Daily Appeal.

EVENING EDITION.

JACKSON, MISS.

TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 24.

COTTON TRADE WITH NEW ORLEANS.

The New Orleans *Era*, of the 18th inst., exultingly announces the arrival from Mississippi, in that city, by transportation across the lake, of five hundred bales of cotton. "The owners," it is stated, "escaped the vigilance of the traitors, and brought their goods to a ready market."

This transaction is probably susceptible of explanation, and to such purpose as to place our authorities on their guard against similar impositions. It is known that under the rule of BUTLER an exchange of the staple for necessities was frequently made. To what extent, and what articles were received in return by our friends need not be mentioned. Why it was allowed by our authorities, we have heard no reason advanced. BUTLER and his brother, it is well known, were the speculators, so far as the Yankees were concerned, and there is no doubt but that for his participation in the contraband trade, he was removed by his government, and BANKS placed in command. This change was the inauguration of a new and prohibitory policy, and why such a shipment as he one mentioned by the *Era* was allowed to take place, when it was well known no return could be made, we cannot imagine. That "vigilance" on the part of our guards was avoided, we do not believe, but rather incline to the impression that the shipment was winked at, before, in the expectation that benefit would result.

General BANKS has not concealed his policy. We are aware of the result of a private interview on himself, Commodore FARRAGUT, and a gentleman of extensive commercial connections, who sought the privilege of receiving cotton in New Orleans from South Mississippi. BANKS refused, saying he had been sent out by his government to change the policy of BUTLER. "We will permit the reception of cotton," said he, "and its shipment abroad or to the North; but the article is no consideration to induce us to allow the return of supplies to the rebels. Nothing of the kind will be allowed." At the same interview Commodore FARRAGUT took the same position.

This is the settled policy of our enemies. They want our cotton, but will permit nothing of value to be returned. Therefore, it is for our authorities to take such steps as will effectually stop an illicit commerce that is only benefiting our enemies. It is impossible that such a shipment as that chronicled by the *Era* could have been made had vigilant efforts been directed to prevent it. We hope to hear of no more of them occurring.

IMPRESSMENTS.

If our telegraphic report is correct, the committee of conference between the two branches of Congress has arrived at a reasonable solution of the differences that have existed on the impressment. If the bill passes as stated, the producer will be protected in the event of his supplies being seized, so far as pecuniary consideration is concerned, by the views of his neighbors, instead of an arbitrary assessment by interested officials. The profits of those who hold for speculation are to be determined by joint agents of the States and the government. The first proposition will secure to the producer the market value in his neighborhood, and the second will prevent accumulations in second hands for speculative purposes. There will be no go-betweens, for no officials would dare to make returns of a price above the rates supplies could be purchased from first hands. The planters know our armies must be fed—they are aware they must be fed from home resources; and we believe they will be satisfied to sell their surplus to the government officers at the market price. They want no intermediate rates. We hope the senate will act as promptly as the house has done.

OUR POLICY AGAIN.

We continue to receive communications from our friends, discussing questions of State policy, and with reference to the approaching election. In pursuance of the policy previously announced, that would govern the conduct of the APPEAL with regard to local affairs, all such articles are inadmissable in its columns, and a faithful adherence to the rule we have adopted will account for the non-appearance of favors already received, or that may hereafter come to hand. Our location among the people of Mississippi is only temporary, we hope; and we feel that we have no right to intermeddle in their affairs. Questions of local interest can be discussed more understandingly, and certainly with more propriety, by the local press, and to it we desire to leave them. Our true friends will not only approve the course we have determined to pursue, but also wish us a speedy return to a location where we shall feel privileged to participate freely in the discussion of all questions that may come before the public.

THE HOUR APPROACHING.

If we may believe our Northern exchanges, but a few more days of inactivity are to be left to this section. A journal before us, of the 18th, states that "all available troops are being concentrated," and "by the 1st of April active operations for the opening of the Mississippi will be commenced." And it is added that the "success of the Yazoo pass expedition thus far, and the report concerning General BANKS' readiness to cooperate soon,—all these things point to an assault upon the rebel stronghold at no distant day."

All of this is not bombast—is not intended for home consumption—and we cannot afford to so treat it. Everything indicates the determination of our enemy to speedily solve the issue now contended for. We are pleased to know that great efforts have been made to have everything in readiness for the onset, but should be better pleased to know that all has been done that could be.

☞ The Atlanta *Intelligencer* gives the particulars of a raid in that city, for which it must be admitted there is some justification. A number of ladies belonging to soldiers' families paraded the streets until they came to a provision store, which they entered, being preceded by a tall lady on whose countenance rested care and determination. She asked the merchant the price of bacon. He replied, stating that it was $1.10 per pound. She remonstrated with him, as to the impossibility of females in their condition paying such prices for this necessary of life. He remaining inexorable in his demand, the tall lady proceeded to draw from her bosom a long navy repeater, and at the same time ordered the others in the crowd to help themselves to what they liked, which they did accordingly, giving preference to the bacon, until they had taken, as we learn, something like $200 worth. They went on and on being questioned by some gentlemen as to what they meant, they related their suffering condition, and the response was a collection on the spot, to a considerable amount, which was placed in sympathizing hands for distribution.

LETTER FROM THE YAZOO-TALLAHATCHIE.

[Special to the Memphis Appeal.]

FORT PEMBERTON, MISS., March 21, 1863.

The grand Federal expedition which has interested us here for the past two weeks, has literally and figuratively "gone up." The occasional booming of cannon, away up the river, tells us the news that our boys are after them with a sharp stick. I feel perfectly resigned to their absence, and do not even feel hurt at their not leaving a box of their stuff. They did leave, however, a number of these little mounds which are off to such advantage the grass-covered surface of an old fashioned churchyard. They left, also, a poor fellow with his smallpox, to die or live, as Providence might will.

The major-general commanding has called the engagement the "Battle of the Tallahatchie."

The great and invulnerable iron-clad *Chillicothe* left us, almost a week. We found her quarter-gunner's body, and discovered that he was killed by a shot from one of our heavy guns striking him in the breast, after passing through the boat's iron wall.

The following letter was picked up in their camp. It is written by a German captain, and I am indebted to the acting adjutant of Wash's Texas legion for a translation of it:

ON BOARD STEAMER LEBANON,
In front of Fort Pemberton,
Tallahatchie River, March 26, 1863.

DEAREST WIFE: It is now twenty-three days since we are on board of this boat, and seven days that we are besieging this fort, and we are no further than we were at the day of our arrival. We are not as hopeful as we then were.

The enemy has had time to strengthen his works and reinforce his land force considerably; and General Ross will find out, to his cost, that he has been too slow, as usual. We will now have to wait till General Grant sends us the promised two ironclad gunboats and twenty thousand men for reinforcements.

Yesterday we intended to make a general assault; the gunboats and the land battery were to silence the guns of the fort, while we, packed on the mosquito boats, were to be landed right at the fort, and storm it.

Oh glorious idea of a Union so called general!!! as generally the enemy has a word to say in such matters, so was it in this case; after firing about twenty shots the large rebel mortar at the fort so disabled our gunboat Chillicothe, that the bombardment had to be given up, and the fort remained unshaken. My company is always used as skirmishers, and I have gained a good deal of credit for the promptness and accuracy with which my company excels all others in skirmishing; and we have also had the honor to be the only company that has killed a rebel; we killed one of company "I" 3d Texas, and took his comrade of company "I" 3d Texas, prisoner.

I have a good deal, and hard duty to perform. Sometimes in skirmishing we have to be waist-deep in water. It is getting so warm here already that we have to leave off our vests and suspenders; but still, I and my boys keep well.

I send you herewith a sketch of the fort. I think it will be of interest to you, father and his friends.

I am sorry to say that I am still without any news from you, and therefore hardly know what to think. But I hope God, the Almighty, will protect you.

Oh, when will this horrid war end? When will peace and a meeting with our beloved ones reward our labored? Let us hope soon.

The enemy never got half rations of coffee and half rye, of the other rations they get only half. Uncle Sam is sinking fast.

I know no more to write of now, but will keep you posted about what is going on here. Of this expedition I have no hope whatever, and doubt very much whether it will end any better than Blair's glorious taking of Vicksburg.

Now farewell, dearest Emma. Give my regards to your parents and sisters.

Your affectionate husband, H. ROSE.

The following is the order issued by General Loring to his troops, and which I have obtained from the A. A. G.:

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2.

The Major General commanding desires to congratulate the troops of this command upon the signal success which has crowned their efforts to check the much vaunted advance of the invader. Your courage in the face of imminent peril, and their cheerfulness in the laborious task of strengthening and guarding the works so nobly built, are worthy of all praise, and will receive the plaudits of the entire people of our country which has been so well protected from the ravages of the foe, as well as the gratitude of our whole Confederacy.

To those who, fellow-soldiers, gave up their lives last nine days sacrificed to their guns with such fortitude, and directed their fleeces with such fatal precision, the major-general commanding, cannot pay too high a tribute. He leaves it to posterity an opportunity to testify to them an appreciation of their services.

(Signed) W. W. LORING,
Major-General Commanding.
GEO. MCENDIRT, Major and A. A. G.

SENTINEL.

☞ We have the most favorable reports of action of the planters in the counties north of this, particularly in Yalobusha, with reference to their summer crops. As the preparations made to drive back the invaders have been developed, and the success of our armies in doing so witnessed, confidence has been restored, and we are pleased to learn that the most extensive preparations are being made to grow crops. Cotton is entirely ignored. This is right, and it will do more to advance our cause than would the presence of those who may industriously engage in the work accomplish in the ranks.

FROM DEER CREEK.—The repulse of the enemy, in their attempt to enter the Rolling Fork, has been definitely ascertained. The fleet was driven back, and a number of their barges captured. We have been unable to ascertain any thing definite as to the strength of the enemy, or of the preparations made to receive them.

GREENSWOOD.—The enemy is reported to have made another advance against this position, with increased strength. As the importance of holding it appears to be appreciated by our authorities, we can say to the public we believe every effort will be made to do so.

☞ The Richmond *Whig* says the *Mississippi* was built at Philadelphia in 1841, and was one of the best sea-going steamers in the United States navy. She carried twelve heavy guns—nine and twelve inch caliber.

The Conscription Bill—Important Action of Lord Lyons.

From the New York Express, March 21.]

The clause in the conscription bill which declares that foreigners who have declared their intentions to become citizens, or, in other words, those who have taken out their "first papers," are amenable to the coming draft, has created great anxiety among the large class which comes under this important provision. Many inquiries have been made at the consulates in this city respecting the course the representatives of foreign nations would take when such parties should seek redress, or endeavor to place themselves under the protection of European governments; but the consuls have not yet been enabled to answer such questions. Nearly all of them, however, are now in communication with the governments they represent on the matter.

We learn from a semi-official source that Lord Lyons has referred the matter to the British government, not being able to decide upon it himself. He has stated in a communication that there was no occasion for any immediate action on his part, as no British subject, who had declared his intention to repudiate his former allegiance to her Britanic Majesty would be drafted till an answer shall be received from the home government, as there would be ample time for the decision of the latter to arrive here before the conscription law should be in practical operation.

Fort McAllister—Federal Account.

[To the Associated Press, North.]

OSSABA SOUND, March 5.—The monitors Passaic, Patapsco, and Nahant, with three mortar schooners, commenced a combined attack on Fort McAllister at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The cannonading continued all day with slight intermission, and the mortar schooners kept up a fire on the fort all night.

On Wednesday morning the fight was not renewed. Commander Drayton, senior officer, finding that the rebels had repaired the fort during the night, ordered a cessation of the attack.

It was found impossible, on account of obstructions in the river, to get in full range of the fort.

One rebel gun was dismounted and shattered, and portions of the parapet broken away; but, being unable to get past the fort, it was impossible to take it without a co-operating force. Beauregard was there.

The monitors were struck by scores of balls, but none of them were damaged, and all proved impregnable, except a few holes through the upper portion of the smoke stacks.

Not less than three hundred shot and shell were fired.

The attack will not be resumed, having been mostly intended for a test of strength of the vessels.

FROM THE COAST.—Passengers by the Savannah train Saturday, say it was reported on the road that the enemy were landing troops in large numbers at Beaufort preparatory, it was thought, to a forward movement on Pocotaligo or Savannah. The report was not generally credited.

We learn from a gentleman who arrived here yesterday from Florida, that a fight had taken place at Jacksonville, and the Yankees driven from the town. An officer on our side, whose name our informant could not learn, was killed. No other casualties were reported.—*Charleston Courier, 16th.*

Admiral Porter's Narrative of the Construction and Career of his "Dummy Monitor."

From the Washington Cor. of the New York Herald.]

A private letter has been received here by a naval officer from Acting Rear Admiral Porter, which has created much amusement in Cabinet circles. It seems that Porter was much surprised to learn, on the 25th of February, that the ram Queen of the West was at Warrenton, seven miles below Vicksburg, with the rebel flag flying and steam up. The account Porter had received from Ellet led him to believe that the Queen was in such a condition that she could not be repaired for some time. "I knew," says Admiral Porter in his letter, "that Brown could take care of the Webb himself; but I have no idea that he will be a match for the Queen and Webb both amusing him at the same time. The Indianola is a weak vessel, and the only good thing about her is her battery." He proceeds to say that "during the time of the running of the blockade by the Queen and Indianola, five rebel guns were burst and dismounted in their forts. Therefore it was an object to make them fire as much as possible. I got a mortar in easy range, and opened on that part of the town where there was nothing but army supplies, and soon provoked a fire of four of their heavy batteries. The shell at first fell over the mortar and around it, bursting close to our men; but the range began to grow shorter and shorter, until they let us have it all our own way. Finding that they could not be provoked without an object, I thought of getting up an imitation monitor. An old coal barge, picked up in the river, was the foundation to build on. It was constructed in twelve hours, of old barrels, with pork barrels piled on top of each other for smoke-stack, and two old canoes for quarter boats. Her furnaces were built of mud, and only intended to make black smoke, and not steam. On the night of the 24th we heard, at nine o'clock, heavy guns, about fifteen miles below. We knew that the rebels had missing but light guns there, which could not be heard at any great distance. So we thought it was the Indianola engaging the batteries at Carthage, fifteen miles below Vicksburg. Not knowing that Brown was in peril, we let loose our Monitor. It was towed to within a couple of miles of the first battery, and let go, when it was discovered by the dim light of the moon that Vicksburg was in a stew. Never did our guns and mortars open with such a vim. The earth fairly trembled; and the shot flew thickly around the devoted Monitor, which returned no shot with her long wooden gun. The Monitor ran safely past all the batteries, though under a heavy fire for an hour, and drifted down safely to the lower mouth of the canal, where she was tucked into an eddy. The rebels were completely deceived by her. As soon as they saw her by daylight, they opened on her again with all the guns they could bring to bear, but without a shot hitting her to do any harm; for the shot went through one side and came out at the other, without causing the vessel to sink, as she was full of water already. Our soldiers shouted and laughed like mad; but the laugh was somewhat against them, when, at daylight, we discovered the ram Queen of the West lying at Warrenton; and the question at once arose what had happened to the Indianola. Had the two rams made her or another her in the night? Or had she had been the night before? One or two of the soldiers got the Monitor out in the stream, and let her go down on the ram Queen. All the forts commenced firing and signalizing, and as the Monitor approached her, the ram turned tail and ran down the river as fast as she could go, the Monitor after her, making all the speed that was given her by a five-knot current. The forts at Warrenton fired bravely and rapidly, and it was reported that they hit our Monitor in a very vulnerable spot."

A Sensible Yankee.

EDITOR REBEL: I was recently permitted by a Federal deserter to copy the following letter from his father, which shows, to a certain extent, the growing feeling of discontent in the Northwestern States. You can make such use of it as you think proper. G. H. M.

STATE OF OHIO, —— County, February 1863.

MY DEAR SON: I received your letter of February 21, and was much pained to hear that you were going to Tennessee. It seems very hard that you have to be dragged away down there to help free the blacks—to please the Abolitionists.

If I were you, I would let those that want to fight in such a cause fight on. They pretended at first that the war was for the restoration of the Union, but that was false, as it has been carried on in a way that has made that forever impossible, and they now propose to carry it on to free negroes. I would not fight in such a war any longer. I understand that Jim Wardon has resigned, and is bringing another negro home with him. We are going up next Saturday to make them leave. We will have to begin it some time, and we had as well correct the evil now before it gets any larger. * *

There is talk of another draft. They say they are going to take all clean this time. When they commence that, there will be fun certain. The people say they have stood it as long as they are going to.

The Abolitionists first turned McClellan out, and put Burnside in. They were both democrats. The Abolitionists thought, in doing this, they would fool the people. They have now superseded Burnside with Hooker, thinking they have completely fooled the people. I tell you, they will miss it in the long run. Look around you, and see how many democrats you can find holding important positions in the army. You will find that nearly all the officers are infernal abolitionists. They are a set of infamous scoundrels, and the day is coming when the devil will get them all for their conduct, getting so many good men killed, simply to free the negroes of the South.

* * Farewell, my dear son. I want you to take good care of yourself—keep out of danger as much as possible, and come home as soon as you can.

Your affectionate father and mother,

* * * * *

From North Carolina.

We learn from Fort Fisher that all was quiet there on Thursday, the 12th. In the morning there were four gunboats, blockaders we presume, lying off the fort. In the afternoon the number of vessels was increased to seven, three large transports having arrived. The transports stepped about two hours and then sailed South. Certain movements on board the gunboats seemed to indicate the presence of an officer of rank. With the aid of a good telescope it could be seen that the transports were crowded with men. Some of the men in the garrison suggested that they were going to attack Charleston.

We think it pretty evident that the force under Hunter or Burnside, whichever it may be, is being constantly reinforced, and the question arises, whence are these reinforcements drawn? Evidently they are not raw levies recently drawn out, for, knowing the magnitude and peril of the enterprise before them, they would not send any but Western troops.

They do not come from North Carolina, for all of Foster's disposable force has already gone, and there is no reason to believe that the number of men under him is being increased rather than diminished. The probability is that they are drawn from the army of the Potomac.

We learn that two transports passed Cape Fear bar on Thursday last, crowded with troops, who could be plainly seen by the aid of a glass we supposed.

A gentleman from the Sound informs us that a vessel which answered the description of a turreted iron-clad, passed in view of his place on Friday, the 13th, about two o'clock, P. M., going South.

A force of Federal cavalry made a raid into Onslow county on the 7th, taking some prisoners and committing sundry depredations.—*Wilmington Journal.*

The River Movements.

[To the Associated Press North.]

CINCINNATI, March 15.—The news of the evacuation of Vicksburg is not believed by the military authorities here. Such a movement on the part of the rebels would effectually open the Mississippi river to New Orleans.

The river is falling, and the health of Grant's army is improving rapidly.

Work on the canal and Yazoo pass progresses steadily, but slowly.

CAIRO, March 15.—The steamer Emma crept up last night with two hundred and fifty negroes from Helena. She has gone to St. Louis with them. The Emma was one of the transports with the Yazoo pass expedition, and, in passing through narrow places in the woods, both her wheel houses were knocked off and her upper works generally very much damaged. She was the largest boat in the expedition—most of the rest passing through unharmed. She went with the expedition to within five miles of the head of Yazoo river.

☞ A fire occurred in Hodgsville, Ky., one day last week, which destroyed an entire square of the business portion of the city.

BATTLE OF SPRING HILL.

Northern View of the Situation in Middle Tennessee.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Times.]

MURFREESBORO', TENN., March 7.—When I sent you my last letter, on Thursday, the prospect of a successful campaign in this department was encouraging in the highest degree. To all appearances there was no disaster in store for this army. Having wasted nine weeks in massively inactivity, it was naturally to be expected by the army, while every necessary preparation had been made for the resumption of active operations, there had also been no lack of caution. It is all very well to secure communications, to fortify a position, to wait for reinforcements and the like; but the country expects and demands that a general shall not halt his army in the face of an enemy, and neglect those precautions which will make the finale something besides a culmination and aggregation of fatal errors. You know what has been done here since the battle of Stone river. Nothing but recuperation. We have heard of no important offensive demonstrations on the enemy's line of defense with a view of ascertaining his position in force; there has been none.

It is true that our small cavalry force has made a few brilliant reconnoissances, and on one occasion Col. Minty led his brigade up to within six miles of Shelbyville, driving in the enemy's infantry pickets. But, with these signal exceptions, nothing of a maneuvering character has been undertaken. And thus Gen. Rosecrans has committed an inexcusable oversight. He has neglected the exercise of the first principles of modern warfare, and has not even exhibited the slightest knowledge thereof. Consequently we have been outgeneraled. That will sound like a silly judgment, perhaps, in the ears of some here in this army who have been wont to cover the general commanding with the highest kind of hero-worship. But the lapse of time brings every man, high or low, to his level, and in this country the rise and fall of men are frequently not very far apart.

The affair at Franklin on Thursday was a ruinous failure. You have already learned by telegraph the principal facts relating thereto. Van Dorn, it will be remembered, crossed the Tennessee river from Northern Mississippi several weeks ago. He reached Columbia with about ten thousand troops, mostly Texan and Arkansian cavalry, shortly afterwards, and established his headquarters on the south side of Duck river. His forces formed part of the enemy's left wing, and were detached to operate as a separate column. Nearly at the same time several regiments lately arrived from Kentucky were ordered from Nashville to Franklin. The latter place was then held by a portion of Gen. Jeff. C. Davis' division, which returned to Murfreesboro' as soon as the new garrison reached its destination. General Gilbert was placed in command of the post. Meanwhile General Van Dorn was receiving reinforcements, and was strengthening his position at Columbia. Affairs remained thus until last Friday or Saturday, when the rebel column crossed Duck river, and advanced to Spring Hill, a small station on the railroad to Nashville, eleven miles from Columbia and thirteen miles from Franklin. General Rosecrans heard of this movement, and on Wednesday morning dispatched Colonel Minty's brigade of cavalry, together with Gen. Sheridan's division of infantry and five batteries of artillery, in the direction of Columbia, with the intention of cutting off the enemy's retreat, while another force in Franklin gave him battle in front. I have already apprised you of the departure of this expedition, and on Thursday telegraphed what progress had been accomplished up to Wednesday night. Since then no couriers have arrived at headquarters bringing reports from the expedition, or, if they have, the tenor of the dispatches is kept in profound secrecy.

On Monday, Tuesday, and the day following, Gen. Gilbert sent out a reconnoissance, and slight skirmishes ensued, without any noticeable result. On Thursday, five infantry regiments, an Ohio battery, and two regiments of cavalry—the 22d Michigan and 9th Pennsylvania—all under command of Col. Coburn, of the 33d Indiana, advanced a few miles beyond Franklin, where they encountered the enemy. Skirmishers were deployed, and the infantry were got into line of battle; but, before the movement was completed, the rebels began falling back, making a show of confusion, in order to deceive our troops. Col. Coburn advanced his forces on the double quick and proceeded as far as Thompson's station, three miles from Spring Hill. Here the rebels had prepared a trap for us, and, as soon as our forces reached the station, opened fire from three masked batteries, whilst at the same time, several regiments of infantry appeared on each flank. Desperate fighting ensued; but the rebels constantly received reinforcements, and finally surrounded our forces. Many of them cut their way through, but the enemy captured large numbers of men and a great proportion of commissioned officers, belonging to the 33d and 50th Indiana, 19th Michigan and 22d Wisconsin. Our cavalry and artillery escaped, and reached Franklin in safety. We have no further news than this from the country from Franklin, as well as between Franklin and Nashville, is infested with guerillas, so that several days may elapse before the full particulars are ascertained.

The expedition which left here on Wednesday must have encountered Van Dorn's forces by this time, although nothing has been heard from it, as I have already stated.

Gen. Gilbert is blamed by officers here for failing to reinforce Col. Coburn, though it is said that Gen. Rosecrans is as much to blame as any one else, for allowing Van Dorn to proceed so far north of Duck river in all. Let the fault be his to whom it properly belongs.

A small portion only of the truth of the fight at Franklin is yet known. The disaster itself was one of the most severe of the war, but the consequences of the defeat are innumerable. Already, it is believed, the bulk of the rebel army lately at Tullahoma has crossed Duck river at Columbia, and is now marching to the support of Van Dorn at Spring Hill. Gen Rosecrans and his army, therefore, are flanked. Bragg occupies a position far further south than before the battle of Stone river. He will possibly take possession of Franklin and will then hastily threaten Nashville, thus necessitating, of course, the withdrawal of troops from Murfreesboro' for the protection of the post. Meanwhile, John Morgan has nearly 10,000 cavalry at McMinnville and Woodbury within easy striking distance from here. His cavalry will separate into a dozen independent organizations, assume the footing of guerillas, and ravage the country, making forced marches, destroying the railroads, burning supply trains, and annoying us generally. It is impossible to enumerate the misfortunes which will result from this flank movement of Bragg's forces. Our army will perforce be separated, and the history of the war in this section for the next three months may be a series of defeats and disasters. Last year Bragg accomplished his very same achievement. He outgeneraled Buell by a flank movement, and made his way into Kentucky, which he has evidently undertaken to do a second time. The only difference is, that now he has more forces under his command. At the same time, a large number of rebels supporting late Kentucky from East Tennessee. This emergency need be disguised no longer. The fact that Rosecrans has detached a very few regiments from the army of the Cumberland, and sent them into central Kentucky, within the past week, proves the invasion more conclusively than anything else. And to day two regiments raised and recruited in Tennessee, numbering more than any two regiments in the service, left for the same destination. We hear already that a force of rebel cavalry has made its appearance on the west bank of the Cumberland, and in a few days information will probably come that it has attacked and burned some of the government transports. A gloomy prospect, indeed, is this which seemed so fair but a few days ago. The cloud of deception so cleverly thrown around us by the rebels has cleared away, and we may now contemplate at our leisure the ruins of the magnificent fabric of our hopes.

In another and scarcely less significant aspect is this sorry business full of lamentable consequences. It will discourage and dishearten our soldiers. It will break their confidence in the success of the cause. It will make them [illegible] and disorganized. GUYON.

The Attack on Fort Pemberton.

[From the Richmond *Whig*.]

Fort Pemberton is located, if we are not mistaken, at the confluence of the Tallahatchie and Yallobusha rivers—streams which form the Yazoo. Yazoo pass, of which so much has been heard, is a part of a bayou, formed by the overflow of the Mississippi during the rainy season, and makes a connecting link between that stream and the upper waters of the Tallahatchie. In ordinary times this pass is navigable only for dug outs, and even in times of high water was thought impassable to anything but flatboats. Northern mud-scows—the Yankees have ditched it out, cut down the trees, rooted up the cypress trees and converted this shallow pass into a ship canal, through which their gunboats have steamed, and, after a voyage of a hundred or more miles, reached Fort Pemberton and attacked it, hoping to demolish it as they did Fort Henry—in which event they would go on their way rejoicing to the rear of Vicksburg, and laugh at the costly and prodigious defenses which the Confederates have erected at that little Gibraltar.

But it seems Fort Pemberton has proved a snag of large dimensions in the way of snaking gunboats. It is true Gen. Loring appears inclined, like Van Dorn, after the first day's fight, to "holler before he is out of the woods," but as he had managed to hold out all day long, and the ammunition for his heavy guns had arrived at the date of his last dispatch, we may indulge the hope that he will continue to hold his own, and that Fort Pemberton may rival the well-earned fame of Fort McAllister.

But this is not the only hope we have a right to indulge. The Tallahatchie is a narrow, shallow, tortuous stream, and the Yazoo, for some distance below Fort Pemberton, is the same. Steaming against the current of a swollen stream is quite a different thing from steaming with it. If the gunboats are whipped by Loring, they will have to return to the Yazoo pass. There are trees on the banks of the Tallahatchie, there axes to cut them down, and there are, or ought to be, field pieces to riddle the machinery of the gunboats, whenever they are stopped by the fallen timber. It must occur to every one that the hardy and plucky fellows who captured the Queen of the West and the Indianola, ought to do a very pretty business somewhere between Fort Pemberton and Yazoo pass. If they do not, the people of this Confederacy will be grievously disappointed. If they do, five or six gunboats will fall into our hands; they will be carried down Yazoo very readily and added to the fleet at Vicksburg—and the shade of the departed Mallory will lift up its hands in purgatory and exclaim in the language of Dominie Sampson, "Prodigious" The attack upon Fort Pemberton shows what ditching can do; its result will show whether we have been counting chickens before they are hatched in anticipating a large addition to our Mississippi flotilla.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS BY THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

The Prize Cases—States Taxing United States Stocks—The Almaden Mine Case.

Several important decisions, heretofore made by the U. S. supreme court, have been noticed by us. The following report of these, we find in our Northern exchanges, of the 14th:

THE PRIZE CASES.

Mr. Justice Grier delivered the opinion of the court in the prize cases. The main questions were, first, whether the blockade as laid on by the President was valid in law, so as to make its violation to result in the lawful capture and condemnation of the vessel violating; and, second, whether the commercial property of the ports blockaded, in its incidents of ship and cargo, was justly liable to the rule of maritime capture and prize of war.

Both these questions were determined by the court in favor of the government, and the decrees of condemnation in the courts below were affirmed throughout in the cases of all the vessels, with the single exception of the property of Messrs. Irwin & Co., of New York, which was taken on board the Crusader, which, having been purchased and paid for before Virginia had seceded, was held not to fall under the rule, and was accordingly restored. The adjudication of the above questions, of course, involved the discussion of the point whether or not such a state of war existed at the time of the capture, in contemplation of law, as to give to the government of the United States full belligerent rights and powers.

This point, largely discussed, in the opinion of the court was fully ruled in favor of the government. The dissenting opinion was read by Judge Nelson, and took an opposite view of all these questions, insisting that the proclamation establishing the blockade required, as an indispensable condition precedent to condemnation for breach of it, that the vessel, whether taken in egress from the port or in entering it, should receive warning of the blockade from one of the blockading vessels, and that such warning should be indorsed upon her register. It seemed to be conceded that this was not the true rule of blockade under the laws of nations, but that, under the proclamation of the President, such proceedings must precede lawful condemnation.

The dissenting opinion also held that at the time of the capture and prior to the meeting of Congress, there was no state of war in the United States bringing with it the legal consequences of war, and subjecting the commerce of any rebel port to the rule of maritime capture. It regarded the establishment of the blockade as a municipal proceeding. The commencement of a state of war, bringing with it the legal consequences of war, was fixed, it was held by the act of Congress of July 13, authorizing the President, by proclamation, to close the rebel ports, and declare commercial intercourse with the insurrectionary districts thereafter unlawful.

After reading the dissenting opinion, Judge Nelson stated that he was authorized to announce that Chief Justice Taney and Mr. Justice Catron concurred with him. Mr. Justice Clifford then announced that he, also, concurred in the dissenting opinion; the chief justice was not present at the delivery of the opinion, and Mr. Justice Catron, apparently indisposed, retired from the bench before the reading was concluded. Of the many eminent counsel in the case, there were present only Mr. Carlisle for claimants, and Mr. Eames and Mr. Sedgwick, with the attorney-general, for the government.

STATES TAXING U. S. STOCKS.

Mr. Justice Nelson announced that he held the opinion in the case of the people of the State of New York against the Bank of Commerce, in which the stocks constituting a part of the capital of the bank were taxed under the State law. The tax was confirmed by the supreme court of New York, appealed to the court of appeals, and thence to this court on writ of error. He did not read the opinion, as it was due, but announced that the court had reversed the judgment of the court below in both cases presented, holding that it is not in the power of the States to tax the stocks of the United States. This is the unanimous opinion of the court.

THE ALMADEN MINE CASE.

In the great case of the New Almaden quicksilver mine, the judgment of the supreme court reverses the decree in the court below, which was in favor of the claimant, Castillero, under whom the Messrs Barron claim. The court adjudges that Castillero never had any valid title to the mine, by reason of the insufficiency in law of the papers issued by the Mexican authorities, upon which his claim of title rested. In reaching this conclusion, the court held, in the first place, that the dispatch of the Mexican Minister of foreign relations to the Mexican authorities in California did not amount in law to a grant of the two leagues of land around the mine, which, under it, were claimed by Castillero.

The court also held that the board of commissioners constituted by statute to determine land titles in California after its conquest by the United States, had no jurisdiction over the mining right, which, by well known principles of mining law, is wholly separate and distinct from the grant of the land in which the mine is found. Justices Grier, Catron and Wayne dissent from the opinion of the court. This judgment of the supreme court leaves the title to the mine, which, as is well known, is of enormous value, to be contested between the United States on the one part, and what is commonly called the Fremont interest on the other part; this latter interest having, as it is understood, united with itself most, if not all, of the other outstanding interests which claim the mine.

Among the interests affiliated with the Fremont interest, which are still subject to litigation, is that of the Hon. Robert J. Walker, the value of which is, of course, greatly augmented by this decision. The net annual income from this mine is estimated to be near half a million. When in the hands of Messrs. Barron, at a time when quicksilver commanded a higher price than at present, the yield from the mine was probably nearly a million. Among the eminent counsel engaged in this great case on both sides, the following were present when the opinion was read: Messrs. O'Conor, Johnson and Peachy, counsel for the claimant, and ex-Attorney-General Black, who appeared for the government. The Hon. Robert J. Walker was also present.

☞ The Governor of Florida has issued an address to the planters of that State, warning them not to yield to the delusive prospect of an early peace, and plant cotton with the hope of realizing great gain. He says, with much truth, that "whether a peace shall be made or the war be continued, there must necessarily be a pressing demand for provisions to supply the wants of the people of the Confederate States."

☞ The Rev. Dr. Odin, archbishop of New Orleans, is on a visit to Archbishop Hughes, of New York. The New York papers think this fact means something.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Pensacola Evacuated and Destroyed.

[Special to the Memphis Appeal.]

MOBILE, March 24.—The city of Pensacola has been evacuated by the abolition forces, after burning the greater portion of the city. Many of the troops were taken on board transports, and it is supposed will be sent to reinforce Banks.

They also took with them all the Union citizens and contrabands.

Confederate States Congress.

RICHMOND, March 23.—In the senate a report was presented from the committee of conference on the subject of the impressment of private property for the use of the army. The bill reported provides that when property belonging to the producer is impressed, it shall be appraised by two disinterested citizens, who shall award just compensation. It also provides for the appointment of two commissioners in each State, one by the President, and the other by the Governor, who shall fix a schedule of prices every two months or oftener, or shall regulate amounts to be paid for property impressed, in the hands of any person other than the producer, or person holding the same for use. The bill was postponed until to-morrow.

The bill to establish a court of claims was discussed until adjournment.

In the house, the tax bill was passed, when the doors opened, and the impressment bill was reported from the committee of conference, and discussed and passed.

The bill for the assessment and collection of direct taxes and internal duties, was considered until adjournment.

Important and Proper Decision.

RICHMOND, March 23.—On application of Wm. B. Isaacs, whose flour had been impressed, Judge Lyons granted an injunction to-day, restricting the government from taking possession of said flour, on the ground that the impressment was not warranted by public exigencies, or in accordance with law.

Middle Tennessee.

ATLANTA, March 23.—Letters from Tullahoma, dated the 21st inst., indicate the belief that the enemy is not falling back, but advancing to turn our right. General Johnston was there, and the army in fine condition.

It was reported that Bragg had been ordered to Richmond.

Vessel Lost.

MOBILE, March 24.—The schooner Relief, from Havana, ran ashore below Fort Morgan last Saturday night. The vessel will probably be lost, but the cargo saved.

Scott and McClellan.

From the New York Tribune, March 19.]

A Philadelphia correspondent furnishes the following explanation of Gen. McClellan's failure to report to Gen. Scott when the latter was his active superior, and of the silence of Gen. Scott in view of the recent publication of his official letter of complaint against Gen. McClellan. We do not know that this explanation is correct, and we publish it only to elicit further elucidations, which the matter eminently requires. Can it be true that our government allowed a dead to traitor—one who had betrayed the position of the very highest trust—to be placed on the retired list and to go to Europe on pay as still an officer of our army? If it did, who can wonder that treason is rife in our service, and that gunboats and ships of war are betrayed into the hands of our enemies? But hear our correspondent:

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:

SIR—Many persons are disappointed in learning that Gen. Scott will not publish an explanation of his complaints against Gen. McClellan to the Secretary of War, which was, by the call of Mr. Stevens, of Pa., on the Secretary of War, published and read in the house of representatives. Many ask why was the letter called for. There was discussion on the subject, and they ask what it was intended to show by it. Thereby hangs a tale. Gen. Scott's position is a very delicate one. Some people do suspect the General's Union sentiments to lead toward the "wayward sisters;" but no matter about that. Gen. Scott writes to the Secretary of War, complaining of McClellan's neglect of him for not reporting his plans or consulting him about the disposition of his forces. This occurred some time after it had been discovered by General McClellan that General Scott's office was not the safest place for him to confide his secrets, lest they should be what he was doing. It is known that General McClellan's plans had been several times in a very mysterious way made known to our commanders in the field. General McClellan found out the Indignant; it was General Scott's son-in-law, Henry L. Scott, who was with General Scott in Washington as an inspector-general, with the rank, pay, etc., of a colonel of cavalry. General McClellan went to the President about the extraordinary denouement, and Col. Scott and Adjt. Thomas, who was also suspected of treachery, were summoned to the White House to be confronted on the charge. Colonel Scott confessed his guilt! What was done? Why, Colonel Scott, instead of being shot for his treason, was allowed to be placed on the retired list for life, and to receive the pay and emoluments of a lieutenant-colonel of cavalry! He immediately went to Europe, where he is doing all he can for secession! General Scott will not publish anything. He knows the reason why General McClellan did not report his plans to him, and General Scott will rest stir up a matter that would be of disadvantage to one of his family, who is a traitor, living upon a government which he basely betrays. SMITH.

Persecution in New Orleans.

From the New Era, March 18.]

THE CASE OF N. O. J. TISDALE.—A day or two since we noticed the arrest of Mr. N. O. J. Tisdale, treasurer of the gas company. The charge against him was, that at a fair given at his private residence he had permitted treasonable and seditious language, actions and displays to be said, done and made. Capt. Miller, the mayor, appeared as the prosecutor, yesterday, before the provost court. The witnesses against Tisdale were three young men. It appeared from the testimony that a fair had been given by a number of ladies at the house of the accused for the ben