

WASHINGTON.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1864.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE CLAUSE.

It is known to every student of our political history that the sixth article of the Ordinance of 1787, passed by the Congress of the Confederation, prohibiting slavery in the Northwest Territory, contained a clause providing for the rendition to their masters of persons "from whom labor or service was lawfully claimed" in any one of the original States. The article was as follows:

"There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said Territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid."

On comparing the slavery restriction contained in the ordinance of 1787, with that of the earlier plan presented by Mr. Jefferson in 1784, and that brought forward by Mr. King, of Massachusetts, on the 16th of March, 1785, it will be found to differ from each of the latter in the provision it makes for the rendition of fugitive slaves.

Without this clause it evidently could not have passed, and the combination in which it is found with the clause restricting slavery was evidently the result of a compromise between the Southern and the Northern States, the former agreeing to the prohibition of slavery in the Northwest Territory, on condition of being furnished with a guarantee for the rendition of fugitives held to service under their laws, and the latter agreeing to this injunction in consideration of the interdiction laid upon the extension of slavery in the territory north of the Ohio River.

It is difficult to perceive the theory on which this compromise rested for its basis. The Southern States consented to the prohibition of slavery extension, in order to secure new guards for the stability of the institution in the States where it had a legal existence. By providing for the recovery of their fugitive slaves in all parts of this Territory, they secured in that region an advantage which they did not possess in the non-slaveholding States by virtue of the Articles of the Confederation; for, as Mr. Madison remarked in the Virginia Convention held on the adoption of the Constitution, "the States were uncharitable to one another in this respect" under the Articles of Confederation. The Northern States, on the other hand, agreed to yield this advantage to the Slaveholding States on condition of a renunciation made by the latter of any purpose or desire to extend the institution of slavery into the new region about to be opened to the colonization of all the States.

It is known that the Congress of the Confederation which passed this ordinance, and the Convention assembled for the formation of our present Constitution, were both in session at the same time—the former in the city of New York and the latter in Philadelphia. Many of the most distinguished members of the Congress of 1787 were also members of the Convention at Philadelphia, and others who had served in the Continental Congress during the pendency of this Territorial question were chosen to assist in forming the new Constitution. Among this latter class we may cite, for instance, the name of Mr. King, of Massachusetts, the author of the anti-slavery proposition introduced on the 16th of March, 1785. Hence it is not unreasonable to suppose that there was an interchange of views between the two bodies, resulting from a knowledge of the measures they were respectively taking. In fact, we are not left to mere surmise on this point. We know that Mr. Richard Henry Lee, in a letter dated two days after the passage of the ordinance, communicated a copy of it to Gen. Washington, then presiding over the Philadelphia Convention.—(Correspondence of the American Revolution, vol. 4, p. 174; Writings of Washington, vol. 9, p. 261.) The ordinance was published also in a Philadelphia newspaper on the 25th of July.

It is an interesting, if fortuitous, coincidence that on the 12th day of July, 1787, the very day on which the sixth article of the ordinance was moved by Mr. Dane, and unanimously affixed to the instrument by a vote of the Continental Congress, the Convention in Philadelphia were occupied in settling and determining that great compromise of the Constitution which decided the relations of taxation and representation, according to the existing rule which was adopted on that day in the following words: "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons." It is also instructive to mark that the Philadelphia Convention seems to have borrowed from the sixth article of the ordinance of 1787 the clause now found in our Constitution, and thus made obligatory on the States, in relation to the rendition of "persons held to service." The germ of that clause in our Constitution, as derived doubtless from the ordinance of 1787, was moved in Convention by Mr. Butler, of South Carolina, on the 29th of August, (a little more than a month after the passage of the ordinance,) in the following words, and was unanimously adopted: "If any person bound to service or labor in any of the United States shall escape into another State, he or she shall not be discharged from such service or labor in consequence of any regulations subsisting in the State to which they escape, but shall be delivered up to the person justly claiming their service or labor." After passing through subsequent revisions this clause was, on the 13th of September, two months after the adoption of the similar clause in the ordinance, reduced into its present shape as found in Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution of the United States—the words "held to service under the laws thereof" being inserted in lieu of the words "legally held," (as it had been expressed in the penultimate revision of Mr. Butler's proposition,) in compliance with the wish of some who, as Mr. Madison says, "thought the term legal equivocal, and favoring the idea that slavery was legal in a moral view."

Mr. Horace Greeley, in his forthcoming work

on the "American Conflict," of which some specimen pages have been forwarded to us by the publishers, refers to this clause of the Constitution in the following terms:

"In these latter days, since the radical injustice and iniquity of slaveholding have been more profoundly realized and generally appreciated, many subtle and some able attempts have been made to explain away this most unfortunate provision, for the reason that the Convention wisely and decorously excluded the terms slave and slavery from the Constitution; 'because,' as Mr. Madison says, 'they did not choose to admit the right of property in man.' It has been argued that this provision does not contemplate the rendition of fugitives from slavery, but rather of runaway apprentices, persons who, having entered into contracts for their own labor, have repudiated their engagements, and other such Jonahs. The records and reminiscences of the Convention, however, utterly refute and dissipate these vain and idle pretences. It is sheer absurdity to contend that South Carolina in the Convention was absorbingly intent on engraving upon the Federal Constitution a provision for the capture of runaway apprentices, or any thing of the sort."

In support of this view Mr. Greeley makes a single extract from the proceedings of the Convention held in North Carolina on the adoption of the Constitution. It is known to every reader that the evidence on this point could be indefinitely multiplied by similar citations. In the debate of Tuesday, July 29, 1788, in the North Carolina Ratification Convention, which was organized at Hillsborough, July 21, 1788—

"Mr. Iredell begged leave to explain the reason of this clause, (last clause, section 2, art. IV.) In some of the Northern States they have emancipated their slaves. If any of our slaves, said he, go there and remain there a certain time they would, by the present laws, be entitled to their freedom, so that their masters could not get them again. This would be extremely prejudicial to the inhabitants of the Southern States; and to prevent it this clause is inserted in the Constitution. Though the word slave is not mentioned, this is the meaning of it. The Northern delegates, either by accident or scruple on the subject of slavery, did not choose the word slave to be mentioned.—Elliot's Debates, vol. iv, p. 176.

It will thus be seen that the "fugitive slave" clause of the Constitution plants its roots in the "ordinance of freedom" passed in the year 1787. It is known to our readers that Senator SUMNER has introduced a bill into the Senate to repeal the fugitive slave act of 1850, purporting to be passed in pursuance of this clause, and has accompanied his bill with a report, which, however, we have not seen, if indeed it has yet been printed.

PRESIDENTIAL.

That influential and able organ of the Republican party, the New York Evening Post, expresses its regret that the National Convention of its political friends is called to meet at a day so early as the 7th of June next, at which date it fears that the issues, both military and political, on which the impending Presidential campaign is destined to turn, will not be sufficiently developed to admit of a satisfactory determination in respect to the candidate who should be placed in nomination, or the policy that should be adopted. It says:

"The longer we wait the better we shall be able to discern the right man for the times. The public opinion of the nation is by no means in a settled state; great fermentations are going on in the bosom not only of the Republicans but of the Democratic parties; the complicated and important issues involved in the restoration of the revolted States, and in the emancipation of four millions of slaves, have nowhere yet taken a definite shape; and nothing is to be gained by pushing through precipitation and hurry. The welfare of the future requires us to consider all these matters carefully, deliberately, and with all the knowledge that we can obtain from time, and no wise man will be in haste to commit himself to any definite line of action until he sees the way more clearly before him."

LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRANT.

Gen. Grant's commission as Lieutenant General in the Army of the United States was formally presented to him yesterday by the President, at the Executive Mansion.

This interesting ceremony took place in the Cabinet Chamber, at one o'clock, in presence of the Cabinet, Gen. Halleck, Gen. Rawlins, and Gen. Comstock, of Gen. Grant's staff, the son of Gen. Col. Lovjoy, of the House of Representatives, and Mr. Nicolay, the private secretary of the President.

When Gen. Grant entered the room, the President rose and said: "GENERAL GRANT, the nation's appreciation of what you have done and are doing for the Republic is now presented with this commission, constituting you Lieutenant General in the Army of the United States. With this high honor devolves upon you also a corresponding responsibility. As the people of our country trust you, so, under God, I will sustain you. I sincerely need to add, that with what I here speak for the nation goes my own hearty personal concurrence."

To which Gen. Grant replied as follows: "My President, I accept this commission with gratitude for the high honor conferred. With the aid of the noble armies that have fought on so many fields for our common country, it will be my earnest endeavor not to disappoint your expectations. I feel the full weight of the responsibilities now devolving on me, and I know that if I fail, it will be due to those armies, and above all, to the favor of that Providence which has led me to this position."

At the conclusion of these brief speeches the President introduced the General to all the members of the Cabinet; after which the company were seated, and about half an hour was spent in pleasant social conversation.

THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CHASE.

As some inaccurate statements have obtained currency in a portion of the public press, purporting to give the substance of a correspondence that has recently passed between Mr. Secretary CHASE and President LINCOLN in regard to recent political events, it may be proper for us to state, on what we understand to be good authority, that on the day following the publication of the "Pomeory Circular," Mr. Chase addressed a letter to the President referring to the circular, in which he stated the facts connected with the use of his name and his ignorance of the measures his friends were taking, and asked whether there was anything in his action or in the position assigned to him by his friends which could prejudice the public interests in his charge. He added that he did not wish to administer the Treasury Department one day without the President's entire confidence. Mr. Lincoln, it is said, acknowledged this letter at once, and some days later replied to it in a frank and friendly spirit, his letter closing with the statement that he did not perceive any occasion for a change in the official relations borne by Mr. Chase to the Administration.

The representations which have been made by one or two journals, professing to give a different tone to the concluding portion of the President's reply, are, we need not say, pure inventions, taking their inspiration from political malice or personal antipathy.

McCLELLAN'S REPORT.

We have received from the publishers, through Mr. Ballantyne, a copy of Gen. McClellan's report on the organization and campaigns of the Army of the Potomac, to which is added an account of the campaign in Western Virginia from the General's own pen. Besides this addition, relating to an early and important period of the war, for which the materials have recently fallen into the author's hands since the main report was sent to the Adjutant General, it is important to say that the main report of the operations of the Army of the Potomac, as communicated to Congress by the Secretary of War, or as printed by the Government, contains some inaccuracies, clerical or typographical, which appear in all the editions that are reprints of the Congressional document. The volume, published by Sheldon & Co., is complete and authentic, and is the only complete and authentic edition. The maps which accompany it, and which are not in any other edition, are essential to the elucidation of the text, and, although graduated to a small scale, contain every thing which is useful to a full understanding of the history of the Peninsula and the Maryland campaigns.

THE LATE RAID ON RICHMOND.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, REBEL PANIC, ALLEGED TREACHERY, &c.

Correspondence of the New York Tribune.

The much talked of raid by Gen. Kilpatrick has ended with failure as to the main result intended to be accomplished, but with success in cutting the railroads between Lee's army and Richmond, and the destruction of much property, stores, &c., and the actual shelling of Richmond.

Starting on Sunday at 3 A. M. from camp with 5,000 cavalry, picked from his own and General Merritt's and Gregg's divisions, he proceeded to the Rapid court, crossing at Ely's Ford. From thence the column marched to Spotsylvania Court-house, which place was reached without encountering any of the enemy.

From Spotsylvania Court-house to the end of his daring journey he was more or less harassed by the rebels, and frequently found that his lines had fallen in very unpleasant places. At the place last named the command was divided into different parties, who were to scour the country as they proceeded toward a common rendezvous at Richmond. Every road was to be kept open, and no concealed force, even in small numbers, should be left behind, so as to concentrate and worry him.

The expedition was a warlike four when all the fun, chickens, turkeys, geese, corn, poultry, horses, mules, negroes, &c., were packed up in the wagons, and that could be had, were to be had. They carried with them but two or three days' rations for their horses and about as many days' rations for the men, the General being determined to force the rebel army to retreat, and to resist the enemy's country should be faithfully executed.

On Monday they reached the Virginia Railroad, and tore up the track in four places, destroying whatever property would render the road useless. At Frederick's Hall, on the Central Railroad, he proceeded to the Rapid court, peacefully holding its sessions, and captured a colonel, five captains, and two lieutenants. Gen. Lee had passed over the railroad on his way to his army but an hour before our men reached it.

Leaving Frederick's Hall on Monday they pushed on to Richmond—a detachment of five hundred men under Col. Dahlgren keeping well to the right in the direction of Louisa Court-house, while Gen. Kilpatrick, with the main body, moved upon Ashland, both parties scouring the country thoroughly for the following day.

As the forces neared Richmond the two main parties began concentrating. Col. Dahlgren was to move down to the right of Richmond, destroying as much of the James river canal as possible. Then taking the river road was to cross the city from the north, and attempt the deliverance of the prisoners on Belle Isle. Gen. Kilpatrick, with the main body, was to attack the city by the Brooke turnpike, simultaneously if possible with the other movement. It was hoped to reach the city on Monday night, and to be in possession of it when a partial if not a total surprise could be effected.

Two of those fatalities which more than once during this war have snatched success from the very grasp of those who by their valor and daring have richly deserved the victor's laurels, were met in the following manner. A detachment of one of the best conceived and most brilliant plans of the whole war.

Col. Dahlgren had taken a negro to pilot him to Richmond. His detachment had rapidly moved across the country, and was now within a few miles of the city, and could possibly be of service to the enemy. Pushing on so as to reach Richmond as soon as possible, Col. Dahlgren discovered that his negro guide had betrayed him, and led him toward Goodland, instead of to Richmond, and that he was in the hands of the rebels. He was promptly hanged for his baseness. Exasperated by his treachery, the men burnt the barns and buildings of John A. Seddon, the rebel Secretary of War, and it is reported that he was killed. Col. Dahlgren himself was not present. Retracing his steps, Col. Dahlgren marched down the river road, destroying the Dover flour mills, several private flouring establishments and a saw-mill. His force also did considerable injury to the James River canal, and put Richmond in a very bad state of damage one or two locks. They did not reach the immediate vicinity of Richmond till afternoon, when every body was on the alert, Kilpatrick having already made his attack.

Col. Dahlgren's detachment was divided into several parties for the accomplishment of different objects, keeping together, however. One party attempted to cross the river, but were repulsed. A very sharp fight ensued, and, finding the enemy in superior numbers and confronting them on every side, the order was given to retreat. In attempting to cut their way out, Col. Dahlgren and Major Cook, of the Second New York, with about one hundred and fifty men, got separated from the rest. The other detachments succeeded in rejoining Gen. Kilpatrick, but not the detachment of Col. Dahlgren. The people of the road and some of the prisoners aver that a Colonel who had but one leg was captured by the rebels.

Meanwhile Gen. Kilpatrick had advanced down the Brooke turnpike from Ashland, having torn up the rails at that point, and destroyed the telegraph wires. One of the stations, however, the operator succeeded in sending a despatch to Richmond announcing that the Yankees were coming. He was a prisoner in less than fifteen minutes, but that he had put Richmond on the qui vive, and it has since been ascertained that about a dozen field-pieces were put in battery and a new trenchment thrown up while awaiting his arrival.

The troops reached the outer fortifications early on Tuesday morning, and as the approach toward the city came in view, cheer upon cheer went up from our ranks. Riding rapidly toward the city, the outer line of the works was entered. The rebels therein threw down their arms, many of them surrendering, and others taking to their heels. A fight then broke out, but the batteries were too much for them, and so, after a short struggle, Kilpatrick opened upon them and the city.

There is no doubt that the men would have dashed up and over every thing that stood in their way, so enthusiastic had they become, but Gen. Kilpatrick acted the wary part, and as the shells whistled in the air, he held off the bringing up of reinforcements from Pickett's brigade, at Bottom's Bridge and vicinity, he reluctantly gave the order to move toward Mechanicsville. This was done in a very cautious manner. On every side the enemy's pickets confronted them, and a series of manoeuvres took place, in which the enemy were found to be on the alert at every point. Night coming on, Kilpatrick, with his accustomed audacity, halted and made preparations to camp. He had chosen a place, however, too near a rebel camp, and the result was that he was being shelled out of his position. So the command groped its way on in the darkness and gloom, when pressed too hard, and with the tell-tale whistle of the locomotive now warning them that the troops were being hauled back to Bottom's Bridge in the hope that they might be able to escape.

On Monday Gen. Butler received orders to send out a force to meet Gen. Kilpatrick and assist him if necessary. This movement was part of Gen. K's plan as proposed. Had the knowledge of an alleged plot at New Kent Court-house or at Bottom's Bridge, and if he had been turned away from Richmond, but would have treated Gen. Butler's forces to a fight for the same prize.

Two thousand infantry under Col. Duncan, Fourth United States Colored Regiment; 800 cavalry, under Col. Spear, Eleventh Pennsylvania; Cavalry and Bigler's First Rhode Island Battery, the whole under command of Col. West, were ordered to New Kent Court-house, there to be governed by circumstances as to further movements.

The infantry colored troops left on Monday afternoon, and reached New Kent Court-house about noon the next day, having made an extraordinary night march through rain and mud.

The cavalry left Williamsburg on Monday night and arrived Tuesday morning. About eight o'clock on Tuesday morning the cavalry moved on to the right of the main force and proceeded to Tunstall Station, where a freight car, new steam saw mill and machinery, burnt a freight car, 20,000 feet of lumber, &c.

On Tuesday night a portion of Kilpatrick's force was dispersed, but not before they had done considerable preparations were made to give them a warm reception. On Wednesday morning the question was solved, and as the two columns of cavalry came in on both sides of the colored brigade drawn up to receive them, the rebel officers were despatched.

After resting a while they resumed their march down the Peninsula. The troops went into camp a few miles from Fort Magruder on Thursday night, and yesterday were to move to Williamsburg for the purpose of procuring forage and rations, and raising the cavalry. This raid has been one of the most daring of the war, and but for the two fatalities mentioned would have proved a complete success. The casualties have not yet been ascertained. Col. Dahlgren, Major Cook, and Lieut. Col. Mitchell, with about one hundred and fifty men, are missing. The latter is known to have been wounded.

The greatest consternation prevailed in Richmond during the fighting, as well it might. The men who have been buffeted of their prey—the rebel capital—feel that they would have been better off in the hands of the authorities at Washington had permitted Gen. Butler to co-operate with them, and keep picket infantry employed down the Peninsula.

REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE RAID.

From the Richmond Whig of March 20. The Yankee Raid—Richmond Threatened—Fighting around the City.

Our last notice of the movements of the enemy closed with their appearance at Frederick's Hall, on the Central Railroad, and the approaching of another column towards Charlottesville. The latter, we learn, were met by our cavalry, under Col. Caske, and repulsed. At Frederick's Hall they tore up the track for a considerable distance, and it is reliably reported, captured and brought off several of our officers and eight pieces of the artillery stationed there, besides doing considerable damage to the remainder by destroying the carriages and otherwise rendering it unserviceable for immediate use.

Leaving Frederick's Hall on Monday, they crossed the Central Railroad and divided into two detachments, one moving in the direction of James River Canal, and the other towards Ashland, (twenty miles above Richmond, on the railroad,) where it spent Monday night. The former column penetrated yesterday morning to the farm of Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, in Goodland county. They burnt his barn and stable, and it reported by an escaped prisoner that his dwelling house was in flames when he left the vicinity. They also burnt all the flour and saw mills in the vicinity, including the Dover flour mills, the barns and mill. Messrs. Starnard & Morrison; destroyed a number of freight and other boats in the canal, and did considerable damage to the canal, besides the destruction of boats, was the cutting of the lock at Sasposoo's. Gen. Henry A. Wise was, at the time, on a visit to his son-in-law, whose farm adjoins that of Secretary Seddon, but, fortunately, he escaped apprized of their approach in time to make his escape. He arrived in this city yesterday.

The other detachment that came to Ashland was accompanied by a battery of artillery, and appeared on the banks of the river about six miles northwest of the city, yesterday morning. They were promptly met by our pickets, and finally hand-to-hand by a portion of the engineer troops and Col. W. H. Stephens, who manned a few sections of light artillery. A duel ensued, and shots were exchanged for about an hour. The enemy then withdrew in the direction of Mechanicsville, burning and destroying the Central Railroad across the Chickahominy river in their retreat. Our loss in the fight on the Brooke road was one killed and six or seven wounded. The rebels, who carried their dead and wounded with them, captured two prisoners, who were committed to the Libby prison. During the retreat of this column they were again in the dwelling house of Hon. James Lyons, near Ashland, but, fortunately, he escaped. They took the carriage of Mr. John P. Bellard, took the horses, and carried off the horses of Mr. Goddin. The latest report we have from this retreating column is that they had sailed five or six miles from the city to take refuge in the mountains, probably endeavoring to make their escape by way of the White House. We could not mention a report that they saluted Camp Lee with a few shells, but this lacks confirmation.

The detachment that went to Goodland, according to the statement of one of our correspondents, consisted of a body of negroes mounted and armed. They were accompanied by a considerable number of negroes as well as a large number of horses, which were brought into requisition whenever the troops were exhausted and were sent to leave the Central Railroad they progressed into service as negro guides to pilot them to the vicinity of this city, where they intended and expected to arrive last night to effect a landing on the river, and to proceed to the city. They were probably with the column from the direction of Ashland. The negroes, however, intentionally or ignorantly, misled them in the wrong direction, and they landed at Goodland, as above stated, about daylight yesterday, for which they hung him yesterday afternoon.

It is reported that a detachment from this column went to the river at Manassas, and, with the intention of crossing, if practicable, and coming to the south side. Whether they succeeded or not we have not learned. Some of the privateers expressed regret at the burning of houses, but said they acted under orders. A being with them all day, feigned sickness, and, after leaving the Central Railroad they progressed into service as negro guides to pilot them to the vicinity of this city, where they intended and expected to arrive last night to effect a landing on the river, and to proceed to the city. They were probably with the column from the direction of Ashland. The negroes, however, intentionally or ignorantly, misled them in the wrong direction, and they landed at Goodland, as above stated, about daylight yesterday, for which they hung him yesterday afternoon.

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GEN. SHERMAN AT VICKSBURG.

CAIRO, MARCH 8.—Passengers by the steamer Luningary, from Vicksburg 3d, say that Sherman and his army are there.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 8.—An officer arrived at Cairo yesterday, direct from Vicksburg, who corroborates the rebel statement regarding the return of Gen. Sherman's expedition to Jackson. He says that a portion of Sherman's force is marching steadily for Vicksburg, with a small army of negroes, and a large lot of mules, horses, hogs, cattle, &c. These are the spoils taken on the way.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 8.—A Columbus despatch to the Gazette says that Gen. Grant, on his way to the East, spoke in the highest terms of Sherman's expedition, as having given the rebellion the severest blow since Vicksburg. Sherman has destroyed forage and provisions sufficient to sustain the rebel army from three to six months. In one place he destroyed over \$200,000 worth of property, and in other places immense stores. He brought in a large drove of cattle, several thousand head of mules, eight thousand negroes, and four hundred prisoners. He incurred only a trifling loss of men and material of war. In addition to other advantages, Gen. Sherman has missed McPherson's corps from guard duty along the Mississippi, and restored it to active service.

REBEL REPORTS FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

PRISONERS EXCHANGED. FORTRESS MONROE, MARCH 8.—The flag of truce steamer New York arrived this evening from City Point with seven hundred Union prisoners, exchanged for an equal number taken up.

The Richmond Whig of the 7th says: Eight hundred and sixty-one prisoners arrived here yesterday under the charge of Major Mulford to be exchanged under the stipulations of the cartel. It is hoped that regular exchanges will be resumed for the future.

The body of Col. Dahlgren was brought to this city on Sunday.

The Richmond Sentinel of March 8th has the following despatches:

MERIDIAN, MARCH 4.—Sherman has burnt a great amount of property here and at Madison, Enterprise, Lockhart, and Lauderdale. At the latter place all the public buildings and a number of private houses were burnt.

MERIDIAN, MARCH 6.—Sherman was at Canton last Wednesday. Our cavalry were fighting him on all sides, and there was heavy cannonading at Canton all day Wednesday. The rebels have taken a large number of negroes. He leaves the country perfectly impoverished wherever he has been.

SAVANNAH, MARCH 4.—On Tuesday, Col. Anderson attacked the enemy at Camp Pinegrove, and pursued them to within three miles of Jacksonville. Capt. Stephens is among our killed.

CHARLESTON, MARCH 4.—One hundred and eight shells were fired at the city to-day, and one hundred and twenty-eight yesterday. The monitors shelled Sumter to-day.

CHARLESTON, MARCH 6.—Two hundred and five shells have been fired at the city since last report.

RETURN OF PRISONERS.

BALTIMORE, MARCH 9.—A special despatch to the American from Annapolis says: The steamer City of New York arrived this afternoon with six hundred and sixty prisoners from Richmond, including forty-seven officers, among these a great many Marylanders.

The Richmond papers are filled with accounts of Kilpatrick's raid. The Examiner says that Col. Dahlgren was killed at Walkerton, and has two bullets through his head, one through his hand, and two in his body. He was stripped naked and lying in the road. A number of our men were captured. The Whig says of them: They should not be treated as prisoners of war, but this day's sun should not go down before every seconded tank is blown from the cannon's mouth.

FROM CHARLESTON AND FLORIDA.

NEW YORK, MARCH 7.—The steamer Arago has arrived from Hilton Head and Charleston bar on the 4th. Colonels Rust, Moore, Sammons, Meyer, Sidel, and Jackson are among her passengers, the total number of whom is nine hundred and fifty.

There is nothing new from Charleston. The bombardment still continued with good effect. The rebels replied at intervals, but rarely doing injury.

The supply steamer Bermuda is reported to have captured a rebel privateer in sight of Fort Pickens, after an exciting chase. The rebels had just put a prize crew on board a captured trading vessel, which was not retaken.

All was quiet at Jacksonville, Florida, on the 2d instant. Reinforcements were rapidly arriving, and Gen. Seymour's position was sufficiently formidable to repel any attack. Our troops are outside the town—some of them at a distance of eight miles. The fortifications in front of Jacksonville are of an extensive character.

A flag of truce boat had communicated with the rebels for the purpose of endeavoring to obtain our wounded who fell into their hands. The request was refused.

The main body of the enemy is encamped between "Ten Mile run" and Baldwin, with a considerable force at Baldwin. The rebels admit their loss to be enormous, some even setting it as high as two thousand.

On the 27th ultimo a small skirmish occurred between our cavalry and rebels near Camp Pinegrove. The rebels had five wounded, none of our men were hurt. Gen. Gillmore arrived at Jacksonville on the 29th.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

LATEST DESPATCHES.

ATTACK ON MOBILE—ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S FLEET AT WORK.

NEW YORK, MARCH 6.—New Orleans advices of the 27th of February have been received per the steamers Columbus and George Cronwell.

Admiral Farragut continued the attack on the forts below Mobile. A letter from the fleet, dated the 23d, says: "The whole mortar fleet has kept up an incessant fire on Fort Powell, which commands Grant's Pass, since daylight. The rebel ram Tennessee, off Fort Morgan, is expected to attack our fleet. She is said to be more powerful than the late Merrimac. Fort Powell cannot hold out long against our bombardment."

Admiral Farragut was on board the Calhoun, near the fort. Our regiments from the Tache are daily arriving in New Orleans, and are being sent on transports to co-operate with Admiral Farragut.

Thirty-four rebel prisoners escaped from the customhouse in New Orleans. Ten or twelve of them were recaptured, and it was probable the remainder would be caught.

A mutiny occurred at Southwest Pass on board of the barque Garibaldi on the 22d of February. It is reported that the mate and a seaman were killed before the mutiny was quelled. The vessel was sent to sea, as though nothing had happened.

There was an extensive fire at Pensacola on the 15th ultimo. The town was, it is believed, destroyed by the rebels, under the impression that our forces designed soon occupying it.

The 18th New York Cavalry has arrived at New Orleans. Gen. Banks reviewed the artillery and cavalry at Oak-rosell on the 27th of February. Col. Chickering, of the Third Massachusetts Cavalry, has been appointed Assistant Provost Marshal General of the State of Louisiana. His duties are to superintend the labor system instituted by Gen. Banks. Gen. Wetzel is expected soon to return to New Orleans.

GEN. SHERMAN AT VICKSBURG.

CAIRO, MARCH 8.—Passengers by the steamer Luningary, from Vicksburg 3d, say that Sherman and his army are there.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 8.—An officer arrived at Cairo yesterday, direct from Vicksburg, who corroborates the rebel statement regarding the return of Gen. Sherman's expedition to Jackson. He says that a portion of Sherman's force is marching steadily for Vicksburg, with a small army of negroes, and a large lot of mules, horses, hogs, cattle, &c. These are the spoils taken on the way.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 8.—A Columbus despatch to the Gazette says that Gen. Grant, on his way to the East, spoke in the highest terms of Sherman's expedition, as having given the rebellion the severest blow since Vicksburg. Sherman has destroyed forage and provisions sufficient to sustain the rebel army from three to six months. In one place he destroyed over \$200,000 worth of property, and in other places immense stores. He brought in a large drove of cattle, several thousand head of mules, eight thousand negroes, and four hundred prisoners. He incurred only a trifling loss of men and material of war. In addition to other advantages, Gen. Sherman has missed McPherson's corps from guard duty along the Mississippi, and restored it to active service.

REBEL REPORTS FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

PRISONERS EXCHANGED. FORTRESS MONROE, MARCH 8.—The flag of truce steamer New York arrived this evening from City Point with seven hundred Union prisoners, exchanged for an equal number taken up.

The Richmond Whig of the 7th says: Eight hundred and sixty-one prisoners arrived here yesterday under the charge of Major Mulford to be exchanged under the stipulations of the cartel. It is hoped that regular exchanges will be resumed for the future.

The body of Col. Dahlgren was brought to this city on Sunday.

The Richmond Sentinel of March 8th has the following despatches:

MERIDIAN, MARCH 4.—Sherman has burnt a great amount of property here and at Madison, Enterprise, Lockhart, and Lauderdale. At the latter place all the public buildings and a number of private houses were burnt.

MERIDIAN, MARCH 6.—Sherman was at Canton last Wednesday. Our cavalry were fighting him on all sides, and there was heavy cannonading at Canton all day Wednesday. The rebels have taken a large number of negroes. He leaves the country perfectly impoverished wherever he has been.

SAVANNAH, MARCH 4.—On Tuesday, Col. Anderson attacked the enemy at Camp Pinegrove, and pursued them to within three miles of Jacksonville. Capt. Stephens is among our killed.

CHARLESTON, MARCH 4.—One hundred and eight shells were fired at the city to-day, and one hundred and twenty-eight yesterday. The monitors shelled Sumter to-day.

CHARLESTON, MARCH 6.—Two hundred and five shells have been fired at the city since last report.

RETURN OF PRISONERS.

BALTIMORE, MARCH 9.—A special despatch to the American from Annapolis says: The steamer City of New York arrived this afternoon with six hundred and sixty prisoners from Richmond, including forty-seven officers, among these a great many Marylanders