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NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Important Message of the President to Congress.

Initiatory Movement for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery.

Government Pecuniary Aid for State Emancipation.

A New and Important Financial Measure.

Activity of the Hostile Armies on the Lower Potomac.

BRISK CANNONADING ON BOTH SIDES.

Skirmish with Rebel Cavalry Near Pohick Church.

Impressive Obsequies of the Late General Lander.

ARMY PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS, &c., &c., &c.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1862.

The President to-day transmitted to Congress the following message:—

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:—

Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end; but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it. The federal government would find its highest interest in such a measure, as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation.

The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that the government will, ultimately, be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the slave States north of such parts will then say, "The Union, for which we have struggled, being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section." To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it. As to all the States initiating it, the point is not that all the States tolerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation, but that, while the offer is equally made to all, the more northern shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more southern that in no event will the former ever join the latter in their proposed confederacy. I say "initiation" because, in my judgment, gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all.

In the mere financial or pecuniary view, any member of Congress, with the census tables and the Treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of the war would purchase, at a fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State. Such a proposition on the part of the general government sets up no claim of a right by federal authority to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring, as it does, the absolute control of the subject in each case to the State and its people immediately interested. It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them. In the annual message last December I thought fit to say:—"The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed." I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been and continues to be an indispensable means to this end. A practical reacknowledgment of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease. If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend and all the ruin which may follow it. Such as may seem indispensable or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle must and will come.

The proposition now made, though an offer only, I hope it may be esteemed no offence to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States and private persons concerned than are the institution and property in it, in the present aspect of affairs? While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiatory, and not within itself a practical measure, it is recommended in the hope that it would soon lead to important results.

In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

GENERAL NEWS.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1862.

EFFECT OF THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT ON EMANCIPATION.

The President's Message excited deep interest in the House to-day. It was evident that a document of such an important character was not generally anticipated. The reading was called for by Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, and on his motion referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, in which it will be discussed. Some of the members, apparently not fully understanding it as pronounced from the desk, perused the manuscript at their seats. The subject therein discussed forms to-night a theme of earnest conversations. The message of a similar character transmitted to the Senate was not read.

AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL MEASURE.

The bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, to-day authorizing the purchase of coin, and for other purposes, provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may dispose of any bonds or notes bearing interest authorized by law for coin, at such rates and upon such terms as he may deem most advantageous to the public interest, and may issue, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, certificates of indebtedness, such as were authorized by the act "to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue certificates of indebtedness to public creditors," approved March 1, 1862, to such creditors as may desire to receive the same in the discharge of checks drawn by disbursing officers upon sums placed to their credit on the books of the Treasurer, upon requisitions of the proper department, as well as in the discharge of audited and settled accounts, as provided by said act. It is further provided that the demand notes authorized by the act of July 17, 1861, and by the act of February 12, 1862, shall be receivable and shall be lawful money and legal tender in like manner and to the same purposes and to the same extent as the notes authorized by the act to authorize the issue of United States notes, and for the redemption or funding thereof, and for funding the floating debt of the United States, approved on the 28th of last month.

THE TAX BILL.

The Committee of Ways and Means are revising and correcting the Tax bill from the printed proof sheets, and expect to produce a perfect copy in print to-morrow.

SKIRMISH NEAR POHICK CHURCH.

We learn that a skirmish took place yesterday morning, on the Telegraph road, near Pohick, between a party of Texan Rangers and a company of General Heintzelman's division, resulting in three killed and one wounded on our side. What loss befel the enemy is not known. It is said that this company were commanded by a volunteer Lieutenant Colonel, who permitted the enemy to pass to their ambuscaded position under his guns, but yet led his command into the trap. The killed on our side were one captain, one lieutenant and a private, with one private wounded.

AFFAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC—INCREASE OF THE REBEL FORCE NEAR AQUIA CREEK—BRISK CANNONADING ON BOTH SIDES.

The gunboats Satellite, Acting Master Foster, and Island Belle, Acting Master Harris, discovered on Wednesday a number of rebel cavalry near Aquia Creek, and complimented them with a few shell, when the rebels precipitately scampered away, and the steamers returned to their anchorage.

A brisk fire was opened this morning, at about three o'clock, by the lower flotilla, causing great alarm, at least among the rebels. The long roll was beaten, commencing at Aquia Creek, and extending along up the river as far as Evansport. The call of the roll extended through a greater number of camps than at any time before. The camp fires within a few days past have materially increased, showing a considerable augmentation of the rebel forces in this vicinity.

The rebels opened fire upon the Budd's Ferry battery at eleven o'clock this morning. About twenty or thirty shots were fired, without doing any damage.

The steamer Yankee to-day went in within half a mile of the Virginia shore, and shelled a new battery in process of erection in the rear of the position of their old battery at Freestone Point. The rebels were forced to evacuate the premises.

THE TRIBUNE'S CRITICISM ON GENERAL BANKS' MOVEMENT.

The assertion of the *Tribune*, that the forward movement of General Banks' column over the Upper Potomac was a *fiasco*, because the canal boats were too large for the canal, is altogether unwarranted by the facts. In the first place, the boats were those which had been for a long time used on the canal; but some of the repairs hastily made to the side walls of the locks destroyed by the rebels were unsubstantial, and the walls had bulged to such an extent as to obstruct the passage of the boats. This, however, did not in any way interfere with the movements of General Banks' column. It was not intended to rely upon the canal boats, but to use them as accessories in case of the insufficiency of the pontoon bridge, which was found adequate to all purposes of the crossing of all the troops and wagons and teams; nor was there even the slightest failure in the expedition of General Banks, except in the expectation of meeting the enemy. All that was intended to be done immediately was accomplished with the most satisfactory success. The first and chief object was the protection of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which is now, for the first time since the breaking out of the rebellion, in our possession throughout its whole length, and will soon be in running order from Baltimore to the Ohio river. The damage to the canal locks does not in the slightest degree affect operations.

THE FUNERAL OF GEN. LANDER.

The funeral of the late General Lander was attended to-day with imposing ceremonies. The body, after being embalmed, was taken to the residence of Secretary Chase, where the bereaved widow and her friends assembled and received the sympathies of Mr. Chase and his family in their sorrow. The corpse was dressed in the full uniform of General Lander, and placed in a coffin covered with black velvet and trimmed with silver. Upon the coffin lid was placed a wreath of camilias and immortelles, encircling a silver tablet, which bore this inscription:—

FREDERICK W. LANDER, BRIGADIER GENERAL,
Died at Camp Chase, Va., March 2, 1862.
BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.

The remains were guarded by a detachment of the Andrew Sharpshooters, under their commander, Captain John Saunders. This corps, which was enlisted in General Lander's native city, formed his body guard, and followed him to Western Virginia, under a pledge to Mrs. Lander that they would never leave him upon the field of battle; and if he had been called to face irresistible odds this devoted band would have perished to a man rather than allow him to be killed or captured by the enemy.

Twelve o'clock was the hour named for the cortege to form and escort the General's body to the Church of the Epiphany. The most distinguished members of the government and many Congressmen were assembled to pay their respects to the deceased. The coffin was placed upon a caisson, draped with the American flag, and the escort was formed in column, consisting of the 107th volunteer infantry, who had marched from beyond Alexandria, and who looked like regulars; Captain Tidball's battery; Company A, Second artillery, regulars; a squadron of cavalry from the Pennsylvania Lancers; Brigadier General Silas Casey and staff; the clergy; the body, with pall bearers Hon. Henry Wilson, Hon. F. P. Blair, Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon John F. Potter; Major General McClellan, Generals R. B. Marcy and Seth Williams, and Colonel T. M. Key. Immediately behind the hearse was led General Lander's favorite gray charger, a noble animal, which was ridden by him at the battle, in Western Virginia, at Rich Mountain. The horse, his military equipments, with crape upon his bridle, and the General's military boots were fastened in the stirrups. The General's body guard, twenty in number, were formed on each side of the coffin.

Mrs. Lander, attended by Secretary Chase and his daughter, Miss Catharine Chase, followed in a carriage, and after them marched the Eleventh Maine regiment, with side arms. Next followed the President and members of the Cabinet, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Massachusetts delegation in Congress and other distinguished friends of the deceased.

The services in the church were conducted by Rev. Dr. Hall, who read that sublime dissertation on the immortality of the soul, by St. Paul.

Bishop Clark, of Rhode Island, then made an eloquent address to the mourners and the crowded audience, in which he eulogized the deceased, and pointed out the lessons taught by his death, which seemed to us so great a sacrifice. He said that Lander was a brave, heroic man, who had given unselfishly his life to his country. He was an honest man, one who looked down from a sublime height with contempt on all the petty arts of intrigue, and from his character in that respect all might learn a profitable lesson. He was, withal, a man of tender sensibilities and fine imaginations, and might have been a great poet if God had not designed that he should be a great warrior. The lessons to be learned from his death were enforced by the speaker, who said that the sacrifices of those who have cheerfully given their lives to the cause of the country should inspire all to remain true to that cause. We have to continue the conflict while he has achieved his victories. Bishop Clark closed with the words "Brother, go home; for thee the field is won."

The procession was reformed, when the services were closed, and the procession moved in its former order, under direction of General Casey, through Pennsylvania avenue to the railroad depot, and the remains, attended by the widow and her friends, including Hon. John B. Alley and the General's faithful body guard, were conveyed in a special train at three o'clock to Salem, Mass.

All the flags in the city were displayed at half mast during the day and the sorrow was universal.

ARMY PROMOTIONS.

The President, in addition to the officers promoted for gallant conduct, has nominated Brigadier General Thomas to be a Major General, as a recognition of his late eminent services in Kentucky.

Also Colonel Harvey Brown, to be a Brigadier General by brevet.

Major Arnold, to be Lieutenant Colonel by brevet.

Captain Hildt, to be Major by brevet.

Major Tower, to be Lieutenant Colonel by brevet.

Captains Allen, Chaflin, Closson, Robertson, Blunt, Duryea and Langdon, to be Majors by brevet; and First Lieutenants McFarland, Shipley, Jackson, Pennington, Seeley, Frank E. Taylor and Todd, to be Captains by brevet.

The following heroes of Mill Springs were nominated by the President for promotion:—Wm. C. Kice, brevet Colonel; Gustavus Kammerling, brevet Lieutenant Colonel; Robert L. McCook, Brigadier General; M. D. Manson, Brigadier General; Horatio P. Van Cove, Brigadier General; S. S. Fry, Brigadier General.

ARMY APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

CAPTAINS UNITED STATES ARMY.

T. E. Noell, Missouri, Nineteenth infantry.
W. J. Slidell, Sixteenth infantry.

SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

R. Clarke, Second artillery.
W. C. Green, of Pennsylvania, First infantry.
W. N. Tisdall, of Pennsylvania, First infantry.
George M. Randall, of Pennsylvania, Fourth infantry.
Henry W. Paterson, of Pennsylvania, Fourth infantry.
F. H. Wilson, of Pennsylvania, Fifth infantry.
J. P. Schiendell, of Pennsylvania, Sixth infantry.
S. G. Penny, of Pennsylvania, Ninth infantry.
F. E. Sellers, of Pennsylvania, Tenth infantry.
Samuel J. Franks, of Pennsylvania, Eighth infantry.
J. S. Hoyer, of Pennsylvania, First cavalry.
W. K. Pollock, of Pennsylvania, First artillery.
J. S. Dickson, of Pennsylvania, Third artillery.
E. R. Ames, of Maryland, Third infantry.

FIRST LIEUTENANTS.

E. A. Muhlenburg, of Pennsylvania, Fourth artillery.
C. L. Fitzhugh, of Pennsylvania, Fourth artillery.
H. B. Livingstone, of Pennsylvania, Eleventh infantry.
J. M. Wallace, of Pennsylvania, Eighteenth infantry.
W. H. Bartholomew, of Pennsylvania, Sixteenth infantry.
C. L. Truman, of New York, Eighteenth infantry.
W. H. Mills, of Missouri, Fourteenth infantry.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERALS, WITH RANK OF MAJOR.

C. G. Halpine, of New York.
George C. Strong, Ordnance Department.
R. M. Copeland, of Massachusetts.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERALS, WITH RANK OF CAPTAIN.

J. H. Liebneau, of New York.
Sergeant J. McCoy, Fifth cavalry
S. F. Barstow, of Massachusetts
G. V. Halsted, of New Jersey.
E. M. Neill
C. T. Gardner, of Oregon.
A. P. Fiske.
R. M. Sawyer, of Wisconsin.
W. Hoffman, of New York.
C. C. Suydam, of New York.
W. T. Clark, of Iowa.
F. W. Ludlow, of Michigan.
Thos. P. Griffing, of New York.
Lyne Starling, of New York.
Jas. H. Strother, of Virginia.
Gustavus Bascom, of New York.
Henry Thall, of Ohio.
Wm. H. Morris, of New York.
John H. Knight, of Delaware.
Jos. Dickinson, of Pennsylvania.
Jacob R. Freeze, of New Jersey.
Robert Chandler, of Wisconsin.
John M. Norvell, of Michigan.
J. A. Rawlins, of Illinois.
Geo. E. Flynt, of New York.
Frederick T. Locke.
Louis Richmond, of Rhode Island.
Francis A. Walker, of Massachusetts.
Sergeant Major Gustavus Urban, Fifth cavalry.
William D. Sedgwick.
Joseph Howland, of New York.
Charles Kingsbury, of Ohio.
Henry W. Smith, of Michigan.
Edward C. Baird, of Pennsylvania.
Fred. D. Sewall, of Maine.
E. Sparrow Furdy, of New York.
Charles W. Foster, of Massachusetts.
Isaac Moses, of New York.
Clarence H. Dyer, of Illinois.
John M. Wright.
J. S. Gregory, of Dakota.
Leonard D. H. Currie, District of Columbia.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTERS, WITH RANK OF CAPTAIN.

Samuel Ringwalt, of Pennsylvania.
G. Nelson Smith, of Pennsylvania.
William R. Downing, of Pennsylvania.
Vincent Phelps, of Pennsylvania.
J. W. Beazell, of Pennsylvania.
Samuel G. Meigs, of Pennsylvania.
W. J. Kountz, of Pennsylvania.
John M. Hale, of Pennsylvania.
E. M. Livermore, of Massachusetts.

COMMISSARIES, WITH RANK OF CAPTAIN.

M. L. McPherson, of Iowa.
J. Thornton, of Ohio.
John Spicer.
W. P. Faust.
George H. Wood, of Minnesota.
Lewis G. Haling, of Pennsylvania.
Nathaniel Ellmaker, of Pennsylvania.
Edward Martindale, of New Jersey.
Alexander M. Lloyd, of Pennsylvania.
James M. Wilson, of New York.
Richard T. Auchmuty, of New York.
Thomas J. Newsham, of Illinois.
Thomas G. Hopt, of New York.
Henry Clay, of Kentucky.
Hazard Stevens, of Washington Territory.
William H. Scheater, of Indiana
Frederick Jneffler, of Indiana.
Caroll H. Potter, of Massachusetts.
James E. Montgomery, of Pennsylvania.
Theodore Read, of Illinois.
Charles I. Powers.
Daniel McCook, of Kansas.
Placidus Ord, of California.
Southard Hoffman, of New York.
George D. Kellogg, of Illinois.
George A. Hicks, of Massachusetts.
William Van Deusen, of New York.
H. Clay McDowell, of Kentucky.
Sylvanus B. Hence.
Henry Z. Curtis, of Iowa.
William C. George, of Indiana.

ADDITIONAL [illegible]

John M. Pomeroy, of Pennsylvania; [illegible] C. Hanna, of Pennsylvania; M. L. Martin, Wisconsin; Chas. J. Sprague, of California; Jas. H. Phinney, of Pennsylvania; Columbus S. Stevenson, of Indiana; Wm. Smith, of Vermont; Wm. G. Terrel, of Kentucky; O. S. Witherill, of Indiana; Martin L. Bundy, of Indiana; John A. L. Morrell, of Pennsylvania; Thos. B. B. Oakley, of New York; Marks Hooper, of Pennsylvania; Hoyt Sherman, of Iowa; Frank M. Etting, of Pennsylvania; Jno. Allison, of Pennsylvania; Richard P. L. Baber, of Ohio; Philip Speed, of Kentucky; L. P. Thurston, of Kentucky; W. C. H. Sherman, of New York; Alvin Walker, of New York; Wm. M. Wiley, of Pennsylvania; Wm. E. Hoey, of New York; Alex. B. Williams, of New York; Robert S. Webb, of New York; Truman G. Wright, of Wisconsin; Jno. A. Lowry, of Indiana; Wm. H. Johnston, of Ohio; Henry J. Adams, of Kansas; James C. Yohn, of Indiana; Benj. F. Watson, of Massachusetts; Nicholas Vedder, of Illinois; O. Holman, of Massachusetts; Wm. Tillman, Michigan; Wm. Larned, Illinois; Russell Merritt, Pennsylvania; Geo. F. Emway, Massachusetts; Thos. M. Burt, New York; Frank Bridgeman, Iowa; Julian O. Mason, Massachusetts; John W. Newell, New Jersey; Ira L. Hewitt, Texas; Henry V. Sullivan, Illinois; Wm. J. Martin, New Mexico; Rufus Chemey, Wisconsin; Robert Smythe, Iowa.

BRIGADE SURGEONS OF VOLUNTEERS.

E. F. Sawyer, R. R. Smith, M. Clyner, John T. Carpenter, Thos. H. Lache, A. P. Haybert, W. G. Lowman, Dante Meeker, J. H. Grove, D. J. McKibbin, J. B. Peale, James Bryan, Wm. Hayes, and R. A. Christian, of Pennsylvania

MILITARY STOREKEEPER.

H. A. Brigham.

GENERAL SICKLES' NOMINATION.

In executive session of the Senate to-day, the Military Committee reported adversely upon the nomination of Brigadier General Daniel E. Sickles.

NAVAL PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The following appointments were confirmed by the Senate to-day:—

Captain Charles H. Bell, Flag Officer Pacific squadron.

Captain W. W. McKean, Flag Officer Gulf blockading squadron.

Captain Louis M. Goldsborough, Flag Officer Pacific North Atlantic blockading squadron.

Captain Samuel F. Dupont, Flag Officer South Atlantic blockading squadron.

The following Assistant Paymasters of the navy were confirmed:—Edward May, Henry M. Denniston, Richard Washington, Charles W. Hasler, Thomas C. Maston, Rufus Parks, Frank C. Costy, Edwin Stewart, Wm. T. Meredith, Wm. H. Thompson, Joseph A. Smith, Richard H. Douglas, R. Julius Richardson, Lawson C. Merrill, James S. Turnbull, Clifton Hellen, Ambrose J. Clark, Charles E. Hammond, Levi S. Stockwell, George Cochrane, Thomas S. Caswell, George A. Sawyer, Caspar Schenck, Wm. W. Williams, Francis C. Upton, Judson S. Post, Wm. H. Weldon, Charles Hay, Jr., Arthur J. Pritchard, Ben F. Camp, Jr.

J. J. Witzig, E. M. Shield and Thomas B. Stillman, were confirmed as inspectors of steamboats.

CIVIL APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The following were confirmed as Postmasters to-day:—B. L. Cult, Hannibal, Mo.; T. Good, Allentown, Pa.; L. Smith, Watertown, N. Y.; P. H. Agan, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. R. Bacon, Leroy, N. Y.; C. O. Eastman, Claremont, N. H.; T. K. Ware, Fitchburg, Mass.

The following named Consuls were confirmed:—J. R. Fairlamb, at Zurich; H. Young, Santa Cruz; Alexander Henderson, Londonderry; Charles H. Edwards, Alicante; Abraham Hanson, Bissao; Elias Wample, Laguayra; Thomas Spencer, Hilo; Wm. H. Evans, Cyprus.

The following were confirmed as Collectors of the Customs:—William W. Mills, at Paso del Norte; L. Haven, Chicago; J. E. Stalker, Annapolis, Md.; Wm. L. Ashmore, Burlington, N. J.; Charles A. Perkins, Oswego, N. Y.; Charles F. Swift, Barnstable, Mass.; Nathaniel E. Sargent, Kennebec, Me.

The following Surveyors of the Customs were confirmed:—George Howland, Tiverton, and W. W. Gorton, Patuxet, R. I.; W. Thornberry, Paducah, Ky., and J. R. Meeker, Nesqually, Washington Territory.

The following were also confirmed:—C. W. Chatterson, Indian Agent, Cherokee agency; C. H. Hale, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory; Thomas S. Nelson, Recorder of Land Titles in Missouri; S. R. Ganeson, Receiver of Public Moneys for Nebraska; H. Stout, Attorney, and J. L. Gibbs, Marshal, of Utah; E. D. Shattuck, Attorney for Oregon; W. Wasson, Marshal for Nevada.

PRESENTATION TO SURGEON CLARK.

A fine sword, sash and belt, and a splendid pair of Colt's navy revolvers were last evening presented to Surgeon Clark, of the Fourth Michigan regiment, by the patients and attendants in the regimental hospital. In response to the presentation, at which were present nearly all the officers of the regiment and surgeons of contiguous regiments, Dr. Clark, in the course of his remarks, took occasion to speak of the extra dangers to which the surgeon is exposed on the battle field, it being his duty to stay by the wounded although everybody else fled. He dwelt also with eloquent emphasis upon the arduous and unremitting labors of the surgeon in camp. The affair, altogether, passed off very handsomely. Dr. Clark, who, by the way, is a brother of Grace Greenwood, has the reputation of being one of the most industrious and capable surgeons in the volunteer service.

TWO REBEL OFFICERS CAPTURED.

Two rebel officers were captured to-day at Vienna by a detachment of Colonel Averill's cavalry regiment. They were absent on furlough, and were on a visit to friends at that place.

A SOLDIER SHOT BY A SENTINEL.

A Quartermaster's Sergeant of the Second regiment, Sickles' brigade, was shot by a sentinel night before last, and died this morning. He was with the grand rounds, and being in advance of the party, did not give the countersign, and the guard fired upon him.

HOSPITAL RETURNS.

The latest official weekly returns from the government hospitals present the following figures:—Seminary Hospital, Georgetown, 138; General Hospital, Union Hotel, Georgetown, 170; Columbian College, Washington, 200; General Hospital, "Circle," do., 60; St. Elizabeth Hospital, do., 118; hospital for eruptive diseases at Kalorama, 78; Patent Office Hospital, do., 50; Fifth Street Hospital, do., 5; General Hospital, Eckington, 26; Douglas Hospital, 66; Alexandria Hospital, 317; total, 1,237. Of these 333 belong to New York and 240 to Pennsylvania volunteers.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH EASTERN VIRGINIA.

Postal communication is entirely reopened to Accomac and Northampton counties, Virginia.

FREE DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN CITIES.

The Post Office Department is ready to establish, as soon as Congress shall give the authority, free delivery in cities, with uniform rates of postage for local and general letters.

CHARLES HENRY FOSTER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, AGAIN AN APPLICANT FOR A SEAT IN CONGRESS.

Charles Henry Foster has returned to Washington, and again presented his petition for a seat as member from the Second Congressional district of North Carolina. The case is before the Committee on Elections.

PRESENTATION TO COLONEL COWDIN.

Colonel Robt. Cowdin, of the First Massachusetts Volunteers, was presented on Wednesday with a magnificent sword, sash, belt and pair of epaulets. The presentation was made by Mr. Lewis Mason, of Boston, on behalf of the friends and neighbors of Colonel Cowdin, who replied in an eloquent and appropriate manner.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The Military Committee of the House held a special meeting next Monday, to listen to suggestions from Rev. Dr. Bellows, of New York, respecting the Sanitary Commission.

IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.

Skirmish Near Columbus—The Enemy Dispersed by the Gunboats—Heavy Firing in the Direction of New Madrid—40,000 Rebels Reported at That Point, &c., &c.

CHICAGO, March 6, 1862.

A special to the *Tribune* from Cairo says:—The federal pickets at Columbus were driven in yesterday by the rebel cavalry. The woods in the vicinity of the town were shelled by the gunboats. The rebels fled.

It is reported that heavy cannonading was heard at Columbus at four o'clock this morning, in the direction of New Madrid. The rebel army at that point numbers 40,000 men, having been largely reinforced from Columbus and Memphis. They also have eight wooden gunboats.

News from Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 5, 1862.

The gunboat Mount Vernon has arrived from the blockade off Wilmington.

A flag of truce was sent to Craney Island to-day, but has not yet returned.

The wind to-day is northwest.

Arrival of Rebel Officers at Fort Warren.

BOSTON, March 6, 1862.

Forty-nine rebel officers, from Fort Donelson, reached this city this morning, in charge of a detachment of the Ohio Twentieth. They are principally from Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, and comprise all the colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors captured. They were sent to Fort Warren.

The Kansas Legislature and the Pacific Railroad.

LEAVENWORTH, March 6, 1862.

The Kansas Legislature have adopted a resolution nearly unanimously instructing the Kansas Senators and requesting the representatives in Congress to aid the passage of the Rollins' Pacific Railroad bill, and a ratification of the treaty with the Pottowatamie Indians.

Michigan Democratic State Convention.

DETROIT, Mich., March 6, 1862.

The Democratic State Convention met in this city yesterday, and organized by electing W. H. Riley, of St. Joseph county, permanent President. The attendance was very large. Fully five hundred delegates were present and the proceedings were harmonious throughout. It was deemed inexpedient to nominate candidates for State officers at this time. Resolutions were passed expressive of the position of the democracy of Michigan in the present crisis, promising to support the government in all constitutional means to suppress the rebellion, and opposing the termination of the war until all resistance to the government everywhere ceases. Abolitionism is strongly denounced as equally guilty with Southern secessionism, and the speedy extinguishment of both is hoped for. Also approving the modification of General Fremont's proclamation, Secretary Cameron's report, and the appointment of the present Secretary of War, as indications that the President will adhere to the constitution. Also denouncing corruption and extravagance, and demanding honesty and economy in the administration of the government.

THE SOUTHWEST PASS FILLING UP.—A letter received in Boston from on board the United States frigate Colorado, off the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi, states that the Pass is filling up fast, with the prospect that in another month or two the mud will effectually blockade it. There are scant two fathoms of water on the bar now. The battering ram Manassas has made its appearance at Pass a l'Outre two or three times, but her commander has not deemed it expedient to attack our vessels.

IMPORTANT FROM GEN. BANKS' ARMY.

The Rebels in Full Force at Winchester.

Bunker Hill Occupied by the Union Troops.

SKIRMISHES WITH THE ENEMY.

The Work on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, &c., &c., &c.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 6, 1862.

Reliable intelligence states that the rebels are in full force at Winchester. They have completed formidable earthworks on this side, mounted with sixty guns, including field batteries.

Nothing of special importance transpired yesterday.

The work on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad progresses rapidly, and every point is strongly protected, from Cumberland to Harper's Ferry, and every facility is being afforded to the company. A large force is employed on the bridge and iron trestle work at the Ferry. The work has been found in better condition than was at first supposed by the engineer, and ten days is fixed as the time at which through connection can be made.

All the commands of this division are in the best condition and anxious for an attack by the enemy.

Bunker Hill was occupied by our forces yesterday, as the extreme outpost on the west.

There is some movement of troops to-day.

A scouting party of cavalry reports that Ashby's rebel cavalry last night attempted to cut them off when near Berryville, but were foiled in the attempt.

Four regiments, with a four gun battery, attempted on the 3d instant to flank Colonel Geary near Lovettsville, but were driven off without a battle.

Yesterday several deserters were brought into town by the cavalry. Among them was Lieutenant Arthur Markell, of the Fifth Virginia Volunteers.

A squad of the Van Alen cavalry to-day captured a rebel picket, five in number, near Bunker Hill. They belonged to the Second Virginia infantry. The prisoners were carried before the division Provost Marshal, Lieutenant Colonel Andrews, of the Massachusetts Second, for examination.

CHARLESTOWN, March 6—8 P. M.

Smithfield, seven miles northwest of this place, was occupied to-day by a strong force.

General Banks has issued a General Order forbidding all kinds of depredations or marauding upon the property of citizens. He says no officer or soldier shall disturb in any manner the ordinary business of the country. He has appointed Major S. H. D. Crane, of the Wisconsin Third, as the officer in charge of all seizures of property for the use of the army.

Country supplies, which on our arrival were cut off, are now coming in more freely.

Public sentiment in regard to our presence is gradually undergoing a favorable change, and faces which scowled upon the Union soldiers now smile in pleasant intercourse with the officers and men.

The army storehouses here are fast filling up with confiscated articles of produce and manufactures, and such as are required are being issued to the army.

The seizures to day include five hundred and seventy barrels of flour, and two hundred bushels of wheat, the latter in bags, marked "Confederate States."

INTERESTING FROM TENNESSEE.

Our Clarksville Correspondence.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 25, 1862.

Arrival of the Union Troops—Rebel Flag of Truce with Medical Officers—What They Wanted—The News from Nashville—The Rebel Outrages There Condemned by the Rebel Sympathizers of that City—The Losses at Fort Donelson, &c., &c.

On the 22d inst. considerable quantities of military stores, ammunition and commissary goods have been seized by the military. A detachment of the troops found a wagonload of rebellious powder in a barn, two miles east of the city, concealed in the hay. The greater portion of such stores were destroyed by the rebels before the arrival of the gunboats. Some of it has been carted off since. Some cattle and mules have been found; but very little of the military equipments and stores found will be of any service. On the same evening the steamer Hillman came down from Nashville, bearing a white and yellow flag, and having on board eleven medical gentlemen. The object of the visit was twofold—to convey to Nashville the wounded rebels who are in the hospitals here, and, in case they were not permitted to do so, to give them such medical attention as they might need. As they were unaccompanied by any military officer, being all civilians, and were in no manner authorized to promise the return of an equal number of our wounded so hastily hurried to Nashville, they were not permitted to remove any of them, and to-day they were sent back with their flags. It had the appearance of a pretty cool piece of impudence; but, then, it is a way these Southern gentlemen have of doing business. Some of them seem to think that they have but to ask and they will receive. They have learned some of the usages of war by the expedition, just as General Grant learned how to deal with Southern generals when he sent a boatload of the Belmont wounded to Pillow, and was delayed three weeks in obtaining an exchange.

From these gentlemen and from Union sources I learn that a most terrible state of affairs exists in Nashville. Soon after the intelligence of the surrender of Fort Donelson was received the military authorities commenced the destruction of the different bridges in the city. Public meetings were held, petitions presented, committees waited upon the military, all asking that the destruction be stopped, but all to no purpose, the work of destruction proceeding until, it is said, not a bridge remains. A panic, induced by the same causes which produced the panic in this city, and increased by the sudden retreat of the leading rebels—Governor Harris being the first to leave, and the wanton conduct of the military—gave the whole city over to the wildest disorder and confusion. All law and order, civil and military, was broken up by the cowardly flight of the public guardians. Thousands of citizens made hasty departures from their homes, and an unbridled soldiery commenced pillaging and other outrages. Some of the notorious Texan Rangers, under Forrest, were shot by citizens in attempts to protect their property. It is much to be regretted that our authorities did not at once proceed to Nashville, when they learned that no resistance would be made there. Order would have at once been restored and vast amounts of property have been saved. A gentleman from Nashville, an avowed rebel, said to your correspondent today:—"Our leading men told us that the federals would pillage and destroy our city; but, sir, they could not have served us as badly as we have been by our own soldiery." Such comments are common among the most ultra rebels. The marked contrast between the military rule of our authorities here and that to which they have been subjected by the officers of the rebellion is producing a marked effect upon the public mind. Men are thinking and beginning to talk of the security and liberty they enjoyed under the old government, and to contrast it with the losses and wrongs which have followed their attempted change. Public opinion, which was manufactured by falsehood and stimulated by prejudice, is slowly working back into its old channels, becoming calm and right. The old attachment to the Union, which once gave a vote of sixty-four thousand majority against secession, and has been smothered, is being rekindled; and, so soon as the din of arms shall cease, the rebel leaders, being either prisoners or refugees, Tennessee will be as true to the Union as of old.

I send you herewith as near an estimate of the killed and wounded at the Fort Donelson battles as I have been able to make. It is very nearly correct:—

Regiments.	*Killed.*	*Wounded.*
Eleventh Illinois	76	200
Eighteenth Illinois	45	155
Seventh Illinois	4	24
Twelfth Iowa	3	20
Fifty-eighth Ohio	—	3
Fourteenth Iowa	6	50
Second Iowa	38	150
Ninth Illinois	35	165
Forty-first Illinois	17	130
Twentieth Illinois	21	118
Thirtieth Illinois	19	71
Eighth Illinois	56	198
Thirty-first Illinois	40	200
Eleventh Indiana	2	7
Fifty-second Illinois	—	6
Forty-fifth Illinois	3	15
Twenty-fifth Indiana	5	30
Seventeenth Illinois	2	27
Forty-fifth Illinois	2	10
Forty-fourth Indiana	5	30
Twelfth Illinois	20	58
Seventy-sixth Ohio	6	7
Taylor's Battery	1	4
Irish Sharpshooters	2	5
Forty-ninth Illinois	11	29
Total	420	1,712

This table is short of our actual loss. It includes, however, the regiments which were most actively engaged and suffered the most. The Eleventh Illinois, which lost, killed and wounded, 276 men, only took into the field 585 men, rank and file. Two hundred and fifty wounded and well prisoners were taken to Nashville. Two of the Eighth Illinois have died in the hospital at this place.

Gen. William Nelson's division passed up the Cumberland on seventeen large transports yesterday—colors flying, bands playing, and the men all enthusiastically eager for the fray.

The following characteristic orders have just been promulgated in this division. They will show the determination of our general officer to restore perfect order:—

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 7.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
FORT DONELSON, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1862.

[EXTRACT.]

Tennessee by her rebellion having ignored all laws of the United States, no courts will be allowed to act under State authority, but all cases coming within the reach of the military arm will be adjudicated by the authorities the government has established within the State.

Martial law is, therefore, declared to extend over West Tennessee. Whenever a sufficient number of citizens return to their allegiance to maintain law and order over the territory, the military restriction here indicated will be removed.

By order of Major General U. S. GRANT.
JOHN A. RAWLINS, Assistant Adjutant General.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 11.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION,
DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 24, 1862.

The sale of any spirituous or intoxicating liquor in any quantity is prohibited. Should any one violate this order he will be placed under guard, for trial by court martial, and his liquor seized and held for hospital purposes.

By order of Brigadier General C. F. SMITH.
THOS. J. NEWSHAM, Assistant Adjutant General.

Our Nashville Correspondence.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 28, 1862.

*The Arrival of the Union Troops at Nashville—The Destruction of the Bridges Ordered by the Retreating Rebels—The Order Carried Out—The Boats Ordered to be Burned—The Rebel Stores Shipped to Atlanta—The Rebels Ret