Richmond Dispatch.

TUESDAY MORNING.....OCT. 22, 1861.

Affairs on the Peninsula—Designs of the Enemy.

The community was somewhat excited yesterday by a report, which seemed to be well authenticated, of an engagement near Newport News on the 18th inst., but later advices contradicted it entirely. Nevertheless, the tenor of the official advices goes to show that sharp work may be apprehended in that quarter at no distant day. The presence of a large fleet of Federal vessels in Hampton Roads is well known to Gen. Magruder, who is preparing to give the enemy a warm reception should an attack be made. We deem it unnecessary to notice any movements of troops, of which we received information yesterday.

The War Department received a dispatch last evening from Gen. Magruder, stating that a portion of the command of Brig.-Gen. McLaws, of Georgia, engaged the enemy yesterday forenoon, near Young's Mills. The dispatch gives no particulars.

Western Virginia.

We learn from Dr. Clarke, who has just reached the city from our forces now in Raleigh county, that Gen. Floyd, with a strong force, had crossed New River at Miller's Ferry, had passed down beyond the mouth of the Gauley, and was directing his march towards Charleston, in Kanawha county. His command will probably cross Kanawha river at Malden, twelve miles above Charleston.—Generals Lee and Loring were still on Sewell mountain, doubtless awaiting to hear of the success of Gen. Floyd's expedition before advancing upon the enemy on the Gauley.

We learn that the militia of the country had, by cutting down trees, blocked up the roads leading from the enemy's position in direction of Sumuersville for a considerable distance. If this is true, and the work has been done effectually, the enemy will be between Gen. Lee on the east and Gen. Floyd on the west, the latter of whom will be able with his artillery to cut off his supplies by stopping the running of steamers on the Kanawha.

Dr. Clarke reports that the enemy was rumored to have again advanced from the Gauley in the direction of Sewell with twenty-five thousand men, but he himself gives no credence to the rumor, being more inclined to believe that Rosencranz had gone off with the best of his troops down to the Ohio river, and probably proceeded thence into Kentucky.—The gloomy accounts given by the Cincinnati papers of the enemy's affairs in Western Virginia would have to be put out in excuse for the actual or contemplated abandonment of that field of operations by Rosencranz for the more tempting one in Kentucky.

Demonstration Last Night.

A great number of persons assembled in front of the Spotswood House, about 8 o'clock last night, for the purpose of making a demonstration of welcome to the distinguished Kentuckians now sojourning there. Repeated cheers were given for "Breckinridge," "Marshall," and others, and in response the Hon. Humphrey Marshall addressed the throng.—He reviewed the history of the policy pursued by Lincoln's administration towards Kentucky, exposed the trickery and duplicity practiced upon the people of the State through the medium of a Legislature which does not reflect their sentiments, and declared his belief that the time would come when despotism would be crushed and its instruments driven out at the cannon's mouth, and at the point of the bayonet. He stated that there were now 5,000 Kentuckians in the Southern army, and thousands more waiting a favorable opportunity to strike a blow for constitutional freedom.—Mr. Marshall was followed by Colonel Wm. Christy, a veteran of the war of 1812, who made a thrilling speech. Col. Thomas L. Snead, of Gen. Sterling Price's staff, also made a few remarks, giving a cheering view of the progress of events in Missouri, and Col. Wm. F. Sims, of Kentucky, the competitor of John J. Crittenden, briefly addressed the throng. It was announced that Mr. Breckinridge was not present, and though this caused a general expression of disappointment, the enthusiasm of the people was not perceptibly diminished.

Another Naval Engagement.

Advices from New Orleans state that on the 17th inst., at midday, the Confederate steamer Jackson, Capt. Gwathmey, going down the Southwest Pass, discovered two Federal steamers, one supposed to be a new gun-boat, and the other the South Carolina. They stopped at the head of the Passes, meeting the Ivy, and opened upon our steamers with long range guns. The fire was returned by the Ivy but the guns of the Jackson being unable to reach the enemy, she retired. The enemy's vessels, finding the Ivy's fire disagreeable, finally hauled off. One shell burst under the bow of the large Federal steamer during the engagement, and another under that of the small one.

Mail Depredations—Important Arrests.

We are pleased to learn that Hon. John D. Ashmore, one of the Special Agents of the Post-Office Department, has recently effected two important arrests of persons guilty of violating the mails of the Confederate States.

One was a clerk in the Post-Office at Augusta, Ga., who, after his arrest, fully confessed his guilt in the case on which he was taken into custody. The numerous losses to individuals of money sent through the mails, occurring, apparently, at this important Office, have caused the Department much annoyance, and we trust that the guilty cause has now been detected and removed.

The other case was the arrest of a mail carrier between Augusta, Ga., and Gillisonville, S. C. He was detected in the act of breaking open the mail, and, upon being searched, part of mail that had been rifled, was found upon his person. He confessed to eight distinct robberies, and gave information that may lead to the recovery of the valuable contents of many stolen letters.

The business public and the entire letter-writing community will rejoice that these offenders are to be brought to punishment, and will also commend the zeal and intelligence with which the Special Agent conducts his arduous and important duties.

A few more depredators arrested and committed for trial will teach the useful lesson, that there resides in the Post-Office Department both the vigor to pursue and the disposition to punish all those who violate, in any way, the mails of the Confederate States.

The Engagement near Harper's Ferry.

We have information that the enemy evacuated Harper's Ferry on the night of the 16th inst., after burning the foundry at the Gulf Mills, and retreated to the Maryland side.—A volunteer who participated in the late engagement under Colonel Ashby furnishes us the subjoined account of that affair:

"On the anniversary of Brown's raid, 16th of October, the gallant and brave Colonel T. Ashby, with about 300 cavalry and 700 militia, (infantry,) and two pieces of artillery, marched down the turnpike to what has been called Moler's hill, (now the School-house hill,) where the enemy had pickets the day before. They fell back if they were there, when a company of cavalry, commanded by Captains Winfield and Baylor, wheeled to the right, and another company wheeled to the left, commanded by Captains Mason and Glenn. A company of infantry, from Rockingham, also went to the right. Thus in order they went to cross a valley about one mile wide, and ascend a steep hill or mountain called Allistot's hill, on which were two forts or batteries of large pine logs, constructed by the Yankees as their standing point of defence. Our two cannon fired several rounds at them, they answering our fire, when the daring Colonel Ashby, with his officers and men—militia, infantry, and cavalry, made a gallant and bold charge across the valley and up a long and steep hill in the face of the enemy, and under their fire. The Yankees gave way, leaving their fortifications for shelter in the houses at Bolivar and Harper's Ferry. That charge for the distance of near one mile up the hill, must have been a grand move to test the valor and courage of the troops. It was equal to any charge in history. The officers and men pressing up the mountain, driving the enemy before them from their strong fortifications, was a grand sight.

"The writer (sixty years of age) was with the cavalry that moved to the right, with a company of infantry from Rockingham. We crossed the valley to the railroad at Keye's switch or depot, then on to the heights, and thence with cavalry and the company of infantry, descended the mountain to the railroad through the narrow pass at Bulls falls to the Gulf mills; then up the mill road in the mountain to Bolivar. We captured some citizens on the hills giving signals to the enemy, and drove in a body of pickets.

"On reaching the open ground of Bolivar, in the rear of the enemy's fortifications, we expected to cut off their retreat to the ferry, but were disappointed. They were on their retreat, with Col. Ashby's column after them, when our cavalry ordered a charge, and such a shout went up! Away they dashed after the Yankees under a heavy fire from their infantry, the balls passing us with a most singular sound—music that I never heard before. Near by was Colonel Ashby's artillery, with the infantry in Strider's field, both sides firing constantly. After one hour's engagement the fire ceased, and the enemy returned on our left flank, north of Bolivar. The infantry formed near the breastworks in the woods, and when the enemy left their shelter in the houses and advanced on our force, a severe engagement, the heaviest firing of the day, occurred. Our men must have thinned their ranks, as they retired a second time. Just then I left my horse to aid in conveying the wounded from the field. I saw persons passing with blankets, coats, and cartridge-boxes, left by the enemy; and along came young Mr. Pennybacker with a prisoner he had captured in Smallwood's field. I next met persons bearing along a young man wounded in the leg, also a prisoner. I have since heard that there were about twenty-five of the enemy killed besides the wounded.

"At this time the artillery opened on the enemy from the Loudoun Mountain, but again ceased a short space, when it was evident the enemy had been reinforced either by the railroad from Shepherdstown or Shapsburg. The balls and bombs passed over and fell around us at a dangerous rate, and the out-siders, lookers on, commenced a hasty retreat. This had a bad effect, making the artillery horses hard to manage; indeed, one team was running at large. I think, in future, all persons not in active engagement should be excluded from the vicinity of an army or column of attack. Our only loss was one noble soldier, from Woodstock, killed, and ten wounded. I look at it as a miracle, or wonderful interposition of Divine Providence, that more were not killed or wounded. We had to leave our large cannon, which broke down on Allistot's hill, just below the enemy's battery. As the enemy had evidently been reinforced they pressed forward, when our troops retired to Moler's Hill, where they formed in line and let them hear from our artillery in several rounds, when they ceased firing for the night.

Latest from Western Virginia—Withdrawal of Federal Troops, &c.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, of the 12th, has the following interesting intelligence in regard to the movements of the Federal forces in Western Virginia:

The steamer "Mary Cook" arrived last evening from the Kanawha river, bringing from the camps near Gauley Bridge 154 sick and wounded soldiers, who were immediately taken from the steamer to the Marine Hospital. Our fellow-citizen, Mr. Quinn, who has been spending a few weeks in Western Virginia, was also a passenger on the "Cook," and from him we learn very important particulars from that section of the State. He corroborates the statement of Col. Frizell, that the entire country of the Kanawha Valley is devastated, and that farmers are leaving as rapidly as transportation can be found to bring them North. Forage is out of the question and provisions cannot be procured.

The condition of the roads and country is such that an army of 2,000 men could not winter there, the impossibility of transportation being so great, and the risk of reaching the army with supplies, &c., so hazardous.

Generals Rosencranz and Cox are at Mountain Cave, only thirteen miles from Gauley Bridge, with only six thousand troops, who are able to perform active duty, and are available. Between Gauley Bridge and Camp Lookout there were, on Tuesday last, 1,440 patients in the hospitals, prostrated with camp fever. At Cross Lanes, near Carnifax Ferry, and about twenty-eight miles from Gauley Bridge, are 160 patients. Those that can bear moving are to be brought here as rapidly as steamers can be secured.

During the past two weeks there have been continuous rains, and the roads are almost impassable.

The campaign in Western Virginia is virtually ended, and preparations are on foot to withdraw a portion of our forces there, and send them into Kentucky, leaving only a sufficient force to prevent the rebels from approaching north of Gauley river or west of Cheat Mountain. The probabilities are, however, that the Seceshers have no desire to come through a country they have already laid waste and left barren.

Mr. Quinn was at Sewell's Mountain when a battle between our forces and the rebels was so imminent. The enemy were entrenched on a mountain four miles and a half from our army, and their camp fires were plainly visible. The enemy's pickets fired upon the Federal pickets, but no damage was done. On Sunday evening Gen. Rosencranz fell back on Camp Lookout, and then to Mountain Cave. We will not be surprised to hear of Rosencranz in Kentucky within ten days. The enemy have already gone in the direction of Cumberland Gap.

PENETRATING THE NETHER REGION.—A letter from Wirt county, Virginia, relates the following:

A gentleman in the oil region in Western Virginia was boring for oil on his land, and, anxious to complete the job, kept his darkies at work night and day. The nights were cold and a fire was built near the well.—About midnight they struck a vein of gas, which rushed out with great force, and igniting from the fire, shot up a great stream of brilliant flame one hundred and fifty feet in the air, illuminating the country round.—The terrified darkies broke for their master's house, and cried out: "Get up, Massa Tomkins, get up! we've broke through into hell."

AN ELOPEMENT.—Several days since we were placed in possession of the particulars of an affair which has forever ruined the peace of a very estimable family living in the northern portion of the city. It seems that a gentleman met a countryman (the parties are French,) who was in distressed circumstances, took him, clothed him, and fed him, and procured for him employment. The serpent thus nourished into life turned and stung him. He seduced his benefactor's wife, and at last prevailed upon the deluded woman to elope with him. Securing all the valuables and money she could obtain, the guilty pair took passage upon one of our packets for New Orleans. The injured husband telegraphed to have them arrested, and left on the cars last evening to endeavor to reclaim his wife. We omit names on account of the husband.—The woman is the mother of several children now living.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

GREAT FLOOD AND LOSS OF PROPERTY IN THE NORTHWEST.—The St. Louis *Democrat*, of the 12th instant, has information of heavy rains all along the Upper Mississippi and tributaries, which have been followed by very serious consequences to farmers and others. In one night in Scott county, Iowa, eight inches of rain fell on a level place, not to speak of what sunk into the ground.—Throughout the whole country the farmers were greatly distressed by the wet weather.—The Des Moines River was at flood height, and fence rails, saw logs, corn shocks, etc., were shooting out of it in quantities sufficient to nearly cover the entire surface of the river. Mr. Hare had four hundred hogs in a pen in the bottom, on Copperas Creek, above Bentonsport, and all were swept off and lost in one night.

MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.—Mr. H. H. Ware, of this city, together with a little daughter and a negro woman, were poisoned on Friday last, in using a bottle of wine, in which arsenic had been placed by some unknown hand. His little daughter died from the effects of the poison almost immediately. Mr. Ware and the negro woman still survive, but both are yet very low. The lamentable casualty has spread gloom over the entire community in Selma.—*Selma (Ala.) Reporter, 12th.*

DARING NEGRO.—On Tuesday night a negro named Peter was arrested, in Charleston, S. C., by private James Morgan, of the mounted police force. Morgan gave his horse to another policeman, and proceeded to lead Peter to the Guard House. Though the policeman had his sword drawn for protection, before he had proceeded many steps the negro drew a pistol and fired, narrowly missing his mark. The fellow then rushed at Morgan with a dirk and inflicted a very severe wound in the left shoulder, after which he succeeded in making his escape.

BADLY FRIGHTENED.—A company of Home Guards, with Lincoln guns, were encamped a few nights since at Olympian Springs, Bath county. Some mischievous wag informed them that a number of Secessionists were about attacking them, whereupon such a stampede occurred as was never before seen in those parts. They scattered to all parts of the county, and we presume they have not yet fully recovered form their flight."—*Bowling Green (Ky.) Courier, 18th.*

A SOLDIER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.—Day before yesterday, while several soldiers of Col. Claiborne's regiment, of Arkansas, at Tennessee river, were carelessly handling their pistols, one of them named Fegley, a private, was shot through the lungs. He was not dead at last accounts, but there is no hope of his recovery.—*Memphis (Tenn.) Avalanche, 19th.*

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

Operations of the Federals at Hatteras—Interesing Trial in New Orleans—The Late Fight near Harper's Ferry, &c., &c.

Our Southern exchanges bring us but little of interest. The following summary is presented to the readers of the *Dispatch* as comprising everything of interest which could be gathered:

OPERATIONS AT HATTERAS.

The Norfolk *Day Book*, of yesterday, the 21st, contains the following:

We learn from a gentleman, who arrived in this city on Saturday from Roanoke Island, and who was on board one of the vessels of the Confederate fleet, that visited in the neighborhood of Hatteras during the week, that the Yankees are building something like a wharf out from Hatteras, and are throwing the stone overboard that they have been carrying there in vessels, supposed to be for the purpose of blocking up the Inlet. Our informant was told by one of the bankers who had been to Hatteras, that they had cut a canal twenty feet wide across the beach, and that recent high tides had made an island of Fort Hatteras, the canal forming almost another Inlet. It was also the impression of the banker that the Federals intended to block up the Inlet with stone, in order to prevent its being used for privateering purposes, in the event of their having to evacuate it.

THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS—AN AMUSING DESCRIPTION OF HOW IT WAS DONE.

The New Orleans *Delta*, of the 17th, contains the following spicy article in relation to the reported capture of that city by the Yankees, first published in the Louisville (Ky.) *Journal*:

The sad and disastrous capture of this great commercial mart, the principal cotton depot of the Confederate States, has at last reached the North, and is doubtless now flying, with all the rapidity and accuracy of telegraphic communication, all through the dominions of King Abraham the First. Starting at Louisville, as we are duly informed by the *Telegraphic Reporter*, published in this city last evening, and emanating from so authentic and reliable a source as the Louisville *Journal*, we can well imagine the electric joy and exultation which this news will communicate to the long despondent subjects of the Gorilla. Salvos of artillery will be fired in all the principal towns—torch-light processions will stream through the streets—innumerable extras of the *Herald*, *Tribune* and *Times* will flood the country, with such captivating capitals as "The Greatest Victory of the War." "King Cotton Prostrate." "The Crescent City Restored to the Union." "Ten Millions of Cotton Bales and 100,000 Contrabands Captured." "Nobody Hurt on Our Side."

Great and undeniable will be the joy and jubilation! And well, indeed, may the Lincolnites rejoice over such a conquest. We will not enlarge upon the value thereof. Everybody knows what that is. Sufficient for us as faithful historians to record the fact and to narrate the manner in which this capture was made.

It is well known to our readers that a great military and naval expedition was recently fitted out in New York to operate against some point in the South. The occupation of an important cotton port was the declared object of this enterprise. It was vain that we, in common with the other vigilant sentinels of the people, proclaimed that this city was the cotton port aimed at. The people would not believe it; they treated us even as the Trojans treated the dolorous but truthful Cassandra; they rested in perfect security believing that the Ivy, the Tuscarora, and the Manassas were ample to meet and repel the whole navy of the United States, and that the Confederate Guards, the Crescent Blues, and Orleans Guards, and a few other volunteer corps could whip all the troops that General Picayune Butler could bring into the field. It is true they threw up a few frail fortifications, and put a few old cannon captured from the British in 1814, in them. Then they imagined that Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Livingston, Pike, Wood, and Macomb, were all in good fighting order and well manned. But alas! as we predicted, and as we warned the corrupt, imbecile and utterly unreliable authorities, State, Confederate and municipal, their arrangements were altogether inadequate, and the city has fallen before the superior vigor, valor and force of the enemy. It is painful even to enter into a recital of all the steps which have resulted so disastrously. We can only glance at the main incidents. On the 8th the whole armada of Lincoln appeared off the bar of the Mississippi, including several hundred ships of war, most of them of the first-class. There was a short delay on account of the bar, but the large ships, including the Niagara, Minnesota, and Wabash, by taking a start of ten miles, succeeded in leaping the bar. So great was the impetus communicated to them by this leap, that it was impossible to check their vessels until they arrived in front of Forts Jackson and St. Philip.

This sudden appearance took the garrison of these forts completely by surprise; the gunners had not time to reach the guns before the men from the Niagara, the Wabash, and Minnesota were in the port-holes, quietly driving rat-tail files in the big guns. This being done, there was nothing left to Col. Duncan but to surrender, which he did with a grace that may be imagined by those who know him. The old Sara and Stripes were then floated from the flag-staff of the forts, and after a hearty breakfast—in which Commodore Stringham and Col. Duncan drank one another's healths—the fleet having been joined by the other smaller vessels, proceeded up the river, quietly picking up by the way the Ivy, the McRae, the Tuscarora, and the other vessels of the Confederate navy, and stowing them away in the holds of the big steamers. Commodore Hollins being found aboard one of these ships, was captured and ordered to the mast-head, to enjoin the people of New Orleans of the necessity of their immediate surrender.

Simultaneous with the advance of the Lincoln squadron, a powerful army, composed of regiments from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Nova Scotia, and New Zealand, were landed on the shores of Lake Borgne, and formed into three divisions. Division No 1 was commanded by Major-Gen. Picayune Butler; Division No. 2 was commanded by Gen. Billy Wilson, promoted for his recent gallant conduct at Santa Rosa; and the third by the Prince Salm Salm. Each man of these divisions, on landing, was presented with one of the new patent stilts, the ingenious invention of Col. Ichabod Whystand, of Lynn, Mass. These stilts are rather eight feet in height, and were designed to enable the Lincoln soldiers to stride through the swamps lying between the city and Lake without impediment from the trees and bushes, the men being thus elevated above their tops. Having been drilled in the use of their stilts, the Lincoln soldiers found no difficulty in using them; and as soon as the word was given to advance, the men of the three divisions strode upon the mounted stilts and struck forward high over the tops of our highest cypress, and altogether regardless of the deep mire, water, and briars. On they went with the strides of the celebrated giant who so frightened poor little Jack, in the authentic history of that youthful warrior.

Our troops, which, on hearing of the approach of the enemy, had gone gallantly forth to meet him, were all looking to the front twenty paces for the advancing foe, when suddenly they were involved in pitch darkness, as if a heavy cloud was passing over them. They could see nothing before, behind, or above them. This cloud was the enemy marching over and past them. Before our troops could recover their wits and use their eyes, they found themselves far in the rear of the foe, and in the distance a burly figure, supposed to be that of Maj. Gen. Billy Wilson, could be distinctly seen waving the stars and stripes from the cupola of the St. Charles Hotel. Meantime, the squadron having drawn up on the river in front of the city, double-shotted the guns and opened the port-holes. Com. Hollins, from the masthead of the Niagara, called out to the people that it was best to surrender, whereupon it was moved by Col. Ricardo, who happened to be standing on the roof of the Water Works, engaged in the discharge of his duties as Major-General of the 15,000 patronesses of the Free Market, that "we do now surrender!" which motion was unanimously voted in the affirmative, by the said Free Market brigade, and thereupon Cols. Thomas Murray and Henry Bier were directed to present to Com. Stringham and Major-General Butler the two biggest pumpkins to be found in the stalls of the Free Market.

Thus was the capture of New Orleans effected, and a new chaplet added to the already oppressive weight of laurels that crown the illustrious heads of Butler, Stringham, and Wilson.

It is a sad feature in this more than sad affair, and we feel called upon to announce it, that the division of Picayune Butler was guided, piloted, and led into the city by Asa Hartz and his friend, Kiubs.

INTERESTING TRIAL IN NEW ORLEANS.

Some days ago a Mr. Charles Ellis, of New Orleans, was caught outside of that city, in its suburbs, by a party who had suspected him of hostility to the South, and it was with great difficulty he escaped from being lynched.—Subsequently, the affair was brought to the notice of the authorities, when an investigation was instituted. Below we give a synopsis of the testimony in the case, which we clip from the New Orleans *Picayune*, of the 17th instant:

The examination of this case was commenced yesterday morning. The first witness heard was, of course, the gentleman who made the charge, Benjamin S Harrisson. He stated repeatedly he had no ill feeling against Mr. Ellis, and had made the charge from information received, merely to show that if the defendant was lynched a few days ago, there were some grounds, after all, for such high-handed proceedings. The information from which Mr. Harrisson made his affidavit was imparted to him some time ago, by Messrs. Liner, Burnett, and Wilbur, the very persons whom Mr. Ellis charged, last week, with being implicated in the lynching affair. It was reported to him defendant had refused to haul down the old United States flag on his establishment, remarking he had not seceded yet, and the stars and stripes were the banner for him. On another occasion Mr. Harrisson was informed Mr. Ellis had given a race, the proceeds of which were to be applied for the benefit of the volunteers; but only $15 were handed to the proper committee though more than that sum was realized from the race, as a net profit.

Mr. Philip Liner alluded in his testimony to a long conversation he had once with defendant, who had then likened the actual political movement to the revolutionary attempt in Rhode Island, and President Davis to Governor Dorr. All of the Southern leaders, said Mr. Ellis, are demagogues. They ought to be hanged, said he, according to Mr. Wilbur's testimony, in order to restore peace. With this latter witness, it appears defendant had a very grave discussion on the subject of trotting rules. The proprietor of the People's Race Course was in favor of the Northern or Long Island rules, for they were adopted by the *Spirit of the Times*, which are authorities on that matter; but Mr. Wilbur, out of patriotism, pleaded zealousy in favor of the Southern trotting rules.

Mr. H. H. Heron, another witness, was Ellis's bar-keeper at the time of the President's proclamation against aliens, and heard his boss say scornfully: "Here's a pretty deuced fool, who would drive the natural born citizens of the United States out of the United States territory. The name of the coffee-house kept by Mr. Ellis was "The Union," and when the owner was requested to change that name he refused, remarking that the Union Bank had not altered its name.

Mr. Burnett was first unwilling to testify, out of delicacy, on account of the charge made by Ellis against him; but as the Mayor insisted, he confessed he was once called a liar by Ellis, and he had knocked him down. He also heard defendant say the negroes would rise one day and take the town.

At the time of the Hatteras affair, Mr. Loomis heard Ellis say: "We have them now; we have Hatteras, and it is not improbable they will be here thirty days before next spring sets in." This same witness refused to answer any questions about the tar and feather transaction, or at least about his doings and goings on that eventful night, in order not to criminate himself.

Mr. James Garvin, late bar-keeper to Mr. Ellis, said that on the day of Col. Dreux's funeral, defendant objected to hoist the Confederate flag on his establishment.

The case was continued until next Tuesday morning.

EXTORTION.

The Selma (Ala.) *Republic*, publishes the following just and timely remarks upon the extortions which are being practiced by persons infesting every community in the country:

It is undeniable that there are men who have taken advantage of these war times to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The darling object with these sort of men is to get rich. This is the acme of their ambition, and the sum total of all their endeavors.—They have no regard for man or devil, only so far as they may be made tributary to these ends. They are the horse-leeches of the body politic—the vampires of society—in whose presence widows weep, and the wail of wretched orphanage is heard in vain. Their iron boxes are gorged with gold and silver, and this is the Ark of their Covenant with Hell, and the depository of a coinage from tears and blood. The laughing fiend keeps guard over these boxes and bags of gold, and grins horribly at the presence of hollow-eyed penury. The beggar is dismissed empty, with a grimace of which hell is made ashamed, while the lean arms of the fiend caresses the gold-like coiled snakes in the darkness of his infamous den. Such an one is ripe for the flames of the pit, and should have the burden of his damnable doom nailed upon his forehead by the hissing populace. It is with shuddering feeling we think of such men; our souls revolt—and we spurn them back as the refuse and offscourings of creation.

THE LATE FIGHT NEAR HARPER'S FERRY.

A correspondent of the Lynchburg *Republican*, writing under date of "Front Royal, Oct. 18th," says:

Col. Ashby attacked the Federal troops about a mile and a half south of Harper's Ferry yesterday, and drove them back to Bolivar, where the fight continued for three hours and a half. Ashby had a portion of four companies of the McDonald cavalry, and about three hundred and fifty militia—making a force of five hundred and fifty men. The Yankees were forced to retire beyond the river. Col. Ashby lost one man (militia) killed, and eight or nine slightly wounded. A 24-pound cannon, after it had been spiked and the carriage broken, fell into the hands of the enemy. The Federal force was estimated at fifteen hundred men, aided by a portion of Doubleday's battery. They lost two hundred in killed and wounded and twelve taken prisoners. The victory was complete, notwithstanding the Federals forced women and children to come in front of our lines to protect themselves from our fire.

The result of yesterday's battle has doubtless saved Jefferson county from being pillaged by the Yankees.

THE WOUNDING OF LT. SAYRE.

A correspondent of one of our Southern exchanges details the following conversation which he had between Capt. Hull, of Georgia, and a relative of Lieut. Sayre, in relation to the wounding of Lt. S. at Santa Rosa:

Lieut. Sayre is in the Marine corps, but volunteered (without a command) for the expedition. In the third or fourth charge of the Confederate troops, while in the front ranks, Lieut. Sayre fell within five feet of Captain Hull, the latter thinking that the former had fallen for the purpose of reloading his fire-arms. In a moment Lieut. Sayre called to Capt. Hull, "For God's sake don't leave me here to be murdered."

Captain Hull, with two of his men, immediately fell back to Lieut. Sayre, made a litter by tying two coats together, for the purpose of placing him upon it. At this moment some person representing himself to be a surgeon, arrived, and tendered his services.—Lieut. Sayre took off his sword and handed it to Captain Hull. The surgeon took the sash and bound up Sayre's wound, who was then carried upon the litter near the beach.—His comrades then left him, (as they could not at that time do him further good,) and rejoined the charging Confederates.—Lieut. Sayre was soon after taken prisoner, as would have been his comrades if they had remained longer with him.

Captain Hull felt certain that his friend was wounded only near the right knee.

When asked if it was known that Lt. S. had killed any one of the enemy, the reply was the expression of the belief that he had killed at least three of the enemy.

WON'T SELL THEIR COTTON.

The planters of Washington county, Texas, held a meeting on the 23d ult., and resolved not to sell a single bale of cotton to the agents for the Mexican market. They took this course in consequence of their having understood that these agents were covertly buying for Yankee cotton mills.

BACK ONCE MORE.

Among the prisoners that passed through Mobile, on Saturday last, were some four or five who had previously lived in that city.—Two of them had been clerks in dry goods stores, one drove a hack for some time, and two others had been waiters in one of the hotels.

FROM PENSACOLA.

A correspondent of the Columbus (Ga.) *Sun*, writing from Pensacola, under date o Oct. 13, says:

Another incident, to arouse our citizens yesterday, was the three masted schooner "76," which has been running as a lighter between this place and Milton, was discovered at anchor, near the shore of the mainland, opposite the city. Her captain, a man named Butler, having been suspected heretofore of being opposed to us, information was given Gen. Bragg of the fact. The General last night dispatched the Neaffie across. The schooner was found anchored with two anchors and not a soul aboard; nor was there a small boat, or yawl to be found near her. She was seen to leave the wharf on Friday afternoon with a yawl in tow, and was destined for Milton.—Since her discovery, the trick has exploded.

From what I can ascertain, the following persons were on board: Capt. Butler and wife, Mr. Packard and family, from Milton, L. W. Rowley, from Milton, (once a Representative in the Florida Legislature from this county,) and the agent of the Adams Express Company here, named Gillett, all Yankees. Several of our citizens are now requesting Gen. Bragg, who is in the city on a visit, to allow them to go over on the mainland and scout, to try and capture them or get information.

This morning I noticed the flags of the fleet outside displayed at half-mast. As it has been stated by some of the prisoners captured in the sortie on Billy Wilson, that one of the vessels in the fleet, (the one which the little vessel towed at long taw the morning of the fight,) has the small-pox on board very badly. It is believed that some important officer is dead.

Not much news from Warrington. A letter has been received here from Lieut. Sayre. He is doing well, and is well treated, so are all the prisoners. The Georgians, I am glad to hear, receive great praise for bravery in the fight. They did all the burning, and brought home Billy's marque flag. They just cleaned out the pet lambs. The McDuffie and Clinch Rifles, who were in the burning party, fought with nothing but bowie-knives.

Billy Wilson left in treble-quick when attacked, attired in the robes which he went to sleep in, with a steamer flying. He returned to the fort next day. The officers of Fort Pickens (Regulars) say that they ran Billy Wilson's men out of the fort, and shut the gates on them when they made their appearance that night. I notice with the spy-glass that Billy has put up some of his tents since the fight.

DIABOLICAL ACT.

The Sumter *Watchman*, of the 18th, publishes the following:

Some fiend incarnate, in human form, placed upon the railroad track, about a mile from this place, on Wednesday night last, a number of cross-ties. As though by the special Providence of God, the early train from the Northward did not arrive at its given hour. Had it so arrived, fearful destruction and loss of life would no doubt have been the result, as it would have run up to the hellish trap at full speed amid the darkness of the night.

The engineer of the train from the Southward, (from Kingsville,) which arrives at the place in question about daylight, discovered the obstacles upon the road, and by the most vigorous reverse action of his engine, coupled with the utmost power of the brakes, so slackened the speed of his train as to cause the wheels of the engine to roll gently over one or two of the cross-ties and catch again upon the rail, effecting no injury. This diabolical scheme could have been prompted but by the most infernal personal hate to some one expected upon the train, or by a bloody-minded enmity to our people and cause generally. The evidence of this is sufficiently strong to induce some measures of vigilance and precaution.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE—WHAT THAT STATE HAS DONE.

The message of Governor Harris, of Tennessee, shows that within less than three months from the passage of the act providing for a military organization within the State thirty thousand volunteers were thrown into the field. There was so much alacrity among the brave people, that the services of a large number of companies had to be declined. In addition to these soldiers, several regiments were organized for the Confederate States—making a total of thirty-eight regiments of infantry, several battalions of cavalry, and sixteen artillery companies. This, so far, is the liberal contribution of Tennessee to the patriotic cause in which we are engaged.

The same promptitude was used in making munitions of war. The State having been cut off from foreign markets, it had to stimulate the enterprise and talent of its own citizens to provide them. An armory was established at Nashville, which has been furnishing two hundred and fifty guns a week, while there and in other places of the State the best kind of small and heavy artillery is made. A percussion cap factory was also established, and has furnished to the Confederate States 12,000,000 of this essential element of war. The factory is now making more than a quarter of a million every day. All this has been accomplished under the supervision of a military and financial board. How much expense has been incurred in doing this will be seen in the following extract:

For full particulars as to the action of the board, I refer you to their report, from which it will be seen that the expenses incurred in organizing and supporting, arming and equipping the Provisional army, are as follows:

Quartermaster General's Department	$1,657,706 65
Commissary General's Department	627,064 87
Paymaster General's Department	1,104,800 00
Medical Department	24,761 21
Ordnance Department	990,291 20
Recruiting service	723 25
Advance on guns, saltpetre, powder contracts, &c	156,826 68
Advance to Gen. Pillow, Missouri service	200,000 00
Contingent expenses	81,850 59
Total	$4,637,198 77

THE COURAGE OF WOMAN.

No more striking instance of the intrepid fearlessness and determination which characterizes woman, whenever she undertakes the prosecution of an enterprise attendant with danger, has ever come under our observation than the following, which we find in a letter from Fairfax, published in one of our exchanges:

Speaking of Alexandria ladies, the story is current here that one of them recently invited a number of army officers to dine in her Virginia home. Being at headquarters when the invitation was extended, they were exceedingly polite in their attentions, and offered the lady not only an escort, but a pass by the lines of the sentinels. She declined both, and proceeding on her way to her residence, was stopped, sure enough, as had been foretold. "Where's your pass?" said the sentinel, as he appeared at the door of the carriage. "Here!" said she, presenting a pistol." "Driver, go on," and before the guard could recover from his astonishment she was out of sight.

Of course he said nothing for fear of arrest, and the incident would have remained in oblivion but for her own narration. In due time the officers appeared at her mansion.—What was their amazement to see a full-sized Confederate flag standing prominently just within the door! They went to dinner. Imagine their still greater wonder at perceiving a diminutive Confederate flag nailed at each end of the table. One of them immediately began to scent a very questionable practical joke, and protested that they could not sit at a table with such a thing. "That, sir," replied the spirited lady, "is the flag I always dine under, and you will take dinner under it to-day with me, sir, or go without.

Appetite was stronger than patriotism, and the company took their seats under the rebellious symbol, and proceeded with the repast. Romance or reality, the story is a very good indication of the character of some of our noble women.

A MONTGOMERY "TOOTH-PICK."

A knife has been manufactured in Montgomery, Alabama, by Mr. T. D. Kennedy, which, in the hands of an enemy, would look extremely formidable. The knife is a little less than two feet in length, and weighs three pounds and three ounces It is made of the best steel, finely tempered and finished, with a solid and substantial metal handle. We believe it is Mr. K.'s intention to send it to Pensacola, in order that it may be used, should it be found necessary to make another attack on Wilson's Zouaves.

SUGAR MAKING IN ST. MARY'S.

The last Franklin (La.) *Banner* says:

Active measures are now being adopted in our parish preparatory to sugar making.—Some of our planters will commence rolling cane at once. Many have been kept back in their work by the continuous rains, and have a large quantity of wood still to haul. And most of the planters have yet to make hay, put up sugar cane, dig potatoes, &c., before they commence rolling cane. About the last of the month we expect to see nearly all of the furnaces in full blast. The late cool nights and fine days have had a fine effect upon the cane, and the sugar crop of the parish will be quite heavy—probably 40,000 hogsheads.

A PRETTY GOOD HAUL.

The Nashville *Gazette*, of Thursday last says:

One of the Mississippi regiments now encamped near Hopkinsville, Ky., made quite a discovery a few days since. While engaged in digging, they came across a brass cannon and about six thousand bars of lead, which had been buried no doubt by the Lincolnites. A pretty good haul.

FOREIGN MAIL FROM NEW ORLEANS VIA TAMPICO.

The New Orleans *Picayune*, of Friday last, says that an important arrangement has been made by Mr. Antonio Costa, of that city, with the advice and approval of the Postmaster, for the establishment of a regular monthly mail between New Orleans and the Mexican port of Tampico, to connect with the British mail steamers that regularly touch at that port. Mail carriers have been appointed, and, in the charge of one of them, 1,233 letters left this city on the 10th instant. Another will close on the 9th of November, proximo, at 3 P. M., and leave next morning; and the third on the 10th of December following. These mails will be sent semi-monthly, as soon as the proper arrangements can be made. Letters from abroad can be received by the same route.

SMALL CHANGE AND ICE.

We are inclined to think the following, taken from the New Orleans *Picayune*, of Friday last, does a very worthy class of our citizens great injustice; but cannot speak knowingly, however:

Small change and ice are about equally scarce, we judge, in Richmond. A friend who has just returned from that city says that going into a fashionable saloon, with a friend to take a drink, his attention was attracted by a placard posted over the bar to the effect that drinks were fifteen cents each, no change would be given for bills, except on heavy discounts; and that gentlemen would refrain from eating the ice left in their glasses, after drinking! That's what may be called an ice specimen of economy.

GOOD SUGGESTION.

A correspondent of the Montgomery *Mail* suggests that, as the Lincoln hireling colonel in command at Fort Pickens declares that he will destroy the Navy-Yard if an attempt is made upon the fort, the Navy-Yard be converted into a prison for the confinement of the vandals taken during the war.

REFUSED TO TAKE THE OATH.

The Nashville *Patriot*, speaking of the organization of the Senate last Monday, says:

One of the members, Mr. Pickett, representing one of the East Tennessee Senatorial districts, declined to take the oath to support the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States, on the ground, if we correctly understood him, that there was no law authorizing