INTERESTING FROM THE SOUTH.

Thirteen Union Prisoners Escaped from Columbia, S. C.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REBEL CONGRESS.

Effect of the Late Reverses at the South.

The Union Successes in the Savannah River.

OPERATIONS IN TENNESSEE.

The Rebels to Concentrate for "Great" Battles.

Arrival of the Nashville at Wilmington, N. C., &c., &c., &c.

The steamer Express, Captain Colmary, left Old Point on Saturday morning at ten o'clock, for James river, to receive the Union prisoners who were expected on Friday. They were not met, however, according to appointment; and, having remained at the usual meeting place until noon on Sunday, the George Washington was sent up, with an order for the Express to return, unless something had been heard from them. She accordingly came back, arriving at two o'clock in the afternoon.

At about three o'clock P. M. on Saturday the rebel steamer Jamestown, which, with the Yorktown, is stationed off Hog Island, steamed down to the Express, with a flag of truce, to ascertain the cause of her appearance in the river on two successive days. She stopped abreast of the Express at a few rods' distance, and lowered a boat, with a lieutenant on board, to communicate. He was informed of the errand of the Express, and that she was acting upon information furnished by General Huger, when he explained that his commander had no knowledge of any expected prisoners, and, from seeing the Express for two days in succession, came down to learn the occasion. He expressed himself satisfied, and, returning to the Jamestown, she went back to her station. She has been armed with a gun at her bows and another at her stern, and has a sharp iron cutwater projecting some three feet from her bows at the water line. She is supposed to be commanded by Captain Barnard. Having been twice disappointed in relation to the expected prisoners, it is not known when they will be sent down the river. It is uncertain whether Colonel Corcoran will be among the number, although it is quite probable.

Another interview took place on Sunday, off Craney Island, between General Wool and General Cobb, in reference to a general exchange of prisoners.

We hear, via Norfolk, that the steamer Nashville arrived at Wilmington, N. C., on Saturday, having run the blockade at that place.

The extracts from the Southern papers which we give this morning are interesting.

Thirteen Union prisoners escaped from the jail at Columbia, S. C., last week.

General Wise, it is said, has been ordered to Manassas.

The Petersburg *Express* of the 27th ult. says:—After this war is ended there will no doubt be some things to settle that it would not be prudent to speak of at present.

One of the Richmond papers says that the following will, in all probability, constitute the Cabinet of Jeff. Davis:—

J. P. Benjamin, La.	Secretary of State.
General Lee	Secretary of War.
Brig. Gen. Geo. Randolph, Va.	Secretary of the Navy.
C. G. Memminger, S. C.	Secretary of the Treasury.
Mr. Henry, M. C., Ky.	Postmaster General.
Herschel V. Johnson, Ga.	Attorney General.

The rebel Senate last Thursday confirmed A. B. Hill and J. B. Pettigrew, both of North Carolina, as Brigadier Generals.

STIRRING NEWS FROM CENTREVILLE.

[From the Lynchburg Virginian, Feb. 27.]

A private letter received from Centreville last night stated that our forces had received orders to send their sick to the rear, and put themselves in marching order.

By passengers who arrived on last night's train the above report is confirmed; and they also state that the women and children were ordered to leave yesterday morning.

We understand from the same source that the Yankees have succeeded in cutting another road through the woods to Fairfax.

THE ENEMY AT NEWPORT NEWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORFOLK DAY BOOK.

Reinforcements of the enemy in considerable numbers have for several days past been conveyed from Old Point to Newport News by water. Yesterday, the 26th, one of their unarmed transports, with troops aboard, quietly steamed up and passed along the opposite shore, in full view of the island. We could almost count the men and see their glittering bayonets, and, from their appearance as they landed on the bridge at Newport News, they must have numbered at least five or six hundred men. This has occurred repeatedly of late; and yet to-day, as heretofore, these boats of the enemy, unarmed and unattended by any armed vessel, are permitted to pass and repass without the least molestation. This movement of the enemy is highly on the offensive, and is done with the evident design of making an attack on our battery at Pig Point; and yet we do not make the least effort to molest them. Have we not the power, or does it result from our defensive policy? If so, let us away with this policy at once. When the enemy begin offensive movements it is full time for us to begin offensive operations also. AN OBSERVER.

CRANEY ISLAND, Feb. 27, 1862.

RUMORS IN RICHMOND.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 28.]

All kinds of unheard of and improbable rumors were current yesterday. In every community there are a certain number of idle men, who, having nothing else to do, live by setting the apprehensions of other and better people afloat. Richmond seems to have come in for more than her due share of this class of people. By street rumor yesterday we learn that the Yankees have landed 17,000 men at Newport News within a few days past, and that the same psalm singing, godly given set of people had begun to cross the Potomac to take Winchester. When the truth comes to be known it will, no doubt, be ascertained that the Yankees have entertained the idea of doing neither the one nor the other of the deeds rumor ascribed to them.

NEWS FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

FROM THE VALLEY.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 28.]

Private letters from Winchester furnish information that General Jackson has caused the removal of the quartermaster and commissary stores from that point, in anticipation of an early attack from the enemy. The same letters also state that a report prevails that the enemy have crossed, or were crossing, in large force, at Williamsport. The distance from Williamsport to Winchester, by the Martinsburg and Winchester turnpike, is thirty-four miles, and the roads are represented to be almost impassable. Whether the enemy will risk an attack at this time, or in a very short time, is extremely doubtful, unless his facilities for transportation are much more extensive and efficient than we have reason to believe them to be. At any rate, we feel well satisfied that General Jackson will make a gallant stand before yielding the place, which he will only do when overpowering numbers render it prudent and necessary.

LEXINGTON, Feb. 26, 1862.

General Henry Heth and staff arrived at this place a few days ago. He takes command of the forces of Kanawha. He was greeted with great applause by the troops, many of whom were in his old command, and all knew him by reputation. Great confidence is felt in this young and talented officer, and no one could have been sent who gives so universal satisfaction.

THE SITUATION AT COLUMBUS.

Memphis papers of the 21st say that Columbus had been evacuated by order of Gen. Beauregard, and that all the men, guns and stores had been removed to an island forty-five miles down the river, which is being rapidly fortified under the special inspection of Beauregard, who has the services of 1,000 negroes, owned by the river planters.

A NEW ORLEANS VIEW OF THE FORT DONELSON VICTORY.

[From the New Orleans Bee.]

We do not feel called upon particularly to criticise and condemn the conduct of the Confederate authorities. We are all aware that shameful neglect and apathy have contributed in a great measure to the serious reverses our troops have sustained. It is undeniable that for months the President and his Cabinet were entirely aware of the gigantic preparations of the federals for a raid in the Southwest. No attempt at concealment was made; but, on the contrary, the papers of Louisville, St. Louis and Chicago were perpetually detailing, with the utmost candor, the constantly increasing numbers of the federal army in Kentucky, its several divisions, its plans of campaign, the strength of the gunboats, the object they were designed to effect, and the like. With all this information before it, the precautions taken by our government were insufficient, and the measures adopted for withstanding the menaced attack were inadequate. To have felt a confident hope of successfully thwarting the federal plans, we should have had at least fifty thousand more troops in Kentucky and Tennessee. But what avail censure and reproach now? Want of foresight and of energy have wrought much evil, but, instead of an unprofitable and foolish waste of time in fruitless lamentation, our duty and that of the government is clearly to pursue such a policy as may enable us to retrieve past errors, and to rescue the South from the dangers which environ us. What, then, should we do? What does the crisis call for? It seems to us certain that the time has now arrived when a general call to arms has become an inevitable necessity. We have no holiday task before us. It is no ordinary military display that will suffice to drive the invader from our soil. We have all sworn to vindicate, at the hazard of life, the cause of Southern independence. That cause is now in peril, and it must be sustained by all who prefer its promised blessings to a life of misery and vassalage. We must not seek to disguise the strength or courage of the enemy. Both are indubitable, and they are only to be overcome by equal numbers and a more devoted courage.

MARTIAL LAW AT NORFOLK.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, the Congress of the Confederate States has by law vested in the President the power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in cities in danger of attack by the enemy: Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, do hereby proclaim that martial law is extended over the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth and the surrounding country to the distance of ten miles from said cities, and all civil jurisdiction and the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus are hereby declared to be suspended within the limits aforesaid. This proclamation will remain in force until otherwise ordered.

In faith whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at the city of Richmond, on this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SAVANNAH AND FORT PULASKI CUT OFF.

With regard to the cutting off of communication between Savannah and Fort Pulaski, the Savannah *Republican* of Tuesday, February 25, says:—

A reconnoissance by the steamer Savannah yesterday, brought to light all the movements of the enemy in our river. They have erected three batteries, which effectually cut off communication with the fort—one of four guns on Venus' Point, one of the same number of guns on a small marsh just above Long Island, and commanding the south channel, and the third on boats moored in Mud river. *The three are located in the form of a triangle, and could not be passed by any vessel in our service.* The guns are all of a heavy calibre, most of them throwing shot to the distance of three miles. A number were fired at the Savannah, but they all fell short.

THE OCCUPATION OF NASHVILLE.

The Atlanta *Commonwealth*, of Monday last, has information from passengers just from Tennessee, that Nashville is now in the possession of the enemy. General Johnson deserted the city on the Friday previous, falling back upon Murfreesboro' and Columbia. At that time General Buell was at Gallatin, twenty-five miles distant from Nashville, and from that point the Yankees marched down the turnpike to Nashville, entering the city on Sunday evening. The railroad bridge had been previously destroyed by the citizens. The *Commonwealth* adds:—

General Johnson is represented as having *only one half of his original force at Murfreesboro'*. The tracks from Nashville to Columbia and Murfreesboro' are being torn up by bodies of soldiers sent out by General Johnson. Nearly all the railroad stock and government stores were removed before the Yankees arrived. Buell's force is said to have numbered sixty thousand. It is not known whether Johnson will make a permanent stand at Murfreesboro' or not. *If he should not, and the Yankees move upon Columbia, they can move down on the railroad to Decatur, Alabama, seize the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and operate at leisure against both Chattanooga and Memphis.*

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.

We copy the following interesting paragraph from the Charleston *Mercury* of Wednesday:—

A vessel with a cargo of coffee, salt, medicines and dry goods, has lately reached a Confederate port. We learn that the steamer Nelly had left Nassau for a port further South. The schooner known here as the Helen was forced into Nassau by stress of weather, and was still there at last accounts. The schooner Sallie, Capt. Byers, was also at that place. The pilot boat Charleston had sailed from Nassau. The schooner Colonel McRae, we regret to learn, has lately been lost on the coast.

THE LATE REVERSES.

[From the Mobile Register.]

Since the late reverses to our arms we notice quite a deplorable disposition to growl and grumble against the government of the confederacy; to charge upon it the responsibility of these disasters, and to complain generally of the administration of affairs. This seems to us all wrong—transparently and absurdly wrong. It evidences no judgment, and is far from speaking well for the possession of those stable qualities of fortitude and patient determination which it is believed the Southern race possesses, and which are essential to our success in this war, and to the maintenance of a sustained career of national greatness in the future. If our confidence in the ability and rectitude of our government is so little that it is to be overthrown by a few insignificant reverses; if our patriotism is of so poor a quality that it may feel disheartened by them, we are not the people to deserve, or to win, or to sustain our independence.

It is as unjust to the government to charge it with the responsibility of losses as it would be to charge with cowardice and inefficiency the brave men who are directly their victims, and experience the misfortunes of war through stress of circumstances and overpowering numbers. We must make up our minds to bear a certain amount of disaster. It is impossible that such a war as this should be a career of uninterrupted successes. *We are engaged with an enemy who marshals the most majestic military strength that modern times have witnessed.* He assails us along land and coast frontiers of near five thousand miles in extent. Is it possible that our government should have the means or the prescience to make every post impregnable which the foe may choose to select for an assault with overwhelming force?

The enemy is ranging along our lines on coast and frontier, and is prepared at any moment to concentrate an overwhelming force at any weak point he may detect. Our government has neither the men nor munitions, nor the supernatural foresight to enable it to have a powerful force at any position which the enemy may choose to select. With such a foe we must force ourselves to the conclusion—rendered doubly distasteful by our invariable success in its outset—that the war is a war of "give and take." We must take the bad with the good, and may conceive ourselves especially fortunate if the latter so far predominates that the war will be shortened as much by the successes of our arms as by the self exhaustion of the enemy's efforts.

We should not be disheartened if we hear of a succession of such small successes as have encouraged them, as a consequence of the grand advance and general offensive policy of the enemy. These effect little to directly weaken our vital strength, while they nerve the valor and determination of the nation to its best efforts and sternest resolve. We make them pay dearly for these small successes, and trace in blood every step that they advance upon our soil, and they do not weaken our vital strength, for our grand armies remain intact, and must be overthrown and destroyed ere the cause of the South will look gloomy.

To keep the grand armies of Kentucky and Virginia strong, and to strengthen them, will be the policy of the government, and we may probably soon hear that the forces which are popularly considered already too small at some points are being weakened to reinforce the grand armies. It may be that some of these points where the forces have been so weakened will be successfully attacked. Grumblers will then have a fine text, of course. But let them not be heeded. The great armies are the true bulwarks of our safety. On them we must rely when the enemy attempt to pour their solid columns of a hundred or a hundred and fifty thousand men into the country. How could such forces be confronted, with our troops scattered in squads of five thousand to twenty-five thousand at all the divers points on coast and inland frontier which the people adjacent thereto think should certainly be defended by the best efforts of the government? *We must keep our great armies massed in such strength as to be able to give battle to the strongest armies of the enemy.*

SYMPTOMS OF IMPROVEMENT.

[From the Petersburg Express, Feb. 27.]

After a week of the most intense and painful excitement the public mind is being restored to composure. The flood of disastrous intelligence by which we have been inundated has spent its force and is now subsiding. We begin to feel relieved of the horrible pressure upon our spirits to which they were so unexpectedly and unwelcomely subjected by the information of our recent serious reverses. Our feelings have undergone a severe trial, but are now experiencing a salutary reaction, which will soon brighten us up again. In fact, we are cheerful to-day and look forward to the future with renewed hopes. *Although the difficulties and dangers which still surround us are great*, we are encouraged to look upon them as far from being insurmountable and inextricable. The government and people are thoroughly aroused to a sense of their respective duties, and we may now calculate upon the proper wisdom and energy in the public counsels and corresponding action in the masses. If the government acts promptly and vigorously all will be well. *The coils of the constrictor are tightening around us, but they have not yet done their deadly work by a long way.* They have given us three or four severe squeezes, but without vital injury. We are still strong and possessed of tremendous powers of resistance. We can and will shake off the monster and crush it. But to do this will require the putting forth of all our strength in the quickest and most persistent manner. Every resource which we possess must be immediately made available. The enemy are flushed with the successes they have achieved, and flatter themselves that they will soon extinguish the rebellion. The Washington government have, no doubt, sent over to Europe the most positive assurances that the war is as good as ended. But between this assertion of theirs and its verification lies a vast fiery gulf which they have to bridge over; and it remains to be seen whether they will thus span it, and make good the braggart assertion.

The losses which we have sustained, and the now hopeless prospect of any European interference in the war, will nerve us up to a confident reliance upon our own resources. We were guilty of as egregious folly in ever permitting ourselves to indulge the thought of recognition and blockade raising. We have got to win our independence by our own unaided arms, and by the blessing of Almighty God we will do it. Our ancestors won theirs under far more unfavorable circumstances, and in so doing have left an example for all time to encourage a people struggling for their freedom. What they did we can do, for we are their lineal descendants. Their blood courses through our veins, their principles are our principles, and their fortitude and courage, we hope, will be manifested by ourselves throughout this war. It will be time enough for the Yankees to exult in the certainty of our speedy subjugation when they see us terror stricken by any blow they may inflict upon us, and hear from us the wailings of despair.

When the news of the battle of Manassas reached the Northern ear there was a scene of universal consternation in that whole region, the like of which was scarcely ever exhibited before. All was panic and uproar, and *we believe that a Confederate army of 20,000 men could, immediately after that memorable rout, have marched triumphantly from Washington to Boston.* For months, whilst the tide of victory was running in our favor, the Lincoln empire was in a state of the greatest uneasiness and confusion. The leading presses in it were, many of them, daily filled with denunciations of the government, and misgivings about the issue. Charge after charge of inefficiency, mismanagement and corruption was hurled against the conductors of the war. Satire and invective played their batteries in the fiercest manner against the public functionaries at Washington. Scott fell a victim to the storm—so did Cameron, and certain other notable characters who figured as popular favorites up in that latitude when hostilities first commenced. The Yankees had a long season of tribulation and dissatisfaction and alarm at the aspect of their affairs. But they went through it, and now it is our turn to suffer in like manner. Both sides have been subjected to the vicissitudes of war. Both have felt the joys of victory and the humiliations of defeat, with this advantage on our side, that in all our victories and defeats the superiority of numbers have been overwhelmingly against us. At Manassas, the greatest of our triumphs, they were as three to one; and at Fort Donelson, the greatest of our discomfitures, they were at least four to one, with a large fleet, too, of powerful gunboats to help them, which we had not a single vessel to oppose. Surely there is a consolation in this view of our reverses, which should inspire us, amidst the consequent gloom and depression, with gratitude to Heaven that the army of the South has fully and nobly vindicated its honor and fidelity. History records no instance of more daring valor than that which was displayed by our troops in the defence of Fort Donelson. Those "three days" of bloody and successful resistance by 15,000 of our soldiers against 60,000 of the enemy, aided by numerous iron-clad and heavily armed steamers, will make a brilliant chapter in our annals.

We are glad to see that President Davis is alive to the necessities of the crisis. His message to Congress breathes the right spirit, and if he will only follow it up at all points by absolutely and imperiously required action, he will deserve the increased confidence of the people, who look to him and to Congress for the suggestion, adoption and prosecution of such measures as the changed course and aspect of the war call for without delay. We agree with him thoroughly in the opinion that the government attempted in the outset to do too much—more than it had the means of doing. *Our forces have been spread over too large a frontier.* Results now teach us how greatly we have erred in this respect, and the first thing now to be done is to abandon the error, and pursue a wiser policy. *We had infinitely better select a few leading points and throw sufficiently strong forces upon them, than to distribute our army in smaller columns in a multitude of localities distant from one another*, where they are liable to be captured in detail by the precipitation upon them of overwhelming numbers of the enemy, as was the case at Fort Donelson and Roanoke Island.

AGGRESSIVE WARFARE DEMANDED.

[From the Norfolk Day Book, Feb. 28.]

To avenge our grievances, and to apply the scourge inflicted on us, ours must be an offensive as well as a defensive warfare. We have to purchase peace at the price of our country's blood; past events have told us this. Foreign intervention is not to aid us; nothing can be expected from England and France; they tell us this. In our own strength then are we to battle with the foe, and secure the liberties of freemen. We are self-reliant, and expect to fight out the destiny that awaits us: our mission is to achieve our own independence and to exact from the Lincoln dynasty the confession of its humilition, and the recognition of our young confederacy.

But to fight valiantly we must give as well as take blows—plan as well as prepare for an attack. A defensive position in any contest is a weakening one. With a border of thousands of miles it is impossible to defend much of it successfully. The enemy, secure in his territory, fearing nothing from us, has but to concentrate a large body of his forces at any desirable position, and it is taken. Many are the advantages certainly lost to us; our weakness at different points is known; we lose the benefit of strategic movements; we give away, in fact, to the enemy time, place and circumstances, to operate against our extensive frontier.

This struggle will be prolonged till the North feels the horrors of warfare. Teach them what the desolations of the firesides means. Let the dread and danger of war excite their quiet homes, and let painful anxieties surround their habitations. Then will we secure the peace that we await them to give us.

Invade their country; subsist on the abundant fruits of their tillage and their manufactures; press in service their vehicles of transportation, and support our armies at their expense.

Such a war would thrill the South from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. Every heart would swell with joy; every eye beam with delight. The military excitement, we know, would be intense, and the army ranks be increased tenfold; popular enthusiasm would support this turn in affairs, and thus would we conquer an abiding peace.

The soldier's cares would be forgotten and a new scene dazzle his vision, and the banner of his pride, now drooping for active fields of glory, would be borne aloft to gain imperishable honors in its country's cause.

COTTON AND TOBACCO.

[From the Norfolk Day Book, Feb. 28.]

We think we see pretty clear and conclusive evidences that neither of these articles will be raised in the Southern confederacy this season, and that much of the remaining stock now on hand will be likely to be destroyed whenever it is likely to fall into the hands of the enemy. The ground heretofore used to grow these articles on will hereafter be used in raising corn, wheat, beans, potatoes, &c.

Cotton, by the law of the federals as practiced in North Carolina, is "contraband," and we presume tobacco is also, together with anything else they may desire to appropriate to their own use. However, as that is what they said about cotton, we have a right to expect that they will treat that article as contraband wherever they find it. Now, as they hope to capture sufficient cotton by invading our peaceful homes, to pay their expenses, we ask would it not be well to let them know that it shall surely be destroyed before they reach it?

PLANTERS OF COTTON AND TOBACCO.

[From the Petersburg Express, Feb. 27.]

We copy below a notice for a meeting which was expected to be held in the city of Richmond last evening. The object was to secure wisdom and uniformity of action in an important matter of patriotic duty—to agree upon what is right and judicious, and to perform it with one mind. The following is the notice:—

In view of the fact that the seizure and confiscation of cotton and tobacco are now among the prime objects of the ruthless invaders of our soil and country, and must continue to be so while they have any hope of success in robbing us of them, we, the undersigned citizens of the States annexed to our several names, desire to see the Southerners interested in the burning of the present crops of the two great staples of the country at a meeting to be held in the City Hall, on Wednesday evening, at half-past seven o'clock, to take into consideration this subject.

W. T. Withers, Miss.	W. J. Eppes, N. C. and Va.
C. K. Marshall, Miss.	E. W. Hubbard, Va.
Z. York, La.	A. F. Hopkins, Ala.
J. W. C. Smith, Miss.	Walter Brook, Miss.
Thomas J. Green, N. C.	George Torry, Miss.
O. W. Newtown, Va.	J. W. Moore, Ky.
R. R. Bridgers, N. C.	T. L. Burnett, Ky.
A. H. Arrington, N. C.	J. W. Clapp, Miss.

IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE PITTS.

The following order of impeachment from the Virginia Legislature appears in a prominent place in the last Richmond papers:—

IN RELATION TO JUDGE E. P. PITTS, PASSED FEBRUARY 21, 1862.

Whereas, E. P. Pitts, Judge of the Fifth Circuit of the State of Virginia, has been charged before this House with disloyalty against the State of Virginia, and against the Confederate States of America in adhering to and giving aid and comfort and counsel to the enemies of the said State and of the Confederate States, and it is proper for the General Assembly to take such charges into consideration, and if sustained by sufficient evidence, to remove said E. P. Pitts from his office aforesaid, therefore, be it

Resolved, with the concurrence of the Senate, That on the 25th day of March, 1862, both houses of the General Assembly will proceed to consider and decide upon the aforesaid charges against said E. P. Pitts, Judge as aforesaid, and if such charges be sustained, to remove him from his said office.

Resolved, further, That notice be given to the said E. P. Pitts, Judge as aforesaid, of the proceedings proposed to be had against him, and of the causes alleged for his removal, by a publication of this preamble and resolutions in one of the newspapers printed in Richmond and in one of the newspapers printed in Norfolk for four consecutive weeks prior to the said 25th of March, 1862.

A copy from the rolls.

WM. F. GORDON, JR., C. H. D. and K. of R. of Va.

THE REBEL STATES CONGRESS.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26, 1862.

SENATE.

The Senate met at twelve M. Prayer by Rev. M. D. Hoge, of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. BURNETT, of Ky., appeared in his seat, and after the reading of the journal, took the oath to support the constitution of the Confederate States.

Mr. CLAY, of Ala., presented the following bill supplementary to the establishment of a War Department:—

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact that if any officer of the army be appointed Secretary of War, and enter upon the duties of that office, he shall not thereby lose his rank in the army, but only the pay and allowances thereof during the time he is Secretary of War, and receiving the salary of that officer.

The bill was read the third time and passed.

Mr. SIMMS, of Ky., submitted the following preamble and joint resolutions:—

Whereas, the war in which we are now engaged with the government and people of the late United States was not provoked or inaugurated by the government or people of the Confederate States, and is now prosecuted and maintained by them only in vindication of the highest and most sacred rights of a people resolved to be free and independent; and whereas, the right of self-governmebt, and the right to change, alter or abolish their form of government by the people of these States, and ordain and establish another, by their authority, better calculated to promote their happiness and secure their liberties, are rights inherent and inalienable, and by them never surrendered, and which they, in the most solemn manner, do now pledge themselves never to surrender; and whereas, the war now waged against them is the work of Northern fanaticism, and was conceived and is now prosecuted for the subjugation of the people of these States and the overthrow of their social and domestic institutions, and finally for their enslavement and degradation before the civilized world: be it, therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the Confederate States, That the people of these States will, to the last extremity, maintain and defend their right to self government, and the government ordained and established by them, and to this end, by the representatives, do hereby most solemnly pledge the last man and the last dollar within the limits of this confederacy for the prosecution of this war, until their independence as a nation is recognized and acknowledged.

Resolved, That a brave and manly people can neither be appalled by danger nor intimidated by defeat, and that the people of these States will submit to any sacrifice and endure any trial, however severe, when there are necessary means of escape from subjugation and enslavement, and firmly relying, as they do, upon the justice of their cause, and humbly trusting in the providence of God, they will maintain their position before the world and high Heaven, while they have a voice to raise or an arm to defend.

On motion of Mr. ORR, of S. C., the preamble and resolutions were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. PHELAN, of Mississippi, it was

Resolved, that the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing all duties upon imports, of abolishing all ports of entry, as preventing all exports from the Confederate States, except by permission of the government; and of requiring the masters or owners of all vessels landing a cargo upon our coast, who desire to reload for exportation from this country, to submit a manifest of the cargo so landed to some designated authority of the government, with the right, on the part of said authority, to grant or withhold the permission so desired; and of enforcing the policy herein indicated by the most stringent penalties and regulations, and that said committee report as early as practicable, by bill or otherwise.

Mr. HENRY, of Tennessee, submitted the following preamble and joint resolution, which, on his motion, were referred to the Committee on Finance:—

Whereas, it is desirable to encourage the planters of tobacco and cotton in the Confederate States, and others who are *bona fide* owners thereof, to destroy, by burning or otherwise, those articles, rather than that they should fall into the hands of the enemy. Be it, therefore,

Resolved, by the Congress of the Confederate States, That all such persons who shall burn their cotton or tobacco, or otherwise destroy the same, to prevent these articles from falling into the hands of the army or navy of the United States, shall be fully indemnified by the government of the Confederate States, upon proof of the number of pounds of tobacco or cotton so destroyed, and proof of the necessity of such destruction to prevent the enemy from getting possession thereof.

The Senate then went into Executive session, and remained in session with closed doors for a short time.

On motion of Mr. HUNTER, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26, 1862.

The States were called in aphabetical order for resolutions.

Mr. FOSTER, of Ala., offered a resolution instructing inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the construction and equipment of Fort Henry. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. HOLT, of Ga., offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of restricting and limiting by law the production of cotton in the Confederate States during the continuance of the war and blockade. And also into the expediency of the Confederate government taking into its own control, by purchase, advances thereon, or otherwise, of all the cotton now on hand, or which may be grown in said Confederate States during the existence of the present war and blockade, and that said committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. PERKINS, of La., introduced a bill to prohibit the importation of productions and manufactures of the United States into the Confederate States. Referred.

Mr. PRYOR, of Va., reported a bill to amend an act for organizing the general staff of the army. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. JENKINS, of Va., presented a resolution requiring the President to furnish the House with the report of Colonel Walter H. Janifer of the battle of Leesburg, if not incompatible with public interests. Adopted.

Mr. PRYOR, of Va., from the Committee on Military Affairs, asked leave to report back the bill for continuing in office the major generals and brigadier generals of the provisional army, and providing that there shall not be more than one major general for every three brigades, and not more than one brigadier general for every four regiments.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Ga., offered a proviso to the effect that said major and brigadier generals be subject to the regulations of the War Department for removal.

After some discussion, participated in by Messrs. Pryor, Bonham, Wright, Foote, Heiskall and Lyons, the bill was laid upon the table, to be printed and made the order of the day for one o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. GARTRELL, from the Judiciary Committee, was instructed to report back House bill No. 10, with reference to allowing the members of the Cabinet seats upon the floor of Congress, in accordance with the provisions of article 6, section 6, of the constitution, with the amendment that "each house reserve to itself the privilege of prescribing the rules under which this right shall be exercised."

Mr. WRIGHT, of Ga., moved that the report of the committee be placed upon the calendar and printed, and made the order of the day for Saturday.

Mr. CONRAD, of La., rose to a question of privilege. He desired to refer to a clause in the communication of the President to Congress, which, if not erroneous, was certainly calculated to produce erroneous impressions. The clause to which he alluded read as follows:—

The people of the Confederate States being principally engaged in agricultural pursuits, were unprovided at the commencement of hostilities with ships, shipyards, materials for ship building, or skilled mechanics and seamen in sufficient numbers, to make the prompt creation of a navy a practical task, even if the required appropriations had been made for the purpose.

This certainly conveyed the idea that appropriations had not been made by the Provisional Congress for the Navy Department. He had no knowledge of a single instance in which an estimate from that department did not receive the prompt attention of Congress, and the appropriation required.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Ga., rose to a question of order, and the Speaker decided that the gentleman from Louisiana, having risen to a question of privilege, was not strictly in order in speaking upon the question.

Mr. MILES, of S. C., asked the same indulgence accorded to the gentleman from Louisiana. In the Message of the President the following extract occurred:—

The people, incredulous of a long war, were naturally averse to long enlistments, and the only legislation of Congress rendered it impracticable to obtain volunteers for a greater period than twelve months.

This language implied that the Provisional Congress had not co-operated with the Executive in measures for the prosecution of the war. He knew that it was the earnest desire of that body to afford every possible assistance to the other branches of the government.

Mr. KENNER moved to postpone the further call of the committees, with a view to take up the President's Message. The motion being sustained, he moved that the message be referred to the several committees in the order in which it referred to the different departments.

A bill from the Senate, allowing an officer of the army to hold the position of Secretary of War without losing his rank, was read and passed.

Mr. MOORE, of Ky., submitted a resolution calling upon the President to furnish the House with information as to the number and capacity of establishments engaged in the manufacture of small arms, powder and percussion caps for the use of the Southern confederacy.

Mr. MILES moved that the House do now adjourn, and the motion was adopted.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27, 1862.

The Senate met at twelve o'clock M. Prayer by Rev. M. D. Hoge, of the Second Presbyterian church.

THE CENSUS.

Mr. SPARROW, of Louisiana, presented a bill to provide for the payment of balances due to those persons who were engaged in taking the census of 1860. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

TERRITORY OF THE CONFEDERACY.

Mr. CLARK, of Missouri, submitted the following joint resolution:—

Resolved, by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the honor of the government imperatively demands that the existing war be prosecuted until the enemy shall have been expelled from every foot of soil within each and every one of the Confederate States, and no proposition of peace shall be considered which contemplates, however remotely, the relinquishment by this government of any portion of any of the States of this confederacy.

The resolution was advocated by Mr. CLARK, and opposed by Messrs. ORR, WIGFALL and BROWN, after which it was adopted *nem. dis.*

Several resolutions and memorials were presented, after which the Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27, 1862.

House met at twelve o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Ford, of Kentucky. Journal of yesterday read.

Mr. BALDWIN, of Virginia, appeared and took the requisite oath.

Mr. GARNETT, of Va., said that as the President had called upon this House, in common with the people of the Confederate States, to observe to-morrow as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, with a view of invoking Divine aid upon our cause, he thought that the most effectual way of securing that aid was in the use of the means which Providence had placed in our hands. He therefore moved that when this House adjourn, it adjourn to meet at quarter-past one o'clock to-morrow. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. CROCKETT, of Ky., offered a resolution that no member be allowed to speak more than once upon any question until all who desire to speak have been heard, and that all debate be confined to two speeches by one member upon any question, unless by unanimous consent of the House.

Mr. HOLT, of Ga., hoped that the gentleman would permit the resolution to lie upon the table until the report of the Committee on Rules had been presented. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. BONHAM asked the consent of the House to make a personal explanation with reference to the report of the Richmond *Enquirer* of the discussion of yesterday. The report does not fully represent the remarks of himself or the honorable member from Texas (Mr. Wilcox) in opposition to the bill repressing intoxication in the army, introduced by the honorable member from Virginia (Mr. Smith.) They are not opposed to repressing this great evil, but are of the opinion that the rules and articles of war, if enforced, especially the ninety-ninth article, would probably effect the object in view, and that the feature which compels all officers to become informers or forfeit their commissions, was particularly objectionable.

The SPEAKER decided that no member could rise to a personal explanation upon the newspaper reports of proceedings of the House.

Mr. CONRAD, of La., *offered a resolution for the appointment of a Commanding General upon whom shall devolve the control and direction of the armies of the Confederate States.* In support of the resolution, he said that no one person was adequate to the discharge of the responsible duties resting upon the War Department at this time. After bestowing a good deal of reflection upon the subject, but two modes had been presented to his mind, the most practicable of which was the one suggested in the resolution he had offered.

Mr. MILES, from the Committee on Military, desired to report a bill from that committee which he thought would cover the ground of the resolution. The bill was then read, and Mr. Conrad withdrew his resolution.

Mr. BOYKIN, of Va., introduced resolutions of the Legislature of Virginia with reference to an increase of the pay of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Confederate army. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. MILES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill containing in effect the provisions of the resolution of Mr. Conrad *for the appointment of a Commanding General of the armies of the Confederate States, and urged that it be put upon its passage.*

Mr. WRIGHT, of Ga., hoped that the chairman of the Military Committee would not insist upon immediate action on the bill. He had no disposition to oppose the bill as he understood it, but he thought it very desirable that time should be afforded to reflect upon it. Our minds were given us for investigation, and our tongues to talk with each other upon grave questions of public concern. He moved that the bill be put upon the calendar, printed and made the order of the day for Monday.

Mr. MILES thought we had no time to lose in coming to conclusions on great questions, such as he regarded the bill before the House. The proposition was not a mere experiment. All governments recognized the necessity of such an office as the bill intended to create. The United States had made General McClellan Commander-in-Chief of the armies of that government, and whilst he did not desire ours to imitate that government, yet he conceived the public necessities required that there should be an officer of ability and experience at the head of the Military Department. It was the uniform practice of all the governments of the world. He knew that the creation of such an office was not in conflict with the wishes of the President.

Mr. FOOTE concurred in the remarks of his friend, the chairman of the Military Committee, and was glad to hear that the proposition met with the approval of the Executive. His colleagues were prepared to give it a unanimous support. He would support the bill because it would afford the President an opportunity to select an able and experienced officer to direct our forces; and he felt assured he would select such an one as would give satisfaction to the country and confidence to our soldiers.

Mr. WRIGHT sustained his motion, and thought there might be some constitutional obstacle to the passage of the bill. The constitution declares the President to be Commander-in-Chief, and this new position might conflict with that provision of the constitution.

Mr. MILES explained the bill, and stated that that appointment of an officer to the position of Commanding General did not create him Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. WRIGHT asked the purpose of the bill. Was it to supersede the President in command of the army? If that was its object he was prepared to fight now, and on, until convinced that he was wrong. He asked that the bill be printed and the members allowed time to consider it.

Mr. GARTRELL, of Ga., hoped that his colleague would not insist upon postponing the bill, and if he did, that the members would vote him down. He thought that the bill should be passed at once, and believed that it would give power, concentration and effect to our armies. He called the question on the motion of his colleague.

The question being put, was decided in the negative, and, without further consideration of the bill, the House went into secret session.

A Peaceful Expedition to Port Royal.

DEPARTURE OF MISSIONARIES FOR THE CULTIVATION OF COTTON, EDUCATION, ETC.

The first missionary expedition to propagate industry, religion and education among the contrabands at Hilton Head, as well as to encourage agriculture and like useful measures, was announced to sail yesterday from this city for Port Royal. The movement is of a most interesting and important character, and therefore some of the details will not be inappropriate.

The expedition is composed of some sixty persons, about fifteen of whom are ladies. Mr. Edward L. Pierce, the government agent, in charge of the plantations and contrabands at Port Royal, is to