Richmond Dispatch.
BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.
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SUNDAY MORNING....MARCH 10 1862.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, March 8, 1862.

In the Senate, Mr. BAKER, of Fla., presented a bill to be entitled an act relating to the prepayment of postage, providing that members of Congress be allowed the privilege of sending papers and documents through the mails, payment to be collected at the point of delivery.

Mr. CLAY, of Ala., suggested that that was the present law regarding the matter.

Mr. BAKER said he had examined into the matter, and was not aware of the fact until yesterday evening.

Mr. HILL, of Ga., said the law only applied to letters and not newspapers and documents.

The Passenger said the Clerk would report a revising bill.

The bill was read, and also the one submitted by the member from Florida.

Mr. HUNTER, of Va., made an inquiry concerning it, fearing it might be verging upon a franking privilege.

Mr. BARNWELL moved it be referred to Committee on Post-Office and Post-Roads.

Mr. SIMMS, of La., introduced a bill to repeal sections 43 and 44 of the act of the Provisional Congress, entitled "An act to establish judicial courts in the Confederate States."—It was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. HAYNES, of Tenn., presented a bill for the payment for horses lost or killed in the military service. The bill provides that any staff officer, or any mounted volunteer ranger, who shall lose a horse in action, by accident, drowning, or by any other means beyond his power of control, and under the orders of a superior officer, shall be reimbursed to the full value of his loss upon furnishing sufficient proof that the loss was not brought about by his negligence, etc. The bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. HAYNES, of Tenn., offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be requested to report a bill to the Senate to increase the monthly pay of the noncommissioned officers of the regular forces engaged in the service of the Confederate States, as follows: The sergeant-major of cavalry, $25; first sergeants, $21; sergeants, $17; corporals, farriers, and blacksmiths, $17; musicians, $17, and privates, $16; sergeant-majors of artillery and infantry, $25; first sergeants, $24 each; sergeants, $21; corporals and artificers, $17; musicians, $16, and privates $15 each. The non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates serving in light batteries to have the same pay as those of cavalry.

The resolution was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. STARROW, of La., and Mr. HILL, of Ga., both presented resolutions from the Legislatures of their respective States upon the same subject, which were referred.

Mr. OLDHAM, of Texas, moved that one hundred copies of the Postmaster-General's report be printed for the use of the Senate.—Adopted, and the reports ordered to be printed.

The Senate went into secret session, and after remaining awhile, opened the doors.

Mr. SIMMS, of La., presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be directed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for promotion in the Navy, or the conferring of brevet rank based on distinguished services or gallant conduct in naval engagements during the present war, and to report by bill or otherwise.

By Mr. PHELAN, of Miss.:

Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the employment and payment of negro musicians in the army of the Confederate States.

By Mr. CLAY, of Ala.:

Resolved, That the Committee on Accounts be instructed to inquire into the proper method of auditing the accounts of Senators and the officers of the Senate, of certifying the same, of issuing drafts on the Treasury for the payment thereof, and also the method of disbursing the contingent fund, and report by bill or otherwise to the Senate.

The Senate then adjourned until to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, March 8, 1862.

The House met at its usual hour, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. FORD. Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. CHAMBLISS, of Tennessee, announced the presence of his colleague, Mr. ATKINS, who was duly qualified and took his seat.

A bill was read from the Senate in relation to the compensation of officers of that body; which was referred to the Committee on Rules.

The States being called alphabetically for resolutions and memorials,

Mr. CHILTON, of Ala., submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to prepare and present, in the earliest practicable moment, to this House, a bill giving suitable encouragement to the manufacture of the arms, gunpowder, and other munitions of war, within the Confederate States.

Mr. ROBERTS, of Ark., presented the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to report a bill declaring what officer shall act as President of the Confederate States, in case of the removal of the President and Vice President, or of their death, resignation, or inability to discharge the duties and powers of said office. Adopted.

Mr. BURNETT, of Ky., offered the following resolution, which was passed:

Resolved, That the committee appointed to investigate the causes of our recent disaster at Fort Donelson, &c., be instructed to report to the House who was the senior General commanding at Fort Donelson during the engagements at that point; who was second in command, and who was third in command; why it was that the two senior Generals in command abandoned the position, leaving the junior General to surrender.—Also, to report why the transports then in the vicinity of Fort Donelson were not used in removing our forces from the presence of an overwhelming foe.

Mr. BELL, of Mo., offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill authorising the payment, at the Confederate seat of Government, of taxes levied by act of Congress on property of citizens residing out of the States of States in which said property may be located. Adopted.

Mr. MILES, of South Carolina, presented a memorial from Rev. Moses D. Hoge, relating to chaplains, which, without being read, was appropriately referred.

Mr. HEISKELL, of Tenn., presented a memorial from citizens of that State, which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. SWANN, of Tenn., submitted the following joint resolution, which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Whereas, it has become manifest that the Government of Great Britain, unmindful of the true interests of that country, and in disregard of that policy which has hitherto characterized the action of enlightened nations, desire, so far, to recognize the existence of the Government of the Confederate States. Therefore

The Congress of the Confederate States do resolve, That the President be, and hereby is requested to withdraw from Great Britain the Commissioners heretofore sent hither, and leave the Government of that country henceforth to pursue such policy in reference to these States as it may deem best, without solicitation or suggestion on the part of this Government.

Mr. PRYOR, of Va., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for the organization of one or more battalions of Pontoniers.

Mr. GARNETT, of Va., offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a corps of heavy artillery, in order to provide instructed artillerymen for our field batteries and forts.

Mr. LEWIS, of Va., introduced a memorial with reference to a certain claim, which, without reading, was referred to the Committee on Claims.

On motion of Mr. GARTRELL, of Geo., the House then went into secret session.

FERNANDINA OCCUPIED.—A dispatch received here yesterday states that the enemy had landed on Cumberland Island and sent forward a detachment to occupy the town of Fernandina. Most of the citizens abandoned the place some weeks ago, and the military was withdrawn from Amelia Island (on which Fernandina is situated) about ten days since; consequently no resistance was offered. If the enemy should not burn the place, they are welcome to it, as they will reap but little advantage from its possession.—*Savannah Republican*, 4th.

The dwelling of P. T. Powers, in Clarke county, Va., was consumed by fire on the 23d ult.

FROM EUROPE.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

In the British House of Lords, on the 14th ult., the Earl of Stanhope made a speech in relation to the obstructions of Mallitt's Channel, in Charleston harbor, and put several questions to Earl Russell, the Foreign Secretary, touching the stone blockade. In conclusion he said:

The permanent destruction of a harbor was not justified by the laws of war. [Hear, hear.] War undoubtedly sanctioned many grievous acts, but it did not sanction any act of this kind. [Hear.] The permanent destruction of a harbor was not an act of war of man against man, or of nation against nation, but it was an act of war against the bounty of Providence, which had vouchsafed harbors for the advantage of commerce and for the civilizing influences of intercourse between one people and another. [Hear, hear.] On this ground we were well entitled and were bound to enter a protest against such acts. [Hear, hear.] He wished to hear from the noble Earl whether these reports were well founded, and, if so, whether he had taken, or designed to take, any steps in the matter. He should also wish to know whether the noble Earl had received any communication from the Government of France on the subject, and whether the Government of France, to his official knowledge, had made any similar representations to the Government of the United States with respect to the destruction of the port of Charleston.

Earl Russell said the Government had no official information on this subject subsequent to that which had already been laid on the table of the House. However, the sinking of vessels at the mouth of a harbor was an operation of so much importance that he could not but believe that the reports which had appeared must have some foundation.—He was happy to hear the noble Earl's protest against the permanent destruction of any harbor. Considering that these were commercial harbors, and that in time of peace, when there was severe weather, vessels of all nations, even those not ultimately destined for them, ran there to find refuge, to destroy them was undoubtedly an act of barbarity. The noble Earl would have seen that the reply of the American Government was that these stone vessels were intended to be an obstruction in the channel to aid the blockade, but that they were not intended for the permanent destruction of the harbors. In conversing with the American Minister at this Court, that was the view which he took. He said that the permanent destruction of Charleston harbor was impossible; that the two rivers which formed the harbor would be sure to make a channel, and that it was impossible, even if it had been intended, to effect the permanent destruction of the harbor. That, he said, however, was not the intention. The intention was only to make a temporary obstruction, and when peace was restored that obstruction would be removed. That, he believed, was the view taken by the American Government. There had been some communication between her Majesty's Government and that of France on this subject, with regard to which the Government of the Emperor took the same view as that of her majesty. But whether France had made any official representation on the matter to the Federal Government, he was not able to say.

NEWSPAPER OPINION.

[From the London Herald.]

The Federal Government is again at its work of hostility to mankind. More stone-laden ships have been sunk in Charleston harbor, to complete the destruction which was intended, but not achieved, by the first expedition. What have their friends to say for them now? The excuse urged for their atrocity by Americanized Englishmen has been, in plain words, want of success. We were told that they had not completely blocked up the harbor; they had only injured it. Some of their advocates had the impudence to assert, or the inconceivable folly to believe, that no more than this was intended—that it was desired, not to destroy the entrance, but to make it difficult and dangerous, with a view to facilitate the operations of the blockade. If it had been so, it is not easy to see that the crime would have been thereby lessened. To deprive the world at large of a gift of nature so valuable as an excellent harbor is an outrage on civilization, and an offence against all commercial nations. It is a violation of neutral rights similar to that involved in the paper blockade which it is intended to assist—an attempt to deprive neutral vessels of that trade with one belligerent which cannot be lawfully interrupted by the other, except under certain well-defined conditions, which such an operation is expressly meant to evade. It is, therefore, an act which might justly be treated as a *casus belli* by any or all nations having commercial relations with the port so assailed.—But the sinking of ships with a view not to close the entrance, but to render the navigation perilous, is a crime of a much more atrocious character. It is an endeavor to expose to risk of shipwreck vessels only liable at worst to capture, and seamen not liable to any penalty whatever. It is, in one word, a practical conspiracy against neutral seamen if they attempt to enter a harbor which, by all the laws of nations, they have a perfect right to enter *if they can*—a trap laid for the lives of the subjects of friendly powers such as could not legitimately be employed even against civilian enemies, and, therefore, an act which would put its perpetrators outside the pale of civilization, and entitle neutrals to deal with them not merely as enemies but as pirates.

PRIVATEERS AS MEN-OF-WAR.

[Correspondence of the London Times.]

PARIS, Feb. 14, 1862.

The Federal men-of-war, five or six in number, whose ineffectual cruise in search of the Sumter your readers are acquainted with, have found an ally in the Havre papers, and, *prohpudor!* in the *Journal des Debats*. The apologist of the stone blockade denounces the destruction of American merchantmen by the daring Confederate cruiser as piracy, and goes the length of endorsing the vile insinuation of the *Journal du Havre*, that the Sumter has burnt several French and English ships, and murdered their crews. "Who can say," exclaims the Havre journal, "that in its voyage from America to Europe the Sumter, in the hopes of finding specie, or precious metals, on board, has not attacked and destroyed several English and French vessels, and concealed its crime by the massacre of their crews?" It is difficult to say whether this imputation is more infamous or absurd. A grain of common sense would, most people would fancy, have enabled the writer of the above calumny to come to the conclusion that, were the commander of the Sumter so prone to murder as he supposes, he would hardly have taken the trouble to incumber himself with the crews of the American merchantmen he destroyed. In former days, when the *Debats* was impartial, it would have abstained from recording the cowardly insinuation without a word to protest against it. But so far from that being the case now, it continues Jesuitically to support the outcry of these Havre papers, all of them, of course, disinterested supporters of the Havre shipowners interested in the American trade, for the aid of "all the European maritime Powers in putting down the violent *coups de main* of the two Confederate ships—the Sumter and Nashville—in the guise of privateers," and which these papers do not hesitate to designate as pirates.

These feelings appeal for intervention in behalf of a country which possesses a comparatively powerful navy, to crush two vessels whose aggregate tonnage does not amount to 1,000 tons, will not create much sympathy for the Federal cause. The helplessness of the Union on land is shown by the inaction of what they complimentarily describe as their "army," on the banks of the Potomac. Their friends in Europe now tell us that they are equally helpless at sea, and resort to the most unjustifiable devices to induce Europe to fight their battles for them on an element of which they claim to divide the supremacy with England. Be it also noted that this appeal comes from the great advocates of neutrality whenever any peculiar atrocity, any remarkable breach of international law on the part of the North, calls for European intervention. Further comment on such manœuvres is unnecessary; but, before leaving the subject, let me notice a gross misstatement of the *Journal des Debats*. The Sumter and Nashville are no more privateers than they are pirates. They hold regularly-signed commissions, and the helplessness of their antagonists proves that the states to which they belong have fully earned the right to be considered as belligerents. Can as much be said of their enemies?

DEPARTURE OF AMERICANS FROM PARIS.

[Correspondence of the London Herald.]

PARIS, Feb. 14, 1862.

The American exodus still continues. The timorous return to the States, and thereby, who are not afraid their fortunes will greatly suffer by bomb events, take contrary one to home. A piece of news last night was transmitted to me by a Southerner, which should not be omitted. The person alluded to received by the latest mail a letter from a young friend, in which it stated that he had applied to Gen. McClellan for a passport, in order to proceed to Richmond. The General at once granted it. But when it was presented to Mr. Seward, he refused to countersign it, giving as his reason for not doing so, that he expected in the course of three weeks every one who pleased would be free as formerly to leave and enter Richmond.

MR. SLIDELL IN PARIS.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes (Feb. 14) as follows:

Mr. John Slidell has succeeded in obtaining a house, and, with his family, and goods, and "chattels," including his mulatto wench, will move next week into the Champs Elysees, and in the course of a week or two will give a "house warming." He has recovered from the physical effects of his incarceration and anxiety, and proximity to Bunker Hill, and his subsequent sea voyage, and looks, for an old man, quite rosy and jolly. He is suffering no grass to grow under his feet. Besides having called upon M. Thouvenel, with whom he had a conversation of two hours, he is engaged every day in visiting ministers, members of the Senate, chamberlains, and members of the Assembly and men of influence and position, to all of whom, of course, he demonstrates the beauties of secession, and the advantage which would accrue to France from the independence of the Southern Confederacy. Day before yesterday he had a long interview with M. Fould, Minister of Finance; and as M. Fould's great aim now is to make France rich and prosperous, no doubt less endeavored to prove to him how much France would gain by unrestricted trade with the South.—He has also had an interview with M. Rouher, the Minister of Commerce, who was converted to secessionism last summer by the untiring labors of Thomas Butler King, and who will be to Mr. Slidell a very important and valuable aid in the prosecution of his mission.

Slidell has great advantages for the work he is doing. He is a plausible man, has many friends and acquaintances here, and, above all, speaks the language perfectly. Half the business of diplomacy is conducted, not in formal interviews intended for business, but in social conversations at evening parties, at diplomatic dinners; and, in order to effect anything in this way, a thorough knowledge of the language is an absolute necessity, and it is really strange that our Government, taking into consideration the important duties to be performed, should have sent to France as our Minister a gentleman who, though able, and one of the most amiable and agreeable men in the world, and who, under ordinary circumstances, would be one of the best and most popular ministers we ever had here, does not speak a word of French. "The children of the world are wiser in their generation than the children of light;" and our enemies have been much wiser than we in this respect, as all their representatives here thus far have been thorough French scholars.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

Another correspondent writes:

The Paris papers are less occupied now with your affairs. Those in the pay of the Secession Ministers keep up their lies and misrepresentations; but the people have got tired of them, and besides there is trouble enough at home to call off their gazs from other matters.

That queer attempt at bolstering up the French Bourse, by borrowing four millions sterling in London, has been renounced. The affair became known, and the French people were terrified to find that for so small an amount the Government was forced to go to borrow money in England. All sorts of rumors were started. The *Moniteur* denied the fact of the loan at a time when all believe it, and, the Government gave orders to the agents in London to let the affair drop. Soends that farce. Its effect, however, is deplorable here. The masses are frightened, and, as usual with the French when they become so, they also become cruel. Now they snarl and sneer at the *entourage* of the Emperor, speak of the millions swallowed up by these persons, and talk of a day of reckoning. I tell you the time is fast approaching when the Government must strike some grand *coup* if it wishes to avoid the fate of its predecessors.

The great idea now seems to be an intervention in favor of the South. I can assure you that such is the Emperor's hobby, and has been all along. He has been kept back because England would not act before him, and that he does not desire a war single-handed with the North.

The conversion of the four and a half and four per cent. into three per cent. rentes is now a *fait accompli* as far as *ordonnances* and votes of the Senate and Corps Legislatif can make it. Will the holders of the scrip change it? It is more than probable they will, at least the great majority. An undefined dread of some kind of retaliation will force them to do so. The commercial classes in France are in dismay. The diminution of business is really appalling. A few of the Northern iron manufacturers are steadily employed, it is true; they are manufacturing arms and war implements; but the regular commerce is quite done. The result is a state of alarm and anxiety that is menacing.

In England great distress prevails. All this goes to show how great is the influence of American commerce upon the world at large, and is a just chastisement for the overt encouragement which has been extended to the rebellious States.

Mr. Slidell has been received by M. de Thouvenel. This, however, means nothing. Almost any person who asks for an audience of that minister gets it. Mr. Slidell will, I do not doubt, meet with great sympathy from M. Thouvenel; but he will get no real encouragement from him. It is beginning to be apparent to both France and England that the United States Government is upon the point of acting at last with firmness and decision; and as long as they see this symptom they will keep quiet.

Mr. Rost, the Southerner who made Paris his stopping place before the advent of Slidell, has gone to Madrid. Mr. Rost was, I am assured, quite busily occupied with the Paris press during his stay here. He no doubt is aware what the extraordinary sympathy displayed by the *Patrie* and the *Pays* for the South was really worth, and what it cost.

As I asserted in my last letter, foul play was shown by the authorities of Southampton in the case of the Tuscarora.

Railroad Disasters.

A terrible accident occurred on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, on the 27th ult. It seems that a lumber train, going down, collided with a passenger train, on board of which was the 7th Mississippi regiment, Col. Goode, *en route* for Columbus, killing twenty-five, and severely wounding twenty-six more. The company which sustained the greatest loss was from Amite co., Miss. The engineer of the lumber train, by whose negligence the accident occurred, has not been seen since the collision took place.—The N. O. *True Delta* says:

The collision itself would be impossible to describe, so unexpected was it, and so fearful in its might. The lumber train may have been going at the rate of about fifteen miles an hour, and the soldier train about twenty. The first being heavier and more solid, was comparatively uninjured, except the engine; but the first and second passenger cars, crashing into each other, made an awful wreck, and piled up dead men and dying in one horrible heap. It was a long time before they could be all extricated.

Soon after the accident the down train for the city arrived at the scene, and fortunately brought as a passenger Dr. G. W. Devron, the house surgeon of the Confederate States Army hospital on Common street. By his prompt care and the services of Surgeon Bowie and Assistant Surgeon J. M. Thornhill, of the Mississippi regiment, the latter of whom forgot, in his sympathy for others, that one of his own ribs had been broken, many a gallant volunteer's life was saved who must otherwise have soon expired.

When the train from this city reached there, the engine was at once sent back for assistance and brought the first exaggerated report of the affair. Dr. Devron would not wait, however, for the arrival of this aid, but had four cars prepared as soon as possible to bring here all of those who were badly wounded.

The regiment then continued on its way, taking with it between fifty and sixty slightly wounded, and twenty-one corpses to be sent to the homes of the several deceased for burial by their families or friends.

ANOTHER DISASTER—A SAD ROMANCE.

The Knoxville (Tenn.) *Register*, of the 28th ult., says:

An accident occurred on Wednesday evening, on the E. T. & Ga. Railroad, by which several persons were injured—one fatally.—The train which was bringing the 23d Alabama regiment to this city, ran off the track a few miles this side of Cleveland, wrecking the train badly. A girl, in uniform, who was with the soldiers without revealing her sex, but who did not belong to this regiment, was sitting on the platform of one of the cars, and had her legs so badly crushed that amputation was necessary, and both were taken off, but without avail; and death put an end to her sufferings last night. She gave her name as Lucy Wetter, and told a sad story of woman's wrongs. She had disguised herself in male attire, and joined this regiment with the expectation of finding her deceiver, who is in the army, and avenging her shame.

An extensive gun factory has been set in operation at Holly Springs, Miss. Contracts have been entered into to supply the Government with 20,000 guns in a short time.

FEDERAL OUTRAGES.

A Clergyman Dragged from his Pulpit—Letters from a Lady of Fairfax County.

The base and dastardly conduct of the enemy in Alexandria and Fairfax county, Va., the evidence of which multiplies daily, ought to incite our men to more desperate efforts to drive the invader from our soil. A scene occurred in St. Paul's Church, Alexandria, on Sunday morning, Feb. 9, which has, perhaps, never had a parallel among civilized nations—certainly not in the history of this country. The *Local News*, of that city, gave a full account of the transaction on the following day, a portion of which we copy:

The officiating minister, Rev. K. J. Stewart, had gone through the morning prayer of the Episcopal service as far as the Litany—the prayer for the President being omitted, but without anything in its place—and was proceeding with the Litany, when an interruption occurred of the character which the law designates as "brawling;" that is, the intervention of noise and tumult by certain persons who had come to the church with the intention of interrupting the service, should it not proceed according to their wishes. These persons commenced the disturbance as soon as they found the prayer for the President omitted. One of them, Captain Farnsworth, of the 8th Illinois cavalry, who sat near the chancel, advanced in uniform, with some five or six of his soldiers near him, undertook to officiate in prayer, (if prayer it could be called,) by reading the prayer for the President of the United States. How far he went it does not appear in the confusion; but, soon quitting his position as the officer of prayer, he advanced to the altar, where Mr. Stewart was kneeling, still continuing the Litany, and ordered his arrest. Mr. Stewart was dragged from his knees by the soldiers. The ground of the arrest Captain Farnsworth distinctly avowed to be the omission of the prayer for the President of the United States. With this avowal he said: "I arrest you, by the authority of the United States, as a rebel and a traitor!" "And I," responded Mr. Stewart (who by this time had advanced to the chancel rails) to Captain F., "*summon you to answer at the judgment seat of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords for interfering, by force of arms, with His ambassadors while in the act of presenting the petitions of His people at His altar!*" The solemnity of this appeal caused the parties to fall back and pause; but soon the soldiers were ordered to seize Mr. Stewart, which two of them did, with great violence, forcing the prayer book from his hands; one of them drawing a revolver. Another revolver was presented to an old and venerated citizen within the chancel, when the officer ordered the soldier not to fire. Very soon considerable number of armed soldiers appeared in the church. Mr. Stewart refusing to yield voluntarily, was dragged by force from the altar and through the aisle out of the church. He was in his surplice, which he wore through the streets and at Captain Farnsworth's quarters, where he was taken. Farnsworth said, that he went to church intending to arrest Mr. S, if he should offer any prayer for the Confederate States. Near him, in the same pew, sat Mr. Moreton, (the detective,) who then gave orders to Capt. F. to make the arrest, which was executed as above described.

Mr. Moreton has declared that he was acting under authority from Washington.

The scene in the church was such as may be imagined under such circumstances; gentlemen were indignant and excited, and ladies gave utterance to their feelings of grief and indignation. Out, of course, no serious effort was made to prevent the arrest. Mr. Stewart was taken away and the congregation dispersed.

It is proper to state that these proceedings were without the knowledge of Gen. Montgomery, the Military Governor of the city, and were strongly condemned by him when they came to his knowledge. He telegraphed to Washington for instructions from the Government, which, when received, were of such a nature as to lead to Mr. Stewart's release after a few hours' detention.

As might have been anticipated, the publication of the foregoing facts (which are testified to by a number of respectable citizens,) incensed the Yankee scoundrels beyond measure, and the office of the *Local News* was burnt; and it was with the utmost difficulty that the Federal officer in command could prevent the destruction of St. Paul's Church; in a similar manner. Subsequently, under the pretence that an organization existed in the city with the object of extending aid and comfort to the "rebels," a number of the best citizens of Alexandria, including the editor of the paper, were arrested and thrown into prison at Washington, where they still remain.

The outrages of the Federal soldiery are by no means confined to the town of Alexandria. The following letters, written by a lady in Fairfax county, and received very recently, have been sent to the editors of the *Dispatch* for publication. They present so graphic a picture of the audacious insolence of the Yankees, that, on contemplating it, every patriot heart will burn with indignation and an eagerness for vengeance. The moral heroism of the ladies who, remaining to protect their homes, thus expose themselves to insult, merits the consideration of the true soldier of the South, and will endow him with renewed energy in his struggle for freedom and independence:

December 2, 1861.—We have passed through very trying times since the army retreated from Mason's hill and this neighborhood, in October. On the 23d of that month a Major*, in command of some fifty or sixty soldiers, searched this house. As they came up very much excited, with their guns lowered, and fingers on the triggers, I advanced and said, "Do you wish to see any one here?" "Yes; Mr. ——. Where is he?" I replied, "At the barn; I will send for him." They rushed by me into the house, and said, "You shall not—he is in this house—open this door, or I will break it open." They had brought with them hatchets and augers. As I complied with that demand, nearly the whole regiment ran up the front and back stairs. I entreated the Major to allow me a few moments to have my chambers arranged before the men entered them. The courteous answer I received was to "hush, or I and my children should be arrested." I told a servant girl, who was standing near, to call my husband, when the Captain who was guarding us pointed his gun and said, "If you call, I will shoot the hoe out of you." I replied, "What can I do? You will not allow me to send for my husband." A soldier was sent with the servant, and as soon as Mr. —— made his appearance, the Major, with a pistol presented, and nine or ten soldiers around, arrested him in the most cowardly and brutal manner, not allowing him to change his dress, and marching him down five miles blindfolded.—I was apprehensive some further violence would be offered, and, in this state of agonizing suspense, suffered for two days and nights. A letter was then sent me, by a flag of truce, saying he was in Washington, in the prison on the corner of Thirteenth street and the Avenue, on the charge of shooting a Yankee picket. His father died the very day he got to the city. One of the prisoners was the first to tell him of it, when he at once asked leave to visit his family, and was allowed *half an hour*, with a guard to accompany him even to the door of the room, to take a last look of a beloved parent! Oh, this was too inhuman! I have not heart to think of it! After a close imprisonment of fourteen days, owing to the powerful influence of his friends he was released and acquitted of the false charge.

Such a scene as my house presented you can scarce imagine. Every room had been searched; fourteen locks broken open; my clothes, books, papers, beds, pillows, and furniture of every kind, thrown in confusion on the floors, trampled on, and many entirely broken and destroyed; my writing desk broken open, papers taken out, a great many things stolen, from a lucifer match to a silver spoon.

During Mr. ——'s absence, I was in constant alarm. German soldiers would come in large numbers every day, often using to me insulting and violent language—robbed the place of nearly everything; when they found that myself and two little boys were the only white persons in the house, threatened to enter to see if "secesh" was not secreted in some of the rooms, and to burn it down. I was obliged to keep the doors and shutters fastened, the boys frightened into silence, and the servants afraid to go on with their work. But a merciful God protected us in our utter helplessness. Although my husband had a pass given him to go in search of his horses, which had been stolen, he was arrested again at Annandale some weeks after, and detained three weeks in Washington; found two of his horses; had to pay $60 to get them back, besides the expense of a livery stable. There is no redress for all our property carried off.

Monday, February 3, 1862.—About half-past 8 o'clock, during a heavy snow storm, there was a knock at the front door—I sent a servant to see who it was; the servant and said a gentleman wants to see Mr. ——; I came out and asked him in; he was covered with snow; Mr. —— by this time came up; and invited him to the library fire—I thought he was some one who had probably lost their way, and, on hospitable thoughts intent, I placed a chair in a warm corner, and as he complained of his almost frozen feet, I asked him to take off his boots, and was in the act of offering some refreshments, when, to my utter amazement, he threw off the mask, rose up and said, "Mr. ——, I arrest you." In one moment the house was surrounded by a large number of cavalry, and a Captain, accompanied by some six or seven of them, entered the house. The next thing was the sixteen repeated search. I was requested to get up and show them the way to the cellar; accompanied by the captain and the officer, who first came, I opened my wardrobe, bureau drawers; had my bed thoroughly examined; the garret and other rooms underwent the same inspection, and finally my writing desk, and a large box half filled with old letters and papers—this seemed to be a decided prize. "They must all be taken to Washington." I replied, they were all my individual papers—many of them fifty years old. That they could not believe. Evidence of guilt was certainly there, and a search warrant was served. What a desperate villain I must be, with such a weight of evidence against me, carried to Washington by an armed company of thirty or more *brave* Yankee soldiers! Rest assured they are too much occupied just now in searching and arresting my sex to think of an advance to meet our noble and chivalric Southern men. There never was a more peaceable place but myself, two women, the eight Illinois cavalry, and two small colored girls. Mr. —— has never been well since he was arrested, in December, forced to walk five miles, through mud and water, keeping up with cavalry, and his life several times threatened with a bayonet pointed to his breast. He told the officers he was not in a state of health to bear the exposure, suffering from a severe cough. There was not a man of them, or female in captivity, or in exile—our people slain, and the very altars of our religion desecrated and profaned.—The ruthless tyrants who have dared to invade us, have vowed our conquest or our destruction. It is for you to rise and avenge our slaughtered countrymen or nobly share their fate. Of what worth is life without liberty?—peace at the expense of honor?—the world without a home?

When our fathers pledged life, fortune, and sacred honor in our first war of independence, was it an empty boast, or was it the stern resolve of freemen, who knew their rights and dared to defend them? The long war of the Revolution culminated at length in victorious triumph on these very plains of Yorktown. These frowning battlements on the heights of York are returned, in this second war of liberty, against the enemies of our country. You breathe the air and tread the soil consecrated by the presence and the heroism of our patriotic sires. Shall we, their sons, imitate their example, or basely bow the neck to the yoke of the oppressor? *I know your answer!* You remember your wrongs, and you are resolved to avenge them. True to the instincts of patriotic devotion, you will not fill a coward's grave; you spring with alacrity to the death-grapple with the foe, nor relinquish the strife till victory crowns our arms. Cowards die a thousand deaths—brave men die but once, and conquer though they die.

It is, therefore, *without surprise* that your Commanding General has learned of your purpose to re-enlist in this holy struggle, and that you bear with a cheerfulness and constancy, worthy of his highest admiration, the disappointment of withdrawing from you the furloughs to visit your homes which the Government promised you, and which the present dangers of our beloved country alone forbids it to grant. When the war is ended, in that hour of triumph you will be proud to remember, that by your sufferings and sacrifices, no less than by your valor, you conquered.

Soldiers! though reverses and disasters have recently befallen us, let us remember that truth is eternal, and that God is just. His arm is our trust—and the great Ruler of Nations will protect the right and crown with victory the noble and the brave.

Let us take courage, then. Our enemy, dead to the spirit of Liberty, can only fight while their coffers are unexhausted. Commerce is their King. Their God is gold. They glory in their shame. The war which impoverishes our devotion and concentrates *our* resources, scatters *theirs*. The day of retribution will come. The struggle will not be always defensive on our part. We will yet strike down our ruthless invaders, amid the smoking ruins of their cities, and, with arms in our hands, dictate terms of peace on their own soil.

J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,
Major-General Commanding.

* It is unfortunate that the *names* of these gallant officers cannot be handed down to posterity in the history of the times.

Gen. Magruder's Address.

The following address, to the army of the Peninsula, has just been issued by General Magruder. No one can read it without admiration. It has the ring of true metal.—While it is intended particularly for the soldiers on the Peninsula, it will have its effect in inciting others to emulate the example of the patriotic men who have nobly come forward to continue the struggle for independence:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE PENINSULA,
Yorktown, Va., March 4, 1862.

To the Army of the Peninsula:

Comrades—The term of service for which many of you enlisted is about to expire. Your country, invaded by an insolent foe, again demands your help—your homes are violated—your firesides polluted by the presence of a mercenary enemy, of silent in their desolation—many of your friends in captivity, or in exile—our people slain, and the very altars of our religion desecrated and profaned.—The ruthless tyrants who have dared to invade us, have vowed our conquest or our destruction. It is for you to rise and avenge our slaughtered countrymen or nobly share their fate. Of what worth is life without liberty?—peace at the expense of honor?—the world without a home?

When our fathers pledged life, fortune, and sacred honor in our first war of independence, was it an empty boast, or was it the stern resolve of freemen, who knew their rights and dared to defend them? The long war of the Revolution culminated at length in victorious triumph on these very plains of Yorktown. These frowning battlements on the heights of York are returned, in this second war of liberty, against the enemies of our country. You breathe the air and tread the soil consecrated by the presence and the heroism of our patriotic sires. Shall we, their sons, imitate their example, or basely bow the neck to the yoke of the oppressor? *I know your answer!* You remember your wrongs, and you are resolved to avenge them. True to the instincts of patriotic devotion, you will not fill a coward's grave; you spring with alacrity to the death-grapple with the foe, nor relinquish the strife till victory crowns our arms. Cowards die a thousand deaths—brave men die but once, and conquer though they die.

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Soldiers! though reverses and disasters have recently befallen us, let us remember that truth is eternal, and that God is just. His arm is our trust—and the great Ruler of Nations will protect the right and crown with victory the noble and the brave.

Let us take courage, then. Our enemy, dead to the spirit of Liberty, can only fight while their coffers are unexhausted. Commerce is their King. Their God is gold. They glory in their shame. The war which impoverishes our devotion and concentrates *our* resources, scatters *theirs*. The day of retribution will come. The struggle will not be always defensive on our part. We will yet strike down our ruthless invaders, amid the smoking ruins of their cities, and, with arms in our hands, dictate terms of peace on their own soil.

J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,
Major-General Commanding.

DEATH OF A FRENCH CANTINIERE.—The oldest cantiniere of the French army has just died at Issoudun, aged ninety-four. Therese Jourdon, born at Bascon, in 1768, was married in 1753, to Jean Fatru, who afterwards became sergeant in the Sixty ninth brigade. She accompanied her husband in the Italian campaigns of 1796 and 1797, under Gen. Bonaparte. She next went to Egypt, was present at the landing of the army before Alexandria, then at the battle of the Pyramids, and at Kleber's victory near the ruins of Heliopolis. After her return from the East, she was present at the battles of Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, and in the campaigns on the Elbe, the Vistula, and the Niemen. She then followed the army into Spain and Portugal, whence she returned, and going to Germany again, witnessed the battles of Essling and Wagram. In 1812 she followed the grand army to Russia, and was present at the battle of Moscow, where her husband fell in storming a redoubt.

She came back to France with the remnant of the army, and took part in the campaign of 1813; was at Bautzen and Leipsic, and at Waterloo in 1815. When the army was reorganized she was attached to the Fourth Regiment of the line, and accompanied it to Spain, under the Duke d' Angoulême, in 1823. From 1830 to 1834 she was in Africa. In 1850, she went there again with the depot of the Fourth regiment, and remained till 1860. Not wanting the services of this extraordinary woman, she went to Issoudun with the depot of the Fourth, the officers of which allowed her a pension, and she had rations with the men, who absolutely idolized her. She had survived all relatives, but never wanted for friends. She retained her faculties to the last, and died without pain. The whole battalion, 600 strong, attended her funeral, and a Sergeant-Major pronounced an oration over her grave.

The War in the West.

The Memphis papers, as late as the 4th, came through on Friday evening, and from them, and other sources, we make up the following summary:

THE EVACUATION OF COLUMBUS.

The Memphis *Appeal*, alluding to the withdrawal of our forces from Columbus, says:

This movement has been executed in a manner that reflects great credit upon the commander who planned and supervised it. It was one of those military necessities which cannot be appreciated so readily by those unacquainted with the situation. We are advised that the new position is considered by Gen. Beauregard as much more impregnable, comparatively, than Columbus, inasmuch as a flank movement cannot be made against it with such facility. We look on Memphis and the Mississippi Valley as safer to-day than they were two weeks ago.

JEFF. THOMPSON'S SKIRMISH.

Gen. Jeff Thompson,