SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1862.

Their Monstrous Purposes

Almost simultaneously with the proclamation of Gen. Burnside to the people of North Carolina, denouncing as a "ridiculous false hood" and as a vile imposition upon Southern credulity, invented by the "wicked leaders" of secession, the idea that the North intends to injure the property or (except in honorable warfare) the lives of the Southern people, appears a speech from an acknowledged organ of the Federal Administration in the Senate, (Trumbull, of Illinois,) in advocacy of his bill for the confiscation of the property of rebels. In this speech Trumbull sets forth that when an insurrection has assumed such formidable proportions as the present, the writers on international law agree that the rebels are entitled to be treated as belligerents and enemies, and the war to be governed by the ordinary rules of war while it lasts, but "*that does not prevent the Government, after the war is over, from trying as a traitor any person that may be in its hands, and that is the way I take it, which this rebellion is finally to be put down.*" The only discharge from "the halter" of persons who do not "return to their loyalty," he says, is to be the "discharge of a petit jury, who shall say they are not guilty of treason."

In regard to property, which Burnside says it is ridiculously false to assert that the Federal Government intends to interfere with, Trumbull says, their "*right to confiscate property, real or personal, is undoubted. Look at the condition of things at Port Royal, where all the inhabitants have fled, and left the country deserted. Is it to remain unoccupied and a wilderness, or shall we hold it as the European nations did the places on the continent when the savages fled and left the territory unoccupied?*" "*We may take possession of the country and apportion it out among the loyal citizens of the Union.*"—"*When our armies advance, let us take that property, (the property of Southern rebels,) make it contribute towards the expenses of the war, and save the property of loyal men, and let the men who have instigated the war pay the expenses.*" The kidnapping and colonization of the negro was also urged by the speaker, who advocated his position in an elaborate argument. In regard to a suggestion of colonizing the slaveholders, Mr. Waitman T. Willey, of Virginia, said: "*I propose to hang all such scoundrels, and thus save all the expense of transportation.*" a sentiment which was received with "*applause in the galleries.*"

Gen. Burnside may reconcile as best he can such authoritative declarations as these from headquarters with his proclamation declaring that the Federal Government has no intention whatever of interfering with the property and rights of the Southern people; but, credulous and ignorant fools as he may consider us, we are not quite stupid and gullible enough to be deceived by such huge falsehoods. The expositions of the Federal Administration's recognized mouthpieces in both houses of Congress leave no manner of doubt that, if the North can subjugate the South, the property of its people will be taken from them to pay the expenses of this war.—Not only real, but personal property, as Mr. Trumbull declares, will be wrested from its rightful owners and sold to pay the cost of reducing us to subjugation. The practical operation of this proceeding will be to divide out the farms and plantations of the South among such of the Yankee invaders as are able to buy them from the Federal Government, which will put the money in its purse to pay the swindling contractors and creditors who have aided it in carrying on the war. Not only the real estate, but the personal property, says Mr. Trumbull, the money, furniture, &c., will be disposed of by the grand Federal proprietor. The poor man's garden and cow will be seized as well as the rich man's plantation and flocks, to pay the expenses of making slaves alike of rich and poor.

Nor do we doubt any more the murderous purposes against the lives of the rebels announced by Mr. Trumbull than the spoliation of their property. When the war is over, they are to be hung. The benevolent Mr. Willey would hang these men now, but the cooler and craftier Trumbull would wait till the war is over. The Northern invasion, as defined by its legislative expositions in the Senate and House of Representatives, is simply a John Brown raid on a grand scale. That illustrious saint took pains to declare that he intended to molest no man's property or life who did not resist his purpose of spoliation. This is precisely the programme of the Federal Government. Those who do not defend their country from invasion and their homes from pollution, will not be molested; but any man who raises his arm in vindication of all that man holds sacred, will be robbed and murdered.

The South now sees the battle it has to fight. It is fighting for its property, its life, for all that is worth having in existence. That it will meet these enemies of humanity in such a spirit as such an exigency demands, is as certain as the rising of the sun. It will meet them with a determination that the last man shall be annihilated, and the whole country laid waste, before it will surrender to the fate which has been held out to it. It will do more. It will have vengeance. If the war is to be urged against us upon the principles of savages, it will be waged against the invaders upon the same principles; and the black flag, and "no quarter asked or given," be our answer to the threats of rapine and the halter.

Torpedoes.

We have seen an ingenious contrivance, by a gentleman of this city, which can be constructed at a trifling expense, that deserves the examination of the authorities in the defence of James river. One of these machines can be built at a cost of fifty dollars, and a dozen of them, placed in one of the channels, would send a Yankee fleet in five minutes to Davy Jones's locker. It is important that we should multiply obstructions to the passage of the enemy's gunboats, and any plan that is suggested by a responsible source deserves at least investigation.

The Flag.

It is rumored that a committee of Congress has agreed upon a National flag to take the place of the present abominable parody on the Stars and Stripes. We very much apprehend that upon the mere question of taste the Congress will not devise a proper flag; but we trust that whatever the device chosen, it may have the merit of being wholly unlike either the Federal flag or that we now have. With respect to flags and pictures we put little faith in the decisions of a legislative body, or any large number of men. It would be better to trust the whole matter to two or three gentlemen who are competent in the premises. But, nevertheless, we would be willing to compromise on anything that is novel and entirely unlike the Federal and present Confederate flag. We would like to add that it shall have no "stars" in it. We sympathize somewhat with a distinguished Southern Senator, who declared that no man who talked about "stars" had the faintest conception of the present revolution!

In addition to the naval expedition to Mexico, the French Government, it is said, contemplates sending one, though on a smaller scale, to Buenos Ayres.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Idle, Dissolute, &c.—William Duke and Martin La Truitte were arrested by the police officers yesterday and carried before the Mayor, charged with being idle and dissolute persons, with no visible means of support, and common gamblers by profession. No examination was had into the case of Duke, who, by the way, is a native of this city. In former times, when parties arrested were proved guilty of the offences alleged against them, they were sold to the highest bidder, in front of the respective courthouses of the city and county. Some now living have, in former times, seen dubious and uncertain citizens exposed to the summary processes alluded to. Martin La Truitte, arrested on grounds similar to those which caused the detention of Duke, underwent a partial examination, by which it appeared, on the part of the Commonwealth, that he was amenable to the charge alleged against him, superadded to which was the offence of hanging around certain street corners with parties of questionable morality. On La Truitte's behalf, it was proved that he had lately been appointed an Ordnance Messenger, and had gone with heavy guns to Suffolk, to Gen. Randolph, and would go again if the Mayor allowed him the opportunity. A resident of Washington proved that he had formerly known La Truitte as door keeper of the Senate gallery at Washington—a position involving some little responsibility. The Mayor said complaints had reached him from all quarters of the conduct of a certain description of parties who obstructed various street corners, so that females could not pass; and, unless all of such character got employment under the Government, he should use all the resources of the law to put down the practice. He would continue the case against La Truitte until this morning, making it his business, in the meantime, to see the Secretary of War in reference to the case.

Dismissed.—John Warner, a youthful member of the Louisiana Battalion, was carried before the Mayor yesterday for stealing a gold watch from Dr. Wm. Fisher, of Baltimore, on the night of the 21st of February, near the Columbian Hotel. The evidence of Dr. F. showed that, shortly after being invited to drink by defendant, he was pushed and dragged into the middle of the street, where, after being seized by the throat, he was robbed of his watch. Several others, besides prisoner, were standing near, and it was also dark, and witness could not, therefore, say who took his watch. Prisoner said his furlough was at the Columbian, and for the purpose of ascertaining whether he had any right to be in the city, officer Blankenship was sent with him to the hotel to bring the document up for the inspection of the Mayor. The latter intimated an intention to discharge the prisoner unless further proof was adduced as to his guilt.

Sudden Death.—Peter H. Montague, a resident of Marshall street, between Adams street and Brook Avenue, and member of the Richmond Fire Department, Company D, died suddenly yesterday about five o'clock, at the corner of Broad and Ninth streets, of disease of the heart. Deceased had accompanied his reel to the corner and was waiting further orders, when he suddenly fell, and in a few moments expired. The exertion of running was, no doubt, the proximate cause of his death.

Moving Under Difficulties.—A locomotive, of large size, brought to Richmond from Mr. Allan's plantation (Claremont) on James river, was moved yesterday to the depot of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. It was mounted upon stout wheels, and in the absence of steam, some thirty mules and horses were attached; but even with this power, it was found no easy matter to haul the iron monster to its destination. Near the corner of Main and 13th streets, the traces parted, and a dozen mules shot gaily forward, relieved of their burden, while the majority, with the locomotive, stuck fast to the pavement. An immense crowd assembled, and the incident afforded considerable excitement for an hour or two. At length the team was properly hitched up again, but the combined horse and mule power, with the whips and "blasphemy" of the drivers, availed nothing. It was an up hill business. Finally a strong rope was procured and made fast to the ponderous vehicle, and some two hundred of the bystanders took their places in the line to aid the quadrupeds in their labor. The experiment succeeded. With a long pull and a strong pull, and amid vociferous shouting, the work was successfully accomplished and the locomotive conveyed safely to the depot on Broad street.

Presentation of Silver.—We were shown yesterday a service of silver, presented to Maj. Thos. F. Fisher, the popular Quartermaster at Manassas, as a mark of esteem from his numerous friends in that vicinity. The set consists of a pitcher, sugar bowl, two goblets, and a salver—all made in Richmond and in a style that reflects great credit upon the designer. A more elegant present could hardly be devised. Major Fisher is now in this city, but will leave immediately for Kentucky, where he is ordered to report for duty. It will be gratifying to his numerous friends in Louisiana and in the army, to learn that this set has been presented as a parting token of regard for him as a gentleman and an officer. During the many months he has been stationed at Manassas, Major Fisher has made himself universally popular, and his departure is greatly regretted by all who have been associated with him there. He carries to Kentucky the best wishes of a host of friends.

Contradicted.—We stated a few days since that the arrest of George Elam, charged with counterfeiting Treasury notes, was caused by Detectives Cashmeyer and Woodall, of Gen. Winder's force, but were informed yesterday that the party was put in jail in Petersburg, at the suggestion of J. W. Goodrich and Henry Meyers, acting by authority of the Secretary of the Treasury. The last named officers, at the time, were in Norfolk hunting up evidence against the other parties implicated with Elam, when they learned of his whereabouts at Petersburg, and at once took measures which were successful in procuring his arrest.

Carried to the Penitentiary.—Henry Myers, Deputy Marshal of the Eastern District, yesterday lodged in the Penitentiary of Virginia a man named Abner Jackson, a former mail carrier of Campbell county, who was on the 14th of February found guilty, before Judge Halyburton, of depredating on the mail, and fined one dollar by a jury. On yesterday the Judge sentenced him to three years' imprisonment at hard labor in the Penitentiary, and he was accordingly taken to his future place of abode.

Metropolitan Hall.—Harry Macarthy continues to attract large and appreciative audiences nightly at Metropolitan Hall. His patriotic songs, "The Bonnie Blue Flag," "Volunteer," and "Birth of the Confederate Flag," are rendered with a spirit which excites his audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. He will soon have to fulfil engagements farther South. He gives a concert this afternoon at 3 o'clock, for the accommodation of ladies and juveniles.

Arrests Yesterday by the Provost Marshal's Force.—Burnham Davis and Henry L. Wigand, for alleged disloyalty. Tobias Pearsall and Geo. Warner, corner Franklin and Wall streets, for selling liquor in violation of general orders. Patrick Sheary, for interfering with the guard in the arrest of Thos. Shields, a member of the Letcher Guard.

President's Guard.—A military organization under the above name, composed of youths from sixteen to eighteen years of age, paraded on the Capitol Square yesterday, and were mustered into service, as volunteers, under the recent law. About seventy members were present.

Fire.—The First Market bell rang an alarm of fire about five o'clock yesterday. The side of a fireplace in a small wooden tenement, near the Central Depot, ignited; but the flames were extinguished before the arrival of the Fire Department.

Socks for the Soldiers.—A package of socks, the last of thirty-six pair, knit by a lady of Hanover, (seventy-six years of age,) has been left at this office, for Patton's regiment.

Personal.—General Robert E. Lee, C. S. A., arrived in Richmond yesterday on business connected with the defence of the Southern coast.

Charged with Stealing a Pocket-Book.—Officer Seal arrested, yesterday evening, a man named John Faley, charged with stealing the pocket-book of Jacob Putman, containing $23.

Clothing Himself.—Thomas James, a free negro, was committed to the cage on yesterday, to be examined to-day before the Mayor for stealing a pair of pants from A. Grinwald.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, March 7.

In the Senate, Mr. MAXWELL, of Florida, offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to prepare and report a bill to carry into effect the latter clause of the 2d part of section 6th of the Constitution. This relates to the authority given to the Senate to admit members of the Cabinet to seats on the floor.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Ark., opposed the resolution, and said it was a matter of doubt, until the present cabinet changes were disposed of, whether the clause of the Constitution should be carried out at all.

Mr. MAXWELL did not suppose the resolution would bring on debate, or that it would be made the subject of argument. If he had so supposed, the resolution should have been one of inquiry of the committee whether instructing them to report by bill or otherwise. Mr. MAXWELL thus modified his resolution, and it was adopted.

Mr. HAYNES, of Tennessee, moved to reconsider the vote of yesterday whereby the two writing clerks were allowed only $1,500 per annum. Their duties were arduous; more so indeed than those of the reading clerk. They seldom got through their work before midnight.

Mr. BARNWELL, of S. C., opposed the resolution, and thought the way to relieve these over-worked men was to employ an additional clerk. While he would not advocate any unnecessary increase, he still wished a sufficient number of clerks to do the work. He did not think that if these men did have to work until midnight, an increase of salary would shorten their labors. That did not seem to him the way to accomplish the object.

Mr. HAYNES thought that additional salary would at least be a matter of right, and would at least sweeten their severe labors, and it should be given. Mr. Clark, of Alabama, (interrupting,) on the principle the "laborer is worthy of his hire." The bill did not meet general approval and failed to pass.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, March 7, 1862.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. CHILTON, of Ala., asked the Chairman of the Military Committee what action had been taken with reference to a resolution he had submitted, several days ago, instructing that committee to inquire into the expediency of raising an additional force of two hundred thousand men. Mr. MILES, on the part of the committee, replied that the committee were about to report a bill on the subject.

Mr. HANLEY, of Ark., submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of constructing fortifications forthwith on the Mississippi river at certain points. The resolution was referred.

Mr. ROYSTON, of Arkansas, introduced a bill repealing all laws imposing a duty upon goods imported into the Confederate States from foreign states, excepting the United States, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

A message from the Senate was received concurring in the following, viz: a resolution declaring the sense of Congress respecting a reunion with the Northern States; a bill creating the office of Commanding General; a bill regulating the destruction of cotton, tobacco, and other property, and compensation therefor.

Mr. VILLERE, of Louisiana, submitted a resolution instructing the Naval Committee to inquire what would be the cost of 10 small screw steamers, and where they could be built.

Mr MILES introduced a bill to purge the military service of ignorant and inefficient officers. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. FOOTE introduced a bill to support public credit, and to purchase the cotton crop at a price not exceeding — cents; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Also, a bill to impose an export duty on cotton and tobacco, the growth of the present year, unless the blockade be sooner terminated. Also, a bill prohibiting the export of cotton and tobacco in certain cases. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The following bill from the Senate was read:

A Bill to Regulate the Destruction of Property under Military Necessity, and to provide for the indemnity thereof

SECT. 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the military authorities of the Confederate Army are hereby authorized and directed to destroy cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, or other property of any kind whatever, which may aid the enemy in the prosecution of the war, when necessary to prevent the same or any part thereof from falling into the hands of the enemy.

SEC. 2 Be it further enacted, That the owners of property destroyed under the operation of this act, as well as those persons who shall voluntarily destroy their property to prevent the same from falling into the hands of the enemy, are hereby authorized to perpetuate the testimony of such destruction in the manner prescribed by an act of the Provisional Congress, entitled an act to perpetuate testimony in cases of slaves abducted or harbored by the enemy, and of other property seized, wasted or destroyed by them, approved 30th August, 1861, and such owners and persons shall be entitled to indemnity out of the proceeds of property sequestered and confiscated under the laws of the Confederate States, in such manner as Congress may hereafter provide.

Upon which ensued a lengthy debate, participated in by Messrs. Curry, Garland, Smith of Virginia, Foote, Crockett, Miles, Boyce, Gray, Dupre, Russell, Wright of Georgia, and Lyons of Virginia.

The bill was finally adopted.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, March 7, 1862.

The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by the President, and opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. JETER.

The Senate were informed that the House of Delegates had agreed to the report of the Committee of Conference, appointed to consider the disagreement of the two Houses in relation to the Senate bill entitled an act to authorize the Governor to organize and call out military forces for the defence of the State.

[The Senate having receded from their disagreement to the amendments of the House, the said report of the Committee of Conference was agreed to.]

House joint resolution for the appointment of a joint committee to visit the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, communicated by Mr. RIVES, was taken up and disagreed to.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Executive in response to a resolution of the Senate calling for information in relation to exemptions from military service on the part of a remnant of the Pamunkey Tribe living on the Indian Reservation in King William county. Mr. DOUGLAS, alluding to the subject, said but very little Indian blood coursed through the veins of the parties; that if they were classified as free negroes, and that if they were freed from military requisitions, while all others, bond or free, had to obey them, they would indeed be the true F. F. V's of the State. He moved the appointment of a committee to inquire into the matter, with power to send for persons and papers, and report by bill or otherwise.

The motion prevailed, and the President appointed Messrs. Douglas, Branch and Wyndham Robertson committee.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

Authorizing the purchase for the State of certain lots in Hollywood Cemetery.

For the relief of John W. Vaughan.

Mr. DOUGLAS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to report to the Legislature, the names of all the disloyal officers of militia referred to in a recent message of the Governor to the two Houses.

Whereas, Col. Wm. J. Willey, while in command of the 31st regiment of Virginia volunteers, was taken prisoner by the enemy, and during the time he was in their hands another person was appointed Colonel, and assigned to the command of said regiment by the Governor, and a question has arisen whether Col. Willey is entitled to pay while such prisoner: Therefore,

Resolved, by the General Assembly, That, in its opinion, Col. Wm. J. Willey did not lose his right to pay or to be restored to his command, when released, by reason of his having been taken prisoner; but such pay is due from the Confederate Government, and there is no obligation on the State to pay either of said Colonels.

A joint resolution was unanimously adopted instructing Virginia Representatives in Congress and her Senators to use their best exertions and influence in reducing the salary of members of both Houses of the Confederate Congress to a reasonable per diem; also, the same in respect to the officers and attaches of those bodies.

The bill to provide horses for certain volunteers entering the cavalry service was taken up and debated until the hour of adjournment, and defeated on being put to vote.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

FRIDAY, March 7, 1862.

The proceedings in the House of Delegates were of an interesting but unimportant character. The debates upon various subjects were spirited, but few subjects were introduced. Mr. MINOR announced, in feeling terms, the death of his colleague, Dr. M. L. ANDERSON, of Albemarle, and offered a series of resolutions, which were adopted. The House, in respect to the memory of the deceased, adjourned at 3 o'clock.

FROM THE NORTH.

We received last night copies of New York papers as late as Wednesday, March 5th, from which we make up the following summary in regard to the situation of affairs:

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE OCCUPATION OF COLUMBUS.

Gen. Halleck makes the following report to Gen. McClellan, under date of St. Louis, March 4:

SIR: The cavalry from Paducah marched into Columbus yesterday, at six P. M., driving before them the enemy's rear guard. The flag of the Union is flying over the boasted Gibraltar of the West. Finding himself completely turned on both sides of the Mississippi, the enemy was obliged to evacuate or surrender. Large quantities of artillery and stores were captured.

H. W. HALLECK.

The Federal Secretary of the Navy has received a report from Flag-Officer Foote, which we copy:

COLUMBUS, March 4, 1862.

SIR: Columbus is in our possession. My direct reconnoissance on the 2d inst. caused a hasty evacuation, the rebels leaving quite a number of guns and carriages, ammunition and stores, a large quantity of shot and shell, a considerable number of anchors, and the remnant of chain lately stretched across the river, with a large number of torpedoes.—Most of the huts, tents and quarters were destroyed. The works are of very great strength, consisting of formidable tiers of batteries on the water side, and on the land side surrounded by a ditch and abattis. Gen. Sherman, with Lieut. Com. Phelps, not knowing that they were last evening occupied by 400 of the 2d Illinois cavalry, on a scouting party sent by Gen. Sherman from Paducah, made a bold dash to the shore under the batteries, hoisting the American flag on the bluffs. It was greeted by the hearty cheers of our brave tars and soldiers. The force consisted of six gunboats, four mortar boats and three transports, having on board two regiments and two battalions of infantry, under command of Col. Buford, Gen. Cullom, and Gen. Sherman, being in command of the troops.

The former leaving a sick bed to go ashore, discovered what was evidently a magazine on fire at both extremities, and immediately ordered the train to be cut, and thus saved the lives of the garrison.

While I cannot express too strongly my admiration of the gallantry and wise counsels of the distinguished aid and engineer of Gen. Halleck, Gen. Cullum, I must add that Commanders Dove, Walke and Stemble, and Lieuts Commanding Paulding, Thompson, Shirk and Phelps—the latter being in command of the mortar division, assisted by Lieut. Lieford, of the ordnance corps of the United States Army—nobly performed their duty.

I have my flag on board the Cincinnati, commanded by the gallant Commander Stemble. Gen. Sherman remains temporarily in command of Columbus.

A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer.

Other Federal accounts say that the Confederates retreated to Fort Randolph.

THE OCCUPATION OF MARTINSBURG.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Gen. Banks's forces occupied Martinsburg yesterday without opposition, and the pickets continue to bring in prisoners. Although few in number, they are of much importance. Among those taken last night was Rev. T. J. McVeigh, chaplain of the Second Virginia Infantry. He was captured by company K, Michigan cavalry, near Berryville.

Intelligence from Winchester leads to the belief that Jackson is there in full force, and has completed his preparations to oppose our approach three miles east of that place.

The same authority says his army is well provisioned, supplied, and clothed.

GENERALS BUCKNER AND TILGHMAN IN BOSTON.

Generals Buckner and Tilghman reached Boston, under strict guard, on the 3d instant. The Boston *Post*, of the 4th, gives an account of their "reception," a portion of which we copy:

No sooner were they seen than a rush was made for them, and for a time it was impossible to make any headway. The police appealed to the crowd, which did as much good as if their words had been uttered to the winds. Amid the rush of people and the rumbling and shouting of voices, there occasionally rose a volley of hisses, which, though not "long," were somewhat "deep." The rebels, however, were not molested other than by pressure. They were at length got through the depot in front, where hacks were ready to receive them. Upon the outside there was another rush, which prevented any progress for several minutes. Small boys and ladies were treated without consideration; and it was no small feat for a strong man to achieve a full breath. The Generals were at length escorted to a hack, into which they got, accompanied by the Quartermaster and Marshal. The military charge followed in another team. They were driven off with all possible speed, the crowd shouting, and many for a while following on with a fleet foot. Horse flesh, however, was too much for the pedestrians, and they soon lost sight of the vanquished heroes of Forts Henry and Donelson. They soon reached Lincoln's wharf, at the North End, where they took the Argo, and in an hour were at the gates of Fort Warren.

The prisoners appeared very little concerned at the demonstration at the depot. Tilghman, if appearances were not deceptive, appeared to rather enjoy it. He did not, perhaps, expect such a cordial reception. Buckner hardly enjoyed the thing, fearing possibly that the attentions might reach a point of violence, of which there was no danger and no intention. They are not of sufficient account for a Boston crowd to seriously trouble.

FEDERAL CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, the Confiscation bill was taken up, and Messrs. McDougall, of California, and Cowan, of Pennsylvania, spoke in opposition to it. Nothing important transpired in the House.

OPERATIONS IN MISSOURI.

Gen. Halleck, in his dispatches, claims "seven brilliant skirmishes" in thirteen days in Missouri and Arkansas, commencing at Springfield on the 14th February, and ending at Fayetteville on the 27th.

SOUTHERN ACCOUNTS.

[From the Van Buren Press, Extra.]

We have news from Fayetteville that Gen. Price has been attacked by the enemy with a much larger force than he has at his command, and has been forced to retreat toward the Arkansas line—fighting as he falls back. A dispatch from Fayetteville, Sunday evening, says that Gen. Price has fallen back to Cassville, and that the second brigade of General McCulloch's division were marching to his assistance.

An express rider, who came in last night, says that Price has been making a running fight for two days, and that his baggage train is now at Cross Hollows, in a place of safety; he would continue to fall back, as necessity might require, until reinforced by General McCulloch.

Orders were sent from here last night to all the regiments of the first brigade of Gen. McCulloch's division, to march immediately to the assistance of Gen. Price.

LATER.—Dispatches, this morning, say that Price is still falling back, and had reached Keatsville, four miles from the State line, and was gallantly contesting every foot of the ground. Price is supposed to have not more than 8,000 effective men—while the Federals have from 17,000 to 20,000.

We find the following in the Little Rock *Democrat*, of the 27th ult:

It is pretty certain that Price's command, or a portion of it, has fallen back to the Arkansas line, and effected a junction with McCulloch. Fifty thousand Federals are near the line; ten thousand of them in Benton county. In addition to this formidable force, others are coming down through Missouri. Their advance through Arkansas will be contested step by step, inch by inch. A battle was expected before this time, but the enemy are moving slowly and cautiously.—When the conflict comes it will be a dreadful one, and unless overborne by numbers, the sons of liberty on Boston Mountain will make that eminence as famous in history as Bunker's Hill. Our volunteers should hurry at once to the rescue, and not wait for forms of organization or full complements of men.

From Pocahontas we learn that there is a Federal force at Greenville, Missouri, of two or three hundred cavalry, that scour the country, steal provisions, and act the Yanko-Hessian soldier generally. The people of Fort Smith and Van Buren are alarmed, and some are moving off. The majority rely confidently upon our whipping them at Boston Mountain. General Price is in the Indian country with a small force, and we hope he will soon be reinforced. The greatest anxiety is felt for the approaching conflict, for it will be a terrible one.

Just as we go to press we have received letters from the West, which state the Federals in Benton county make a show of retreating. If so, McCulloch and Price will start in pursuit of them to-day. The enemy may attempt to reach Arkansas by a detour through the Indian country.

Our telegraphic dispatches this morning report that Price has met and defeated the enemy; and though it comes to us in rather questionable shape, we may be permitted to express the hope that it will yet be confirmed.

THE FEDERAL RAID UP THE TENNESSEE.

The Memphis *Argus*, of the 2d inst., says:

Tishomingo county, Miss., has already been the scene of a brisk little skirmish, between the Southern forces and Lincoln's marauders. On Saturday last a portion of a Louisiana regiment, stationed at Corinth, attacked a party of Federals who had just landed from their gunboats on the Mississippi side of the Tennessee river, in the Northeastern portion of Tishomingo county, 18 miles from Corinth. After a sharp engagement of a few minutes the Federals were driven back to their gunboats with considerable loss, the exact extent of which we have not ascertained. Our loss was five or six men. The relative strength of the forces engaged our informant could not learn.

FROM EUROPE.

ADDITIONAL BY THE NORWEGIAN

The steamer Norwegian, at Portland, brings news from Europe five days later than that received by the Arabia.

GREAT BRITAIN.

American affairs were still discussed in the British Parliament, where Mr. Bright made a speech on the 17th ult. condemning the outlay incurred by the policy which terminated in the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Lord Palmerston defended the course pursued by the Government, and, in the course of his speech, said:

Here, then, were the American public, the Government, a branch of the Legislature, all approving the act committed. Well, with all these facts before our eyes, should we have been justified in supposing that a more courteous application, asking the American Government to have the goodness to deliver the four captured persons into our hands, would have induced them to say, "The whole American people see that we have insulted your flag and are glad of it; but as you ask for the delivery of the prisoners as a favor, as a favor we assent to the delivery?" I really think that we should have been deserving of condemnation and censure as short-sighted men, not actively alive to the interests of the country, if we had simply rested our case on the demand. (Cheers.)—Moreover, it is well known that it was generally said by persons in America, and also, I believe, by some Americans in this country, that the four prisoners were not to be delivered—"that they won't and shan't be given up." What was considered by the Americans to be our weak point, and what was the circumstance which made the United States always more difficult to deal with by England than by France? Is it not the thought that Canada and the British North American colonies were defenceless. (Cheers.)—What, then, was it our duty to do? It was to strengthen them, and make the Americans see that we are able to defend ourselves in that point which they thought to be the most vulnerable and most easily accessible to them. (Hear, hear.) That was not "ferocious gesticulation." ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) It was simply a defensive measure—(hear)—it was simply strengthening that part which had been weak and might be attacked, and the knowledge of the weakness of which might induce the Americans to maintain that position which they had up to that moment occupied—to retain these men in prison and refuse to comply with our demand for their restoration. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, so far from her Majesty's Government being obnoxious to blame, I think that the Government are deserving of commendation for what they did; and, though they performed more than their duty, they performed it promptly and efficiently, and have met with, we believe, the approbation of the country at large. (Cheers.) I think, then, that the censure of my honorable friend, the member for Birmingham, is not deserved, and that what we did was not at all calculated to provoke the Government of the United States. It was simply a measure which it was our bounden duty to take, seeing the uncertainty of the result of the communications carried out from this country. So far from any feeling of ineradicable irritation between the two countries being engendered by the course pursued, I believe that a contrary course would have produced such a result. If her Majesty's Government had submitted to a declared insult, no doubt a vote of censure would have been passed on them. Still the act would have been done, and a sense of humiliation and degradation would have been perpetually in the minds of at least the present generation, on account of the gross and unatoned for insult committed against the country. I agree with my honorable friend who has just sat down, that the course actually pursued is one much more likely to produce peace between the two nations.—There start up from time to time between countries antagonistic passions and questions of conflicting interests, which, if not properly dealt with, would terminate in the explosion of war. Now, if one country is led to think that another country, with which such questions might arise, is, from fear, disposed on every occasion tamely to submit to any amount of indignity, that is an encouragement to hostile conduct and to extreme proceedings which lead to conflict. It may be depended on that there is no better security for peace between nations than the conviction that each must respect the other, that each is capable of defending itself, and that no insult or injury committed by the one against the other would pass unresented. (Hear, hear.) Between nations, as between individuals, mutual respect is the best security for mutual good will and mutual courtesy; and therefore, in my opinion, the course pursued by the Government is one much more likely than is suggested by my honorable friend the member for Birmingham to secure the continuance of peace. (Loud cheers.)

THE BLOCKADE.

Insurances are effected in Liverpool on British vessels chartered to "run the blockade," the charter party selecting his port of entry. The rates are from ten to fifteen guineas.

IMPRISONMENT OF ANOTHER ENGLISHMAN.

In the House of Lords, on the 18th, the Earl of Carnarvon called attention to the imprisonment of Mr. Shaver, a British subject, in Fort Warren, and said it was a clear case of compensation.

Earl Russell said Mr. Shaver had not claimed compensation, and it was not the duty of the Government to do it for him, neither had he rebutted the charges brought against him.

Earl Russell deeply regretted the civil war in America, and expressed the hope that England would treat with forbearance any stretch of power not intended to injure British interests, or to insult the British flag.

Earl Derby presented some petitions, in which the Trent affair was justified, but said that he entirely dissented from the views of the petitioners.

WHAT IS THOUGHT IN FRANCE.

The reading of the address to the Emperor of France had taken place in the Senate, and debate commenced upon it on the 20th ultimo.

The address regrets the sufferings inflicted by the civil war in America on trade and manufactures, but agrees with the Emperor that the friendly relations of the two countries render neutrality incumbent, and believes that the quarrel will be but the shorter if not complicated by foreign interference.

NEWS FROM AMERICA IN PARIS.

[Paris (Feb. 23) Correspondence of the London Chronicle.]

The *Paris* says that it has received a private dispatch from Washington, which states that the United States Government is about to send an expedition to occupy Anatlan, so as to prevent the export of cotton to Europe via Mexico.

Some of the evening journals mention, on the authority of New York letters, a report that the Southern States have made propositions at Washington for an arrangement with the North; but Southern gentlemen in Paris express strong doubts of its truth.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—Information having reached our ears that reports and rumors are rife in Goochland county, Va., derogatory to the character of the Goochland Grays and its commander, Capt. Wm. F. Harrison—such reports and rumors, tending to injure the above-mentioned company and officer as patriots and as soldiers, we, the undersigned, would fully endorse the conduct of said company and officer as gallant and brave, as far as observed by us, and as far as our inquiry has been able to reach, and hesitate not to give this our voluntary (unasked by him) certificate to that effect; and we believe such rumors and reports false and malicious.

Capt O G Coleman, Company G.
" S T Walton, " K.
" J P Fitzgerald, " J.
" R A Tempkins, " H.
" Wm J Sergeant, " D.
Wm G Dalby, " B.
Wm A Trice, " G.
H B Sanders, " D.
W O Truhart, " I.
Wm C Marble, " E.
Samuel Hales, " E.
S O Williams, " E.
J P Dunnavant, " O.
E E Dupriet, " H.
W A Ross, " K.
W H Gregory, " K.

mh 8—2t*

PERSONS wishing to send Packages or Letters to their friends in the Virginia Life Guard, will send the former to the Curtis Peck wharf, Monday morning, and the latter to the store of Noah Walker & Co., by Saturday evening.

mh 8—1.* J. A. RICHARDSON.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION is requested to the meeting to take place at Dr. Parker's office in the Law Building, TO-NIGHT. All who have joined this company, or who may wish to do so, will be present, as important business will be transacted. mh 8—1t*

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Latest Northern and European News.

NORFOLK, March 7.—By arrivals to-day we have received Northern papers of yesterday. I send you a synopsis of the news the papers contain:

Halifax, March 6.—The steamship Canada has arrived with Liverpool mail dates to the 22d, and telegraph dates from Liverpool, received at Queenstown, up to the 23d February; being two days later than were received by former arrivals.

In the House of Commons, Mr. O'Donohoe has censured the Government for not having prevented breaches of neutrality and British vessels from running the blockade. The Solicitor General had said that private vessels might carry articles contraband of war, at their own risk.

The Spanish squadron starts for the Pacific on the first of April.

It is announced that Italy will be recognized by Prussia.

The betrothal of the King of Portugal to the sister of the late Queen of Portugal is announced.

Numerous arrests have taken place in Athens of senators, officers, advocates, and journalists, and the rebellion still continues.

At Paris, on the 22d February, the Bourse was firm, and rentes were quoted at 70.35.

At Havre the sales of cotton for the week were 18,000 bales, with a firm and buoyant market. Orleans *tres ordinaire* was quoted at 155.165f. The stock of cotton was 93,500 bales.

LATEST FROM LIVERPOOL, (by telegraph to Queenstown, Feb. 23)—The sales of cotton on yesterday were 8,000 bales, of which 6,000 were taken by speculators and exporters.—The market closed firm at unchanged quotations.

At London on the 21st Feb. consols were quoted at 95¼. American securities were unchanged.

Mr. Slidell has had an interview with the Emperor Napoleon, and communicated to him correct and enlightened views in relation to the affairs of the Confederacy. The Emperor is said to have replied that he hoped the war would soon close, as it was inflicting serious injury to France.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 20th Feb. have been received in New York. They state that negotiations at the city of Mexico had failed to accomplish the ends desired. It is stated that Mexico is again the victim of treachery. Forces of the allies have been allowed to pass the strongholds and occupy the strongest fortified points.

Intelligence from Havana to the 1st of March has been received. The statement that there has been no armed resistance to the allied invaders of Mexico is confirmed.—There is great scarcity of provisions at Vera Cruz.

Washington, March 5.—Advices from the lower Potomac state that the Confederates are concentrating a large force opposite Hooker's Division, and it is supposed that a large number of Southern troops have recently arrived.

Salt Lake City, March 4.—Brigham Young has been re-elected Governor of Utah.

Springfield, Mo., March 1.—On Wednesday night 300 Confederates surprised Capt. Montgomery at Kittaville, and several Federals were killed and seventy horses were taken. It is believed that Generals Van-Dorn, Price, McCulloch and Pike will overrun the country.

Louisville, March 4.—Two bridges at Nashville and the Decatur Railroad have been destroyed. The largest boats continue to navigate the rivers.

Chicago, March 4.—Columbus was burning from Friday until Sunday. A portion was still on fire. A large number of the cannon were thrown into the river. A portion of the works were mined. Nineteen thousand Confederate troops had left by railroad, and they had destroyed the railroad track and bridges for six miles.

Charlestown, Va., March 5.—Last night a part of the Michigan cavalry advanced to Perryville, and ambushed and returned with nine horses.

Cincinnati, March 5.—A dispatch from Nashville states that the Mayor has issued a proclamation, in which he states that every assurance has been given by General Buel, (the Federal commander,) that he will guarantee the safety and protection to persons and property in Nashville. The city is quiet.—The Post-Office will open to-morrow.

The Evacuation of Columbus Confirmed—The Federals near New Madrid—Com