Daily Appeal.

EVENING EDITION.

JACKSON, MISS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 29.

THE ORDEAL.

Mississippi, just at this time, is going through, in her, the most trying ordeal of the war. Her people everywhere, we trust, are thoroughly aroused to a full sense of the dangers by which they are surrounded, and that they are, or very soon will be, fully prepared to meet and resist them. Lethargy and indifference at such a crisis as that now upon us, will most unquestionably entail upon them untold wrongs, robberies, insults and disasters. They should learn a lesson from the fate of Missouri, Middle Tennessee, North Alabama, and the northern portion of our own State, where the people have been robbed of everything they possessed, prevented from raising crops, or even cultivating a garden, and forced to a dependence upon Federal clemency and charity for their daily bread.

Such need not and will not be our fate, if the people are true to themselves. They have the power and the might, if they have the resolution and manly courage, to avert these calamities. Will they not, then, as one man, rally at once in the rescue? It is not only their country that calls for their aid, but self-interest, the love of home and family, honor, self-respect—in short, all that is near and dear in life, all that is worth living for, calls aloud for the assistance of every able bodied man in the State until the crisis is passed. The Federal forces now marauding over the country could not remain in the State one week with a general and universal determination on the part of the people to rise up and drive them out. That they are here and permitted to tarry in our midst is a burning shame, and casts a blot upon the hitherto heroic name of the State, that nothing but the most prompt and energetic action can cause. Such a stigma should not be permitted to remain even for a day upon her fair escutcheon. Then we call upon the men of the State without distinction of person—young and old, rich and poor—to rally at once to the rescue. It is in self-defense you are called upon to fight, and not for conquest, glory or renown. Then tarry not, but come forth at once, and

"Strike, till the last armed foe expires,
Strike—for your altars and your fires,
Strike, for the green graves of your sires,
God and your native land."

AFFAIRS IN MISSISSIPPI.

Our special dispatch, as well as advices received at headquarters, reports all quiet in North Mississippi at present. We have every reason to believe, however, we shall soon hear stirring and gratifying news from Gen. CHALMERS in that quarter.

During the early part of the day heavy and continuous firing was distinctly heard in this city from the direction of the river. It has been ascertained that it took place at Grand Gulf. Four gunboats passed down and were joined by one from below, when shelling was commenced by all the vessels above and below. At the present writing we are not advised as to the results of the contest so far.

We publish a letter this afternoon from an intelligent citizen below, stating that GRIERSON'S command left Hazelhurst on the Natchez road. Official advices have been received that they were at Union church, on the Hazelhurst and Natchez road last evening, about thirty-five miles from the former place. Captain CLEVELAND, of Colonel WIRT ADAMS' cavalry, with one hundred men, had skirmished with them several hours, but could not ascertain their strength. They had their artillery with them. Captain CLEVELAND says they may be heard of soon in the vicinity of Natchez. That they are making for that point is evident; and all the rumors of a second raid upon the railroad are foundationless. We have abundant reason to believe that the daring band will be successfully met before they reach Natchez, for in addition to the regular troops now concentrating to intercept them, we learn the citizens are joining the ranks en masse. This is as it should be.

CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Our special dispatch from Panola informs us that the Democrats have carried the city of Chicago, at the late municipal election. We regard this as a very favorable sign in the Northern political horizon, more especially as there was a combination of the Abolitionists and war or Union Democrats to defeat the "Copperhead" ticket. This is the first time the Democrats have succeeded in that city since the accession of long JOHN WENTWORTH from the Democratic party. We regard the result as a most favorable augury.

The same dispatch also informs us that anarchy and tyranny are becoming rampant in the North. These are probably but the mutterings of the terrible storm that is yet destined to sweep over that God forsaken section of the country. May the Lord render their confusion worse confounded, is our prayer.

☞ Abe's programme against slavery seems to have failed in depreciating the value of negro property in Texas. We learn from the Galveston *News* of the 15th inst., that on that day Col. SNYDER sold at auction some twenty families of negroes, embracing sixty-one in all, of men, women and children of all ages. They were sold by families, and were generally common field hands. The average sale for the lot was seventeen hundred and seventy-four dollars each. This does not include the sale of one negro man sold separately for thirty-five hundred dollars.

☞ The Boston *Commonwealth*, a strong Administration paper, is out with a remarkable article on the President, but characteristic of the wing of the party, bent on disunion, with Chase for President of the North. In speaking of the proclamation for a day of fasting and prayer for the restoration "of the country to its former happy condition of unity and peace," it says: "May the tongue be withered ere it is answered that prays for the restoration of that old 'unity and peace.' That unity was crime; that peace worse than war."

☞ Lieut. Gov. J. M. Crocker, of Texas, in a letter to the Dallas *Herald*, says it has become his duty, under the circumstances with which he is surrounded, and in proper regard to the wishes of his friends, to announce himself for the responsible position of Governor of the State. He proposes soon to give his views of political affairs more fully in a circular.

☞ The Natchez *Courier* has been favored with late news from Port Hudson. The editor says: "Farragut was last reported above Port Hudson, awaiting Gardner's surrender of the keys! It is also said a bushel of corn arrived that day, and Gardner told Farragut to wait. We presume he will have a joyful time at that post, awaiting the starvation process.

☞ The Mobile *News* learns through a friend from Aberdeen that the wheat in Monroe county is generally doing well, though in some fields there are signs of rust.

THE REASON WHY.

A great many comments have been made upon the defective firing of our batteries at Vicksburg when the enemy's gunboats passed down some two weeks ago, and both officers and men in the batteries have been pretty severely consured therefor. The following letter explains the cause of this inefficient firing, and as the defects spoken of have probably been remedied before this time, there can be no harm in giving this letter to the public. We have received similar statements from other sources, which we have hitherto refrained from publishing, lest the enemy might profit by a knowledge of such facts:

"VICKSBURG, April 18, 1863.

"EDITORS APPEAL: The passage by our batteries of the Yankee fleet, on Thursday night, developed a fact which I think ought to be made known, that it may be properly remedied. It being the first scene of the kind ever witnessed by me, I felt some surprise that the firing from our batteries was more slow and irregular than I had expected, and on yesterday, being in company with the commanders of two of our most serviceable guns, I mentioned the fact, when I was told by them that it was not the result of inefficiency in the working of the guns, but in deficient friction tubes furnished by the ordnance department; one of the officers having assured me that he used thirty-eight, and only fired fourteen shots; the other, that he used about sixty for about the same number. Have the ordnance department no means of testing these tubes before furnishing them to the batteries? It is certainly a very bad time to make experiments when the enemy is attacking us. With the hope that this notice may cause the evil to be remedied before the Yankees are on us again.

"I am as ever, your friend,

"MEMPHIS."

SINGULAR.—The Mobile *News* gives the particulars of the death of Garret Joyce, who was recently killed by lightning at the depot in that city. Deceased was a watchman, and was proceeding up the road with a lantern in his hand; an engineer, who was on an engine about thirty yards distant, observed the flash, and saw the man fall; he ran up to him and spoke, but all the answer he could understand was, "take me home," or "take me away," and the man died instantly. His hat was torn into ribbons, and the lantern disappeared entirely, with the exception of a piece of glass about a quarter of an inch in size, which was found had gone through his coat, vest and shirt, and made a very slight scratch. No other mark was discovered.

☞ The Jackson papers have come through on time this week—rather poor encouragement to those daily publishers, and certainly not very gratifying to their patrons hereabout.—*Natchez Courier, 25th.*

This was before the appearance of the Yankees on the New Orleans railroad. Can the *Courier* suggest what screw is loose?

MOUNTED STATE TROOPS.—We call attention to the notice from Gen. Smede. The body of troops he proposes to organize, can render important service in the locality named, and as the members will be near, and in reality, protecting their own homes, he should have no difficulty in getting the men together at once.

☞ T. W. House, of Houston, Texas, acknowledges the receipt, from various sources, of $10,426 20 for the benefit of the 24 Texas regiment.

☞ We are indebted to Wm. C. Carnes, 1st Texas regiment, for late copies of the Natchez *Courier* and Galveston *News*.

Outrage on a Lady.

From the Richmond Enquirer.]

By a late overland flag of truce from Baltimore, Mrs. John James, of that city, a lady whose friendship and kindness has been substantially experienced by more than three hundred Southern soldiers, while suffering as sick, wounded or destitute prisoners, arrived in this city, and is now, we learn, stopping at the Ballard house. Mrs James is one of those true, determined women whom no circumstances can cable when animated by noble impulses. One among the first to encourage the cause of Southern independence, she remained firm in her devotion to it, and let escape no opportunity by which she could lend material aid to its progress, or to those who suffered in its prosecution. It cannot be wondered at, then, that she should have been made a special object of persecution by the Federal authorities, all of which she braved through, even to the banishment from home, friends, husband, parents and children.

Finding the sentence irrevocable, unless averted by a humiliating concession, she asked to be sent to the South by water on one of the numerous truce boats which ply between Fortress Monroe and City point, this method of conveyance being specifiec, and affording more comfort. But this was denied her, and she was sent to Harper's Ferry, under guard, there kept all night in a close guard house, and next day conducted in an ambulance, surrounded by cavalry, towards Winchester, but upon reaching the pickets, several miles from that place, the whole cavalcade was forced to return to Harper's Ferry in order to procure some sort of a pass to get within the lines. This being accomplished at length, Mrs. James, upon reaching Winchester, was again put into a guard house, robbed of all the papers she had with her, some of which were of value to herself alone, and forced to suffer much painful privation and degrading treatment.

Some of the ladies of Winchester endeavored to visit and relieve her, but were driven off by the guards, who, walking to and fro, swung their sabres insolently against their dresses, and ordered them away. She was finally released from this imprisonment, and sent through into our lines, and from thence she traveled on to Richmond. Her case is one which naturally excites indignation. Her good deeds and her sufferings in the cause of the South will render her name pleasant now and hereafter in the ears of every Southern soldier.

Abandonment of the Siege of Washington, North Carolina.

The Wilmington *Journal*, of Monday evening (20th), says:

We have received positive information of the falling back of Gen. Hill's forces from around Washington, and that the attack on that place has been abandoned, at least for the present. General Hill, we learn from passengers, was in Goldsboro' on yesterday. We presume it was considered unnecessary to take Washington, unless Hill's Point, on the South side of the river, could have been fortified with long range guns, so as to prevent the enemy's gunboats from ascending the river above that point. There is no doubt but that General Hill could easily have taken to Washington, and would have done so, had he deemed it advisable under the same circumstances. Our correspondent says: "The Yankee gunboats having longer range guns than ours, they had shelled Hill's point batteries, doing some damage, while our guns could not reach them. Our ordnance has all been secured in the evacuation or falling back of the troops from around Washington. The reported advance of twenty thousand Yankees from Newbern turns out to be erroneous. It is not our business to say where General Hill's forces are at this time."

☞ At an election held at the office of the Mobile and Great Northern railroad company, on the 14th instant, the following gentlemen were elected directors for the ensuing year: W. D. Dunn, L. M. Wilson, J. A. M. Battle, R. A. Baker, John Reed, Jr., B. F. Marshall, Lewis Troost and James Crawford. At a subsequent meeting of the board, W. D. Dunn was re-elected president, and S. W. Allen, secretary and treasurer.—*Mobile News.*

A "WHITWORTH" BURSTED.—One of the celebrated Whithworth breech-loading cannon, sent some time ago to North Carolina, was returned to this city on yesterday, having exploded in front of Washington, in that State, owing, it is supposed, to the careless and ineffectual closing of the breech. We understand that eight men were killed by the explosion.—*Richmond Enquirer, 20th.*

LETTER FROM VICKSBURG.

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

VICKSBURG, April 23, 1863.

On Sunday night as the alarm was given of the approach of a boat from above; a general movement was expected. During the day previous there were indications of considerable commotion in the fleet behind the point above, and toward night it was observed that the different columns of smoke were slowly drawing down the river toward Young's point, and some of our most vigilant artillery officers who noticed this movement, expressed their belief that something would transpire during the night. Having been on a visit to Major Hoadley's batteries an hour or two before sundown, I had a fair view of the prospects for the night, and came away with the conviction that the Yankees would pay us a visit in some shape before morning.

Whenever an alarm is given all hands hasten to their posts, and the officers and men belonging to the batteries nearer the city and below, all have plenty of time to prepare and be in readiness for the boats. Besides this, they have the additional advantage of the illumination on the river, because by the time the vessels come in range of the guns from the city the whole scene is brilliantly lighted up before them. These advantages Major Hoadley's batteries do not possess, as they have to give the alarm, and have no way of ascertaining the presence of the enemy until they are immediately abreast of his guns, and having no time to wait for lighting up the river, he is compelled to work in the dark at a time when light is most needed.

But notwithstanding all this, some of the most effective work has been done by these batteries. Nearly every boat that has been disabled or destroyed, received her first wounds from those guns; and such as have escaped, report that their greatest danger was from this battery. The crew of the Queen of the West, on her passage down, acknowledged that she came near to destruction by a shell from one of these guns; and a correspondent from the crew of the Indianola, also reported her machinery as disabled at the same place. The transport Henry Clay was sunk in front of the battery, while the Silver Wave received a shell that set her on fire from the same. Considering the disadvantage under which they labor, and the execution they have done, this battery is deserving of all praise.

But little excitement was occasioned by the passage of the tug on Sunday night. Our artillery officers are satisfied that a craft of that description could run the gauntlet even if the number of guns were doubled. The manipulating of heavy artillery is quite a different thing from what many might suppose. The loading of a gun requires time, and if she fails to strike fire the first trial, she must be repointed and aimed at the object, which is all the time getting further and further distant as fast as steam can propel it. Handspikes and levers are required to move the gun, and it is slow and heavy work, and the darkness of the night renders the work still more slow and tedious.

The criticisms passed upon our artillerists are not only unfounded and wrong, but highly unjust. No one who has any knowledge of heavy pieces, would for a moment hesitate to say that our batteries were manned by capable and efficient officers and men. Due allowance must be made for the time required to load and aim the piece, for the darkness in which they have to operate, and for the swiftness with which the target passes along beyond the range. Of course no man of sense will find fault with our cannoneers, but some beardless, unsophisticated bipeds, who have no sense, and who never will get any, are awfully shocked at the bad shooting of our guns.

Yesterday was apparently too inclement for any military movements, and nothing occurred different from the ordinary course in this vicinity. Toward night there were indications of activity among the boats above, and it was not known but another run would be attempted during the night. The night also seemed favorable, as it was dark and cloudy, but the enemy manifested no disposition to disturb us, and this morning all is quiet. NESTOR.

THE GRIERSON RAID.

EDITORS APPEAL: Believing that any information, however limited, so that it be reliable, may be of service to the country, I venture a line as to what has transpired at Hazlehurst.

At Crystal Springs an impromptu cavalry command was organized, and proceeded at once to Hazelhurst, but the Federals, numbering between twelve and fifteen hundred, had departed several hours in advance, taking the road from Gallatin toward Natchez. From their inquiries as to roads, distances, etc., several very intelligent and reliable gentlemen were induced to believe they were anxious to reach Natchez or Baton Rouge. And from their manner of traveling it was beyond a doubt fear of capture that was moving them. They burned one block of buildings after robbing the stores etc., and divided the plunder among the negroes who were there.

Just beyond Hazelhurst they released several prisoners taken by them near Newton. These gentlemen report the Federals as using every effort to reach Baton Rouge, by riding all day and late at night, and by seizing every good horse they could find and turning their worn out animals loose. But little damage was done to private property, and much pretended kindness was shown, owing doubtless to their fear of capture and retaliation.

One company, raised in a brief space of time, is still in pursuit, whilst several other companies will doubtless join them, and if the gallant people of the counties of Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams and Wilkinson had been advised by telegraph of the approach of these flying and frightened Yankees, they would never have made their escape, even without the assistance of the cavalry force stationed along the river.

If now the people of the State will, in the police beats, organize companies, and each county form a battalion or regiment, all ready with a system of signals, (and to be advised by telegraph of future raids), then we can do much to strengthen the hands of our government.

Such an organization would have secured the certain capture of these men, whose very fear gives them the appearance of great courage and gallantry.

Let each county now do her duty. H.

Amendment to the Constitution of Texas.

The Legislature of Texas having regularly proposed an amendment to the Constitution of that State, Governor Lubbock has issued a proclamation directing a vote of the people on the question, at the general election on the first Monday in August next. The amendment proposed by the Legislature is as follows:

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the 3d section of the 10th article of the Constitution of the State shall be so amended as to read as follows, viz:

SEC. 3. All public lands which have been heretofore or may hereafter be granted for public schools, to the various counties in this State, may be sold by the county courts of each county to which the lands belong, or by such tribunals as may succeed to their jurisdiction, by consent of a majority of the legal voters in said counties, and under such general rules as the Legislature may, from time to time prescribe; *provided*, that the proceeds of the sale of such lands shall be retained and invested as a permanent school fund, for the counties owning the same.

GENERALSHIP—CONSCIENCE—FAVORITISM.

VICKSBURG, April 23, 1863.

EDITORS APPEAL: I have the satisfaction of knowing that my communication in the APPEAL of the 12th inst., headed "The Right Men in their Places," has produced a change in the conduct of *some* of the party referred to, which, if persisted in, cannot fail to redound to their credit and to the benefit of their imperiled country. Among those whom any discerning eye can readily single out as belonging to the class of "idle and incompetent officers," are many whose faults were merely the result of thoughtlessness and levity; who never for a moment dreamed that by their ignorance and remissness they were endangering the very existence of their country; but who, being once awakened to a thorough comprehension of that fact, have resolved to shake off the shackles of sloth and dissipation, and by earnest study and diligent attention to duty atone for the past, while regaining the lost equipoise of an intelligent self-respect. While it is gratifying to notice this much needed change, it must not be forgotten that the class referred to is still altogether too numerous, and continues to afford abundant room for improvement. There are some incorrigibles, whose faults can only be remedied by the process of lopping off, heretofore suggested, and which always proves so efficacious in promoting healthful growth when obstructed by dead wood.

It was to have been expected, my previous letter provoked a vast deal of angry comment among the parties whom it immediately concerned. Indeed, 1st Lieut. Gauchy Boozy, of the Neverhit battery, confidently assured me that "Cato" was an infernal old fool, at the same time ingenuously asking my opinion as to who "Cato" was! On my mildly answering that under the circumstances it appeared to me he might be the writer, the Lieutenant crimsoned like a peony over the implied high estimate of his abilities, and modestly averred that he never was counted that smart before. But he purchased a copy of the "Manual of Heavy Artillery" next day, and as he has not been seen near so frequently at his usual lounging place on Washington street, since, it is reasonable to hope that he has, in the interim, mastered the "Manual." For the honor of the corps, which has not hitherto profited very largely by the instruction of the Lieutenant, it is further to be hoped that when an old gentleman next asks him for information, in regard to the difference between round shot and schrapnell, he will be able to give it more accurately than by the statement that the latter is fastened to a wooden block by tin straps, to give it more weight, while the former, designed for use at short ranges, is rammed in loosely after the cartridge! But the Lieutenant is by no means the worst type of the class in his presumption and ignorance is not united to incapacity and indolence. So, success to his honest efforts to supply by labor the deficiencies resulting from lack of education and the niggardly endowment of Dame Nature.

But the indignation of Colonel Blow and Major Boast, (both believed to be, for some unknown reason, especial favorites at the headquarters of some one of our commanding generals,) was loud and deep at the bare suggestion that their qualifications might, under any circumstances, be called in question, on the motion of an "anonymous scribbler." Keep your tempers, gentlemen; a good temper is indispensable in men occupying positions of high responsibility. Do not fail in this essential of a good officer; remember that he who cannot control himself, is but poorly fitted to command that implicit, unquestioning obedience of others, without which his learning and genius will be entirely wasted in the hour of battle. You may be possessed of military talents of a high order and it may be for that reason exclusively that the keen perspicuity of the major-general whose "pets" you are said to be by ill-natured people, has singled you out for favor and patronage. That fact alone, and not extraneous circumstances, having no connection with military qualifications, may have induced him to overlook many of your piccadillos, and to lend his countenance to your praiseworthy aspirations—not to deserve, but to secure your promotion. Judged in this war, which as yet can only be said to have commenced, so far as the necessary training and experience are concerned, I cheerfully admit your claims to consideration as pupils of great promise, in the exceedingly complex art of war. But as yet you are not soldiers. You merely furnish in your persons the materials out of which soldiers may be made. In proportion to the magnitude of the struggle in which we are engaged, and the strategic importance of the place your new garrison, you are altogether too far advanced already, as well as the weak major-general who pampers your vanity with the hope of concealing his own incapacity behind it when the day of trial comes, and demonstrates, as it must inevitably do, his unfitness for the position he has so long held. Disabuse yourselves at once of the fantastic notion that the writer hereof is an envious, or indeed any other kind of a rival, hungering for your fall. You are his brothers; he is proud of your strength and gallantry; he wishes you success and glory; but he knows, and knows it sorrowfully in your behalf, that true glory shuns and abhors the mere intriguant, that her chaplets are woven only for the brows of the just and brave, that the light of an upright conscience is as necessary as the gleam of an unsullied sword to lead her to the couch of her single-purposed devotees.

In conclusion, let me call your attention to the wise words of a military writer—one of the best our country has so far produced—written over fifty years ago, in view of the then impending war of 1812:

"Self respect is one thing, and presumption another. Without the former no man ever became a good officer; under the influence of the latter generals have committed great faults. The former is the necessary result of knowledge; the latter, of ignorance. A man acquainted with his duty can rarely be placed in circumstances new, surprising or embarrassing; a man ignorant of his duty will always find himself constrained to *guess*, and not knowing how to be right by *system*, will often be wrong by *chance*."

These remarks are neither made or offered as applying exclusively to the science of war. They apply to all sciences; but, in these, errors are comparatively harmless. A naturalist may amuse himself with false and fanciful theories of the earth; a philosopher may reason very badly on the relations and forms of matter and spirit, without any ill effect but to make themselves ridiculous. Their blunders but make us merry; they neither pick pockets, nor break, nor destroy lives, while those of a general, or other officer, bring after them evils the most compounded and mischievous—the slaughter of an army—the devastation of a State—the ruin of an empire!

In proportion as ignorance may be calamitous, the reasons for acquiring instruction are multiplied and strengthened. Are you an honest man? You will spare neither labor nor sacrifice to gain a competent knowledge of your duty. Are you a man of honor? You will be careful to avoid self reproach. Does your bosom glow with the holy fervor of patriotism? You will so accomplish yourself as to avoid bringing down upon your country either insult or injury.

"Nor are the mere selfish impulses without a similar tendency. Has hunger made you a soldier? Will you not take care of your bread? Is vanity your principle of action? Will you not guard those mighty blessings, your epaulets and feathers? Are you impelled by love of glory or love of power? And can you forget that these coy mistresses are only to be won by intelligence and good conduct?

"But the the means of instruction, say you, where are they to be found? * * * * Thanks to the noble art of printing, you still have books, which, if studied, will teach the art of war.

"Books! And what are they but the dreams of pedants? They may make a Mack, but have they ever made a Xenophon? Who would not laugh to hear the cobbler of Athens lecturing Hanibal on the art of war?

"True: but as you are not Hannibal, listen to the cobbler. Xenophon, Cæsar, Saxe, Frederick, and Napoleon have all thought well of books, and have even composed them. Nor is this extraordinary, since they are but the depositories of maxims which genius has suggested, and experience confirmed; since they both enlighten and shorten the road of the traveler, and render the labor and genius of past ages tributary to our own."

Ponder well these words, and believe me to be what I am, your friend as well as censor.

CATO.

THE PARIS FASHIONS.

Modes for April.

From Le Follet, of Paris.]

We have now arrived at a period of the year when "la mode" may be said to be in a transitory state. Velvets must give place to taffetas and furs to lace. Moire antiques and poult de soie are also much worn this season; and truth compels us to repeat, what we so frequently said last year, that foulard is still one of the materials most in vogue. Seeing that it can be obtained in all shades and in such a variety of charming designs, it is not surprising that it should so long retain its sway in the fashionable world. All colors are worn, but brown—from the Havana brown to the lightest shade, approaching sankeen—and blue, are those most frequently seen.

Irish poplin makes a very suitable and elegant dress for the month of April. We this year find those made in checks or narrow stripes much worn. Taffetas, of a light color, with narrow strips of spotted velvet, or dotted over with velvet flowers, is exceedingly elegant. Many walking dresses of this material in black are richly trimmed, either with designs in stamped velvet or with medallions of a new style of passementerie. Taffetas antique continue in favor.

Brading, wide insertions of lace, and narrow flounces of guipure may, perhaps, be specified as the three styles of trimming most appropriate for spring dresses; but taffetas are also used, in ruches, either pinked or bound, or in narrow quillings, which must on no account be placed higher than ten inches above the bottom of the skirt. Very narrow flounces are still in fashion.

The vest Figaro is as universal a favorite as ever; and frequently the body of the dress is trimmed so as to appear like one. Bodies are also made with small position basques, or with a band; but with the latter we may mention a novelty consisting of a long Spanish sash of taffetas, which is twisted twice round the waist and tied in a bow at each side.

Sleeves are almost invariably made narrow and straight, a fashion which has now lasted some time; though we think it highly probable that, as the warm weather approaches, we shall find dresses of thin material made with wider sleeves.

The usual form for spring mantles is either the rotonde, small collet, sante-a basque (or short jacket), and the scarf. They are very frequently made of the same material as the dress. Those in taffetas are all trimmed with lace.

A description of some of the newest and most elegant dresses will gratify our patrons with the taste displayed in the selection of the materials and trimming.

A dress of poult de soie antique, color of Russian leather, with a very wide skirt forming a train. Round the skirt narrow fluting of the same material as the dress. Plain high body, with point in front. Sleeves with a seam at the back, opened and trimmed with hanging buttons.

Dinner dresses of mouve-colored mhire antique, all the trimmings in white taffetas, very wide, forming a drapery, covered with black lace. A low body, with a berthe of taffetas edged with lace.

A robe of taffetas, of a rather deep shade. Skirt with a train trimmed at the top of the hem with an insertion about ten inches wide. High body, with a postillion basque, and an insertion laid on the front of the body in the style of a Figaro vests, and carried round upon the basque sleeves with revers, trimmed with lace.

A dress, emerald green Irish poplin, the front of the skirt and body trimmed with guipure insertion, laid on in squares, and an ornamental passementerie at every point where the insertion intersects. A similar trimming is placed up the sleeve.

A dress of taffetas antique in Mexico blue, with a small pattern in black. The bottom of the skirt trimmed with three rows of blue ruching, edged with a plaiting of black taffetas; the bottom put on straight, the others waved or vandyked. The body is simply trimmed with a narrow ruche on each front plait, but three are placed at the bottom of the sleeve, which is bell-shaped.

A dress of taffetas antique, color chevaux de la reine. The bottom trimmed with one flounce of guipure, rather more than five inches wide. A second guipure, two inches narrower, forms a tunique, being carried up the front. The body is plain and high, with a small pelrine, trimmed with a guipure. Quite narrow sleeves, square at the bottom, opened up the side and trimmed with a white guipure, which forms an undersleeve.

A robe of point de sole, black ground, with small embroidered flowers and jet intermixed. The skirt is trimmed at the bottom with three insertions of lace, over bands of white silk, edged with an elegant passementerie. Another band of white silk, covered with lace, forms a square on the body, which is high, and a similar band is formed upon the sleeve.

For morning dress the polonaise will be worn all through the summer. It is made all in one piece, with small sleeves, with the seam up the back and the skirt quite plain. They will be trimmed with passementerie in front of the body, up to the seam of each shoulder, and on the sleeves, wrists and pockets.

Robes de chamore are generally made plain, without a seam in front, and large plaits at the back. The fronts of the skirts are trimmed with revers of plush or quilted taffetas or braid of the color of the taffetas lining. A cord and tassels round the waist.

Robe of poult de soie chine, color autumn leaves. At the bottom two wide ruches, trimmed with narrow black ribbon moire; the ruches are waved all round the bottom of the dress. The body and sleeves are quite tight fitting. The sleeves have a row of buttons up to the elbow and a ruche round the wrist.

A dress of fawn-colored silk, trimmed up each seam with a double ruche of black lace, in the center of which is a narrow chicorce of Solferino silk. Low plain body, with short, flat sleeves. Jacket of black lace, trimmed with ruches of lace and Solferino silk. A ruche of the same round the throat and bottom of the sleeves, which are not very large. A robe of light green silk, trimmed with flounces of black lace, placed a little distance from each other. Over each flounce is placed a ribbon, the same color as the dress, plaited in the middle. Plain body, covered with a jacket of black lace reaching to the waist, trimmed round with two rows of lace sewn together, and slightly fulled on. The same trimming forms the jockey. The sleeves is open, square at the bottom, and trimmed with lace to match the rest of the jacket, and a wider one falling over the arms. The bottom of the jacket is trimmed at the back with a lace as wide as that on the skirt, which is made narrower toward the front. Two pepilon bows of lace are placed on the front of the body; a third is placed at the waist, which has long ends reaching to the flounces on the skirt.

The shape of the spring bonnets are much the same as those worn during the winter, but not at all exaggerated. They are trimmed with boquets of feathers or flowers. Marabout feathers are much worn; not the plain marabout, but long fringed marabouts, resembling the emin feather, but not so long. The marabout deching is certainly the prettiest and most graceful trimming for a dress bonnet one can find. Some good houses are using leather trimming for bonnets, but we cannot admire nor recommend this style, although the utmost has been done with such a material for the purpose.

We will describe a few bonnets so trimmed, and leave our readers to form their own opinions.

A bonnet of crape, Russian leather color; curtain of silk to match, edged with a fringe of leather, headed by a band of the same. On the front a scarf of ribbon, edged with a leather fringe, is crossed and fastened by a band of leather. The inside of the bonnet trimmed with a cornade and wheat ears of blue crape.

A straw bonnet trimmed round the front with leather buttons; curtain of white silk, also trimmed to correspond. On the front three bows of white ribbon, with a leather button on each bow. Three other bows fall over the curtain, and are drawn together by a band of ribbon. Lilac chrysanthemums, mixed with green and lilac heath, ornament the outside and inside of the front.

The last bonnet of this style we shall describe was of green crape, trimmed with three rows of full crape, over which were placed ornaments of leather, resembling oak carvings. At the side a band of white chrysanthemums; the same flowers inside the bonnet.

Let us turn to the others, and, to our taste, more elegant styles of trimming. For instance, a bonnet of brown crape, trimmed with a fanchon of chantille, forming vine leaves and falling over. The front edge, raised by a boquet of brown feathers and mouthly roses.

A Belgian straw bonnet, with a curtain of black lace, pointed. The front is covered with small roses of Chantilly lace, with branches of muiss, hyacinths, and long leaves, powdered and browned by the March sun.

A capote of tulle malines, trimmed with an insertion of blonde at the front edge, and bouillon of tulle under which is placed a white or green ribbon. At the side, a tuft of violets and moss; the same on the de.

Lilac crape bonnet, with marabout de hiree, white and lilac. The cape of blonde, with marabout feathers.

A bonbet of rice straw, trimmed with ribbon, of the new color known as *ble des Indes*, and tea roses and two white marabout feathers.

A white crape bonnet, with puffings of white tulle and white daisies under the puffings. The inside of the bonnet to match.

A bonnet of Marie Louise blue crape. On the front, three bows of ribbon of the same color, fastened by a bow of lace with two ends.

A bonnet of white and pink crape, in checks, with aigrettes of pink hyacinths at the side, fastened with an aigrette of pink ribbons. Curtain made of rouches of pink crape. Capote crown, crossed by a band of ribbon, forming the strings. Coquilles of tulle illusion, crossed with pink ribbon and aigrettes of hyacinths.

A drab crape bonnet, the crown and front trimmed with a large bow, formed of a plaid scarf in bright colors, with a fringe at the ends. Strings of the same ribbon, also fringed. Crape curtain. An insertion of black lace is placed all round the front edge and curtain, and a red velvet ribbon is placed under. A plaiting of drab crape, mixed with tulle illusion, bouquet of red berries, moss and heath.

A bonnet of white fancy straw. The curtain of Mexican blue silk, cut in three rounded pieces, trimmed round with fringe and hanging buttons of silk of the same color. The outside trimmed with a bow of blue and white plaid ribbon, fringed, and the inside with coquilles of narrow tulle, placed on a wide tulle, behind which is a row of blue fringe, to match that on the curtain. On one side a tuft of blue violets, strings of blue and white checked ribbon are placed very high up the sides and fringed at the ends.

Round hats are beginning to appear with the fine weather. Those we have seen as yet are principally of felt or velvet, trimmed with ribbons and feathers. The shape for the season will be more decided in another month.

When Prospects in Texas.

From the Galveston News, April 15th.]

We notice that flour is now being sold in this city at $37 per hundred pounds, which is, we believe, just ten dollars below the highest price it has commanded. But this, we think and hope, is only the commencement of the decline that is bound to take place by the time the flour from this year's wheat comes into market. In all our exchanges from the wheat region of Texas, we see that the prospects for a large crop were never better. The late frosts, we are glad to learn, have done no harm whatever to the wheat, and scarcely any harm to anything else in the upper country. The frosts seem to have been more severe along the coast than in the interior, contrary to the usual rule. It is now thought that the wheat is quite safe from further casualties. Only in two or three out of near thirty years of our residence in Texas, have frosts destroyed crops as late in the spring as this. Such late frosts have not happened oftener than about once every ten years.

From all accounts the wheat fields of Texas are at this time fully twenty-five or thirty per cent greater in extent than ever before, and should the crop turn out as well as it now promises, the yield must be nearly double that of any former year. There is one considerable, however, that requires attention we learn it, there is a deficiency of help on nearly all the farms of the interior to harvest the wheat, and that much of it will be lost unless assistance can be furnished. This is a matter in which we are all so deeply interested that it perhaps deserves the attention of our State military authorities. Certainly something should be done to save the crops of those who are now absent in the service of the country. We would also suggest that as there are now many planters immigrating to the State with their hands, they could not probably do better than to take their negroes to the upper counties for the present, where they might find profitable employment in the wheat harvest.

Special Orders.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, JACKSON, Miss., April 23th, 1863.

Executive Special Order No. 17.

1. Thomas D. Day, Esq., of St. Louis, having patriotically tendered his services, without compensation, is hereby appointed Eastern Military Commissioner of the State of Missouri, with the rank of major of cavalry in the Missouri State Guard.

2. As such commissioner, Major Day will reside at Natchez, Mississippi, or such other point, east of the Mississippi river, as he may find best adapted for the performance of his duties. He will superintend the transmission of correspondence by telegraph or otherwise, to and from the governor of Missouri. He will keep himself in direct communication with the Missouri troops in the Confederate service, east of the Mississippi river, acquaint himself with their condition, wants and wishes, and acquaint the governor with them. He will, from time to time, visit their camps and hospitals, and place himself in communication with their officers, for the purpose of doing all in his power, to contribute toward the comfort, health and efficiency of the troops. He will, from time to time, officially report to the governor the services of general officers and others who have distinguished themselves in battle or otherwise. He will, so far as possible, furnish advice and information to Missouri citizens, seeking within our military lines employments in which they can aid the common cause; and from them in appropriate organization for furnishing female nurses to hospitals, laundresses to companies and regiments, and aid to the sick and wounded of the Missouri troops. And in general, Major Day will exert himself to contribute in every possible way to the welfare of the Missouri troops east of the Mississippi, and cause them to feel at all times that the Executive of the State is contributing all in his power to sustain and protect them and their officers during their temporary service in this department. In all his proceedings Major Day will take special care to observe all the army regulations pertinent to the business entrusted to him, to sustain the military authority of the Confederate officers and cultivate cordial relations with them.

3. The necessary outlay and traveling expenses of Maj. Day in performing his duties as such commissioner will be paid out of the State treasury.

4. Maj. Day will transmit a copy of this order to the respective commanders of the Missouri regiments east of the Mississippi, and request that it be read to the troops at their parades, or communicated to them in some suitable manner. He will also cause the same to be published in the newspapers of Jackson, Miss.

THOS. C. REYNOLDS,
Governor of the State of Missouri.

By the Governor.
Warwick Hough, Sec'y of State.

Proclamation of the Provisional Government of Poland.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN: The dictatorship of General Langiewicz having ceased on the 19th of March, the chief authority of the country returns into the hands of the provisional national Government at Warsaw, who have never left off their governmental duties, and are the only and sole legally constituted authority of the country. Fellow-countrymen! the return of power into the hands of men who have called forth the rising, and perseveringly directed it, ought to be a guarantee to you that the movement will continue, and that it will not end without victory. Yes, we will fight unwearingly, without being disheartened by ill success or deterred by obstacles. We will not concentrate the whole cause in one person, whose fall might occasion the fall of the rising; and, strong in our possession of the confidence of the nation, we will boldly stand forth against all factions which might attempt to create, without our consent, any new power or authority. Fellow-countrymen! we grasp again with faith and confidence the helm of the national government, and, practical in devising remedies in cases of emergency, we are confident in being able to avert the danger which threatens us in consequence of the fall of the dictatorship.

Faithful to the cause, the standard of which, upheld by us, sets aside every misunderstanding of party, we invoke the whole nation to obedience.

To arms! In the face of the foe, in the face of our falling brethren, the place of every Pole is in the ranks.

By authority of the central committee of the provisional national government.

The Commissioner Extraordinary,
STEPHEN BOBROSKI.

FROM THE BAR.—On Friday morning one of the Yankee blockaders, supposed to be the gunboat Flambeau, crossed the bar and commenced firing on the wreck of the Keokuk. Two small boats, with parties from Morris island, were at work upon the wreck, endeavoring to bring away some additional trophies. The parties retired, the gunboats firing at them, but doing no damage. Several shots passed over the Morris island batteries. One of the batteries opened fire. It is believed with effect, as the Yankee boat hastily backed out of range, not taking time to turn round, and shortly after recrossed the bar. The gunboat Chicora steamed down the harbor to take part in the action, but the enemy had withdrawn and gone out to sea long before our gunboat could reach her. The Flambeau was no doubt on a reconnoitering tour to ascertain what arrangements might be made for blowing up the Keokuk.

There were fourteen blockadens, including