THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

BY M'CLANAHAN & DILL. ATLANTA, GA., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1864. VOL. XV, NO. 2

The Memphis Appeal.

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Terms of Subscription.

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APPEAL JOB OFFICE

WE have the satisfaction of announcing to our friends that we recently purchased and have now in connection with the APPEAL publication office, one of the most

EXTENSIVE and FINEST

JOB PRINTING OFFICES

In the Confederacy,

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JOB WORK

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Our facilities for executing ARMY work are superior, and we invite the attention of Quartermasters, Commissaries, and other government officials thereon.

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Orders will be promptly filled by experienced workmen. Address

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PRINTING, BINDING PAPER, Etc.

HAVING contracted a large building in Columbus, Ga., and removed our machinery from Macon, we would inform Quartermasters' Bank and Railroad officers, and the public, that we are as well prepared as before the war to execute all orders in our line. We have been importing from Europe largely of articles used in our trade, and now have on hand a stock consisting in part of the following articles:

200 Reams Eng. Double Cap Writing,
200 " " Royal—white, blue and buff,
200 " " Bank Note Paper,
500 " White and Blue French and English Folio Post,
500 Reams White and Blue Eng. Cap,
1000 Reams White and Blue English and French Letter,
1000 " English Bath Letter, small;
2000 " White and Blue Note.

ALSO,

Blotting, Copying and Domestic PAPERS,

1,000,000 Assorted Envelopes,

7000 gross Steel's and other makers' steel pens, Pencils-in Prentis, Cedar Wax, Ink and almost all articles of stationery.

Also, a small stock of best ENGLISH BLANK BOOK PAPER, ruled and unruled, just received; with which we are prepared to manufacture any kind of Blank Books.

We are now opening the above valuable stock, and advise our friends and all others in want to call soon in their orders, as the stock may be so much broken as to prevent us from filling them properly.

New Publications.

NOW READY:

"ANDREW'S MOUNTED AND FIELD ARTILLERY DRILL,"

By Lieut. Col. C. S. Andrews, Army of Northern Virginia. Illustrated with twenty-nine handsome folio lithographed engravings. Bound in flexible cloth, and bound cambric. This book is published under instruction of the Ordnance Department, C. S. A., and should be in the hands of every artillery officer. Price $4—postage 40 cents.

In Press—Soon to be Published:

"GENERAL ORDERS,"

From the Adjutant and Inspector General's office up to January 1, 1864, with copious index and other valuable matter. Edited by Col. Thomas Jordan, Chief of Gen. Beauregard's staff. Price $6—the third off to the trade.

"CHISOLM'S SURGERY,"

Being a third edition of the valuable work, revised and enlarged by the author, J. J. Chisolm, Surgeon C. S. A., illustrated.

"MARMONT'S WORK ON MILITARY SCIENCE,"

Translated from the French by Col. Frank Shaller, U. S. A., with notes by the editor. Illustrated.

"PHILIP,"

A New Novel, by Wm. H. Thackery. Lately deceased; splendidly illustrated with portrait of the author and other engravings.

"OLLENDORFF'S NEW METHOD OF LEARNING FRENCH,"

Being a reprint of the valuable work now entirely out of print, and much needed by the youth of our country.

Also—One hundred thousand copies of the New Testament and Poems for the "Confederate States Bible society," with several works for other Societies and Publishers.

Having arrangements for securing full supplies of all kinds of Printing Papers, we are prepared to undertake the printing of any book of value to the country, and expect to continue the publication of Military, School and other useful books.

Evans & Cogswell,

feb8 1m

C. B. WELLBORN,.....J. A. TAYLOR.
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WELLBORN, TAYLOR & CO.,

GENERAL AUCTION AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

REAL ESTATE and NEGRO BROKERS,

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Consignments solicited. Goods bought and sold on commission.

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P. P. PEASE,

COMMISSION MERCHANT,

AT THE Old stand of the late firm of Pease & Davis, Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia,

WILL attend promptly to all orders or consignments entrusted to his care.

P. P. PEASE, Atlanta, Ga.

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Daily Appeal.

MORNING EDITION.

ATLANTA, GA.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1864

TO THE PUBLIC.

We have been informed by several gentlemen that they have been charged fifty cents for a single copy of our paper by some of the newsboys. This is contrary to our instructions, and the understanding by which the paper is placed in their hands at a price that enables them to sell at twenty-five cents a copy and realize a handsome profit. Any departure from this understanding reported at the office, will prevent a repetition of the fraud. Our price at the counter is twenty-five cents a single copy.

RAGS WANTED.

The highest market price, either in money or subscription, will be paid for clean cotton or linen rags, white or colored, delivered at the APPEAL counting-room, Atlanta.

ENCOURAGEMENT.—There are those who imagine that the capture of a few cities and towns by our enemy is the subjugation of the country. For the comfort of all such we cite the words of Gen. Washington, who in the dark hours of his day wrote as follows: "I am well convinced that the enemy, long ere this, are perfectly well satisfied that the possession of our towns, while we have an army in the field, will avail them little. It involves us in difficulty, but it does not by any means counte conquest to them. They will know that it is our arms, not defenseless towns, which they have to subdue, before they can arrive at the haven of their wishes; and that, until this is accomplished, the superstructure they have been endeavoring to raise will, 'like the baseless fabric of a vision,' fall to nothing."

A STUMBLING BLOCK.—Alluding to the fact that letters from England up to the 16th of January, received at Columbia, express the surprise of merchants on learning from their Southern correspondents that there are no British consuls in the Confederate States, while those of Spain and France still remain, the *South Carolinian* says: "If no other fact declared the hostility of Lord John Russell to the South, and his desire of arousing to a still higher degree the already turbulent spirit of Englishmen in our behalf, this simple withholding of information that would touch every honest Englishman's pride, and lead him to investigate the causes thereof, is proof of his bitter enmity. While that man remains in power, we can expect nothing but opposition, intrigue and subjugation of British pluck by Yankee diplomacy. Let him die, however, or be put out of the way, and the Confederacy is as sure of recognition, if not intervention, as she is of her own independence.

☞ Harry Timrod, of the *South Carolinian*, has been taking unto himself a wife. All right! As Milton says:

"Our Maker bids increase; who bids abstain,
But our destroyer, foe to God and man."

FROM LOUISIANA.—The enemy below, says the Louisiana *Democrat* of the 27th ult., are gradually leaving and crossing the bay. They have yet a force of some 4000 at and near Franklin.

THE YANKEES IN JACKSON.—We learn that the Yankees pillaged every house in Jackson as they passed through, treating some of the citizens in the most brutal manner. Judge Wm. Yerger, one of the first citizens of the State, was, we are informed, knocked down in front of his residence and his watch taken from him.—*Mississippian.*

THE ENEMY IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY.—A letter received in this city, from Gloucester county, Virginia, says that the Federal cavalry—not the enemy continually. They have entrenched all the negroes without regard to physical ability. None of them have yet been carried off; but the draft is constantly looked for. This proceeding precludes all possibility of the owners of slaves sending any of their negroes south *for safe keeping.*—*Richmond Enquirer, 15th.*

DISASTERS TO BLOCKADERS.—Advices from Wilmington state that the City of Petersburg, Spunky and Eliza Fall are ashore on the North Carolina coast. The Emily is loaded with bacon on Government account. The steamer Scotia while attempting to run in, was mistaken by our batteries for a Federal vessel, fired on and destroyed. Four of the crew are said to be killed. Mr. Thouron, formerly Purser of the Beauregard, is said to be among the missing.

It matters keep on at this rate very long blockade goods will go up, and blockade stocks will go down.—*Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel.*

The Spunky is ashore, but safe, and will probably be got off. The City of Petersburg got out a few days since, and is now probably at Nassau. We cannot speak as to the Emily. The Scotia was run ashore by her pilot opposite Wrightsville on Wednesday; a Yankee blockader was endeavoring to cut her off. This was eighteen to twenty miles from New Inlet. She was not fired upon by any of our batteries. We regret to learn that a majority of her crew have been lost or captured. Mr. Thouron is safe. The Scotia had a valuable cargo, almost wholly on Government account.—*Wilmington Journal.*

STATE TREASURY NOTES.—Under an act of the Legislature at the late session, says the Montgomery *Advertiser*, Gov. Watts determined to issue two millions five hundred thousand dollars in State Treasury notes of large denominations. These notes are to aid in paying appropriations of the General Assembly. A contract was made with J. T. Peterson & Co., of Augusta, Ga., for the execution of the notes. That firm will be ready in a month or six weeks to begin the delivery of them. The notes are required, by the act, to be signed by the Comptroller and State Treasurer. The act leaves it optional with the State to fund them in five per cent. State bonds. We predict that these notes will prove acceptable to the people of the State, and assist materially to fill the vacuum which will be produced by the funding and taxation law of Congress.

☞ The Albany *Evening Journal* says, "Beauregard held the commission of captain; Hill, that of first lieutenant; Hardee, that of lieutenant-colonel; Stonewall Jackson, that of second lieutenant; Albert S. Johnston, that of colonel and brevet brigadier-general; Lee, that of colonel; Longstreet, that of paymaster; Marcy, that of captain; Marmaduke, that of second lieutenant; Magruder, that of captain; Pegram, that of first lieutenant; Pemberton, that of captain; Quattlebaum, that of second lieutenant; Rains, that of lieutenant-colonel; Stuart, that of captain; Kirby Smith, that of major. The only general who turned traitor was Twiggs."

A QUEER MISTAKE.—In our account of the recent heavy loss of cotton by fire in this place, we put the cotton at $1 50, meaning a dollar and a half, (per pound being understood). We notice that nearly every paper that has copied that account omits the period after the figure one, thus making $150, (one hundred and fifty dollars,) rather too much for a pound, and considerably too little for a bale. A bale of 450 pounds, at $1 50 per pound, comes to $675, which agrees with the total for 1025 bales—$691,875.—*Wilmington Journal.*

☞ Is it not surprising that that wandering minstrel, John Van Buren, does not turn up somewhere in these piping times?

LATE CONGRESSIONAL ENACTMENTS.

The publications of the laws lately passed by Congress have been commenced.

No. 1 So amends the old "tax in kind" law as to authorize the producers of sweet potatoes, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three, to make commutation by payment of the money value of the tithe thereof, instead of payment in kind at rates to be fixed by the commissioners under the impressment act.

No. 2 authorizes quartermasters and other agents engaged in the collection of tax in kind, "in demand and receive, in commutation for the tax in kind on bacon, an equivalent therefor in salt pork."

No 3 provides that "no person liable to military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service, nor shall any substitute be received, enlisted or enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States."

No. 4 provides that the public printer shall hereafter receive "such compensation as the joint committee on printing of the two houses may determine to be equitable."

No. 5 provides "that no person shall be exempted from military service by reason of his having furnished a substitute; but this act shall not be so construed as to affect persons who, though not liable to render military service, have, nevertheless, furnished substitutes."

No. 6 relates to the election of delegates to Congress from the Indian Territories.

No. 7 continues in force until the 1st of January, 1865, the act entitled "An act to provide for the compensation of certain persons therein named," approved May 1st, 1863, which, by its own limitation, would expire on the 1st day of January, 1864.

No. 8 provides for the appointment of an auditor of the treasury for the Postoffice Department, who shall be styled the third auditor, and who shall be charged with all the duties connected with the Postoffice Department which the first auditor is now required to perform, who shall receive for his service a salary of three thousand dollars per annum.

No 9 returns the thanks of the country and Congress to Gen. Robert E. Lee and the officers and soldiers under his command.

No. 10 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, "upon the receipt of satisfactory evidence, that eight per centum bonds, issued by him, upon the requisitions of the Secretary of the Navy, dated October the eighteenth and twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, for one million of dollars, each, have been cancelled abroad, to substitute and deliver to the Secretary of the Navy an equal number of bonds of like character."

No. 11 continues in force the act to increase the pay of certain officers and employees of the executive and legislative departments, approved October 13, 1862.

No. 12 prescribes the manner of hereafter holding elections for Representatives to Congress from Missouri. Its provisions are similar to those now governing like proceedings for Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Situation in Mississippi.

From the Mississippian, 16th.]

Our intelligence from Mississippi is still unsatisfactory. Scarcely two persons tell the same tale. It will not do to place any credence upon the thousand and one stories which float about promiscuously.

There is reason for believing that Meridian was evacuated on Sunday by our troops, and that the enemy moved in yesterday, though there is no positive information of these facts. The public stores and ammunition have been removed to Demopolis. The archives of Mississippi have also been removed to a safe point. Every necessary precaution has been taken, and we think our commanding general knows what he is about.

The best estimate we have had of the force of the enemy is as follows: Two columns of infantry, of 35,000 men, and 15,000 cavalry. The advance guard consists of cavalry, followed by a column of infantry—then the wagon train, consisting of twelve hundred wagons, guarded on either side by a file of men four deep—then another column of infantry, with cavalry in the rear. The force is quite formidable, but we believe we are able to cope with it, and, aided by the co-operation of the elements, we are in great hope that the whole body will be destroyed.

The Horrors of War.

From the Charleston Courier.]

Milton, in one of his sonnets—which show powers not unworthy of the author of "Paradise Lost"—addressed to the youngest Vane, remark it as one of his gifts and qualities as a statesman:

"—to advise how war may, best upheld,
Move by his two mighty nerves, iron and gold,
In time of peace."

Have we yet learned to use and call out these nerves according to our opportunities and resources?

The only use we have practically made of gold has been to make it a measure of the debasement and depreciation, ensuing in our own mismanagement, of our financial resources and material equivalents and factors of credit.

We have the soil, which, before the opening of the California mines, largely supplied the gold of America. These mines with us that have been worked could yield more under a better system of machinery and economy—it is probable that new mines could be opened.

The issue of coin in any quantity with the Confederate "image and superscription" would have given to the world and to the doubtful at home a more convincing and belief-compelling assurance of our earnestness than any utterance of diplomacy. A very small quantity of gold would have aided largely in domestic transactions had we not fallen into a system of blockade running injurious to our best resources and tending to build up an interest favorable to the indefinite prolongation of the war.

Had proper means been devised to develope and exercise our own basis of credit by substituting cotton for gold abroad and strengthening our own circulation by appliances more healthful and vitalizing than paper, the war might have exhibited financial triumphs and demonstrations of resources before unknown, equal to the grand and glorious achievements of our arms in the field.

An almost fatal blunder was committed at the outset in appealing to cupidity instead of patriotism, as a basis for a Government loan; a more fatal blunder has been made in repudiating some of the liabilities of the first, and the consequences of the gross error are now severely felt, not as much, perhaps, in their actual effects as yet, as in the apprehensions they excite concerning the future policy of the Treasury Department.

Want of gold, or of any generally recognised medium and symbol of credit and exchange, would be a sore evil to any people, but with cotton, and tobacco, not to mention others, in the present state of the wants and demands of the world, much could have been done—but want of confidence is an evil that will task the highest skill of the best financial administration. Confession and recantation, and promises of amendment, may, however, do much towards restoring confidence.

As to iron it is known to almost every citizen in or out of Congress, that several of our States have the ores in abundance and of excellent varieties and available qualities. In one State, at least, we find abundance of good fuel near the iron ore.

Have we done, or are we now attempting to do our full duty, as to this "nerve" of war and of peace?

FIRE.—The Talladega *Reporter* learns that S. Leeper, Esq., of Columbiana, Shelby county, has had the misfortune to lose his kitchen, smoke house with contents—the whole being consumed by fire. The fire originated in the smoke-house and was accidental.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GEN. FORREST'S COMMAND.

ATLANTA, February 17, 1864.

EDITORS APPEAL: On Tuesday, the 9th instant, I left General Forrest's headquarters, at Oxford, Mississippi, in company with Governor Harris, who I *left* at Meridian, making his way to Gen. Polk's headquarters. We came from Oxford to Okolona, where we learned that all the rolling stock on the Mobile and Ohio road had been sent south of Meridian. We took a dirt car and got two negro boys who assisted us to push up grade, and on down grade we "let her rip," till we reached Artesia, where we learned that a train would be up the next day after some remnants of stores, so we "lay over," and took the train next morning, and reached Meridian at sunrise the following morning, and found that Generals Polk and Loring were moving east toward the Bigbee. At 12 o'clock that day the Yankees arrived and took possession of the place. All the cars on all the connecting roads, except a small train which ran on the Columbus branch, together with the archives and joint committee on printing of the two houses may determine to be equitable."

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been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in Col. Johnson's regiment. There are few men of his age and experience who possess a more thorough knowledge of military matters than Col. Winder, and none who are

"More stubbornly during in the fight."

From General Lee's Army.

[Correspondence Richmond Sentinel.]

ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Feb. 6.

The Mississippi brigade, late under the command of Gen. Posey, is composed of the 16th, 12th, 19th and 48th. The two latter regiments had enlisted for the war at the commencement of the struggle, and as the 16th and the 12th were about to take action upon the subject of their re-enlistment, Col. D. C. Glenn, one of Mississippi's most gifted sons, took occasion to make a few remarks. Col. Glenn was formerly acting general of the State, and is now one of the judges of the military court attached to Gen. A. P. Hill's corps.

He commenced by stating that he had asked and obtained leave from Gen. Hill to address the brigade upon the subject of their re-enlistment, not that he deemed it necessary to persuade Mississippians to continue fighting for their homes, but that he took this opportunity to make a few remarks upon the war, as well as the subject more immediately before them. Every man was needed here at the front in the coming campaign, and although the hardships were great and the deprivations many, yet the burthen was alike upon all of us. He had enlisted as a private in the ranks, for the war and to the closed, the war he intended to remain, in whatever position or rank he might be called to. The war must continue and we must fight it out. If we look at the Yankee programme we will see that there is no hope for us but in our being successful in the end. The Yankees look forward to the entire subjugation of the South, equality of negroes and the total destruction of society in the South. If they conquer they will take all we possess—land, laws, religion, negroes, homes, and even our persons. They say they will do this because they will then have the right of the victors over the vanquished. They talk about reverence for the past, for the Union as it was, but they have none; they know that their only safety is in the spoils derived from us by conquest.

Col. Glenn here complimented the Mississippi brigade upon their distinguished bravery on so many battle-fields, and to their general good conduct; and, while alluding to the foreigners in service in this brigade, stated, that out of the two hundred and sixty one cases brought before the military court, of which he is a member, there were but one Mississippian and one foreigner.

He said that, if any man in the ranks wished to go, he would say to him, if he was a foreigner you have availed yourself of the protection of our laws and country; you live here, and here you make your living; in many instances, your families are here; but, if you do not think that there lies hind you to the soil, go, go, if you prefer Yankee thraldom to freedom. But, if there were any such among the native Mississippians, he would remind them of the punishment meted out in old times to a traitor, which was to be buried, after execution, with a stake driven through his body; and he hoped that the soil of Mississippi would hide all such from loyal eyes, and that the stake, inscribed with the word "traitor," would be his only memorial.

He said that it seemed hard to wish to keep men away from their homes, and possibly to leave those homes to desolation; but the fate of the private is no worse than that of the general. President Davis had lost home, lands, negroes, and all his property, by the unsparing hand of the enemy; while General Lee had his house burned, his lands confiscated, and some of the members of his family left to the hands of the enemy, with no care but that of negroes; yet, who has heard of either of these leaders faltering or turning back in their work? Their case is as hard as that of any private; but they only look to the prosecution of the war until independence is gained.

He again complimented Mississippians upon their bravery; and, addressing the foreigners, said that they had proved themselves worthy to be called true sons of Mississippi, as they had equally distinguished themselves for courage and good conduct.

A vote was then put to the meeting on the question of re-enlistment, which resulted in an entirely unanimous vote to re-enlist for the war; the 48th and 19th thus reaffirming their original enlistment.

Major I. M. Partridge, brigade commissary, and formerly editor of the Vicksburg *Whig*, was called upon, and very happily alluded to the unanimous manner in which the brigade had re-enlisted. He drew a picture of the many losses and deprivations President Davis had suffered at the hands of the enemy, and exhorted the soldiers to stand by their fellow-citizen, one who had led their fathers in Mexico through many a bloody battle, and who now was directing their steps to the achievement of their independence.

Speeches were also made by Col. Joseph M. Jayne, of the 48th, and Col. Samuel Baker, of the 16th, when the meeting dispersed, having testified by their vote that they were not tired of fighting for liberty, but were willing to impart their lives for the cause, until the end. The meeting took place within sight of the Yankee lines, their pickets being plainly discernible.

The announcement made some time since in the papers that Gen. Wirt Adams had been assigned to the command of Posey's brigade, proves to be erroneous. Information has been received, although not of an official character, yet from such a source that there can be no possibility of an error, that Col. Nat. H. Harris, of the 19th, who is now commanding the brigade, has been promoted to a brigadership and assigned to command the Mississippi brigade.

Col. Harris is a brother of Judge Harris, who has recently been appointed third auditor, and the selection is one which, I learn is very popular in the brigade, as Col. Harris has long borne a high reputation as a good officer, conspicuous for his gallantry, and much liked for his affability of manners; besides flattering the *amour propre* of the brigade by selecting the general from the regimental commanders. G. H. E.

The Blockade Law.

From the Richmond Examiner.]

Blockade-running is abolished. Congress has put an end to it. We are to have no more luxuries. Articles of necessity only are to come in; and none of these except by especial license from the Executive. The North is at last in alliance with the South. It blockades with ships, and is reinforced in the policy by Confederate enactments. It will be difficult for merchandise to run the gauntlet of two blockades. Contraband goods must grow scarce, must become very dear; and happy the speculator who has large stocks on hand.

The new legal provision, allowing the importation of merchandise by favor of the Executive, innovates upon all the traditions, practices and cherished ideas of this country, and opens wide a door for abuse and corruption. But Congress finds its justification in the military emergency, and the innovation must have a trial. It is no longer free trade that we have; it is not even restricted trade; it is trade by favor. The South can freely give up free trade, it can cheerfully assent to the total cessation of commerce; but trade by mere favor will be a nauseous dose if attended by the least symptom or color of abuse.

If the law accomplishes the purpose designed by its framers, the effect will be highly beneficial. The outflow of gold will be checked, the demand for the metal curtailed, and a more healthy state of prices superinduced. If trade could be absolutely restricted, if imports could be confined to military necessities, the feverish, eager demand for gold which makes it often command extraordinary prices far above the ruling market rates, would be removed, and a more suitable condition of things would ensue.

At present, the heavy demands of blockade-runners, and the impatient wants of fugitive emigrants, have conspired to run up the price of gold to four or five times its old relative value. Dear as living now is at the South, in fact, yet to a person choosing and able to pay gold, it is the cheapest country on the face of the earth. Every species of provisions, all articles of dress, cotton, tobacco, real estate, almost everything, can now be purchased at one-fourth the specie rates prevailing before the war; provided only that payment be made in gold.

This extravagant value of the metal cannot fail to be affected by the stoppage of importation. How this law prohibiting foreign trade will be aided in its effect on business by the currency and tax bills about to issue as laws from the secret conclaves of Congress, remain to be seen. Certain it is that prices and trade are about to undergo a more powerful shock than have ever before been received in this country from legislation.

FROM TEXAS.

The Mobile *Register* has received files of the Texas *Telegraph* to the 27th ult. complete, but finds but little of importance in them:

The boy mentioned by the correspondent of the *Telegraph*, was from New Orleans, and came into our lines on the 23d. He represents the enemy's force at 2500 (evidently a typographical error for 25,000) in three divisions, and said they intended marching via the beach on Galveston, a large portion having gone to Indianola. The correspondent adds:

I rather doubt that their force is so great as represented, but am still more of the opinion that their intended movement is three-fold—that they will, as nearly at the same time as possible, attack with their gunboats, Caney, Bernard, Velasco and Galveston—that with a part of their infantry they will march up the beach on Caney, perhaps attempt a landing at Velasco, and at the same time start another part from Indianola towards Elliott's ferry with the design of taking us on the flank.

Whatever their intentions, they will be met with all the ardor their insolence deserves.

The *Telegraph* of January 25 says:

It seems evident that matters are coming to a focus on our coast. We may look for stirring news from the front now for some time.

The only news we find from Western Texas is the following paragraph from the *Telegraph*, of January 23:

The San Antonio *Herald* says that Benavides is at Laredo with 300 men, and no enemy near. Special to the Telegraph.]

GULF PRAIRIE, Jan. 24, 10 P. M.

The force of the enemy which advanced up the peninsula have all returned to Decrow's point, and not a gun has been fired to-day; they seem to keep the Sabbath every week, but have no conscientious scruples in stealing on other days. They killed fifteen beeves in their raid, and doubtless needed all they obtained, but the beef was as tough as the hide of a rhinoceros.

A dispatch from Morris of Caney, dated at 2 P. M. this day, reports that scouts had just come in, who reported no enemy in sight for fifty miles, the distance they traveled down the peninsula. A couple of schooners are anchored at sea about thirteen miles below.

All is now quiet and will doubtless remain so for a number of days. SIOUX.

BOSS HOLE, NO. 1, ON THE BEACH, January 24—8 P. M.

ED. TELEGRAPH: From north of Caney we have the following of this date:

FOUR O'CLOCK A. M.—A scout just in from below says: Enemy retiring towards Decrow's, their rear covered by three gunboats—their number estimated at 2500 men, three pieces of artillery, and over one hundred cavalry—their object was fresh meat. They are encamped tonight forty miles below this place. A scout, followed by a gunboat several miles on his return, peppering away at him, but without effect. No transports have passed west within the last four days.

LATER—12:30, P. M.—Nothing in sight on the peninsula for twenty-five miles below. A large steamer visible from the fort, going eastward, far out at sea. Two schooners at anchor fourteen miles down the beach.

The boy picked up the other day is named Bestwick, an Alabamian—has a sister living in Montgomery county—joined to get to Texas—reaching Texas, came out with the big foraging party the other evening—called at a house on his retreat back and forgot to go in with the rest. This is his story. May be so—he's little but may be old. TOM ANCHORITE.

HURRAH FOR THE STATE TROOPS!

PORT LAVACA, January 23, 1864.—Yesterday was quite an exciting day for us here and hereabouts, it being our good fortune to witness with our glasses a raid, a chase and a capture, about seven or eight miles off. Forty Yankees came up in the afternoon to the cattle "ranche" of our well known friend, James M. Foster, (who had just rode up to his door from his field,) and demanded his surrender. Finding him all the d—d old rebels they could think of, demanded all the arms and ammunition he had, and a Dutch captain dismounted and went into the house with a negro woman to get them; and while in there he saw a trunk, and ordered her to open it for him, as he supposed it belonged to her mistress, but the servant said it was her own; so out of respect for the "colored lady" he quit that and began to search for other valuables, when lo! an alarm is given, and off they start, making our friend feel like way.

Captain Kelly, commanding a company of State troops, was encamped about two miles from Foster's, and got wind somehow of what was going on, and with only thirty men, (the colonel of his command being either sick or on other duty,) he started at once, but the Yankees saw him about a mile off, and began to run, and a very exciting race ensued for about six miles, when all the horses began to fail—but Kelly succeeded in cutting off six of them, which he got and brought back with him, also seven muskets and thirty hats.

The enemy were evidently after plunder, as Foster was known to be well off, and the robbing would have gone on most unmercifully, had it not been for that "bright variation," caused by the appearance of Capt. Kelly—whose horses, unfortunately, were in a very bad condition for running, else he would have bagged the whole of them. They were mounted on Texas horses, and very poor ones at that—of course they are some that they have picked up on the coast.

They took Foster off about ten miles on this "John Gipin" race, he talking to them and they to him, all the while. He soon found out the leader of the party (for it was no regular company), and at once began to try his hand at making friends with him, and he succeeded, so well that they turned him loose without conditions. He got home to his family about sundown, "a merrier if not a wiser man" than when he left. He says that when the race began, he told them that if there was fighting to be done, he wanted to get a little further off, and at the same time gave his horse the reins, and soon discovered that he was much faster than anything they had, as held him up—yet, secretly intended to show them his heels before they got to Powderhorn, if he found no other way to get clear.

The enemy are now getting to be quite numerous below, but they are still waiting for more troops; so, while they are waiting, I suppose they will amuse themselves with these raids; but, as we expect to share in the fun, "we shall see what we shall see." D. B.

The Latest.

A private dispatch from Enterprise dated last evening states that our forces evacuated Meridian yesterday (Sunday) morning. The Government property was all saved, and nearly all if not all the machinery of the railroad company. Our troops retired in good order in the direction of the Bigbee river. The last train above on the Mobile and Ohio railroad passed Meridian at 1 P. M. yesterday, and reported the enemy in full view, just entering the town. The train was not fired on, and no effort was made to stop or delay it.

A dispatch from Enterprise, at 6 o'clock this morning, reports no movement of the enemy in that direction. The general opinion among well informed persons from the vicinity of the Yankees, seems to be that their purpose is to continue their march centrally towards Selma, where they expect to meet another column, and thence move forward to the rear of Gen. Johnston.

It remains to be seen whether so audacious and hazardous an enterprise can be successfully prosecuted. The Yankees have thus far shown a mortifying contempt for our military energy and resources—it is to be hoped that before they return—if, indeed, they are ever permitted to return—to Yankeedom, they may be taught a better appreciation of both.

We omitted to state above that the telegraph office was closed at Meridian at 12 o'clock Sunday—the operator bearing off his instruments and the valuable property of his office.—*Mobile Register, 16th.*

Exploits in the Valley.

From the Richmond Whig, 15th.]

Lieut. Gatch, a Marylander, with ten men, also Marylanders, captured eight Yankees and nine well equipped cavalry horses, near New town, last Friday night. Learning there were forty of them at Cedar creek, Lieut. Gatch with his comrades, "started in pursuit, and "pitched in," when the Yankees "pitched off." The race was continued a few miles below Newtown, when a squad was overhauled by the Confederates. They dismounted and attempted to get to the woods, but were made prisoners.

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.

Bills Signed—The Writ of Habeas Corpus Suspended.

RICHMOND, February 18, 1864.—The President has approved, and the injunction of secrecy has been removed, from the bill to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. The preamble to the bill asserts that the power to suspend it is vested in Congress, and Congress is the exclusive judge to determine when it is necessary to exercise the power. It also declares it to be the opinion of Congress that the public safety now requires it. The President has asked it. Congress therefore suspends the writ until ninety days after the meeting of the next Congress.

The bill provides that in cases of arrests by order of the President, Secretary of war, or general commanding the Mississippi department, they shall only be on charges of treason, conspiracy, conspiring to assist the enemy, attempts to bring about a servile insurrection, desertion, intercourse or trading with the enemy, burning bridges or destroying telegraph lines, destroying or attempting to destro