

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Editor and Proprietor. Volume XXXI, No. 53. New York, Tuesday, February 23, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

The news concerning Sherman's advance in Mississippi is interesting, and comes from the Southern journals. The Richmond Examiner announces the arrival of General Sherman's forces at Quitman, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

Admiral Farragut's fleet had gone in the direction of Grand Pass on the 15th, and on the 19th was lying in the Sound, without having landed any troops, in consequence of the bad weather.

General Beaumont and staff are lodged in the Libby prison at Richmond.

It was rumored in Chattanooga that the rebels made an advance on the Tennessee river below London, and are blockading it to stop the passage of steamers from the former place.

Letters from Florida give details of the successful operations of General Gillmore's army, including the evacuation of Lake City by General Pinagan, which is regarded as a virtual abandonment by the rebels of the entire eastern portion of Florida.

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The Republican National Committee met at Washington yesterday, and unanimously adopted a call for a National Convention to meet at Baltimore at noon on the 7th of June next.

The Conference Committee of the two houses of Congress on the whiskey tax have agreed upon a report exempting the stock on hand from the extra tax, and fixing the sliding scale of taxes at sixty-five and seventy, instead of seventy and eighty cents, as fixed by the Senate.

Advices from Calcutta, India, of the 3d of January, represent freights as rating very low, owing to a crisis in the money market. Twenty dollars were, however, offered to the United States. American trade was at a standstill, with no characters for the American flag.

From China we learn that the American house of Russell & Co. are in difficulty with the British authorities at Hong Kong for having supplied the Japanese with munitions of war.

We have advices from South America, dated at Buenos Ayres December 28, Bahia the 12th and Pernambuco the 15th of January. The latest news from Entre Rios says that Urquiza, at the head of his troops, left San Jose on the 21st of December for La Paz.

The ship Maratian has left Havre for Vera Cruz, having on board a first class carriage for the Mexican railway. The packing case in which it was contained measured twenty-three feet square, and with its contents weighed five tons.

The Russian frigate Alexander Nevsky, Captain Fedorofsky, from Havana in ten days, arrived at this port yesterday morning. She made the passage under sail, her engines being disabled.

The one hundred and thirty-second anniversary of the Birth of Washington was celebrated yesterday in this city and vicinity, and, indeed, throughout the loyal States, with unusual enthusiasm.

Senator Pomeroy is from Kansas, and signs himself "Chairman National Executive Committee"—that is, the Chase committee.

He opens his proclamation with the bold opinion that "the movements recently made throughout the country to secure the re-nomination of President Lincoln render necessary some counteraction on the part of those unconditional friends of the Union who differ from the policy of his administration."

He says that "so long as no efforts were made to forestall the political action of the people" the Chase men were disposed to keep quiet; but when "party machinery and official influences" are brought to bear to secure another term to Old Abe, those in favor of a change, and of "vigor, purity and nationality," have no alternative but to define their position.

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soon as he could procure a divorce from his wife. The widow, however, probably aware of the uncertainties and delays of the law, spoke of her paramour, and some five weeks ago married a man named Macn. Being in a miserable frame of mind, Eichler determined to kill the faithless woman, her husband and himself. Full of this intent, he visited the Maen family on Thursday last, and in the kindest manner regaled them with a couple of bottles of wine, into which he had introduced a quantity of arsenic. The poison failing to do its work, Eichler discharged a pistol at Mr. Maen's head; but, excepting that his face was somewhat burned by powder, the intended victim received no injury. Eichler fled from the house, and on the same night took lodgings at Clark's Hotel, in Chatham street, where his dead body was discovered on Friday morning. A dose of some corrosive poison had put an end to all his troubles.

There is rather a curious promissory note case on trial in the Supreme Court, circuit, before Judge Smith. The Bank of the Commonwealth sues Benjamin F. Mudgett, Deputy Collector of the Customs, for the recovery of one thousand dollars. The plaintiffs claim that the defendant endorsed a one thousand dollar promissory note, which was left with them for collection, and that when the paper matured he repudiated the act of endorsing the whole thing a forgery.

Judge Peckham, of the Supreme Court, ruled yesterday in the case of Franz Wagner vs. the Mayor, that the law made no provision for property stolen during a riot, and that the claimant could only recover for what was "injured or destroyed."

Frederick Friday, a saloon keeper, doing business in Albany street, obtained a verdict of \$142 against the city yesterday, in the Supreme Court, for property destroyed during the July riots.

Judge Cardozo has denied the motion to continue the injunction restraining Weara Parsons from acting as collector of the Lawrence estate, and ordered that the temporary injunction granted by Judge Daly be vacated, with costs.

Surrogate Tucker has decided to admit to probate the will of Mrs. Mary S. Fish, deceased, the widow of Captain Preserved Fish. By the will a legacy of \$20,000, besides other bequests, is left to a young man named Allen Campbell, whom Mrs. Fish had adopted and brought up.

There were 388 deaths in the city during the past week, being an increase of 14 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 33 more than were recorded during the corresponding week of last year.

The stock market opened yesterday morning excited and buoyant, and rose very high figures. In the afternoon, however, a slight reaction took place, and the market took a downward turn.

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THE WAR IN EUROPE.

In another part of this journal will be found a most interesting statement, by our special London correspondent, in regard to the present condition of Europe, the Danish and German war and the plans of Louis Napoleon. It is asserted that the Emperor of the French and his ally, Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, are making vast preparations for a general war.

The forces of Italy and France will aid those of Denmark, and, as Germany has thought proper to break the peace of Europe, upon her will fall the consequences. Italy will regain Venetia, while Hungary will be stirred up to open insurrection. In Austria will suffer. As for Prussia, Napoleon owes her a grudge, and should not this war be stopped immediately he will repay many fold the annoyance she caused him by those hostile manifestations which occasioned the hasty peace of Villafranca, thus marring the most successful campaign that was ever fought.

Napoleon will doubtless seize upon the present opportunity to extend his frontiers to the Rhine. He will dispatch a large force into Germany, and will so arrange affairs that France can but benefit by the storm which Germany has seen fit to raise. The German forces now in the field have gained a point; but what will they do hereafter? The Powers of Europe will not tamely consent to the capture of Schleswig-Holstein. Having forcibly possessed themselves of these provinces, what will the Confederation do with them? There is the real difficulty for the Germans to contend with. They run the risk of forming against themselves an alliance between Denmark, Sweden, France and Italy. England also would aid these Powers. Russia will keep clear of the imbroglio, Prussia and Austria having thus to confront alone the immense force arrayed against them.

All in this turmoil the balance of power remains with France. Napoleon will find himself able to dictate to Germany, in fact to settle this question either by arbitration or force, and in either case will so manage that material benefits shall accrue to himself. The disadvantages of his position are cleared away by the blunder of the German Confederation. It has broken the peace of Europe, not Napoleon; and he needed just such an opportunity to escape the dangers which surrounded him. With Europe on the eve of a general war, the people of France will see the danger of a revolution, and will give the Emperor a support he would otherwise not have had.

There is great probability now that at the period when we shall have conquered a lasting peace the Old World will be entering upon a phase which must insure the total change of its present political aspect. The republic will have regained all its lustre as the effete monarchies of Europe will be disappearing forever.

THE JOES AND GREENBACKS.—Secretary Chase, being now positively a candidate for the Presidency, has begun a very immense issue of greenbacks. This ought to stimulate Old Abe in the issue of his jokes. Chase is his own printer, and has some advantages in that. But we have in this city half a dozen printers, some of whom have printed the jokes of Chevalier Wilcox, of the Count Gurovski and of Miles O'Reilly, and any of whom will print the jokes of Old Abe for a fair remuneration.

A NUT TO CRACK.—How can Old Abe and Secretary Chase get along in the Cabinet together? Both are candidates for the Presidency—Chase on a platform of greenbacks and Old Abe on one of jokes. There must be an explosion soon.

THE THEATRE.—Tom Taylor and Charles Reade's admired play of Manks and Paces was revived at this house last evening. The place was filled by a fine and appreciative audience, and the performance went off with enthusiasm.

THE MARYLAND UNION STATE CONVENTION. MR. LINCOLN NOMINATED FOR NEXT PRESIDENT. The Union State Convention met at Baltimore, Md., on the 12th inst. 1864. There was great enthusiasm. The tone of the Convention was strong for immediate emancipation, and resolutions endorsing the administration, and declaring Mr. Lincoln to be the first and only choice for the next Presidential term, were adopted.

SAFETY OF ESCAPED OFFICERS FROM RICHMOND. A despatch just received by the commanding General from Colonel West, commanding at Williamsburg, says the following officers, escaped from Richmond, have arrived at Williamsburg: Colonel Charles W. Tilden, Sixteenth Massachusetts; Major Hooper, Fifteenth Massachusetts; Captain Charles Smith, Second New York; Lieutenant Campbell, Fifth United States Army; Captain Fisher, of the Signal Corps.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST. St. Louis, Feb. 22, 1864. The iron-clad turret gunboat Onondaga made a trial trip to Cairo on Saturday last, and returned on the 21st. She will be immediately armed and equipped for active service.

THE PATRIOT STABBING OF RICHARD JOHNSON. Coroner Naumann yesterday held an inquest at the New York Hospital on the body of Richard Johnson, the colored man who was fatally stabbed at the dance house No. 124 Church street on the morning of the 15th inst. by John J. Becker, also colored. The testimony developed about the same state of facts as heretofore published. The jury found "That Richard Johnson, the deceased, came to his death from a stab wound inflicted by John J. Becker."

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IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Call for a Republican National Convention to Meet at Baltimore on the 7th of June.

More Executive Interference with Military Affairs.

Why the Florida Campaign Was Ordered.

The Conference Committee's Report on the Whiskey Tax.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1864. MR. LINCOLN'S EXECUTIVE INTERFERENCE WITH THE FEDERAL MILITARY CONVENTION TO MEET AT BALTIMORE ON JUNE 7.

The National Convention met at the residence of the Hon. Edwin D. Morgan, at noon to-day, and was called to order by that gentleman as chairman.

Hon. Edward McPherson, of Pennsylvania, was elected secretary of the committee, and called on George G. Fogg, of New Hampshire, who is absent from the country.

Upon consultation a call was unanimously adopted for a National Convention, in the following terms:—The undersigned, who by original appointment or subsequent designation to vacancies, constitute the Executive Committee created by the National Convention held at Chicago on the 16th day of May, 1860, do hereby certify that the Executive Committee of the National Convention, in pursuance of the resolutions of the Convention, to assemble at Baltimore, on Tuesday, the 7th day of June, 1864, at twelve o'clock noon, for the purpose of presenting candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.

Each State having a representation in Congress will be entitled to as many delegates as shall be equal to twice the number of electors to which such State is entitled in the Electoral College of the United States.

A resolution was also adopted inviting the Territories and the District of Columbia to send delegates, subject to the determination of the Convention of their right to vote.

The Committee agreed to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

The following members were present:—Messrs. Edwin D. Morgan, of New York; President; Lawrence Brainerd, of Vermont; John G. Goodrich, of Massachusetts; Thomas G. Turner, of Rhode Island; Gideon Welles, of Connecticut; Denning Duer, of New Jersey; Edward McPherson, of Pennsylvania; Nathaniel B. Smithers, of Delaware; James F. Wagner, of Maryland; Thomas Spooner, of Ohio; Henry S. Lane, of Indiana; Ebenezer Cook, of Illinois; H. M. Hoyle, of Iowa; William D. Washburn, of Minnesota; Cornelius Cole, of California; O. H. Irish, of Nebraska; Joseph Gerhardt, of the District of Columbia.

The committee was entirely harmonious in their proceedings, and adjourned in the best possible spirits.

THE CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA—CURIOUS REVELATIONS. It is stated that a curious development of Executive interference with military movements has been developed by inquiries about the recent Florida expedition. It is said that upon hearing of it General Halleck was quite taken by surprise, and wrote to General Gillmore to know what he was doing at Jacksonville, a city that had been two or three times in our possession and was not considered worth holding, and asking how he came to go there, not only without orders but without the knowledge and contrary to the positive instructions of the Secretary of War and General Halleck.

In reply General Gillmore said he had enclosed a letter of instructions from the President, transmitted to him by Mr. Hay, late private secretary of Mr. Lincoln, directing the movement to be made. Since this statement has been in circulation it is rumored that the expedition was intended simply for the occupation of Florida for the purpose of securing the election of three Lincoln delegates to the National Nominating Convention, and that of John Hay to Congress. The cost of the operation to the government is estimated at about one million of dollars.

THE SALE OF THE SURETY GOLD IN THE TREASURY. No doubt is entertained that a bill will be speedily passed authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the surplus gold in the Treasury. It is confidently stated that the Secretary desires such authority; and although there will be some who, for political reasons, will endeavor to prevent its being given to him, there will be found, in addition to his immediate friends, enough who are convinced of the propriety of the measure to insure its passage.

THE WHISKEY TAX. The Committee of Conference on the Whiskey bill had a meeting to-day. It consists of Senators Yessenden, Johnson and Howe, and Representatives Washburn, of Illinois; Stevens, of Pennsylvania, and Fernando Wood, of New York.

As both houses had agreed to strike out the proposed tax on spirits on hand, it was not deemed by the majority of the committee to be in controversy, and hence it remains.

It is understood that the sliding scale has been adopted with modifications, namely:—Spirits distilled and sold, or distilled and removed for consumption or sale, previous to the first day of July, at first price, in addition to the duties payable thereon, a duty of six cents per gallon, and upon all liquors which may be distilled after the passage of this act, and sold or removed for consumption or sale, on and after the 1st day of July next, and previous to the 1st day of January next, six cents per gallon; and on all liquors which may be distilled after the passage of this act and sold or removed for consumption or sale, on and after the 1st day of January next, seven cents per gallon. The modifications are from seventy to sixty-five cents, and from eighty to seventy cents.

Another point in controversy has been settled, namely:—On distilled spirits imported from foreign countries previous to the 1st of July next, or on all such spirits, imported from foreign countries on and after the 1st of July next and previous to the 1st of January, a duty of forty-five instead of fifty cents per gallon; and on all such spirits imported on and after the 1st of January next fifty instead of sixty cents per gallon.

The report of the Committee on Conference will probably be acted upon finally by both houses to-morrow.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE ALABAMA. The following paper was prepared in an official quarter, believed to be by Admiral C. B. Davis, the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation:—

The late news concerning the Alabama and the Wyoming involves two peculiar and important questions, which naturally give rise to some discussion. The information is:—

First—Concerning the Alabama: that she was at Singapore on the 22d of December, and that she was at Amoy on the 24th of January.

Second—The Wyoming was at Rio (near Singapore) December 9, and she was at Singapore on the 12th inst. via the Straits of Ouar, where she was to repair her boilers; and the additional information concerning this vessel is that given by our Minister Resident at Singapore, and dated on the 19th of January, that she was watching the Alabama at Amoy.

It appears from the statements that the Alabama, after coming some time in sailing, ascended the China Sea, during the northeast monsoon, and at the time when it blew with its greatest strength, in seven days running a distance of one thousand six hundred and eighty miles against the wind and current of the monsoon, and that the Wyoming ascended the whole length of the China Sea from Balavia to Amoy, a distance of one thousand miles, under the same circumstances, but without a similar limitation of time.

It is doubted, and very justly, by East India navigators, whether there is not some mistake in these dates. A fact similar to that now reported of the Alabama was performed by the English steamer Vixen, on account of which she is given the credit of being the fastest vessel in the world. She was at Balavia on the 11th of October, and at Amoy on the 24th of January.

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It is doubted, and very justly, by East India navigators, whether there is not some mistake in these dates. A fact similar to that now reported of the Alabama was performed by the English steamer Vixen, on account of which she is given the credit of being the fastest vessel in the world. She was at Balavia on the 11th of October, and at Amoy on the 24th of January.

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