EVACUATION OF YORKTOWN.

CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.

ago, by the rebel General Magruder, two thousand slaves have been constantly employed, principally on the fortifications in the immediate vicinity of Yorktown and across the river at Gloucester. These have been assisted by the effective rebel force, some seven thousand men, which General Magruder has had under his command. They were composed chiefly of Virginia, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana troops.

The fortifications which were employed by the British to resist the American forces when Washington besieged the place are very inconsiderable compared with the immense defences which the rebels have constructed. The ancient works can hardly be recognized, they have been altered and improved so much. The spot on which the main defences stand is admirably adapted by nature for defence. That immense connected fortification, with its numerous salient angles, of which I spoke in a former letter, and on which their heaviest guns were mounted, is at once a beautiful and a wonderful work. The ditch is deep, but dry; the parapet is lofty, and would be difficult to scale. This work, with a water battery below, commands the river on the Yorktown side. Running toward the right of the rebel lines there is a long breastwork, not pierced for guns, but having in front a ditch of the same depth as that before the fort. This breastwork connects an elegant redoubt of considerable magnitude, and another breastwork of the same description connects another redoubt beyond, still further to the left. On this redoubt there had been mounted a number of columbiads and Dahlgren naval guns, with one siege howitzer. It is now occupied by the Fortieth New York regiment, whose banners are streaming from the walls. In front of these works there is an immense area of open ground which is completely commanded by their guns. Trees which were standing a year ago have been cut down by the rebels to give free range to their artillery. Deep gorges and ravines are inside and about these fortifications. This natural advantage furnished good cover for their troops against artillery fire, and rendered the position difficult to assault. To the left of the Yorktown road—the enemy's right—as you approach the town, other fortifications had been constructed. On the line of the Warwick road, a few hundred yards from the Yorktown turnpike, there is a small ravine. An inconsiderable stream has been made to increase the extent of a natural swamp in front of the works at this point. This is near the spot where Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Washington and the British laid down their arms. Further to the right of the enemy's line, along the course of the Warwick river, there are other earthworks which I have not yet had an opportunity to examine.

This morning General Smith, on left wing of our army, advanced and took possession of the works in his front which have been abandoned by the enemy. General Keyes has just now ordered the occupation of the works at Lee's Mill. The remainder of the corps are all in readiness to make our next onward movement toward Richmond. Whether the rebels have abandoned their whole line of works on the Warwick river has not yet been definitely ascertained; but it appears probable that they have. For some days movements of an important character on their part on the left have been anticipated by us; yet the intelligence of a contraband who came in yesterday, with the positive statement that they had gone, was thought suspicious, because he made other statements in reference to their position that we knew to be untrue.

To recur again to the works near the York river, surrounding the town. When we arrived inside the fort we found that tents were left standing, with bedding and articles of luxury in them. On the canvass and sides of the huts were caricatures of Union soldiers. Many of the tents were cut in different places. Four large trucks for carrying heavy guns stood near the dock, with an immense quantity of lumber.

The magazines were constructed in the most careful manner. This fort had been occupied by the first battalion New Orleans artillery, the Eighth and Thirtieth Alabama regiments, the Tenth and Fourteenth Louisiana regiments, and the Thirteenth and Forty-fifth Georgia regiments. These troops were ordered to report at Howard's Grove, four miles from Richmond, and left the fort at midnight. A rear guard was left, which at last retired in the greatest haste.

The first gun on this large work, mounted on the left, looking towards the river, was an eight-inch columbiad, and next in their order were mounted a nine-inch Dahlgreen, a ten-inch columbiad, three nine-inch Dahlgreen guns. Directly underneath, in the water battery, there were four eight-inch columbiads and an old forty-two-pound carronade. On the large work above, besides those I have already mentioned, there were, just about the brow of the hill, two thirty-two-pounder siege guns, three thirty-two pounder ship guns, taken from the Norfolk Navy Yard, three eight-inch columbiads in one position and four in another. All these guns command the river. To the right of the river battery, and bearing on the open space of land which I have described, there is a thirty-two-pounder ship gun, and then, mounted on a barbette carriage, a long twenty-four-pounder seacoast gun. The next was a thirty-two-pounder, and close by another eight-inch columbiad. Still farther to the right, bearing on the land, were thirty-two-pounders, twenty-four-pounders, and an eight-inch columbiad. After a good forty-two-pounder there were four old ship carronades, which were little else than useless. There were other pieces of ordnance, some of smaller calibre, in the works farther to the right. Several of the guns were spiked, several had burst, the fragments being scattered around in the forts, and a few had been dismounted, probably by our shots. I saw one which appeared as if it had been knocked clean over.

THE REBEL ARMY.

When the Union troops advanced a month ago and invested the enemy's position, General Magruder was in command of Yorktown with some seven thousand five hundred or eight thousand men. Our appearance put the rebel General and his southern supporters into the greatest state of trepidation. Reinforcements were immediately sent for, and they kept arriving until three days since at the rate of sometimes more, and sometimes less than five thousand a day, until at one time, only a few days ago, they had about *one hundred thousand men* along their whole line from right to left, and on the peninsula. These men were kept at work making the fortifications stronger. General Johnston himself and the greater portion of his army were here. Up to within a few days since the rebels intended to give battle here. Finding, however, that the heavy projectiles which we had thrown over were so terribly destructive, and having reason to believe that the batteries we were building would, when they should open, soon compel them to surrender, joined with other equally suggestive circumstances, satisfied the rebel generals that their position would speedily be untenable, and that the best policy for them to pursue was to evacuate. It seems that they dreaded our gunboats quite as much as our batteries and our regiments. I have reliable information that they calculated greatly upon assistance from the Merrimac. An order was issued seven days ago requiring the Merrimac to report to General Johnston immediately at Yorktown. But the Merrimac had well founded fears of the Monitor, and she did not attempt to comply with the requirements of the order. There was a rumor in the rebel camps that the Merrimac had been blown up by an infernal machine, and also another rumor that she had been burned off the Point by liquid fire. Statements were made to the rebel soldiers that the Monitor had been taken, that Jackson had met and defeated Banks, and that at Corinth Beauregard had utterly annihilated our army and was fast extending his jurisdiction to the North. Such were the statements made to the poor deluded rebel soldiers to keep their courage up. The rebels had an utter horror of our gunboats, and the intelligent ones among them knew that when they opened in connection with our land batteries they could not possibly hold their position. The opinion in the rebel camps was that they could not successfully contend against iron-clad gunboats. This is a branch of the service in which the rebels are deficient. They found considerable difficulty in procuring sufficient transportation for their soldiers when they commenced reinforcing Yorktown, a few weeks ago, for some of the troops came by boats on both the York and James rivers, while others marched by land. The steamer Logan was one of the transports which they used. She went to West Point, where, I am informed, the rebels are building half a dozen gunboats.

The following table shows the number in some of the rebel regiments:—

	Total.	Aggregate.
Thirteenth Alabama regiment	454	462
Twenty-sixth Alabama regiment	391	421
Twenty-third Georgia regiment	365	390
Sixth Georgia regiment	604	639
Hanover artillery	97	102
Hardway's artillery	85	89
Zouave battery	20	22

Our sharpshooters had been killing so many of their men, especially on their right wing, near the James river, where some were struck by the swift rifle balls, even in their tents, that an order was issued directing the tents to be moved to the rear. The order was misunderstood, and all the tents were taken from the troops and moved back to Lizard Hill. The eminence derived that name by reason of the large numbers of lizards which assemble there. In consequence of this mistake the whole rebel army lay out one night in the rain, with scanty covering.

From several sources of information I have become convinced that the larger part of the rebel army was completely demoralized. The three deserters of which I have already spoken, who came inside our lines early this morning, said that all but three companies of the First Virginia regiment, whose term of enlistment had expired, had thrown down their arms and positively refused to re-enlist The Portsmouth Grays also refused to continue any longer in the rebel service, and for their refusal they were put in the guard house. It is said that five thousand of General Magruder's men threatened to lay down their arms. Three rebel lieutenants, two sergeants and twenty men were captured the other side of Yorktown and brought in. Since the 3d a large number of deserters have come in, and they report their army as thoroughly disheartened and demoralized. Those who find themselves in the rebel ranks are utterly disgusted with the rebellion. An officer of Northern birth and sympathy, who was unwillingly in the Quartermaster's Department in the rebel service at Yorktown, told me that he knew of numbers who were induced to join the rebel army from the force of public opinion at their homes. Every man among them who did not want to fight against the Union of our fathers was sneered at and called an abolitionist. The Conscription act passed by the Confederate Congress in April has been the means of creating universal dissatisfaction among the men. By its terms, which are so much in conflict with the spirit of freedom, soldiers who there are eleven of the Dahlgren guns which were taken from off the Merrimac when she was scuttled by the rebels at the Norfolk Navy Yard. Besides these they have two thirty-two-pound rifled cannon which carry an eighty-five pound shell. Some of the carriages which were partly burned, have been used in mounting the guns.

When we occupied Yorktown the whole place presented the most pitiable appearance. A few contrabands were the sole inhabitants of the town. Some of the most interesting houses had been torn down. The marble monument outside, where the British forces under Lord Cornwallis surrendered, had been knocked to pieces and carried away by individual rebel soldiers. Several of the houses had been used as hospitals, but the sick and wounded had all been removed before we entered. But baggage belonging to officers, and preserved stores belonging to the Medical Department, have been captured. enlisted for twelve months and whose term of service has just expired, are compelled to reenlist. The fall of New Orleans produced an uncontrollable desire on the part of the Louisiana troops to return to their homes. Ever since the Crescent City has fallen into Union hands the troops from Louisiana have been stealing away and going home. The spirit of dissatisfaction and disgust had infused itself into the whole rebel army.

The fortifications opposite at Gloucester consisted of earthworks to command the river. When we invested Yorktown all the soldiers which had been encamped there, except a few hundred artillerists, were brought over to Yorktown. Gloucester Point could have been easily taken then by a few thousand men. Subsequently they sent some of the soldiers back.

The ancient Nelson house, taken once from Cornwallis and now from the rebels by our forces, is still standing. It is an extensive brick structure, and was used as a hospital. From our camps, before the evacuation, we could distinctly see the yellow flag floating from this house. The old church had been set apart as a Quartermaster's depot. The alarm bell was stationed on a house which was known as General Kain's headquarters. Close by the church was the prison, and the prison doors were open. There are a number of interesting spots which I have not time to describe. Several mines had been prepared for our troops, by placing percussion shells underground, in the roadways and entrance to the fort, Torpedoes and shells, with a fuse fastened to small wires, had been also placed in redoubts. The Fifth New York regiment (Duryee's Zouaves) had five men killed and several wounded by the explosion of a torpedo. The Thirty-eighth New York Volunteers, Colonel Hobart Ward, had two men killed and four wounded by the bursting of a prepared shell. The Fortieth New York Volunteers lost one man killed and two wounded. The Seventieth regiment New York Volunteers lost two men killed. Other casualties have occurred; but I cannot send you particulars at present.

The retreat of the rebels appears to have been precipitate. They commenced carrying all but their guns back to Williamsburg four days ago. Wagons have been engaged in transporting their ammunition, provisions and camp equipage for nearly a week past. Their sick and wounded, numbering over two thousand five hundred, were sent to Richmond ten days ago. The rebel council of war was held in Mrs. Nelson's house at Yorktown, on Tuesday and Wednesday last. Jeff. Davis and two members of his Cabinet, Generals Lee, Magruder and nine other generals were present. The debates were warm and exciting; but finally it was resolved to evacuate. The generals entrusted with the orders of evacuation kept it a profound secret from the officers and men.

On the night of the 3d, one of the rebel magazines had burst, and the fire scattered to where a large number of boxes filled with cartridges were piled up. As each box caught the fire the report was similar to a regiment discharging a volley. Nineteen rebels are said to have been killed, and over sixty wounded.

The rebel soldiers and negroes were at work on their intrenchments until one o'clock in the morning, when their rear guard ordered the work to cease, and the march for Williamsburg to be taken up. In the house of Mrs. Nelson, where General Magruder had slept the night before the evacuation, I found several open letters lying unfolded on a table. Two were addressed to General McClellan, one to the first Yankee who comes, one to Abe Lincoln. One of those to General McClellan reads as follows:—

GENERAL MCCLELLAN—You will be surprised to hear of our departure at this stage of the game, leaving you in possession of this worthless town; but the fact is, McClellan, we have other engagements to attend to, and we can't wait any longer. Our boys are getting sick of this damned place, and the hospital likewise; so, goodby for a little while. Adjutant TERRY, C. S. A. M.

Posted on the gate of the fort was a piece of paper, with the following, in the most miserable handwriting:—

THIS IS TO YOU YANKS—

This is and oppitunity of which I have taken to infarm you the opinion of the press. theaves of the of the land we lave a little more land fir you to plunder and steel from the good people of this contry. You call us Rebbels. What for. Because we quit you truly because you would not give us our wrights. We have quit you and will come again. You brag of your superiety. it is true you have a fleet. we have none. You have better guns; here we have thre or fore times as mEny men. The General *here* whipped you with all these advantages and will do it again, the worst of all. you tri to make forren nations bleave that you whip evry time. did you do it at corwinth with to men to one? at Bull run—at manassus—at Bethul—yet when we see your accounts of the battle you did big things. I were tort to hate you from my child hood and will continue to do soe. we know ask you to let us alone, for if you do not many soon will bit the dust, and sease to be ani more. You published a lie since you come hore about the skirmish that taken place the other day. you say youre dead and wounded was hailed of in amberiance. I will tell you what you did wounded two men a little that is al.

Respy. a Rebbel.
JNO. W. RIDD.

As soon as the evacuation of Yorktown became known in the camps the bands of the different regiments commenced playing, amidst the cheering of the soldiers. The following order was sent to the divisions and brigades at seven A. M., from General McClellan:—

Commandants of regiments will prepare to march with two days' rations, with the utmost despatch. Leave not to return.

At about nine A. M. the troops began to march, the First regular cavalry and four batteries of artillery leading. Tents were struck, knapsacks strapped, and within an hour after the order was given the troops were marching through Yorktown.

All our gunboats came up at nine o'clock. Some marines were landed at Gloucester. They raised the United States flag amid cheering that could be heard across the river. The boats all then left, and are now running up York river to shell the banks on both sides and cut off the retreat of the enemy.

The number of heavy guns captured is about seventy. The rebels took their field artillery away with them.

Sketch of General Jameson.

Brigadier General Charles D. Jameson, who led the troops who first entered Yorktown Sunday morning, was born in Cumberland county, Maine, on the 24th day of February, 1827. He is an only child, and his parents are still living in Old Town, Maine, to which place they removed during the infancy of their son. He has the advantage of a limited academic education, and embarking in the lumber business very early in life, he became, by the gradual and careful expansion of it, one of the largest and most extensive manufacturers and shippers on all the Penobscot river; and, by industry, diligence and care, he was enabled, up to the commercial reverses of 1857, to amass a handsome fortune. The opening of hostilities, which in the early part of last year interrupted the successful prosecution of nearly all kinds of business, found him successfully overcoming the reverses of that great commercial crisis His personal appearance is very prepossessing, he being considered one of the finest looking generals in the Potomac army. Although General Jameson has always been a strong and consistent democrat, yet he is not of the ultra school of politics. He was in fact, without his knowledge or consent, supported by the conservative wing of the party for the office of Governor of his native State while on duty in the Army of the Potomac, and his friends refer with pride and satisfaction to his home vote on that occasion. At the present time the administration of President Lincoln has no warmer or more disinterested supporter. He was elected, after a spirited contest, a Douglas delegate to the Charleston Convention; and, from personal observation of men and things, he was enabled, even at that early day, to form an opinion, which he freely expressed on his return, of the designs of the ultra men of the South. He was always a warm personal friend and great admirer of Stephen A. Douglas, to whom he clung with fond attachment through all the struggles of his eventful life, and up to the moment of his death, and the memory of that great statesmen is still dear to him. General Jameson was, if I mistake not, the first man in the State of Maine who offered his services to the government in the hour of her extremity and danger. He was immediately put, by the Governor, in command of the First regiment, although the second in number, from that State which marched to the defence of our then beleagured capital. He commanded this regiment at the battle of Bull run, where he showed his bravery. It was on account of meritorious conduct on that bloody and disastrous field that he received the appointment of Brigadier General of Volunteers. His conduct on the occasion referred to has become a matter of history through the honorable mention made of it in the official report of Generals Keeys and Tyler. It was the regiment commanded by him that formed the rear guard of the retreating column on the Warrenton road from Cub run to Centreville. General Tyler, in his official report, alluding to the charge on our rear by the Black Horse cavalry, uses the following language:—

I immediately formed a rear guard, composed mostly of the Second Maine, which I placed under command of Colonel Jameson, with orders to protect our rear to Centreville, which command was gallantly and successfully executed.

General Jameson was appointed Brigadier General on the 3d of September, and was soon afterwards placed in command of one of the brigades in General Heintzelman's division. No stronger evidence is needed of his character as a strict disciplinarian and a man of untiring industry and energy—and, coupled with his past history, of unquestioned fitness for his position—than is gathered from the fact that the raw and undisciplined recruits over whom he was placed have been gradually moulded into good soldiers. He is a man of sound sense and good natural ability, and, if he survives the present war, his name will undoubtedly be honorably mentioned in the future history of the country.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT OF THE FRENCH MINISTER.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 4, 1862.

The French Minister at Washington, M. Mercier, arrived at Yorktown on Sunday morning, in a special boat from Washington. The Gassendi was to go up for him last night.

ESCAPE OF JEFF. DAVIS' COACHMAN.

Curious Revelations from the "Rebel White House," &c.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1862.

The following statement, dated yesterday, on the Rappahannock, has reached Washington:—

A colored man came in to-day from the other side of the river, and represented himself as Jeff Davis' coachman. From an examination of him this is probably the truth. He repeats scraps of conversation overheard whilst driving Mr. and Mrs. Davis in the carriage, and between Mr. Davis and those who came to see him.

Mr. Davis and General J. E. Johnston had some heated discussions about the latter's retreat from Manassas. Davis disapproved of it, and ordered Johnston to make a stand at Gordonsville. Johnston declined to do this, and offered to resign, and was even indisposed to go to Yorktown. Mrs. Davis said she thought this very bad in him (Johnston) to be unwilling to go and help General Magruder.

Mrs. Davis read an article in the Richmond *Examiner* to her husband, saying that it was part of the Yankees' plans that Generals Banks and McDowell were to form a junction in Louisa or Caroline county and move down on Richmond. Mr. Davis remarked he thought that was so: but his generals would take care of them.

The coachman overheard a conversation between Davis and Dr. Gwin, formerly United States Senator from California. Davis said that he had sent General J. R. Anderson from North Carolina to resist the march of the federals from Fredericksburg, and delay them there long enough for him to see the probable result of the contest before Yorktown, so that if that was likely to be unsuccessful he would have time to extricate his army from the Peninsula and get them into Richmond and out of Virginia; that otherwise they would all be caught. The coachman represents that Mrs. Davis said "the confederacy was about played out," and "that if New Orleans was really taken she had no longer any interest in the matter, as all she had was there; that it was a great pity they had ever attempted to hold Virginia and the other nongrowing cotton States," and that she said to Mrs. D. R. Jones, daughter of Colonel James [illegible], United States Commissary General of Subsistance, who was very anxious to get to Washington, where she has one of her children, "not to give herself any trouble, but only to stay where she was, and when the Yankees came to Richmond she could go."

The coachman says that Mr. and Mrs. Davis have all their books, clothing and pictures packed up, ready to move off; that there is much outspoken Union feeling in Richmond; that, having been a waiter in a hotel there, he knows all the Union men of the place, and that the Yankees are looked for with much pleasure—more by the whites than even the colored people. Confederate money is not taken when it can be avoided.

Mrs. Davis herself was refused when she offered a ten dollar Confederate note, which she did in payment for something purchased for Mrs. Brown.

Many of the Richmond people wish the Union troops to come, as they are half starved out.

The bank and government property is all packed up for removal to Danville, near the North Carolina line.

General Johnston did not think they would succeed at Yorktown.

The coachman overheard the rebel officers say if they failed at Yorktown and New Orleans they would leave Virginia.

Death of a Military Telegraph Operator.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1862.

D. B. Lathrop, operator on the United States Military Telegraph, died last night from injuries caused by the explosion of a torpedo placed by the rebels in the deserted telegraph office at Yorktown. Mr. Lathrop was a resident of Springfield, Ohio, and was highly esteemed by his brother telegraphers and all who knew him. He was always among the first to volunteer to fill the post of danger, and his services in the front ranks will be painfully missed.

The Success of General McClellan.

ALBANY, May 5, 1862.

The glorious success of General McClellan is hailed with much enthusiasm here. At noon to-day one hundred guns were fired and the bells of the city rung in honor of the victory.

Count Crain.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

I will be obliged to you to say in your paper that the statement which is to be found in your Washington correspondence of yesterday, that the alleged swindler, Count Sweinitz Crain, ran up a bill of eight hundred dollars at the New York Hotel, is incorrect. The distinguished gentleman never stayed at my hotel, and I never heard of him till I read the notice in the paper of yesterday. I have been favored with a different class of foreign gentlemen as my guests. HIRAM CRANSTON.

NEW YORK HOTEL, NEW YORK, May 5, 1862.

CRICKETERS' CONVENTION.—The annual convention of the cricketers of the United States was held at the Astor House last evening. Mr. Sharp was appointed Chairman *pro tem*. The following clubs sent delegates:—New York, Willow, Brooklyn, Salem, Massachusetts; East New New York, Queens County, Satellites, Williamsburg, and several other clubs unknown to the cricketing fraternity. Mr. Salmon was appointed permanent Chairman for the ensuing season, and Mr. Dispecker, of the American club, was elected Secretary. The minutes of the last convention were read and approved. The committee of last season were reelected to arrange for the Canadian match, as well as with the Boston and Philadelphia clubs. The meeting adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP HAMMONIA.

THREE DAYS LATER INTELLIGENCE.

British Views of the Situation of Affairs in the United States.

ADVANCE IN AMERICAN STOCKS AND COTTON, &c., &c., &c.

The steamship Hammonia, Captain Schwensen, from Hamburg 20th and Southampton 23d ult., arrived at this port at a late hour last night. Her advices are three days later than those received by the America.

The International Exhibition progresses rapidly, and no doubt exists as to its being opened on the day appointed.

The Royal Sovereign, which is being converted into a cupola, will have a powerful "beak" below the water line, so that she may be used as a ram.

The China arrived at Queenstown on the 21st of April, with the news of the battle of Pittsburg Landing. She experienced severe easterly weather.

Nothing has been heard with regard to the screw steamer Wisbeck, which was chartered for the conveyance of military stores to Canada. Great anxiety is felt as to the fate of the steamer.

The steamship Hammonia, on the 23d of April, off Portland, passed Bremen steamer Hansa. On the 1st inst., latitude 43 20, longitude 50 40, saw two large icebergs.

THE WAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

British Opinions of the Condition of Affairs—Comments of the Press on the Battles at Island No. Ten and Pittsburg Landing, and the Retreat of the Rebels from Manassas—The Tax Bill, &c., &c.

[From the London Times, April 21.]

But, in reality, the whole of these successes along the coasts of North Carolina and Florida are, it is declared, an advantage to the South and an evil to their opponents. Let any one look at the map, and he will see that both districts [Pea Ridge and Beaufort, N. C.] are widely remote from the scene of active operations. The campaign will not be decided by little towns on the coast, but by great armies in the field, and on some point of ground the presence of 10,000 men, or their absence, may decide the fate of a battle and a campaign. Now, the result of these operations on the coast is to throw 15,000 Southern troops which were idle into the active service of the field, and to withdraw 15,000 Northern troops from the field to while away their time in sea bathing. The effect is to strengthen the comparative force of the South on the really vital point by 30,000 men. Nor is this all. What is the cost to the North of this branch of its operations? Burnside's expedition alone must be costing more than the entire outlay of the British forces in the Crimea. It is now much larger than the army at the Alma, and every man at twice the rate of pay. And what will be the position of these men a few weeks hence. Already, before the summer begins, typhoid fever and smallpox have broken out in the expedition under Sherman, which is building hospitals instead of taking Savannah.

Thus we find that the only event which has occurred up to the present time of serious injury to the South is the fall of Fort Donelson, before numbers, by Northern accounts, in the proportion of three to one. That, when stripped of all exaggeration, was really a weighty blow and was followed by unworthy confusion. But what are the results? A month has since elapsed at the most critical season of the year, for in a few weeks the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers will cease to be navigable by gunboats. On many accounts time is of vital importance, yet what has been done? A Governor is appointed the most offensive to the people that could have been found; Nashville is occupied, and the papers are suppressed; but, meanwhile, the Southern forces have collected at Jackson, Memphis, Decatur, and Chattanooga, and the main Southern army of the West has never been engaged.

Chattanooga is a central position of great value. In the midst of a hilly country, healthy, and defensible against twofold numbers, it is connected by lines of railway with Virginia, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, Mobile and Memphis. Hence, an army placed here could send a division at once to any of those points, or if itself threatened could receive aid from each of them. In the event of disaster to the Northern forces that army would reoccupy Nashville, nor could any large force pass further south and leave it in the rear. Hence we shall be likely to find this a prominent position in the future of the war, should the Southern forces be driven out of the border States.

It is, indeed, true that all parties in the North assume that the loss of Virginia would terminate the struggle. But they were equally certain that on the loss of Fort Donnelson the Southerners would throw down their arms, and so strong was this delusion that cotton, which had touched forty cents per pound, actually fell to twenty. The loss of both Virginia and North Carolina would still leave the original confederacy intact. It was the view of many of the ablest politicians of the Gulf States that the adhesion of the border States would be a disadvantage to them—that, standing alone, they were of one mind on all points, while the accession of those States would introduce, to some extent, other interests. Further, they held that the border States would be of more value as their natural allies, within the camp of their adversaries, than if enlisted on their side. Hence, the loss of the whole of these States would simply bring back the movement to its original dimensions, and to the position which many of its ablest men deemed from the first to be most advantageous. It is true there would be for a time a great loss of prestige, but that has not generally been much considered by men fighting for independence. In a military sense it would bring into play the physical advantages of the South, of which their opponents have yet to experience the effects.

Many, indeed, believe that the moral effect would be decisive; but here the division of the country into States, each in itself thoroughly and independently organized, and in size a kingdom, acts as a barrier to the progress of moral influences. To us, as we read or think, New Orleans and Charleston come within the same field of view, but this is not so on the spot. There they are separated by a vast distance; an occurrence at one of them is to the other a remote event. If New Orleans were taken, there would be a panic for a time throughout Louisiana, but at Charleston the effect would probably be a burning desire to retrieve the disgrace.

At this moment the chances appear as greatly that the army of General McClellan will be arrested by difficulties of transit as that it will achieve any great success. In advancing with an army which has been transported by sea, he must of necessity be weak in cavalry, and comparatively so in artillery. The loss of a battle would be to him absolute ruin, while the Southern forces would have Richmond to fall back upon. There has been abundance of time, men, and materials to render the lines around Richmond strong enough to arrest very superior numbers, while it is quite possible that he may find there forces equal in number to his own—in the midst of their resources, in command of the Southern railways, and actuated by a spirit which, under like circumstances, has seldom been found wanting in any race of men. What would be the aspect of the war if McClellan should fail to take Richmond and fall back upon his transports—what the effect on the money market of New York? Such an event is by no means so improbable as that the Merrimac in her first sally should destroy two frigates and three gunboats, or that Bull run should be retrieved by returning from it a second time to Washington. Yet both these improbabilities have occurred.

Such are the opinions and hopes of the Southern people. They may be founded on illusive views of the war, of their own strength and their adversaries' weakness; but they indicate that the people are resolute and confident, and that the submission which the North is predicting is in a very distant future.

[From the London Times, April 22.]

The tidings of a great battle fought in America, and the report of tens of thousands slain, wounded and captured, come to spur our flagging interest in the transatlantic civil war. The indecisive and uncertain skirmishes of the last six months had induced the English public to wait with patience for ultimate results rather than to follow with excitement the vicissitudes of the contest. The gradual approaches by river and by sea, the landing of isolated expeditions upon different portions of the coast, the advance of gunboats pushing their way up great rivers, and the sudden embarkation of the great Army of the Potomac, if they were parts of some grand scheme, were parts of a scheme so vast in its whole yet so delicate in its details that it could not be comprehended at this great distance, and with the imperfect geographical knowledge of the villages and townships of America which is possessed in the country. The English people have been content to wait and see what this opening of the game was to lead to. Hitherto only the pawns had been pushed forward, the important Confederate pieces had been driven back upon the board, and the important federal pieces had been worked into a position for attack. A few pawns had been taken on either side, but we had for the most part begun to wait until some great swoop of the queen or some dangerous check from a knight should recall us to the table and give an anxious interest to the game.

At last this has happened. The China brings us news of three great events. The first seems to be clear enough. On the 8th inst. Island No. 10 surrendered to the federal gunboats. The Mississippi, therefore, is to this extent clear of Confederate obstruction, and the gunboats of the federals can descend the great river until they meet with some new impediment, or, if they think it wise to trust themselves so far, until they gain the neighborhood of New Orleans. The federal advices boast that a hundred siege guns and six thousand prisoners have been captured upon this island. Putting aside these numbers, which experience teaches us to distrust, the probability is that the loss of the Confederates was very great upon the capture of so important a position. So long as they shut themselves up in forts on the coast or upon navigable rivers, this must be the result. It was a principle even of old fashioned warfare that all fortifications may be taken with a given force and in a given time. With the great superiority possessed by the federals in ships, stores and artillery, this becomes a much more rapid certainty; and in the present relative condition of the two navies we may take it for granted that when the Confederates give battle at a point which can be reached by ships they must be beaten. We do not pretend to censure their tactics in defending these river forts. We cannot tell what the exigencies of their general plan of defence may demand, or what the value to them may be of a few days' check of the invaders. It may be that the siege artillery and the garrison of this island in the Mississippi were profitably sacrificed to the delay the defence obtained. The South is, no doubt, fighting off for the moment when the greatest of all reinforcements shall come. In two months General Summer will take the field, with Fever and Ague as his auxiliaries It may be that the confederates act advisedly in holding posts where they must be surrounded, and bombarded and captured; but the result can never occasion any surprise. Island No. 10 was at last taken without the loss of a man on the federal side, and the success was therefore, of course, attained by superior artillery and a distant bombardment.

The second affair is by no means made so clear to us by its result. It seems that General McClellan, "with from 100,000 to 150,000 men"—it is remarkable with what ease our federal friends have learnt to toss about high numerals when speaking of men or dollars—had at last come up with a confederate army. Advancing from his point of debarkation he had reached the neighborhood of Yorktown on the mouth of the York river, and he there discovered the confederates intrenched in a strong position, extending two miles in length, armed with heavy batteries, and with low and swampy ground in their front. If we are to interpret this description by the light of the advices from Fort Monroe, we must add that these confederate lines are manned only by a force of 30,000 men; but it seems apparent that these must be conflicting accounts. All, therefore, that is certain is, that General McClellan had, after he had disembarked his troops on the coast to the east of Richmond, come up with a confederate army strongly posted at Yorktown. But, as Yorktown is very near to the sea, the federals would again have a great advantage in a combat at this place. General McClellan would fight with stores and supplies at hand, and there seems good reason for the federal anticipation that "the place cannot hold out against the immense force of men and artillery under General McClellan." The army of the Potomac, instead of advancing upon Richmond by land, is now advancing upon the seat of the Confederate government from the coast, and if the army of Manassas is still to defend their capital, we might expect that it would do so far from the sea and the river as possible. However, nothing decisive had been done. The federal General was still bombarding the Confederate position, and this event hangs in suspense.

The great fact of this mail is, however, the battle which lasted two days, and which we are asked to believe has put 55,000 men *hors de combat*. It is a large chessboard we are looking down upon. This battlefield is far away from the island fort in the Mississippi, and from the peninsula upon which General McClellan has planted himself. This third great achievement regards those German volunteers from the Western States who, deriving, perhaps, a superior efficiency from the habits of drill they had acquired in their old country, first turned the face of victory towards the old Stars and Stripes. The captors of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson have been for some time advancing along that frontier line which separates Tennessee from the Southern States of Mississippi and Alabama. The invaders have held chiefly to the valley of the Tennessee, which is in those parts a broad river, often spreading into lakes. In that country and on the banks of that river there are many ambitious little villages which affect high sounding classical names. There is a swampy little place calling itself Athens, and another called Sparta. Carthage is not a great way distant; and, although no map yet published contains it, we are ready to believe there is a Corinth somewhere in this classical neighborhood. Here it is the great battle was fought. The meagre accounts we have come exclusively from the federals, and therefore it is not unimportant to find they admit that the attack was made by the confederates under Generals Bragg, Breckinridge and Jackson, and that these generals had succeeded in concentrating a superior force against the federal position. This superior force numbered, we are told, 60,000 men. The inferior army of the federals was driven back, and the first day was one of victory to the confederates. But during the night the defeated army was reinforced, and at daybreak it attacked the victorious confederates, and in their turn drove them "back to Corinth." Many of the confederates were, it is said, cut up by the federal cavalry, and we are assured that General Jackson was killed and General Beauregard wounded. This is a very strange story. It was a federal victory, and yet the federal General Prentiss was captured. The confederate Generals Bragg, Breckinridge and Jackson commanded the positions of the confederates, and yet General Beauregard was wounded! But the number of killed and wounded is the most extraordinary of all. Out of an army of 60,000 confederates the estimated loss is 35,000! and out of the victorious army of federals, originally much less than the confederate force, but perhaps reinforced to an equality, the loss is 20,000! These are proportions unheard of in any battle since that of Thermopylæ. It may be so. These American combatants may have become suddenly thus desperate and bloodthirsty in their encounters; but we would rather wait for less hazy details before we venture to speculate upon the results of such a battle as this. We have seen so many great victories melt away like morning mists that we learn to estimate probabilities before we accept them as historical.

France.

Orders have been given to the Minister of Marine to hasten the construction of the iron-cased floating batteries in the French dockyards. The following floating batteries are to be launched next month:—The Peiho, the Saigon, the Palestro and the Peschiera. These batteries are to be armed with fourteen guns each.

The small gunboat, in the shape of a tortoise, which was built in the Seine, has been moved down to Asnieres to try experiments with her artillery.

A despatch from Donai of April 21 says:—The Court of Appeals in this city has reversed the judgment of the Court of Paris in the case of M. Mires on all points. M. Mires has been entirely reinstated and set at liberty. M. Simeon's appeal has been rejected.

The London *Times* Paris correspondent says:—Thirty-six bishops, nearly one-half the total number in France, have notified the Minister of Public Worship of their intention of repairing to Rome in compliance with the summons of the Pope. No impediments will be offered to them by the French government.

The Japanese Ambassadors have given orders for French produce to a large amount, to be repaid by produce sent from Japan, to consist chiefly of raw silk and cotton.

The wheat and flour markets of Paris were unchanged. There was a considerable amount of business transacted at the Havre corn market last week. American spring wheat, 30f. a 31f. 50c. per 100 kilos. New York flour, 31f. 50c. a 33f. per 88 kilos; Ohio, 36f.

Trade in Paris was not so good last week. Symptoms of distress are seen in the streets.

The Bourse was firm and animated. Rentes, 70f. 60c.

Italy.

The Bishop of Fano had been arrested by order of the King's Procureur.

The subscription opened at Milan for a system of grand canal irrigation for Upper Italy is assuming the dimensions of a national subscription. The support of the landholders has given it a considerable impulse.

Advices from Rome confirm the news that General Goyon has ordered the arrest of Centrillo, one of the brigand chiefs, and the seizure of 100,000 cartouche boxes and 400 uniforms for the brigands.

Garibaldi has recovered from his slight indisposition, and will proceed on his mission of founding the Rifle Association in the Italian towns.

The Pope gave a solemn benediction in the Vatican on April 20. The whole of the French and Pontifical troops attended.

An immense crowd assembled, and shouts were raised of "*Viva il Papa*."

A despatch from Turin of April 20 says:—The clergy of Lecco have sent an address to the Pope, praying his Holiness to renounce the temporal power and to bless Italy. The address bears 700 signatures.

A collision has taken place between two trains on the railway to Sienna. One of the trains, containing infantry, was damaged. There are about one hundred dead and wounded.

The King left on April 22 for Naples.

The Prince of Capua died on April 21.

The *Italia* announces that a French squadron has received orders to repair to Genoa, to escort the King to Naples. An English squadron has received similar orders.

Spain.

A despatch from Madrid of April 19 says:—The news that the Spanish troops were about to leave Mexico is unfounded. They will not quit that country until the satisfaction demanded has been obtained.

Portugal.

The opening of the Cortes on the 22d is looked for with anxiety, on account of the important political questions which are at stake. A change in the ministry is considered probable, and it is expected that a strong coalition will be the result.

The United States sloop-of-war St. Louis is at Lisbon.

Bavaria.

Advices from Munich announce the betrothal of the Grand Duke Ferdinand to the sister of Francis II. The marriage ceremony is to take place on May 12. They will reside at Lindau.

Prussia.

It is said that the King, at the desire of her Majesty Queen Victoria, has resolved upon sending the Crown Prince of Prussia to be present at the opening of the exhibition in London.

Commercial News.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, April 22, 1862.

The funds opened at the steady prices of Saturday, and remained without alteration to the close, consols being quoted at 93⅞ a 94 both for money and account.

At the bank there were scarcely any applications for discount. About £66,000 was taken to the bank to-day.

In American securities there was a slight reaction in Atlantic and Great Western bonds, and a rise in Illinois Central and Erie shares.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

APRIL 21.—A large business was done on Monday, and the sales exceeded 15,000 bales—8,000 on speculation and for export. Prices ⅛d. per pound higher than last Thursday.

APRIL 22.—Business only moderate, and the sales do not exceed 5,000 bales—2,000 on speculation and export. Prices firmly maintained.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET.

APRIL 22.—There was a fair demand for wheat at the prices of this day week. Flour unaltered. Oats dearer. Barley, beans and peas unchanged. Indian corn—There was a great deal offering, and 28s. 6d. could not be exceeded for prime mixed; white, 33s. a 34s. per quarter.

Passengers by the Hammonia.

G Nedden, G Switzer, E D Lomer, F Frege, A Bieg, F Bieg, Wm Kebbe, Marie Pelode, J Piere and family, Wm Stoltzer, lady and son; Wm Bigler, Ch Farster, T S Steinman, T Muhlig, T A Marcenada, Albert Marcenado, Mr Marreus, Louise Seltmann, L Klaus and lady, F Schulte, F Fogt, B Bilke, J Kohl, E Behan and two children, C F Prens, lady and five children; D Hehrt, lady and two children; N Burchard, B A Hundens, C Hermann, C F Stoll, H Helden, W Nettlestt, C Hedermann and lady, A Kamm, W E Parham, F R Starkey, Chas Francis, T C Barlet, S Claes, T Horsemann, P R McCarthy, J Belfoing, G Joseph, T Buhler, T Harting, A Zuppinger and lady, J Mallet, A Renaulde—and 217 in the steerage.

THE ANNIVERSARIES.

Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

The anniversary meeting of the above religious association was held yesterday afternoon at their rooms in Centre street, Rev. Dr. Spring in the chair.

The business transacted was principally of a routine character. The Treasurer's report was received, stating that the whole receipts for the year were $176,882 19, $177,939 47 having been disbursed. The missionary reports from Japan, China, Siam, Africa and other points of the globe were quite voluminous, and described everything transpiring in those localities as progressing favorably. Rev. Dr. Spring tendered his resignation as chairman, when Rev. Dr. Phillips was reported for that office by the nominating committee.

Rev. Mr. Rankin produced a charter for the board which had been received from the State Legislature, which, after some considerable discussion, was referred for acceptance or rejection to the corporators named therein. A member called attention to the fact that there were now nine missions waiting to be sent abroad, but such was the financial state of matters that it would not be advisable at present to do so. After the transaction of some further unimportant business the board adjourned to meet at Columbus at the call of the Secretary.

American Seamen's Friend Society.

The thirty-fourth anniversary of this society was celebrated last evening at Irving Hall, a large audience being present on the occasion. William A. Booth, Esq., President of the society, occupied the chair.

The Rev. Dr. Ferris opened the exercises with an appropriate prayer.

A beautiful hymn, commencing "Fear was within the tossing bark," was then sung in trio, after which Rev. H. Loomis, one of the secretaries, read the annual report, of which the following is an abstract:—

The receipts into the treasury of the parent society during last year were $23,657 62; this year, $26,696 36. The total receipts into the treasuries of the society, branches and auxiliaries, last year, were $54,652 46. We have as yet received only partial reports from auxiliaries. What we have received, however, show an increase. The floating debt last year was about $7,700. This year it is $6,814 75. Four years ago the society commenced furnishing converted sailors with loan libraries for the use of their shipmates at sea. The first year ten libraries were shipped; the second, ninety-four, the third, one hundred and thirteen; the fourth—the past year—one hundred and seventeen; making in all three hundred and twenty five libraries, of nearly 16,000 volumes, and accessible to over 15,000 seamen at sea. Eighty-two of these libraries are in United States vessels, and accessible to more than 10,000 naval seamen. By the number of the library its record or history is kept. Some of them have been several voyages; have changed hands and ships several times, and generally give evidence of having been well cared for and well used—the best books being most covered with tar. Only two are reported lost, and one of these was partially saved by the wreckers, and the wet and carefully dried books and fragments of volumes, at last accounts, were circulating among the wreckers' families. The other went down in mid ocean; only one of the crew was lost with it, and he was probably saved by it, as he was noticed by the captain who had it in charge to be most deeply interested in the books. These books are not thrown about in a hap-hazard way. It is a well digested and economical system of loan libraries, spreading gradually through our 30,000 naval and commercial vessels. The number of boarders entering during the year has been 2,161; total since the Home was opened, twenty years, 61,066; destitute men and boys relieved, 110; amount deposited in bank by boarders, or sent to friends, $10,418 15. These figures tell the story of the importance of this institution. The Home has been leased for five years, from the 1st of May, to Mr. John H. Cassidy, who, with Mrs. Cassidy, has had much experience in the Sailor's Home in Philadelphia. Under their management we have every confidence it will be what its name imports—a home for the sailor. In the struggle for the nation's salvation, none have more richly merited your gratitude, your admiration; none have rendered more efficient service, or contributed more to roll back the tide of war, and staunch the nation's flowing blood; none have offered themselves a more unflinching and willing sacrifice to your country's honor, than your sailors. They are the men who amid the crash of battle, still at their guns, could go down with the sinking Cumberland, but leave waving unstruck, unsullied, the Stars and Stripes—proud monument over the grave of the honored dead. Foote, and Dupont, and Stringham, and McKean, and Hudson, and a host of heroes, officers and men, are men of prayer, men of God, and who in gentleness can lead a Sabbath school child to Jesus, and as coolly lead men through the crash and roar of battle to victory; men who will fight when it is duty, and die when the cause is holy. Such is the class of men for whose welfare, now and forever, we labor. As the year has advanced the dark clouds have been breaking away, the tempest passing by. The year closes with brighter hopes for the land, brighter hopes for the men of the sea. Our Father is at the helm—in Him is our hope and our trust.

Rev. Mr. STEWART, one of the chaplains to seamen, made a few remarks, relating his experience as a sailor among sailors, after which a new version of "The Red, White and Blue," in which Stringham, Morris, Dupont and McKean were lauded, was sung in good style by the audience.

Rev. Dr. TODD, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, was here introduced, and spoke eloquently in behalf of the sailors. There were three millions of them, and for the most part these were orphans. He drew the sailor's character in a glowing but simple manner, and argued that this class of humanity were more susceptible of religious influences than landsmen imagined. He trusted that we should never look upon the sailor hereafter without considering that he was the one who stepped forward and grappled with the rebellion of treasonable people, and helped to strangle it.

The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung at the conclusion of the reverend gentleman's remarks, the audience joining in the chorus.

Rev. A. A. WILLITS, of Brooklyn, having made a short speech, the doxology was sung, and the benediction having been pronounced, the proceedings terminated.

Union Theological Seminary.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Union Theological Seminary was celebrated last evening at the Mercer street Presbyterian church, before a very large assemblage, and the exercises were of a very interesting character. Annexed is the programme:—

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Burns, of Philadelphia.

The Mission of the Church to the Poor—James D. Wilson, Spring Mills, Penn.

The Brethren of the Common Life—William R. Eastman, New York city.

Protestantism and Christian Art—John H. Edwards, Rockford, Ill.

The New Discipleship—Josiah G. Everts, Havana.

Power of Personal Character—Edward P. Gardner, Buffalo.

Relation of Psychology to Preaching—James W Strong, Beloit, Wis.

Confessional Religion—M. M. G. Dana, Brooklyn.

The farewell address to the graduating class was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, in which he paid a high compliment to the graduates. He pointed out in the most eloquent terms the responsibilities of the Christian minister. Before concluding his remarks, he said—"Our continent now throbs beneath the tread of a million of men in arms. Our destiny as a nation lies now in scales whose beam trembles in the sky. If our institutions perish, the office of the Christian minister will be like that of Jeremiah fleeing from these altars into Egypt; but if our institutions survive the shock, as he felt confident they would, then a future opens before us all such as no generation of Christian ministers ever encountered." After alluding here to the number of Presbyterian ministers now serving as chaplains in the army, he concluded, saying:—"But this tumult will presently be over—spent like a tornado of the tropics blowing itself to rest. Then will come the great trial of our faith and hope—the great struggle of our history. Shall our country be unified—unified as never yet since it began to be trodden by European feet? If so, it must be by the mighty power of the gospel."

The following is a list of the graduates:—

William A. Alrich, Wilmington, Del.; Alvin Baker, Belvidere, Ill.; Martin L. Berger, New York; Whiting C. Birchard, Cambridge, Pa.; Lewis M. Birge, Hudson, Ohio; Ziba N. Bradbury, Sparta, N. J.; William T. Clapp, Hudson, Ohio; Malcolm McG. Dana, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William R. Eastman, New York; John H. Edwards, Rockford, Ill.; Josiah G. Everts, Havana; Bentley S. Forter, Montrose, Pa.; Edward P. Gardner, Buffalo, N. Y.; John Q. Hall, Columbus, Ohio; Samuel P. Halsey, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Thomas W. Hughes, Bristol, Tenn.; Elnathan Judson, New York; Charles C. Kimball, New York; William W. Kirby, Roslyn, N. Y.; Delavan L. Leonard, Lockport, N. Y.; John E. Long, Unity, Ohio; Samuel Murdock, Newark, N. J.; Alfred M. Penland, Ashville, N. C.; John T. Rhodes, Flatbush, N. Y.; Albert G. Ruliffson, Gilboa; Robert C. Russel, New York; Amos T. Shattuck, Hollis, N. H.; Charles D. Shaw, Philadelphia, Pa.; James W. Strong, Beloit, Wis.; Elias T. Tanner, Gouverneur; James N. Thresher, Stafford, Conn.; Ira C. Tyson, Germantown, Pa.; James D. Wilson, Spring Mills, Pa.

The Anniversaries To-day.

TUESDAY, MAY 6.

American Anti-Slavery Society—In the Church of the Puritans, morning.

American and Foreign Christian Union—In Irving Hall, corner of Irving place and East Fifteenth street, morning.

New York Sunday Schools—Meeting of the children in Irving Hall, three o'clock, afternoon.

New York Sunday School Union—In Irving Hall, evening.

American Congregational Union—Annual address in Broadway Tabernacle, evening.

Howard Mission and Home for Little Wanderers—At the Academy of Music, evening.

Universalist Association—Annual sermon in the church, corner of Bleecker and Downing streets, evening.

Baptist Sunday Schools—Meeting of children in the First Baptist Church, corner of Broome and Elizabeth streets, and Pilgrim Baptist Church, in Thirty-third street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, at two o'clock P. M.

Baptist Sunday School Union—Annual public meeting in First Baptist church, corner of Broome and Elizabeth streets, at half-past seven o'clock P. M.

The Turf.

UNION COURSE, L. I.—TROTTING.

Monday, May 5, match $200, mile heats, best three in five, in harness.

Jas. McMann named s. g. Webster	1	1	1
Mr. McDonald named s. m. Lady Olvany	2	2	2

Time—2:57½; 2:58; 2:53.

The track was heavy, the spectators numerous, the betting light, the rain abundant, the race well contested, and honestly decided, and everybody was delighted with what they witnessed and tasted during the afternoon.