THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 9655. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1863. PRICE THREE CENTS.

INTERESTING FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

The Rebel Officers in Command of the Western Department, Departments of Mississippi, Military Districts of Jackson, Port Hudson, &c.

Officers of the Staffs of Generals J. E. Johnston and J. C. Pemberton.

AFFAIRS AT PORT HUDSON.

COTTON VERSUS CEREALS FOR 1863.

REBEL ARMY ORDERS,

&c., &c., &c.

Officers of the Western Department.

[From the Jackson (Miss.) Mississippian.]

MILITARY DIRECTORY.

Commandant Western Dep't..Gen. Joseph E. Johnston.
Commandant Dep't Mississippi and East Louisiana.....Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton.
Commandant First Military District.....Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles.
Commandant Fourth Military District.....Brig. Gen. John Adams.
Commandant Post at Jackson.Lieut. Col. A. M. Foute.
Chief Quartermaster of Dep't..Major L. Mims.
Chief Quartermaster Western Department.....Major Alfred W. Barbour.
A. Quar'm'r and Ass't Chief...Captain W. M. Cary.
Provost Marshal.....Captain Upton M. Young.
Post Quarterm'r at Jackson..Captain W. M. Gillaspie.
Post Commissary at Jackson..Captain T. L. Maxwell.
Post Surgeon at Jackson.....Dr. A. B. Cabaniss.
Paymaster.....Capt. J. C. Armistead.
Transportation Agent.....Capt. T. C. McMackin.
Inspector General of Dep't....Major Jacob Thompson.
Medical Board.....Dr. J. G. Thomas.
Dr. Will D. Somers.
Dr. J. P. Furniss.
Medical Purveyor.....Dr. Richard Potts.
Medical Director.....Dr. N. S. Crowell.
Ass't Adj. and Insp'r Gen.....Colonel J. G. Szynanski.
Enrolling Officer for Conscripts.Captain Wm. McKeever.
Colonel Command'g Arsenal..Phil. Stockton.

OFFICERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

Commandant Mississippi State Troops.....Major Gen. T. C. Tupper.
Adjutant and Inspec'r General.Colonel Jones S. Hamilton.
Quartermaster General.....Colonel A. M. West.
Chief of Ordnance.....U. Bourne.

GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON'S STAFF.

Assistant Adjutant General...Colonel B. S. Ewell.
Assistant Adjutant General...Lieutenant Col. T. B. Lamar.
Assistant Adjutant General...Major A. P. Mason.
Assistant Adjutant General...Major A. D. Banks.
Assistant Adjutant General...Captain Brown.
Inspector General.....Colonel Chas. H. Fauntleroy.
Assistant Inspector General...Lieutenant Col. E. J. Harvie.
Chief Quartermaster.....Major A. M. Barbour.
Medical Inspector.....Major S. A. Cartwright.
Aid-de-Camp.....Lieut. J. Barroll Washington.
Aid-de-Camp.....Lieut. Wade Hampton.

DEPARTMENT MISSISSIPPI AND EAST LOUISIANA.

Commander.....Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton.
A. A. G. and Chief of Staff Department.....Lieut. Col. J. R. Waddy.
A. A. G. and Chief of Staff Army of Mississippi.....Major R. W. Memminger.
Adjutant and Inspector General Department.....Major J. Thompson.
Aid-de-Camps.....First Lieut. J. H. Morrison. First Lieut. J. C. Taylor.
Chief of Ordnance Department.Major G. M. Mayo.
Paymaster.....Major A. B. Cooke.
Paymaster of Post Jackson....Captain C. G. Armistead.
Chief Quartermaster of Department.....Major I. Mims.
Chief Commissary of Subsistence Department.....Major P. Johnston.
Medical Director.....Surgeon N. S. Crowell.

PORT HUDSON, LA.

Commander.....Major General F. Gardner.
Assistant Adjutant General...Major T. F. Wilson.
Provost Marshal.....Captain R. T. English.
Chief Commissary.....Major J. L. Stockdale.
Post Commissary.....Major J. P. Carr.
Assist. do. (Clinton).....Captain J. A. Campbell.
Assist. do. (Jackson, La.)....Lieut. —— Wheat.

Cotton Still Considered King—Cereals, Not Cotton, to be Planted.

[From the Port Hudson (La.) News, Jan. 30.]

THE COMING CROP.

As the time is near at hand when planters begin to think of making preparations for the next crop, *we deem it proper at this time to call their attention to the importance of proceeding with discretion in their plantation business.* They should remember that we are engaged in a war which has already extended far beyond the predictions of the most discerning, and it may last even longer than the most despending anticipate. *They should not forget that our ports are closed against all supplies from abroad, and that foreign intervention for their opening is an exploded idea;* that communication with the granaries of the great West is cut off, and we have no resources except within ourselves. They must bear in mind the immense armies now in the field are to be fed by the products of Southern planters, and *they must forget that such a thing as cotton or sugar was ever raised for any other purpose but that of domestic use.*

Impressed with these facts the wise and *patriotic planter will put acre after acre in corn, rice, potatoes, peas, pumpkins, and devote his time to raising hogs, sheep, poultry and such things which go to sustain life.* A sufficient quantity of cotton and sugar should be made to meet the demand of the confederacy, but surplus should be consigned to the flames.

Such a thing as overstocking the country with breadstuffs and provisions at times like these is out of the question. There will always be a demand for them and they will command a ready sale with good prices; whilst with cotton, beyond a limited supply for home consumption, there is no sale for it *with our ports closed as at present, and likely to be until cleared by the strong arm of our own people, unaided and alone.*

This policy, if pursued, besides furnishing us with the sinews of war and enabling us to stand an indefinite siege by the enemy, would test an important question and settle, one way or another, the dynasty of "King Cotton." *Withhold another crop of the great staple from the mills of Manchester and the throne of England will totter; while Napoleon, whose crown "sits but loosely on his head," will be forced by the inexorable logic of events, to recognize the nationality of the confederacy or else abide the fatal consequences of an irritated, dissatisfied and close-versus people whose rebellious spirits, when once aroused, will brook no restraint.*

ARMY OFFERS FOR CEREAL PRODUCTS.

NOTICE TO PLANTERS.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, PORT HUDSON, LA., Jan. 1, 1863.

I will pay $1 25 per bushel, 48 pounds, for corn meal; $1 per bushel, 56 pounds, for shelled corn, and $1 per bushel, 60 pounds, for sweet potatoes, delivered to Major J. P. Carr, Post Commissary at Port Hudson, La.; Captain J. A. Campbell, Post Commissary at Clinton, La.; Lieut. Wheat, Post Commissary at Jackson, La.; C. S. Kellogg, Woodville, Miss., or on board any of the steamers at the several landings between this point and the mouth of Red river.

J. L. STOCKDALE, Major and Chief of Subsistence Gen. Beale's Staff.

Our Troops Near Port Hudson—Forage Burned.

[From the Port Hudson (La.) News, Jan. 30.]

The Yankees below have been for some time stealing large quantities of corn *from the people on the opposite side of the river*, and had succeeded in getting quite a large quantity in one pile. Some of our boys, hearing of it, determined to reconnoitre the neighborhood, and *it accordingly proceeded to destroy the ill-gotten grain of the Yankees.* Upon arriving at the place they found the corn unguarded, and quietly applying the torch put in a blaze about five thousand bushels of corn. The flames attracted the federals, but they arrived too late to save their plunder.

The Mississippi Rising Rapidly.

[From the Port Hudson News, Jan. 30.]

The river has been rising at a very rapid rate for the last two weeks, *and if it continues another week it will be out of its banks. The water is already running through the crevasse at Mr. Chinn's place, in West Baton Rouge, and in a day or so it will be through the Lodell crevasse.*

A Kentuckian Hanged for Counterfeiting.

[From the Jackson Mississippian, Feb. 5.]

Roney Hutchinson, from Danville, Kentucky, was arrested by our troops at Hernando, Mississippi, last week, with a belt around his body containing $20,000 in counterfeit Confederate notes. He was tied up and hanged till dead.

Army Orders—Strict Discipline Observed.

GENERAL ORDERS.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH MILITARY DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT MISSISSIPPI AND EAST LOUISIANA, JACKSON, Jan. 12, 1863.

I. All officers and soldiers arriving within the limits of this military post, or in the case of regiments or detachments, the officers in command of the same will at once report themselves at the office of the commandant of the post, on Capitol street, show their authority for being within the limits of the post, and receive written permission to remain. *The commanders of regiments or detachments of soldiers, in transitu, will permit no officer or soldier to visit the city of Jackson, also on strict military business.* The permission so granted must be in writing, and specify the nature of the business, and in no case will *any private, or party of privates, be permitted to enter the city of Jackson unless under charge of a reliable non-commissioned officer*, and so long as such regiment and detachment of soldiers remain within the limits of this post the officer commanding will be held responsible for the good conduct of his men, and for any depredations committed by them. All officers and privates assigned to duty at this post, who have not heretofore reported, will at once report, show by what authority they were thus assigned, register their names and receive a written certificate of this fact.

II. The commander of the camps of paroled prisoners, surgeons in charge of hospitals, and commanders of encampments, *will never permit more than two of their command to be absent at once, except upon military business, and then always in squads, under charge of a non-commissioned officer. No officer or private soldier will be permitted to sleep without the limits of his encampment, or be permitted to remain within the city of Jackson after nine o'clock at night*, except in the case of such officer or privates as are connected with the various departments in the city, or have the consent of the commander of the post for the same.

III. Of all persons save soldiers with transportation or orders from the proper military authority, a passport will be required before they will be permitted to leave the limits of the post. The sale of liquor is forbidden within the limits of this post, except upon the written consent of the commander of the post.

IV. The officer assigned to duty as officer of the day will see that the above orders are carfully complied with, and will have arrested and reported to the office of the commandant of the post all officers and privates that have not their orders endorsed, "Reported," and signed by the commandant of the post, except, however, such general officers, members of the staff and orderlies or couriers connected with their headquarters at present within the limits of this post.

V. No permits for officers or soldiers to visit this city will be recognized without the endorsement of the division or brigade commander. JOHN ADAMS, Brigadier General, commanding Fourth Military District.

SPECIAL ORDERS—NO. 31.

HEADQUARTERS, PORT HUDSON, La., Jan. 29, 1863.

* * * * *

XI. All persons within the limits of the fortifications at this place, not belonging to the Confederate States army, will proceed at once to the Provost Marshal's office and register their names and occupations without delay. * *

By command of Major General F. GARDNER.
T. F. WILSON, Assistant Adjutant General.

SPECIAL ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS, PORT HUDSON, La., Jan. 28, 1863.

All citizens with their servants, and all negroes in the employ of citizens or soldiers, living within the line of fortifications, must report to this office before the 30th inst. and get permits to remain. All those who do not comply with this order will be removed.

By order of Major General GARDNER.
R. T. ENGLISH, Captain and Provost Marshal.

The Mississippi Legislature and the Cotton Trade.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 18, 1863.

Returned cotton buyers report that the Legislature of Mississippi has made it a penal offence to sell cotton, except to the Confederate government.

IMPORTANT FROM BRAZIL.

Impending Hostilities with Great Britain—Origin of the Dispute, &c., &c.

There have been some serious misunderstandings between the government of Brazil and the representative of her Britannic Majesty to that empire, touching certain claims presented by the latter and rejected by the former. It was at one time feared that these complications would terminate in open hostilities between the British naval forces in Brazilian waters and the armed forces of his Imperial Majesty. The following official declaration of Mr. W. D. Christie, her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary to Brazil, which was affixed to the doors of the British Consulate on the 1st of January, gives a clear idea of the origin of the difficulty. The document, which we translate from the *Jornal do Commercio*, was dated the 30th of December, 1862:—

The reclamations which, by order of her Britannic Majesty's government, I made upon the government of Brazil for compensation for the sacking of the English bark Prince of Wales, wrecked in the province of Rio Grande do Sul in June, 1861, having been totally and peremptorily rejected; and satisfaction having been refused for the ill-treatment of three officers of her Majesty's ship Forte last June by the guards of Tijuca and the police authorities of Rio de Janeiro; and it being impossible to obtain either one thing or the other, except by the compulsory use of superior force, Admiral Warren is instructed to proceed immediately, according to the instructions of her Majesty's government, to make reprisals on Brazilian property.

The property captured shall be retained as a guarantee until the government of her Majesty obtains satisfaction.

These reprisals, it must be well understood and recognized, shall be made in the manner prescribed by nations to obtain justice which is refused, and shall not constitute an act of war.

In notifying the imperial government of this fact, we beg them to remember that the responsibility will be theirs, if, through violent resistance, force, or insults to British subjects, or to their property in Brazil, ulterior and deplorable contingencies should arise.

Admiral Warren will use his best efforts to proceed in such a manner as to avoid all hostile conflicts.

I make this communication to you for the information of British subjects, &c., &c. W. D. CHRISTIE.

To Mr. HOTTOCOMBE, H. B. M. Consul, Rio de Janeiro:—

This order created great excitement; but some explanations of the Minister of the Interior, with directions to the people to keep cool and leave the matter in the hands of the government, which knew well how to protect the interests and defend the honor of the nation, tended to appease the anxious feelings of the populace, and temporary order reigned again.

The *Jornal do Commercio* expresses the hope that the whole matter will be settled without the arbitration of the sword.

THE NAVY.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ENGINEER CORPS.

The Board of Engineers, now in session at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, have recommended the following promotions:—

First Assistant Engineer William H. Hunt to be a chief engineer.

Second Assistant Engineer John Purdy to be a first assistant engineer.

Third Assistant Engineers Wm. H. G. West, Isaac R. McNary, Alfred Hendricks, George P. Hunt, Alfred Colin and Theodore Allen to be second assistant engineers.

And the following for admission as third assistant engineers:—

Asaph Dunbar, Indiana; Charles F. Manning, Maryland; Francis B. Stedman, Massachusetts; Wm. H. Crawford, Pennsylvania; James Wylie, New York; Frank W. Wyman, Massachusetts; James A. Deaver, Maryland; Owen Jones and A. G. Bonsall, Pennsylvania.

The Board of Examiners at present is composed of Chief Engineers George Gideon, Charles H. Baker and James W. Thomson.

JUNIATA, 9—new screw sloop—returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday, after a fourth unsuccessful attempt to leave. The leaks at and near the sternpost have increased so much that she cannot go to sea in her present condition.

The Breaking Up of the Secesh State Convention in Kentucky.

A telegram in yesterday's paper informed us that the State Convention which had been called to meet at Frankfort, on the 18th instant, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor and other State officers, had been summarily dispersed by the military authorities.

The following is the call for the convention:—

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION. FRANKFORT, Jan. 31, 1863.

Pursuant to a resolution of a meeting of the democratic party held at the Capitol, in the city of Frankfort, on the 30th day of January, 1863, which reads as follows:—"Resolved, That the Central Committee be directed to call a convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor and other State officers, to be elected at the next August election, to meet in the city of Frankfort, on the 18th day of February, 1863"—a convention of the democratic party is hereby called, to meet at the time and place designated by the above resolution, for the purposes therein mentioned.

It is hoped that the democracy in each county will proceed forthwith to appoint delegates to said convention.

Jeptha Dudley,	S. I. M. Major,
G. W. Craddock,	M. D. Chinn,
Grant Green,	T. N. Lindsey,
A. W. Dudley,	A. J. James,
J. W. South,	Democratic Central Committee.

The convention was not recognized by the democratic party proper of the state, and the intention of the getters up of it was clearly to sow the seeds of discord among the Union men. As an evidence of this fact we copy the following paragraph from the Louisville *Democrat*, the principal editor of which is a democratic candidate for nomination for the office of Governor:—

The "secesh" held a meeting last night in the Police Court room, and appointed delegates to the gathering at Frankfort to-morrow. Some of those named as delegates are well known Union men, who were mostly not present—the rest not having been asked to serve—but appointed as a sort of blind. All the officers and active persons were and always have been active "secesh" and sympathizers with the rebellion. Many of them are on the record as having taken the oath of allegiance and being under bonds. They are proper democrats, they are.

New Hampshire Politics.

CONCORD, Feb. 19, 1863.

Gen. Hamilton, of Texas, and Hon. W. A. Howard, of Michigan, addressed a large multitude of people of Concord and the neighboring towns at Phoenix Hall this afternoon and evening.

Conviction of Charles Lewis, a Murderer.

TRENTON, Feb. 19, 1863.

The jury in the case of Charles Lewis, for the murder of James Howard, of Princeton, to-day returned into court with a verdict guilty of murder in the first degree. Judgment will be pronounced on Monday.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Expected Attack on Charleston and Savannah.

PROCLAMATION OF GEN. BEAUREGARD.

The People of Carolina and Georgia Called to Arms.

Non-Combatants Urged to Retire from the Scene of Action,

&c., &c., &c.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 19, 1863.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of yesterday has the following telegram:—

CHARLESTON, Feb. 18, 1863.

The following proclamation from General Beauregard will appear in the papers to-morrow:—

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA AND FLORIDA, Feb. 18, 1863.

It has become my solemn duty to inform the authorities and citizens of Charleston and Sayannah that the movements of the enemy's fleet indicate an early land and naval attack on one or both cities, and to urge that persons unable to take an active part in the struggle shall retire.

It is hoped, however, that the temporary separation of some of you from your homes will be made without alarm or undue haste, thus showing that the only feeling which animates you in this hour of supreme trial is the right of being able to participate in the defence of your homes, your altars and the graves of your kindred.

Carolinians and Georgians! the hour is at hand to prove your country's cause. Let all able bodied men, from the seaboard to the mountains, rush to arms. Be not too exacting in the choice of weapons. Pikes and scythes will do for exterminating your enemies, spades and shovels for protecting your firesides. To arms, fellow citizens! Come to share with us our danger, our brilliant success, our glorious death.

G. T. BEAUREGARD, General Commanding.

Official: J. M. OTTEY, A. A. G.

Final preparations for the expected attack are being rapidly perfected. The troops and people are calm and confident.

The *Enquirer's* leader says there has been no intention, or pretence of an intention, to mediate at all on the part of France. The South wants no French mediation while hostilities still go on.

The rebel Senate on Tuesday discussed and amended the Exemption bill.

The rebel House referred a bill to compensate for impressed property, and also discussed resolutions vindicating North Carolina.

The rebel House also referred to the Committee on Indian Relations the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the government of the Confederate States has witnessed with feelings of no ordinary gratification the loyalty and good faith of the Indian allies west of the State of Arkansas.

Resolved further, That no effort of the Confederate government shall be spared to protect them against their enemies from any source whatever.

The *Enquirer* contains the correspondence between Secretary Seward and Drouyn de Lhuys.

OPERATIONS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

Official Report of the Exploits of the Ram Queen of the West.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1863.

Rear Admiral Porter communicates the following report to the Secretary of the Navy:—

UNITED STATES MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON, Feb. 8, 1863.

SIR—I am happy to inform you that the steamer Vicksburg was so badly injured by the Queen of the West that she has to be kept afloat with large coal barges fastened to her side. Her machinery has been taken out and she will likely be destroyed. This is the fifth steamer which we have deprived the rebels of. The Vicksburg was the largest and strongest steamer on the river, and I think they were preparing to use her against our transports, being very fleet. Her wheels and guards were all smashed in, and a large hole knocked in her side. So deserters report.

Last night I started a coal barge with 20,000 bushels of coal from the anchorage up the river to run the batteries at Vicksburg. It had ten miles to go to reach the Queen of the West, and arrived safely within ten minutes of the time calculated, not having been seen by the sentinels. DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral Commanding.

The Navy Department has received information of the capture, by Colonel Ellet, commanding the Queen of the West, of the A. W. Barker, a sidewheel rebel steamer. She was captured about fifteen miles below Red river, after having ran ashore in the endeavor to escape the Queen, which, on first meeting, she supposed to be a rebel steamer. She had just discharged a cargo at Port Hudson, and was returning for another. As the ram neared her several rebel officers jumped in the water and escaped. Among those captured on her, however, were five captains, two lieutenants and a party of civilians, including a number of ladies.

Immediately after Col. Ellet had placed a guard on the Barker, another boat was perceived coming down the river, which was brought too by a shot across the bows. She proved to be the Moro, laden with 110,000 pounds of pork, nearly 500 hogs and a large quantity of salt, destined for the rebel army at Port Hudson. Colo. Ellet destroyed near these points 25,000 pounds of meal, awaiting transportation to the rebels at Port Hudson.

The ladies and civilians captured on board the A. W. Barker were landed at a plantation near the Red river, and while this was in progress, another steamer, the Berwick's Bay, laden with 200 barrels of molasses, two hogsheads of sugar, and 30,000 pounds of flour, intended for the rebels at Port Hudson, was seized by Col. Ellet. The Berwick's Bay also had on board forty bales of cotton.

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC.

Protest Against Congressional Interference with California Land Claims—Production of Cotton in the Golden State—Interesting Advices from Oregon, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16, 1863.

The jobbing trade has slightly revived since the late heavy rains. Domestic spirits have advanced.

The Senate to-day unanimously passed resolutions protesting against Congressional interference in any California land claim which is to be finally settled by the courts.

Thorough trial of the capacity of California to produce cotton will be made this season. Five ten acre tracts will be planted in various places in the Sacramento valley, and one field of twenty acres near Stockton. Different varieties of seed will be used.

Portland, Oregon, dates are to the 11th inst.

The snow at Florence, on the Salmon river, is five feet deep, while at Lewiston the people are ploughing.

New diggings have been found near Prairie City, proving rich and extensive.

General Rosecrans' Treatment of Rebels Caught in Federal Uniform.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 16.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, MURFREESBORO, Tenn., Feb. 10, 1863.

1. It having been frequently reported to the General Commanding *that confederate soldiers approach our lines dressed in our uniforms*, and that they have appeared thus in battle, and have been, *savage like, carried our colors to defence us*,

It is ordered, that none so dressed shall escape, when so captured, the rights of prisoners of war, and that, in battle, no quarter be given them. When captured singly or in squads, prowling about our lines, they shall be deemed spies and treated accordingly. The General warns all officers and men under his command to be on their guard against these violators of the rules of civilized warfare. All foraging and scouting parties, all guards and all troops on the march are enjoined to arrest and examine all persons wearing our uniform, and if found to be wearing it without lawful authority, to forward them at once to the Provost Marshals of their commands for identification and investigation, and thence to the Provost Marshal General of the Department, that they may be dealt with as they deserve.

2. *All citizens and servants wearing the United States uniform without written permission will be arrested, stripped and punished according to the nature of the offence.* Quartermasters will at once make requisitions for clothing, to be issued to servants and employes not entitled to wear the uniform.

By command of Major General ROSECRANS.
C. GODDARD, Assistant Adjutant General and Chief of Staff.

Non-Arrival of the Fortress Monroe Boat.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 19—1 P. M.

The boat from Fortress Monroe has not yet arrived here. She probably did not leave last night, owing to the storm.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1863.

THE PROSPECT.

The Secretary of War expresses abundant satisfaction at the condition of our military establishment, and confidence of success as soon as active operations can be resumed. He states that we have now eight armies in the field numbering in the agregate five hundred thousand effective soldiers.

THE FINANCE MEASURES.

Nothing new of any importance in regard to finances has transpired to-day.

SENATE DEBATE RELATIVE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

The leading subject of discussion to-day in the Senate was the bill relating to political prisoners. No determination was come to, though Senator Trumbull urged it as an important measure. He stated that political prisoners were under arrest without a shadow of authority, and Mr. Doolittle said that on account of a conflict of views as to the power of the President over the habeas corpus it was necessary that Congress should authorize him to suspend it. Things don't look as if the republican Senators mean to pass the bill, because it would be construed by their opponents as an admission that the Executive acts had been unlawful. Mr. Carlile said that if the Union was not preserved he had no home nor country, but he implored the republican side to spare the loyal States from arbitrary Executive power. Such appeals are vain, for the radicals are determined to keep an iron heel upon every slave State. He made the point that authorizing the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus did not enable him to make arbitrary arrests. The writ was applicable to cases under color of law or legal process.

THE TERRITORY OF ARIZONA.

The bill to establish the Territory of Arizona was put in the way of consideration at an early day. Mr. Wade urged the matter, and Mr. McDougall indicated its necessity in view of prospective war with a foreign Power. It will be remembered that Mr McDougall in his late speech pretty well established the point that the French have had for a long period designs upon the mineral regions of Northern Mexico.

THE DEBATES IN THE HOUSE.

The debates in the House to-day were unusually interesting.

Mr. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, made a speech against the bill to indemnify the President and his marshals for arrests under martial law. In response to Mr. Dunn, of Indiana, he said the gentleman seemed to think that he (Mr. Wickliffe) defeated him in the late election. He denied this. It was the people who defeated Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, in a speech upon the same bill, maintained that the democratic party are and have been for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and they only insist that it shall be carried on under the constitution and laws of the country. Mr. Holman in his remarks alluded to Mr. Conway, of Kansas, as one of the advanced republicans who propose to divide the country.

Mr. Conway explained that he had assumed that this civil war has already divided the country, and he had only asked that upon the state of existing facts the war should be terminated now and peace restored to the country. Mr. Conway protested that the charge frequently made against him that he proposes to divide or disintegrate the Union is false. He only declares that it is already permanently divided, and he insists that the war shall be ended at once.

FLAREUP BETWEEN MESSRS. HICKMAN AND VORHEES.

Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, seemed to be in a bilious state this afternoon, and made a little attack upon Judge Thomas, of Massachusetts, and his constituency, and also used insulting personalities towards Mr Voorhees, of Indiana. Mr. Voorhees followed Mr. Hickman out of the hall to chastise him, but was persuaded by his friends to defer that ceremony for a day or two. Mr. Hickman's friends affirm that he was laboring under undue spiritual excitement when he told Judge Thomas that he had no confidence in his constituents because they had sent him (Mr. Thomas) to the House, and when he used the offensive language applied by him to Mr. Voorhees.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Representative Gooch said to-day in the House, by instruction of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, of which he is a member, that a recently published statement that General Meigs refused to testify to the treason of an officer whom he has been favoring is without foundation, and on the same authority an emphatic denial is given to the truth of another statement, that General McClellan has been summoned before the same committee to meet grave charges.

IMPORTANT BILLS FROM THE NAVAL COMMITTEE.

Three important bills were reported to-day by the Naval Committee. One authorizes medical officers on the retired list to receive the pay of their relative number. This is because there is duty of some sort for every officer of any grade, old or young, in the present public exigency. Another authorizes the grade of fleet surgeon, and makes eighteen of the senior surgeons eligible to the grade. The third bill authorizes retired captains to be raised to the rank of retired commodores, and approves of the appointments by the Secretary of the Navy of assistant paymasters and ensigns.

THE SALES OF GOVERNMENT COTTON IN NEW YORK.

In answer to a Senate resolution of the 9th instant the Secretary of the Treasury communicates the amount of government cotton sold in New York since the blockade of the Southern ports, the amount of commissions, expenses of storage, to whom commissions were paid, and the names of the persons interested in the sales, the whole being the statement of Hiram Barney, the cotton agent at New York. The sales were eight in number, through Burdett, Jones & Co., from February 4 to September 12 of the last year, and included 3,325 bales and 1,779 bags of unginned, realizing a total of $96,562. There was paid for the expense of selling $8 275 and $5,575 for storage. A very large proportion of the cotton sold was of the Sea Island variety. The average per bale for the ginned cotton was $203. The price ranged from 20 cents to $1 20½ per pound.

INTERESTING REPORT RELATIVE TO PRIZES.

The Secretary of the Navy has replied to the House resolution asking for information concerning prize cases, embracing all those in the courts of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and the imperfect returns from other points to which prizes have been sent, from which documents it appears that the final decrees of distribution have been made in eight of the thirteen cases of Boston, and the proceeds, amounting to $205,640, have been paid into the Treasury. In one case the libel was dismissed, and the remaining four cases have been appealed to the Supreme Court and not yet decided. The cost and expenses are a trifle 100 per centum on the gross proceeds of sales.

Reports are given for one hundred and forty-one cases in court at New York, in fifty of which final decrees of distribution have been made. Forty cases have been appealed, and the remainder are in process of adjudication. The gross sales, expenses and net profits are $519,121, the cost and expenses are $19,905, and the amount for distribution, $499,880; cost and expenses, 15 39 100 of the gross proceeds of sales.

Of the ninety cases reported in Philadelphia, final decrees of distribution have been made in twenty-nine, eight have been appealed and the remainder are still in court. The proceeds of the sales are $537,212; allowed to claimants, $89,115; cost and expenses, $50,357; amount of distribution, $267,743; cost and expenses nearly sixteen per centum on gross proceeds of sales.

Seventy eight cases are reported before the court at Key West, and final decrees of condemnation have in thirty-four instances reached the Navy Department. Twelve cases have been appealed and the remainder are undecided. The proceeds of sales are $901,128; costs, $15,426; amount for distribution, $450,300; costs and expenses eight and one-tenth per centum.

The number of cases decided is one hundred and eighteen; the gross amount of sales, $2,027,449; costs and expenses, $278,424; net amount of distribution, $1,769,549. Three hundred and sixty cases are reported, of which thirty five are steamers, six ships, thirteen brigs, two hundred and twenty-four schooners, twenty two sloops, sixteen barks and fifty-two small boats.

No reports of the condemnations at Baltimore or Washington are given. A few were sent to Baltimore. A large number of vessels suitable for sea voyages were either destroyed or used by the squadron captured them. Some cases have been decided nearly two years, others have been speedily adjudicated, the difference arising from different usages and practices in different courts.

The Secretary recommends to Congress the passage of laws to facilitate the adjudication of prize cases. The legislation of former years is said to be ill adapted to the present condition of the country.

THE DESIGNS OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

Senator Sumner's reticence, when questioned by Senator McDougall, during the discussion of the Privateer bill, as to what information was in his possession or was before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on the position of our affairs with Louis Napoleon, has led many to believe that the French government may have indicated its intention to further interfere in our domestic difficulties.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTRABANDS OF THE SEA ISLAND COTTON DISTRICT.

A resolution was heretofore adopted by the House, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information respecting the expenses for the sustenance of slaves, &c., in the Sea island cotton district of South Carolina from the commencement of the rebellion.

To this a reply has been made, from which it appears that there was expended for agricultural implements, in round numbers, $77,081; for the purchase of the schooner Flora, $31,360; for white labor, $82,748; for colored labor, $34,527—total expenses, $225,706.

From this expenditure has been realized $726,984. Deducting the above expenses, there remains on hand from this fund $501,279. This sum will be a net profit to the government, unless some of the owners of the plantations shall hereafter prove themselves to have been loyal citizens. This was up to June last, at which time the business was transferred to the War Department. The schooner Flora was used for transporting property to New York and for military operations, and can now be sold at an advance above her cost.

The Secretary says that no expenditure whatever has been made from the Treasury on account of the cultivation of the plantations or the collection of cotton, or the educational or benevolent care of the laborers. The rations furnished by the War Department were paid for by the use of the Flora. More than half a million of dollars was saved by these operations, and is in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer at New York.

The statement of the Secretary gives no data which enables us to determine the specific results of the labor of contrabands in cultivating the plantations on which they have been employed by the United States.

CONVICTION OF DR. WILMER.

The finding of the Commissioner in the case of Dr. Wilmer has been approved, and he is to be imprisoned in Fort Lafayette or Fort Warren.

MILITARY TRIAL OF PRISONERS.

Brigadier General Martindale, Military Governor of the District of Columbia, has issued an order creating a military commission, which will hold its sessions at the Old Capitol prison, and will be charged with the duty of trying persons confined there. The object of the commission is principally to examine a number of persons guilty of serious treasonable offences. A certain class of offenders, who have heretofore gone unpunished, are to be tried by this Board. The officers who will compose the commission have not yet been designated. Captain Parker, of the General's staff, will be Judge Advocate and Recorder.

IMPORTANT ARREST.

Yesterday the detective corps of Colonel L. C. Baker, Provost Marshal of the War Department, arrested at Berlin, Md., A. T. M. Filler and Joel Mann, both belonging to Loudon county, Va., with $8,000 Confederate money upon them, directed to the Right Rev. Dr. Magill, at Richmond, a large number of letters for various parties at the South, among them one from L. Johnson, of Frederick, who was sending the eight thousand dollars South, requesting Dr. Magill to purchase eight thousand dollars worth of Confederate eight per cent bonds with the money. They had eight hundred dollars worth of contraband goods in their wagon. They came from Baltimore, with passes from the military authorities there, which they were thus violating. They are now in the Old Capitol prison. Wrapped around the body of Joel Mann were found a thick coating of silk handkerchiefs, spool cotton, cutlery, &c.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The Senate to-day confirmed Lieutenant Colonel Timothy P. Andrews as Paymaster General, and Major Hiram Leonard to be Deputy Paymaster General, vice Andrews promoted; also, upwards of one hundred and eighty additional paymasters in the volunteer forces, about two hundred assistant quartermasters, with the rank of captains, sixty surgeons and eighty assistant surgeons, together with several hundred commissaries and promotions in regular service. The entire number of confirmations will probably reach eight hundred or one thousand. In addition to these were a number of confirmations of a miscellaneous character.

Also George Van Campen, of New York, Consul at Liege; Elias Perkins, of Connecticut, Consul at Kingston, Jamaica; Edward L. Kingsbury, of Maine, Consul at Algiers; John M. G. Parker, deputy Postmaster at New Orleans; Major General Joseph Hooker, of the United States Volunteers, to be Brigadier General in the army, from September 20, 1862; Joseph Holt, of the District of Columbia, to be Judge Advocate General, with the rank of Colonel, from September 3, 1862; Levi C. Turner, of New York, to be Judge Advocate for the army around Washington, with the rank of Major, from July 31, 1862; John A. Bailes to be Judge Advocate for the Seventh Army Corps in the field, under the command of Major General Dix, with the rank of Major, from September 3, 1862; John C. Knox, of Penang county, to be Judge Advocate of the Ninth Army Corps, with the rank of Major, from September 7, 1862.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Official information has been received here that the rebel Congress has refused to sustain Jeff. Davis' proclamation in regard to the incarceration, without exchange, of captured federal officers. It has also taken action with the view to releasing Union men in the South who have been arrested and imprisoned for political offences. Colonel Ludlow, the commissioner on the part of the United States for the exchange of prisoners, announces that exchanges will be greatly facilitated by his action.

THE ARMY.

Major William Painter, of Philadelphia, aid to General Halleck, has been detailed as Quartermaster to General Stoneman's cavalry corps in the Army of the Potomac.

The Commission to investigate cases of dismissed officers have reinstated Lieutenant S. A. Barrow, One Hundred and Twenty sixth New York Volunteers, who was dismissed for being in Washington with a pass only from the commanding officer of his regiment. The Commission reinstated him on account of his gallantry at Harper's Ferry.

THE NEGRO SOLDIERS BILL.

The great Army Nigger bill of the House is probably dead. This disposition is supposed to be the basis of a more conservative course by the radicals. It was made necessary on account of the excited feeling in the West and in the army against negro soldiers. It is argued by the radicals that the President has full powers in the premises by the legislation of last session. No negroes can be enlisted under the bill in the border States, and if no greater proportion of blacks enlist in the free States than there do of whites, not more than half a dozen regiments of men between twenty and thirty five could be raised.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MOVEMENTS.

It is understood that Mr. Hamlin has gone North to engineer in the New Hampshire election.

FREMONT AND HIS FRIENDS.

The way General Fremont was rushed upon by abolition senators to-day shows that his star is in the ascendant. Fremont is to hold an important command.

GOVERNOR MORGAN AND MRS. LINCOLN IN THE SENATE.

Ex Governor Morgan was on the floor of the Senate to-day.

Mrs. Lincoln and suite were for a short time in the diplomatic gallery of the Senate to-day.

THE REBEL CONSCRIPTS.

In view of the fact that the rebels are conscripting boys and men above forty five, no haste need be made by our armies at present. All military authorities agree that such persons are a burden and will soon fall by the way. The true age for military life is admitted to be between twenty and thirty five.

The Massachusetts Legislature and the Paper Duty.

BOSTON, Feb. 19, 1863.

The committee on Federal Relations this afternoon reported to the House of Representatives that the resolve authorizing our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their influence in the reduction of the paper duty ought not to pass.

Marine Disaster.

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 19, 1863.

Ship Frank Pierce, of Portsmouth, Brooks, from Liverpool via