The Memphis Appeal.

LETTER FROM THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL.

[Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

Anxiety Concerning Savannah—The News of Cutting off Fort Pulaski Discredited—The Yankees in Pamlico Sound—Inconceivable Folly of the Virginia Senate—The Field Officers to be Elected by Popular Vote of the Army—Society in Richmond Voted Stupid—Expected Arrival of Gen. Beauregard.

RICHMOND, January 29, 1862.

The public mind has been in a most unquiet state yesterday and today in consequence of the telegraphic dispatches from Savannah. Four or five Yankee vessels, it is stated, have obtained a position between the city and Fort Pulaski, cutting off the communication with the latter. By the majority of persons, unacquainted with the geography of that region, it was supposed that these vessels had passed the fort, and were in an attitude which threatened immediately the safety of Savannah, but an examination of the coast survey charts explains at once how it is quite possible for boats of light draft to get between the fortification and the main land, back of Tybee Island, and yet not intercept the supplies to the garrison nor seriously menace the city. Confidence is therefore felt and expressed by those who are best informed here that there is nothing in these dispatches to justify the alarm which they have occasioned.

The news from Pamlico Sound has also created some uneasiness, as you may suppose, inasmuch as the demonstration in that quarter looks more directly to an advance upon Richmond. Up to this time we hear of no landing of troops, but an attack upon Newbern is momentarily expected. That the last great expedition has greatly suffered from the storm there can be little doubt, but transports enough may have weathered it to enable the commanding general to make his attempts upon several points, of which the belief is entertained that New Orleans will be one. We can but await developments, in the lively hope that this latest gigantic effort of the Yankees will prove as fruitless as those which preceded it, and in the reasonable assurance that they will tire at length of these expensive armadas in which millions of dollars are spent to such very little purpose.

While such is the feeling alternating between anxiety and trustful composure with regard to the machinations of the enemy, the people of Virginia are in much greater danger of being ruined by the fatal folly of their own Legislature. After several days spent in secret session in the discussion of a plan for the reorganization of the Virginia militia, with a view to provide against the expiration of the term of enlistment of the volunteers now in service, the Senate to-day passed a bill, the effect of which cannot but prove fatal to everything like discipline and efficiency. It is about to pass the lower House and become a law, as there is every reason to fear that it will, we might as well hand down at once Confederate state and bars and Virginia *Sic Semper Tyrannis*, and hand over the Old Dominion to the tender mercies of old Abe. By the new plan, all the officers of the Virginia troops, field as well as company officers, are to be elected by the direct popular vote of the troops themselves. The camp is straightway to be turned into an electioneering ground, and the attention of the soldiers is to be occupied with the canvass for colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors and the rest. Of course this scramble for official station will be enlivened, not to say degraded into a mere beastly contention, by the stimulus of that same whisky, concerning which I had something to say in my last letter. No better comment could be desired on this mad scheme than was afforded in the remark of a member of the Senate, himself holding a majority in the Virginia volunteers, made upon its passage—"Now I shall set up a barrel of whisky in my tent and run for colonel!" A scheme more likely to result in wild insubordination, in the utter demoralization of the army, could not be conceived. It would be better to appoint the field officers in any other possible way, either by lottery, or by the cast of dice, or according to the hight of the men, or the color of their hair—any arbitrary arrangement of this sort, however absurd, would be preferable to popular election. And it is absolutely inconceivable, just at this time, when the convention of Virginia has so lately been endeavoring to weed out from the Constitution the democratic element as far as possible, by taking away the election of judges and magistrates from the people, that such a body as the Virginia Senate, should introduce it, where it is calculated to work the greatest amount of mischief, in an army bill. There is just a hope that this ruinous measure may be killed in the House of Delegates, but I repeat, that, as far as Virginia is concerned, if it should become a law, we might as well go down on our knees to Seward and ask to be taken back into loving communion again with the detested United States.

There has been a good deal of talk in and out of the Richmond papers of late with regard to the social aspects of our city, and the disputants are as far as possible apart. According to one set of critics, Richmond is excessively stupid. There is a lack of hospitality among her citizens. We have no amusements. Because there is war, that affair is no sufficient reason why young ladies and gentlemen should be bored to death. Care killed a cat. *Ennui* is a distressing malady. The other class of censors contend, and I confess I think with much force, that the present is no time for the gaieties and dissipations of a metropolitan winter. In a struggle for life and death, when our brave fellows are keeping up a heroic fight with the frost and the foe in the field, or falling before the fever in the hospitals, it becomes our daughters, far more our sons, who are not in the camp, only in the departments as clerks, etc., to check the levity of youth—to leave camellias and diamonds and patent leathers and hot suppers and the German, and all the display and pleasant ton-foolery of the ball room, unused till the return of peace. Moreover, with the heads of families, lavish expenditure just now in mere luxurious entertainments would be not only wicked, but, what is far worse in the estimation of the world, vulgar. And if Richmond during the eventful winter of 1861-2 is less lively than other cities which are seats of government, the people of the Confederate States at large will credit the fact to the good sense and patriotism of its citizens, rather than adduce it as a proof of their want of hospitality.

Gen. Beauregard is expected in Richmond to-morrow evening by the Central train. Should he come he will "take the town." DIXIE.

Jackson's Movements—From Missouri.

We take the following summary from the Baltimore *Sun*, of the 29th:

We have no positive war news this morning. Gen. Thomas' forces, which went in pursuit of the Confederates after the battle of Somerset, have not yet been heard from; but it is supposed that they will occupy Monticello, a town in Wayne county, about 190 miles south of Frankfort.

A dispatch from Frederick states that it was reported there yesterday that a portion of Gen. Jackson's command made another demonstration on Dam No. 5 on Sunday, but advices from Hancock of that date make no mention of such movement. The main body of Gen. Jackson's force is reported to be at Ungers, twelve miles north of Martinsburg. Gen Kelly has left Columbus for Wheeling, the condition of his wound precluding all hope of recovery.

A dispatch from St. Louis states that Gen. Halleck has issued an order requiring all the newly elected officers of the Chamber of Commerce and the Mercantile Library Association of that city to take the oath of allegiance, or else vacate their positions. All persons hereafter displaying the Confederate flag are to be arrested and subjected to punishment by the military authorities. It is reported that the Confederate general, Price, is at Springfield with only ten thousand men.

No news from the Burnside expedition. There was no flag of truce on Sunday, and consequently the steamer yesterday morning brought no southern intelligence. The reported loss of the Louisiana and other vessels of the fleet is doubted at Fortress Monroe.

MASON AND SLIDELL ENTERTAINED BY ADMIRAL MILNE.—The rebel commissioners, on their arrival at Bermuda, were entertained at dinner by Admiral Milne, but no discussion of political questions was permitted. Mr. Slidell, who attempted to enter into a controversy in regard to the issue between the North and the South, was politely informed that such conversation was out of place there.—*Louisville Journal.*

☞ Josiah Quincy, of Boston, the oldest surviving graduate of Harvard, will be ninety years old on the 15th of February.

LETTER FROM VIRGINIA.

LEESBURG, January 25, 1862.

EDITORS APPEAL: The situation of affairs on the line of the Potomac is still unchanged, while continual storms of snow, hail, wind and rain give boisterous indications that nature will effectually prevent or retard any movement of importance for some several months. The line of roads in every direction is well nigh impassable for teams of lightest draught, while for pedestrians the travel of a single mile is irksome and tedious. Banks has long been in winter quarters some distance from the river, while perpetual watching would lead us to think that his wise example has been followed by Stone, Geary, Kelly, and all other Federalists commanding on the line of the upper Potomac. Nothing could be gained by them from any aggressive movement at this inappropriate season, and if success crowned their advance in a single instance, the triumph must prove too expensive and hazardous to attempt any further penetration of the State, for not all the transportation in the world could successfully withstand the warring elements of this season of the year. Wisely contenting themselves with the results of the past year, I opine the generals-in-chief at Washington will bow to fate, and while cajoling the country with magnificent promises, will arduously endeavor to use the interim until spring in drilling and marshaling their forces for aggressive movements. It matters not what McClellan may promise the war committee, and it effects not a jot what his Newark may present to the North, all movements are for the present effectually blocked, and the only use which the daily falsehoods of their newspapers may be is to bolster up government credit at home or abroad, and egregiously gull the ignorant, unthinking masses. Poverty, crime, starvation and disquiet are daily increasing North; the little patriotism or forbearance the people had is fast diminishing, and at the present hour it is undeniable that our enemies have as much to fear from social troubles, budding in their midst, as they have to regret the success, endurance and brilliancy of our arms. A true portraiture of the social condition of the foe, at this period of the year, is a sorry spectacle indeed. Those who have access to avenues for obtaining accurate information, unbiasedly and calmly present the state of things as frightful. Yet, glancing at the other picture, what do we see? A brave and chivalric people battling (not successfully) for their rights, producing all things needful within her borders, and despite her troubles as an infant nation commanding the respect, esteem and admiration of the world. Deprived as we have been of many luxuries, rendered by custom almost necessary to us, we have been made to feel the effects of a gigantic war, and the merciless rancour of a conscienceless foe; yet, to-day our sacrifices have done more to develop our own internal resources, have demonstrated more clearly, under the most adverse circumstances, our weight, importance, capabilities and power, than a century could have demonstrated in times of peace. We know what we are, what we can do, and what we may be, lessons to a youthful government and people more valuable than the wealth of Peru, or the wisdom of all dynasties from Noah. Upheld by fanaticism on the one hand, by blind obedience or imperious rule on the other, our enemy have thus far succeeded, only, in incurring fabulous debt, defeat, disgrace, dishonor and contempt at home and abroad, while the South, the whole South, hourly wins unbounded credit and esteem, and though wisely husbanding her resources, can at any moment summon every man to her banners, obtain superabundant supplies, material and money, and have her unpolluted ambassadors protected and surrounded with all ever accorded to the most powerful or magnificent of princes. Blind and bombastic though the Federals be, they are totally ignorant of the stupendous preparations for spring, in all the ways which forethought and science suggest to our leaders; and, although unmindful of observation or approval, I feel constrained to applaud and hold up for eulogy the energetic attitude and aspect of all around me, and to truthfully contend that the powers that be, almost in every department, are exerting themselves for the present and the future, with all the ardor and industry of which mortals are capable. Checks may tarnish the beauty and splendor of the future, but of this be assured, the South, to-day, is more terrible to her foe than ever before, and her fortunes more promising and flattering than the most enthusiastic could have dreamed or desired. Placed as I am, and continually informed, nothing can be more flattering than the spirit of our people everywhere.

But one thought animates us all. We complain not of privation or taxation, nor do we heed at all the many little sacrifices the times demand. Throughout the length and breadth of the land but one song is sung, and that is warlike in its tone; smiles play upon the features of the fair; youth feel their hearts strung with enthusiasm and valor, while fiery resolves are breathed anew never to sheathe the sword while a single recreant foe treads upon our hallowed soil. Not permitted to publicly speak of things as they are, or are likely to prove, I cannot forego this assurance that the greatest possible activity prevails in all quarters, eloquent to us and ominous to the foe, and naught remains for the enemy but an advance to know and feel the power of those at this point that they so much affect to despise. Operations of any note, however, are not likely to transpire ere spring, and despite the hallelujahs of the press, nought of consequence will be effected on the coast, for fearful to penetrate into the interior, they will rest content with throwing up heavy works to protect them, and at the first tokens of the heat of a Southern sun, will depart northward again, leaving garrisons to sicken and pine, and languish and die by scores and hundreds as was the case last year in Fort Pickens, and on Santa Rosa Island. In fine, nothing worthy of mention may be anticipated before spring, but when *that* time arrives, I prognosticate the crash and clash of arms will prove tremendous. We look for neither aid nor comfort from the nations abroad; we are strong enough and willing enough to fight and conquer unconsulted and, unassisted by any foreign nations, but should the necessities of Europe involve England or France in angry diplomacy or war with those at the North, such a diversion would materially assist us in speedily consummating our desires. That the blockade will speedily be abolished, none can doubt at all acquainted with the social economy of England and in full view of the many slights and uncivil offices already received and endured at the hands of Lincoln's Cabinet, it is indeed a matter of much surprise that she has not long ere this taken advantage of their distress and our prosperity to relieve their pressing wants by summarily raising the blockade if it even involved extinguishing Lincoln's feeble marine. "Still water runs deep" 'tis said, but as unscrupulous as England may have been in fomenting quarrels or inaugurating wars at distant periods, to suit her own convenience and necessities you may rest convinced that in the present instance she is humbly playing hypocrite until accumulated circumstances will throw the sans of the transaction upon unfortunate, pugnacious northmen, when squadrons of idle armed, steel-plated cruisers, with the Union Jack at the peak, will play music for them, and for which the stiff-necked, starchy Puritans will have to liberally pay the fiddler. "I have done the State some service, and they know it." (?) therefore, as one who has thrown his balance in the scale, and gone wherever duty called—as one, too, who has carefully watched every phase of the campaign, and is at a loss to the future, I cannot but again and again congratulate every man of the whole, undivided South upon the brilliant future dawning upon us, and though checks or reverses may sometimes occur, they are now *too late* to alter or change our hearty recognition abroad, or prevent our reception among the family of nations.

Of local news there is not much worthy of transmission or comment. Gen. Hill and Griffith are apparently nothing in their offices, perpetually in the saddle, and ready for anything "Local defense" is now a favorite subject with all, and companies are forming as volunteers to serve the cause in this manner. Among other organizations of this character I would particularly mention the cavalry company of Captain "Lige" White, which already numbers some sixty gallant spirits, enlisted under their adventurous leader. Most of the militia have been for sometime past engaged upon extensive fortifications, and becoming, in some sort, accustomed to military life, are, in many instances, joining companies for the war, or for less terms of service. But whatever be their action in this regard, their present labors will admirably fit them for yeoman's service, should necessity compel our generals to use them, side by side, with volunteers.

From Winchester and Romney nothing is heard save the fact that no Federals are in the Shenandoah valley, and that the frequent raids of Jackson's men along the borders, keep the Yankees in Maryland in continual and ludicrous alarm. Put to the greatest straits and inconveniences by the late destruction of the canal dams and locks, and unable to remedy the damage, their spleen and anger give way frequently in short, spiteful rencounters with the pickets, but seldom, however, with much satisfaction to themselves. In short, there are no Yankees on the whole line, at the south side of the Potomac, except before Washington and at Alexandria, but communication with the sea is so completely cut off by our several batteries, that any vessel daring to run the blockade, must rest content to have her hull perforated like a pepper box, or turn keel upwards in total wreck. T. E. C.

From New Madrid.

FORT THOMPSON, NEW MADRID, MO., January 27, 1861.

EDITORS APPEAL: I wish to disabuse the public mind somewhat of their impressions concerning military matters at this post, as there is now every indication that this is soon to be the theater of active operations.

The press generally speak of everything here as under command of Gen. Jeff. Thompson, which is very incorrect. Gen. Gantt is the commander of the post, and has been for the last two months. He has entire control of all military operations, especially all the regular forces. He is a brave and gallant officer, beloved by all his men, and I bespeak for him a position worthy his talents and energy.

This has been a general highway for all travelers to St. Louis until he took command, when he thoroughly renovated this matter by a rigid police regulation, and no one can now go to Lincolndom without his permit. He has several thousand men under his command, all Arkansians except two companies of heavy artillery.

Our scouts report the enemy advancing with a very strong force, and before many days you may expect to hear of some hard fighting. J.

To the Southern Planters.

For the Memphis Appeal.]

At a time like this, when your's is the only interest in the South that is really suffering, you are selling your sole merchantable commodity—cotton seed—at a price which does not pay you for its transportation from your plantations. This is a generously not to be understood; certainly it is not appreciated by the manufacturers of cotton seed oil, who have risen in their prices for the article *three hundred and fifty* per cent. The price of oil before the war was, I believe, sixty cents a gallon; it is now (see quotations) two dollars and upwards. If the very low price at which you part from your cotton seed were say *relief* to the public who consume the oil your sacrifice would be commendable, but were you to charge what would be something like a fair compensation for the article—fifteen to twenty dollars a ton, say fully twenty—the oil could, at a profit perhaps, be sold at less than is now exacted for it. The very refuse of your cotton seed serves for fuel to manufacture the oil, while the "oil cake" takes the place of coal in the market at *ten* dollars a ton, nearly twice the price which you obtain for the seed!

While every other form of labor has been commanding two prices since the war began, you have expended one million dollars' worth of work at Fort Pillow without pay. Why not look to your own interest a little? The war tax must be paid. Resolutely demand a *fair price* for this article of prime necessity—cotton seed—over which you should have entire control, saving to yourselves some of that enormous profit which is being drawn from the whole people to the manufacturers of the cotton seed oil.

COAHOMA.

Federal Reports from Savannah.

The Louisville *Journal*, of the 29th, says that the most important intelligence brought from Port Royal by the steamship Atlantic, which arrived at New York on the 23d, relates to the new expedition fitting out at that point under the direction of Commodore Dupont and Gen. Sherman. Its destination is supposed to be Savannah. The *Post* says:

The utmost secrecy, however, is observed by our officers in regard to the details of this movement. It is known that a successful survey of a new water-course has been made, and that by means of this channel (which for obvious reasons we do not name) Savannah can be reached without passing Fort Pulaski. Our troops are now engaged in the work of removing logs, hulks, and other obstructions, including piles, which the rebels had placed in the stream under the impression that they had thereby secured themselves from attack in that direction. At last accounts this work was rapidly progressing, and it was thought when the Atlantic left Port Royal that the work had been accomplished. The rebels had, however, taken the precaution to erect a battery at the head of the water-course, and information had been received to the effect that this battery, as well as the defenses to the other approaches to Savannah, have been strengthened. But it is believed that the position could not be so fortified as to prevent the advance of the expedition. In fact, a report has already been received of the evacuation of Fort Pulaski by the rebels—that position having become useless.

Before the departure of the Atlantic three of the gunboats (such was the understanding at Hilton Head) had passed beyond the line of Fort Pulaski. The depth of water through the course was stated at fifteen feet.

There were evidences at Hilton Head of an advance. All the floats and launches—of which there were great numbers—were collected or collecting, and preparations were making to transport troops. Two of the regiments at Hilton, with some officers and the passengers for the Vanderbilt had been in communication, had received not simply marching orders, but orders to move, and they were preparing to go, toward what point was of course not stated. The understanding was general among the officers that the movement would be made speedily—certainly this week; and that the force to be left at Hilton Head would not exceed one or two regiments. The force at Hilton Head thus at command was ten to twelve thousand men.

But it was doubted if any attempt whatever would be made to advance on the mainland, out of the range of the fire of the gunboats, inasmuch as the force under Gen. Sherman would be unequal to the work of maintaining itself. The object of the contemplated expedition would be accomplished with the occupation of Savannah. The city, however, defended by nearly twenty-five thousand rebels, would not, it was confidently asserted, be attacked, unless our gunboats succeeded in reaching it, which there was little doubt they would be able to do.

If a movement against Savannah shall not at once be made, and the reconnoissances and preliminary operations prove, like the occupation of Tybee Island, to have been made simply for the purpose of diversion, the real preparations may result in another movement more difficult, and possibly more important, than would be the capture of Savannah.

From the Upper Potomac.

HANCOCK, January 25.—The existing freshet in the Potomac has produced disastrous results to the canal. At Cumberland there is a large break; another at Little Orleans, above dam No. 6, and another between dam No. 6 and Hancock, and two between Hancock and the Four Locks. At dam No. 5, the crib on the Virginia side, which was undermined and weakened by the Confederates, some weeks ago, has yielded to the pressure of the high water, and the falling of the water will drain the Williamsport level.

Above, but near dam No. 4, the guard bank has been carried away. Thus for the present the canal has been rendered useless, both to the government and the public. The estimated time for repairs is about twenty-five days, and the cost $12,000 to $15,000.

General Kelley left Cumberland last Thursday for Wheeling. The state of his wound almost precludes the hope of recovery. On the right side, where the ball entered, the wound is suppurating, and his ribs are visible. On his back, where the incisions were made to extract the ball, are large suppurating sores, surrounded with inflamed pustules. It is supposed this state of his wound arises from an unhealthy state of his blood, or some latent poison in his system.

The sick of General Lander's command are all at Cumberland, numbering 677. A new additional hospital building is now being fitted up there.

Jackson, with his full force, is reported to be at Ungers, twelve miles north of Martinsburg.

A GHASTLY RUMOR.—The Petersburg *Express* of the 31st inst., says: Intelligence was brought to this city yesterday afternoon, by passengers from the South, that the coast of North Carolina was strewn with the bodies of dead men and horses, which had been washed ashore after the late violent gale. They are supposed to be a portion of the men and horses composing the Burnside expedition. What truth there is in this report, we are unable to say, but we are rather inclined to doubt its correctness. If there should be any confirmation of the rumor, it will be found in our telegraphic columns.

LOCAL MATTERS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5.

SALEM'S DAUGHTERS.—The young ladies of Salem, Mississippi, whose fascinating attractions are rivaled only by their warm hearted benevolence, gave, a few evenings ago, a concert at that place, which was very successful, and was greatly admired for the excellence of the music and the charms of the fair performers. The proceeds of the entertainment, $61.85, has been handed to the soldiers under the command of Gen. Price.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.—Kate Mountain, who keeps a house of ill fame, and a man named Pat Maloney, were yesterday committed to jail by the Recorder, in default of two thousand dollars bail each, to answer the charge of robbing John Fox of about one hundred and eighty dollars. The man was taken in a hack to Fort Pickering, on Monday night, and made very drunk. On returning, he was put out of the hack on South street, and on recovering his sober senses, he found his money gone.

VAGRANCY.—There are a set of dishonest persons in existence who travel from city to city, especially along the lines of the rivers, for the purpose of housebreaking, robbing on the highway, gaming, swindling, and committing other dishonest acts, by which they live. When these men arrive at a given place, the police usually know of their presence, and are often perfectly certain that they are the perpetrators of various outrages that occur, but have no means, generally, to legally convict them. The proper resource in such cases is to the vagrant law, which provides that "all able bodied persons who, having no apparent mode of subsistence, neglect to apply themselves to some honest calling, or who saunter about, neglecting their business," shall be arrested and taken before the Recorder, who, besides enforcing the city law against them, shall, in his capacity as justice of the peace, enforce the provisions of the State law against them. By the State law, such persons may be required to find securities for their good behavior, failing to give which, they may be imprisoned for five days. If the offense is repeated within thirty days, they may be imprisoned one month. When a party is charged with having "no apparent means of subsistence," if he has the means of living without labor, or if he is living by his labor, he can soon establish the fact. If he fails to do so, and is living by illegal and dishonest means, the vagrant law provides an effectual check upon them, if put in force. This law, putting, as it does, upon the accused the onus of proving his innocence of the charge, by proving that he has lawful means of subsistence, is a terror to the class of marauding thieves and gamblers we are speaking of, and they will generally give a city a wide berth that vigorously executes the vagrant law. We are glad to learn that our police have received instructions to actively enforce this salutary law. If the Recorder will second their efforts as the ordinance directs, by imprisoning the guilty in his capacity of justice of the peace after he has fined them in that of Recorder, we believe there will soon be a considerable number of those gentry, now in the city, who will quickly leave for some other spot where the powerful virtues of the vagrant law are not made available.

A MODEL COUNTY.—The authorities of our neighbors opposite in Crittenden county, Ark., have had the present week, a settlement with their fiscal officers, and the balance sheet shows a most gratifying result—one that makes them envied by all their neighbors. The county is entirely out of debt, having neither funded nor floating obligations outstanding, and, besides a balance in her treasury, with a credit standing on the accounts to nearly all her separate funds for roads, internal improvements, levee and school funds. During these disastrous times, within the last nine months, the county has appropriated $15,000 to $20,000 of her levee revenue, and built nearly two miles of new and some portions of it heavy levee. She has equipped and armed complete, at a cost of over $10,000, a large and gallant cavalry company—now at Bowling Green under Capt. Eaton—the county also equipped the large infantry company, now at Columbus, under Capt. Grump, and gave them a complete outfit in everything but their arms, which were supplied by the State or Confederacy. After this latter company lost its entire baggage at the battle of Belmont, the county made an appropriation of $1000, sufficient them a new outfit. Notwithstanding these extraordinary expenditures, all the current expenses of the county have been promptly met. This exhibit is certainly very creditable in these times of financial embarrassment and political convulsions, to a community of only 6000 six hundred voters. With an unembarrassed treasury, the county has a large accruing revenue which is now being collected.

This county lies as one of nearly forty miles in width, with a front of about—miles on the river, comprising one of the richest bodies of cotton lands in the Mississippi valley. Her system of levees is nearly completed, and an expenditure of $75,000 or $80,000—which the county can easily raise by an annual tax of five cents per acre for two years—will close up all the gaps in the present structure, and reclaim and protect for all future time this large body of land from inundation. How changed in a few years will be the western scene from our bluffs, when the dense, gloomy, entangled forest, that is now spread out before our eye, as far as it can reach, shall become a magnificent cultivated expanse, smiling in rich and joyous luxuriance under a southern sun, more beautiful than an Eng'ish landscape or an Italian valley. The present generation seem to have no just appreciation of the future value of that immense forest trust, which we denominate Arkansas swamp, lying within sight of our levee.

PROF. WINKLER'S CONCERTS.—We have received a communication from Prof. Winkler in which he states that half the net proceeds of both the recent concerts were deposited, ten days ago, in the Chattanooga Savings Bank, to the credit of the Southern Mothers. Any person who will call upon him will be shown a statement of the expenses in detail, and they will be satisfied, if possible, as to their judiciousness. Last summer, Prof. Winkler informs us, he spent four weeks—two weeks each—in preparing the two first concerts in Memphis, given for the benefit of sufferers by the war, asking nothing but *giving* cheerfully the labor of a month, and also paying a portion of the expenses out of his own pocket—which like those of most teachers of music—is not overstocked. He also assisted at about eight other entertainments—concerts and tableaux—at an expense to himself of at least five dollars each, through neglect of lessons. Who has done more, according to their circumstances, than Prof. Winkler? We are sure the public generally highly appreciate his efforts and the great musical skill he has manifested. The following, which we have received since writing the above, is high testimony to the satisfactory manner in which the professor has discharged his generously self-imposed duties:

MEMPHIS, February 4, 1862.

PROF. CHAS. P. WINKLER—*Sir*: Your note of the 29th January, addressed to the president and board of managers for the Home for the Homeless, giving an account of all the expenses incurred, and money received, for concerts given by you, has been carefully reviewed, and proved entirely satisfactory to the association. Please accept our thanks for half of proceeds of two concerts, $270.50, and our kindest wishes for your welfare, and high appreciation of your ability as a teacher of music, and a patriot.

Very respectfully, MRS. DR. KELLER, Cor. Sec. Home for the Homeless.

CRIMINAL COURT.—On Monday next, at 9 o'clock, the Criminal Court, after a vacation of a few weeks, resumes its labors. The other courts of the State, by act of Assembly, have now but semi-annual terms, while this has three as before. We learn that there is a large amount of business for the term, embracing some of the heaviest and most important cases that will engage the talent, and learning, and eloquence of some of the ablest and most brilliant lawyers of the State. This court, while brevity and great dispatch of business are enjoined and practiced, is becoming, and is already, notable for the display of great legal powers, condition and oratory. It is in the midst of an old and experienced bar, in criminal practice, which involves all the niceties and technicalities and specialties of the law, and all the nicetness of the rules of evidence and pleading in a higher degree than in the civil courts, and so demanding much legal attainment on the part of the lawyers and great accuracy, and precision on the part of the judge, who, however, has been fortunate in that so far, he has not been reversed in any case appealed to the Supreme Court. The number of cases on the docket, we learn, is some six hundred or more, to which the grand jury will make large additions during the term. For the information and benefit of parties interested in the approaching term of the Criminal Court, on Monday next, we copy below several of the rules of the court. The misdemeanor docket will first be disposed of, after the charging of the grand jury at 10 o'clock:

RULES OF THE COURT.

1. In misdemeanor cases, as violations of the liquor laws, gaming, assaults and batteries, etc., when parties submit their cases and so show to the court their respect for the laws they have violated, and their disposition to observe them afterward, the court, in the exercise of its discretion as to punishment, will generally cook the imprisonment; but, where the guilty parties hold out until convicted by a jury, and show no regard for the laws thus violated, except to escape their punishment, it will be the duty of the court to both fine and imprison in all cases; ever using its discretion, however, as to aged and infirm persons, etc. The penalties of the law will be enforced to the fullest extent necessary to insure the observance of its authority.

2. Persons summoned to attend court as jurors, either regularly or specially, who fail to attend, will be fined twenty-five dollars, as the law directs; and any juror so summoned who shall disqualify himself as such, by seeking information of the case on trial or so as to form or express an opinion, will be fined and imprisoned; for it is the duty of all, as all are interested in the administration of the public justice, to take their share of the inconvenience, if it be so regarded, especially as only twelve at a time are required.

On 'Change—Business News.

Matters were again dull on 'Change yesterday. There were no telegraphic advices from New Orleans, and nothing of interest transpired. Holders at four notice with alacrity that the receipts of that article are falling off largely. During the week, ending yesterday, the entire receipts were 3192 barrels. During the corresponding previous week the receipts were 5054 barrels, a falling off of 2862 barrels. The want of demand has no doubt much to do with the difference. A more active call for the article, at improved price, and especially increased facilities in transportation, if they should be obtained, will probably restore the supply.

The aggregate receipts by railroads and steamboats yesterday were as follows: 159 barrels bran, 28 sacks beans and peas, 30 cases bacon, 75 bales cotton, 2948 sacks corn, 254 sacks cotton seed, 60 head cattle, 930 bushels coal, 15 sacks dried fruit, 10 boxes eggs, 160 sacks and 155 barrels flour, 54 packages fish, 19 sides, 113 head hogs, 8 horses, 45 barrels lard, 23 bundles leather, 414 pigs lead, 920 sacks oats, 5 barrels and 20 cases pork, 12 bushels potatoes, 118 boxes and 22 packages tobacco, 349 sacks wheat, 20 barrels whisky.

The New Orleans *Crescent* of Monday reports:

No sales of cotton took place on Monday. Inargo the supply is liberal and the sales embrace about 1000 bales, at Friday's prices. Inferior 14c to 14½c, common to good common 14¾ to 15½c, fair to fully fine 15¾ to 17½c, prime to choice 17¾ to 18½c, clarified yellow 16½ to 17½c, seconds 2 to 3½c, clarified white 16½ to 17½c, and stove-dried white 1 to 7½c per lb. The supply of molasses is fair, but the demand is very limited. About 500 bbls. sold at 11 to 12c for fermenting and 18c for prime reboiled. A small lot of half bbls. sold at 18c per gall. for fermenting. Sales of about 500 bbls. flour, in small lots, at $7.25 to $7.50 for fine, $8 for superfine, and $8.75 to $9.50 and $10.25 per bbl. for extra. There have been other sales, but the particulars are kept very secret. 2500 sacks white and yellow corn sold in lots at 75c per bush., 100 sacks wheat sold at $1.34. In hay 85 bales fresh grass sold at $40, 20 bales ordinary western at $35.50 at $40, and 158 prime western at $32.50 per ton. The stocks of provisions in Liverpool and bulk salt are small, amounting to 28,000 sacks of the former and 40,000 of the latter last year.

The New Orleans *Delta* says:

The leading feature in the bank movement for the week is a very heavy increase in deposits, which is due in part to collections for banks in other Confederate States, but principally to further produce operations and an almost total suspension of general business. The other variations are a net increase of $146,000 in loans and discounts and a general contraction in specie and circulation, with a rather formidable reduction in the exchange aggregate.

The subject of the exportation of cotton continues to excite great interest in New Orleans. We copy the following from the *Picayune*, which paper adheres to the present policy of stopping receipts and shipments:

Gov. Moore has issued a notice, in which he says he will be glad to receive informal notices here, in advance of the orders of Gov. Moore, the policy of which has been very generally admitted to be a beneficial one. It would be better for the public that it should be advised by anticipated notice than to wait until the blockade raised. We have been informed, and we can easily believe correctly, that if not all, a large proportion of the cotton taken from the plantations in this state, has been sold to spinners, because it will fetch fifty dollars a bale more there than it will over the sea. Certainly this should not be, as it gives aid and comfort to the enemy.

As a set off to the above, we quote the following significant sentence from the river article of the New Orleans *Delta*, of Monday: "Cotton has commenced coming in. Almost every arrival of steamers has some aboard." The Memphis cotton merchant will do well to notice the movements of the New Orleans merchants in the cotton line. It is remarkable that while the paper we are quoting from, in its weekly list of the arrivals by the river during the previous week, mentions "8282 cotton bales" as among the receipts, the New Orleans *Crescent* of the same date, in its list of the same week's arrivals, does not mention the receipt of a single bale of cotton. This is the more significant from the fact that one day last week the writer of the "Talk on 'Change" in the *Crescent* stated that cotton is landed in that city, the arrival of which is never mentioned on the manifest of the boat, or in any other way. The writer stated this he had seen cotton on the landing there, all intelligence about which was supposed.

The New Orleans *Crescent* speaking of the English press upon American affairs, says:

It only confirms what should have long since been considered, that so far as a revival of trade and business is to arise by our receipts from Europe, we look to Europe, it is idle to hope for any such result. Our cause may have European sympathy, and that is all we may really expect for the present. Private individuals and citizens of England and France may have the privilege of selling to our government munitions of war, to our citizens and merchants manufactured goods in general, but we have to do with the means of payment in advance, as has been the case since June last.

The same paper states:

The great deficiency and interruption of transportation to the other States of our Confederacy, has naturally curtailed sales of Louisiana's great staples—sugar and molasses. The holdings of Messrs. Cotton & Gun, interested in the sales of at least one fourth of the crop of sugar. The inland railroads give notice that they cannot receive any more freight for a month or longer. This is a sad blight on the great sugar interest. We suppose the encouragement and the loss of sales must be entered up as one of the fortunes of war. Nous étaions, the three elsewhere to the great great trade. The sales for the week have been larger than for the corresponding week last year—say 6200 hogsheads of sugar and 12,500 barrels of molasses this week, against 6000 hogsheads and 12,000 barrels last year. The stocks of both buyers were in market for their supplies. There have also been sales of cotton, said to be on plantations or possibly, it may be, at Memphis, Tenn. It is not a matter of importance, but of any concern to lookers on, so long as factors and planters receive the proceeds or money for it.

Home for the Homeless.

MEMPHIS, January 28, 1862.

Mrs. Dr. Keller, and others, Committee of Home for the Homeless:

In our recent interview, in communicating notice of my election as president of the association, you were kind enough to intimate, with a view to the fullest expression of your personal wishes that I should not decline the position. I have thus far delayed replying, finding great embarrassment in connecting myself in the acceptance. This hesitancy, however, has been greatly unmarked by absence of appreciation of the honor conferred or abatement of interest in the prosperity of the "Home for the Homeless," but results from a fear that other claims on my time might interpose to prevent a proper and efficient discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the trust; while, at the same time, I was impelled to the position by a strong desire to do what I could, if there were many who could more acceptably assume its administration, and successfully direct its fortunes. After, however, carefully, and I can add, prayerfully, weighing the subject, I feel constrained, under a solemn sense of duty, to accept my position in which the society may deem my humble service of avail in furthering its purposes.

In communicating to the association this, my acceptance, leave them that it is made under a sense of the extremest diffidence and self-distrust, but hopefully relying upon the cordial and zealous co-operation of every member I shall relax no effort and forego no endeavor looking to the prosperity of the "Home for the Homeless," and its establishment upon a firm and enduring basis. Very respectfully,

VALENTINE HULBERT

LOCAL DEFENSE.—In compliance with a desire expressed by volunteers, we publish the following copy of an act for the local and special service:

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, that the President be and he is hereby authorized to accept the services of volunteers, of such kind and in such proportion as he may deem expedient to serve for such time as he may prescribe for the defense of exposed places or localities, or such special service as he may deem expedient.

SEC. 2. And such forces shall be mustered into the service of the Confederate States for the local defense or special service aforesaid; the muster-rolls setting forth distinctly the services to be performed, and the said volunteers shall not be considered in active service until thereunto specially ordered by the President, and they shall be entitled to pay or subsistence only for such term as they may be on duty under the orders of the President or by his direction.

SEC. 3. Such volunteer forces, when so accepted and ordered into service, shall be organized in accordance with and subject to all the provisions of the act entitled "an act to provide for the public defense," approved March 6, 1861, and may be attached to such divisions, brigades, regiments, or battalions, as the President may direct, and, when not organized into battalions or companies before being mustered into service the President shall appoint the field officers of the battalions and regiments when organized as such by him.

JOHNSON'S OPERA TROUPE.—This troupe are performing at Odd Fellows' Hall. They are excellent artists, and give great satisfaction to their audiences. Good music and pungent wit never fail at their popular concerts.

FURNITURE AND GROCERY.—The public will bear in mind the extensive sale this morning at the Arcade, on Madison street. This noted place of trade is now admitted to be what our city has long needed—a place where every body can find almost every thing they want.

NO LICENSE.—John Higgins lives in some out of the way place in these diggings. He sells whisky and deals it out till his buyers are wild and frisky. And—what the tax collector thinks a sudden—he sells "no license" without license; and, for so doing, yesterday, Recorder Moore made him pay eleven dollars. It's a bad business Higgins follows.

☞ The patrons of the Memphis gas light company will remember that the company have removed their office to Blythe's hall log, on the west side of Second street, between Jefferson and Court. The usual discount of 10½ per cent is allowed on bills paid at the office on the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th or 6th days of the present month. 1-6-3t.

TARPAULINS! TARPAULINS!—With the vast amount of perishable commodity lying about the city and the certainty ahead of plenty of rainy weather, tarpaulins have become of prime necessity; they can be had in large supply at S. Brooks, Water street, next door to the ice house. jil-1m

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, held yesterday evening, February 4, 1862, present Hon. John Park, Mayor, Chairman Merrill, Aldermen Drew, Tighe, Morgan, Cochran, Ands, Ayres, Kirby, Townsend, Farmer, Robin