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VOLUME XXVII.....NO. 69

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—COLLIER LAWS—HOW TO PAY THE RENT. WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 344 Broadway.—THE WOODEN SHOE. LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARY MORTIMER. NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—ANCE OF THE ATTORNEY.—FRANCIS SUTHERLAND. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS. BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COX NUTT—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, WALKER, &c. at 4 o'clock.—SARAH ANNE—BALLET OF THE FUTURE. BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broadway.—DORIS IS OLD IN FAY. HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Sullivan Institute, No. 659 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c. MELODEON CONCERT HALL, 339 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BELLESQUES, &c.—OVERLAND CONVENTION. GANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, BELLESQUES, &c.—INAUGURATION BALL. GALETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLET, FANTOMES, FARCES, &c. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BALLET, FANTOMES, &c.—ROBERT MACAULAY. CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—BELLINI'S OPERA, DANCES, &c.—FRODOLOV. PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M. NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BELLINI'S OPERA, DANCES, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, March 11, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

Our record of the progress of the war to-day is full of cheerfulness and hope. The rebels are falling back from the lines of the Potomac in every direction. They have evacuated Winchester, on the left wing of their line, before the advancing troops of Gen. Banks' division. Centreville, in the centre of their position, is also abandoned; the whole line of the Lower Potomac, with all its formidable batteries, is evacuated, and it is confidently reported and gains full credence in Washington, that the rebels have withdrawn from their almost impregnable position at Manassas. This movement was looked upon in Washington yesterday as a virtual abandonment of Virginia. Certain it is that the retreat from all the points which the rebels have hitherto occupied on the Potomac, is a measure which will prove of the utmost moment to the interests of the country. Without being more explicit we may state this with confidence.

We publish to-day the full details of the great naval conflict of Newport's News, from our own correspondents and other sources, in which the gigantic iron-clad steamer Merrimac was disabled and driven back by the Union iron-clad battery Monitor. Our account will be found to embrace all the particulars of the battle, together with sketches of the services of the officers engaged, and plans of the Merrimac and Monitor. The former we give in sections, showing her internal construction. Of our own splendid title floating battery we only give an outside view, which the rebels had ample opportunity to study during the action, not wishing to display her interior just at present, lest it may prove useful to the enemy. From the valuable services rendered by the Monitor the necessity of hastening the completion of the two other iron-clad gunboats ordered to be constructed for the government becomes apparent. Three of these craft were ordered to be built, including the Monitor, which was to be fitted up in New York within a hundred days, another at Mystic, within four months, which time is now about up, and another at Philadelphia, which ought to be completed by June or July. It becomes of the utmost importance now to know when these boats will be ready for service. The Monitor, it will be seen, was ready up to time, and has already made her mark. In addition to these boats there are two of the Stevens batteries—one the original large one, and another smaller one—here, which can be both completed in a few weeks' time, if the government concludes to secure their services, and we think it ought to do so without delay.

Our news from Missouri is glorious. An official despatch was received by General McClellan last night from General Halleck announcing the complete route and defeat of the combined rebel armies of Generals Price, McCulloch, Van Dorn and McIntosh, near Boston Mountains, in Arkansas, by the Union army under General Curtis. The victory was a brilliant one, and dispersed the rebel forces in that quarter. The fight lasted three days. Our loss is said to be a thousand killed and wounded, and that of the rebels is considerably more. A large quantity of stores, flags, guns and ammunition were captured by Gen. Curtis. Our cavalry was in rapid pursuit of the flying rebels. The energy of General Curtis is worthy of all praise.

We also learn that General Pope's forces have invested New Madrid. Heavy firing was heard in that direction on Sunday and the capture of the place was hourly expected. Gunboats were going down from St. Louis to sustain General Pope. Torpedoes, to the number of four hundred, were found in the river and on the banks, prepared to blow up our gunboats. New Madrid, in all probability, has fallen by this time.

The naval expedition of Commodore Dupont has accomplished a splendid feat on the Southern coast by the capture of Brunswick, Ga., and Fernandina, Fla., which gives the government command of the whole coast of Georgia, from South Carolina to Florida. On the approach of our fleet at Brunswick the rebels fled, abandoning their works, which were taken possession of by our troops. The fleet then proceeded twenty miles further South, and entered Cumberland Sound, the entrance to Fernandina, and drove the rebels from Fort Clinch, which was immediately occupied and the Union flag hoisted. The mission of the expedition was accomplished on the 4th of March. The troops of General Wright took possession of the Fort and the town of Fernandina, most of the in-

habitants of which had fled. We give to-day a map of this coast, showing the results of our victory.

The rebels, after being driven from one strong point to another in Tennessee, are said to be making a grand stand at Chattanooga, a place of great natural strength, and the concentrating point of four important railroads. We give to-day a map of the vicinity, and detailed description of all the leading features of that region.

A terrible panic, consequent upon the approach of the Union forces, exists in Memphis. Forts Randolph and Pillow were being put in a state of defence for the protection of the city. The Legislature has fled, and Governor Harris is in a deplorable state of anxiety and terror.

We learn from a reliable source that shortly before the reported battle near Fort Craig, on the 21st of February, two companies of Union troops were ordered to garrison Fort Wise, and that almost simultaneously with the reported conflict, the remainder of the troops, consisting of 1,200 men, left Denver City for Santa Fe—the seat of war. It is the opinion of our informant that they must have arrived in time to reinforce Kit Carson. All was quiet at Denver, and the people felt able to protect themselves. The Indians did not give much trouble to the whites, but the Camanches and Arapahaps were about going to war with the Sioux.

The United States schooner Samuel B. Rontan, from Ship Island for Philadelphia, remained at anchor in the roadstead at Lewes, Delaware, on the 8th instant, having on board the prize cargo of the Confederate steamer Calhoun, which she captured off the Southwest Pass. It consists of fifty tons of powder, two hundred and fourteen bags coffee, some iron, steel, quinine and brandy.

By the City of Washington at this port, we have files of European papers dated to the 27th of February, four days later. The English journals do not contain one editorial on American affairs—a very remarkable, perhaps significant fact—for it would appear as if their editors had at length found themselves as powerless against the integrity of the Union as are the rebels of the South, and, hence, concluded to leave our affairs alone.

The Commander of the privateer Sumter has been arrested by the Moorish authorities at Tangier, but we are not informed as to the cause. The Liverpool Courier of the 26th ultimo says:—"The ground upon which the arrest was made is not explained, but, from the fact that it was made at the request of the North American Consul, we may surmise that it was on the allegation that Captain Semmes is a common marauder and pirate." The Dublin Freeman of the 27th ultimo remarks:—"The arrest was made at the instance of the federal Consul at Gibraltar, and of the captain of the federal steamer Tuscarora, who proceeded to Tangiers, in order to influence the Moorish authorities, and who seem to have found the Moors more compliant than Christian nations, and more ready to regard the laws of nations as binding than to aid the Northerners against the South erners."

A full report of the speeches delivered at the American fete in London on Washington's Birthday will be found elsewhere.

A Vienna letter to the London Times states that the acceptance by the Archduke Maximilian of the throne of Mexico, at the instance of Napoleon, is embarrassing to Austria already. People think that some sacrifice must be made to Italy, in return, by Francis Joseph, and they do not relish the idea. Spain is jealous that one of her Bourbon's "out of place" did not enjoy the chance; and the Emperor of Austria is troubled with the dread that if his near relative should get assassinated in Mexico, it will be said that he wished to get rid of him: whereas, if he sends Austrian troops to protect him there, his subjects at home will complain of the additional army expenditure.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, petitions were presented for the employment of homeopathic surgeons in the army, in favor of a bankrupt act, in favor of the emancipation of slaves, against any abridgement of the liberty of the press, and also asking that "democratic newspapers now excluded from the mails, whose editors are not convicted of treason, be allowed the same privileges as abolition newspapers." A bill providing for the fulfilment of treaty stipulations with Hanover was introduced from the Foreign Relations Committee and passed. The bill to provide for carrying the mails to foreign countries was reported back to the Senate with amendments. A bill was introduced from the Military Committee, providing for bounty and pensions to soldiers and officers of the Western Department. A joint resolution, requiring higher qualifications for commanders of military divisions, was introduced and referred to the Military Committee. Objection was made to the introduction of a joint resolution coinciding with the proposition in the President's late special Message for aid to States desiring to emancipate their slaves. The bill to encourage enlistments in the army was taken up, and after considerable discussion amendments were adopted reducing the number of volunteer cavalry regiments to thirty, and striking out the provision giving bounty for enlistments from the volunteer into the regular service, when the bill was passed. The Confiscation bill was taken up, and Mr. Browning, of Illinois, addressed the Senate. But no final action was taken on the subject. A vote of thanks to Commodore Foote was passed. The bill making a new Article of War, to the effect that no officer of the army shall return fugitive slaves, was taken up, debated, and finally passed by twenty-nine yeas to nine nays, when the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the Senate bill to regulate the sutler department in the volunteer service was taken up, and after a long debate, and being amended, was passed. It requires schedules of articles permitted to be sold to be prominently posted in the camps, and prohibits soldiers from farming out their offices or selling to soldiers for an amount exceeding one-fourth their monthly pay. A resolution to forward the proposition of the President's special Message relative to aiding States which desire to abolish slavery was introduced, and a long debate on it took place, consuming the greater portion of the day; but the House adjourned without taking final action on it.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship City of Washington, from Liverpool, reached this port early yesterday morning. Her news is four days later.

Consols rated in London on the 27th of February at 93 1/2 for money. Cotton closed in Liverpool on the 27th of February at 11, with prices unchanged. The sale of the day footed up ten

thousand bales. Breadstuffs remained dull. Provisions were quiet, but steady.

The steamship Hammonia, from Hamburg on the 23d and Southampton the 26th of February, arrived at this port last night. Her advices are anticipated by the City of Washington.

Both the Senate and Assembly of our State Legislature were in session last evening, and considerable routine business was gone through with, but owing to the crowded state of our columns this morning, from the pressure of war news, we are obliged to omit an extended notice of the proceedings.

The schooner Memento, lying at the government dock, foot of Murray street, North river, is now loading subsistence stores for Hatteras Inlet. The bark Texas, at the same dock, is taking in provisions, hay and ammunition—destination not known.

The cotton market was active and excited yesterday, and closed at a further advance in prices. The sales embraced 2,500 bales, on the basis of 20c. In the forenoon, South sales in the afternoon at 30c. for middling uplands. Pimms took about 1,000 bales, and speculators a good portion of the remainder. The parcels left on the market for sale were very much reduced, and firmly held. The flour market was heavy and sales light. The demand was confined to the home trade while prices fell off 5c. a 10c. per bbl. for some kinds, especially for some grades of Western. What was in fact and sales extremely limited, while prices were irregular. Choice milling lots of white were scarce and in request, while there was no export demand. Corn was heavy, with sales of mixed at 69c. a 60c., in store, and 61c., delivered. Pork was dull and heavy, with sales at \$14 a \$14 1/2 for new mess, closing at the inside figure, and new prime at \$10 6 1/2 a \$10 7 1/2. Sugars were steady, with sales of 275 hhds., 136 do. melado, and 700 boxes, on terms given in another column. Coffee was quiet, but firm. Freight was unchanged and engagements moderate.

Another Glorious Victory—The Contracting Lines of the Rebellion—The Great Rebel Army of Virginia Falling Back.

Another glorious victory has crowned the Union arms in the West, adding one more to the catalogue of successes which have been following upon each other in all quarters for the last few weeks. An official despatch from General Halleck reached headquarters last night, announcing that General Curtis has defeated the combined rebel armies of Generals Price, McCulloch, Van Dorn and McIntosh, near the Boston Mountains, in Arkansas, after three days' hard fighting, and dispersed them in utter confusion. The rebel army of the extreme West is thus broken up, and Missouri securely protected from further molestation.

Since the battle of Bull run, in July last, the rebels, with an apparently inflexible tenacity, have held fast to their stronghold of Manassas, in front of Washington, and its defensive outposts, right and left, extending a hundred miles along the southern bank of the Potomac river. All this was essential to their continued occupation of the State of Virginia, including their Confederate capital of Richmond. To maintain this, the central and most vital part of their enormous general defensive line, they were too much weakened to protect it at other important points, which, falling into our possession, enable us now to encircle Manassas with our armies.

Realizing, at length, their desperate situation, the rebels, for some days past, have been breaking up their camps along the Potomac and falling back into the interior. Thus Gen. Banks, on the upper division of the river, crossed over and took up his position in the great valley of Virginia without opposition; thus when Colonel Geary crossed over and advanced upon Leesburg, instead of meeting with another Bull's Bluff defeat, he passed on into the occupation of the town and its defences without finding an enemy; thus Winchester, the strongest point on the left wing of the rebel army, has been abandoned; and thus on the Lower Potomac, the other morning, Gen. Hooker, from the Maryland side, discovered that the rebel batteries, which, since last summer, have materially prevented our navigation of the river, were evacuated; and now we have the news that a strongly fortified central camp at Centreville, which looks down upon Bull run, has been abandoned—the enemy thus confessing that, even without a battle, Manassas, like those other strongly fortified camps of Bowling Green and Columbus, has ceased to be tenable.

In addition to this rebel retrograde movement, foreshadowing the speedy expulsion of Jeff. Davis and his spurious Confederate government from Richmond, we have the steady advance of the Burnside expedition upon the rear of Norfolk, and the complete investment of New Madrid by General Pope. At the same time, further south, while one detachment of General Sherman and Commodore Dupont's expedition is closing around Savannah, another detachment has entered and occupied the harbor of Brunswick, in Georgia, and of Fernandina, in Florida—two very important positions in reference to inland operations in that quarter. If necessary, and the suppression of contraband trade.

All these movements unmistakably indicate a speedy end to this rebellion. The loss to it of Tennessee takes away its great protecting barrier in the West; the loss of Columbus, without much further difficulty, opens to us the line of the Mississippi down to New Orleans; and this retrograde movement of the great rebel army of Virginia portends the hegira of Jeff. Davis from Richmond, never to return. The general impression is that he, his government and his armies, will fall back within the limits of the cotton States, and there endeavor to concentrate their diminished armies for a stubborn resistance. But the season for cotton planting is at hand, and upon the question whether they consider their collapsing Southern confederacy, under the circumstances, worth the sacrifice of two crops of cotton—that of last year and that of the present year—the planters, we suspect, will decide in favor of their cotton and their negroes, and revolt against the rebellion.

In any event, the days of this rebellion are numbered, and for the bulk of the cotton crop of the last year the government of the United States will soon provide an outlet for the markets of the world.

Our Late Sea Fight—A Narrow Escape—Secretary Welles Tried and Found Wanting.

Our late sea fight in Hampton Roads is one of the most remarkable and instructive events in the history of modern warfare. It establishes the utter uselessness of wooden ships, with their old fashioned popguns, against iron-plated battering rams and Dahlgren cannon; it shows that almost as by a miracle we have escaped a burning national disgrace; and, most important of all, it shows that the present head of our Navy Department is behind the age, and unequal to the duties of his position and the just demands of the country.

In April last, when the Norfolk Navy Yard was burned by the federal officers in charge, to prevent its immense naval stores from falling into the hands of a rebel mob, ten or more vessels of war, which could not be fired up or towed off in season, were scuttled or burned, including the new steam frigate Merrimac, which was scuttled. The only one of our war vessels in the port which escaped was the Cumberland, which was towed out by a steaming captured a few days before from the enemy. We all know, however, that the rebels had no sooner come into the occupation of Norfolk than they commenced the work of raising the Merrimac, and that they soon succeeded in their undertaking. The fact has since equally notorious to all the world that since August last, down to a month ago, the rebels were employed in converting said ship into an iron-plated bomb-proof battering ram. In common with the public at large, we presume that Secretary Welles was informed a fortnight since that the Merrimac was finished and ready for sea; and that two other rebel steamers, the Yorktown and Jamestown, also provided with an iron casing, were waiting for a dark night or a favorable opening to run our blockade of Hampton Roads and put to sea.

How, then, are we to account for the sorry blockading squadron in Hampton Roads on Saturday morning last, and for the absence of anything in the shape of an iron-plated ship? All the required authority, means and facilities had been possessed by the Secretary of the Navy for half a dozen iron-plated ships. Had he been able to comprehend the necessity and the immense advantages of such vessels, he might have had a half dozen afloat in December last, competent to take Norfolk, Beaufort, North Carolina; Charleston, Savannah, Pensacola, Mobile and New Orleans. At all events, we can find no excuse for the palpable neglect of the blockade of James river, at a time when three iron-plated rebel steamers, shut up in those waters, were watching for a favorable opportunity to run out to sea or to pounce upon and destroy our helpless wooden hulks standing in the way.

Suppose the Ericsson double-keeled, cannon-proof nondescript, the Monitor, with her little cocked hat, revolving and impregnable fort, had been delayed a day or two longer in her passage to Fortress Monroe, are we exaggerating our dangers in saying that the Merrimac might have ascended the Potomac and shelled the President out of the White House; and that the Jamestown and Yorktown, escaping to sea, swift steamers as they are, might have cleaned the whole Atlantic coast of our outgoing and incoming merchantmen? The genius, skill and enterprise of a private citizen have saved us from these dangers and from the disgrace which would have followed the escape of those three rebel vessels from the James river. We have had a narrow escape—so very narrow and so very suggestive that we can afford no longer to trust our navy to any man of the old sailing wooden ship school of Mr. Secretary Welles.

We have realized the difference between a man of ordinary military abilities for an extraordinary crisis and a man of superior energy, activity and military genius, or the difference between Secretary Cameron and Secretary Stanton, as the controlling head of the War Department. From the outset we have insisted that a similar change was the great necessity in the Navy Department—that Mr. Welles was too slow and too strongly attached to the ancient regime for his important situation. We have wanted and now want a man in his place of a quick, active, fresh, vigorous and comprehensive intellect—a zealous, earnest man, who understands the progressive spirit of the times, and who appreciates the wants of the country as a great commercial Power, and who will know how to apply our inexhaustible means and facilities to the creation of a navy equal to all emergencies against domestic conspiracies or foreign combinations.

Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island, is just such a man. He is young, and yet he possesses the matured intellect of a ripe age in years; he is zealous and enthusiastic, but his enthusiasm is regulated by a sound judgment; he is a man of the age we live in, and his ideas in reference to public affairs comprehend all the great mechanical inventions and revolutions of the present century. A prosperous millionaire, through his enterprising business habits, and universally esteemed as a man of rare endowments, and absolutely beyond the range of private speculations upon the public Treasury, Gov. Sprague, we submit, is the man for the Navy Department at this crisis.

We respectfully invite the attention of President Lincoln to the superior qualifications of Gov. Sprague for the duties so bunglingly discharged by Mr. Welles. The venerable Secretary is too old in his notions for the time and the place which he occupies. "A new broom sweeps clean," and to find the new broom wanted for the Navy Department the President need not go farther than the patriotic little State of Rhode Island.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH COLLECTOR BARNEY?—We had supposed that Collector Barney was doing his business well, and avoiding politics. But it seems he does not give satisfaction to the republican journals. What is the matter? Has he retained some democrats not yet got rid of by the clamors of republican politicians? Mr. Barney does not sufficiently play the part of a political partisan in discharging the duties of his office at a time when patriots of every party are sinking party and rallying around our flag. But it appears there are men who do his politics for him, in order to save him the trouble.

Illegal Recruiting. St. CHARLES, N. W., March 10, 1862. A man named Corngall was arrested here to-day, charged with offering inducements to British soldiers to desert and join the American service. He was committed for trial.

A Family Poisoned at Hyde Park. BURLINGTON, N. W., March 10, 1862. The family of William Jordan, residing at Hyde Park, Pa., were poisoned last night by inhaling gas from a coal stove. Two children were found dead and the parents just dying, but they cannot recover.

ANOTHER BRILLIANT VICTORY

Total Defeat of the Rebel Generals Price, McCulloch, Van Dorn and McIntosh.

THREE DAYS HARD FIGHTING

One Thousand Union Troops Killed and Wounded.

THE REBEL LOSS VERY LARGE

OUR CAVALRY PURSUE THE TRAITORS.

ALL HAIL OUR GLORIOUS UNION,

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

The President received to-night a despatch from General Halleck announcing that after a three days' battle at Sugar Creek, in Arkansas, General Curtis had won a complete victory over the combined forces of the rebel leaders Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh. The Union loss is estimated at one thousand killed and wounded. The rebel loss is much greater.

The following is an official despatch to Major General McClellan:—

St. LOUIS, March 10, 1862.

The army of the Southwest, under General Curtis, after three days hard fighting, has gained a most glorious victory over the combined forces of Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh.

Our loss in killed and wounded is estimated at one thousand!

That of the enemy was still larger.

Guns, flags, provisions, &c., were captured in large quantities.

Our cavalry are in pursuit of the flying enemy.

H. W. HALLECK Major General.

The Southwestern Army and Its Movements.

St. LOUIS, March 10, 1862.

The correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat writes as follows:—

Cross HOLLOWAY, Ark., March 1, 1862. Vigorous reconnaissance are kept up to watch the enemy's movements, and foraging parties are active in obtaining supplies. Pork and beef are purchased in the vicinity in abundance, and about half the quantity of flour required is obtained in the same manner, and all our forage.

Price, whose retreat is acknowledged on all hands to have been able to conduct, has found refuge in Boston Mountains. From two detachments who came into camp yesterday, it is ascertained that he is encamped on Cove Creek road, while McCulloch is posted one and a half miles distant. The latter had burned the village near the Indian frontier, known as Can Hill. The supplies of the rebel army are obtained from Van Buren.

It is stated on good authority that Price and McCulloch had a violent quarrel before leaving Cross Holloway. At Fayetteville we found all the telegraphic despatches up to the time of the evacuation by the rebels. A despatch from McClellan to Herbert, in command at Cross Holloway, urges him to press forward, and reinforce Price at Springfield at all hazards, as that point is important to be held by the Confederates.

Ex-Senator Johnson, of Missouri, who opened a recruiting office at Springfield for the rebels, previous to Price's departure, was the first to reach Fayetteville, where he stopped several days.

The clemency of General Curtis, and judicious policy inaugurated in relation to the treatment of the citizens of Benton county, is bringing its reward in the general confidence already showing indications of being restored among fugitives who fled at our approach. Confederate bills, which were twenty-five per cent discount on our arrival in Benton county, have suddenly become valueless, and the inhabitants refuse to take them.

Major Wright learns that the citizens of Keetsville knew of the intended attack on that place, and communicated the intelligence to the rebels, but kept all information of it from Captain Montgomery. On the afternoon before the fight the ladies of the village left, one by one, and during the attack all were out.

Major Wright learns that there are fifty-five hundred rebels in Cedar and Jaded counties, Missouri. These parties are committing depredations and swearing vengeance against Union men.

The health of the troops has been good, particularly on the march.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

REPORTS FROM THE BURNING EXPEDITION—THE ENGAGEMENT AT WINTON, N. C.—HEROIC CONDUCT OF A SEAMAN, &c.

Despatches from Flag Officer Goldsborough, received at the Navy Department to-day, include the report of Commander Rowan, commanding steamer Delaware, who furnishes an interesting account of his reconnaissance: On the 16th of February he moved his forces, and, reaching Winton, was in the act of letting go the anchor, when suddenly a force of North Carolina Volunteers opened a terrific fire of musketry and artillery on his vessel. Volley succeeded volley in rapid succession, striking her one hundred and twenty-five times with musketry, but the enemy's artillery overshot her. Fire was opened on the rebels by the ship's shell gun. The Perry being in position, promptly threw a shell among the forces, which was followed by the ship as soon as Captain Quackenbush could extricate her from her position and turn the ship in the narrow river.

Commander Rowan ran down past the enemy and landed his force about seven miles below Winton. Our troops subsequently entered the town and destroyed a quantity of military stores, tents, arms, knapsacks, &c., and the quarters occupied by the troops of the enemy.

The official report of the casualties in the navy on the taking of Roanoke Island gives the killed as sixty, wounded seventeen and missing two.

Lieutenant J. C. Chapin, commanding the United States steamer Valley City, off Roanoke Island, writes to Commodore Goldsborough, under date of February 25, noting a magnificent act of bravery by John Davis, gunner mate, on board his vessel at the taking of Elizabeth City. He says John Davis was at his station during the action, in the magazine issuing powder, when a shell from the enemy's battery penetrated into the magazine and exploded outside of it. He threw himself over a barrel of powder, protecting it with his own body from the fire, while at the same time passing out the powder for the guns.

Commodore Goldsborough, in transmitting this letter to the Navy Department, says:—"It affords me infinite pleasure to forward this communication to the Navy Department, to whose especial consideration I beg leave to recommend the gallant and noble sailor alluded to," and adds, in a postscript, "Davis actually sealed himself on the barrel, the top being out, and in this position he remained until the flames were extinguished."

THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC. A despatch from Fortress Monroe says that the Merrimac did not make her appearance to-day. The Monitor was honored with salutes and cheers, both from the fort and the fleet. Every body was enthusiastic in her praise for the good services she yesterday rendered.

THE FORTRESS MONROE TELEGRAPH LINE. The telegraph to Fortress Monroe has been fully

pled on governmental business all day, which has prevented the press despatches from coming forward.

There has been no change in the state of affairs at that point.

Every effort will be made to give the names of the killed and wounded at the earliest possible moment.

THE EVACUATION OF MANASSAS. The information in regard to the evacuation of Manassas by the rebels has come from so many reliable sources that it is now generally, though not officially, certified.

There are many theories in regard to the cause of this retreat. The most plausible is that the position was most valuable as a protection to the use of the railroad from Richmond to the counties in the valley of the Upper Potomac, but not nearly so defensible a position as the hills of the Rappahannock, in view of the protection of Richmond and Norfolk. The advance of General Banks upon Winchester, and the abandonment of the programme of invading Maryland and attacking Washington, make the occupation of Manassas comparatively worthless, while the gradual approach of General Buell in the West, and that of General Burnside on the coast, were shutting up all avenues of communication between Virginia and the cotton States.

Those who are familiar with the country entertain the opinion that the rebels have fallen back to make a stand at the Rappahannock; but the prevailing opinion is that the evacuation of Manassas is only preliminary to the evacuation of Virginia.

IMPORTANT FROM THE POTOMAC.

THE FALLING BACK OF THE REBELS.

Evacuation of Centreville and Winchester.

It is currently rumored and believed that Winchester was fully evacuated yesterday.

A reconnaissance is out this morning to ascertain the facts.

The intelligence from other quarters greatly encourages all friends of the Union, as indicating a speedy termination of hostilities.

THE EVACUATION OF CENTREVILLE.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

It is now ascertained beyond a doubt that Winchester has been evacuated by the rebels. The prominent places between here and Winchester are occupied by our troops.

THE RUMORED RETREAT FROM MANASSAS.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

It is rumored and believed here that the rebel army is retreating from Centreville and Manassas.

THE RAISING OF THE POTOMAC BLOCKADE.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

Lieut. Wyman, commanding the Potomac flotilla, in his official report to the Navy Department, confirms the rumor of the abandonment of the rebel batteries at Cockpit, Shipping and other points along the Potomac, and also the burning of the steamer Page and other rebel craft.

Annexed is Lieutenant Wyman's despatch:—

POTOMAC FLOTILLA, March 9—4 P. M.

TO SECRETARY WELLES:—

Sir,—The information which I forwarded to you by telegraph, is, I consider, confirmed. The Cockpit and Shipping Point batteries have been abandoned. They have been shelled for an hour without reply. The enemy have set fire to everything at Shipping Point, and frequent explosions give evidence of the destruction of the ammunition. The fires and explosions extend some distance back between Cockpit and Shipping Point. The Page I believe to have been set fire to and blown up.

Lieutenant R. B. WYMAN, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1862.

On Thursday night a boat, containing two contrabands, crossed over to the Virginia side, and returned with four others—one man and three women—one nearly white, the chattel of a Quartermaster in one of the cotton States troops. She says she heard her master say that twenty horses were killed, and a large number of wagons destroyed by the fire of the Illinois Belle and Satellite on Wednesday. She heard nothing said of any person being killed or wounded.

All Saturday night and Sunday morning our pickets, stationed at the river, reported the constant running of cars on the railroad on the Virginia side of the river, which continued until nearly noon, indicating an movement of some kind on the part of the rebels. The disappearance of the rebel pickets at that time led to the belief that they were abandoning their fortifications on the river and falling back towards Richmond.

At about three o'clock the Anacostia ran out and commenced shelling the rebel battery at Opotomus Nose. She had been shelling nearly an hour when dense smoke was seen issuing from the rebel works at Shipping Point, extending rapidly to the south. A few minutes after, and it was thought the steamer George Page was firing up to run out; but upon turning the glasses to that point flame was discovered issuing from her just forward of the wheel-house, which spread with great rapidity, and soon the whole vessel was wrapped in flames. Meantime the fire had spread over Shipping Point, and had been also applied to the winter quarters of the soldiers on the main land, and the whole vicinity was wrapped in smoke and flame.

During this time the Anacostia continued to shell the upper battery and the adjacent woods. Finding no response, and seeing no one moving, she landed a boat's crew, under cover of her guns. In a few minutes they were seen emerging from the woods and appearing on the ramparts of the rebel battery. They immediately attached their boat flag to the halcyards, and at a quarter past four the Stars and Stripes waved over the "sacred soil" of Virginia, on the same staff which has so long borne the starred and barred rag of the rebels.

Sunday being a day of rest