AFTERNOON EDITION - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1864.

Daily Appeal.

EVENING EDITION.

ATLANTA, GA.

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9, 1864.

HOW TO MAKE THE ARMY STRONG.

In a late speech in the House of Representatives Mr. HOLCOMBE stated that there are five hundred thousand men on the muster rolls of the army, a force which, we are confident, is fully as large as any effective invading force the Yankees can bring into our territories. If a large portion of this force is absent it can be brought back by proper measures to its place, and thereby avoid the most imminent of our perils—the reduction of the number of our producers in the country. Mr HOLCOMBE also referred to the fact that the most sweeping conscriptions of NAPOLEON never brought men over thirty into the field.

Commenting upon these facts, the Richmond *Dispatch* very correctly remarks that we need this time the first intellects of the country in Congress. We need the highest wisdom and moderation, combined with the greatest energy. And, in any system of measures which looks to the removal of the great evils of straggling and desertion, the officers of the army, and especially the officers of companies, can do more than can be accomplished by the most stringent legislation. While discipline should be sternly enforced upon the men, kindness and sympathy should be universally shown to the private soldiers. It is natural enough that, after so long service as they have rendered, and such privations and perils as they have endured, they should long for a return to home and its dear ones. A judicious system of furloughs, such as our commanding generals have established, and a systematic regard for the feelings of the men at all times, will go farther than any other means to prevent straggling and desertion.

The officer who avails himself of his petty rank to inflict unnecessary burthens upon those in the ranks, or who undertakes to make them feel by his conduct that they are inferior beings, is a worse enemy of his country than the Yankees. The superior officers should look carefully into the manner in which subordinates exercise their authority. Our army is not a standing army; our men are not the mercenary rank and file whom the Yankees buy up at five hundred dollars a head, and cuff and kick about like galley slaves. On the contrary, they are the equals in all that constitutes good manhood of the officers who command them, and, whilst obedience is strictly enforced, should no more be permitted to forget that they are gentlemen than that they are soldiers. Every officer of a company should consider himself the head of a family, and study the wants and respect the feelings of those under him as he would his own children.

A PATRIOT MOTHER.

We have before us the original of a letter dated Cobb county, Ga., May 2, 1863, written by a bereaved mother to a gentleman in Virginia, breathing a noble spirit of devotion to our cause that should put to blush the croakers of these days. She says:

"Yours of the 1st of April has been received, bringing to me the heart-rending intelligence of the death of my son, which is the last one of three, who, to serve their country, left me a disconsolate widowed mother; and I can assure you, that the greater portion of the time since they left that myself and the little children left with me have subsisted upon bread alone, and all this I still feel like I could bear if, in the providence of God, our country can be saved from the merciless grasp of the cruel tyrants who are seeking our total ruin."

GENERAL BRECKINRIDGE.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 6th announces that the management of the department of Southwest Virginia, under command of Major-Gen. SAM. JONES, has been changed. The President has relieved Gen. JONES and assigned Major-General JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE to the command of the department in question. It is to be hoped that this new appointment will prevent the recurrence of those raids by the enemy which have as lately been made a feature of Southwestern Virginia, or may result in the capture of some of the raiders. Gen. B. was in this city yesterday evening, on his way to the front. He will leave for his new command in a few days.

☞ A large addition of the APPEAL, always kept on hand, at the Army News Depot at Dalton.

☞ Major J. P. Strange, of General Forrest's staff, has placed in our hands several late Northern papers, for which kindness he has our thanks.

☞ We had the pleasure of a visit yesterday from our old and esteemed friend, Mr. M. Butt Howson, the able and intelligent correspondent in this country of the London *Morning Herald*. Before his return to Richmond, Mr. Howson will pay a visit to the armies of Tennessee and Mississippi.

☞ Mr. J. K. Parker, of Centerville, Miss., has placed, in our hands $42 00, for the benefit of destitute in Henderson's command. It will be held subject to the order of the commander. Mr. P. also writes: "I have ordered twenty pairs of shoes on my own account, that I will send forward as soon as possible." They will be gratefully received.

GOOD, IF TRUE.—A business letter from Centerville, Mississippi, dated the 26th ult., says: "I saw a letter from Jackson, Louisiana, a few days ago, which stated that Banks' army, in attempting to cross the Colorado, was attacked by Magruder and cut to pieces, killing and capturing nearly the whole command. It was also stated that the enemy had been heavily reinforced at Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, and they intended to extend their lines to the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern railroad, and forage upon the country."

HIRING.—The Lynchburg papers say that hiring of negroes in that city has played out, there being but few persons who are willing to give more than "board and clothes" for a servant. The local of the Montgomery *Advertiser* says he has seen negroes on the block in that city put up for hire for whom no bids were given. As a general thing, however, we believe, that negroes have been hired at fair prices for the times.

☞ Wisconsin, up to the first day of November last, had placed in the field thirty-four regiments of infantry, three regiments of cavalry, twelve batteries of light artillery, three batteries of heavy artillery, and one company of sharpshooters. Of this number sixteen thousand nine hundred and sixty three (nearly half of the entire number) have been lost to the service by death, discharge and desertion.

☞ Gen. Foster has been relieved from command at his own request, and General Schofield takes command of the Federals in East Tennessee.

The War in Mississippi.

We presume there is no doubt but that the enemy has re-occupied Jackson, Miss., with a strong force. He moved out from the Big Black in two columns, from the crossing at the bridge and Messenger's ferry, on the 1st inst. According to the reports of the Meridian *Clarion*, our pickets gradually fell back. On Tuesday and Wednesday the enemy concentrated at Edward's depot, our pickets occupying Champion hills. On Tuesday an advance was made to a point four miles west of Clinton. The *Clarion* of Sunday morning says:

We learn the enemy met with a severe repulse in his attempt to cross Big Black at Messenger's ferry. Gen. Lee planted a masked battery to command the ferry, and as soon as the column moved down to cross, he opened with grape and canister, inflicting severe injury and driving the column back. It is said they then crossed at Birdsong's ferry. Adams' and Ross' cavalry have fought gallantly. The latter met the enemy on foot at fifteen paces and drove them back with pistols. Major Bridges is among the officers killed on our side. The enemy left their killed and wounded in the hands of Ross. The expedition is said to be commanded by Sherman, with McPherson and Hurlbut as corps commanders.

Jackson was evacuated by our forces on Friday afternoon, about six o'clock. The enemy took possession almost immediately after our abandonment of the place. Our infantry fell back to Brandon, but Lee remained on the west side of the river, and will, no doubt, maintain his position there. By this time his force has been sufficiently augmented to warrant his making offensive demonstrations. The pontoon bridge at Jackson was destroyed by a few of our men under a very heavy fire from the enemy. One man was badly wounded.

The same journal also contains the following letter:

LETTER FROM BRANDON.

BRANDON, Feb. 6—*Editor Clarion:* We have just arrived here from Jackson. We are sorry to say it was taken possession of by the Yankees at dark last night. Gen. Lee fought them for two days with his cavalry, and made one of the best cavalry fights on record. Gen. Furgurson arrived and participated, with a part of his command, in the fight, from about 9 o'clock yesterday morning. All was done that could be to check the advance of the enemy, and our cavalry fought gallantly.

It was a sad sight to see the citizens, with but few exceptions, escaping, by every conveyance imaginable from the Yankee horde. Some were on foot, some on horses and mules, and here and there were seen the carriages of some of the more fortunate class—all were blended in one common mass. Their destination was east of Pearl river, and thence to any haven that will open to receive them.

There was nothing left at Jackson by our army. Every thing of value was removed, and the enemy have gotten but the bare walls of Jackson, as the fruits of their rapid, bold and successful move. Gen. Lee with Gen. Furgerson, are both still on the other side of Pearl river, and will continue the fight if the Yankees advance. Gen. Loring is on the move, and our forces are rapidly concentrating, where, and in what numbers it is unnecessary for us to state, but we believe will be in a position to make barren to the Federals any result of their present advance. There is nothing disheartening to us in the present attitude of the contending forces, and our opinion is based upon a full and careful survey of the field, that the Yankees will have cause to rue their advance. Weather beautiful. W.

☞ The cotton pickery near the bayou on Gayoso street, Memphis, was burned on the night of the 27th ult. It was the work of an incendiary.

☞ The Savannah *Republican* of Friday last says: We rejoice to see that Bishop George P. Pierce, one of the finest orators that Georgia ever produced, has consented to step aside from the ecclesiastical duties for a brief season and devote his great powers to the task of arousing his countrymen to duty in the present crisis. We hope Savannah will be among the early appointments of the Bishop.

☞ The Richmond *Examiner* says Harry Macarthy, the "Arkansas comedian," died near this city a few days ago. We have not heard of his death, and think that journal is in error.

☞ Gen. John A. McClernand has resigned from the Federal army, because he was not allowed to go to the field to vindicate his own actions, or to obtain a fair investigation at the hands of the Government.

THE CURRENCY BILL.—We are well assured that the Confederate Senate has passed the currency bill in secret session, and that what is known as Oldham's plan—a tax on the currency—is rejected. The House bill has been radically amended; and we are disposed to believe that the ground of compromise between the two Houses will be the constitution of a new currency, limited to two hundred millions of dollars, and sustained either by a pledge of cotton, or a special appropriation of future revenues. The fact is, Congress has got to sea again on the currency, and before the two houses can accommodate their differences, it is not unlikely the session may expire.—*Richmond Examiner, 6th inst.*

Eastern Carolina.

The feverish excitement of Tuesday increased with yesterday, and the inquiry on every hand was to hear from the East. Reports had already gone West of the taking of Newbern and the capture of many prisoners, but as the 'reliable' gentleman who started them went forward with them, we did not know so much here.

We received a dispatch from Goldsboro' yesterday about noon, stating that the train from Kinston had not arrived. It was due at seven or eight in the morning, but was detained by accident. The train which arrived here at noon brought all manner of rumors, from which it was impossible to arrive at anything reliable.

We were assured that it was believed at Goldsboro' that the railroad between Beaufort and Newbern had been torn up by our forces, that they were in two miles of Newbern on Tuesday morning, and had captured a whole Yankee regiment, which would be at Kinston yesterday, etc. All this may be so and it may not; we simply give it as we hear it. We only know that a considerable force has moved in the direction of Newbern, that there has been skirmishing, and that Col. Shaw was killed on Monday morning. This is all that we positively know up to this writing, though we hope much from the expedition.

We learn that a few of our enthusiastic fellow-citizens—Newbernians—have gone down, expecting to reach their homes, and do most sincerely trust that they may not be disappointed. If they get there before we do, we have only to request that they will save us a place at the feast—and be sure to look out for Geo. Mills Jr., who has our office and property in charge. *Raleigh Progress, Feb 4th.*

The Creoles of Louisiana.

A Massachusetts chaplain, Rev. Mr. Hepworth, writes of the Louisiana creoles:

Just beyond Carrollton is an immense and magnificent estate, owned by one of these Creoles. His annual yield of sugar is fifteen hundred hogsheads. He might have taken the oath of allegiance and thus saved his property; but he would not. The work of depredation commenced; but he bore it without a murmur.

First we took his wagons, harness and mules; he said nothing, but scowled most awfully. Next we emptied his stables of horses for the cavalry service; he did not have even a pony left, and was compelled to trudge along on foot; still nothing was said. Next we took his entire crop, grouted in his own sugar-house, used the barrels for the molasses and his hogsheads for the sugar, and marked 1 a head of each "U. S;" not a murmur. Then came his negroes, three hundred and more, house servants and all, took it into their woolly heads to come within our camp lines. The creole was most completely stripped; still he stood in the midst of the ruins, cursing Abe Lincoln, and wishing that he had eight instead of four sons in the rebel army.

GOBBLED, DOUBTLESS.—Two cotton buyers from this city, went down the river a few days since, and ventured into a secession district, on an expedition after the precious staple. They have not since made their appearance, and is considered more than probable that they have fallen into the hands of some prowling band of guerillas, as did the unfortunate Pores and Wolf.—*Memphis Bulletin.*

LETTER FROM DALTON.

Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

DALTON, February 7, 1864—Although there never has been a time when the army of Tennessee was so buoyant, hopeful and cheered as now; yet the dearth of news is such as to render any correspondent's letters free from that stirring interest which actual and active campaigning imparts to them. We are in winter quarters, no skirmishing in front, no maneuvering for position, and nothing to relieve the monotony of camp life except an occasional review. Gen. Johnston reviewed the army of Tennessee, in a body, on Saturday. It was a spectacle to make a Southerner's heart swell with pride and gratification. Immense lines of glittering bayonets and gay banners borne by men who have taken part in the fiercest battles of warfare, and whose patriotism, valor and endurance are above all impeachment. These troops were so disposed on an elevated ridge as to present to the eye a real cavalcade not surpassed in grandeur by any modern pageant. Fair ladies were there in bevies to add the inspiration of their sweet smiles and approving glances. The noble old 1st Tennessee, led by the gallant Fields, presented a splendid spectacle of high soldierly bearing and good marching, "keeping step" to the music of the finest band in the Confederacy. Many compliments were showered upon them by the spectators. Walthall's Mississippi brigade also elicited high commendation, as did many other brigades of the army. All were surprised at the immense numbers on the field. It was a cheering sight to witness so magnificent a display, and adds to the confidence pervading in the army of our final success, nay, I may say of our early triumph.

When the Yankees essay their next movement upon our lines, they will think, as they said at Chickamauga, that "the woods are alive with rebels" whose sure aim and determined action will tell them a different tale from what they experienced at Missionary ridge. Such a display is most inspiring and effectually dissipates any belief that the most timid may have fallen into, of our subjugation. "Subjugation" is, indeed, an impossibility, under such circumstances.

Added to these considerations, the army in general have unlimited confidence in their commanding general. It has certainly had a good effect in relieving General Bragg, at his own request. It was a most patriotic sacrifice, on his part, to ask for a change, seeing the dissensions which existed among some of his officers, and the impossibility (at present) of obtaining that cordial co-operation so necessary to the efficiency of an army. Unfortunately for him, Gen. Bragg was never backed by the force that his situation and the numbers of the foe in front of him demanded, and yet he fought with inferior numbers two of the most brilliant battles of the war. Gen. Bragg is a man of great ability and patriotism, and did as good service as any man could have done with his means. The country will yet acknowledge this. If Bragg had been rash and impetuous, as many counsellors would have advised him to do, he would have sacrificed his army, and what would have been our situation now? It was indeed, important to gain Kentucky and to hold Middle Tennessee. And yet it is undeniable that he was never furnished with the means to do so. He fought the enemy whenever he could, but always held his communications protected so as to retreat and save the army when pressed by overwhelming numbers. Who could have done more?

Tennessee was an Egypt to the Confederacy. When our army was stationed in Middle Tennessee it was established at one-fifth the cost that it now requires to feed it in Northern Georgia. When corn was selling at $60 50 to $3 00 in Georgia, Tennessee farmers were willingly furnishing it at seventy-five cents per bushel. Bacon at that time, was selling at $1 40 per pound in the Gulf States, while in Middle Tennessee there was an abundance at twenty five cents per pound. The army is now well fed, but it could be much more bountifully provided for in Kentucky and Tennessee as well as at a far less cost to the Confederacy. Kentuckians and Tennesseans have proven that they are not only true patriots, but that they are willing to trust the President and their general to make one more glorious endeavor to reclaim their lost territory to the Confederacy, and to plant the "Southern cross" upon the hill tops and in the lovely valleys of their down-trodden and oppressed Commonwealths.

I am happy to announce to you that Lieut.-Gen. Hardee has returned to the army and resumed command of his corps. The man he commands have the highest esteem for him, as a soldier and gentleman. They admire his capacity, chivalry and patriotism, and will fight as gallantly under his lead as under that of any officer in the army. They all unite in wishing that no mischance may prevent him from enjoying the happiness which lies before him, since he has taken to his bosom a fair young bride.

Gen. Cheatham's old division has again been assigned to him by the Secretary of War. The announcement of this has created the most unrestrained demonstrations of satisfaction from the gallant veterans composing the old division. They have long desired to be restored to their old command. They love Cheatham and have the highest confidence in his skill and daring, after having followed his lead in many bloody battles, and having been eye-witnesses of his bearing. They have never been satisfied with the change which was made at Missionary ridge. They now feel "set up" again, to use an expressive vulgarism, and will go wherever Cheatham orders them.

LAMBDA TAU.

FORTY-FIFTH MISSISSIPPI.

At a meeting of companies B and D, 45th Mississippi regiment, Lieut. William Fox was called to the chair, and Serg't J. W. Buchanan requested to act as secretary. The chairman having explained the object of the meeting, a committee of two from each company were appointed to draft suitable resolutions.

The preamble and resolutions being voted upon separately, were adopted unanimously.

Whereas, our beautiful and Sunny South is now overrun by a vandal horde, mercenaries of a truculent and detestable tyrant, who has armed our slaves for our subjugation, and committed acts through his no less execrated minions, that are not to be found in the annals of civilized nations; and whereas, our time of enlistment is not out until November next, but we deem it our imperative duty to show to the authorities that we are now, as we have been, ready to renew our obligations to our Government, and to strike as long as the enemy's foot oppresses our sacred soil. Therefore, be it resolved—

1. That the members of companies B and D, 45th Mississippi regiment re-enlist for the war, with the request that we be permitted to select our regiment in case the 45th Mississippi does not re enlist before the expiration of their term of service.

2. That we would be glad to reorganize, but at the same time, we will cheerfully submit to any legislation the Government may see fit to pass on this subject.

3. That the Memphis APPEAL be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

LIEUT. WM. FOX, Chairman.

SERG'T J. M. BUCHANAN, Secretary.

Interesting from Louisiana and Texas.

[From the Memphis Bulletin.]

We gather from persons recently arrived from New Orleans many interesting facts in relation to affairs in the department of the Gulf:

In Texas the army within the past few weeks has made several very important advances. Gen. Fitz Henry Warren occupying Indianola and reconnoitering the country beyond. Matagorda and Lavaca are also in our possession. In the beginning of January an expedition was set out from Decros point, Texas, and moved up Matagorda peninsula in co-operation with the gunboats, and made some important discoveries in relation to the enemy's plans. The rebel gunboat Carr was destroyed while endeavoring to check any further advance on our part. As the expedition was on its return, a large body of the enemy's cavalry were seen charging across the plain, with a design of cutting the expedition off. Our troops being very much less in number, immediately withdrew to some neighboring sand hills, where, while part were keeping the attention of the enemy engaged, the rest with their bayonets dug up the sand, and filling their blankets, which were used for bags, soon found themselves well protected and their inferiority of numbers equalized by advantage and security of position. After besieging our troops for about twenty hours, the enemy fearing reinforcements, which, in fact, were moving to our assistance, withdrew, raising the siege and moving for Brazos river as fast as possible. No very important movements, with an eye to a campaign, are looked for in Texas at present. Major-Gen. Herron has been appointed to the command of a new district, extending along the Rio Grande, and designated the "District of the Frontier."

From the Techo country we learn nothing of importance, in a military point of view. The army has gone into winter quarters for the present.

The prisoners captured some time ago near Bayou Teuteuse, recently returned, bringing very glowing accounts of rebel prosperity in Western Louisiana. The people are becoming tired of fighting, and wish to return to their plantations, which are rapidly becoming dilapidated and overgrown. Prices in that section are most exorbitant. Confederate money has declined to 16 cents on the dollar. Gold worth $18. Bad rum $25 per bottle, and everything else in proportion.

The treatment of our prisoners at Natchitoches, Alexandria and Shreveport, is shocking, many of them wanting the necessaries of life, and are poorly clad. An arrangement has been made between General Franklin, of our army, and Gen. Taylor, Confederate States army, for the supply of our men with the requisite clothing and blankets.

In New Orleans political matters absorb the attention of the people. The recent proclamation of Gen. Banks has given much food for the loquacity of the politicians and the press.

The Union conventions of the city are becoming quite popular, and answering a good purpose.

Gen. Banks is still in New Orleans. Brig.-Gen. Albert L. Lee, well known in this department, has for some months past been chief of cavalry on Gen. Banks' staff. He is now organizing a large force, and will, in all probability, take a leading part in Banks' campaign, which must soon open. No better officer than Gen. Lee could have been chosen to lead the troops that are to restore Texas to her allegiance.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, February 4—The Senate met at 12 o'clock M.; Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, in the chair. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Leyburn, of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Sommes said a bill had passed the Senate on the previous day without the notice or knowledge of the majority of Senators. It had not attracted attention because it had been reported adversely by the Military committee. He alluded to the bill to create the office of ensign in the army. This bill, if it became a law, would create four or five hundred additional officers, when it was a well known fact that we had already a superabundance of officers. This fact was shown by the great number of officers in proportion to privates made prisoners whenever any of our troops were captured by the enemy. This increase of officers would also add greatly to the expenses of the Government. In view of these facts he would move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. Clark said that as the Senator from Mississippi, (Mr. Phelan) who introduced the bill, was not in his seat, he hoped the motion would not be passed.

Mr. Sommes said that in the absence of the author of the measure he would not press his motion, but would request it to be entered to prevent the bill from being sent to the House, if it had not already been sent.

The following joint resolutions of thanks were considered and passed:

House joint resolution of thanks to certain Florida troops.

House joint resolution of thanks to Brig.-Gen. Ramseur's brigade.

And House joint resolution of thanks to the division commanded by Major-Gen. Rodes.

On motion of Mr. Sommes, the Senate resolved into secret session on the currency bill.

NOTE.—In the report of Wednesday's Senate proceedings, on the bill to organize a staff for the army in the field to serve during the war, being taken up, we mentioned that the bill had been passed by the Senate, but not by the House, during the last session of Congress. This was not the correct history of the bill. It was passed by both Houses during the last session and pocketed by the President.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at eleven o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. James A. Duncan, of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The House took up, as unfinished business, the resolution reported from the committee on Claims, for the relief of Wellington Goddin.

The resolution proposes to raise the rent of the building occupied by the Post Office Department, commencing with the 1st of June last, to such amount as may be agreed upon between the committee on Public Buildings and said Goddin; and in case of a disagreement, the rent to be fixed by a board of assessors; the said Goddin agreeing to reduce the rent of any time in proportion to the reduction of the rent of other buildings, by an appreciation in the value of the currency, or other causes.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, moved to amend the resolution by striking out "the 1st of June last," so as to make the increased rent commence from its passage.

The resolution was opposed by Mr. Clark, of Georgia, and Mr. Machen, of Kentucky, and favored by Mr. Clopton, of Alabama, and Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina.

The motion of Mr. Jones was lost.

On motion of Mr. Clark, the resolution was laid upon the table.

Mr. Sexton, of Texas, moved a suspension of the rule to enable him to make a report from the committee on quartermasters and commissaries. The motion was not agreed to.

Mr. Clopton, from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Livingston Mimms. The bill proposes to release certain property in Jackson, Mississippi, from the claims of the Government, which property was purchased by said Mimms, under authority of the military commander of the Department, for the purposes of a military hospital, and used as such; the Government refusing now to confirm the purchase. The sum of thirty thousand dollars was paid by the claimant for the property.

The bill was taken up and passed.

Mr. Clopton, from the same committee, reported a joint resolution for the relief of Major Henry R. Hooper. It proposes to give him credit at the treasury department, in the settlement of his accounts as quartermaster, for twenty one thousand seven hundred dollars, the amount destroyed by him at Vicksburg in the possession of the enemy, by command of Major-Gen. John B. Bowen.

The resolution was passed.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, the forty-second rule, which requires bills to lie over two days before being sent to the Senate, and also the rule which requires Senate amendments to House bills to be referred to committee, were suspended for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Baldwin, of Virginia, from the committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill to increase the compensation of certain officers of the Treasury, and it was taken up for consideration.

Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, moved to amend the bill by adding an additional section, extending the increase proposed to be allowed to the clerks and employees of the Treasury Department at Richmond, to the clerks and employees of the same Department at Columbia, South Carolina. Adopted.

Mr. Ewing, of Kentucky, moved to amend further by adding the following proviso: That the above act shall only remain in force until the 15 of May next." Mr. Foote said that he hoped by the 12th of May the currency would be so much improved that the salaries proposed would be too great; and it was for this reason that he desired that it should be limited.

The amendment was not agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to its engrossment, read a third time and passed, in the following form:

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact: That hereafter the following salaries and compensation shall be paid to the several officers and clerks hereinafter named, instead of the sums now authorized by law:

The Treasurer of the Confederate States, four thousand dollars.

The Assistant Treasurer at Charleston, four thousand dollars.

The Secretary of the Treasury may divide depositaries of the Treasury into classes, the commissions in which shall be limited as follows: In the first class, not to exceed four thousand dollars; in the second class, not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars; and in the third class, not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars a year, according to the character of the duties now required of them, and subject to the other conditions now imposed by law.

Each clerk employed in the office of any Assistant Treasurer or Depositary, shall receive a salary to be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury, not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars.

That the increase of salaries allowed to the clerks and employees in the Treasury Department at Richmond, be and the same is hereby extended upon the same conditions, to the clerks and employees of the same department at Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. Chambers, of Mississippi, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to authorize the President to establish and control military courts. It proposes to confer upon the President the power to establish a military court with any division of cavalry in the field.

Mr. Gray, of Texas, moved to amend the bill by adding, "and also one for each State within any military department."

The amendment was adopted, and the bill, as amended, passed.

Mr. Conrad, of Louisiana, from the committee on Naval Affairs, reported back, without amendment, and with a recommendation that it pass, Senate bill to amend the act to establish a volunteer navy, approved April 19, 1862.

The bill was taken up and passed.

Mr. Conrad, from the same committee, reported back Senate joint resolution for the relief of Lieutenants McDaniel and Francis M. Ewing, of Kentucky, with the following substitute, which was considered and passed:

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to cause the claim of Zedekiah McDaniel and Francis M. Ewing, for compensation for having, by means of a torpedo invented and used by them, sunk the steam gunboat Cairo, in the Yazoo river, on or about the 12th day of December, 1862, to be adjusted under the provisions of the act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled an act to amend an act recognizing the existence of war between the United States and the Confederate States, approved April 21, 1862."

Mr. Clapp, of Mississippi, from the committee on Claims, reported a joint resolution for the relief of Mary C. Morgan, John McCown and Samuel McCown. It proposes to pay for horses taken from these individuals by the Government.

Pending the consideration of this resolution, the House, on motion of Mr. Gartrell, went into secret session for the purpose of considering the bill of military exemptions.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, February 5—The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by Mr. Hunter, president *pro tem*.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Leyburn, of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Sparrow, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported back, with a recommendation that it do pass, House bill to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities, which was placed upon the calendar.

Mr. S. (from the same committee) asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the Senate bill to place free persons of color in the military service of the Confederate States, as the subject was provided for in the House bill just reported.

Mr. S. also (from the same committee) reported back, with a recommendation that it do pass, the bill to amend an act entitled an act to provide and organize engineer troops, to serve during the war, approved March 26, 1860:

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That the above recited act be so amended that there shall be allowed to each regiment of engineer troops two quartermaster sergeants.

The bill was considered and passed.

Mr. Johnson presented a memorial of certain officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of Battle's brigade, praying the privilege of reorganization and re-election of officers, without consolidating regiments and companies, in any way destroying the identity of the same; which was referred to the committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Sommes, the bill making additional appropriations for the service of the Government, for the year ending June 30, 1864, was taken up.

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, offered the following amendment:

Provided, That no appropriation herein contained shall be expended in paying the salary of any officer who was appointed under the Provisional Government, and who has not been commissioned and confirmed by the Senate since the adoption of the permanent Government.

The adoption of the amendment was advocated by Messrs. Orr and Wigfall, and opposed by Messrs. Sommes, Graham, Hill and Clark.

Mr. Reade, of North Carolina, would vote for the proviso if made prospective.

Without coming to a vote on the proviso it was withdrawn, and the bill read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Phelan introduced a bill for the relief of persons who have been assessed, or paid the tax assessed on cotton, which cotton was subsequently destroyed by the authorities, which was referred to the committee on Finance.

Mr Patton introduced a bill to expedite the payment of the claims of deceased soldiers, which was referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr Clay from the committee on Military Affairs, reported back, with amendment, the bill to aid any State in commissioning and perfecting records concerning its troops, which was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Georgia, the House bill to amend the act to put an end to the exemption of persons who have heretofore furnished substitutes, was taken up by a vote of yeas 19, nays 8, and made the special order for Thursday next, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Clay, the Senate went into secret session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Duncan.

Mr. Hartridge, of Georgia, moved that the House go into secret session. Lost—yeas 29, nays 28, the speaker deciding the question in the negative.

Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, the rules being suspended for that purpose, offered joint resolution of thanks to the members of McClung's battery.

Resolutions adopted by that battery, as well as a letter commemorary of Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, were read to the House.

The resolution of thanks was passed unanimously.

The rules being suspended for that purpose, several resolutions, memorials, etc., were appropriately referred, without reading.

Mr. Miles, of South Carolina, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported back Senate bill to organize a general staff for the army. The bill, in the same phrase by both houses of Congress at the close of the last session, but which was never returned by the President, Congress adjourning before the limited time allowed by the Executive to keep measures passed by it for consideration, before signing or returning them, with his objections, had expired.

Mr. Chambers, of Mississippi, called the previous question, which was not ordered—ayes 46, noes 16—a two third vote being required.

On motion of Mr. Hartridge, the House went into secret session.

What is to be Done With the Rio Grande?

[New Orleans Correspondence New York World.]

You must abandon any great expectations from the Rio Grande expedition. It has accomplished all it can do as against the rebellion, and, until the arrival of French troops at Matamoros, nothing new will occur in that region. I perceive that Gen. Dana has thought it advisable to establish posts above Brownsville, so that travel into Mexico is unimpeded by way of Rio Grande City and Ringold, to say nothing of Rio Ima. But as long as Chenc Cortinas is military commandant at Matamoros, and on intimate terms with our forces, very little certainty of safety will attend the rebel trade with Matamoros or its vicinity; not that he will play into our hands, but into his own.

After some little time a Franco-Mexican force will appear in the rear of Matamoros, and all the interior of the State of Tamaulipas will declare for the intervention. Matamoros may hold out for months; but the towns up the river will go for intervention, and trade with Texas, and the wagons and carts will take the direction of Tampico or Sotoda Marina, under convoys if necessary. The business then done will be altogether in neutral hands, on neutral soil and under neutral flags; safer than any over yet done at Brownsville; nearly as expeditious, and, in these times of stamping the exposure, about as profitable. If you talk of sending troops up the river to prevent it, you will please them hugely, because you put yourself on a par with the rebels in difficulty as to supplies and distance from the base of operations.

Take it all in all, we have won an elephant in the Rio Grande. We have done something it is true; we have broken up, for a while, the rebel trade there, and diminished their supplies; if a vigorous prosecution could be had elsewhere, as part of a combined attack, it might be of great utility. This, however, must not be long postponed, or the interrupted trade will be reconnected. Whether the movement by way of Indianola will have prosperous weather is more than doubtful, and if it has, whether it will reap permanent advantages is also quite problematical. *Now, surrounded.*

The fact is, the right bank of the Rio Grande, while it might be convenient as a refuge were the rebels to turn the tables on us, is, as we now stand, very much in the way. If the French divide its ownership with Cortina and Serna it is still more so; and, with the evidences before us of their want of sympathy with our cause, and their knowledge of our want of sympathy with theirs, if they should get Matamoros and the mouth of the river in their hands, we have got on ours a most painful burden.

The War News—The Expedition Against Newbern.

Advices received yesterday from North Carolina were very sanguine of the recapture of Newbern, and represented that it had been completely invested by our forces. The report yesterday was that our troops had obtained possession of the outer line of fortifications.

Newbern is the key to a large and productive country, in which, even now, vast amounts of provisions are contained. It is also reported to be the rendezvous of a large number of fugitive slaves, and the most important depot of supplies which the enemy has in Eastern North Carolina.

We are sorry to dash the reports which were so freely circulated yesterday of a success at Newbern. There is no doubt that a dispatch was received yesterday by the Government that Gen. Pickett had found it necessary to fall back to Kinston, and was then performing that movement.

The report, which we copied in our columns yesterday, of the cutting of the railroad, is understood to have been intended to prevent reinforcements reaching the garrison at Newbern. But whatever may have been the result of the affair, we are left to conclude that Gen. Pickett found the enemy's works at Newbern too strong to carry by assault, and has retired; his six brigades of infantry, with artillery and cavalry to match, having turned out to be a successful foraging expedition.

The defences of Newbern are certainly of the most formidable description, and, from what we can learn, are well calculated to withstand the perils of any assault. The town is situated between two rivers, and the strip of land, not more than a mile wide, is said to be traversed by a deep ditch, twenty feet wide, with a gunboat stationed at each of its extremities.—*Richmond Dispatch, 6th*

[OFFICIAL DISPATCH.]

KINSTON, Feb. 3d, 1864.

To General S. Cooper:

I made a reconnoissance within a mile and a half of Newbern with Hoke's brigade, and a part of Corse's and Clingman's, and some artillery, met the enemy in force at Batchelor's creek, killed and wounded about one hundred and, captured thirteen officers and two hundred and eighty prisoners, fourteen negroes, two rifled pieces and caissons, three hundred stand of small arms, four ambulances, three wagons, fifty five animals, a quantity of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, and two flags.

Commander Wood, C. S. N., captured and destroyed the United States gunboat Underwriter.

Our loss 26 killed and wounded.

G. E. PICKETT, Major Gen. Commanding.

Capture of the Gunboat Underwriter.

[OFFICIAL DISPATCH.]

KINSTON, February 4, 1864.

Hon. S. S. Mallory:

The force under my command boarded and captured, last night, the United States gunboat Underwriter, four guns, and ninety men and officers.

Her position was within musket range of several strong works; one of which was raking the vessel during the time we had possession, and her not having steam we caused me to burn her.

Our loss is twenty killed and wounded, and four missing; the enemy's unknown.

J. TAYLOR WOOD.

Another Official Dispatch.

To General S. Cooper:

WILMINGTON, February 4.—On the 2d instant Gen. Martin, with the 17th and 42d, and Col. Jackson's command from Kenansville, broke the railroad at Sheppardville, driving the enemy from their works at Newport barracks and across Newport river.

W. H. C. WHITING, Major General.

Rosecrans' Official Report.

The New York *World* gives the following epitome of the official report of Gen. Rosecrans of the battle of Chickamauga:

1. That he maneuvered Bragg out of Chattanooga, but was obliged to fight him before getting a secure possession of it himself, and into the stretching of his line, so much complained of, was a part of the strategy which accomplished the main purpose.

2. His own army was quite too small for the work he had in hand, being largely outnumbered by the infantry force of the enemy. Hence, much more depended upon active and correct handling of his men than if his forces had been sufficient. It is plain, too, that while his dispositions were made to the mind for the first day of the fight, and so succeeded, that on the second day there was something of blundering by somebody, and that on this the enemy owed all the advantage they gained. It would not be strange if it has to be distributed somewhat; nor that it should prove to be due to the extreme tension of brain and muscle to which parties had been so long subjected. Men bodily overworked cannot always be themselves. The country, too, was rough, broken and unexplored.

3. He own losses Gen. Rosecrans puts definitely own as 36 pieces of artillery, 40 caissons and 8000 stands of small arms. Our loss in prisoners exceeded that of the enemy 5500, of whom 2500 were wounded.

4. There was no general defeat of the army on either day. One division, a part of two brigades, and a regiment, were routed, and no more. All the rest of the army was in position on the second night. General Rosecrans attributes the loss of so much artillery to the broken nature of the ground, which made it impossible to get it off under the pressure of superior forces.

5. His relinquishment of the ground, after the second day, was partly the result of necessity and partly strategical. His road to Chattanooga had been secured the first day of the fight, and had never been lost. The fight was for the possession of this road. He could have probably held his position where it was the evening of the second day's battle. But as his army had been weakened by the rout of one division, and no supports were near, and as Chattanooga was the real object in view, he deemed it prudent to withdraw into it, and to relinquish the advantages of possessing the battle fields.

☞ Adjt.-Gen. Cooper has found it necessary to publish a general order forbidding the impressment of supplies of provisions *in transitu* to arsenals, armories and ordnance depots, under the order of the commanding officer of the same. It appears that the mania of impressment has gone to such extent that even the Government has to protect itself against the violence of its own officers.

BUTLER'S BOAT—The Petersburg *Express* says of the Smithfield captures:

The Smith Briggs was a new boat, about the size of the Curtis Peck, which for a long time ran as a passenger boat on James river, and is represented to have been a model of beauty and speed. She was built three months ago at a cost of $85,000, and with her elegant outfit, armament, etc., stood the Yankee Government