Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24.

BANK CONVENTION.

The convention of bankers called to meet at Augusta, on the 16th, for the purpose of considering the evil of our financial embarrassments, with a view to suggesting the remedy, adjourned, after taking such action as was deemed proper, *sine die*, on Tuesday. While largely represented in the banks of South Carolina and Georgia, and represented in very small force from North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, it seems to have had no representation whatever from the remaining States of the Confederacy. What, however, was lacked, we suppose, in representation from the other States, was conceived to be more than supplied, in the number, position and influence of the representatives from Georgia and South Carolina. While noticing the presence of an extraordinary number of men of character, we notice prominent among them by reason of their activity in the convention, Messrs. TREMOLM, of the great house of FRASER & CO., of Charleston, and LAMAR, conspicuous in affairs financial and commercial, for the last several years, of Savannah. No doubt much consideration is due to the convention, when we consider the high social and intellectual elements of which it was composed, taken in connection with the fact that it had the advantage of esoteric knowledge and experience, upon subjects about which exoteric classes are supposed to be generally very ignorant. While not denying the paramount intelligence of the members of the convention, or questioning their patriotism, it might not be amiss to observe, that while an esoteric class has all the peculiar qualifications for intelligent legislation, the suggestions of interest may not be wanting to giving peculiar shape and direction to legislation. Bankers may be intelligent without guile, and in aspects of patriotism, may be an exception to the usual rule of humanity which affirms that a "man's skin is nearer to his skin than his coat."

The lofty patriotism of the banks, in their cordial support of the Government in the first year of the war, has often been the subject of eloquent mention, no doubt deserved. Not having been in the "secrets of the State," we have no very articulate knowledge as to the extent of the Secretary of the Treasury's obligation and gratitude. We remember, however, that the banks suspended very soon after the war began, and with individuals made very heavy issues or change bills to supply the place of the silver thus withdrawn; and we remember, also, that when treasury notes were first issued, they were taken promptly, nay greedily, at the counters of the banks in exchange for their own issues. We remember, also, that after the fall of Nashville and New Orleans, the banks, instead of giving you bank bills at their counters in exchange for Confederate bills, gave Confederate bills for those of banks, and so exhausting was the process of substitution, that a few weeks, or months, only, sufficed to witness the paucitude of the almost total disappearance of bank notes from the country. We may suggest another remembrance, more recent than the last, and yet not without connection with it, that while observing the total disappearance of bank issues in circulation in the cotton States, we noticed in Tennessee very large amounts of such issues, not in general circulation, to be sure, but in private hands, held for sale at the rate of two or, more Confederate dollars for one of the banks of Georgia, South Carolina, or Alabama; and upon asking how the notes of those banks got abroad, and why were they so much preferred to Confederate, we received for answer, that they were put out for use within the enemy's lines in purchasing goods, having the advantage of being more readily received, and more profitably and easily employed through secret agents in buying cotton in the South. We would not say that these phenomena were unpatriotic, or that they occurred without the intelligent cognizance of the Government; we would only say that if they occurred without such intelligent cognizance, they give evidence of an intelligent sense of interest not alien to humanity in its less professional aspects.

From the fact that the proposition for calling the convention originated in South Carolina, as well as the views which form the basis of the project, submitted by the convention, under the endorsement of the Richmond *Sentinel*, the supposed organ of Administration, we are fairly entitled to the conclusion that there was intelligent accord between the Secretary of the Treasury, and the convention, that Mr. TREMOLM was the intellectual adumbralion of Mr. MEMMINGER, and that the convention in submitting its programme "spake as one having authority."

We would have thought that Mr. MEMMINGER, for this period have longed that his persuasion, very sincerely held when he was appointed to his present position, that Charleston financial administration was a sufficient intellectual basis for the administration of the Confederate treasury in a time like this, was a delusion. We would also have thought that he would have learned, by painful experience, that making a debt is not the only idea or alternative of financial administration in a time of war, that creating a current debt in lieu of credit to meet the wants of the Government, to be absorbed hereafter in interest paying forms of longer date, or postponed periods of payment are not the only resources of finance.

The Government, owing to the newness of its political condition, having no revenue or permanent sources of receipt, the Secretary seemed to think that there was but one resource, and that was to create a debt, that there was but one process, and that was to use the currency of the banks, until it was exhausted, or frightened off, and then to use in default, its own credits to meet the current wants of the Government, and fund them as they increased or accumulated. In a city like Charleston, or a small State, whose exigencies were few, and wants were but the normal demands of a time of peace, such administration was practicable and obvious; but when the demands on the treasury in a week, were more than the demands on South Carolina in a year, it followed, that neither the one nor the other would answer; that the unlimited issue of currency would, by a platform in proportion to the occurring needs of the Government, break Government and country both down beyond the power of ultimate, much less contemporaneous resurrection or restitution, through the employment of an agency so slow, and so liable to obstructions in its operation as that of funding. As a man, instead of giving property for the payment of a debt, property which his creditors are willing to take, will give his current notes of hand, to be taken up by interest bearing notes having a longer time to run, until his property is absorbed ten times over, so the Secretary seems to have forgotten so far, that there is any property in the country, and only to have thought that notes and bonds are the Government's only resource. He seems to have a holy horror of taxation, taxation proportionate to the want, it may be, because taxation is a method too obvious for a place among the mysteries of finance, or because he may have inherited the old idea of political economy, that a national debt is a national blessing. Certainly his financial system, is the simplest one imaginable.

The project of the Augusta convention proposing the issuance of $1,000,000,000 in six per cent. bonds, with coupons for the interest attached, and payable annually in coin; the bonds to be apportioned among the States and a tax equivalent to the interest to be levied annually, in addition to the tax to be levied for the support of the Government in lieu of treasury notes, which are advised to be dismissed as currency, is the climax, the perfection of the Secretary's idea. It certainly is an apology for the failure of past schemes, when it is proposed by one fell swoop to fund the whole debt of the country, and now to dispense with treasury notes by a resort to taxation. Taxation may have been as well resorted to in the beginning as now, and if it be a prime object of this scheme simply to deplete the currency, the currency can be as well depleted by an annual tax of a sufficiently large amount, to bring currency within limits and meet expenses, as it can by a resort to a method, impracticable in administration, by forced distribution of obligations among the States, with sixty millions added to the debt by way of interest. We suppose the gentlemen of the convention thought that as the people owed the debt, debt and interest, when paid, will be coming to themselves. That may be, but this question may also present itself, whether it is any less a debt because owed to themselves, and whether it is not rather a question of time and payment—a question of payment now or soon, without interest, while Confederate notes are depreciated, or years hence when gold will be required, with interest accumulating at the rate of sixty millions a year.

West fascinations to bankers and financiers this scheme may possess, we think we can see, but we confess that we do not see its advantages to the country. Equal taxation on property by the Government, as was said by Mr. GRAND, of South Carolina, in the convention, we think the only remedy, and we think with him that the adoption of the bankers' proclamation cannot but prove a failure; and we cannot but trust that Congress will have sagacity enough, to see the nature of the plan submitted by the convention, and will have firmness enough to cast aside all financial subterfuges by meeting the evil by appropriate taxation at once.

☞ The request of General Bragg, communicated through Maj. Gen. Cobb, that the Atlanta papers abstain, for the present, from giving news of movements in front, particularly East Tennessee, we think a very proper one, and shall accord to it a cheerful obedience. We have not, in consequence of the silence of our correspondent, been able to give much news from the army lately. His brief letter published in the edition of Saturday, is the only one received from him from East Tennessee. The main portion of the article headed "Latest from East Tennessee," published yesterday, was from the Huntsville *Confederate*, of Marietta, a journal of remarkable discretion in such matters, usually. Its information was derived from a lieutenant of Patton Anderson's division.

☞ The mechanics of the North are on a strike. Northern capitalists are beginning very uneasy on account of the movements of the working man. The *World* says the strike of the machinists and iron-workers threatens to become a very serious matter. They console themselves, however, with the hope that it will drive the starving operatives into the army. The workmen on the treasury building in Washington have been on a strike for more than a week. The backbinders in the Government printing office demanded eighteen dollars per week for eight hours per day, but having failed to get it, they struck last Friday. The printers are about to adopt the same course.

☞ The Yankee Government intends to recruit eleven regiments of negro troops in Maryland.

☞ Major Myers, chief of the United States signal corps, has been relieved and exiled to Memphis, Tenn.

☞ The Federal commander of the port of Nashville has issued an order closing the distilleries in Davidson, Cheatham, Robertson, Montgomery and Stewart counties. The object is to prevent the consumption of corn in the distillation of whisky, the grain being needed for the public service.

THE ENEMY IN THE VALLEY.—The Staunton (Va.) *Vindicator*, of the 20th, has the following about the movements of the enemy in the valley:

From the lower valley we learn that a Yankee cavalry force, about 1,000 strong, came up on Monday last as far as the bridge, a mile this side of Mount Jackson. On their way up they captured a lieutenant and four men on picket, belonging to Major White's battalion. At the bridge they met Major White's battalion and a section of artillery belonging to Capt. McClanahan's battery, under command of Lieut. Berkley, and were driven back, with no loss on our side. The enemy's loss—seven killed, eighteen wounded, and four captured. They were pursued that night by Major White, and attacked in their camp near Woodstock, and driven precipitately down the valley.

A friend informs us that he has reliable advices of another bold enterprise of that fine partisan officer Capt. McNeil. A few days ago he made a descent upon a Yankee train at Burlington, Hampshire county, eleven miles west of Romney, on the northwestern turnpike road, captured eighty wagons, (which he destroyed, with contents,) and brought out two hundred and forty good wagon horses.

HOW THE YANKEES ARE TO BE BANKRUPTED.—A correspondent of the Yorkville *Enquirer* calculates that the siege of Charleston will prove an unprofitable business to the Yankee nation. He demonstrates how the Yankees are ruining themselves and not hurting us much with the following statement of figures:

I have been cipherring a little in regard to operations in Charleston harbor, and have come to the conclusion that if we have the right kind of bomb-proofs in Sumter, that this is the very place where we shall break Abe's backbone. (I mean his credit). Here are my figures: One thousand shots per day—300 pounds of iron to the shot and 20 pounds of powder; iron at 10 cents per pound, powder at 50 cents—making for one shot a cost of $45. The siege has been progressing one hundred and twenty days at a cost of $5,400,000. In this calculation I have said nothing of the enormous expense required to keep up and pay off the innumerable war vessels, transports, etc. Neither have I taken into account the guns that are bursted occasionally or rendered useless by the excess of firing. Let us all keep a "stiff upper lip," stand by our own Government and its credit, and ere long we shall see the value of gold and "greenbacks" shoot off in an opposite direction, and separate wider and wider, until the last convulsive throb of the Lincoln Government shall proclaim the independence of the Confederate States, and the return of our war-worn veterans to their happy homes. Down with all who depreciate our money in order to obtain starvation prices.

GEN. FOREY'S OPINION.—The *Herald*, says: "Mingling in some persons who have heard him, Gen. Forey is perfectly confident of the ultimate pacification of Mexico, and in the final settlement of a well-ordered, powerful and prosperous Government in that country. The Mexicans," says he, "thirst for justice, order, freedom, of which they have been deprived for the last forty years, and show the greatest desire to secure them forever." The guerrillas, in his estimation, are now the greatest impediment to the pacification of Mexico. As to Juarez's army, he does not think it in position to make very serious resistance. Finally, Gen. Forey is of opinion that nine-tenths of the native population are disposed to assist in the work undertaken by France, and to co-operate actively, patiently, and perseveringly with them to the regeneration of Mexico."

MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY IN NORTH ALABAMA.

Correspondence Memphis Appeal.]

FLORENCE, ALA., November 9, 1863.

On Tuesday, October 27, 1863, Blair's division of the 15th army corps of the Federal army, occupied Tuscumbia, Alabama, on the south side of the river, five miles distant from this place, having moved up from Iuka, where the 15th army corps was left. On the same day there were at Eastport, thirty miles below here, on the Tennessee river, seven transports, three gunboats, and two flats, engaged in the crossing of the Federal army at that point. On Wednesday, October 28, the advance, consisting of the 4th division, under command of Brigadier-Gen. Ewing, began their march from Eastport. That day was also marked by the retreat of Blair's division from Tuscumbia toward Iuka, before the cavalry forces of Major Gen. S. D. Lee and Brigadier-Gen. P. D. Roddy, of the Confederate States army.

On the evening of Thursday, October 29, about three o'clock, General Ewing and staff marched into Florence, and his division camped in and around the place. Having appointed Major Brown, of the 70th Ohio infantry, provost marshal, that regiment was stationed as the provost guard during their stay here. The weather, at this time, was extremely pleasant, and a balmy southern breeze soon carried in its current the folds of the Federal flag which floated from the cupola of the court house. The sight of Yankee troops in this place, in force, for the third time during the war, caused a chill of horror to run through the veins of the aged, the helpless and the infirm, who alone are left to view the despoilers of their homes, and, for the time being, are forced to submit. Thanks to Gen. Ewing, however, for his endeavors to preserve peace and order. The only outrages committed were the pillaging of all unoccupied offices, stores and houses, and the act of highway robbery committed on several persons in the suburbs of town. This, however, was not reported to him, or he might have visited punishment upon the perpetrators.

Saturday, the 31st, was characterized by the arrival of eight or ten Confederate prisoners, captured a few miles from town. One of these, to excite the fears of the Yanks, told them a large force of Confederates was marching upon this place, and they immediately began to fortify the town by throwing up a long line of breastworks across the northeast side, fronting Huntsville. The prisoners mentioned were Major Frank Foster, Capt. Chikaiko, Adjutant Joe. Heslep, and three or four others of Foster's cavalry battalion.

A squad of seventy men, from the 4th regulars, cavalry, arrived here Saturday morning from the vicinity of Huntsville or Stevenson, bearing dispatches for Gen. Sherman. They met him between here and Waterloo, and he, with his staff and escort, reached here Sunday morning about ten o'clock. His escort consisted of about two hundred cavalry, 15th United States regulars, and were all splendidly mounted and equipped. Notwithstanding this, however, he lost two of his staff officers fifteen miles below, between here and Eastport. A squad of Confederates captured them, and he was so much exasperated that he threated to burn the town on Saturday night, November 1st. A committee of citizens, however, awaited on him, and he consented to defer it five days, at the end of which time it would be carried into effect, unless the two prisoners were returned. A delegation of three citizens in the meantime went out to meet the Confederates (whom they called guerrillas) and make arrangements for the release of the two prisoners. It so happened, however, that the prisoners had been paroled, and were then returning to their command. Thus was the burning of this beautiful town prevented.

Monday, November 2d, they resumed their march, and Sherman and Ewing, with all the forces here, were soon on the march toward Huntsville. As brigade after brigade filed past, I, and several others, took the privilege of counting them. Very few brigades numbered as many as one thousand five hundred men, including teamsters and all, and many regiments numbered less than two hundred. This tells too plainly what sad havoc Mississippi swamps and rebel bullets have made in their ranks. They marched the entire distance from Memphis on foot, and were glad enough to get Southern *cornbread* after living on *hard tack* so long.

General Chalmers divided their attention enough, somewhere between Corinth and Memphis, to lead them about twenty-five miles out of the way, detaining them about two days longer on the road. The country through which they have passed is marked by general devastation. They drove off all the mules, horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, and left little or no meat and bread. I regret to say, too, that even the furniture, clothing, and other articles, were taken from persons in the country, so that they are left in an almost destitute condition. That portion of this country called Colbert's reserve, suffered more than any other part. Plantations are deprived of everything that will suffice in any way to carry on the farming business, and in several instances the buildings were burned to the ground, merely for the gratification of a spirit of revenge. Paterers in town fared much better than those in the country, for here they had some protection. But they all suffered. On Friday, November 6th, a lot of cavalry charged into town with drawn sabers, and before the inhabitants were aware of it, had collected all the milch cows and other cattle in the place, and drove them off. Several persons, however, recovered their cows, and many swamped and came back to town. Many negroes followed them, and some were forced to go. But still, a number remains, who have found it is not exactly the freedom they want, and are shrewd enough to conceal themselves or play off as free men, when Yankees are about.

The last division passed through here on Friday, November 6th, and the whole column marched in about this order: 1st, Brig.-General Ewing, commanding 4th division, numbering 4500 men, with about 100 wagons, and several pieces of artillery. 2d, Brig.-Gen. Smith, commanding division, numbering about 3000 effective men. 3d, Major-General Morgan L. Smith, commanding division, numbering 3500 men. 4th, Osterhaus and Frank P. Blair, combined, numbering about 6000 men, with a heavy train of wagons and artillery. The whole column combined numbered 17,000 men, 88 pieces of artillery and 1000 wagons. When the head of the column reached Elk river, thirty-five miles above here, they found it impossible to ford, and consequently turned their course toward Pulaski and Nashville. This movement caused the rear division—commanded by Gen. Dodge—to strike across the country a few miles north of this place, in order to make a more direct march to Pulaski, and thereby avoid the town of Florence altogether. From the best information I can gather in regard to Dodge's force, he had about 3000 men, 17 pieces of artillery, and about 100 wagons. This would make the whole of Sherman's force 20,000 men, 103 pieces of artillery, and 1100 wagons; and, upon inquiry, it will be found that this statement is in the main correct. Their cavalry force was comparatively small, consisting principally of the 5th Ohio cavalry, 13th, and part of the 4th United States regulars, and numbering in all not more than one thousand men.

The injury sustained by the country generally was from the straggling cavalry, upon whom there seemed to be little or no restraint. Among those whose losses were heavy, may be mentioned the names of Hon. R. M. Patton, who lost fifty-four negroes, besides cattle and other stock to the amount of twelve thousand dollars. Baugh, Kennedy & Co., also met with a serious loss in the burning of their cotton factory with contents, which was valued at five hundred thousand dollars. This factory is the sixth one burned in this county since the latter part of last May. The loss to the community at large will prove of more importance however, for many persons are now turned out upon the world with no means of support, and many others will doubtless suffer for want of clothing which these factories might have supplied.

Although we had but a few cavalry—probably one hundred and fifty—on this side the river, they succeeded in capturing some prisoners, several wagons, and a good many horses. They were principally under command of Capt. Dick Johnson, of Roddy's cavalry, who was unfortunately wounded by a shot from his own pistol, the ball entering above the knee, partially injuring the head of the *femur*, and making its exit just below the *inner condyle*. I am glad to say this brave and gallant officer is now improving, and will doubtless soon be able for the field again. Florence is again comparatively quiet, with the presence of rebel soldiers to chase away the gloom hanging over it for ten days past. That she may long be blessed with the presence of these true patriots is the ardent wish of CORVUS.

THE SITUATION.

Our telegraphic column gives a better idea of the situation of affairs in the front and in East Tennessee, than we could give from any knowledge in our possession.

A special dispatch to the *Intelligencer*, dated yesterday, says "the enemy has evacuated Trenton, Dade county, Ga., SHERMAN'S corps having fallen back, reaching Chattanooga last night. This move is a virtual abandonment of the taking of Lookout.

"Knoxville is intrenched by BURNSIDE. The enemy is said to have but ten days' rations."

A second dispatch from Missionary ridge, says:

The enemy formed in three lines of battle in our front this morning, drove in our picketa, and attempted to storm our works. At 3 P. M. they opened upon our lines, their batteries playing also. Musketry firing was very heavy, but ceased at 3 P. M., the artillery only firing at the present time. 230.

The editor of the Marietta *Confederate*, writing from Dalton, the 22d, says:

I learn that at Maryville, General Wheeler captured about all of Woolford's cavalry, that were on the south side of the Holston, and attacked two or three brigades of infantry and ran them into Knoxville.

An elderly man, said to be reliable, who acted as guide to Wheeler, reports these facts. He says that he was in Knoxville on Tuesday night last; that Gen. Wheeler sent about three hundred cavalry to reconnoiter "the situation" at Knoxville, and that he accompanied them. They kept close down to the river until they arrived at the foot of Gay street, when they dashed up this street, and on through the city, and saw but one man, and he was scampering in great apparent fright. He represents that the enemy had left town and gone out about four miles, to a position between the Kentucky and the E. Tenn. and Virginia railroads. Wheeler having gotten between the enemy and Cumberland gap, and a portion of our infantry having secured the enemy's pontoons over Clinch river, Burnside fell back to Knoxville, and Longstreet invested the place with his infantry. I am informed that there is no reason to doubt that Gen. Ransom has joined Longstreet, or is, at least, in a position to co-operate with him.

There is a rumor that Burnside and his staff have made their escape, but it lacks confirmation.

I am told that Longstreet effected the passage of the river, near Loudon, by *ruse de guerre*. He sent a pretty heavy force some miles up the river, occupied a position near it, in view of the enemy, thereby demonstrating a purpose to cross there, and, during the night, rapidly withdraw all but a small force, and throw them across at a point several miles below. The enemy, under Burnside, finding that he had crossed, engaged him for about an hour, and then retreated toward Knoxville. Our forces pursued, and several pretty heavy skirmishes took place in their progress. A lady, residing between Loudon and Knoxville, reports that she heard Burnside say that his troops were so demoralized that he could not make them fight.

I hear, from a very reliable source, that the enemy, under Thomas, are making demonstrations indicating an apparent purpose to make the same flank movement on Gen. Bragg that Rosecrans attempted and so signally failed in. Great confidence is expressed, by high military authority, in the ability of Gen. Bragg to foil Thomas as he did Rosecrans. It is considered probable that, if Thomas should advance, the bloodiest battle will be the scene of another sanguinary battle.

The *Rebel* of yesterday, says:

Through an officer who left the vicinity of Knoxville, on Thursday, we have the latest information yet received of Gen. Longstreet's operations in East Tennessee. The Federal forces were then occupying Knoxville, and Longstreet had invested the place, surrounding it on every side. Burnside had hurried off his wagon train before our forces reached them, toward Cumberland gap, and they had made their escape, with the exception of fifty or sixty wagons loaded with clothing, blankets, etc. Two regiments of our cavalry clothed themselves and got two blankets each. The Federals are now driven to their fortifications, and the greatest confidence is expressed that our forces will be able to compel the surrender of the whole command.

How to Save the Country.

A writer in the Richmond *Enquirer* says:

Simple taxation is the only possible remedy for our present situation. Any other is but an attempt to lift one's self by the straps of his boots.

Let Congress at once pass a bill collecting four hundred millions at the end of three months, three hundred three months thereafter, two hundred three months thereafter, and one hundred three months after that. Thus one thousand millions would be taken in one year. The passage of the bill would start prices downward and keep them going down. Supposing the annual expenses of the Government to be seven hundred millions, I think that such a tax bill would reduce it to five hundred millions. The tax in kind, supposed, at its passage, to be worth one hundred and thirty millions, is now, at advanced prices, worth at least two hundred millions. Take off that, and we have three hundred millions expenditure. Under the tax bill proposed, the Government would, therefore, at the end of the year, are out seven hundred millions less than at the beginning. Flour would then sell at twelve dollars per barrel, bacon at twenty cents per pound, and other things in proportion.

I propose four, three, two and one, in order to reverse the order of spending. Let us return to a healthy standard by going backward in selling just as we went farther and farther in spending, thus doing as little violence to society as possible. Such is my plan. After stating it, I need not say that I am not a candidate for Congress. Yet I say with confidence that its execution is entirely with in the power of the people, and that their true pecuniary interests imperatively demand the immediate adoption of it, or some other equivalent tax.

Let us think and reason on the matter.

* * * * * *

To conclude. We are in debt. Let us get out before a new order of things or a new currency is introduced. Let the Government lay off each man's share to himself, and let him pay out. My plan will reduce prices to one-tenth their present rate. If this were done, every man in the army even would rather give up the other nine-tenths of his salary to himself, since, with low prices, if he sent but little home, it would buy quite as much, and the labor of his family at home would be better requited.

Let us get out of debt. I think my share would be some twenty thousand dollars. I am a plain farmer, and can sell a little of first one thing and then another, and borrow the balance. I am far worse off than the average. Were I working at a salary of one thousand dollars a year from the Government, I would give up nine hundred of it to see this bill passed.

The money stands at ten to one. Shall we freely yield to the cause our heart's blood, in the veins of our gallant boys, and yet grab the trash in our pocket books? Shall we imitate the neighborhood which I have heard of, where the ladies all freely gave up their husbands for the infantry, but refused their carriage horses for the cavalry?

Such are my thoughts thrown out hastily at one sitting. I have only tried to suggest food for argument in other minds. Think it all over, my countrymen, and you will see that our national finances are still on dry ground, and there is no room for despondency; let alone despair. I conclude by saying, let us all get out of debt. WAYLAND.

Yankee Invasion of Texas.

The New York *Herald*, of the 16th, gives a long account by its correspondent, of the arrival of Gens. Banks' and Dana's force in the Rio Grande, together with a map of the coast, the river mouth, Brownsville, Matamores and the adjoining country. The expedition had encountered a storm, in which the steamer Union and two schooners went down; but there was no loss of life. On the 24 November the expedition crossed the bar of the Rio Grande, and seized the mouth of the Boca Chica. They found two deserters, who gave them the information following, touching the force of the Confederates and its disposition:

Three regiments, which they said were on the Rio Grande a few weeks ago, had been sent to Galveston and Sabine pass, and that Col. Lockett's regiment of cavalry was ordered to proceed to Houston nearly two weeks ago.

Sabine pass, they said, was expected to be daily attacked, and only a week ago it was reported that five or six Yankee steamers were off the mouth of the river. Two or three days before they deserted a report was circulated that ten thousand Union troops had landed, but the day following this statement was corrected.

On Matagorda island, near Saluria, there is a large fort called Fort Esperanza, mounting nine guns—one 10-inch columbiad, six 24-pounders and two 12-pounders. Capt. Vernon is in command. Two companies of infantry and one of cavalry, as well as a company of conscripts (also cavalry), are reported encamped in the neighborhood.

Gen. Magruder, they say, is now at Houston. He has only two thousand troops (cavalry) there, the remainder of his army being scattered about at various places, the most being at Galveston and Sabine pass. At the former city there is also a regiment of heavy artillery.

There is a formidable fort near Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, called Fort Brown. Brig.-Gen. Bee is in command. Since receiving this news I learn from another party that Gen. Bee has been superseded, and Brig.-Gen. Slaughter appointed to the command.

As no attack was expected in the neighborhood for some time, all the rebel troops have been sent away to other points, leaving only a small force to garrison the fort.

The correspondent affirms it to be untrue that the French have occupied Matamoros, on the Mexican side of the river. There are no French soldiers there.

The latest date is November 4th.

STARTLING NEWS—REBELS EVACUATING FORT BROWN.

We have just received official news of the greatest importance.

The Government buildings at Fort Brown were burned to the ground yesterday by the rebel garrison, preparatory to their evacuating the fort.

FIGHTING IN THE STREETS OF BROWNSVILLE, BETWEEN THE UNION MEN AND SECESSIONISTS—THE TOWN ON FIRE.

From the same source we learned that about this time (three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon) a squad of sixty rebel cavalry, which had witnessed the landing of the soldiers under the guns of the Monongahela, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, dashed into Brownsville and commenced firing fire to the buildings, with the intention of destroying the town. The property holders and Union men resisted them, when the secessionists joined. A cavalry, and a bloody street fight took place, which lasted all the afternoon, the buildings burning in every direction around them. The fight was still going on when the messenger left for the purpose of communicating the news to the general commanding.

The 15th Maine, which was in the advance at the time, at once received orders to march without delay, and by daylight to-morrow morning this regiment, with others in supporting distance, will be in Brownsville.

Interesting from the trans-Mississippi Department.

From the Mobile Register.]

MERIDIAN, MISS., Nov. 19, 1863.

MR. EDITOR: As many of our boys have received letters from the trans-Mississippi department, I propose giving you a synopsis of the news, believing that it will not be uninteresting to some of your many readers. The letters report no activity upon the part of the enemy. Gen. Price's forces are now encamped at Camden, upon the banks of the Ouachita river. Many desertions in the army have occurred, but harmony and a good understanding is now permanently established. Confidence in the ability of the commanding officers is restored, subordination is realized, and a thorough discipline has been attained. The soldiers are buoyant with hope, and anxious to meet the vandal foe, who has recently invaded their soil, committing the most flagrant outrages on the innocent and inoffensive parties, and to deprive them of the most estimable of all rights—the rights and privileges of citizenship. The letters then corroborate the capture of General Blount, his staff, and one hundred and twenty of his escort.

A most lamentable and deplorable state of affairs is now existing in the State of Missouri, the whole State being under the domination and rule of the Federals and Abolitionists. The citizens (Southern) are entirely disfranchised, and like substitute slaves, are by necessity, forced to bow to the mandates of their masters. Southern men in the southwest part of the State have their farm horses taken from their barns without receiving any compensation for the same. Others are driven out of the State or murdered upon the spot, for the too free expression of their opinions in behalf of the cause of the independence of the South. And this is done by the professed upholders of our once glorious Union—a Union cemented by the illustrious dead, and rendered illustrious by the sacrifice of the noble lives willingly yielded up in a similar cause to that for which we are now contending.

This is about all the news of general interest contained in the letters.

Yours respectfully,

T. S. LANIER.

The War Democracy of the West.

A call has been issued for a general convention of the war Democrats of the West to meet at Chicago on the 25th of the present month. It is signed by Preston Wright, chairman of the State central committee of Illinois, and Austin H. Brown and W. J. Elliott, for State central committee of Indiana. In the circular the committee thus sets forth as to the subject of the proposed convention:

"The war Democracy of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and other Northwestern States, having separately proclaimed their devotion to the time-honored principles of the Democratic party, as propounded by Jefferson, illustrated by Jackson, and practically carried out by the faithful statesmen and heroes of that party, of the present time—having also manifested the reprobation and rejection of the disloyal and odious heresies which the seceders from that party are unblushingly seeking to interpolate into its established creed—and desiring, as a paramount public duty in the hour of our public danger, to unite the counsels and endeavors of all loyal men of the Democratic party in the interests of their country, and to vindicate the faith, honor and organization of that party from the hands of disunitby demagogues, they propose to hold a conference at Chicago, Ill., on the 25th day of November, 1863, for the discussion of these and other important subjects."

This movement is important, as indicating a regularly organized "slanging off" of the Democrats in favor of a prosecution of the war from the Vallandigham branch, and the formation of a party to be known as the "War Democracy." The object of the leaders in the movement will doubtless be to draw to the new party all persons in favor of the war who are opposed to Abolitionism. It also foreshadows an organization for the coming presidential campaign by putting a war Democratic candidate in the field. We may look for a triangular contest in 1864.—*Memphis Argus.*

SAVING STOCK.—In impressing beef and hogs for the army, an eye should be had to the importance of preserving a sufficiency of stock for breeding purposes. In some sections of the country nearly all the milch cows have been taken for beef cattle and in others scarcely a hog is to be found. If the war continues two or three years longer—as it probably will—the great mass of the people will be compelled to live on little or no meats, and in order to do this they ought to plant out orchards and vineyards, cultivate Chinese sugar cane extensively and devote great care to the raising of poultry of every description. We are in for a long and wasting war, and to come out of it successfully those who are not fit for field service must determine to live frugally, and spare no efforts to feed and clothe the soldiers who have to do the fighting. *Lynchburg Express.*

TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, November 22.—A vigorous fire has been kept up between the enemy's batteries and our own all day. The enemy did not shell the city to-day, but divided his attention between Sumter, Moultrie, Johnson and Sinkins, and threw a number of shell on James island.

The number of shots of all kinds thrown into Sumter last night and to-day was two hundred and ninety-three, of which one hundred and five missed. There were no casualties in Sumter. No report received from either of the batteries this evening.

RICHMOND, November 23.—The New York Herald of the 20th inst., states that an arrival from New Orleans on the 11th brings intelligence of the operations of Washburn's forces in Tache country, which says his whole loss in killed, wounded and prisoners is 677. The Indiana 67th was nearly all captured.

A dispatch from Knoxville, 17th, gives some details of the retreat of Burnside to Knoxville on Monday morning, it says, he evacuated Lenoire, but owing to the energy with which the rebel pursuit was kept up, he came into line of battle at Campbell's station where a fight ensued lasting from late in the forenoon until dark. The enemy finally succeeded in flanking our men, (the Yankees) driving them to the cover of their batteries, which opened a terrific fire, before which the rebels retired until their batteries came up.

Burnside then fell back to a more desirable position, and again gave them battle. Night closed the contest, leaving our troops in possession of their own ground. During the night our troops fell back, and reached Knoxville early on Tuesday morning. Yesterday the rebel advance guard attacked our outposts. Heavy skirmishing ensued. To-day the attack was renewed, and in the afternoon the rebels brought forward a heavy force of infantry to charge our position. A terrific hand to hand conflict ensued, our men falling back about one third of a mile to their second line, which they held to-night. Gen. Sanders, commanding the outposts, was severely wounded.

Our loss in the first day's fight was two hundred, and about one hundred and fifty to-day. The enemy's loss on Monday, during the severe fire of our artillery, could not have been less than one thousand, and their loss to-day is estimated at from four to five hundred.

Another dispatch, dated the 19th, says the enemy have completely invested Knoxville.

Several columns of the Herald are occupied with an account of the dedication of the national Necropolis of Gettysburg.

Lincoln was accosted the night previous, but declined to make any speech, saying that in his position it was important that he should not say any foolish things. [A voice—"If you can help it, Lincoln, it often happens the best way is to say nothing."]

Gold opened on Thursday at 153, and closed at 152.

A flag of truce boat, with surgeons on board, arrived at City Point to-day.

No papers yet received.

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, Nov. 23.—All quiet in front.

There were no prisoners received here to-day.

The roads are heavy.

The weather is very cold and threatening rain or snow.

President Davis arrived here on Saturday and is staying with Gen. Lee. He will probably review the army before he leaves.

Nothing from the enemy.

ABINGDON, November 23.—There are various rumors of the occupation of Knoxville by our forces coming in, but there is nothing official.

Two thousand Federals are reported to have passed Rogersville, and five regiments through Jacksboro, on route for Kentucky.

Our forces are very active in front.

RICHMOND, November 23.—The following dispatch was received at the War Department to-night:

"MISSIONARY RIDGE, via Chickamauga, November 23.—To General S. Cooper: We hold all the roads leading into Knoxville except the one between the Holston and French Broad. Jones' cavalry night close this. The enemy's cavalry are almost broken up, and Wheeler has cut all his trains from Cumberland gap to Knoxville.

BRAXTON BRAGG."

RICHMOND, November 23.—We have United States advices up to the 21st, inclusive, by flag of truce received to-night.

There is nothing late from Knoxville, telegraphic communication being interrupted.

A dispatch, dated Harbourville, the 15th, says there was fighting all about Knoxville.

The City of Baltimore, with Liverpool dates to the 11th, has arrived. News unimportant.

The public attention is monopolized by the proposition for a congress of the powers.

The drain of gold from England continued.

The Bank of France had advanced the rate of discount 7 per cent.

By the court of exchequer a new trial in the Alexandria case is awarded with certain stipulations, one of which is that there shall be no appeal except on points of law.

Liverpool cotton market heavy.

Gold in New York 152½.

CHARLESTON, November 24.—A heavy mortar shelling of Sumter was again kept up all last night.

The brave and gallant Capt. Frank H. Harleston, while on his rounds, was mortally wounded in both thighs and arm, by a Parrott shell. One negro was killed. No further casualties.

From Europe—The Course of the Government Justified by the Times.

The London *Times*, in a leader upon Mr. Laird's recent speech at Birkenhead in regard to the iron-clad rams, remarks:

If no more can be said of them than Mr. Laird has now said for the Alabama, it feels sure that the public will approve the action of the Government in detaining them.

WHAT THE NORTH MUST EXPECT.

The London *Morning Post* concludes an editorial on American affairs in the following terms:

* * * Although the European Powers have hitherto observed a strict neutrality, and have declined to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy, the Federal Government must be well aware that any serious reverses sustained by their arms at the present juncture would leave neutral States no other choice than to acknowledge the new republic. The attitude of France, or rather the exigencies of that Kingdom to her Mexican relations, cannot but render the Government of Washington apprehensive that at an early period the long sought for recognition will be accorded to the South.

The fact that, after a war of two years and a half, the border State of Virginia is still in the possession of the Confederates, and that the latter are enabled for a third time to roll back the tide of invasion, cannot be overlooked by nations which regard the term neutrality as meaning something different from culpable indifference. The result of the present campaign will, in probability, decide the issue of the war, and if, with the incoming year, we should see peace established between the two federations, the North will be not less indebted than the South to the happy chain of circumstances which have enabled Gen. Lee to strike a decisive blow.

☞ The Louisville *Democrat* is responsible for the following:

The contractors' time of carrying on the war is buy and buy.

From the North.

WASHINGTON, November 15.—Gen. Meade is at Willard's with his family. He had an interview with President Lincoln this morning. The conference was renewed this afternoon.

The Department estimates are all before Secretary Chase save that at the War office. When this comes in his report will be finished. It is understood that the budget will foot up twelve hundred millions. The wants of the navy for the coming year are said to be estimated at over one hundred millions. Last year they were sixty-eight millions.

The payments out of the treasury last Thursday were twenty-five millions—the largest ever made in one day since the Government was organized.

The authorization which was granted by the French Government to M. Arman for building and arming ships-of-war at Nantes and Bordeaux, was obtained by him on the false pretence that they were to be sold to the Chinese Government and used in the waters of China. It was well known or expected that these vessels were for enemies of the United States. Information of that design was obtained by this Government only a short time ago, and the French Government promptly retracted the authorization when this information was laid before the Emperor. Justice to France requires that this statement should be made to correct misapprehension on a subject in regard to which France has acted with good faith toward the United States.

Under the new arrangement for recruiting for the armies in the field with increased bounties and assurance of prompt payment, volunteers are offering in increased numbers. The 12th Illinois cavalry have re-enlisted as a veteran regiment, and the adv