THE WEEKLY HERALD.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25, 1865.

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer, 23d inst.)

A Scene of History.

A number of the Philadelphia papers reiterate a false statement which has been circulated extensively by Northern papers, namely, if allowed to go uncontradicted, may find its way into history as truth. It is to the effect that on the second day's fight in Hampton Roads, the Merrimac was driven off by the Monitor. We feel called upon to correct the statement by giving the facts as they occurred under our own observation. In order to present them in a connected form, we shall give a brief narrative of the occurrences of the two days, as they rem[illegible] impressed on our memory.

On the 8th March, [illegible] 2, there sailed forth from [illegible] ruins of the Norfolk Navy Yard, an experimental vessel, an improvised iron-clad, the old [illegible] reconstructed and named Virginia. She was commanded by an old naval officer, Franklin Buchanan, a citizen of Maryland. The people of two cities thronged their respective wharves and bade the vessel "God speed" as she [illegible] past in the narrow channel. She was going on her trial trip. Every one on board, but one, thought she would return to the navy yard after she had made a complete trial of her machinery. We are getting pretty [illegible] enemy only to try uncas[illegible] was the thought of officers [illegible] as they found themselves [illegible] obstructions and still go[illegible] turning. Paper were turned unhesitatingly towards the old commander. He was walking up and down the deck, conversing [illegible] near him, and looking [illegible] unconcerned "to mean [illegible] the vessel is getting [illegible] near the enemy. The [illegible] only visible now. On [illegible] the left, under the sand ba[illegible] Newport News, are seen forming up the great black [illegible] of the Congress and Cumberland. There are seventy heavy [illegible] through the port-holes [illegible] those vessels, and a thousand trained gunners stand behind [illegible] the Virginia has ten such guns, and two hundred men around them. To be sure they are protected by armor, but no one knows whether it will prove effective or not.

Almost directly ahead of the vessel, between the Rip Raps and Fortress Monroe, are seen the frigates St. Lawrence, Colorado and Minnesota—vessels carrying batteries of fifty guns each. Some half dozen gunboats are also there.

The Virginia by this time is beside the frigates off Newport News. There is heard a sound of the drum, and its long roll has hardly ceased, ere the crew are at their stations and the ship is ready for battle. "It begins to look as if the old man means to fight." All doubt concerning that is soon removed.—Coming down on the lower deck and calling his crew around him, Buchanan addresses them in brief and eloquent language. They respond with three hearty cheers and return to their guns. Nothing is heard now but the ominous creak[illegible] the engine and [illegible] jarring the shaft. Nothing said [illegible] broken by the sound [illegible] from the bow, [illegible] who [illegible] ing at an [illegible] hour. His second and the marine [illegible] shaps his fate.

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A FIRE TIME FOR THE BOYS.—The Knickerbocker Chronicle says:

"Some of our young friends have been busy counting up lately, and report the following disastrous result: There are in this town after thirty marriageable young men and not half that amount of marriageable young ladies. The latter can, therefore, have it all their own way and be choice in their selection, unless a brisk importation of lasses from abroad should spoil their monopoly. We sympathize with the Benny boys, and in secret wish fight for they have no business to allow strangers [illegible] to come in and carry off the great institution of the country."

[illegible] Monitor entirely out of range of his guns, and the Minnesota silent and [illegible] Monitor, which now approached within a mile of the Congress, and commenced firing her guns, slowly and with a long interval between the vessel that it said to have caused the withdrawal.

It was afterwards ascertained by a published report of the commander of the Minnesota, that had the Virginia continued for five fifteen minutes longer, he would have blown up his vessel, which he was at the time preparing to abandon. He was forced to this step, he says, in effect, because the Monitor had retired after failing to divert the fire from him.

The report is on file at the Navy Department, and if the Inquirer has any disposition to tell the truth, it will be consulted.

THE TEST-OATH.—In some comments on the late decision, the New York Times says:

Other considerations, however, invest the judgment with more extended importance. Whatever the offences of the parties, the pardons of the Executive are held to relieve them from penalties, and to restore them, in the eyes of the law, to the *status* they occupied before they rebelled. The authority of Congress to limit the prerogative of mercy is denied. The Court further decides that attorneys are in fact officers of the Court, and as such not subject to the jurisdiction of Congress.

Missouri insists upon its test-oath and rebel attorneys will no longer be debarred [illegible] thoroughly [illegible] the tickets. Before the drawing commenced, Hon. W. F. Coolbaugh, of Chicago, announced that there were between twenty and thirty thousand tickets unsold, which belonged to Mr. Crosby. He also stated that if the audience preferred to appoint two persons from their number to draw the tickets, that privilege would be conceded them. The audience unanimously declared themselves in favor of having the committee draw the tickets. Mr. Pulsifer of Boston, was designated to draw from the small wheel and Mr. J. C. Dore, President of the Chicago Board of Trade, from the large wheel. These gentlemen then stripped off their coats, bared their arms, and at twenty minutes to 1 o'clock went at their work. The following are the first thirteen prizes, with the numbers which drew them: No. 1, Crosby Opera House, 58,600; No. 2, Yo Semite Valley, 161,832. No. 3, American Autumn, 176,187; No. 4, Washington Irving and his Friends, 72,365; No. 5, Woods in Autumn, 35,160; No. 6, Recognition, 21,996; No. 7, Deer on the Prairie, 61,942; No. 8, Alpine Scenery, 36,960; No. 9, marble bust of Lincoln, 161,554; No. 10, The Old Reel, 46,271; No. 11, Fisherman of Normandy, 15,377; No. 12, The Deserted Home, 104,680; No. 13, Crossing the Stream, 37,843. The lucky persons who own the above numbers have not yet been made known.

The report current immediately after the drawing was finished, that John Meyer, lager beer saloon keeper, had the ticket which drew the Opera House, proves to be without foundation.

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LATER.—A. H. Lee, Prairie Du Rocher, Randolph county, Illinois, about 50 miles south of St. Louis, is the lucky holder of ticket 58,600. The ticket was sold by Pettes and Leathe, St. Louis, who immediately on receipt of the telegram from Crosby, announcing the drawing, started a messenger on horseback to notify Lee of his good fortune. Lee held but one ticket.

NEBRASKA AND COLORADO.—The following is the text of the proviso attached to the bills for the admission of Colorado and Nebraska into the Union, as they were finally passed, and await the inevitable veto:

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall go into effect with the fundamental and perpetual condition that within the said State of Nebraska there shall be no abridgement or denial of the exercise of the elective franchise, or of any other right, to any person, by reason of race or color, excepting Indians not taxed, and upon the other fundamental condition that the Legislature of said State, by a solemn act, shall declare the assent of said State to the said fundamental conditions, and shall transmit to the President of the United States an authentic copy of said act; upon receipt whereof, the President, by proclamation, shall forthwith announce the fact; whereupon, said fundamental condition shall be held as a part of the organic law of the State; and thereupon, and without any further proceeding on the part of Congress, the admission of said State into the Union shall be proclaimed as complete. The said State Legislature shall be convened by the territorial Governor, within thirty days after the passage of this act, to act upon the condition submitted herein.

A NEW PRINCE—"PRINCE JAMES."—The New Orleans Times says:

Scarcely is poor John (Van Buren) cold in his grave, than another bright specimen of Young America comes in for princely honor. Benedict has been dubbed Prince James. There is no foundation for the rumor that the owner of the Henrietta has indignantly rejected marriage from several European Princesses. To those "thrones, dominations and powers" who have made overtures with a view to securing the influence of the Herald, Bennett invariably answers, "ask papa."

Ex-GOV. JOHN LETCHER has been elected Mayor of Lexington Virginia.

[illegible] Senate Proceedings.

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A MODERN MERCUTIO.—A Paris letter puts in possession of the following particulars of the dramatic duel which resulted in the death of M. Seguin, the son of a St. Petersburg banker:

On the evening of the duel, M. Seguin went to the Cafe Frontin, where he met Lieutenant Leca, of the Zouaves, who owed him forty francs. M. Seguin claimed the sum, and while the Lieutenant's hand was in his pocket he struck him. M. Leca said: "Seguin, you have committed a brutal action, and you will regret it to-morrow." M. Seguin repeated the blow, and demanded a duel on the spot. Friends stepped forward, but the matter had gone too far, and principals and seconds got into a cab and drove to the Poissonierre barracks, for raplers the *maitre d'armes* refused them at [illegible] hour, but gave some foils, which were taken to an armorer where the buttons were removed, and the points sharpened. Thence the party went to the Porte Maillot and got to work. Almost at the first pass Seguin was touched on the arm, and Leca wished the affair to stop there. Seguin, however, declared if he did not defend himself he would spit him like a dog. In the words of Mercutio: "O calm, dishonorable, vile submission! *Alla stocatta* carries it away. Tybalt, the rat-catcher, will you walk?"—After a few more passes the unfortunate provoker rushed on to his adversary's sword, and expired almost immediately. M. Leca was then placed under an escort for appearing at an unfashionable hour. His second and the maitre d'armes share his fate.

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