AFTERNOON EDITION--FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1864.

Daily Appeal.

EVENING EDITION.

ATLANTA, GA.

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 1864.

FORT PILLOW.

The capture of this position, by Gen. FORREST, was not only a daring achievement, but also a severe blow to the enemy. The place, however, is of no importance to us, beyond the fact that by its downfall our enemy was punished severely, and lost very heavily in stores, etc. That Gen. FORREST would not attempt to hold it we were well convinced from the moment his success was announced, and for several good reasons; consequently we were prepared to hear, as was announced by the Memphis *Bulletin* of the 16th, that after destroying all the property, etc., that could not be removed, our forces retired, and the Federals landed from their gunboats on the river, and again occupied the dismantled works.

Fort Pillow is far within the enemy's lines, and easily reached by them by the river. By this means they were enabled to transport troops at pleasure, from any point on the river, to operate against Gen. FORREST, should he attempt to make a stand. Their river iron-clads could also be brought to operate in an attack. The fort had no guns mounted commanding the river, as the enemy, having to defend against a rear attack only, had removed the guns originally mounted in the front batteries. Against an attack by water, therefore, our forces could not be expected to make a stand; and as we had no troops to support those that made the capture, within hundreds of miles, and no supplies at hand, and the enemy, as before remarked, was able to concentrate an overwhelming force, Gen. F. acted wisely in falling back, after having done all the mischief he could.

To correct some erroneous statements we see published, it may not be improper to state that Fort Pillow was one of the first positions occupied by our troops on the river, for blockade purposes. The labor of erecting the works for that purpose was commenced early in the summer of 1861. Columbus, Ky., was afterwards occupied as our most advanced post on the river, but the works at Fort Pillow were completed, and many heavy guns mounted. The subsequent history of the war on the river is an enigma that has never been explained satisfactorily. Columbus was evacuated by Gen. POLK, acting under orders from Gen. BEAUREGARD. On taking possession the enemy at once moved down the river, until stopped by an opposing force at Island 10. Although our forces at this point were comparatively few in numbers, and the works indifferent when compared with those either at Columbus or Fort Pillow, resistance was made, and for many days a terrible bombardment, with but little loss to our forces or damage to the works, ensued. Finally the place was flanked, and a surrender of the little garrison made a necessity. Moving on down the river, the enemy expected to meet with a stubborn resistance from the garrison in the strong works at Fort Pillow. Such, also, was the expectation of the people at Memphis, who rested in fancied security as to the safety of the city. But, instead of any defense being made, as expected by both sides, VILLEPIGUE was ordered to retire with his command, by Gen. BEAUREGARD, which he did reluctantly, as he expressed to the last moment his confidence in his ability to hold it. The enemy took possession of the works the same evening, without firing a gun, and at daybreak the next morning the Federal fleet was in front of Memphis, to the astonishment and consternation of everybody. The naval battle followed, in which our fleet was speedily annihilated, when the city was at the mercy of the enemy's land forces, who immediately landed, and the river was open to the iron-clads, which at once steamed down until they encountered the defenses at Vicksburg.

WORKING.—We hope those who are so patriotic that they are willing to place their personal liberties under the control of military authority that admits responsibility to no law, and are satisfied with the act of Congress repealing the great safeguard of every citizen—the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus—will not fail to read the article from the Raleigh *Progress*, published elsewhere, under the head of military oppression. It furnishes practical evidence of the necessity of watchfulness, if we would preserve our liberties, more convincing than columns of argument.

AN ELOQUENT DEDICATION.—Miss Augusta J. Evans, one of Alabama's peerless daughters, world-renowned as the author of "Beulah," has lately issued from the press "Macaris, or Altars of Sacrifice," which she dedicates in the following chaste and beautiful style: "To the Army of the Southern Confederacy, who have delivered the South from despotism, and who have won for generations yet unborn the precious guerdon of Constitutional Republican Liberty; to this vast Legion of Honor, whether limping on crutches through the land they have saved and immortalized, or surviving uninjured to share the blessings their unexampled heroism bought, or sleeping dreamlessly in nameless martyr-graves, on hallowed battle-fields, whose historic memory shall perish only with the remnants of our language, these pages are gratefully and reverently dedicated by one who, although debarred from the dangers and deathless glory of the 'tented field,' would fain offer a woman's inadequate tribute to the noble patriotism and sublime self-abnegation of her dear and devoted countrymen."

☞ A gentleman, who is posted, advises the editor of the Macon *Telegraph* that what is called the "*winter rise*," in the Western rivers, takes place usually in June from the thawing of the ice and snows of the mountains. If that be the case, the Yankee gunboats will probably be floated out of Red river before midsummer, if they should not be destroyed *ad interim*. He says they are detained by no "rah," but by a shoal, just above the town of Alexandria, where he felt sure they would be caught when they went above it at this season of the year.

☞ The Augusta *Constitutionalist* states that many of the storekeepers in that city refuse to exchange their goods for five dollar notes except at a discount of 33⅓ Like all others, we suppose, these same men advanced their prices one-third previous to the 1st, to meet the depreciation. The *Constitutionalist* says: This is wrong. It is a miserable, contracted, unpatriotic policy, and those who are guilty of this outrageous extortion should be made to suffer the penalty of the law, if there is any law to meet such cases, and we believe there is, for Congress has enacted that bills of this denomination shall be received at par until the first of July. Let an example be made of some of these modern Shylocks, and then we may have an end of this dishonest and wicked practice.

☞ The *Mail* says small-pox is becoming quite too prevalent in Montgomery for one to observe with unshaken nerves. The cases are numerous and are increasing daily.

POLITICAL SIGNS AT THE NORTH.

In publishing the collection of extracts from Northern journals, which we reproduce in another column, under the head of "*Presidential Movements North*," the Mobile *Tribune* expresses the opinion that it is plain the Washington Administration is likely to be hurt most in the coming presidential election by its quondam friends. FREMONT is their man. He is the favorite candidate of the Germans, and has an almost unbounded influence, in the West especially; while in the Middle States his popularity is very great. His opinions, and those of his friends, are more radical even than those of LINCOLN; and, besides, they boldly avow what there is now an evident disposition at Washington to evade, namely, a manly and uncompromising disposition to carry the "Monroe doctrine" into effect. If FREMONT were the President, he would probably be as little disposed to trouble the subject as LINCOLN is; but he is very popular with the Germans, the Irish, and the French Red Republicans, and also with a large part of the abolition and miscegenation party. It is a capital hobby to mount for the presidential chase among these people.

FREMONT'S party will divide the LINCOLN party. That we consider certain; and, if LINCOLN determine to run, there will be at least three candidates in the canvass. It is not certain that he will. It may depend on army victories. If GRANT be beaten in Virginia, it is not improbable he will abandon the field.

Then there are all the opposition elements to unite, under a conservative idea. Will they unite, or lose their strength by putting out a fourth candidate? That we shall see before long. But, as well as we can judge, these elements are getting very hopeless of conquering the South; and, falling in that, they see nothing but social, political and property ruin before them. May they not find this a stronger reason for unity of action than the animosities by which they are now separated? Yes! And so we cannot yet tell or predict the precise forms which the Northern parties will take before the close of the summer.

Unless the army vote, and it be almost a unit for LINCOLN, or unless the Yankee arms make great progress toward our subjugation; or unless the powers at Washington seize the Government—and the last is not by any means probable or possible—the LINCOLN dynasty seems to us to be doomed.

And what we have never thought before, we believe that the wiser population of the North will prevail, and something like reason be restored where complete insanity has ruled. What of good will come to us from this supremacy of common sense is more than we can foresee. Let us, however, hope something from it, although we believe that it is quite possible that before the Yankee election we shall be in a condition to extort terms from the enemy, instead of being expected to grant them.

☞ A slight frost was experienced at Montgomery on the morning of the 20th.

☞ Gov. Clark, of Mississippi, is in Mobile, Alabama.

☞ A hat and blanket factory will soon be put in operation at Montgomery, Ala.

☞ A pearl formation in a Tivoli oyster has been discovered at Charleston, South Carolina.

☞ A cotton and wool card factory has been established at Richmond, Va., with three machines each turning out seventy-five thousand card teeth in ten hours.

☞ The court house in Elba, Coffee county, Ala., was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday last, the work of an incendiary. The records and valuable papers were saved.

☞ James M. Folsom, of Gordon, Ga., is preparing a work entitled "Heroes and Martyrs of Georgia's Record in 1861."

NORTHWESTERN GEORGIA.—The Rome *Courier*, of yesterday, says: "Just as we go to press, we hear that a considerable force of Federals are in McLemore's cove, and 'an advance' on this place may be their intention."

PRICES FALLING.—The Mobile *Tribune* notices evident signs of a rapid decline in prices of groceries, provisions, etc. Butter, that commanded in the Mobile market, three weeks ago, from $10 to $12 per lb., is now dull at $5 to $6 per lb. Bacon is offered at $3 50 per lb. Fresh meats have declined in the past ten days from thirty to fifty per cent. Corn is selling at $3 to $5 per bushel, according to quality.

☞ The Rome *Courier* announces the desertion of R. D. DeJournett, company A, 8th Georgia regiment, and says: "At last previous accounts he was in the military prison at Louisville, Ky., had taken the oath of allegiance to the Federal Government, and gone to Europe. His father got a letter from him, yesterday, dated at Liverpool, England, to which place he had worked his passage on a merchant ship."

☞ A correspondent of the Rome *Courier* says Gen. Longstreet has issued an order allowing a furlough of thirty (30) days to any soldier, who, himself, or through the instrumentality of friends at home, will apprehend and deliver to his command any deserter or soldier absent from the army without leave. Let those who have friends in this corps be diligent in arresting stragglers, deserters, and those absent without leave, and returning them to their command, as they could not do their country a better service, or their friends a greater favor than by thus procuring them a furlough.

A Lawless Proceeding.

The Savannah News, of the 20th, says: Yesterday a combination of women, numbering from fifty to one hundred, suddenly appeared at the grocery store of Mr. A. P. Mira, on Whitaker street, near Broughton. While several of them entered the store the balance remained outside. These inside stated to Mr. Mira that they wished something to eat, and would have it. The proprietor of the store, seeing from their number that he was at their mercy, told them that he would give them some bacon, and while in the act of so doing, those outside rushed into the store and forced Mr Mira into one corner, when each of the party commenced helping herself to whatever came within reach. After having done this they retired.

The same party also went into the store of Mr. William McIntyre, on Market square, and demanded provisions. Mr McIntyre told them that, if they actually stood in need of food he would supply them with a small quantity. He then distributed to them a quantity of bacon, etc. From this store they took nothing forcibly.

The store of Mr. John Gilliland, on the same block, was also visited by the same party. Here they were not so compliant, but as soon as they entered commenced to help themselves to a small lot of bacon, which was hanging on the wall and lying on the floor. Each of the women helped herself to such an article of bacon as suited her fancy and then hastily beat a retreat. Mr. Gilliland was determined that his property should not thus be taken, and immediately interfered, and succeeded in recovering a portion of it. Many of the women, however, succeeded in making their escape with their plunder.

While this proceeding was going on, a large concourse of people had assembled in the vicinity of the stores attacked, and three of the women were arrested and committed to the guard house. They will be brought before the mayor this morning.

Such are the facts of this disgraceful affair, as reported to us. That the present high prices of provisions have produced distress no one can doubt, and it is probable that some who participated in the riotous proceedings of yesterday were guided to their course by the promptings of want, but if we are rightly informed many if not the majority of them had not even that excuse for the commission of acts of lawlessness. He this as it may, there can be no necessity or justification for such acts of outrage and robbery. It is not generally the truly worthy, deserving poor who resort to such measures, and those who thrust the lawless and public prints of Savannah. Let the chaff be thrown off the country. If there is indeed want and suffering let the sufferers make their condition known in the right quarter, and a community that has never turned a deaf ear to the appeals of the helpless and needy will give them relief.

We trust that our city authorities will investigate the matter, ascertain who they are that need assistance and take the proper steps for their relief. Such action is not only due to the wives and children of soldiers in the service, to the helpless poor, and to the peace and good name of our community, but also to the best interests of the city. While the mob spirit would be met with firmness, we should, in these times, act in accordance with the maxim of "help one another." Let the turbulent be rebuked, but let not the worthy and law abiding poor suffer.

CHEATHAM'S OLD DIVISION.

EDITORS APPEAL: It has become necessary that this proud old division should be relieved of an unjust and foul blot, which the union formed in various portions of the country are placing upon its name. On more than one occasion, while traveling through the South, I have been accosted with, "Mr, what division do you belong to," and when I answered Cheatham's, the questioners would reply "That's the division that run to at the Ridge." Now, as one of this gallant old division, I feel that it would be an act of injustice toward the brave men who compose it, to allow such an erroneous opinion to be propagated, without a rebuke or correction.

I have been with Cheatham's division ever since it was a division; have been with it on every battle field where it has met the ruthless invader, and I have never known it to turn its back upon an enemy until ordered to do so. Let Perryville, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga attest the truth of what I say. Now, there was at Missionary ridge a division, commanded by General Cheatham, (and it has been said that it acted very disgracefully, that is, a portion of it,) not, however, his old division which, for the benefit of the uninformed public I would state, was broken and scattered by brigades among other divisions, consequently it just alike its noble commander and its name—a name synonymous with bravery, heroism and fidelity to the South. He who thus ruthlessly tore asunder the old and battle-worn chords that bound it together, doubtless did what he thought best, but now, thank Heaven, it is once more together, and like an assembled household looks up to the fearless Cheatham as a guide who will, when occasion offers, lead them to glorious victory, as he has ever done in the past.

I feel justly proud of my division; on every battle-ground where its red, white, and blue has waved, it has won at the cannon's mouth, and at the point of the flashing bayonet, the right to wear engraved upon its triumphant banners, the name of each bloody field—it is small now, but it is united as a band of brothers, will fight till each avenging hand is dyed in Yankee blood, and when peace shall have flung her golden radiance o'er the land of chivalry and sunshine, its gallant survivors will return home to the embraces of loved ones, "leaving no blot upon their name." BLADDEN.

The Attempt to Blow up the Minnesota—Escape of the Conspirators.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, under date of Norfolk, Va., April 9, 1864, writes as follows:

No one but a traitor, most vile, could conceive or execute a deed so base as the one which was attempted this morning upon the Minnesota, the flag-ship of the blockading squadron, stationed at the mouth of James river. It was about 4 o'clock, when an object upon the water was discovered approaching by the deck officer of the Minnesota, moving noiselessly forward, nearer and nearer; it was hailed, but no reply was elicited.

It did not stop its course, but continued to advance in the direction of the ship. It was hailed again, and this time, as before, no answer came. Hailing it the third time, the officer shouted, "If you do not answer, we will fire into you." "A boat from the Roanoke: fire and be ——," was quickly returned. An instant after the Minnesota experienced a tremendous shock. Men were thrown violently out of their hammocks, and balls and shells rolled from where they were stored. The crockery ware was all shattered into innumerable fragments. The force of the concussion was so great that it sprung some of the timbers and started the decks slightly out of position.

The torpedo was placed amidship, and was not properly adjusted. Had it been rightly fixed to the vessel, there cannot be doubt that it would have been blown to atoms, and the hundreds of unconscious sleeping men buried into eternity without the least warning. Amid the confusion and excitement prevailing, the boat that brought the torpedo down managed to escape.

The rebels must have become possessed of many important facts concerning the strength and position of our fleet.

The picket boats in the river had been materially reduced within a short time past. These had been sent to this city for repairs, and another lot assembled at Fortress Monroe for supplies. These were the most formidable small gunboats of the fleet. But notwithstanding all this, it seems exceedingly strange that the mysterious craft could come down the river past all the remaining picket boats and not be observed until almost alongside the flag ship, which lay nearer the mouth of the river than any other vessel of the fleet.

Had there been less darkness prevailing, and a full band of steam on some of the boats, the rebel boat could have been captured. Where she came from is not known, but it is surmised that she ran out of the Chuckatuck. She must have been propelled by muffled oars as she neared the flagship, but as soon as the torpedo was attached she steamed rapidly away. The report made by the explosion was very heavy. It was heard distinctly at Fortress Monroe. The Minnesota was going North to undergo a few days repairs, and this, too, might be one reason why the rebel conspirators made the attempt at this time.

Whether this is a prelude to the bringing down of the Richmond rams remains to be seen. These rams are lying inactive and neglected at the rebel capital, and have been for months past suspected that they would some dark night, make the endeavor to run past the blockading fleet and push out to sea. There was a great recklessness displayed on the part of the rebels, and it seems as though some scientific and experienced men were engaged in the undertaking. Surely they subjected themselves to much peril, and it is a great pity that they were not blown up for their temerity.

From Burnside.

Active Movements Below—The Enemy Appears at Several Points.

By the arrival of the train on the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad, last night, we have some stirring intelligence from below. Reliable statements inform us that at an early hour on Thursday morning a regiment of Yankee infantry landed at Holladay's point, on the Nansemond river, ten miles below Suffolk. At the same hour another regiment, accompanied by six pieces of artillery and seventy-five cavalry, landed at Cherry Grove, on the James river, distant from Holladay's point about ten miles.

The forces which landed at Holladay's point, immediately marched for Chuckatuck, hoping no doubt to capture a party of Confederate signal corps, stories and others, which had been operating in that vicinity. But the scheme signally failed, as our men received early information of the movements of the enemy at both points, and were thus enabled to avoid the trap set for them.

But notwithstanding the overwhelming odds of the enemy, eighteen of Gen. Pickett's provost guard, under Lieut Gossett, who was on scouting duty in that direction, 12 men of the 31st North Carolina, under command of Lieut. Biggs, 7 of the signal corps, under Lieutenant Newsworthy, and the same number of scouts from the 12th Virginia, under Lieut. Roy, 47 in all, formed in ambush, and gave the enemy a running fight, which lasted from 8½ to 9 o'clock, resulting in the escape of our force, with the loss of one man wounded and captured, of the 31st North Carolina. The fight was continued for several miles, and our gallant forty-seven were not annoyed after they saw their chances of escape certain—the enemy, fearful of pursuing further, moving off in another direction toward Smithfield.

The two forces on the enemy mentioned above, formed a junction near Cherry Grove, where Gen. Graham assumed command. The cavalry consisted of Lt. Col. Dunlea, of the 16th Virginia, who was at home on furlough in Nansemond county. They also captured young Hodgens, a mere youth, whose parents reside at Cherry Grove. This lad was suspected of carrying information of the enemy's movements to our scouts, and signal men. The vandals also visited in their march the residences of R. L. Vaughan, Dr. Tyler, William Bunkley, Rev. C. Hack, James Jordan and Mrs. Minton, from whom they took all the horses and negroes which they could find.

At an early hour Thursday morning, also, a regiment of five hundred and fifty Yankees, under the command of one Col. Love, landed at Rock landing, on Jones river, near Bacon's castle, Surry county. They were met in the field of Charles Wynn, Esq., between Bacon's castle and the landing, by a squad of the lower signal corps, under Major Milligan, and Capt. Causey's scouts, who immediately gave the Vandals battle. We have not heard the result of this engagement, but at last accounts our men were annoying the invaders considerably, and Capt. Moise's company of the 7th Confederate cavalry, had gone to their assistance. We had wounded and captured one man who stated that the regiment was the 23d Massachusetts. Four deserters, who claimed to belong to the 5th New York, came in and surrendered. These deserters, we hear, gave very conflicting accounts of Burnside's movements, stating, positively on Thursday that Burnside was preparing to move up the Peninsula, and yesterday declaring that they knew nothing about Burnside. They were brought up to Petersburg yesterday. The conflicting accounts they give of Burnside would indicate that they are spies, and have deserted for the sole purpose of deceiving our officers as to Burnside's movements.

Informs us from a gentleman eminently worthy of confidence, who was within five miles of Portsmouth Wednesday night, states that Burnside's forces were landing in large numbers at Portsmouth all day Wednesday.

The enemy hold Suffolk and have sent out forces in three and four thousand quartered at Phillips' mill Thursday night, nine miles this side of Suffolk, one thousand stayed at Hardy Chapman's, one mile from Zuni, on the Norfolk and Petersburg road, the same night, and a party who was at Windsor, went off Thursday night in the direction of Franklin.

Spear is said to be also operating in the direction of Franklin.

The scattering of these forces would argue against the theory that Burnside has taken any more in force against Petersburg, but there is no saying what his intentions are. It is not at all improbable that the occupation of all the country between the Blackwater and Suffolk, is for the purpose of preventing any information of his movements reaching our military authorities here. If he designs coming in this direction, his now widely scattered forces can soon concentrate at some named point, and join the main command. It has been suggested that he would probably aim for Weldon, in order to destroy the railroad at that point, but that would be too long a march, when he can strike the railroad at a much nearer point to Petersburg.

Others have suggested that all this marching to and fro, and landing at different points between Blackwater and Suffolk, and at Portsmouth, is for the purpose of deceiving the Confederates, while a large force is about to proceed up the peninsula, which can be rapidly reinforced by withdrawing Burnside's men from their present localities and sending them to the peninsula. As the enemy holds the lower James, and his unusual facilities for transportation by water, he can accomplish a vast deal in a very short period of time. He has intercepted what they say, our readers are informed, is watched by vigilant officers and men, and that all will be done within the power of the Confederate authorities to retard his movements and bring his plans to grief and failure.—[Petersburg Express, 16.

Military Oppression.

We learn that there are from twenty to thirty citizens now under arrest at Kinston. Not one of them have been arrested on "oath," or "affirmation," and a speedy trial is denied them. They were arrested by military order and are held by military order, and while some of them have been for many weeks in prison, not the slightest disposition is evinced to give them a hearing. We do not know one of these men and have no special interest in them. If they are guilty of any offense against the government we insist on their being speedily tried and summarily punished, but if not guilty let them be at once released. These men are citizens of the State and have a right to demand justice at the hands of the State authorities. [What has Gov. Vance done or what else doing to give these men a hearing? Surely the military authorities have no authority to hold them under the act suspending the writ of habeas corpus, for that promises every man under arrest a speedy hearing of his case. Has Gov. Vance asked, or rather has he demanded that these men have a speedy hearing?

There is another case: a gentleman, a citizen of Craven county, now is held in this city, compelled to report to the provost marshal every morning, without knowing the charges against him. He being refused permission to go to his own plantation in Craven, has asked the privilege of taking charge of a place belonging to a relative in Guilford, and even this is denied him. He is held as a dangerous character, but at the same time is denied an investigation. While contrary to the instructions to commissioners under the act suspending the writ of habeas corpus, and yet the State authorities allow this man to be thus held. If he is guilty of treason, or any crime against the Confederacy, it is the duty of Gov. Vance to have him tried and punished, and if not guilty, it is his duty to demand his release.

We have no sympathy with crime or wrong doers, but insist that the worst of criminals have a right to demand a speedy, fair and impartial investigation of charges preferred against them. This has been denied the man of whom we have here spoken, and should the governor not interfere in their behalf we hope the legislature, when it assembles in May, will not fail to look into the matter.—*Raleigh Progress.*

Correspondence between Governor Brown and the Secretary of War.

Gov. Brown's Letter.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., March 22, 1864.

Hon. James A Seddon, Secretary of War.

SIR: The General Assembly of the State of Georgia has passed a resolution, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, in which they decline to express any opinion as to the wisdom of the act passed by Congress, enrolling such persons as had been enrolled under the State law, and recommend that I, as the executive, interpose no obstacle to its enforcement, and also requesting me to open a correspondence with you, and request you to exonerate from the penalties of said act, such persons between the ages of seventeen and eighteen and forty-five and fifty, who did not volunteer or enroll within the time specified, supposing their enrollment under the State law to be legal.

Having given my views upon this question, in my message to the General Assembly, and submitted it to their decision, I yield to their recommendation.

An act was passed by the General Assembly of this State, approved December 14th, 1863, to organize the militia of the State of Georgia, which required the enrollment of all male white residents, who were then or should be of the age of sixteen years and not over sixty years for military service, according to the provisions of said act, which enrollment was immediately ordered and made. After which Congress passed an act declaring "that from and after the passage of the same, all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and fifty, shall be in the military service of the Confederate States during the war." Under the 5th section of said act, it is made the duty of all white male residents of the Confederate States between the ages of seventeen and eighteen and forty-five and fifty to be enrolled within a certain time, and any person who shall fail to enrol himself without a reasonable excuse therefor, shall be placed in service in the field for the war, instead of constituting a reserve for State defense and detail duty.

These persons, honestly believing that both acts required the same State defense, and as they were enrolled by State authority for that purpose it was legal, failed to enroll themselves in the Confederate service, which I think is a reasonable excuse therefor. I, therefore, respectfully request that they be allowed thirty days after notice is given to volunteer, organize and elect their officers. And as it is important that your decision be made known immediately, with your consent, I will publish your reply to this letter if you confirm to the wishes of the General Assembly, and grant the privilege requested for the persons now made subject to enrollment.

Very respectfully, etc.,
JOSEPH E. BROWN.

Secretary of War's Reply.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, April 7, 1864.

His Excellency Joseph E. Brown, Governor of Georgia:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter inclosing a resolution of the General Assembly of Georgia, recommending that no obstacle be interposed to the conscription under recent laws of the Confederate Congress, of such persons as had been enrolled under the State law, and desiring that the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, be requested to exonerate from any penalties imposed by the Confederate law on such persons so enrolled, as had failed to volunteer, or to enroll for enrollment, under the Confederate law within the specified time.

While I will not disguise the feeling, that even greater patriotism would have been exhibited, from the cordial approval by your general assembly of the wisdom of the Confederate law, yet it is gratifying to have the evidence afforded by the resolution of the assembly, of the spirit of harmonious patriotic and patriotic zeal that animated their deliberations; I take pleasure in responding to their request that, on reference to the conscript bureau, I will be charged with the execution of the Confederate law, I am informed no measures have been taken, which as yet have imposed penalties on those enrolled under the late law, and that opportunity has been and will be afforded to all such, to report themselves or volunteer before they will be subjected to the prescribed penalties.

I should add the additional pleasure I have found in the assembly's letter one original objection to the conscription law will be relinquished in deference to the decision of your assembly, and my hope that a spirit of mutual confidence between the two governments will prevent any conflict, so much to be deprecated between Confederate and State authorities.

Very respectfully yours,
JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Letter from Texas.

[Correspondence of the Mobile Register.]

HOUSTON, April 4, 1864.—A correspondent of the Houston "Telegraph," writing from Quesa, March 23d, gives the following intelligence regarding the movements of the Yankees in the Southwest:

Gen. A. J. Hamilton has returned to Brownsville and established his seat of government there. A term of the United States court is to be held at that place on the first Monday in April, and another at Corpus Christi on the first Monday in May. The juries taken from the renegades, have been summoned to attend at these points.

Heavy purchases of mules and horses have been made in Mexico for these ports. The choicest are shipped to New Orleans, and the rest to Padre Island. At this latter place there are now about 500 cavalry and artillery horses. The forces at Brownsville are about 2 000, including renegades and Mexicans. Those at Point Isabel and the mouth of the river number 1,000, mostly negroes.

The cavalry regiment of Haynes has completed its organization and taken the field. It is now said to be on the way to reinforce the band under Baleria, that was so badly whipped by Maj. Nolan the other day. A portion of them are now at Tejas and another at Las Animas, while still another is now at Alatorre and neighborhood, gathering stock and driving it off West.

Davis' regiment, numbering about five hundred, all renegades, are encamped in the neighborhood of Rancho Viejo, and are under orders to move at a moment's warning. A forward movement is to be made from the Rio Grande, and Padre Island at the same time, early in April. The country from the Rio Grande to the Nueces is to be held. Corpus Christi is to be made the principal depot and headquarters. The organization and composition of a corps of invasion is to be perfected within a few points. By the latter part of May it is expected they will accomplish this and be ready to move forward. They will first move on San Antonio and Austin, with a view of taking and holding those points at all hazards.

The force at present on Padre island numbers about 750 soldiers, and about 120 negroes. The negroes are armed; but serve in the ranks only in case of a fight; at other times they are worked hard as laborers or servants. They receive fifteen dollars per month in greenbacks, and soldiers' rations and clothing, and are treated as animals, and are all dissatisfied. The command has not been paid for eight months, and are all ragged and dirty and many of them barefooted.

The Yankees say they will return to Corpus in March in force, take all the able-bodied negroes, make soldiers or laborers of the men and cooks of the women; arrest and take away every man either liable to duty under our conscription laws, or who has held, or now holds, an office under the Confederate or State Governments. They hold out inducements and seem to desire all families to remove, offering them transportation either to Mexico or any part of the United States.

On the 12th the families of the following renegades left, viz: John R. Peterson, Weiner, Jouple, Fleminmoia, H. LePaubure, F. Pettle, M. Kelly, Winters; also, Miss Rankin, Margaret, Henry LePaubre, Edwin Hill, jr., F. Hittle, Christopher Dunn, Frank Edwards, Crawford, E. Pitzel. Yours, etc.,

Additional from the Regular Reporter.

From Mexico our accounts are to the 15th. The following is from a letter to the *News*, of that date, at Monterey:

The "Boletin Official" announces that on the 11th inst. Col. Quiroga attacked two hundred and sixty men of President Juarez at San Gregorio, killing one captain and twenty soldiers, and capturing several prisoners, arms and horses. On the 13th Col. Quiroga returned to this city. It is said that the brigade of New Leon, under Gen. Hinojes will in a day or two march on Saltillo, to drive the presidentists thence, and also Gen. Doblado and his troops from the State of Coahuila. It is believed by some of Gov. Vidaurri's friends, who seem to be well informed, that the French are in concert with him, and will move on Saltillo as soon as the troops from Monterey approach that city. It is supposed that President Juarez will either go to Monclova, in the same State of Coahuila, or to Victoria, in Tamaulipas.

Linares, one of the largest cities in New Leon, has pronounced against Governor Vidaurri; also Monclova. One Mr. Brown, an Englishman, serving under Gen. Doblado, was arrested here the day before yesterday, charged with having picked four sixty-pounders at the citadel. He is to be tried by a court-martial.

The people of this city have not gone to the polls in masses to vote for "peace or war with the French," as it was expected they would do in accordance with Gov. Vidaurri's proclamation. To give you an idea of the already well known and unanimous sentiment of the people, I will merely say that Monterey has forty thousand inhabitants, and the vote cast was as follows: For peace, 27; for war, 25. Total, 52.

On our coast, as near as we can learn, there are from four to five thousand Yankees, renegades, negroes and Mexicans under arms. The balance of the invading force has been withdrawn to swell the column now operating in Louisiana. Indianola was evacuated on the 12th ult. The Yankees carried matters with a high hand there. Before leaving they forced all the citizens to take the oath, and then forced all under 45 to shoulder a musket in their ranks. Mr. Allen refused to take the oath. He was compelled to go along with them and to labor on the fortifications at Saluria under a negro overseer. About seventy-five Germans in Indianola were conscripted. The evacuation was by command of Gen. Banks.

The commissioners to Monterey succeeded in making an amicable arrangement of the difficulty with Miner & Co., and secured the release of the $1,800,000 Confederate treasury notes, retained by them, as well as the reopening of the mint. It is now, however, temporarily suspended again by reason of the arrest of a cotton agent on Mexican soil by our troops, who was charged with embezzlement. The matter will soon be arranged.

Some time since Messrs. Peebles, Baldwin and Zink, who had been concerned in a transcontinental operation, were arrested by the military authorities here and confined under guard at San Antonio. Two weeks since they sued out a writ of habeas corpus before the supreme court of this State. The trial was held last week and the writ was not contested. Of course they were discharged, but were immediately rearrested, as it is understood, under the new law suspending the habeas corpus.

Late hailstorms and cold blighting winds have delayed the crops to a considerable extent in Texas, but no serious fears are felt of a failure, though I doubt if the crops will be nearly as large as last year.

The enemy are now advancing towards Texas from Little Rock, and were at Arkadelphia at latest dates in force of some ten or fifteen thousand. They have another column of some fifteen or twenty thousand at Alexandria, La., assisted by Porter's fleet of gunboats. Still another column is said to be at Berwick's Bay.

The telegraph line is now in operation from this city to Shreveport. It somewhat facilitates us in the receipt of news. From the fact that travel is so meager now from the east-of-the-river States, we very rarely see any Confederate newspapers. Nearly all our intelligence from our sometimes sister comes through the Yankee press. No mail has been received since Sherman's raid began.

The friends of Col. J. T. Wood and Mr. Robert Dunn will be glad to know they reached here last week, but with the loss of all their baggage, captured in crossing the river.

From Trans-Mississippi.

From the Mobile Register, April 20.]

We had the pleasure of meeting on the train this morning with Mr. Warren Adams, just from the trans-Mississippi department, having with him a large quantity of letters for Texas soldiers. We are indebted to him for a letter of our trans-Mississippi correspondent, published elsewhere; also, for a file of papers from Texas. Mr. Adams crossed the Mississippi on the 13th, having left Houston on the 4th inst. The great battle between Smith and Banks had not occurred when he left, but our armies were concentrating—Gen. Magruder coming up also with his trooops from Texas. His information is that the great battle took place on the 11th inst. In this connection we may state that a lady from Baton Rouge, arrived a day or two since at Enterprise, reports that large numbers of wounded were being brought in when she left, two boats having been pressed to convey them; that the understanding there was, that Gen. Smith retired toward Shreveport before Banks, who, thinking he was forcing Smith back, kept on in pursuit; that some commotion then occurred in the rear of Banks' forces, supposed to be from an attack of guerrillas; that Banks sent a considerable force to punish them, when the guerrillas proved to be Magruder, at the head of his brave Texans, who at once commenced a heavy attack; that at the sound of Magruder's guns, Smith checked his retreat, and, as agreed upon, suddenly assumed the offensive, and that the enemy were completely routed, large numbers of them being driven into the river.

The understanding at Baton Rouge is that the defeat of Banks was overwhelming, and the account of the fight made to order and published in New Orleans, really confirms this belief.

Mr. Adams brings the important intelligence that the Red river has fallen with unexampled rapidity, leaving a number of Yankee gunboats and transports—some forty in all—above the falls, just above Alexandria, with no chance of getting down before the winter rise, before which, let us hope, they will all be captured. The Mississippi was also falling rapidly.

Mr. Adams heard the report of the battle (which took place about fifteen miles west of Grand Ecore) on both sides of the Mississippi. We may also state that gentlemen are in the city who left Shreveport on the 5th, up to which time no battle had occurred. This strengthens the report that the chief battle was fought on the 11th, and that the affairs reported in the New Orleans extra, telegraphed yesterday, were only preliminary engagements.

As an additional fact corroborating this view, Mr. Adams states that a Yankee courier bearing dispatches from Banks to Franklin, was captured between Bayou Rapides and Big Cane on the 9th. Mr. Adams also saw that he was then surrounded by rebel cavalry, and urges Franklin to hurry forward with his corps with all possible speed. Add to this the fact that Gen. Magruder could not have gotten up in time to participate in the battle on the 7th or 8th, as the Yankee account fixes it, and we must consider the fact established that the great battle and a rousing Confederate victory was fought and won the 11th inst., or at all events subsequent to the affair reported in the New Orleans extra.

Mr. Adams leaves for Richmond to-day, but will return here on his way back in a couple of weeks, and will take back any letters that may be left at this office for him.

The Presidential Movements North.

The game for the next presidency of the North goes briskly on. So far, the star of Fremont is in the ascendancy. The German radical organization society of Detroit, has issued an address to the German citizens of Michigan, calling upon them to form societies and join, without delay, the general German organization in opposition to Lincoln, to declare themselves boldly in favor of the man of progress, John C. Fremont, and to close up their ranks with the watchword, "Opposition to Lincoln, Seward and Blair." The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the society at Chicago on the 25th ultimo:

We further deem it our duty to declare that in case of the renomination of Abraham Lincoln by the Baltimore Convention, it will be impossible to prevent a division of the liberal vote, while, on the other hand, the German radicals will go into the electoral campaign with closed ranks and the certainty of victory in their hearts for any other really radical candidate. We, therefore, at the same time declare that, if President Lincoln, in whose patriotism, as yet, we have no doubt, will really prove himself to be a patriot, he should follow the noble example of Mr. Chase and publicly declare his withdrawal from the candidacy for the Presidency, to prevent a split in the party of freedom.

The German Club of Milwaukie have recently passed the following resolutions:

We will support no candidate for the presidency who is not in favor of the total abolition of slavery, and the carrying through of the Monroe doctrine.

Among all men who have been named in connection with the presidential question, we give John C. Fremont the preference, because he excels all others in personalities, in energy, in love of liberty, in freedom from prejudice, in respect to nationalities, and in cosmopolitan principles.

The following are some of the speculations and comments of the Northern press on the same subject:

From the Troy Press, April 5.]

We were shown this morning a letter from a soldier in the 24 United States military, now stationed at Brunswick, Virginia, in which he writes, speaking of the next Presidency, says: "I can assure you that 'Little Mac' is the choice of nine out of every ten soldiers as a candidate for President."

From the Chicago Telegraph, (German,) March 29.]

The name of the Pathfinder, upon whom the potentates and their tools piled scorn and shame for years, the name of Fremont, which they thought forgotten and gone, resounds once more clear and loud from the mouth of the people, for the people are true to those who are true to themselves; and not booty nor political bargaining, but love of liberty are the motives that agitate the people. * * * We enter the field for the impartial and capable champion of freedom, John C. Fremont, the man of the people, reminding our fellow citizens of the old battle cry of 1856—Fremont, with him, victory.

From the Washington Correspondence of the Milwaukie Wisconsin.]

It is useless for politicians to close their eyes to the movement now being made in favor of Gen. Fremont for the Presidency. It is gathering bulk with every day, and is being managed with great tact. * * It is confidently asserted by men who are by no means gray, that the vote of New York State may be given to Fremont in the Baltimore Convention.

From the Washington Correspondence of the Missouri Democrat.]

Among the presidential movements of the day none present the more interesting features than that in behalf of John C. Fremont. It is being managed with great adroitness and prosecuted with wonderful energy. Some of the keenest and most experienced politicians in the country are enlisted in it,