THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,036. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1864.—WITH SUPPLEMENT. PRICE THREE CENTS.

KILPATRICK'S EXPEDITION.

REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIR.

Colonel Dahlgren's Operations and Death.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIS BODY?

FIERCE REVALIATION RECOMMENDED, &c., &c., &c.

Official Despatch of General Butler.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 8, 1864.

HON. EDWARD M. STANTON, Secretary of War:—

The flag of truce boat is in, bringing over forty-eight officers and over six hundred privates, delivered for exchange.

The Richmond papers give an account of Colonel Dahlgren's death and Major Cook's capture.

The Richmond papers of to-day say that on the 6th of March General Sherman was at Canton, on the Mississippi Central Railroad. That he has taken a large number of negroes, and leaves the country impoverished.

The papers also state that the rebels have ordered all of General Kilpatrick's officers whom they have captured to be placed in irons. BENJ. F. BUTLER,

Major General Commanding.

The Kilpatrick Expedition—Who Betrayed It?

[From the Boston Courier.]

We quoted a paragraph from the Springfield *Republican* yesterday, the correspondent of which paper, writing from Meade's headquarters, predicted the failure of Kilpatrick's expedition, owing to the fact that the secret of it was communicated to "the ladies" at a great ball given on the night of the 22d of February. Whether "the ladies" in question were of a description to be very much confided in may be judged about, perhaps, by the following extracts which we take from a communication made to us by "one who was there." Referring to the paragraph above mentioned, he says:—

It is fortunate that a republican paper exposes the manner in which things are conducted at headquarters in front of the enemy. Your papers, perhaps, would not be believed. The only error of omission in the account of the grand theatricals in which "Kilpatrick acted as manager," is the character of at least a portion of these ladies (?). A gentleman of this city, who was on the train going from Alexandria to Brandy Station, recognized a female of private notoriety, belonging to Boston, as she stepped into the ladies' car. Surprised to see such a gross violation of general and special orders, and having in an official capacity passed said female outside our lines on a former occasion, he requested to see her pass. Without suspecting anything, she remarked, "Oh, we get our passes from the Secretary of War," and handed the pass to the gentleman. Not till the pass was in his hand did she suspect; when, with a conceited air, she remarked, "Is it not curious that my name is put in as Hon. Mrs. So-and So?" Her pass was signed by Colonel Hardee, and included three others. The honorable applied to a United States Senator; the other "ladies" had very romantic names. The gentleman inquired of the officer of the guard if such things were allowed. He replied, "I passed over the road yesterday eighty-three, all with passes from the War Department, and many bearing names of members of Congress." In the common car he found there was a dejected looking man from Elmira, New York, who was in search of a little boy, fourteen years old, who had run away, and was at Brandy station. He had been three days besieging the War Department for a pass to go and reclaim this last of his family, the others having been killed at Gettysburg and Antietam; and even then would not have succeeded but for the earnest aid of a general officer.

SOUTHERN ACCOUNTS.

Col. Dahlgren's Operations and Death.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 7.]

THE RAIDERS—INTERESTING STATEMENT OF DAHLGREN'S EXCURSION AND DEATH.

The column of Yankees under Dahlgren took on their route two prisoners, Captain Dement and Mr. Mountcastle, who accompanied the force from Goochland to the debut at Walkerton. From these gentlemen and other sources of information we gather some interesting accounts of Dahlgren's excursion.

Dahlgren came down the Westham plank road, with eight hundred or a thousand men. The Armory battalion was on the enemy's flank, and appears to have been completely surprised. But when the enemy came in contact with Henley's battalion the cavalry broke at the first fire. The first volley of musketry seems to have done all the disaster that occurred. There were eleven Yankees killed and some thirty or forty wounded.

After the affair Dahlgren seemed to be anxious for his retreat and divided his forces, so as to increase the chances of escape. The force under his immediate command moved down the south bank of the Pamunkey and crossed the river at Dabney's Ferry.

Their exact number was not at first easily ascertained, and, as usual, the most exaggerated accounts were soon circulated throughout the county, increasing as they spread, until the miserable fugitives from the Richmond defences were magnified into a full brigade. From the ferry they proceeded by the most direct route to Aylett's, on the Mattapony, watched closely at every step by scouts detached from Lieutenant James Pollard's company of Lee's Rangers, now on picket duty and recruiting service in King William, the residence of most of its members. The ferry boat having been previously removed, and Lieutenant Pollard's arrangements for disputing their passage when they reached the King and Queen side of the river being suspected, they dashed across the river as precipitately as possible, under the fire of a small squad of rangers left on the south bank for that purpose. While passing through King William they captured one prisoner, Mr. William Edwards, and several horses, and mortally wounded a man attached to the signal corps, whose name we could not learn. Subsequently Colonel Dahlgren, in command of the party, ordered the release of Mr. Edwards and the restoration of his horse and of some valuables which were forcibly taken from his person when captured.

The Yankees had no sooner reached King and Queen county than they were harassed, both front and rear, by the Rangers, showing fight as they advanced, until Lieutenant Pollard was reinforced by Magruder's and Blake's companies of the Forty second Virginia battalion, now on picket duty in King and Queen, and Fox's company of Fifth Virginia cavalry, on furlough in the same county. Here the fight became general, resulting in the death of Colonel Dahlgren, and the capture of the greater number of the party, the rest having fled in disorder and panic to the nearest woods. It is believed that few, if any, will reach Gloucester Point alive, as the Home Guard of King and Queen, whose bravery was conspicuous during the whole affair, are scouring the country and cutting off escape.

A large body of this raiding party was pushing towards the peninsula at last accounts, preferring that route to the rather hazardous attempt to reach Gloucester Point through King William and King and Queen. We regret this very much, as, in both counties, adequate preparations were made to prevent the soil of either county from being converted into a highway, as in the earlier period of the war, for Yankee robbers, whose track is marked, wherever they are permitted to obtain a foothold, with desolation and blood.

COLONEL DAHLGREN—HIS DEATH.

The publication of Dahlgren's programme for the sack of Richmond was the occasion of constant excitement Saturday, and curiosity to know what course the authorities would pursue towards the three or four hundred land pirates put in durance at Libby. To Dahlgren's budget of villany and cowardice there are to be added some incidents which show, in the most striking colors, the character of the commander.

When the Yankees appeared at Frederick's Hall they captured there Captain Dement, and this prisoner was taken in company with Dahlgren over the whole of his route. Captain Dement reports that he witnessed the execution of the negro guide, and that Dahlgren furnished a rein from his own bridle with which the unhappy victim was hung.

Captain Dement effected his escape in the fight near Walkerton. When Dahlgren found the small body of Confederate cavalry in his front, he insisted upon Captain Dement riding by his side, as he advised to demand their surrender. The reply of one of our officers to the demand of surrender, was "Give them hell, boys." Dahlgren fell at the first fire, and the horse of Captain Dement was shot under him, the rider fortunately escaping without injury. Dahlgren received two bullets in the head, two in the body, and one in the hand. He died instantly.

Captain Dement escaped to a skirt of woods and hearing some of the Yankee fugitives expressing a desire to find him and to surrender to him, came forward and received the surrender of almost the entire party. Dahlgren's body had been stripped naked and was lying on the road, and it was by Captain Dement's orders that it was buried.

Both Captain Dement and Mr. Mountcastle describe Dahlgren as a most agreeable and charming villain. He was very civil to the prisoners, shared his food with Captain Dement, and on several occasions invited him to take a sip of whiskey with him. He was a fair haired, very young looking man, with manners as soft as a cat's.

COLONEL JOHNSON'S AFFAIRS WITH THE ENEMY.

We learn that all the boats on the Pamunkey were secured by Colonel Bradley Johnson's command, with the exception of a single one at Dabney's Ferry, which the enemy seized and afterwards destroyed.

The wounded in Colonel Bradley T. Johnson's small command of fifty four men, in the attack upon the enemy at Old Church, was Capt. George M. Emack, of Prince George county, Maryland, shot in the thumb and side, slightly; Lieut. Jones, shot through thighs, seriously; George Parker, sabre cut over the head, and R. H. King, cut over the head and shoulder. The Yankees charged through the command repeatedly, as though to ascertain its force, but every time the enemy charged the command divided, delivering a deadly volley of lead and taking a number of prisoners upon every recoil, besides emptying a number of saddles. The enemy were in force five to one, and nothing but the prudence and cowardice of the Yankees and the bravery of Col. Johnson's force saved them from capture.

The Destruction Along the Canal, River Road and Railroads.

CONDUCT OF THE ENEMY IN THE LAST RAID.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 8.]

The depredations of the last Yankee raiders, and the wantonness of their devastation, equal anything heretofore committed during the war. At the farm houses visited by them in Goochland they destroyed the provisions, hacked up the furniture and stole the table silver. Mr. James M. Morson's house they set fire to three times, but the flames were fortunately as often extinguished by the house servants. They fired Mr. James A. Seddon's barn, cornhouse and stables. The barn was consumed, but the negroes succeeded in saving the other buildings. But it would be endless to attempt to particularize their acts of vandalism, if, indeed, many of their deeds were not too revolting to be recited in a Christian community. The disgusting orgies in which they spent three hours in the neighborhood of Dover Mills should bring the blush of shame to the brows even of Yankee women. "Picked men," indeed. They must have been picked out for their low tastes and brutal natures. It is for the future historian to gather the separate facts and show up this affair in its true colors.

The Yankee trail from Dover to Atlee's Station is marked by devastation as complete as their fears would permit. In the neighborhood of Atlee's they seized and destroyed everything that would sustain the life of man and beast. We will mention one case, which may be taken as a specimen of their wholesale plundering and barbarous cruelty. William Chesterman, an old man with five children, a carpenter by trade, lives near Atlee's water station. They came to his house on Tuesday evening, took every mouthful of his small stock of provisions, every grain of his corn, every fowl; ripped up his beds with their sabres, and threw the feathers into the road; tore up every stitch of his children's clothing, actually taking them off the children for the purpose, and broke up his carpenter's tools before his eyes. On Wednesday the old man had to go forth to beg bread for his children. He is now dependent on the charity of the world, the very implements on which he relied for a livelihood having been destroyed. A heavy debt is certainly incurred, to be liquidated when our men again visit the bursting barns and farmhouses of Pennsylvania.

Major Cook and Other Prisoners.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 8.]

The raiders concerned in the last "on to Richmond" had been cooped at the Libby to the number of three hundred and twenty-one up to last night, with about fifty more to be heard from. Ninety-one were received on Saturday, with forty stolen negroes, recaptured, who were sent to Castle Thunder, to await the claims of their owners, who have no fear of the Ape's emancipation proclamation before their eyes. Among the ninety-one were three commissioned officers—Major E. F. Cook, Second New York cavalry; First Lieutenant H. H. D. Merrett, Fifth New York, and Second Lieutenant R. Bartley, of the Signal Corps. Officers and men are kept separate from the other prisoners captured in legitimate warfare.

Colonel Dahlgren's Body.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 8.]

Dahlgren's body was boxed up at Walkerton on Sunday and brought to Richmond, with the object, we understand, of its positive identification, and the establishment of the fact of the finding of the infamous documents upon it, all of which has been attested by witnesses. Henceforth the name of Dahlgren is linked with eternal infamy, and in the years to come defenceless woman and innocent childhood will peruse, with a sense of shrinking horror, the story of Richmond's rescue from the midnight sack and ravage led by Dahlgren. It would seem something of the curse he came to bestow upon others lighted upon his own carcass, when it fell riddled by avenging Southern bullets. Stripped, robbed of every valuable, the fingers cut off for the sake of the diamond rings that encircled them, when the body was found by those sent to take charge of it, it was lying in a field, stark naked, with the exception of the stockings. Some humane persons had lifted the corpse from the pike and thrown it over into the field, to save it from the hogs. The artificial leg worn by Dahlgren was removed, and is now at General Elzey's headquarters. It is a most beautiful design and finish.

Yesterday afternoon the body was removed from the car that brought it to the York River Railroad depot and given to the spot of earth selected to receive it. Where that spot is no one but those concerned in its burial know or care to tell. It was a dog's burial, without coffin, winding sheet or service. Friends and relatives at the North need inquire no further; this is all they will know—he is buried a burial that befitted the mission upon which he came. He has "swept through the city of Richmond" on a pine bier, and "written his name" on the scroll of infamy, instead of "on the hearts of his countrymen," never to be erased. He "asked the blessing of Almighty God" on his mission of rapine, murder and blood, and the Almighty cursed him instead.

The Negro Guide.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 8.]

Dahlgren's guide, recommended to him "at the last moment" as the "very man he wanted," by one "truly yours, John C. Babcock," has reached the Libby, in company with the two or three hundred brigands he attempted to guide into the heart of Richmond. His name is John A. Hogan, an Irishman by birth, twenty three years old, tall and lithe, with a fine, open countenance. When asked his rank, he declared himself a foil, high private, and did not aspire to anything else. Being interrogated as to his knowledge of Richmond and its suburbs, he said he knew it "like a bog;" he was a guest at the Hotel de Libby in July, 1863, and knew the officers of the prison. Then recognizing Mr. Ross, the clerk, Hogan broke out, "How do ye do, Lieutenant Ross; glad to see you!" Hogan boasted of his narrow escape, having had four bullets put through his clothing and hair. In reply to a question as to what he was fighting for, he replied he was fighting for fun. When such fun ends in a hempen rope, as we trust it will, Hogan will cease to estimate his business a joke.

Hogan disposed of for the present, we would inquire who is this "John C. Babcock" who sent Hogan on his own horse to Dahlgren? If found, he should certainly be sent headlong after Dahlgren, or brought to Richmond to participate in whatever fate awaits the outlaws of his command held here.

Official Notification of the Falling Back of Butler's Forces.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, March 7.]

An official report to General Hunton, of date March 5, by Lieutenant Colonel Robins, says:—

I have the honor to report that the enemy has retreated to Williamsburg. This news was brought to me by my scouts, who followed them some miles below Slatersville, and had information that they were below Burnt Ordinary, rapidly falling back to Williamsburg. Two regiments of infantry (negroes) came up on the Diascund road as far as Diascund bridge, and remained there until the whole force fell back.

The Rebel War Department Blamed for the Raid.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, March 5.]

If the Confederate capital has been in the closest danger of massacre and conflagration—if the President and Cabinet have run a serious risk of being hanged at their own doors, *do we not owe it chiefly to the mild and water spirit in which the war has hitherto been conducted?*

It is time to ask, in what light are the people of the Confederate States regarded by their own government. As belligerents resisting by war an invasion from a foreign people—or as a gang of male actors evading and postponing the penalty of their crimes? It may appear a strange question; yet the answer is not so distinct as could be desired. The enemy's government, we know, takes the second view of our position. To the Washington authorities we are simply criminals awaiting punishment, who may be hanged, or may be pardoned. In their eyes our country is not our's, but their's. The hostilities which they carry on are not properly war, but military execution and coercion. There is, in their opinion, no equality of rights between us: no more than between the police and a gang of garroters whom the police is hunting down. Even the one symptom of apparent recognition, upon their part, of our *status* as a war-making people—namely, the exchange of prisoners (a measure to which reluctantly compelled them for a little while), is at an end. We would not treat, forsooth, with Major General Butler! The outlaws, indeed, pretend to tastes and preferences as to which of the efficient police constables shall be sent to deal with them. The fastidious creatures demand to be brought back to their duty by gentlemanlike officers, and to be handled with kid gloves, do they!

But the present matter in hand is not the position which the Yankees assign to us. Does the Confederate government take any different view of the case? Does it at least recognize us as belligerents? What a question!—after three years of fierce and deadly war. Now, in submitting to take an inferior position, in suffering our enemies to do things which we may not or dare not do, in shrinking from retaliation for outrage, pillage and murder, this government does virtually acknowledge and accept the theory, the whole theory of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward. General Morgan makes a raid into Ohio; he is taken, is thrust into a State penitentiary as a felon, to await his trial as a robber. Streight and his mounted brigands lay waste and burn and plunder several counties in North Alabama—they are taken and treated as prisoners of war. Stoneman, Sperry, Kilpatrick, ride when they please up to the fortifications of Richmond, robbing the houses and henroops, stealing the very spoons and clothing, carrying off at their pleasure horses, mules, slaves. Some of the thieves are apprehended, but what care they? Their officers are conducted to the Libby and seen with astonished consideration. The private thieves are sure of the treatment of honorable enemies and prisoners taken in battle. Several hundred of this last marauding gang are now in the Confederate prisons at Richmond. They are not chained up in a penitentiary for felons, not handed over to be dealt with by the outraged laws of Virginia. Why not? Perhaps this state government at Richmond is not the true government of Virginia, perhaps the true government is that one at Wheeling or at Alexandria, or at Norfolk and these raiders and robbers have committed no offence against that government or against the people of the real State of Virginia—that is the "loyal" State. This is the theory at Washington: those in "rebellion" have no rights; and to do by these caitiffs as was done by Morgan in Ohio, would not there be regarded as the legitimate retaliation of belligerents, but as a new outrage by rebels; and, doubtless, if the wretches were hanged an equal number of Confederate officers of the highest rank they have got would swing; and our government knows it, and in its humanity and Christian charity submits. Again, two Yankee officers are solemnly designated by lot to be executed in retaliation for two of our most freely murdered. But, in the eyes of our enemies, we have no rights of retaliation, nor any other rights, so they coolly inform us that if we do so we have threatened they will not regard it as retaliation, but as a new crime, to be severely punished. They choose out two officers of rank—even a brigadier general—and inform us that their over-shrill answer for the two whom we propose to execute. Well, this government, after months of hesitation, gives way, yields all, confesses that it has no rights, and lets the condemned men go. In other words, it accepts for us, and in our name, the position of rebels and malefactors.

But "we are to consider," it seems, "not what wicked enemies may deserve, but what it becomes us, as Christians and gentlemen, to inflict." Oh, hypocrisy, and thou forty parson power which alone can sound its praise through thy forty noses! What cant is this? We wonder whether Mr. Davis is aware of what many very honest people begin to mutter and murmur. They say, can this man be saving up for himself, in case of the worst, a sort of plea in mitigation of punishment? If the cause for which a hundred and fifty thousand of us have died, be borne down at last, is this Christian meekness of his intended to save his own life? They say what comfort are these fine sentiments to the houseless families who have been driven from their homes in Tennessee or Virginia, when they find that our armies, even on the enemy's soil, are withheld from giving the invaders a taste of real war in their own quenched hearths and blazing barns? For what have we set over us a government at all if it be not to protect us against our enemies; to avenge us of our enemies when need is; to uphold our cause in all its fulness and grandeur, and to keep our banner flying high? But this is lowering the cause and dragging the banner through the dust; this is encouraging, inviting our invaders to ravage and pillage us at pleasure, sure that they will not be visited with the like in their turn.

A War of Ferocious Retaliation Recommended.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 7.]

Perhaps the people—perhaps even the government of the Confederate States—are now at length awakened to the true nature of the struggle in progress. We have been in the habit of regarding it as a war between nations, our enemies have all along looked upon it as a military execution upon a "mutinous crew." The means by which their soldiers are desired to "write their names in ineffaceable letters on the hearts of their countrymen," are by rushing at night upon a populous city, burning it down with turpentine and oakum "in sealed balls;" turning loose some thousands of ruffian prisoners, brutalized to the deepest degree by acquaintance with every horror of war, who have been confined on an island for a year, far from all means of indulging their strong sensual appetites—inviting this pandemonium to work their will on the unarmed citizens, on the women, gentle and simple, of Richmond, and on all their property—in a word, to sack with the usual accompaniments attending that operation—to kill Jeff Davis and his mutinous crew, and slip away as they came. To burn not only houses and bridges, but everything else which might be of use to the "rebels," barns, boats, stores, provisions, and to slaughter all horses and cattle which they could not carry away with them.

The results, indeed, of this tremendous intention of ravage and butchery were contemptible. The "picked command, selected from brigades and regiments" for the thieving and murdering expedition, was not quite up to the mark. "the braves who were to have swept through Richmond" were very easily swept away from before Richmond; and their balls of oakum and turpentine, instead of hissing and flaming in our dwellings, and amidst terrified women and children, as was expected, had to be thrown into the Pamunkey for the present. Nevertheless, the minute programme of that piece of business cannot fail to be instructive. After our government has existed for three years, and has all that time maintained large armies to meet and baffle their far greater armies in fair fight on the field, they think it still an allowable, nay a virtuous and glorious proceeding, to steal upon our chief magistrate and his Cabinet in their beds, and, after burning their houses, to hang them up on the next tree, just as the French in Algiers would do to a Kabyle chief and his encampment in the desert, or the English in India to some Nena Sahib or Ghoorka marauder.

Now—it is as well to look our position straight in the face—we are barbarians, in the eyes of our enemies. Our way of life is, according to the *dictum* of one of these philosophers, "the sum of all barbarism." Against us, everything is fair. We also, though we have newspapers, and orators, and a certain command of the English language, are yet so hemmed in, for the present, by blockading fleets and armies, that our protest, if we attempt any, dies away in silence too. It is the simple fact, let us take it as we will, that those enemies against whom we fondly believe we are waging an honorable war, as nation against nation, are carrying on against us the very same sort of warfare that English armies think good enough for the revolted Sepoys and mutinous hill tribes. If they can surprise, by any sort of artifice, our kraal of Richmond, and deliver it over to the mercy of their troops, and hold it for one good carnival of lust and rapine, they will write their names in imperishable letters on the hearts of their countrymen. This situation of affairs was always well known to us; but it was doubted or denied by many Confederates of feeble brain. Do they believe it now, understand it now, that we have it under the hand of federal officers charged with the task of breaking up this "hateful" den of Richmond, burning and robbing our houses, stripping and violating the virtuous and often refined Christian women of this place, shooting, stabbing, hanging the highest civil officers of the law, and massacring indiscriminately the population.

This is a wholesome kind of reflection for our own countrymen. We believe it will sting them. We think it highly probable that they will peremptorily demand of their government some practical, unmistakable assertion of our full determination to be treated as honorable enemies and civilized people. And what—some may ask—what then would you have our government to do?—*turn the war into a war of extermination? Certainly, certainly;* it is already a war of extermination, of indiscriminate slaughter and plunder on the part of our enemies. Their sparing the lives of prisoners and occasional exchanges, form but a temporary suspension of the rule, necessitated by our holding prisoners also, but the true *animus*, the authentic Yankee theory of the war, is manifest in the actual proceedings of our enemy wherever he has the power, and especially, and most signally, in this code of instructions for sack and massacre in Richmond. *Our government owes it to its own army and to its own people, if it cannot at the moment retaliate such atrocities in kind, at least to bring to condign punishment the robbers who, in the guise of soldiers and under pretence of war, have been caught lurking about Richmond with their oakum balls and turpentine, and their written programme for murdering the chief magistrate and setting fire to all the houses till the city is burnt in a hundred places at once, and then inviting eight thousand bloodthirsty, lustful ruffians to gut the blazing mansions, rape their mistresses, and knock the masters in the head in the dreadful confusion.*

But if we hang these wretches then the enemy will select an equal number for the gallows? *Not while we hold sixteen thousand hostages.* But if we shrink from that there is another alternative, *and the only one left us—hanging and massacre all on one side. We can choose between the two; other choice there is none.*

MEXICAN AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

The Archduke Still Hesitating About the Acceptance of the Throne.

[From the London News, Feb. 26.]

BRUSSELS, Feb. 24, 1864.

In a recent number of one of the London daily journals it is stated that "the agent of Messrs Fould & Co. (Mr. Heine) has been in communication with Senor Aimonte, who, duly authorized by the Emperor elect, has granted the concession of the new bank," and "trustworthy information leads to the belief that by mutual co-operation and combination the bondholders may obtain terms in every way commensurate with the sacrifices they have endured with this debt.

As my name has been mentioned in connection with the preceding assertions, I beg to state that I am in a position that enables me to assure the public that all that has been said in the article in question is incorrect, and that his Imperial Highness the Archduke Maximilian has not authorized General Aimonte either to grant privileges to the above mentioned bank, or to enter into any settlement with the English bondholders, *his Imperial Highness not having as yet definitively accepted the throne of Mexico.*

I request you, sir, to have this letter published.

F. DE ARRANGOIZ.

THE ARCHDUKE'S DELAY.

[Paris (Feb. 25) correspondence of London News.]

The Archduke Maximilian and his wife are expected to-morrow at the Tuileries from Brussels. I still continue to think it very doubtful indeed whether he will ever be Emperor of Mexico. The explanations given by the *Memorial Diplomatique* of the reasons why his reception of the deputation come from Mexico to offer him the crown is delayed until after his visit to Paris are hesitating, and betray much want of confidence. That journal, which is not inaptly styled the Archduke's *Moniteur*, says that he is deeply imbued with a sense of the "difficulties" of his task, and that he wishes, before seeing the deputation, to have a thorough understanding with the Emperor. The "difficulties" are indeed so great that I yet suspect they will turn out to be impossibilities. The young Archduke is probably a Jesuit; and at all events, according to outward observances and professions is a very extreme Romanist. Whatever he may be personally, it is certain that the Jesuits fixed upon him as their tool, and if they find they cannot use him to restore the odious clerical government which reduced Mexico to its present degraded state they will none of him.

The Tennessee Election.

ST. LOUIS, March 9, 1864.

The Memphis *Argus* claims a triumph in the recent election of what it calls the National Union Conservative ticket, being in opposition to that supported by the *Bulletin*, known as the Unconditional Union ticket. The *Argus* claims the election of Sheriff, Clerk of the Criminal Court, County Court, County Register and Trustees, two out of four magistrates, one out of two constables.

Judge Triggs, of Knoxville, had arrived at Memphis to open the District Court of the Western district of Tennessee. It is said that O. R. Underwood, of Helena, designs becoming a candidate for United States Senator from Arkansas.

Large Fire in Meriden, Conn.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 9, 1864.

A disastrous fire broke out in Meriden, between twelve and one o'clock this morning, in the drug store of Hart & Foote, near the depot. It consumed two or three blocks of buildings. Among the property destroyed are the First National Bank, the West Meriden Hotel, the Post Office, the grocery store of H. T. Wilcox, the law office of Hon. O. H. Platt, the dwelling and dry goods store of W. H. Potter, and the stores of Messrs. D. H. Southwick and I. Butler & Co., boot and shoe dealers. A man named Sylvester was killed, and Mr. Newton F. Hart was so badly injured by falling bricks.

The loss by the fire is estimated at seventy two thousand dollars. It is insured for fifty seven thousand dollars.

The Cutter Miami at Portland.

PORTLAND, Me., March 9, 1864.

The steam cutter Miami, from New York for St. John, N. B., arrived to day.

GEN. SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.

What He Effected in the Enemy's Country.

Cattle, Mules, Eight Thousand Negroes and Four Hundred Prisoners Captured.

General Grant's Opinion of the Military Situation, &c., &c., &c.

CINCINNATI, March 9, 1864.

A special despatch from Columbus says:—

General Grant, on his way East, in conversation with a distinguished Ohio officer, expressed himself entirely satisfied with the situation of military affairs.

He spoke in the highest terms of General Sherman's expedition, which had given the rebellion the severest blow since the capture of Vicksburg.

Gen. Sherman has destroyed forage and provisions enough to subsist the rebel army from three to six months.

In one place General Sherman destroyed over two millions of dollars worth of property.

In other places he destroyed immense stores. Thousands of bushels of corn and large quantities of wheat were set on fire and consumed.

He brought in large droves of cattle, several thousand head of mules, eight thousand negroes and over four hundred prisoners, with but trifling loss in men and materials on our side.

In addition to this, by the destruction of very important railroad lines, General Sherman has released General McPherson's corps from doing guard duty along the Mississippi, and restored them to active service.

ST. LOUIS, March 9, 1864.

The steamer Summary, from Lower river, brings intelligence that General Sherman and staff left Vicksburg on the 28th ult. for below, designing to have an interview with General Banks or Admiral Porter, or both, with reference to his future movements.

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA.

Attack of Rebel Cavalry.

CHATTANOOGA, March 6, 1864.

All is quiet in front, except an occasional exchange of shots between the advanced cavalry pickets.

To-day a large rebel cavalry force appeared before Nickajack Gap and pressed our cavalry out.

Deserters from the rebel army continue to arrive at the rate of thirty a day.

CHATTANOOGA, March 7, 1864.

The rebel cavalry have retired, and our forces now hold Nickajack Gap.

It is not unlikely that the rebels may assume the offensive.

A collision occurred between two freight trains near Stevenson, Ala., on Saturday night, killing four ladies and two men, and wounding several others.

A large force of rebel cavalry attacked ninety-three men of the Third Tennessee, at Panther Springs, on the 5th instant. Our loss was two killed, eight wounded and twenty-two captured. The rebel loss was thirty killed and wounded.

INTERESTING FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Arrival of Released Union Prisoners—Movements of General Butler, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 8, 1864.

The flag of truce steamer New York arrived this evening from City Point with seven hundred Union prisoners, exchanged for an equal number of rebel prisoners, who were taken up.

Major General Butler and staff and Quartermaster General Meigs left this morning for Yorktown on the steamer Charles Chamberlain.

Thomas Abrahams, private, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth New York regiment, was shot at Yorktown yesterday forenoon, in accordance with the decision of the court martial. There were about three thousand soldiers present at the execution, which passed off quietly.

Twenty rebel prisoners arrived on the Yorktown boat this morning. They were captured by General Kilpatrick in the first line of fortifications around Richmond.

Lieutenant Israel Ludlow, of the artillery, who remained by his guns almost alone at Chickamauga until wounded and taken prisoner, has been exchanged and has arrived at Fortress Monroe.

Arrival of Released Union Prisoners at Annapolis.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 9, 1864.

The steamer City of New York arrived this afternoon with 660 prisoners from Richmond, including forty seven officers, and among them are a great many Marylanders. Sergeant Livearon, of the Ninth Maryland, has the colors of his regiment, which he kept concealed during three months' imprisonment.

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

Advance in Flour and Wheat—Telegraphic Communication Opened Between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon—Severe Rain Storm, &c., &c.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8, 1864.

The steamer America, from Panama, arrived at Monterey to-day. She is due here to-night.

Sailed, ship Lydia Scofield, for Callao.

Flour and wheat are rapidly advancing. The latter brings two and a quarter cents per pound, with large transactions. Butter has an upward tendency. Sugar is unsettled.

Telegraphic communication is now completed between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. The line will be continued northward to British Columbia.

A severe rain storm has prevailed throughout Oregon during the past three days, notwithstanding which the river steamboats for the mines have been crowded with passengers and freight. Five hundred sailed from Portland in one day.

Stringent Official Order of General Rosecrans.

ST. LOUIS, March 9, 1864.

General Rosecrans has issued a special order requiring all persons attending religious conventions, assemblies, synods, conferences and other convocations held in his department, to take the most stringent oath of allegiance; and any violation of this order will subject the assemblage to dispersion by any provost marshal.

The Opera Slander Suit.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—CHAMBERS.

Before Judge Daly.

MARCH 9.—*Annie Wilson vs. Henrietta Sulzer.*—The argument on the motion to vacate the execution against the body of the defendant was resumed again to day.

Mr. Galbraith offered additional authorities to show that a married woman could not be arrested for debt except where she has a separate estate of her own. Now the defendant having married while the suit was pending ceased to be responsible. Her salary as a singer could not be called an estate, as it was money to be acquired and not in actual possession.

Mr. Bright argued that a salary of $6,000 a year, payable fortnightly in advance, was an estate, and that the defendant, in swearing that she was unable to meet the amount of the judgment, $202, was merely evading the law. He held that the court could not extend any protection in a case of this kind, and urged the denial of the motion, with costs.

Judge Daly remarked that in view of the defendant's still continuing to sing, thereby earning money out of which the judgment might be made, he would deny the motion of the defendant's counsel but would grant an additional stay, for the purpose of allowing the counsel on both sides an opportunity to draw up affidavits and collect further authorities.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

LOUISVILLE, March 9, 1864.

The passenger train leaving Indianapolis for Louisville last evening was thrown off the track six miles above Columbus, Indiana, about midnight, by the displacement of the switch. The hind car was intersected by a tree near the track, killing four persons and wounding several others.

The wounded were brought to Columbus.

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

The Recent Destruction of Rebel Saltpetre Works, &c.

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1864.

An official despatch from Colonel Mulligan, dated New Creek, Va., March 2, says that fourteen deserters and conscripts, armed, have just come in from the neighborhood of Staunton. They report that on the 20th of last month one hundred and ten deserters and conscripts left Mount Solon, in Augusta county, armed, and resolved to fight their way through to our lines.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GENERAL KELLEY.

CUMBERLAND, Md., March 6, 1864.

Brigadier General G. W. CULLUM, Chief of Staff:—

A cavalry scout, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Root, of the Fifteenth New York cavalry, has just returned from Hardy and Pendleton counties. They effectually destroyed all the saltpetre works near Franklin, in the latter county. Refugees and deserters are constantly coming in. General Crook reports the capture of fifty rebels a few days ago by his scouts in the Kanawha valley. B. F. KELLEY, Brigadier General.

INTERESTING STATEMENT OF A REBEL DESERTER.

Fort McAllister and the Ogeechee River—The Destruction of the Nashville—The Engagement Between the Fort and the Montauk—The Damage to the Fort—The Amnesty Proclamation, &c., &c.

The following statement of affairs in that portion of rebeldom situated along the Ogeechee river and within the lines of Fort McAllister—under whose guns the celebrated rebel ram Nashville lay, but which they were unable to save from destruction—is given us by a former resident of this city, a true and loyal man, who, being at Georgia at the breaking out of the rebellion, was conscripted into the rebel service, in which he served for some two years and a half:—

I was pursuing the peaceful profession of a teacher in Savannah in the first days of secession. I was then a member of the Republican Blues, a company which visited New York some years ago. When the idea first began to be entertained that with the secession of the State might come the necessity of arming in earnest the company to which I belonged offered their services to the State. But few reasoning people dreamed that anything like a struggle would ensue, and the most loyal in the city gave way a moment to the excitement of military parade and warlike display, just as the citizens of New York would on some occasion of a military gala day. I, with like feelings, entered into the excitement of the moment and volunteered for six months' service. But the preparations on the part of the North to suppress rebellion, while it inflamed the passions of those who desired separation, began to tell on the feelings of those who would gladly have clung, as citizens of the South, to the old flag, but with far greater force on the temporary sojourners there, whose homes were in the free States, but unfortunately whose lot was then cast among a people with whose treasonable designs they could have no sympathy. But for the latter there was now no escape. Before the expiration of our voluntary service the conscription came into force, and I was compelled to join the rebel army for three years or during the war. The first active duty upon which the company I belonged to was ordered was to occupy St. Catharine's Island, from which we moved to Warsaw Island, and subsequently to Fort Jackson. Here we remained on duty for twelve months, when we were ordered to Fort McAllister, on the Ogeechee river. Twelve months of uninterrupted tranquillity ensued; but on the 19th of November, 1862, we beheld the Union gunboats approach our citadel with the evident design of attacking us. Taking up their position within range, the gunboats opened upon us, and at once their terrible missiles began to tell. Considerable damage was inflicted. The front parapets were almost levelled; the magazines were several times in danger, while the officers' quarters and the tents of the troops were entirely destroyed. Our men all the time fought with determination, buoyed up with the consciousness that it was only at long range they could be attacked, and when the boats retired from the conflict their spirits were considerably elated. No further demonstration was made against us till the 27th of January following, when the Montauk unexpectedly engaged us. In the interval between these two attacks the defences had been greatly strengthened, the garrison working night and day to that end, and when the Montauk opened upon us there was little fear entertained as to the result. The Montauk did not come to any thing like close quarters, and after a short engagement at long range she left, having inflicted little or no damage upon our works. This we looked upon rather as a trial of her guns and their range than as a regular gage of battle. And this conjecture was right; for on the 2d of February following she again appeared in the Ogeechee, just across the neck of land formed by the sinuosities of the river, and much closer than before. It was apparent that this time she was determined to try her own metal and the weight of the armament in the fort. The engagement commenced about eight o'clock in the morning, and lasted with great and unremitting spirit till three in the afternoon. Our loss from the fire of the Montauk was Major J. B. Gallie, commandant of the fort, killed, and some eighty or nine men wounded. The Montauk the next morning disappeared, but returned soon after, and was subsequently seen from time to time till the 29th of February, when the attack was made upon the Nashville. The rebel steamer was then lying about three-quarters of a mile from the fort, stranded, and she soon fell under the terrible cannonade of the gunboat. With her destruction the hopes and spirits of the garrison in the fort fell below zero, and nothing was thought of but the length of time the fort itself could hold out against an attack of the terrible gunboats. The expected attack was made on the 3d of March. Fire was opened on the fort at half past seven o'clock A. M., which was responded to with all the guns in the fort, the men at the batteries being relieved at stated intervals during the day. Notwithstanding this the men were severely tried, and at the close were greatly exhausted. The fire of the gunboats was very destructive. The ramparts were almost levelled. Two of the guns were dismantled—an eight-inch and a thirty-two-pounder. Considerable damage was also done to the interior. The officers' and privates' quarters were destroyed, while even the bomb proofs were greatly injured and were beginning to be untenable. There is no doubt, speaking advisedly, that had the boats continued the attack but a brief time longer the fort must have surrendered; for, in fact, the ammunition in the fort was almost exhausted, while the men themselves were scarcely able to relieve each other at the guns. This was the end of the attack on Fort McAllister.

The amnesty proclamation has received greater publicity South than is generally supposed, and in