Expected at Fortress Monroe, &c., &c., &c.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20, 1862.

The boat from Old Point has just arrived.

She did not leave Old Point until ten o'clock last night, having waited for the arrival of the steamers George Washington and Express, which went up the James river under a flag of truce to receive the released prisoners; but, owing to a heavy fog on the James river, they had not arrived when the steamer left.

The news agent of the press was on board one of the steamers. Hence we have nothing from him.

The steamer Eastern State had arrived at Old Point, having left Hatteras at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning. She had rough weather all the way.

The Eastern State brought the bodies of Col. Russell, of the Tenth Connecticut; Captain A. Hubbard, of the Twenty-seventh Massachusetts; Captain Henry, of the Ninth New Jersey, and Lieutenant Stillman, company A, Tenth Connecticut, in charge of Major Kimball.

All the bodies have arrived here to go North.

All the captured officers were on the steamer Spaulding. The rest of the prisoners are on Roanoke Island.

General Burnside is negotiating with the rebel authorities at Norfolk for their release.

No further advance had been made by General Burnside, nor was any immediately expected.

The gunboats had returned from Elizabeth City.

All the fleet were at anchor off Roanoke Island.

An immense amount of trophies has been captured, including the splendid State flag of North Carolina worked by the ladies of that State; also quaint and antiquated arms, old swords and sabres and flintlock muskets, shotguns and pistols, rusty with age.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 19, 1862.

Colonel Corcoran and seven hundred other federal prisoners are expected hourly to arrive at Old Point.

The steamer Eastern State, from Hatteras, brings the following passengers:—Chas. H. Haswell, engineer; Lieut. Col. Betts, Lieut. Cliff, and Sergeants Douglas and Thompson, of the Ninth New York regiment; Capt. Jopson, of the Tenth Connecticut, who is wounded; Col. Kingsbury, of the Eleventh Connecticut; Adjt. Dayton, of the Fifty-first New York; a brother of Col. Russell, and other.

Three thousand five hundred stand of arms were captured at Roanoke Island by Gen. Burnside, and seventy-five tons of ammunition.

The steamer Alice Price arrived at Hatteras in good condition, and, with the steamer Louisiana, had gone to Roanoke. Gen. Burnside's troops have nearly all been reimbarked.

The steamer Stars and Stripes, with supplies for army and navy, left Fort Monroe on Tuesday.

The revised list of killed and wounded at Roanoke Island and at Elizabeth stands as follows:—Killed, 50; wounded, 222. This includes the losses in both army and navy. The wounded are doing very well.

The rebel prisoners are awaiting arrangements for being paroled. Their officers had been sent on board the Spaulding. The prisoners number two thousand five hundred and twenty-seven.

The French Admiral and his staff came from Norfolk yesterday.

The following is a list of the killed as far as I have been able to obtain them:—

UNIONISTS KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF ROANOKE ISLAND, FEB. 8.

Colonel Chas. L. Russell, Tenth Connecticut Volunteers.

Lieutenant Colonel Vignier de Montoli, Fifty-third New York Volunteers.

Captain Joseph J. Henry, Company H, Ninth New Jersey Volunteers.

Lieutenant John H. Goodwin, Jr., Company B, Twenty-third Massachusetts Volunteers.

Lieutenant H. A. Stillman, Company A, Tenth Connecticut Volunteers.

Sergeant Gamaliel H. Morse, Company B, Twenty-third Massachusetts Volunteers.

Corporal G. H. Henry, Company C, Twenty-first Massachusetts Volunteers.

Corporal Randall Mann, Company H, Twenty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers.

Corporal Wm. Hide, Company F, Twenty-