THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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IMPORTANT FROM PORT ROYAL.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP FAH-KEE,

The Destruction of the Steamer Nashville Confirmed.

One is Struck by Shell and Set on Fire.

Explosion of Her Magazine and Complete Destruction.

Another Gallant Achievement of Captain Worden.

The Attack of Four Union Monitors on Fort McAllister.

Heavy Firing Heard in the Direction of Savannah,

&c., &c., &c.

The Adams Express transport steamship Fah-Kee, Captain Hildreth, from Port Royal, S. C., via Beaufort, N. C., with merchandise and passengers, arrived at this port at a late hour last evening.

The Fah-Kee left Port Royal on the morning of the 3d inst. Her purser, Mr. Wandell, reports that just before leaving Port Royal very heavy firing was heard in the direction of Savannah, supposed to be an attack of the Union forces on Fort McAllister.

The destruction of the rebel steamship Nashville by the Montauk is confirmed by this arrival.

On Wednesday, the 4th inst., at ten o'clock A. M., twelve miles east of Cape Fear, passed a large steamer having a Monitor in tow, bound to the southward.

The lighthouse on Lookout is now regularly lighted up.

Our Port Royal Correspondence.

PORT ROYAL, S. C., March 3, 1863.

Destruction of the Rebel Steamer Nashville in the Ogeechee by the Montauk—Her Career—Futile Attempts to Elude the Blockade—Vigilance of the Navy—The Nashville is Made a Privateer—Her Appearance on February 27—She Gets Aground—Gallant Attack by the Montauk on the Nashville—Sharp Contest Between the Gunboats and Fort McAllister. The Nashville is Struck Three Times by Fifteen-inch Shell and Set on Fire—Explosion of Her Magazine and Her Complete Demolition—Attack by Four Monitors on Fort McAllister—Naval News, &c., &c.

The career of the famous rebel steamer Nashville is ended. After having made several successful runs in and out of Southern ports, cleverly eluding our fastest cruisers, and landing large and valuable cargoes, she entered Warsaw Sound some six months since, and passing up the Wilmington river, through St. Augustine creek, and into the Savannah river, safely arrived at Savannah, where she discharged an assorted cargo of immense value to the rebels, and immediately began to load with a cargo of sea island cotton for Europe. Her movements coming to the knowledge of Admiral Dupont, he augmented the naval force in Warsaw Sound, and also strengthened that in Ossabaw Sound, rightly apprehending an attempt to run the blockade at that point, failing to elude it at Warsaw.

When the Nashville attempted to run out of Warsaw Sound she found it so closely and effectually guarded that the plan was given up, and she returned to Savannah. In a few days she again steamed down the Wilmington and Burnside rivers into the Vernon river, which, uniting with the Ogeechee, flows into Ossabaw Sound. Here were found the Seneca, Wissahickon and Dawn closely guarding the avenues to the sea, and again she was thwarted. She then proceeded up the Vernon river, and laid up behind a six-gun battery near Montgomery, and in this position she remained for some weeks, but found no opportunity to elude the sleepless vigilance of the naval officers who, night and day, guarded the rivers. Some weeks since the Admiral learned that they had discharged her cargo of cotton, and were fitting her up and heavily arming her as a privateer, with the intention of fighting her way out and joining the Alabama and Florida in their destructive cruises against our commerce. This report was certainly a startling one, especially when it was additionally reported that the Fingal or an iron-clad was to come down from Savannah to aid her in destroying our blockading fleet and in giving her free access to the sea. About this time she passed from the Vernon into the Big Ogeechee river, and anchored above Fort McAllister. Heavier vessels were immediately sent to Ossabaw to thwart this scheme, so full of destruction and desolation to our unprotected commerce. Fortunately the Monitors Montauk and Passaic arrived about this time, and the former was despatched to Ossabaw, while the latter was ordered to Warsaw Sound.

The Montauk, Captain Worden, immediately ran well up the Ogeechee, and took her position at a point where she was out of range of Fort McAllister, and the Seneca, Wissahickon and Dawn, with the mortar schooner C. P. Williams, laid below, effectually closing the river to the Nashville. After the first attack on Fort McAllister by the Montauk, supported by the gunboats, the Nashville was towed up the river several miles and covered with boughs, to convey the impression that all ideas of attempting to run out had been given up, and that she was "laid up for the season."

This ruse was too transparent to induce the blockading fleet to remit for a moment their vigilant watch, and the would-be privateer gained nothing for the trouble, as events will prove.

On Friday afternoon last a tremendous column of dense black smoke was seen up the river, and it was quite apparent that the Nashville was steaming down towards Fort McAllister. Her spars were subsequently seen; but night came on before she had reached a point where her hull could be discerned. It was evident that she was coming down to attempt to escape under cover of a dense fog which enveloped everything, making it impossible to see a ship's length. Under cover of this fog and darkness she came within a short distance of the fort, and above it, and then ran aground. A midnight reconnoissance in small boats, with muffled oars, determined the fact that she had not passed below the fort, and picket boats were posted near the obstruction to alarm the fleet in case she attempted to pass them. The night passed slowly, and morning came without an alarm. Daylight revealed the Nashville ashore, with a tug alongside, essaying to extricate her from her dangerous position, but without avail. She could not be moved, and the tug took to her heels as soon as the Montauk, Seneca, Wissahickon and Dawn steamed up towards the obstruction at daylight, and prepared for action. The Montauk pushed up to the obstructions and opened fire upon the Nashville, while the gunboats directed their fire upon the fort. After firing three rounds the Montauk obtained the range, and succeeded in bursting a fifteen-inch shell upon the Nashville, which set her on fire. The fort replied instantly to the fire of the Montauk, addressing its attention exclusively to the impregnable Monitor, with a view of drawing its fire from her to the fort itself.

The Montauk, though repeatedly hit, disregarded the fire, and continued to fire upon the Nashville, bursting three fifteen inch shells in succession in her, and each time setting her on fire. The flames were soon under fine headway, and totally enveloped the ship. A heavy one hundred pound rifle gun forward became heated and went off, exploding in a dozen fragments, and scattering timber in all directions. In a comparatively short time the flames reached the magazine and ignited the powder, which exploded with tremendous force, blowing the ship into fragments and ending forever her notorious career. The river was soon filled with floating fragments, charred and blistered, of the wreck, and all of the Nashville that got to sea was in such a shape as to cause no alarm in the future.

While the Montauk was engaged in so effectually using up the Nashville, the gunboats were maintaining a hot and effective fire on the fort, knocking the work about the garrisons and earz in such a manner as to entirely discompose them, and make their practice comparatively harmless. The Dawn was struck once by a thirty-two, but little damage was done. None were killed or wounded on our vessels, though the fort, after it was discovered that the Nashville was gone beyond all hope, and no fire could change the purpose of the Montauk, turned upon the wooden gunboats, and rained a shower of shell and rifle projectiles about them. Their practice was exceedingly bad, and nothing resulted from it. What the damage was done the fort is not of course known. Our fire was well directed, and many excellent shots were made, which must have occasioned some casualties among the defenders of the work. To what extent, we must rely upon rebel statements to inform us. As the only object for the attack was accomplished in the total destruction of the Nashville, the fleet was dropped down the river, out of range, and the contest terminated, the results exceeding our anticipations, although undoubtedly less gratifying to the rebels.

The Nashville was a splendid steamer, equally as fast as the Alabama, and surpassing in speed the Oreto, very heavily armed, and manned by a set of desperadoes, who would have been perfectly at home on the ocean, sinking and destroying defenceless merchantmen, but running away from any war vessel of her own class. The damage inflicted on our shipping on a former cruise was nothing to the vast destruction she would have carried wherever our commerce extends, had she been able to elude the blockade and reach the sea. But, thanks to the commanders of the Seneca, Wissahickon and Dawn, for their skill, sleepless vigilance and cool bravery while incessantly watching the privateer, in preventing a second career of depredation; and great praise to Captain Worden, of the Montauk, for his determination and skilful disposition of the forces under his command, for her complete destruction. In entirley disregarding the fire of Fort McAllister and addressing himself to one object, that of the destruction of the Nashville, he evinced a cool bravery that was more commendable. He and the officers under his command deserve well of their country for their gallant and valuable services.

The Monitors Nahant, Patapsco and Passaic have been sent to the Ogeechee, to try their guns and test their turrets in an action with Fort McAllister. They, with the Montauk, will probably attack the enemy to-day. Indeed, as I write, the deep reverberations of the heavy guns are heard, and no doubt the action has begun. We shall not learn the result in time to transmit it to the HERALD by the steamer Fah-Kee to-day. The HERALD'S correspondent at that point will furnish a full and detailed account of the affair.

The gunboat Marblehead captured a few days since in Warsaw Sound a small schooner, loaded with cotton, which had come down from Savannah intending to run the blockade for Nassau. About thirty bales of the staple were sound on board. She will be discharged, and sold here, and her cargo will be sent North for sale.

Late Charleston papers announce the capture of the rams Queen of the West, and the iron-clad gunboat Indianola, on the Mississippi. I am unable to give details of the affairs, as I have not seen the papers.

The Adams Express steamer Fahkee, sails to-day for New York via Beaufort, N. C. She carries a good freight and quite a number of passengers. The Fah Kee is one of the fastest and most comfortable ships on the route, and under Capt. Hildreth and Purser Wandell; she will become as popular as her owners could desire.

Our Hilton Head Correspondence.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., March 3, 1863.

Another Glorious Achievement of Com. Worden—The Destruction of the Rebel Steamer Nashville, &c., &c., &c.

Commander Worden, of the Montauk, has added another glorious achievement to his list of successes. He has burned, blown up and completely destroyed the rebel steamer Nashville, thus accomplishing the purpose for which his vessel was sent to the Ogeechee river. This event, so gratifying to us and so damaging to the rebels, occurred on the morning of Saturday last.

During the afternoon of Friday, while the Montauk and several wooden vessels were lying some two miles below Fort McAllister, the Nashville was seen to move slowly from her anchorage and assume a position just beyond the work which has for several months afforded its protection to the privateer. As night came on, and she remained in her new position, it began to be believed on board the Montauk that the Nashville was aground; and a reconnoissance under cover of the darkness proved the surmises to be correct. At the earliest dawn the Montauk weighed anchor and steamed boldly up to the obstructions, and within seven hundred yards of Fort McAllister. The Nashville was still further up the stream, and between her and the Montauk was a point of low, marshy land, the trees upon which partially hid her from view.

First firing three shells to enable him to get the exact range of the Nashville, Commander Worden sent one of his fifteen-inch "rotten shot" fairly into the middle of the steamer. Its explosion set the vessel immediately on fire. Another shell was fired from Worden's big gun, and the flames speedily burst out in a second place. A third shell proved equally effective. It had scarcely struck the ill-fated craft before she was on fire in three places. A rifled two-hundred-pounder gun which the Nashville carried forward was heated by the flames and exploded. Soon after the devouring element reached the magazine, and a most terrific explosion followed, filling the air with fragments, and shaking the very bed of the river by the fearful concussion. The Nashville was defunct. The pieces which fell about her smoking hull floated silently down the river. The Montauk's work was done. The guns of Fort McAllister, which, during the entire action, had rained their iron storm upon her turret, inflicting no more injury than the rain which fell the night before, ceased their uproar. For a single moment there was the most profound silence; and then the cheers of the blue jackets rang out in tones that must have sent their echoes to the very gates of Savannah.

It would be unnecessary to descant upon the advantage which must accrue to us from the destruction of the Nashville. How successfully she ran the blockade time after time; how as a privateer she created consternation and alarm among loyal shippers in the Northern States; how she eluded the vigilance of the Union cruisers; how she escaped from the Keystone State, after a forty hours' chase between Wilmington and Abaco; how she got into Savannah with a cargo almost priceless, and how, month after month, she has lain secure behind the rebel batteries at Genesis Point—all this is known to the readers of the HERALD, in which the foregoing events have been from time to time duly chronicled. Luckily she has been destroyed. To the man who disabled the Merrimac, who saved our navy from destruction in Hampton Roads a year ago, who has lain day after day under the pitiless fire of Fort McAllister, who is, in fact, the hero of the navy, belongs the credit of destroying the Nashville. The country will not be slow, I trust, to recognize his merits.

What insane idea prompted the Nashville to come down to the point where she met her deserved fate must of course remain conjectural. It may be that the rebels believed their own falsehood, and that, having so frequently boasted in their own journals of permanently disabling the Yankee iron clads, they really imagined her a powerless opponent.

Whether or not any lives were lost on board the privateer yet remains a mystery. It is believed, however, that her officers and crew made their escape to the shore.

The Montauk came out of the affair entirely uninjured. During the firing she was constantly in the range of Fort McAllister; but the artillerists on shore were evidently nervous, and fired very wildly. Not more than eight missiles struck her invulnerable turret. Commander Worden utterly disregarded their fire, leaving the gunboats which had accompanied him up the river to answer it in their own manner. They, too, were uninjured.

Letter from Mr. Dudley Field.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

In an article of your paper published this morning upon the late war meeting in this city, after stating that "all united in a resolute determination to continue the war till the insurrection is subdued, and to postpone the settlement of their differences till after the achievement of that consummation," you observe that I "went further, and counselled the postponement even of criticism on the conduct of the war." This is a misapprehension. In the few words which I spoke on that occasion, I did not say anything which should be thus understood. What I said was, in effect, that there were differences about the past conduct of the war which it was not well to contend about in the presence of the immediate, pressing and decisive future.

So far as we can derive instruction from past errors, I am certainly for laying the lesson to heart; but the nation is weary and bewildered with endless and useless disputes about the responsibility of this or that person for one disaster or another. These disputes are fomented by the disloyal for one purpose, and by the discontented for another. For my part, I think that such disputes are insane or criminal, and should be made to cease, and that we should address ourselves to the stern duty of mustering, arming and concentrating the whole force of the nation upon the rebellious hosts which are gathered to partition our country and despoil and degrade our people.

But I would by no means abstain from fair and even severe scrutiny into the future conduct of the war; on the contrary, I would claim to recommend it. I would hold every officer, high or low, to his strictest responsibility. I would watch every movement of the armies. I would not cease for a moment to urge the utmost activity and vigor. I would counsel the President and his constitutional advisers, earnestly but respectfully, if I thought I had any counsel worth giving. I would make war, social and legal, upon every traitorous person who dares to lurk among us, and above all, I would strive ever to keep the heart of the nation sound and its spirit unbroken.

Let us be candid and admit that we have all been in fault—government and people. It has been for years the bad habit of our country to heal leniently with official delinquency. The greatest present need of the service, military and civil, is discipline. To the want of due subordination and fidelity to duty, and to the failure to punish their violation as it deserved, most of our misfortunes may be traced. But it is known to those who have had opportunities of observation that in almost every instance of an attempt to punish pressing applications have been made to the President or his subordinates for pardon or indulgence. You can hardly find a case of a private sentenced or an officer dismissed but scores of well meaning persons have bestirred themselves to get the sentence remitted or the dismissal revoked. Let us see that this practice ceases, and then, with more justice and greater success, we can criticise the conduct of the war, and demand of the government energy that does not slacken, activity that will not rest, and what, perhaps, is needed most of all, the exercise of an iron will. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD.

SUNDAY EVENING, March 8, 1863.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

The Indianola Blown Up by the Rebels.

Her Armament Recaptured by Our Forces.

Progress of the Lake Providence Expedition.

Van Dorn's Victory Near Franklin.

Port Hudson Expected to be Shortly Attacked in Force by Gen. Banks.

MILITARY AFFAIRS IN ARKANSAS.

Our Conscription Law—What the Rebels Think of It.

The New Rebel Commander in North Carolina.

ARRIVAL OF A REBEL AGENT IN WASHINGTON,

&c., &c., &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 8, 1863.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of March 6 says the gunboat Indianola, recently captured from the Yankees, was blown up last Tuesday night by the rebels, and her guns fell into the hands of the federals. The Queen of the West left in such a hurry as to leave part of her crew on shore.

A later despatch states that the Indianola is not destroyed, and that they are raising her.

The federal gunboats are making great destruction on Lake Providence.

The federals attacked Van Dorn March 1, at Thompson's, near Franklin. He drove them back and captured 2,200 officers and men. The rebel loss is not yet reported.

An attack is daily expected on Port Hudson by General Banks' force.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1863.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 6th has been received at headquarters of the army. It contains the following:—

MOBILE, March 5, 1863.

The Jackson *Mississippian* says the destruction of the Indianola was a most unnecessary and unfortunate affair. The turreted monster proved to be a flatboat, with sundry fixtures to create deception. She passed Vicksburg Tuesday night, and the officers, believing she was really a turreted monster, blew the Indianola up; but the guns fell into the hands of the enemy.

The *Enquirer* has a ludicrous article on the loss of the Princess Royal. She was fitted out by a Manchester firm to whom the rebels are under many obligations for past favors. It publishes a manifest of her cargo, which footed up £78,308.

VICKSBURG, March 5, 1863.

Com. Porter has proclaimed that any parties firing on unarmed vessels shall be hanged; also persons burning cotton or levying contributions.

The Jackson *Mississippian's* correspondent says there are but 2,000 Union troops in Arkansas. Rebel Generals Holmes and Hindman are at Little Rock, and there is a demand among the rebel troops for their removal, and for fighting generals to be put in their places.

In the rebel Senate on the 3d a resolution was adopted to inquire into the expediency of repealing the resolutions declaring that a neutral flag covers enemys' goods, with the exception of contraband of war.

In the House a resolution was offered to suspend all business until the Currency and Tax bills are acted upon.

A bill has been introduced into the rebel Senate to place all telegraphic lines under the control of the Postmaster General.

A Fredericksburg correspondent of the *Enquirer* gives the following prices there:—Coffee, $5 per pound; sugar, $1 50 per pound; candles, $1 50; beef, 75 cents per pound; peas, $16 per bushel; butter, $3 per pound. All are on half rations.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS.

February Past and Nothing Accomplished—Bright Prospects Ahead.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 2.]

The month of February has gone by without advantage gained in any quarter by the enemy. A month, which last year was full of disaster to the South, has now passed without any misfortune or discomfiture whatever to our cause. *The sequel of the high water season bids fair to prove as free from calamity as last year, at this time, it termed with coming woes.* Then the enemy was strong, defiant and menacing all around our borders, while we were at all points unprepared, weak and despondent. We were without armies, without fortifications, without preparation, without plan, and without almost nerve or courage in any department of the executive, from head to foot. Norfolk was about to be evacuated, the noble Merrimac to be blown up, Port Royal was to be stormed and taken, Manassas to be abandoned, Columbus, Island No. 10, Memphis, Nashville, Middle and West Tennessee and North Alabama and Mississippi occupied by the enemy, New Orleans and Louisiana lost without a blow, the Virginia Valley, with all its meat and forage overrun, Eastern North Carolina, with its stores of grain, taken from us; Richmond stripped and denuded for flight, and special trains ordered for a melancholy official hegira from the Confederate capital. The cause of the South was clouded with gloom, and the stout heart of the people, though not despairing, was oppressed with a despondency which found no relief in a single prospect or promise of better fortune.

The contrast between the present period and that twelve months ago is not less striking than cheering. The whole scene is reversed, and, although the season is of all others the one most auspicious for the enemy and inauspicious for ourselves, *we are now the party full of hope, confidence and defiance; they, of despondency and distrust. Richmond is scarcely menaced;* and though it were ever so formidably threatened, is in a condition to be successfully defended by sixty thousand men (effective) against all the forces which could be mustered against her.

Vicksburg, second in importance only to Richmond, is confidently believed impregnable. The most formidable war vessels of the enemy have succeeded in running past its batteries only to be speedily captured by our enterprising forces below; and to become invaluable acquisitions, at no cost at all, to our new promising little navy.

Charleston, which seems to be the special object of Yankee malignity and desire, and which, in commercial importance, ranks second in value to no city in the confederacy, is as strong, confident and defiant as Vicksburg. The morbid apprehension of gunboats which last year haunted the immagination of our people has given way to a national appreciation of their capacity for inflicting injury, and so far from dreading encounter with them at Charleston and Vicksburg, our forces are impatient for the onslaught.

The condition of affairs before Chatanooga, where operations in the open field are in prospect, is equally hopeful. *We have there our best disciplinarian and organizer of troops in the person of General Bragg; and our best manoeuvrer in open field of great bodies of men, in the person of General Johnston.* To this happy combination of talent in the heads of that army is added veteran troops admirably disciplined, confident of superiority to the enemy, and led by a corps of officers distinguished for their courage, enterprise, experience and military ability.

In no quarter of the military field do our affairs wear a sombre air or even doubtful aspect. The cheerfulness and confidence of the troops are surprising. Everything that the highest military ability and skill could effect in the work of preparation has been accomplished, under the direction of such approved engineers as Lee in Virginia, Gustavus Smith in North Carolina, Beauregard in South Carolina and Georgia, and Johnston in the West. No man, woman or child in the whole South fears that a military blunder will be committed by the present leaders of the different armies. All are confident that the troops will do their duty without exception, and that they will be so disposed by the generals that not a man will be lost without necessity, and not a blow struck without effect.

The contrast between the present feeling in this respect, and that which prevailed a year ago, is itself conducive of the result, not only of the campaign now opening, but of the war. Some decided military success is a necessity to the North, not only with respect to the stability of Lincoln's administration, and the consent of the people to a longer prosecution of hostilities, but to the integrity of the armies in the field. We are in condition to bear many reverses with equanimity, and yet have all the chances of success in our favor. The enemy, on the contrary, are in circumstances to be ruined by discomfiture, and yet have little prospect of achieving any decided success. In military estimation, the failure of an invader to achieve positive success is accounted a virtual defeat, and every day which passes by without some result may be justly counted a loss to the enemy. Hannibal's campaigns in Italy, though hardly marked by more than one signal defeat, resulted in final disaster and expulsion; and Fabius achieved the deliverance of the Roman domain by mere lapse of time, during which he rarely dared to hazard an engagement.

These same advantages of situation belong to us at the beginning of the coming season's campaign; and we have added to them—an all pervading sense of hope and confidence actuating our army and people, while the opposite sentiments are oppressing our enemies, as well at home as in the field. During the spring and season of high waters our forces will await the attack of the enemy; but they will await him this year, not as in the last, weak and despondent, but armed and strengthened by every appliance that can insure a successful defence at the smallest risk and loss. *When the waters subside and the heated term begins to tell upon the health of the invader, they will issue forth from their strongholds in much larger force than they did last summer, and doubly more capable of maintaining aggressive operations on the enemy's soil.*

These, at last, are the facts which furnish the true ground of hope for peace. They are infinitely more important than any imputations founded upon the supposed demoralization or despondency of the enemy.

What the Rebels Think of Our Conscript Law.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

We publish a full synopsis of what is justly regarded as the most important document that has been published by the United States during the war—The Federal Conscription bill.

It will be perceived that this act is a very different instrument from the Conscription law now in force here. It is not framed upon our plan, but is a strict copy of the French, Sardinian and other European conscriptions. *The draft on the population is much less general than that by our law, and will produce fewer recruits to the army in proportion to the numbers of the inhabitants.* The principle of the Southern law is that every man shall be placed in the position where he can most effectively serve the country and aid the war. Hence it exempts only those engaged in certain industrial pursuits, the continuation of which are indispensable to the subsistence of the army, the support of the government in its legitimate functions, and those fundamental operations of social existence on which both depend. These classes are limited. But the Northern law of exemption is founded on various social distinctions, including great numbers, even if strictly interpreted, and which admit of almost unlimited stretching.

The true meaning of this law is to be found in those clauses which relate to the return of men and officers now absent from that vast army, existing on the pay rolls of more than one million of men. *The law does not seem intended to increase the numerical force of the United States—already larger than that country or any other can long maintain—nor will it do so. Its object seems to be, first—to prevent the men, whose term of enlistment has expired, from leaving their ranks in May. Second—to enable Lincoln to make such future drafts on the people as the waste of war may render necessary, and to carry on the war without the assistance of the new Congress now about to enter on its term, and in defiance of the majority of the people who desire a cessation of hostilities.* These objects the law will certainly accomplish.

It is calculated to provoke great resistance from the people and the States. We cannot now estimate the power, extent or results of the discontent and opposition. But we fear those who suppose that this opposition will render the law inoperative, and end in a revolution, mistake the present condition of the North. It has been justly remarked that they assume the people of that country to be now what they formerly were, and gauge their spirit and determination by the sentiment which still prevails among ourselves. *They do not realize the fact that the government of the United States has computed into a despotism, and that its inhabitants have actually sunk down into the characteristics of abject, trembling and undeniying slaves.* It is the part of reason to anticipate the triumph of Lincoln and the entire execution of the law. Nor need we stand appalled at its probable consequences. The Southern government need only enforce in all the States the Conscription law now existing, to procure such addition to its present army, that it will not only be as great as the country can maintain, or as any generals are capable of manoeuvering; but abundantly sufficient to meet at all points every force that the Northern conscription will send to the field.

Where is Hooker's Army?

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 2.]

After all the reports and rumors we have had of Hooker's army "changing its base" it is now believed that the bulk and strength of his forces are yet above Fredericksburg. It has been ascertained that no material substraction has been made from the army operating there, and that, with the exception of fifteen thousand men—*sent to some unknown point*—the Yankee force is quite as strong and formidable in numbers as it has ever been. This gives a new phase to the situation about Fredericksburg, and will again make that old borough the centre of interest.

The Rebels' Opinion of Milroy.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 2.]

A NEGRO REGIMENT IN VIRGINIA.

We learn from an intelligent gentleman, who succeeded in making his escape from Winchester, that General Milroy has actually in service a regular organized and enrolled regiment of negroes about six hundred strong. *This no doubt suits the natural taste of Milroy, and is but in keeping with the barbarity of the system of warfare which he has been carrying on in the valley.*

Our informant also states that Milroy has lately sent his negroes out to scour the country and bring in all negroes that can be found, seizing all the meat and provisions on the farms for their subsistence, and whatever other booty they can carry off. Many of the largest farmers have been thus robbed of their slaves. It is to be deplored that our government can extend no adequate protection to this unfortunate section of the country, which has not only been scourged by the ravages and devastation of war, but whose people have been subjected to every conceivable outrage and atrocity of the enemy.

At the time our informant left General Milroy had his headquarters at Winchester.

The Rebel General D. H. Hill in Command of North Carolina.

[From the Raleigh Pregress, March 1.]

A NEW COMMANDER.

We are glad to learn that General D. H. Hill passed down on Tuesday to assume the command that has been tendered him in North Carolina, with the headquarters at Goldsboro. We have had vastly too much strategy, too much science and too much ditching and digging in North Carolina. Had we had less of these and more fighting things might have been better than at present; and as General Hill has established a reputation for being one of the best fighting men in the service, we may expect a change in management, if not a "change in base," in North Carolina. We do not expect any advance from Newbern for some time to come; but the small force of Yankees at this place will have to make occasional raids to keep themselves employed and to keep our people alarmed and excited. These raids we hope in future will be confined to a very small circle around Newbern, and that if they attempt any extensive depredations they will be promptly met and whipped back. If this is not to be done we can see no use in keeping any force in North Carolina. There can be no doubt, we think, but General Hill is or soon will be in command below; and we can promise the people of the State that whatever can be done by him for their relief and protection will be done.

The Recent Rebel Cavalry Raid—The Affair at Winchester.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 2.]

MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

On Wednesday last Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee, with detachments from the First, Second and Third Virginia cavalry, numbering five hundred men, crossed the Rappahannock seven miles above Fredericksburg and fell upon a cavalry encampment at Hartwood Church. The enemy were dispersed with little resistance, and were pursued until they found refuge behind a heavy body of their infantry, *our men killing, wounding and taking prisoners upwards of two hundred of their number.* Our troops then beat a retreat, bringing off their prisoners and a number of horses, and having *lost in the affair only one man killed and one wounded.* One hundred and fifty of the prisoners, among whom were two captains and three lieutenants, were brought to this city on Saturday. They represent six different regiments of cavalry and the Fifteenth Massachusetts infantry.

On the same day General William E. Jones, commanding a brigade in the valley, attacked and routed two brigades of the enemy at Edinburg, forty miles from Winchester, *killing one hundred and taking between three and five hundred prisoners.*

In this charge the Yankees are *said to have offered but the feeblest resistance, and to have surrendered with evident feelings of satisfaction.* Hardly had the attack been made than their white handkerchiefs were seen flapping in the wind and the fire of our men diverted by this miniature display of the "white flag." *It is said that nothing can exceed the demoralization of their army, and that their men are so disaffected and disgusted with the war that they refuse to fight.* The promptness and alacrity with which this party besought the immunity of the "white flag" would go to confirm the stories we have of their demoralization.

Arrival of a Foreign Agent in Washington.

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRENCH AND BRITISH CONSULS—HIS ACCOUNT OF THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN THE REBEL STATES—THE REBEL ARMY SAID TO BE AMPLY SUPPLIED WITH CLOTHING, SHOES, ARMY SUPPLIES, ETC., ETC., ETC.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1863.

Mr. Dumas arrived here to-day as bearer of despatches from the French and English consuls and the South to the French and English ministers here.

The purport of the despatches is unknown, but is said to be of great importance, and will be forwarded immediately to the governments for which they are intended.

Mr. Dumas left Richmond yesterday at nine o'clock. He brings the intelligence that despatches received from Gen. Pemberton, subsequent to the publication of the morning papers of Saturday, represent that the Indianola was but little injured—only one of her guns had been bursted, and she would soon be in serviceable condition. He says that a number of vessels, laden with shoes, clothing and other army supplies, had succeeded in running the blockade, and that in this respect the rebel army is well provided. The greatest suffering experienced in rebeldom is among the poorer classes of citizens whose products had been seized by the military authorities, and paid for at arbitrary prices, but on Friday last resolutions were adopted by the rebel Congress directing the government to pay market values for whatever provisions should be thus taken.

Mr. Dumas has been making the trip regularly about once a month between the French and English ministers here and the consuls representing those governments from Richmond to New Orleans.

The Weather in Boston.

BOSTON, March 8—6 P.M.

Eight to nine inches of snow fell to-day. It is very little drifted. Cloudy this evening.

THE TAX LAW AS AMENDED.

Alphabetical Table of All the Rates Imposed by the Tax Law as Amended by the Acts which Passed Finally March 3, 1863.

THE NEW LICENSE TAXES.

NO DIFFERENT TAX ON WHISKEY.

THE TAX ON MALT LIQUORS,

&c., &c., &c.

We give below a table of all the rates of duty imposed by the Tax law as it now stands. Each article named in the tax laws is given, in alphabetical order, with the rate of taxation thereon, as amended by the act which passed both houses of Congress March 3, 1863:—

Advertisements inserted in newspapers, magazines, reviews, or any other publication, on gross receipts for	3 per ct.
Do., all receipts for, to the amount of $1,000	Exempt.
Do. do., by newspapers denied the use of the mails	10 per ct.
Do. do., by papers whose circulation does not exceed 2,000 copies	Exempt.
Agents, insurance (see "Insurance Agents"), for license	$10
Agreements, for each sheet or piece of paper on which written, stamp duty	5 cents.
Agreements, for the hire, use or rent of any land, tenement or portion thereof, if for a period of time not exceeding three years, stamp duty	50 cents.
Do. do., if for a period of time exceeding three years, stamp duty	$1
Alcohol, made or manufactured of spirits or materials upon which the duties imposed by this act shall have been paid, is not to be considered a manufacture.	
Ale, per barrel of 31 gallons, fractional parts of a barrel to pay proportionately, see "Malt Liquors."	
Animal oils, per gallon	2 cents.
Anodynes, each package of, the retail price or value of which does not exceed 25 cents, stamp duty	1 cent.
Do., each package of, the retail price or value of which exceeds 25 cents and does not exceed 50 cents, stamp duty	2 cents.
Do., each package of, the retail price or value of which exceeds 50 cents and does not exceed 75 cents, stamp duty	3 cents.
Do. do., exceeding 75 cents and not exceeding $1	4 cents.
Do., each package of, the retail price or value of which exceeds $1, for each and every 50 cents, or fractional parts thereof over and above $1, an additional stamp duty of	2 cents.
Applications for bounties, stamp duty	None.
Do., for arrears of pay, stamp duty	None.
Do., for pensions, stamp duty	None.
Apothecaries, when a license as wholesale or retail dealer has not been taken out, for license	$10
Appraisements of value or damage, on each a stamp duty of	5 cents.
Architects and civil engineers, under which term is included every person whose business it is to plan, design or superintend the construction of buildings or ships, or of roads, or bridges, or canals or railroads, for license	$10
Arrears of pay, applications for, stamp duty	None.
Assignment of mortgage, stamp duty same as on the original instrument.	
Do., of leases, do. do.	
Do., of policies of insurance, do. do.	
Auctioneers, under which term is included every person whose business it is to offer property for sale to the highest or best bidder, for license	$20
Auction sales of goods, merchandise, articles and things, including all sales of stocks, bonds and other securities, on gross amount of sales	1.10 to 1 per ct.
Awnings, made of cotton, flax or hemp, or part of either, or other material	3 per ct.
Do., the sewing of, the material whereof belonged to the employer, shall be exempt from duty when the cloth or material from which made was imported or has been subject to and paid a duty.	
Bags, made of cotton, flax or hemp, or part of either, or other material	3 per ct.
Bags, the sewing of, same as "Awnings."	
Band iron, see "Iron."	
Banks, on all dividends	3 per ct.
Bankers, under which term is included every person who keeps a place of business where credits are opened in favor of any person, firm or corporation, by the deposit or collection of money or currency, and the same or any part thereof shall be paid or remitted upon the draft, check or order of such creditor, but which does not include incorporated banks or other banks legally authorized to issue notes as circulation, for license	$100
Bar iron, see "Iron."	
Barks hereafter built	2 per ct.
Barytes, sulphate of, per 100 pounds	10 per ct.
Beer, per barrel of 31 gallons, fractional parts of a barrel to pay proportionately, see "Malt Liquors."	
Bend leather, per pound	1 ct. and 5 mills.
Benzine, per gallon	10 cents.
Bicarbonate of soda, per pound	5 mills.
Billiard tables, kept for use, for each table	$10
Billiard rooms, for license, for each table	$5
Bills of exchange (inland) for the payment of any sum of money exceeding $20 and not exceeding $100, otherwise than on sight or demand, stamp duty of	5 cents.
Do. Do., exceeding $100 and not exceeding $200	10 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $200 and not exceeding $350	15 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $350 and not exceeding $500	20 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $500 and not exceeding $750	30 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $750 and not exceeding $1,000	40 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $1,000 and not exceeding $1,500	60 cents.
Do. do., exceeding $1,500 and not exceeding $2,500	$1 00
Do. do., exceeding $2,500 and not exceeding $5,000	1 50
Do. do., for every $2,500 or part of $2,500 in excess of $5,000	1 00
Bills of exchange (foreign) drawn in but payable out of the United States, if drawn singly or if drawn otherwise than in sets of more than one, according to the custom of merchants and bankers, same as bills of exchange (inland).	
Do. do., if drawn in sets of three or more, for every bill of each set, where the sum made payable shall not exceed $150, or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency	3 cents.
Do. do., above $150 and not above $250	5 cents.
Do. do., above $250 and not above $500	10 cents.
Do. do., above $500 and not above $1,000	15 cents.
Do. do., above $1,000 and not above $1,500	20 cents.
Do. do., above $1,500 and not above $2,000	30 cents.
Do. do., above $2,000 and not above $2,500	50 cents.
Do. do., above $2,500 and not above $5,000	70 cents.
Do. do., above $5,000 and not above $7,500	$1 00
Do. do., for every $2,500, or part thereof, in excess of $7,500	50 cents.
Bills of lading for any goods, merchandise or effects to be exported from a port or place in the United States to any foreign port or place a stamp duty of	10 cents.
Bills of sale, by which any ship or vessel, or any part thereof, shall be conveyed to or vested in any other person or persons, when the consideration shall not exceed $500, stamp duty	25 cents.
Do., do., do., when the consideration exceeds $500 and does not exceed $1,000, stamp duty	50 cents.
Do., do., do., for each and every additional amount of $1,000, or any fractional part thereof in excess of $1,000	50 cents.
Bitters, same as "Medicines."	
Boards are not to be considered as manufactures.	
Bolts, per ton	$2 00
Bonds, auction sales of, on gross amounts of sales	1.10 of 1 per ct.
Bonds, indemnifying any person who shall have become bound or engaged as surety for the payment of any sum of money, or for any due execution or performance of the duties of any office, and to administer money received by virtue thereof, a stamp duty of	50 cents.
Do., of any description other than such as are required in legal proceedings, and such as are not otherwise charged, a stamp duty of	25 cents.
Bone, manufactures of, wholly or in part, if not otherwise specified, ad valorem	3 per ct.
Books are not to be regarded as a manufacture, or submitted to a rate of duty as a manufacture.	
Bottles, containing medicines, &c., the retail price or value of which, contents included, does not exceed 25 cents, a stamp duty of	1 cent.