prompted him. He was on board the Confederate gunboat Raleigh, at the battle of Roanoke Island, where he behaved most gallantly, and had a narrow escape with that vessel through the canal to Norfolk.

On Saturday last, in the same vessel, he accompanied the Virginia (Merrimac), with other steamers, in the attack on the federal fleet near Hampton Roads, and which resulted in one of the most brilliant naval victories on record, sustaining himself through the action with that noble bearing which makes the hero.

After the surrender of the federal frigate Congress, and while the white flag was floating at her masthead, his vessel was ordered to that ship, doubtless for the relief of the wounded. In the performance of this humane mission, the Raleigh was fired into by a regiment of the enemy on shore, and he was shot by a Minie ball, the deadly missile entering the left side and passing out at the right shoulder.

He was seen to advance suddenly a few steps, and then tottering backwards, to fall and expire without a word or a struggle. His remains were brought up to the Naval Hospital and decently encoffined, and on Monday last forwarded to his friends by the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad.

PETERSBURG UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

[From the Petersburg Express.]

The city of Petersburg and the adjoining and surrounding country, to the distance of ten miles, have been placed under martial law, by proclamation of President Davis, and Captain William Pannel appointed Provost Marshal, with instructions to establish forthwith an efficient military police.

This action was in accordance with the desire of the citizens, as expressed in a petition presented to the President.

Volunteering was carried on quite briskly in this city yesterday, and we understand a large number of names were added to the army rolls.

Our Baltimore Correspondence.

BALTIMORE, March 16, 1862.

Plans of the Rebels for the Spring Campaign—Their Naval Preparations—They Hope to Retrieve Their Recent Disasters by a Series of Victories—Additional Facts Respecting the Topography of the Country Now Occupied by the Late Rebel Army of the Potomac—The Fortifications on the Line of the Rappahannock and Rapidan Were Erected Months Ago, &c.

I have been put in possession to-day of the following additional facts in regard to the present position and probable movements of the late rebel army of the Potomac. If true, as I have every reason to believe, they show that that army, nearly 175,000 strong, has been withdrawn to a line that can be defended, for two weeks at least, with half its force, while the other half is to be used for active and immediate offensive operations. It is stated here, on good authority, that a week before the evacuation proper had commenced, Gen. Jos. E. Johnston had detached twenty-five thousand of his best troops by railroad to Suffolk and Weldon, in order to co-operate with another rebel army, near the latter place, in an attack on Gen. Burnside; and that after the evacuation, and after seeing his troops in the proper position on the new defensive line, Gen. Johnston went down to Weldon to take command of this movement, leaving the command of the army on the Rapidan to Gen. Gustavus Smith. It is also said here that, while the Merrimac is the largest, she is by no means the only vessel of the kind, or the most effective one, that the Confederates have; that they have no less than eight of these impenetrable sea monsters nearly ready, and that in a few days they will set sail in company, and inflict a blow upon the North which will entirely change the present aspect of the war. It is asserted positively that the Merrimac is not at all injured, but that she is being fitted with additional apparatus, which will enable her to carry off the Monitor as a prize.

In spite of all that has been said to the contrary, the Confederates are amply able to maintain their second line of defence, along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers, against the advance of the Union army. They have 100,000 troops distributed along this line, as follows:—8,000 at the upper ford of the Rapidan, where the road from Front Royal and Manassas Gap to the town of Orange (through Madison) crosses that stream; 20,000 at the junction of the same stream with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and at the second ford, immediately below; 5,000 at the town of Orange; 5,000 at Gordonsville; 20,000 at a point on the Rapidan, seven miles northeast of the railroad bridge, at the junction just named, where the road from Warrenton to Louisa (through Culpepper) crosses the stream on a wooden bridge; 5,000 at Germania, where the road from Rappahannock to Bowling Green crosses the Rapidan; 5,000 at Ely's ford, four miles from the mouth of the north branch of the Rappahannock; 5,000 at Falmouth; 20,000 at Fredericksburg; 10,000 in front of Newport, and 10,000 at Port Royal. All these compose the right wing of the late army of the Potomac.

The principal fortifications along the rivers are at the points named above. The most extensive are those at Fredericksburg. On these works the labor of a thousand blacks and five thousand soldiers was expended from the middle of May till the 25th of July last. They are now mounted with part of the guns brought from the Potomac river batteries, and it is said that the gunners are sheltered by casemates. The right bank of the river, between Fredericksburg and Port Royal consists of high bluffs, averaging from fifteen to thirty feet high, and for the most part with nearly precipitous sides. The river is five or six hundred feet wide and sixteen to twenty feet deep. It is, therefore, not to be supposed that the Union army could cross between those two points, particularly as the engineers of the rebel army have crowned these bluffs with several strong batteries. For miles around Bowling Green, too, and between that place and Port Royal, the nature of the ground is such (being filled with deep swamps and morasses) that no army could move there. Higher up the river, between Germania and Fredericksburg, there is a series of deep ravines, running at right angles with the stream, the intervening ridges being covered with mounted pieces. Among or along these ravines artillery cannot operate, and without artillery the Union army cannot move. From Germania to the head waters of the Rapidan, and for a distance of from three to five miles south of the stream, the country is an exact counterpart of that just southwest of Washington, namely, ranges of high hills, thickly wooded, and with ravines or passes between.

The natural defences of the line above indicated have been improved to the utmost by the rebel generals, who, for months past, have contemplated the moment when they would be compelled to abandon Manassas.

News from the West Indies.

MOVEMENTS OF THE BRITISH FLEET AT BERMUDA.

[From the Bermuda Royal Gazette, March 11.]

Her Majesty's steam frigate Orlando, 50, Captain Scott, C. B., arrived on Tuesday last from Halifax. The Orlando is the largest frigate in her Majesty's service, being 3,740 tons. Captain Francis Scott, C. B., of her Majesty's ship Orlando, goes home in charge of the Diadem. Captain George Randolph takes command of the Orlando.

Her Majesty's steam sloop Medea, Commander Preston, arrived on Sunday evening from New York.

Her Majesty's ship Orpheus sailed on Thursday for Australia.

Her Majesty's steamer Spiteful, which left here for New York on the 24th ult., returned to port on Friday, having met with terrific weather and sustaining much damage. She had not been able to lay her course for two days of the time she was at sea.

Her Majesty's ship Diadem for England and the Landrail for New York sail to-day.

One of her Majesty's ships will leave in a few days for Halifax.

Her Majesty's ship Racer leaves Hamilton waters to-day.

The four masted transport ship Adelaide, Captain Fraud, in thirty-one days from Plymouth, arrived at Ireland Island on Friday, with the head quarters of the Fifteenth regiment, under the command of Colonel Cole. The Adelaide is bound to St. John, N. B., and will leave in the course of five or six days, after having obtained a supply of provisions and coal. The Adelaide experienced much rough weather on her passage out, and had her bowsprit carried away. The Fifteenth regiment is to be placed under canvass at Ireland Island during the coaling of the Adelaide. The Adelaide left Queenstown early in the year, with the Fifteenth regiment for Canada, but had to put back to Plymouth disabled, since which she has been thoroughly overhauled, and pronounced, after inspection and trial, as being in good condition to resume her voyage. It was intended that she should call at Bermuda.

SEVERE STORM ON THE ISLAND.

[From the Bermuda Royal Gazette, March 11.]

About half past three o'clock on Friday last we experienced an exceedingly severe tornado in this town and immediate neighborhood. The famed Bermuda white squall, of which the tornado last Friday was a very good sample, is well known by the mariners who navigate this part of the world.

The amount of damage was the partial unslating of a storehouse of G. S. Tucker, near the water edge at Waterloo; one of the stores of S. Saltus, occupied by Messrs. Pamleton & Trott; the Hamilton Bakery, the residence of Hon. M. G. Kean and Mrs. H. Frith, and several other places on the north side as far as the Flats, have been slightly injured, and in some places a few cedar trees have been blown down.

The vessels in the harbor were knocked about for a few moments in such a way that we are astonished they did not come to grief. One parted her fastenings from Mrs. Washington's wharf (the Pearl), and carried away the Empire's bowsprit. Her Majesty's ship Racer dragged her anchors a short distance.

A sad accident occurred in the loss of life of a very worthy man named Ben. Williams; he was in a boat that left the wharf for Somerset just before the storm commenced; the boat was sunk and he went down with her.

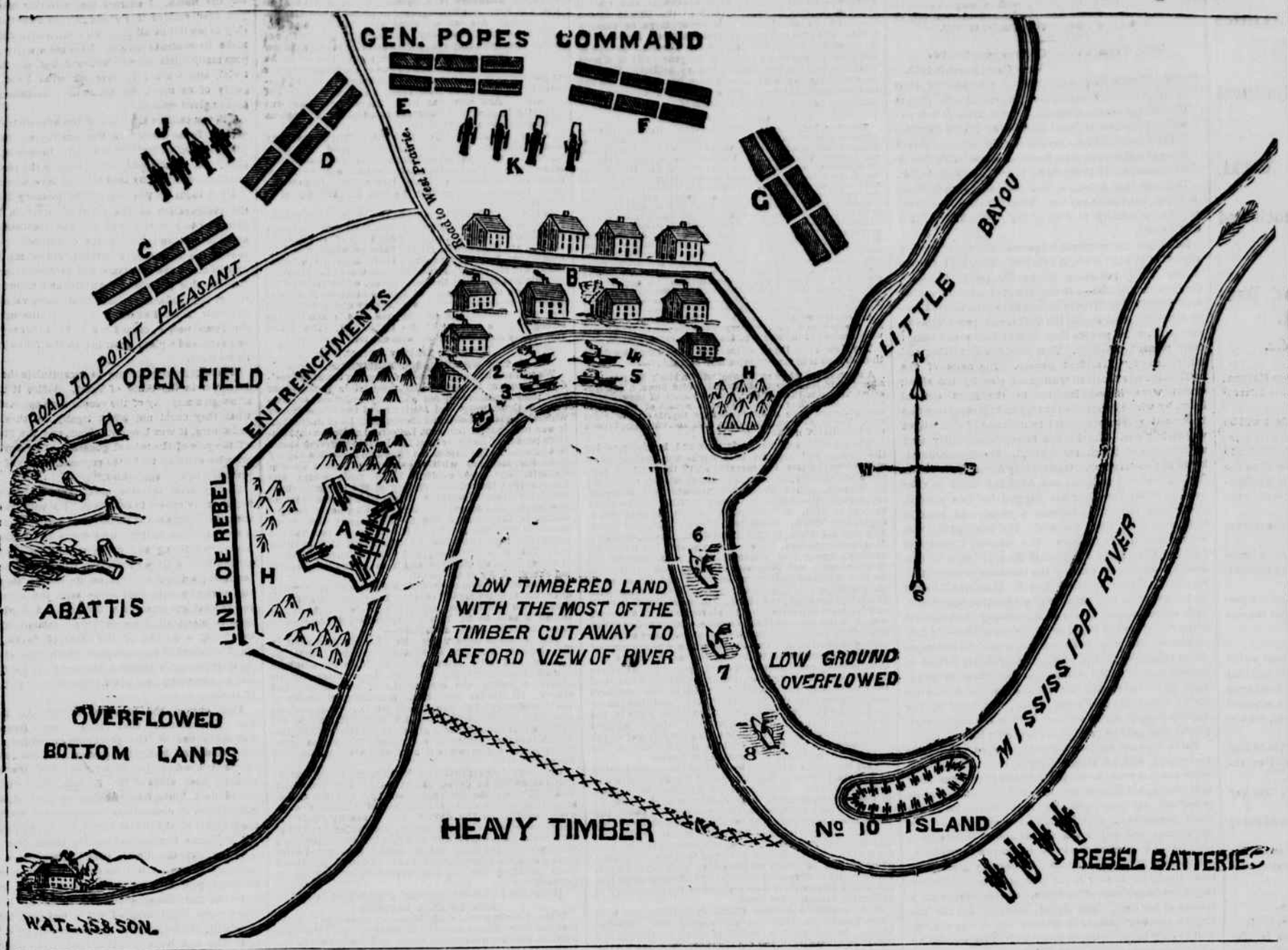
OLD BOWERY THEATRE.—A complimentary benefit will be given this evening, at the Old Bowery theatre, to Mr. John Duryee, who has for a long time past been severely indisposed. Manager Stickney has put forth a very attractive programme, and the benefit will doubtless be a bumper.

BALL AT THE ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL.—A grand gathering of beauty and fashion will take place this evening at the St. Nicholas Hotel. The proprietors will entertain their guests and friends at the usual annual ball, and the whole resources of this magnificent hotel will be taxed to give *eclat* to the occasion.

THE GOTTSCHALK MATINEE D'INSTRUCTION.—This novel musical *seance*, for concert it can hardly be called, comes off to-day at the Irving Hall. It is the only one that will be given here until Mr. Gottschalk's return from the protracted tour on which he is about to start.

THE CAPTURE OF ISLAND NO. 10.

The Position of Island No. 10 and New Madrid Before Its Capture.



1, 2, 3, 4 and 5—Rebel gunboats.
6, 7 and 8—Rebel transports.
A—Bastion fort, mounting seven 10-inch columbiads; four of which command the river.
B—New Madrid.
C—General Paine.
D—General Granger.
E—General Palmer.
F—Colonel Groesback.
G—Four Ohio regiments, General Stanley.
H H—Rebel encampments.
I and *K*—Union batteries.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

CAPTURE OF ISLAND NO. 10.

All the Transports and Ammunition of the Rebels in Our Hands.

Opening the Mississippi to New Orleans.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR ARMY AND NAVY

Sweeping the Rebels from Our Inland Seas.

ANOTHER VICTORY IN ARKANSAS

THREE REBEL COLONELS CAPTURED, &c., &c., &c.

THE ADVANCE TO NEW MADRID.

Our New Madrid Correspondence.

NEW MADRID, Mo., March 13, 1862.

The March to New Madrid—The Rebels Open Fire—The Military Positions of the Contending Forces—Dissatisfaction Existing Among the Rebel Troops, Almost Amounting to Demoralization, &c.

The column under General Pope left Commerce, Mo., on the 27th of February, and, after six days of hard marches through and over the interminable jungles of the great Mingo or Nigger Wool swamp, sat down in our present position. We had scarcely been in our camps a day before the rebel batteries opened upon us, forcing our right wing back a few hundred yards further from the river. We found the rebel forces here much more formidable than we had supposed, numbering, at the least calculation, not far from twenty thousand men, as the retiring garrison from Columbus had come on here and to Island No. 10, which is about ten miles above. As soon as General Pope had ascertained the true state of affairs he sent to Cairo for reinforcements, which only arrived, however, three days ago, and have as yet scarcely gotten over the wearisomeness of their march from Bird's Point.

We have had considerable skirmishing with the enemy, and our pickets have been continually fired upon from the rebel batteries and infantry; but no general engagement has yet taken place, nor will there be, I think, until the gunboats from Cairo arrive to co-operate with us.

The rebels here are very strongly posted, or at least I should judge so from what I can see from our camp. There is not another so peculiarly situated a spot upon the whole line of the river. You will see by the diagram I send you the rebels' and our own present positions. New Madrid stands upon the right bank of the river, just at the extremity of a very short and abrupt bend, not unlike the lower swell in the letter S. Ten miles above is Island No. 10, which rumor says is strongly fortified. A mile and a half below the town the rebels have erected a strong four bastioned fort, in which they have located seven ten-inch columbiads. In the open fields around the fort, in the town and above town, extending to the Little Bayou, the rebels have their encampments (mostly log huts), and the whole is surrounded with a well erected earthwork and ditch, which we will have to scale in order to reach the town. The land is very low all around New Madrid, and in times of flood like the present there is little else than water to be seen in any direction. On the opposite side of the river for several miles the timber has been cut away, which gives a fair range to the enemy's artillery for several miles up the river. But a glance at the diagram will give a better view than a column of description.

This morning an accident occurred at our heavy siege battery, which cost us four gallant soldiers killed and some eight or ten more or less injured. I refer to the bursting of a twenty-four pounder siege gun.

The rebels have five iron-clad gunboats in front of the town and three transports above. The gunboats are covered with railroad iron, and mount in all some twenty-seven guns.

Several deserters came into camp yesterday, who report that great dissatisfaction and demoralization exist in the rebel army, and that an entire brigade of Irishmen had positively refused to fight. How true the story may be I will not say. Our troops are in excellent health and spirits, and eager for a chance to emulate the example set them at Donelson.

Our Cairo Correspondence.

CAIRO, Ill., March 13, 1862.

General Pope's Movements—Who the Rebel General Commanding at New Madrid Is—General Strong at Cairo, &c.

General Pope, with his army, has gone down to Point Pleasant, ten miles below New Madrid, where, at last accounts, he was placing his heavy batteries to command the river.

I learn from an officer just from General Pope's command that the rebel gunboat Grampus, and the rebel floating battery Manassas, carrying twelve guns, are opposite New Madrid. If this is the case, and if Gen. Pope has any efficient batteries at Point Pleasant, we have them hemmed in to a certainty. But I do not credit the report; for, certainly, the rebels in allowing themselves to be thus outflanked would show themselves to be greater fools than they did in embarking in the heresy of rebellion.

Brigadier General J. P. McCown (not McCowan) of Tennessee, is in command of the rebel forces at New Madrid, and is represented as being a very able officer. He was a student at West Point, and graduated in the same class with General U. S. Grant. He has been at Columbus in command of the batteries during the summer. General Strong arrived here yesterday from St. Louis to relieve General Cullom in the command of this post, and to-day I found him ensconced in the official chair that has since my sojourn in Cairo been occupied and vacated by Generals Prentiss, Grant, McClernand and Cullom. General Cullom left this morning for St. Louis, utterly exhausted and broken down with over exertion and trouble with the provincial reporters.

OPERATIONS AT ISLAND No. 10.

CAIRO, Ill., March 16, 1862.

The reporter for the press, now on board the flagship, two miles above Island No. 10, sends the following:—

The flotilla got underweigh at half-past five o'clock this morning, and dropped down slowly until about seven o'clock, when the flagship, being about twenty miles ahead and six miles above the island, discovered a stern wheel steamer run out from the shelter of a point on the Kentucky shore, and steam down the river. Four shells were thrown after her, but the distance was too great for the shots to take effect.

At nine o'clock the fleet rounded to about three miles above the island.

The Commodore then ordered three of the mortar boats into position.

At this hour, two o'clock in the afternoon, we are within range, but as yet have heard nothing from the enemy.

There appears to be a large rebel force on the Kentucky shore, and we have counted thirteen guns in position on the bluffs.

A large number of rebel transports can also be seen across the low point near the Missouri shore, busily engaged around the island, but what they are doing cannot be determined.

The mortar boats are momentarily expected to open fire.

We discern the much talked of floating rebel battery at the island.

CAIRO, Ill., March 16—4 P. M.

The rebels at Island No. 10 have a very strong position. Forty-six guns have been counted.

Eight mortars shelled the battery above the island to-day. The enemy left it several times, but returned. They only fired with two guns.

Our shells reached the island easily.

General Pope has sent despatches to Commodore Foote, saying that *his heavy guns command the river, so that neither steamboat nor gunboat of the enemy can pass.*

Firing has been heard in the direction of New Madrid all day. It is supposed that the rebel gunboats are trying to force a passage.

Seven rebel transports near Island No. 10 are hemmed in.

The encampment of the enemy is visible, and is supposed to be large enough for 15,000 to 20,000 men.

CAIRO, March 17, 1862.

There is nothing later from Island No. 10 than a despatch to-day which says that the accuracy of the firing by the mortars yesterday was fully equal to previous expectations.

The mortar fleet threw two hundred and forty shells and the Benton forty-one. It is expected that one or more of the enemy's works will be reduced to-day, and the place closely invested.

It is thought by some that the rebels are marching across the neck of land from the island to Merriweather's landing on the Mississippi, only five miles, over a practicable road, and below Point Pleasant, the place where General Pope has batteries, and that when they are embarked on the boats (the smoke of which was plainly seen yesterday at or near Merriweather's landing from the gunboat Benton) we shall find the rebel nest empty, and the river clear of rebels to Randolph or Fort Pillow.

CAPTURE OF ISLAND NO. 10.

ST. LOUIS, March 17, 1862.

In response to a serenade to-night, General Halleck announced from the balcony of the Planter's House that *Island Number Ten is ours, with all the ammunition and transports the enemy had there.*

He said also, that another victory had been gain in Arkansas, in which three rebels Colonels were captured.

The particulars have not transpired up to the hour of the closing of the telegraph office for the night.

NEW MADRID AND ISLAND NO. 10.

MAP OF THE VICINITY OF GENERAL POPE'S VICTORY—THE LOCATION OF ISLAND NO 10—SKETCH OF NEW MADRID, ETC.

Our map shows the relative positions of General Pope's forces and the rebel fortifications at New Madrid and Island No. 10 previous to the evacuation of the former and the attack upon the latter. The line of the rebel intrenchments extended for some distance in front of the town and along the banks of the river below that point, and to further strengthen the position a fort had been erected by the rebels commanding the river and the western intrenched line. An abattis had also been thrown down to impede the progress of the troops, if they attempted to advance in front of the line upon the fortifications, and in every important location batteries had been stationed. The low timbered land of the peninsula—which is caused by the bend of the river—has been partially cleared to afford a view of the whole extent of the Mississippi from Island No. 10 to the fort. Back from this clearing the land is covered with heavy timber, which is succeeded by a swamp. The land on the opposite shores—east and west—of the peninsula is low, swampy, and for the greater part of the year overflowed by the backwater of the river. Thus it would appear that if the rebels are beaten at Island No. 10 they have no means of retreat on any side, for at those points where there are no troops—and they nearly surround the position—swampy land would prevent the passage of an army.

SKETCH OF NEW MADRID.

New Madrid is the capital of New Madrid county, in the State of Missouri. It is situated on the Mississippi river, two hundred and forty-seven miles below St. Louis, seventy-nine miles below Cairo, sixty-one miles from Columbus, forty-two miles from Hickman, and about ten miles from Island No. 10, all by the course of the river. It is also one hundred and fifty-six miles above Memphis, nine hundred and forty-seven miles from New Orleans, and eighty-two miles southeast of Jefferson City. Previous to the rebellion the principal business of the place was in shipping corn, lumber and cattle for Southern markets, and in this a large trade was transacted. The houses are mostly built of wood, on account of the frequency of earthquakes, by which this town was greatly injured in 1811. It was first settled in 1780, and a well-to-do newspaper office once existed in the place. The county has an area of eight hundred and eighty square miles, the Mississippi river flowing on the eastern border, and the Whitewater, an affluent of the St. Francis, on the western border. The surface of the land is an alluvial plain, without a rock of any description. Earthquakes in the vicinity have often changed the relative landmarks of the county, and the islands of the Mississippi river have disappeared, and the course of the stream entirely changed from the same cause.

ISLAND NO. 10.

This island is situated in the corner of that bend of the Mississippi river which touches the border of Tennessee, a few miles farther up the river than New Madrid, although nearly southwest of that point. It is located about two hundred and fifty miles from St. Louis, and nine hundred and fifty from New Orleans. The elevation of the river at this point is about two hundred feet above the level of the delta, or its mouth. The average depth of water at this point is from ninety to one hundred feet; the breadth of the stream from mainland to mainland is about nine hundred yards. The current runs by the island at a moderately fast rate, and with the power of the three rivers—Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio—combined. The island is near the southern, or what is termed the eastern, bank of the river; but at this point the stream varies from its southern course and turns abruptly to the northwest, leaving this island in the southern angle of the bend. It is about forty-five miles, by the course of the river, south of Columbus and about twenty-six miles from Hickman. It is near Obionville.

SKETCH OF THE REBEL GENERAL McCOWN.

General John Porter McCown, in command at New Madrid, is a native of Tennessee, and entered the Military Academy at West Point as a cadet in September, 1835. He graduated in 1840, standing No. 16 in his class, in which were the following well known officers:—General Stewart Van Vliet, General Thomas, General W. T. Sherman, and others. On the 1st of July in that year he was appointed a Second Lieutenant of the Fourth artillery, and in September, 1843, was promoted to a First Lieutenancy. He held the position of Regimental Quartermaster from March, 1847, to the end of 1848. He served in Mexico, and was brevoted Captain for gallant and meritorious conduct at Cerro Gordo. He was made a full Captain in January, 1851, and held the same rank at the breaking out of the rebellion, when, on the 17th of May, 1861, he resigned and joined the rebels.

RAILROAD CONNECTION WITH NASHVILLE SUSPENDED, ETC.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 17, 1862.

The rains of Friday night caused Barren river to swell over its banks, and a portion of the bridge over the river at Bowling Green was carried away. Railroad connection with Nashville is consequently suspended for the present.

The Ohio river is also rapidly rising.

OUR ARMY AT MANASSAS.

Arrival of a Union Man from Rebeldom.

More Interesting Particulars of the Rebel Retreat from Manassas.

THEIR ARMY COMPLETELY DISPIRITED.

Abandonment of the Black Flag in Richmond.

Appearance of the Rebel Works at Centreville.

Splendid Strategy of General McClellan Compelling Their Abandonment, &c., &c., &c.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN'S DEPARTMENT.

Facilities of the Present Headquarters of General McClellan—Rapid Despatch of Business—Visit of Mrs. General McClellan to the Potomac Army, &c.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1862.

The present headquarters of the Army of the Potomac are sufficient for the ample accommodation of the General and staff, so that few are obliged to occupy tents at Fairfax Court House. The speedy adoption of means and rapidity of business despatch was never more fully illustrated in any campaign of any of the large armies of the Old World than in the movements of General McClellan.

The business operations connected with the management of the Army of the Potomac are of a magnitude surpassing belief. As if by a talismanic touch, comes a change in the scene, and all the huge paraphanalia of war change their locality with a celerity suggestive of transformations in the legendary tales of the Orient. In the present case there is a system as well as despatch, showing in the managing head that clearness of foresight and comprehensiveness of details essential to the development of great plans. It was this business aptitude that formed a striking feature in the character of Napoleon, and it is this that shows as much, if not more than anything else, that General McClellan is the "right man in the right place." Since taking the field at the head of the Potomac army, he has been employed day and night in preparations to carry out his plans for the future. Everything has been arranged for the coming blow, and it will soon come down, with stunning and overwhelming force, and when and where least expected.

Mrs. General McClellan and some other ladies to-day visited the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, on the Virginia side. They also took a look through the camps adjoining.

A Union man who has escaped from Virginia gives some interesting facts respecting his experiences within the last few months. He is a native of one of the Northern States, and has resided South a few years, where he was engaged in a permanent business when the rebellion broke out. The story of his escape, like that of many others, is full of exciting incident. He says that the rebels commenced removing their stores from Manassas several days before the final retrograde march of their army, giving as an excuse along the railroad that they had accumulated too large a quantity of stuff at Manassas. Their siege guns were carried to Richmond afterward; so the conductor of the railroad avers. Then the troops began to come along past the Rappahannock station. They came on Monday, in the cars and by the roads. Thirty-six trains came over the railroad past the Rappahannock and at each stopping place detachments would leave the train and scour the neighborhood for teams and all means of transportation. Part of the artillery went in the cars, and part over the roads. They took various routes through the woods, and as the retreat progressed they hurried along in utter confusion.

General Johnston took supper at Mr. Mowen's, Rappahannock Station, on Monday night, March 10. The army was completely dispirited. They were as much disappointed at the order to retreat from Manassas as some of our bloodthirsty politicians were. They said that if they could not fight us at Manassas they could not anywhere.

This informant says that enlistments for the rebel army have been very slow, and that bills have been posted in all places, giving notice that all who would volunteer before ten days would be allowed fifty dollars bounty; but otherwise they would be drafted into the militia. The time expired on the 10th instant.

The first families of Virginia are very bitter in their hatred of the Yankees; but the middle classes only wait the advance of our army to declare themselves for the Union.

The rebels feel indignant that Beauregard was taken from the army of the Potomac. They were talking of burning all their property and following the army to Richmond.

Preacher Bennet, a rich Baptist clergyman of Farquhar county, a great secessionist, left on Sunday week, going further South to secure his negroes.

Our informant was in Richmond when the death of Zollicoffer was received. They were talking then of raising the black flag, and resolving to give nor take quarter. The news produced a great depression, and the black flag was dropped.

The recent reconnoissance of General Stoneman on the heels of the rear guard of the rebels retreating from Manassas extended up the Orange and Alexandria Railroad only to Cedar run, a mile this side of Warrenton Junction. General Stoneman's force consisted of but fifteen hundred cavalry and eight hundred infantry. At that point they came close to the rebel pickets, whom they drove over the run, to a force of about two regiments of cavalry, infantry and a battery of artillery.

No attempt was made to follow General Stoneman on his return towards Manassas.

The rebels had burned the Cedar Run bridge and the bridge at Bristow, but not otherwise injured the railroad.

The roads travelled over by the reconnoitering force were found strewn with hats, caps, blankets, muskets, ammunition, knapsacks, broken down and abandoned loaded wagons, &c., &c., showing that the retreat of the rear of the rebels, at least, was made under a real and extensive panic.

Many of the regiments over the river suffered exceedingly from the storm of Saturday, several being exposed to it without any shelter whatever. A member of the New York Twenty-first regiment was drowned in fording a stream swollen by the rain, and a fine team attached to one of the baggage wagons was swept off. Several men belonging to other regiments are also reported drowned.

A musician, named Joseph Shaler, in the band of the Twenty-first was accidentally shot in the leg by a comrade, but without fracturing the bone. The ball was extracted by the surgeon, and the wounded man is in a fair way to recover speedily.

The condition of affairs at Centreville upon the entrance of the federal forces last Monday entirely corroborates the statement published in the HERALD in December last, given by a negro who had been the body servant of a rebel artillery officer. His description of the works was accurately correct. His estimate of the forces at that time at Manassas and Centreville was one hundred and twenty-five thousand men and one hundred and four pieces of artillery.

From the most reliable information recently obtained, this force was reduced only about fifteen thousand men by furloughs to men whose enlistments were expired. It has already been stated that these works were intended for the use of field artillery, with covered ways between the forts for the passage of artillery rapidly from one to the other. The natural strength of the position is unsurpassed.

Upon examining the place and its defences the Prince De Joinville remarked, that in Europe, to have compelled an enemy to evacuate such a stronghold without the loss of a man, or even without firing a gun, would have been considered the most brilliant achievement of the whole campaign.

The story of the Quaker guns turns out to be entirely a joke of our own troops.

Among the earliest in entering the works at Centerville and Manassas were Colonel E. H. Wright and Colonel J. J. Astor, of General McClellan's staff. These officers rode all through the works soon after they had been entered by the advanced guard of the federal army, and they state most positively that there were neither Quaker guns nor painted logs, nor logs of any kind, in the embrasures at that time.

NEWS FROM GEN. BANKS' DEPARTMENT

Slight Skirmishing Still Kept Up in the Neighborhood of Winchester—The Rebels Still Lurking on the Outskirts of the Army, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1862.

Several picket skirmishes have occurred in the vicinity of Winchester between our cavalry and the enemy, without any serious results. The rebels still linger wistfully in the vicinity of the town, and show little disposition to leave before they are driven away.

To-day all is quiet among the pickets and elsewhere along our lines.

Cedar Creek Bridge Destroyed by the Rebels—The Retreat of General Jackson.

WINCHESTER, Va., March 17, 1862.

Contrabands confirm the report of the destruction of the bridge over Cedar creek, and report that General Jackson has retreated up the valley towards Harrisburg. All was quiet at the outposts.

The Lower Potomac.

TO CÆSAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CÆSAR'S

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

I saw in the HERALD of the 13th an editorial which appears to give the credit (if any is due) of taking possession of the batteries on the Potomac to General Hooker. The facts are these:—The flotilla took possession of all the batteries, hoisting our flag over them and shelling the rear guard of the enemy out of Shipping Point batteries, preventing their completing the destruction of the ammunition, &c.; there; they held the batteries until next morning, when they were turned over to the army.

On the 14th the flotilla shelled Aquia in the forenoon. Although some of the guns had certainly been removed, the enemy replied from guns in the lower hill battery. Towards sunset the shelling was repeated, but there was no response, from which I infer that the enemy have left the point.

Burning of the New Presbyterian Church at Binghamton, N. Y.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., March 17, 1862.

The new and splendid Presbyterian church, an edifice just completed and unoccupied, together with the old church, was burned to the ground at one o'clock this morning. Loss $26,000. Insurance $18,000.

Parson Brownlow.

PHILADELPHIA, March 17, 1862.

The well known publisher of Dr. Kane's works has offered Parson Brownlow $10,000 for the copyright of his proposed book, giving an account of his sufferings.

Important Decision in Regard to Taxes in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 17, 1863.

A decision of the Supreme Court of the State in relation to the assessment of taxes, declares that all the State taxes levied since 1855 are unconstitutional, by reason of the inequality of taxation. The Legislature will take immediate action in the matter.

The act for the relief of farm mortgages is also decided to be unconstitutional.

Arrivals and Departures.

ARRIVALS.

HAVANA—Steamship Roanoke—Mr and Mrs A H Ellis and servant, Carlos Putiness, P Ward, I de la Toyn, George M Curtis, Jose Lopez, Gaspar Sluro, R Martinez, Howard Gregg, Bernard Noba, Capt E M Bagge, Chas Benfud, R Fernandez, Jas Manson, Jno Norris, M Geuss, Pedro Meritella, J F Cabassa, Henry Proctor, Henry Wood, Lewis Rosenthal, Robt Speton, Jas R Aiken, Robt Powell, Thos Mainard, L Colps, Jno McDonald, H Merchant, Jno Conlin, Francis De Martina, Wm Finagen, Jno Scotch, Wm Etty, Chas Lilly, Miss Maria Molly, Jno Manulla, Geo Reich, P H Carrie, Andrew Lesia, Jno F Lera, Antonio Lerezah, Miss Catherine Gardella, J Cataelle, Salvador Balagar—Total 46.