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JACKSON, MISS.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 17.

VICKSBURG.

This city, after a brief respite, has again become one of the great centers of attraction. Another desperate and determined effort is to be made for her reduction. An attack, both by land and water, is threatened, and it is possible the whole available force of the enemy will speedily be brought to bear. But can he bring a larger force against us now than General GRANT brought with him originally? We think not, and hence we hope for the best results when the conflict comes.

A few shots were thrown by one of our batteries yesterday, at some Yankees over the river, who were supposed to be moving some guns in front of the city. Up to three o'clock nothing else unusual had occurred.

CHARLESTON—SPECULATIONS.

Everybody is speculating as to why the enemy so suddenly abandoned the attack upon Charleston in front. The Mobile *Tribune* remarks that it may be that the attempt in front was made as a mere feeler, under the expectation that Commodore DUPONT's boast that he could destroy Sumter within three hours, would be made good. The attempt having failed, the other it left for them, and all the probabilities are that the most serious and favorite attempt hay not yet been begun, and was left until the one that has signally failed should be tried.

We have heard others conjecture that Mobile would receive a visit at an early day, and others again, that a movement up the Mississippi, to assist in an attack upon Port Hudson, might be attempted.

If the enemy have given up the attack upon Charleston for the present, it may be with some such intention as is mentioned in the following Washington dispatch to a New York paper of the 5th inst.:

There are those in the confidence of the War Office here, who assert that the government has no intention of attacking Charleston this spring because summer. There are some one hundred and [illegible] transports at Port Royal, and the report is that all the troops are to be on board, and, in company with the iron-clad, the rebel James river, to cooperate with General Hooker in his attack upon Richmond. The immense rebel army in Charleston and Savannah, would find nothing to do if this plan was carried out, as they could not get back to Richmond in time for the fight. There may be more in the report than the public suppose.

☞ Judge Constable, lately arrested by the military commander at Indianapolis, has been discharged by the United States district court at Springfield, Ill. This, says the *Chicago Times*, is the most stinging rebuke of the military authority by which the arrest was made, and a sublime vindication of the judicial authority as exercised by the imprisoned minister of the law. The military usurpations have only to be brought into the courts to be condemned. Even the Republican supreme court of Wisconsin did this. No court will fail to do it which is not steeped in partisan prejudice and bigotry.

☞ The Augusta papers, in consequence of the uncertainty of procuring supplies of paper, owing to the destruction of the Bath Paper Mills, have determined, for the present, to furnish their paper at the rate of five dollars for two months, and have fixed the rate of advertising at two dollars per square of ten lines.

☞ A dispatch from Milwaukie, dated the 7th, says the returns from different portions of the State indicate the election of the Democratic candidate for chief justice, by a majority of ten thousand. Milwaukie gave him five thousand majority.

☞ Wheat crops in East Tennessee are said to be small but very promising. The farmers are engaged in planting extensive provision crops, and that section is said to wear a more hopeful aspect than it did some months ago.

☞ The Southern *Motice* learns that Mr. Hiram Dove was engaged in trying to extinguish some fire in the woods near Bellefontaine, when a tree which was on fire, fell on him. He expired in a few moments.

☞ Brig. Gen. W. W. Mackall, who has been on duty at Mobile some months, has been ordered to a more active field, and accepted the responsible position of chief on General Bragg's staff.

NEW LINE.—We understand a telegraph line has been erected to Yazoo City, and an office opened for the dispatch of business. The completion of this enterprise will be of great public benefit.

☞ The Mobile *News* of Wednesday mentions the arrival of Brigadier-General Pollignac, C. S. A., in that city. He is ordered to report to General Kirby Smith.

☞ Two thousand two hundred bales of cotton, stolen on the river, arrived at Paris on the 7th. It was to be sold on government account.

☞ Hon. John J. Crittenden is announced as a candidate for re-election to Congress from the Ashland (Kentucky) district.

New Source of Cotton Supply.

Ion, writing to the Baltimore *Sun*, from Washington, says:

A number of enterprising cotton manufacturers in New England, whose mills have been for a long time unemployed, and who see no prospect of a speedy supply of the material from the South, have turned their attention to Central America, and particularly to Nicaragua, as source of future cotton supply. Agencies have been or are about to be established in Central America for this purpose. Both native labor and free negro immigrant labor, can, it is said, be obtained, and the quality of the cotton there raised is known to be excellent.

Nicaragua and Costa Rica have, of late years, organized as independent States, having entirely recovered from the effects of filibusterism. Nicaragua does not suffer from the suppression of the inter-oceanic transit through her territory. It was of little benefit to her, as it made her ports only a thoroughfare and not depots and entrepots.

The Bay islands, which gave so much trouble to the diplomats both of Great Britain and the United States, and which are now under the jurisdiction of Honduras, are said to be well adapted to the cotton culture, if African labor can be obtained by colonization from this country.

It does not appear probable that much cotton will be grown in the Southern States this season, and burning of the old product will continue, wherever it is endangered by the presence of Federal forces. During the remaining years of the war, corn, instead of cotton, must be the desideratum in the cotton producing States.

☞ Mr. John Murfrey, of the 24 Arkansas regiment, who was lodged in jail in this place some time since, on the charge of stealing a horse, was taken under a writ of habeas corpus, last Tuesday, before Judge Cothran, at Carrollton, and was acquitted.—*Southern Motice.*

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

RICHMOND, April 10, 1863.

Intervention again is talked of, not here but in New York and other parts of the United States. Intervention is the sword of Damocles to Seward. He knows it is suspended by a hair, that it may fall at any time, and that its fall will be his desolation. The Polish insurrection is quelled; the brave leader of the Poles, with his unpronounceable and unwritable name, is in a dungeon of Cracow; the Czar promises "autonomy," whatever that may be (to be called Poland, I suppose), to the conquered country, and now it is thought that Louis Napoleon, having nothing to occupy him on the continent of Europe, will turn his imperial attention to the American quarrel and declare the Confederate States independent. Perhaps so. The French Emperor does things in his own way, and his designs have hitherto been a little unfathomable. He may prove too deep for Seward yet. Besides uncomfortable apprehensions of France, his Yankee government is startled with serious misgivings about England. The rapidity with which the Confederate loan has been taken by English Capitalists is significant of a thorough conviction on their part that the government will not much longer defer the recognition of our independence. Besides, Earl Russell has just snubbed Mr. Charles Francis Adams. Altogether the aspect of affairs across the water is not at all satisfactory to the tyranny at Washington.

It is amusing to see how credulous the Yankees are, in spite of all their past experience, in the matter of Federal victories. A report, gotten up for purposes of stockjobbing, and out of which doubtless many scoundrels on Wall street made fortunes in a day, that Charleston had fallen into the hands of Admiral Dupont, was industriously circulated and believed in New York, and probably set New England in a blaze of joy. What they will say when they hear that the Keokuk has been sunk, and the Ironsides badly damaged, it is impossible to conjecture. We have telegrams to-day from Charleston to the effect that Confederate officers have gone to the wreck of the Keokuk, and found her *indestructible* turret pierced through and through by the solid shot fired from our batteries. The loss of the "devil," on which the Yankees relied for the removal of the torpedoes, will not increase the confidence of the attacking squadron. Nevertheless, they must renew the bombardment or ruin themselves in the eyes of Europe. *Islands of Carthage* becomes a ridiculous threat, if a single day's disaster is to make them relinquish the long promised destruction.

The senate this morning passed a bill abolishing all ports of delivery, except in cases where the port of delivery was also a port of entry, after which it went into secret session, and so continued until the hour of adjournment.

The condemned spy, Capt. Webster, who attempted to escape from Castle Thunder, was hanged this morning at Camp Lee. I make this statement, not having heard that the execution really did take place, but from the fact that the President had finally determined not to interfere, and that the unhappy offender passed up Main street on his way to the gallows, about noon, under guard of a squadron of cavalry.

Another theatre is to be opened this evening.

The weather is clear and dry, and the south wind gives promise of the speedy coming of spring.

DIXIE.

A CORRECTION.

EDITORS APPEAL: Noticing the correspondence of the Chicago *Times*, copied in your paper of the 4th instant, over the signature of "Donelson," I see that the credit of the command of our batteries, at Fort Pemberton, is given to Lieutenant Brown, of ram Arkansas. Whilst I have no desire to deprive that gentleman of the honor which the *Times'* correspondent has done him, I know he will appreciate the feeling that prompts me to ask an insertion of this correction in your columns, that the *honors* of the skillful and successful management of our guns may attach to the rightful proprietor.

Major John D. Myrick, of General Loring's staff, active chief of artillery, is the officer who was in command of our batteries at Fort Pemberton.

Major Myrick not only manifested unremitting energy and zeal in superintending the construction of the defenses, but acted with distinguished gallantry and courage in defending the works throughout the entire bombardment.

Of course the correspondent of the *Times* is not expected to communicate correct information in regard to us, yet, in the absence of counter statements and corrections, the presumptions would be in favor of the truth of his statement, and convictions might be based upon them, if allowed to pass unnoticed, which might deprive a good, tried and true soldier of his just rewards for bravery and good conduct, and bestow them upon another, possibly as good, tried and brave, but who, for the information of the Yankees, I will state, was at the time operating in another element for their confusion.

WITNESS.

FORT PEMBERTON, April 9, 1863.

Affairs on the River.

From the Memphis Argus, April 11.]

The steamer Emma No. 2, Captain J. H. Maratta, which left Young's point on Wednesday evening, arrived at the landing between ten and eleven o'clock last night.

She is the latest arrival, but brings little news that has not already been published.

Passing over the usual quantity of rumors, conjectures and speculations which, seldom truthful, belong only to sensational journalism, we have been able to glean the following:

At the Point everything was quiet on Wednesday. Work on the lower canal has been altogether abandoned, but efforts are still in progress to push the upper one—commencing above the Point—to speedy completion. Capt. Maratta, of the Emma, is of opinion, from examination of the work, that this canal will be completed.

Nothing further had been heard from General Steele's expedition to the rear of Greenville, nor of General McClernand's operations in the vicinity of Richmond, Louisiana.

The reports heretofore published regarding the Yazoo pass expedition, are fully confirmed by the officers of the Emma. The transports have been badly damaged by the trees, stumps and logs in the pass.

Vicksburg Items.

From the Whig, April 10.]

There is not a vestige of the defunct Indianola above the surface of the water at present. The water has risen over her charred remains, completely hiding her from Farragut's view, were he now to come along.

There was no change in the aspect of affairs across the river, yesterday. The usual number of transports and tents were in sight, with an occasional arrival or departure during the day. The water can now be seen pouring through the canal with terrible velocity, and on either side can daily be seen squads of Yankees apparently watching its progress.

The Mississippian has official news that the Yazoo pass expedition has come down the river again. None of the boats have joined the fleet yet, but yesterday quite a number of distinct smokes could be seen extending up from Duckport for miles, indicating the arrival of steamers, or that quite a number were getting ready to depart. We do not regard the fleet's coming down as at all pointing to an attack here. The boats are all more or less injured, and the men dissatisfied and demoralized. They are being brought down, we suppose, to their old rendezvous for reorganization and discipline.

We publish a letter from near New Carthage, this morning, which gives a pretty clear view of the state of affairs in that vicinity. It will be seen that there is considerable of a force moving out, and that New Carthage has been taken possession of by the Yankees. This section will need a little more attention from the authorities.

COPPERHEADS.—From an advertisement in the New York *Caucasian*, it appears that the "copperheads," as the Black Republicans style their opponents, "accept the insult." The advertisement makes known that "the copper badge for copperheads"—worn as a pin, will be "mailed on receipt of fifteen cents." A circular accompanying the advertisement indicates that the device of the badge is the bust of "Liberty," as it appears on the old copper cents. Says the advertiser: "Wear the signet that the friends of the Union and the Constitution may be recognized on sight—'copperhead' is a Niggerhead, we thank thee for that word."

From the Lower Mississippi.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.]

CAIRO, April 7.—Advices from Helena, Arkansas, to the 1st say that the canal at Vicksburg is a stupendous failure. The dredging machines are to let.

There are indications of important movements, but particulars are contraband.

An attack was made by guerillas last week on the steamers Empire City, Cheesman, and Ad Hine, while those boats were passing down the Coldwater river. The guerillas fired from canebrakes and bushes, mortally wounding the captain of the Ad. Hine. Several deckhands and an engineer on one of the boats were killed.

The steamer Citizen broke a wheele in the Coldwater last week, and was compelled to lay by for repairs. A squad of soldiers was sent to protect the boat from falling into the enemy's hands.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.]

MEMPHIS, April 6, (via Cairo, April 7.)—The steamer Alton, Captain Barnes, arrived to-day from Young's point, La., having left there on Saturday evening. She brings no news of any army movements, except that General Steele's corps had been sent up to Greenville, Miss., where there was a considerable force reported to be. A rebel force had been seen in the vicinity of Greenville, and, lest they should endeavor to blockade the river there, General Grant determined to put a force there and prevent it.

All was quiet in the vicinity of Young's point up to Saturday afternoon.

Special to the Chicago Times.]

HELENA, ARK., April 4 (via CAIRO, April 7). The hospital boat City of Louisiana, passed up this A. M. She was crowded with sick soldiers from Gen. Grant's army, en route to Northern hospitals. Everything was quiet at Vicksburg.

No later advices from Fort Greenwood have been received. Gen. Ross is expected to arrive here, with his division, to-morrow.

Several regiments at this post are under marching orders.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.]

YOUNG'S POINT, April 3—4 P. M.
Via Cairo, April 7.

The rumors of the resignation of Colonel Dickey, General Grant's chief of cavalry, were confirmed, to-day, by the notification of its acceptance by the War Department at Washington. General Washburne ranks all the cavalry officers in the department. A chief of cavalry may not be appointed in place of Col. Dickey.

Colonel Noble, of the 21 Illinois cavalry, so fond of hanging around Springfield and abusing Democrats, has been mustered out of the service for inefficiency.

On Tuesday the 69th Indiana regiment marched from Milliken's bend to Willow Bay lake, three or four miles from the river, and thence through connecting bayous to Richmond, twenty miles from here, on the Vicksburg and Shreveport railroad, where they are now encamped. A small company of rebels occupied the place, but retreated, skirmishing, as our troops approached. Two were reported killed and one or two captured. We sustained no loss. Richmond commands the bayou through which our transports will pass if the new canal be completed; hence its importance. All the skiffs and yawls at Milliken's bend were taken to the bayou to assist in transportation. The occupation will be permanent, it is thought, and will break up a troublesome community of rebel spies and informers.

The Federal forces at Greenwood are understood to have been reinforced in troops and ordnance, and the movement seems more hopeful than a week ago.

Nothing has been heard from Port Hudson.

The weather is warmer, and the river keeps up fully.

CAIRO, April 7.—The steamer Grey Eagle has arrived from Memphis with Sunday morning's papers. From passengers we hear of two important expeditions from Milliken's bend, but particulars may not be given. We shall certainly hear from them in a few days.

We are assured that the health of the army is good and getting better; that its spirits are good, and that no one thinks of falling in the capture of Vicksburg.

We have conflicting reports again from Yazoo pass, but the preponderance of evidence is, that it is not yet abandoned.

NEW YORK, April 7.—The *World's* correspondent, writing aboard the flag ship Hartford, March 25th, three miles above Grand Gulf, says: "The wheelhouse of a steamboat painted lead color was discovered abreast of Hurricane island, twenty miles below Warrenton. From the description it accords perfectly with the Indianola, and leaves no doubt as to her fate—that she is sunk in deep water, and bears, so far as can be seen, the appearance of having been blown up just where she sunk."

Operations on the Tennessee.

Special to the Memphis Argus.]

CAIRO, April 9.—The *News* of this morning says:

Last week a body of rebel cavalry, who had been harbored for some time by the citizens of Palmyra, Tennessee, fired upon the tin clad gunboat St. Clare, and if we mistake not, other unarmed steamboats.

On Saturday last Captain Leroy Fitch sent some of his gunboats up to the town for the purpose of seeking redress. Officers from the boats landed, and, by proper inquiry, satisfied themselves that the inhabitants had harbored these men, and given them aid in every way they could, and in retaliation it was resolved to burn the town. The inhabitants were told that such was the determination, and time given them to remove themselves and their personal plunder out of the way, when the torch was applied and the entire town reduced to ashes. We are told it contained about two hundred inhabitants.

CAIRO, April 9.—Lest Friday the steamer Glasgow, while coming down the Cumberland river, was fired into three miles this side of Harpeth shoals by a party of guerillas, who had a battery of three pieces of artillery, and were armed with Minnie rifles. Three persons on board were wounded—John Cunningham, the mate, in the arm; Collins, a deckhand, in the shoulder; and the pilot, Metheny, in the leg. A paymaster with $100,000 was aboard, and it was thought the guerillas attacked the boat on this account.

From Middle Tennessee.

To the Associated Press, North.]

MURFREESBORO', April 7.—McCann's guerillas are prowling about Lavergne, purchasing and sending off wheat.

Van Dorn's army, at Columbia, is already supplied with pork and meal. Colonel Este captured seven of these guerillas yesterday, which Gen. Mitchell brought into Nashville, and forty-six to day.

NASHVILLE, March 7—Gen. Mitchell, with 350 cavalry, went out yesterday on the Lebanon pike to Green hill, and dashing into a rebel camp where there was a large number of conscripts—on the saber charge—he took fifteen prisoners, killed five and captured all their arms, horses, equipments, etc. These rebels were composed of parts of Morgan's and McGowan's bands.

Among the prisoners are Captain Brady of the 18th rebel Tennessee regiment, and a lieutenant of Morgan's cavalry. A still-house, containing forty casks of liquor, was destroyed. The place had been used as a conscripting rendezvous. One man was wounded on our side.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A dispatch has been received at headquarters, from General Rosecrans, dated Murfreesboro, April 6, stating that General Stanley had returned from an expedition, bringing a number of rebel cavalry as prisoners, and having killed and wounded several.

The Last and Best Act.

From the Houston (Texas) News, March 28.]

We have just received the following letter by Express. It is written by one of our officers present, and knowing the facts stated:

FLOWER BLUFFS, March 27, 1863.—In these parts we have some reason to rejoice and much for sadness. At this point one of the ablest and most distinguished officers stationed at Corpus Christi was poisoned in the most diabolical manner by the enemy, after his having performed the most daring acts of service to his country.

Yesterday Lieut. Conklin, of the artillery, with ten men went out to shoot some birds of rare plumage that have recently appeared on our coast, wishing to procure their feathers for ornaments. While on Padre Island, they discovered two launches lying near the beach, and upon further examination, discovered Captain Kittridge and fifteen of his men with their arms stacked, busily engaged destroying the salt works belonging to James Curry. Our party approached them as near as they could without discovery, and when within about one hundred yards of them they rushed out upon them from behind a hill which had concealed them from the enemy, and demanded a surrender. They were taken by surprise, and after a few minutes hesitation the whole party surrendered, without a drop of blood being shed.

After the surrender had taken place, Captain Kittridge proposed to drink a glass of liquor as he felt nervous after the excitement, and asked Lieut. Conklin to join him. The lieutenant hardly ever touched liquor of any kind, and being insisted on consented to drink, little dreaming of the treachery of his foe. Two glasses, already prepared, were brought, which they drank. In about twenty minutes after they had drank, he was seized with a burning in the stomach and giddiness in the head. The last symptom was common when he drank liquor at all, but the first alarmed him and he immediately sent for the doctor to the post. In the meantime the symptoms increased in intensity until he was driven mad by the pain he felt. When the physician arrived it was too late to do anything for him; he soon after died, wild and raving like a mad man with the *mania potu*.

On being charged by the physician with his diabolical act, he coolly replied that all advantages were fair in war; that he had met Lieut. Conklin several times before, and it was much easier to kill such with whisky than with powder and lead on the word; that he had tried it and found it so.

Such unblushing effrontery and savage brutality is almost without a parallel.

Capt. Kittridge is now in the custody of the civil law, and will be dealt with as his crime deserves.

The other prisoners will be sent to Brownsville soon.

Capt. Kittridge denies that there was any poison put in the liquor: this, however, will be determined by a post mortem examination of the deceased. More anon.

Destruction of the Yankee Gunboat in Cocoa River.

From the Charleston Mercury.]

On Wednesday evening our watchful pickets reported a gunboat of the enemy in Cocoa river, near Chisolm's Island. It was at first believed that the vessel was aground, but subsequent events proved that she was anchored there. During the night another gunboat also took position in the same neighborhood. Upon the first intimation of the presence of one of the enemy's vessels in a position which offered an opportunity for punishment, General Walker ordered sections of the Beaufort volunteer artillery, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia batteries to move forward, with a view to attack, and, if possible, destroy the vessels. These, with a proper infantry support, consisting of a regiment from General Cook's brigade, reached the scene of action during the night, and waited for daybreak to open the ball. At one morning the gunboat moved down toward Port Royal ferry, and a force was detached and sent in that direction to operate should opportunity offer.

At dawn, Captain Lumpkin, of the Virginia battery, and Lieutenant Hal. Stuart, of the Beaufort artillery, brought their guns in position in splendid style, having to maneuver under great disadvantages in an old cotton field. Before the Abolitionists had time to rub their eyes and turn over in their hunks, the 6 pound shot and 12-pound shell were crashing through the sides of the gunboat in jelly style. Lieutenant Stuart's second shot knocked off the rudder, and the ship became unmanageable. In a few minutes, after firing their heavy guns in return, the Yankees displayed the white flag, and our guns ceased their terrible fire.

The vessel was discovered to be on fire from our shells, and hence the surrender. As usual, the rascals used the flag only for their personal safety; for, by this time, the gunboat had drifted over to the other shore, and the valiant crew jumped into the marsh, and, regardless of the mud and water, they struggled for the island shore. Seeing this, our guns were elevated a little, and a perfect hail of grape and canister fell among the fugitives, killing and wounding several.

Captain Stephen Elliott, having returned from detached service with General Walker, now boarded the burning ship, and secured, with the limited means at his command, a number of articles of value, and would have brought off the guns, but the gunboat was seen returning, shelling the shore with considerable spirit, and he returned with his boats. Three prisoners were taken from the burning ship, all dreadfully wounded. They were suffering terribly, and but little information was obtained.

The name of the two boats was accounted for in this wise: They were ordered to that point with "sealed orders," upon opening which they found that they were to silence any rebel batteries that they might find on the river. Our brave boys have the consolation of knowing that there is one gunboat less in the admiral's fleet. Not a man nor a horse was hurt on our side. The troops returned to their camps on Thursday, in excellent spirits, to tell the full particulars of the glorious victory at Charleston. Of course everybody was in a good humor, and satisfied with this week's experiments in gunboat warfare.

Latest from Arkansas.

From the Little Rock True Democrat, April 1.]

The coming of General Price was the occasion of the manifestation of a great deal of enthusiasm, especially among the Missourians. Being called out, the old chief made a very short address, telling them that he came here to fight, not to make speeches, and that he had been successful, at least in being transferred to this side of the river. We were present last week at a general review of the troops by Gens. Kirby Smith, Holmes and Price. It was gratifying to see the improvement in the men, the increase of their numbers, and the fine spirit which seemed to animate them. The regiments are filling up; the stragglers are returning, and officers and men are taking pride in each other.

Nearly every day during the past week, bodies of prisoners have been brought in, the majority being jayhawkers. Among them was a lot of sixteen, who were taken at the affray near Mulberry, wherein Major H. S. McConnell was killed. He was in command of a scouting party, and having ascertained that some thirty of these scoundrels were at a certain place, moved up his command to surround them. With his usual bravery he dashed ahead and was in advance, when, in passing an open place, one of the jayhawkers named Harpe, rested his gun on the corner of the house, took deliberate aim and fired, inflicting a mortal wound. Some of McConnell's men came up and asked him if he was hurt, to which he replied: "I am killed, but go on. Do not stop to mind me." The patriots rendered furious, charged upon the enemy, killed nine, wounded four, and took sixteen prisoners. A day or two before, a discharged Confederate soldier named Stuart, had his house surrounded by a gang of these miscreants, who made him prisoner and paroled him. On the next day others dragged him from his sick bed, took him in front of his house, propped him up, for he was too sick to stand, and in the presence of his wife foully murdered him. These men, their hands dripping with blood, who have burned houses and stolen property, are brought here as prisoners of war and go through the formalities of a trial. When released, they go back to their old trade of rapine and murder till they are again caught and go through the same routine. Nearly all of them are tories and traitors; some of them are deserters from our army, and to permit them to go unpunished of justice is to license crime, to make life and property in the border counties insecure, and to render of no avail the loss of lives lost in securing them. Such a life as that of Hall McConnell is worth a host of these bandits.

General Smith has the reputation of being a kind-hearted man, and so, we believe, has Gen. Holmes. But we beg them to observe that kindness to these men is cruelty to the people whom they have robbed, and whom, if they get the chance, they will again rob and murder without remorse.

This fellow, Col. Harrison, at Fayetteville, is said to be building fortifications and impressing labor to work on them. With this exception and the force at Helena, the enemy are making no movement or have no foothold in our State. The jayhawkers are pretty well cleared out; the deserters and stragglers are returning, and if we could drive the invaders and tories out of Washington and Benton counties, the only point in the State which the Federals could claim to hold would be Helena.

The wheat crop is said to be fine, but it is feared the cold weather for the past few days may injure that and the peach crop. We hope not, and will be glad to receive information concerning the crops from all parts of the State.

Our Forts and the Fleet.

From the Charleston Courier, 10th.]

Since our last issue the enemy has made no movement of importance in this vicinity. On the Stono his operations seem to progress very slowly, as if he were awaiting the issue of the final contest between the iron fleet and the batteries of our harbor. The monitors, six in number, with the Ironsides, still lie at anchor within the bar, and at a distance of about three miles southeast from Fort Sumter. Whatever the motives for their delay may be, there are good reasons for believing that they will not depart until they have made one more effort for the reduction of Charleston.

During Wednesday afternoon many pieces of the Keokuk's furniture, with the spy glasses and other effects of her officers, were washed ashore on Morris' Island beach. Most of these articles, when found, were covered with clotted blood. That our readers may have correct information of the strength and character of the iron vessels we have sunk, we append a minute description of the Keokuk, taken from a New York paper of December last:

The Keokuk, the invention of Mr. C. W Whitney, an iron merchant of this city, is of an entirely novel construction. Her dimensions are as follows: Length over all, including the ram of five feet, one hundred and fifty-nine feet and six inches; breadth of beam, thirty-six feet; depth of hold, thirteen feet and six inches; draft of water, nine feet. Her sides present a very peculiar appearance, being constructed at an angle of thirty-seven degrees, so as to cause the shot to roll off. With exception of a few inches of wood on deck, which is locked so as to keep it tight, some minor pieces between decks, and the necessary joiner work, the vessel is exclusively built of iron, with an armor extending some four feet below the water line, while the flush deck is about five feet above the water line.

The hull of the vessel, including frame and beams, are exclusively of iron. It is constructed of half-inch rolled iron plates. Three keelsons run the whole length, while two bulwarks, fore and aft, form an inner vessel, which enables the structure to float, should the outside be riddled with shot. Two bulwarks—one fore and one aft—can be filled with water in fifteen minutes, so as to settle or raise the vessel as wanted in action as much as one foot. These compartments also serve as a security against a leak caused by the wrenching off of the ram. The hull is covered with an armor of bars of four one-inch iron set edgeways, one inch apart, and between each a strip of yellow pine, over which are three five-eighth inch plates, the whole riveted with one and one-eighth inch bolts, with eight counter-sunk heads of about one foot apart.

The vessel has two fixed turrets, each carrying one gun, pierced with three port holes each, but the gun is on a revolving slide. They are built on a base of half-inch rolled plates, and covered in the same manner as the hull, thus obtaining for the turrets a thickness of six and one-quarter inches. The port holes are provided with heavy shutters, so constructed as to work in two halves. The slides for the guns, which will be of eleven inch caliber, are placed twenty inches below the level of the deck, which secures a greater hight for the turrets, which are of a conical form, twenty feet diameter at the base and fourteen feet at the top. Their length is eight feet eight inches. They are strongly braced by five one-inch iron bars set edgeways. The size of the ports allows the guns ten degrees vertical and eight degrees lateral range. The ventilation of the turrets is admirably provided for by an arrangement by which the lower portion of the turrets can be opened, and as there is a communication between the two turrets a draft is produced, which removes the foul air generated inside.

The vessel will be propelled by two propellers and two engines of five hundred horse power. Both rudder and propeller are guided by an overhanging guard of wrought iron on the after part.

Mr. Whitney, who had conceived the idea of building this vessel about four weeks after the outbreak of the war, is quite sanguine of her success, both as regards easy navigation and proof against shot. She requires a crew of one hundred men, and carries in her magazines two hundred 11-inch shot, one hundred and fifty 11-inch shell, and the necessary powder, etc.

The propellers and engines of the Keokuk are so arranged as to allow one to work forward while the other can be reversed, so as to turn the vessel on her own pivot. The guns of the ship are worked on a pivot similar to the arrangement of the pivot guns on a gunboat. The ship sits on the water with all the grace of a regularly built wooden vessel, thus putting at rest all the fears expressed by many nautical men that she could not float.

The War on the Coast.

Special to the Memphis Argus.]

NEW YORK, April 8.—The *World* has the following.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Official information lately received at the War Department is that a move against Charleston had been initiated by landing a small Federal force near St John's Island. Private letters received to-night from Commodore John Rogers, second in command under Admiral Dupont, and also from General Hunter to his relatives, dated Friday, have fully corroborating rebel accounts of the landing of our forces on St John's Island, and the withdrawal of the enemy's pickets.

They speak in the most sanguine manner of the contemplated movement resulting in great success, no less than the fall of Charleston. The War Department will probably have official dispatches to-morrow.

PHILADELPHIA, April 8.—A private letter, dated off Charleston, April 1st, says: "It is reported that Charleston has been deserted by all the women and children. Four iron-clads have been in Edisto river, twenty miles south of here, for one week. Admiral Dupont will be here to-day, when, it is said, the bombardment will commence. It is said the army will remain at Port Royal until after the bombardment, and I think this report probable, as the rebels have had time and opportunity to fortify the land approaches, so as to make them almost impregnable. We have been engaged for the last two days in hanging chains to the side of our vessel so as to protect the machinery."

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Private letters just received from officers attached to the Charleston expedition, written on the departure of the fleet to attack that city, expressed themselves confident of success, and they say such is also the general feeling among both officers and men.

General Beauregard to the Troops.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA AND FLORIDA,
CHARLESTON, S. C., April 10, 1863.

General Orders, No. 38.]

The Commanding General is gratified to have to announce to the troops the following joint resolutions unanimously adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Carolina:

"*Resolved*, That the General Assembly reposes unbounded confidence in the ability and skill of the commanding general of this department, and the courage and patriotism of his brave soldiers, with the blessing of God, to defend our beloved city, and to beat back our vindictive foes.

"*Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be instructed to communicate this resolution to General Beauregard."

Soldiers! the eyes of your countrymen are now turned upon you on the eve of the second anniversary of the 13th of April, 1861, when the sovereignty of the State of South Carolina was [illegible] within the harbor which we are now to defend. The happy issue of the action of the 7th instant—the stranded, riddled wreck of the iron-mailed Keokuk—her baffled consjitors, forced to retire beyond the range of our guns, have inspired confidence in the country that our ultimate success will be complete. An inestimable precious charge has been confided to your keeping, with every reliance on your manhood and enduring patriotism.

By command of General Beauregard.

(Signed) THOMAS JORDAN,
Official: Chief of Staff.

John M. Otey, A. A. G.

From Tennessee.

The following is an extract of a letter from a soldier in General Bragg's army, to his brother, dated

SHELBYVILLE, April 5, 1863.

Everything is remarkably quiet at present, but it is the calm that precedes the storm, I think. The enemy is planning an extensive campaign for the summer, and it must soon begin to develop itself, for they cannot afford to lose much time, and it seems to me that they will not let the river fall before they try again to crush this army. When the shock of battle comes, it will find us prepared, and in the milder season our troops will be able to sustain a much longer combat than could be expected in mid-winter. From the best information we have, the effective strength of the enemy does not exceed fifty thousand men, and there is very little doubt that we can meet him with at least forty thousand troops, and this force, well handled and acting on the defensive, should be more than a match for any fifty thousand of theirs. The army has the greatest confidence in its commander, General Bragg, who is, I am glad to say, beginning to be better appreciated, and there is less feeling of discontent in the army than I have ever known since my connection with it. All these I regard as favorable circumstances, and when next we meet the foe, they will show their influence in a desperate and unflinching determination to win a complete victory over the mercenaries who are devastating our beautiful country.

The newspapers will keep you informed of the movements of our cavalry, and that is the only arm of the service that is earning any laurels now. The health of this company keeps up to its old standard, about two on the sick list, and I believe the general health of the troops was never better.

Escape of a Federal Officer.

The Corinth correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* gives the following particulars of the escape of a Federal officer, from Atlanta, Ga., to Corinth Miss.:

First Lieutenant John F. Elliott, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, was wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro' and captured. He was taken to the Atlanta prison and confined with the other officers captured at that battle. But having the bad luck to be a stake holder a day or two before the battle, in a bet where the stakes were *fac simile* Confederate notes, and the bet not being decided when he was captured, the rebels, finding so excellent a counterfeit of their currency in his possession, charged him with the crime of counterfeiting, and made him answerable to the civil court—ordering him to appear at that tribunal on the fourth Monday in March.

About the 5th of February all the prisoners there were notified that all the officers who had been captured previous to the 12th of January were exchanged and they were ordered to the depot to take the cars to Richmond. By some means the civil claim against Lieutenant Elliott and Lieutenant Burritt (who was charged with the same offense) was forgotten until all the officers had reached the depot. It being dark, and the officer who had known to the officer in charge, he called their names, intending to detain them for trial. Lieutenant Burritt answered, and was kept back. Lieutenant Elliott did not answer, and thus succeeded in getting aboard the train. But he had not gone far until he overheard the officer in charge say that he was going to make a search for "that man Elliott, and send him back." Quietly changing his clothes for a partial butternut suit, obtaining a map, a compass and five dollars, he got off the cars at Conger's Station, thirty miles east of Atlanta, and undertook the dangerous effort to reach the Union lines on foot.

His first thought was to go to Knoxville, and from there to Murfreesboro, but the dangers of the route seeming so great, he determined to try to reach this place.

Striking the mountains at Dawsonville, he passed through Elijah, Dalton and Lafayette, in Georgia; thence westwardly through Alabama, crossing Bear creek near Russellville, and reaching Camp Davis, eight miles south of Corinth, on the morning of the 25th inst., just one month from the time of his departure from Atlanta. He thinks he marched at least four hundred miles. He was not suspected, or put to any trouble on the whole route, until the last day, when two guerillas of Warren's gang pursued him some four hours. He eluded them by going through timber and swamp, and finally reached the pickets of the 66th Illinois, in an almost exhausted state, completely denuded, from wading through the swamps and swimming the Tuscumbia. He was taken in and kindly cared for by the sharpshooters.

From New Orleans.

Dispatches to the Associated Press, North.]

NEW YORK, April 7.—The steamer Eastern Queen has arrived from New Orleans 29th, and Key West 1st.

Capt Collins reports while at Fort St. Phillip, Southwest pass, he was boarded by the United States boarding officer, who reported having received a telegram from New Orleans, stating the rebels had begun to evacuate Port Hudson.

Col. Dudley's brigade had made an expedition to a point on the west side of the Mississippi, halfway between Port Hudson and Pointe Coupee, and burned the steamer Hope, with six hundred barrels molasses, and at Hermitage landing destroyed sixteen hundred barrels molasses, a rebel machine shop, and a grocery, containing 15,000 bushels corn, besides several buildings, including the post office.

The expedition to Ponchatoula and Pass Manchac was completely successful. The troops consisted of the 6th Michigan, a battalion of the 154th New York, and parts of the 77th New York and 24th Maine, with two pieces of artillery. The gunboat Bavitaras and yacht Caryphous accompanied them. Ponchatoula was occupied after some skirmishing, and a railroad bridge, two miles beyond, destroyed after the rebels had been driven from it by a detachment of the 6th Michigan.

The bridge was five hundred feet long. A large amount of tobacco, flour, and stores fell into our hands. Our forces occupied Ponchatoula, Springfield pass, and Manchac, and the rebel cavalry are said to be hedged in so that escape is difficult. Three cotton-laden schooners were captured near Ponchatoula.

Collector Bullitt had suspended all transportation permits above New Orleans, unless military necessity otherwise order. This has been deemed necessary to prevent attempted frauds.

From North Carolina.

NEW YORK, April 8.—The *Post* learns that on the 4th inst., General Foster was at Little Washington with a brigade, when a regiment of North Carolina troops and some other troops virtually surrounded them.

They have erected batteries on the Tar river, between Newbern and Little Washington. The naval force of wooden gunboats are unable to pass them.

It is understood that a battle has taken place between Foster and the rebels, but nothing is definitely known. Heavy firing has been heard, lasting from Wednesday night to Friday night, evidently from rebel batteries. Foster's means of defense are deemed ample, having the fort and intrenchments, with sufficient ammunition and provisions. Large reinforcements are in transports below the batteries, but are unable to reach Foster for want of some naval force competent to take them. It was reported that Foster had sent to Fortress Monroe, some time since, for naval reinforcements, and it was expected that troops would come from Suffolk.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—An officer, who arrived here to-day from North Carolina coast, says it was believed among our forces, the information coming from what was believed a reliable source, that Gen. Longstreet some time ago made application to Jeff Davis for fifty thousand troops for the purpose of clearing Albermarle sound, and he was informed that he could have thirty thousand from the army of the Rappahannock, but must obtain the balance from Gov. Vance, of North Carolina. It is further reported that one of the Hills is in command, when this information, several days ago, reached Fortress Monroe. Assist