Richmond Dispatch.

☞ The DISPATCH is published DAILY, Sundays excepted. Price for mailing $6 a year, or $3 for six months, three months $2; one month $1—in advance.

☞ The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every TUESDAY and FRIDAY, at $5, in advance.

☞ The WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every FRIDAY, and mailed to subscribers at $3 per annum.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXIV. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4 1863. NO. 30

WEDNESDAY MORNING.....FEB 4 1863.

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Yesterday was the day fixed for the consideration in the House of Representatives of the bill making appropriations for the support of the Government, for the period from February 1st to June 30, 1863, inclusive, and to supply deficiencies arising prior thereto. The bill was reported by Mr. Kenner, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and its consideration postponed till the morning hour of to-day. It makes provision for the appropriation, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $276,185,453 41 in the aggregate. The objects to which this sum is to be applied embraces every department of the Government. In these are included the following:

For the interest on public debt	$ 20,000,000
" pay of the Army	119,270,771
" transportation of troops and their baggage, quartermaster's stores, ordnance, and ordnance stores, &c.	47,709,208
For bounty of 60,000 soldiers	3,000,000
Commissary Department	48,658,500
Ordnance Department	13,500,000
Engineer Department	3,000,000
Medical and hospital supplies	2,500,000
For pay of the Navy	1,399,571
For provisions and contingencies in the Paymaster's Department	1,321,600
For construction of iron clad and other vessels	3,000,000
For sustenance of prisoners of war, &c.	1,000,000

LATE NORTHERN NEWS.

From Northern papers, of the 31st ultimo, we make up the following summary of news:

THE TERRORS OF THE SEA—CAREER OF THE FLORIDA—DESCRIPTION OF HER OFFICERS AND STYLE.

The Yankee papers have a new sensation in the Florida and two Confederate sailing privateers, which are just out—the Retribution and Dixie—These sailing vessels are schooners of about 150 tons, both painted black. The captain and crew of the brig Estelle, which was destroyed by the Florida, have arrived in New York. The Estelle was bound for Boston, with sugar and honey, and first descried the Florida on the 19th ult., off Cape Antonio. The following is a description by her first mate of the Florida's style of taking prizes:

The brig was all the time under close reefed sails. Captain Brown, her commander, at first thought the stranger might be the Alabama; but, as she had the Stars and Stripes flying, this opinion gave way to the belief of her being a Federal cruiser.

Shortly before 3 o'clock P M the steamer, which had come up abreast of the brig to a distance of 75 yards, fired a shot across her bows, and lowering the American flag ran up that of the Confederacy. Her guns were brought to bear on the Estelle, whose captain thus was made aware of his fate.—The Estelle at once backed her topsail and hove to, when five boats were lowered from the Confederate steamer and pulled towards the doomed brig. The second lieutenant of the Florida stepped on board and respectfully saluting the captain, remarked, "Captain, you are a prize to the Southern Confederacy. Pack up your private property with all dispatch and let your crew do the same." This order was at once complied with, when the crew were ordered on board the steamer.

The lieutenant sent the chronometer, charts and instruments of the brig on board the steamer, and selected from the ship chandlery stores and cargo such articles as were wanted on the steamer. He then set his crew to work in stripping the brig of part of her rigging, all her sails, except foretopgallantsail, royal and mainstaysail and foretopstaysail, which were sent on board. A fire was then kindled on the deck, both fore and aft, and in a few minutes the brig was a mass of flame.

When the crew of the brig arrived on the steamer, they were at once informed by the first lieutenant that they would be treated as prisoners of war, and allowed the liberty of the ship, provided they would conform to the rules of the vessel.—They were divided among the crew of the steamer as messmates, and had the same fare as their captors. The captain of the brig was at once invited to partake of the hospitalities of the cabin, and a state-room was at once arranged for himself and mate. The second mate was sent to mess with the subaltern officers. The fare of the officers and crew of the Florida was nearly the same—salt beef, peas, and rice, with an allowance of hard bread. The officers, however, said that in Havana they would be fully supplied with all necessaries for a long cruise.

The officers of the Florida treated their prisoners with great delicacy and kindness and, during frequent conversations on the war, regretted, with tears in their eyes, that the stern necessities of war obliged them to fight their brethren of the North. They are mostly ex-officers of the navy, and exact the same discipline of their crew as on the United States men-of-war. No profane or insulting language is allowed, and the offender punished severely.

The first lieutenant is Mr Reid, who had just returned from the Pacific, when he tendered his resignation to the United States authorities. The Chief Engineer, Spydee, is a native of middle Tennessee, where he lost all of his property. He is said to be very proficient in his business.

The officers of the Florida state that they ran out of Mobile on a clear, starlight night, with a fresh breeze, and that they ran past seven Federal gunboats, none of which fired a single shot at them.

They were chased until next morning by two gunboats, but then they left their pursuers far astern and hull down. Captain Maffitt stopped the steamer until the Federals were in full sight, when he crowded on steam until he lost sight of them—The Florida's officers stated that there were five more steamers in Mobile ready to run the blockade, and for aught they knew were already at sea.

The crew is a mixture of all nationalities, but the English and Irish element predominates. There are some Eastern men among them, and one of them, named Layton, a native of Portland, Me., is the boatswain. There is also one Chinaman on board. Most of the crew have been prisoners of war at the North, and some of them were in Fort Columbus, or in the Pen-Patch, near Philadelphia.

They are well drilled in the use of the guns, and are far superior to many of our merchant crews.

The Havana correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing on the 23d, says that the Florida was in that port, having been chased up to the very walls of Moro Castle by the Mobile blockadeing squadron. The letter says:

The steamer seems to have been well punished with shot and shell from the Federal ships, and it is reported that she lost her 1st Lieutenant and sixteen men killed by one shell from one of our men-of-war. One of her pursuers lost her foremast by a shot from the Florida, and consequently had to give up the chase. The Florida is a fine propeller of 1,100 tons burthen; is bark rigged, having rake masts, a low, sharp hull, and two smoke pipes issuing out of her deck. Her hull, formerly black, has been painted white. She is armed with two 64-pounders, two pivot guns, two 11-inch guns, and two 32 pounders rifled. It is also said that she has a gun that can throw a 15-inch shell. She is very fast, and can easily make sixteen knots an hour.

Capt. Maffitt is no ordinary character. He is vigorous, energetic, bold, quick, and dashing, and the sooner he is caught and hung the better will it be for the interests of our commercial community. He is decidedly popular here, and you can scarcely imagine the anxiety evinced to get a glance at him. He was at the Dominico this morning in citizen's clothes, and was the observed of every one. Nobody, unless informed, would have imagined the small, black eyed, poetic looking gentleman, with his romantic appearance, to be a second Semmes—probably in time to be a more celebrated and more dangerous pirate. He was alone, taking a cup of coffee, seemingly unconscious of having any more serious occupation on hand. As soon as he perceived that his presence attracted attention he blushed like a girl, paid his bill, and decamped.

THE END OF THE SAULSBURY ROW.

It has already been stated that Senator Saulsbury made an apology to the U. S. Senate for his share of the disturbances created there on the 26th ult. The Abolition papers are swearing that he was drunk on the occasion, and the Philadelphia *Inquirer* gives the following version of the affair:

After Senator Saulsbury's final arrest last night, he was taken in a cab to his residence, though considerable force had to be used. One of the officers was thrown violently to the floor before he was willing to go home. This morning he made his appearance in the Senate about nine o'clock. His first inquiry was for his revolver, which he was unable to find, it having been taken from him and put away. He was still laboring under the influence of liquor, and soon went up to his committee room, where he had considerable quantity in store, and imbibed again freely. He remarked to one of the officers that he had been drinking too much sherry last night, and it had got into his head, but he did not care a ——. His votes to-day is thick, and he seems very sullen. Two officers remain near him, and it is not feared that he will commit any violence upon the Senators, unless he again gets too much "sherry."

Some of the Republicans oppose a resolution to expel him, preferring that he should continue to represent the peace Democrats. It is not probable that he will be expelled, but he will no doubt be severely censured by resolutions. His site next behind Senator Wall, of New Jersey, with whom he is in conversation most of the time.

After he had replied to the resolution to expel him to-day, he put his hands into his coat pockets and started across to the Republican side of the Senate. A number of members kept an eye on him, and one or two officers followed him across the floor. When he reached the other side he leaned over and touched Mr. Pomeroy on the shoulder, and seemed to be about to address a few remarks to him, when the President pro tem. rapped him to order, and he went back to his seat. In a few minutes he left, with Senator Wall, for the "sidewalk."

The galleries have been crowded all day, every one watching and pointing towards him from all parts of the galleries. This is the stormiest day we have known during the whole session, and on such days we have rarely seen over fifty or a hundred where to-day there were at least three thousand.

Senator Saulsbury was conveyed from the Senate to his home, this afternoon, in a state of high nervous excitement, bordering on congestion of the brain. It is understood that the resolution will not be pressed in his absence by illness, and it is hoped that he will have the prudence and manliness to render it unnecessary, by a frank apology to the Senate for his disgraceful conduct.

THE SINKING OF THE HATTERAS—REPORT OF AN ESCAPED OFFICER.

The Navy Department has received official information of the capture and sinking of the United States steamer Hatteras by the Alabama or "290." The substance is contained in the following statement of L. H. Partridge, Acting Master on board the United States steamer Hatteras, off Galveston:

At about 3 P. M Tuesday, January 11th, when a vessel hove in sight southeast, we were signalled from the Brooklyn to give chase. As the came in sight she appeared to be endeavoring to escape.

Just after dark, was able to discover that she was bark-rigged and set a top-gallant sail. After dark we gained on her fast, and when we got up found her lying to under steam.

We had been at quarters about twenty minutes As we came up Captain Blake hailed, and asked what ship it was? The answer was, "Her British Majesty's ship Petrel." Capt. Blake said, "I will send a boat aboard." Boat being called away, I was ordered to take charge and board.

Before we went one-half ship's length away from the side, the stranger opened fire. It was returned by the Hatteras, and both started ahead under a full head of steam, exchanging broadsides as fast as they could load and fire for about twenty minutes with big guns, then with musketry from both vessels.

All the time I had been trying to board my vessel, but could not come up. After the musketry ceased I discovered that the Hatteras was stopped and blowing off steam, with the enemy alongside for the purpose of boarding

Heard the enemy cheering, and knew the Hatteras had been captured, and thought it no use to give myself up as a prisoner, and rowed back to the fleet under cover of darkness, in hopes of giving information of the affair.

The Hatteras was commanded by Lieut. Horner C. Blake, a native of New York, who, shortly before leaving New Orleans for Galveston, wrote to his wife as follows:

"We will have some hot work at Galveston. I have not asked these orders (to Galveston,) but having them I owe a duty to my country and my family that I must obey. Life is sweet with honor, with dishonor a burden. I have much to live for, but I could not be happy to purchase my life with any neglect of the duty I owe to my country. I shall go down there, not seeking danger, but if it comes I shall take it on the line of my duty, and endeavor to do credit to myself, family, and State."

The *Herald* gives the following description of the lost vessel:

The Hatteras was a small iron steamer, slightly built, with engines and boilers exposed to shot and shell. She mounted probably six guns, of small calibre, and possibly less. She has been doing blockade duty in the Gulf for over a year past, and was the vessel that took possession of Cedar Keys. She was nothing in comparison with the Alabama, either in size, speed, or in the number and calibre of her battery. She was enticed into the jaws of the lion and crushed, without the slightest possibility of her being able to injure her antagonist in the smallest degree. She has been captured, after a most gallant fight, by overwhelming power and numbers, and by English sailors, and under the plea that it was one of the English navy. A long time may elapse before the fate of her gallant officers and crew is determined.

THE HERALD ON HOOKER—THE REBELLION TO BE CRUSHED THIS TIME.

The New York *Herald*, as is its custom on the advent of each new General, lays out his campaign for him and crushes the rebellion. The "very heart of the rebellion" is to be crushed by Hooker. It says:

But let us not be unreasonably impatient. While the "sacred soil" of Virginia continues in the condition of a quagmire, arresting the movements of provision wagons and compelling the officers in charge to convoy on horseback the daily subsistence to our soldiers, a movement of the army in any direction remains an impossibility. A single night of good freezing weather, followed by a sharp and dry northwester of two or three days, will bring us, no doubt, the tidings of the advance of the Army of the Potomac in full strength upon the enemy. General Hooker, meantime, has been usefully employed in the work of reorganizing his forces and his needful preparations for an advance. We expect that he will seize the opportunity of the first good frost to march upon, dislodge and follow up the enemy, notwithstanding the suggestions of some or the abolition journals that it will be better for him to remain in a state of "masterly inactivity" till April.

We should be sorry to believe that Gen. Hooker has been appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac for any such suicidal purpose. His appointment is universally accepted as a pledge to the people of the loyal States from the Administration that the moment the surface of the country around him is sufficiently dried or hardened for the movement of his artillery he will advance upon the enemy and give them battle, or compel them to get out of his way. We read this intention in General Hooker's address to the army, and we expect him to fulfill his promise. We have no fears of the result of another collision with the army of Gen. Lee.—Calm y considering the bloody repulse of Gen. Burnside of the 13th December, we are strongly inclined to his opinion that it would have been rewarded by decisive victory had his Generals concurred in his proposition to renew the attack, and especially upon the flanks of the enemy, the next day. At all events, we are confident that, from the drafts which have been made upon Gen. Lee's forces to strengthen Longstreet in Tennessee and the rebel Generals operating on the south side of the James river, he has been so weakened that he will surely be defeated should he again attempt to resist the advance of our considerably strengthened Army of the Potomac. Our only fear in the matter is that with Gen. Hooker's advance he will discover that the rebels have prudently weighed the chances against them, and have mysteriously disappeared, like Joe Johnston from Manassas, Sidney Johnston from Bowling Green, Bishop General Polk from Columbus, and Beauregard from Corinth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The State of New York is getting so warm upon New England that Henry Ward Beecher has gone to Albany to deliver a lecture in defence of the nutmeg country.

The *Republican*, of Washington, says that the exception of Tennessee by the President was owing to "the malign influence" of Andy Johnson, and that Tennessee was as rebellious and disloyal as Texas, Mississippi, or Arkansas.

Lincoln has given Gen. Anderson permission to raise negro regiments to garrison the forts and prisons in Massachusetts.

Major Hammond captured 12 rebel cavalry and recaptured 14 Yankees on the 27th, near Middleburg.

The Third New York cavalry has made an extensive tour from Newbern to Trenton, Onslow, &c., in the direction of Wilmington, breaking up rebel camps, destroying works and bridges, and capturing prisoners, horses, and colors. This successful expedition occupied nearly a week.

Banks, at New Orleans, taxes rebel merchants for support of the poor, and cautions the public against offering insult to the soldiers.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3, 1863.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock M. by Mr. Hunter, of Va.

Mr. Hill, of Ga., presented resolutions of his State asking the Secretary of War to investigate the official conduct of Quartermasters, Commissaries, Surgeons of hospitals and regiments, to ascertain whether they do not enter into private speculation, to the detriment of the interest of those confided to their charge, and praying that the parties so found guilty may be dismissed from the service. Read and referred to the Military Committee.

The Speaker presented certain resolutions relative to the present war, adopted by the Florida Legislature December 9th. They state that Florida, one of the first States to secede from the old Union, will be one of the last to lay down its arms, and will stand by her sister States to the last man and last musket until peace is established on the basis of a separate nationality, and the independence of the Confederate States is unconditionally acknowledged by the United States. Read and referred.

Mr. Maxwell, of Fla., from the Committee on Patents, reported back the bill to authorize the Commissioner to purchase books for the library of his office, with a recommendation that it pass. It passed.

Mr. Maxwell, from the same committee, reported a bill to authorize that in case of appeal from the Commissioner of Patents the appellant shall, before it is sent up, state in writing the grounds and reasons for the same, and said Commissioner shall send up said statement along with the other papers in the case. The bill was passed.

The unfinished business of yesterday—the bill to organize the Supreme Court of the Confederate States—was taken up. Mr. Sparrow proceeded to address the Senate in opposition to the bill. [illegible] Mr. Wigfall followed in opposition to the bill. [illegible] Mr. Sparrow, in explanation of his vote, said he was in favor of the bill up to the hour indicated by the resolution.

The question being upon the passing of the bill, which was to passed over, the 25th regiment of the 13th, the men had been [illegible] Mr. Oldham, of Texas, on the same side. Mr. Hill, of Ga., obtained the floor, but gave way to a motion informally to lay over the bill till Wednesday.

A bill was received from the House providing "that the provisions of the act of the 16th April, 1862, known as an act to further provide for the public defense," granting furloughs and transportation home and back to all those retained in the service beyond their term of enlistment, be extended to those who volunteer for the war."

A motion of Mr. Barnwell, of S. C., that the bill be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, was variously debated and carried in the affirmative.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—House met at 12 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Gross.

The Appropriation bill, which was yesterday made the special order for the morning hour, was postponed until to-morrow.

The House then resumed the consideration of the resolution of Mr. Barksdale, of Miss., requesting the President to furnish this House, if not incompatible with the public interest, with all the letters and telegrams of Major General Lovell to the War Department in reference to the defences of New Orleans, from the 25th of October, 1861, to the date of the surrender of that city; also, copies of all correspondence between the President and the Secretaries of War and Navy and the Governor of Louisiana on the same subject. Agreed to.

Resolutions.—By Mr. Clapp, of Miss., a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the propriety and necessity of legislation to suppress gambling in the army. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution that the Committee on Quartermaster and Commissary Departments be instructed to inquire whether officers and employees connected with those Departments are not in the habit of obtaining supplies for their families from those Departments at Government prices; and if so, by what authority this privilege is allowed them.—Agreed to.

By Mr. Gray, of Texas, resolutions of thanks to Major-Gen. J. Bankhead Magruder, and the officers and men of his command, at Galveston, Texas, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the bold, intrepid, and gallant conduct of Major-Gen. J. Bankhead Magruder, Col. Thomas Green, Major Leon Smith, and other officers, and of the Texan Rangers and soldiers engaged in the attack and victory achieved over the land and naval forces of the enemy at Galveston, on the 1st of January, 1863, eminently entitle them to the thanks of Congress and the country.

2. *Resolved*, That this brilliant achievement, resulting, under the providence of God, in the capture of the war steamer Harriet Lane, and the defeat and ignominious flight of the hostile fleet from the harbor, the recapture of the city, and the raising of the blockade of the port of Galveston, are signal evidences that superior forces may be overcome by skillful conception and daring courage.

3. *Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be communicated by the Secretary of War to Major-Gen. Magruder, and by him to his command.

Mr. Ayer, of S. C., offered joint resolutions of thanks to Gen. W. S. Walker, who commanded at Pocotaligo and Coosawatchie, which were referred to the Military Committee.

Bill Introduced.—By Mr. Davis, of Miss., a bill "authorizing transportation to troops who have volunteered for the war." Mr. Davis, of Miss., moved a suspension of the rules, so that the House might act upon the bill without its reference to a committee, and the motion was agreed to, and the rules were suspended, and the bill taken up and passed. The following is a copy of the bill as it was passed:

Be it enacted by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the provisions of the act of the 16th of April, 1862, known as an act to "further provide for the public defence," granting furloughs and transportation home and back to all those retained in the service beyond the time of their enlistment, be extended to those who volunteered for the war.

Exemption Bill.—The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. Curry, of Ala., in the Chair,) and took up the consideration of the bill "to declare what persons shall be exempt from military service." The question was upon the substitute of Mr. Collier.

Mr. Heiskell moved to strike out from the substitute the words "in each apothecary store, now established and doing business, one apothecary in good standing, who is a practical apothecary."—Not agreed to.

Mr. Conrad, of La., moved to amend the substitute by striking out the words, "one editor of each newspaper now being published, and such employees as the editor or proprietor may certify on oath to be indispensable for conducting the publication," and inserting the following: "Such persons employed in printing each paper now being published as the editor or proprietor may certify on oath to be indispensable for its publication: *Provided*, that this exemption shall apply to such editors as may print or assist in printing their own papers." Upon this the ayes and noes were ordered, with the following result: Ayes 26, noes 45.

Mr. Rails offered an amendment for the exemption of "all presidents and professors of colleges and high schools;" which was not agreed to.

Mr. Chambliss, of Va., moved to amend the substitute by striking out the words "All physicians who now are, and have been for the last five years, in actual practice of their profession." Not agreed to.

Mr. Russell, of Va., offered an amendment, to come in between the first and second sections of the substitute, as follows: "No person shall be exempt from military service by reason of his having furnished a substitute, if such substitute has become liable to military duty, or has, or may hereafter desert." Agreed to.

Mr. Wright, of Texas, moved to amend by striking out of the substitute the clause exempting the manufacturers of salt to the extent of twenty bushels per day. Agreed to

Mr. Swann, of Tenn., called the question upon the substitute of Mr. Collier as amended, and the call being sustained the ayes and noes were ordered, and resulted, ayes 33, noes 39. So the House refused to adopt the substitute as amended.

On motion of Mr. Foote, the Committee rose, and the Chairman reported back the bill with sundry amendments.

Mr. Dargan, of Ala., moved to recommit the bill and its amendments to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On this motion the House was addressed by Mr. McRae, of Miss., who strongly favored the bill reported from the Military Committee. The House was also addressed by Messrs. Foote and Maness of Tenn., but without coming to a vote on the motion of Mr. Dargan, went into secret session.

Previous to going into secret session, Mr. Lyons, of Va., offered a resolution expressing the appreciation of Congress of the distinguished services of Major-Gen Sterling Price, and authorizing the Speaker to invite him to a seat in the Hall during his sojourn in the city. The resolution was agreed to.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

TUESDAY, February 3, 1863.

SENATE.—The Senate met at 12 o'clock M., and was called to order by the Lieut.-Governor. Prayer by Rev. Dr. J. C. McCabe.

A communication was received from the Executive in relation to the railroads of the State, during the reading of which, on motion, the Senate went into secret session; and after a short time spent therein re-opened.

The resolution to authorize the building of a bridge over the Greenbrier river, was reported adversely upon.

An animated discussion occurred on the bill relative to planting tobacco, which, by unanimous consent, was postponed until to-day;

And then, on motion of Mr. Thompson, the Senate, at ten minutes of 3 P. M., adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—The House met at 12 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Read.

Mr. Burks, from the Committee on Courts, reported a bill empowering County Courts to impress articles for county purposes.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Governor, relative to the seizure by the Confederate Government, for the use of the Piedmont railroad, certain iron belonging to the Virginia Central railroad, and enclosing papers protesting against the same by Mr. Fontaine, President. The communication and accompanying documents were referred to the Committee on Confederate Relations.

Resolutions of Inquiry.—The following resolutions of inquiry were submitted: By Mr. Kauffman: That the claim of Gen. W. Chambers, for castings furnished the State of Virginia at the time of the taking of the U. S. Armory at Harper's Ferry, and recommended for payment by the Auditing Board, be referred to the Committee on Claims—agreed to. By Mr. Wysor: To inquire into the expediency of improving the discipline of the jails of the Commonwealth, and the order and decorum of those confined therein—agreed to. By Mr. Rives: To inquire into the expediency of exempting from military service one Deputy Sheriff for every 15,000 inhabitants.

At 12½ o'clock, the hour for the consideration of the bill for the suppression of conscription,

Mr. Pleasants obtained the floor in favor of the bill.

Mr. Harrison moved that all debate upon this bill, and all amendments thereto, should cease at 4½ o'clock to-day.

The motion was modified, and in that form adopted; extending the time to ten minutes before 3, and allowing debate on amendments that may be hereafter proposed.

Mr. Waddell obtained the floor, but gave way to Mr. Bouldin, of Charlotte, who offered the bill in a few brief remarks, after which Mr. Bouldin proceeded and spoke in favor of the bill up to the hour indicated by the resolution.

The question being upon the pending amendment, which was to strike out the 25th section of the bill, the ayes and noes were called for, and the result was [illegible] ayes 51, noes 38.

The [illegible] to indefinitely postpone [illegible] of the bill was made [illegible] day for to-morrow at 12½ o'clock.

Mr. [illegible] committees appointed to [illegible] the subject of disagreement, reported that the committees agreed to a substitute [illegible] bill upon the table and ordered [illegible] printed.

On motion [illegible] adjourned, at 2½ o'clock the House adjourned.

FROM VICKSBURG.—The Yankee Canal.—Our intelligence [illegible] night shows that the water [illegible] Yankee "cut off" near Vicksburg. Vicksburg, dated the 25th ult., [illegible] the Jackson *Mississippian*, says:

Yesterday [illegible] shrouded in with a dense fog on the [illegible] of the river, which prevented [illegible] taking any observations. [illegible] scouts, however, [illegible] cover of the heavy fog, [illegible] a short distance of the enemy [illegible] to within speaking distance [illegible] the Yankee officers giving orders. [illegible] these orders it appeared certain [illegible] engaged in cleaning out the logs and [illegible] nothing could be seen, [illegible] without having made any [illegible].

Under [illegible] the enemy had a fine opportunity [illegible] his works without being discovered [illegible] he doubt but he availed himself of [illegible] and that he was engaged all day [illegible] these were no demonstrations [illegible] boats, which leads to the inference [illegible] were otherwise employed, and [illegible] current.

[illegible] that the enemy would carry batteries of light artillery across the point, and intercept our steamboat communication below. Their cavalry has made its way some twenty miles down the river, and an attack upon some of our steamers coming up was expected, but none were molested until yesterday, when, as the Vicksburg was approaching our batteries, only a short distance below town, a battery of light artillery from the opposite shore opened on her.—She was struck three times, but escaped safely to the landing. It is now a fixed fact that there is a battery below town.

It is now ascertained that the strength of the fleet consisted of one hundred and seven boats—ninety-three transports and fourteen gunboats.—The greater portion of the transports have again gone up the river to bring down reinforcements, and it may be that the attack will be delayed for a few days until the balance of the army arrives. It will require but a short time for these boats to go to Napoleon and Helena for troops, and the reappearance of the whole fleet may be announced by Tuesday, if not before. When all their forces are concentrated here, then comes the tug of war.

LOCAL MATTERS.

The Case of Rucker.—The official documents in the case of Dr. W. P. Rucker, the traitor, who is now in Botetourt county jail, show the charges upon which he was arraigned last fall. The first charge was for the murder of Michael Joyce, to which the prisoner plead *autrefois acquit*, having been twice acquitted of the felonious stabbing of Joyce, which proceeded his death. Then came the charge of burning the Cowpasture bridge, on the Central Railroad, in May, 1864, and other crimes connected therewith. The official report to the Legislature says:

To these charges the prisoner pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, on the ground that he was at the time of the commission of the several offences charged a citizen and subject of the United States, and in their military service, and that he was, while so in their military service, taken a prisoner of war by the Confederate States, and that, as such prisoner of war, he is not liable to indictment and prosecution by a State court for any of the said offences. To this plea the Commonwealth objected; and after a very elaborate argument the Court rejected the said plea as insufficient.

A further plea in abatement was tendered and rejected, and then the prisoner pleaded not guilty to all the indictments except in the case of treason. In the case of treason, the prisoner, his plea to jurisdiction and in abatement having been overruled, demurred to the indictment. His demurrer was in some respects to matters of form, which were unimportant, and of no consequence to the main question.

But he demurred principally upon the ground that the war in which we are engaged is a war between the United States and the Confederate States, and that the act of the prisoner in levying war in combination with the army of the United States, and in adhering to the public enemy, giving them aid and comfort, was treason against the Confederate States, and not against the State of Virginia. This ground of demurrer goes not to the form of the proceeding, but is of the gist of the prosecution. One count is not liable to the objection, some of the overt acts of levying war and adhering to the enemy, in other counts, are not open to the objection, but many of them are so liable.

The case, as before stated was continued over to the spring term at the solicitation of Rucker, who alleged the absence of various witnesses essential to his defence. Some of these were stated to be officers in the Abolition army.

Forgery Case.—The Mayor will have before him to-day for examination the two young men named Thomas Samani and Benjamin W. Carter, who are charged with forging the name of Juan Pizzini to a check for $80, which Carter was detected in the act of presenting at the counter of the Exchange Bank for payment. On his arrest he implicated Samani, who was afterwards taken in custody at his boarding-house, on 7th street. The latter is the same party tried not long since before Judge Lyons for a forgery on S. H. Owens & Son, in continuation with Tony Lumpkin, who was sent to the Penitentiary for five years for the offence, Samani being acquitted.

Counterfeit Money.—Detective Washington Goldrich yesterday arrested a negro boy for passing $60 on Monday and $30 yesterday in counterfeit Confederate money on J Marcuse, corner of 13th and Main streets. The bills were some of those which "Louis Napoleon" was executed for printing, and had been placed in a desk of one of the officers of the District Court after the convicting of the counterfeiter. The negro had been employed in cleaning up in the room, and discovering the notes purloined and passed them.

Yankee Deserters.—Five men, lately belonging to the Yankee army, were brought from Salisbury, N. C., last night and lodged in the Libby Prison. Their names are John McEvey, co. B, 7th Ohio; Jonas Edwards, co. C, 81st New York; G. Proctor, co. C, 124 New York; M. Harper, co. I, 5th Rhode Island; Samuel Molin, co. D, 34 New York; George Heisel, co. H, 5th Rhode Island. The men represent themselves as deserters from the army. They came in and gave themselves up to our pickets, expressing themselves tired of the war.

Mustered In.—The City Battalion, Major Elliott commanding, were reorganized a few days since by swearing in the members to serve for and during the war. The majority of the men re-enlisted under the new programme, but a number declined to re enlist. These latter were requested to stand aside, and when the ceremonies incident to the new enrollment had been concluded, were taken in charge by the Provost Guards, and all those who were subject to the Conscript law were carried to Camp Lee, only citizens of Maryland and persons under or over age being allowed to escape.

Sent Away.—Seven hundred and fifty Abolition prisoners were sent away yesterday, per flag of truce, in charge of Lieut. Bocicault, to City Point. The prisoners were started before daybreak, but owing to the detention of a Government train due on the road they had to pass after leaving Petersburg, they were detained till after 11 o'clock, and did not reach their point of destination till after 2 o'clock.

Arrest.—Officer John W. Davis took in custody yesterday a man named Adam Shafer, and lodged him in the cage, for examination before the Mayor on the charge of stealing $1,000 in Confederate Treasury notes, the property of Thomas B. Hubbard.

Elected Captain.—Lieut. James E. Tyler, of the Richmond Grays, 19th Virginia regiment, was, on Saturday last, elected Captain company D, (Lafayette Guard,) in the same regiment.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Mayor's Court, Tuesday, Feb. 3d.—Jas. M. Fleming and Michael Burns were arraigned and required to answer for fighting in the street and disturbing the public peace by the loud clamor which they raised in the operation. The proof demonstrated the fact that Fleming was the aggressor, and Burns was consequently discharged. Security for his good behavior was required of Fleming.

William, the slave of John Mosby, being caught with a pass, was ordered five lashes; and Minor, slave of [illegible], was ordered the same punishment for his [illegible] speaking in the street.

Patrick Rickett, who had been held to bail to keep the peace being convicted by his security, and failing to keep his bond, was sent to jail.

Dennis Sullivan and Lawrence Duncan were arraigned on the charge of attempting to break into the house of Mr. [illegible]. It appeared that these parties on the day them charged to have committed the offence, were drunk to the extent that they were incapable of entering any house. They were ordered to be [illegible] to answer for the offence charged against them.

[illegible] slave of Fanny Stockton, charged with [illegible] was ordered [illegible] lashes.

[illegible] which resulted—ayes 21, noes 18.

[illegible] to indefinitely postpone [illegible] of the bill was made [illegible] day for to-morrow at 12½ o'clock.

Mr. [illegible] committees appointed to [illegible] the subject of disagreement, reported that the [illegible] agreed to a substitute [illegible] bill upon the table [illegible] printed.

[illegible] at 2½ o'clock the House adjourned.

FROM VICKSBURG.—The Yankee Canal.—Our intelligence [illegible] night shows that the water [illegible] Yankee "cut off" near Vicksburg. Vicksburg, dated the 25th ult., [illegible] the Jackson *Mississippian*, says:

Yesterday [illegible] shrouded in with a dense fog on the [illegible] of the river, which prevented [illegible] taking any observations. [illegible] scouts, however, [illegible] cover of the heavy fog, [illegible] a short distance of the enemy [illegible] to within speaking distance [illegible] the Yankee officers giving orders. [illegible] these orders it appeared certain [illegible] engaged in cleaning out the logs and [illegible] nothing could be seen, [illegible] without having made any [illegible].

Under [illegible] the enemy had a fine opportunity [illegible] his works without being discovered [illegible] he doubt but he availed himself of [illegible] and that he was engaged all day [illegible] these were no demonstrations [illegible] boats, which leads to the inference [illegible] were otherwise employed, and [illegible] current.

[illegible] that the enemy would carry batteries of light artillery across the point, and intercept our steamboat communication below. Their cavalry has made its way some twenty miles down the river, and an attack upon some of our steamers coming up was expected, but none were molested until yesterday, when, as the Vicksburg was approaching our batteries, only a short distance below town, a battery of light artillery from the opposite shore opened on her.—She was struck three times, but escaped safely to the landing. It is now a fixed fact that there is a battery below town.

It is now ascertained that the strength of the fleet consisted of one hundred and seven boats—ninety-three transports and fourteen gunboats.—The greater portion of the transports have again gone up the river to bring down reinforcements, and it may be that the attack will be delayed for a few days until the balance of the army arrives. It will require but a short time for these boats to go to Napoleon and Helena for troops, and the reappearance of the whole fleet may be announced by Tuesday, if not before. When all their forces are concentrated here, then comes the tug of war.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

INTERESTING FOREIGN NEWS.

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.]

FREDERICKSBURG, Feb. 3—The Washington *Chronicle*, of the 2d inst., has [illegible] news. It contains later foreign news.

The Ministry of Spain has resigned.

England had officially proposed to Pope Pius IX. to leave Rome and take up his residence at Malta. The Pope declined.

A famine exists in Ireland.

The London *Times* says it will be long before the South can be reduced to the state of San Domingo, and the war can only result in mutual exhaustion and ruin. The first outbreak of the blacks will be the signal for European intervention in the cause of humanity.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

The river is running through the "canal" dug by the Yankees near Vicksburg, and the water is from two to four feet deep; but there are no signs of the channel widening. A Federal force had marched across the Bend and encamped opposite Warrenton, to co-operate with the force from below when it arrives.

One thousand of Forrest's cavalry are encamped opposite the shoals of the Cumberland river, waiting for the arrival of Yankee transports with provisions for Rosecrans's army.

The New York *Tribune*, of the 31st, says their fidelity as sentinels especially adapts negro soldiers to do garrison duty. It also says that they have an "inherent dash and fire about them" that the Northern soldiers, of more "sluggish blood," do not emulate; and their "hearty enthusiasm" shows itself in every way.

[General Newspaper Dispatch.]

FREDERICKSBURG, Feb. 3—The Washington *Chronicle*, of the 2d inst, has been received

The steamship Australasian brings important news from Europe to the 19th ult.

Among the French diplomatic correspondence just published was a letter from Napoleon, in which he confessed that his reason for invading Mexico was to prevent the United States from extending their authority further southward.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian*, writing on the subject of the emancipation proclamation, says he hears a very general expression of opinion that the first black outrage will be the signal for European intervention in the interests of humanity.

Messrs. Bright and Scholefield had again been speaking in Birmingham in reference to bell garrent rights. Mr. Bright did not think any change could be made in the determination of the Paris Congress. He questioned whether commercial men desired peace in America. It would bring ruin to many. He complained of Russell and Gladstone, and bitterly denounced the London *Times* for misleading the public on American questions.

Movements are on foot in Liverpool and Manchester to test public opinion by a meeting to consider the American war and the emancipation question.

All the Spanish Ministry have resigned. O'Donnell had formed a new Cabinet.

It is rumored that Turkey is making warlike preparations.

The Army and Navy *Gazette* says, "An end to the war, except in mutual ruin, we can see none.—Those who speak of reducing the South to the state of San Domingo, little realize the miseries and horrors which must befal the South ere her bleeding carcass lies unresistingly at the foot of armed Abolitionists."

The *Times* has a letter from the army of the Potomac, stating that General Burnside has been offered command of a new department embracing North and South Carolina. Thirty days has been allowed him to decline or accept the appointment.

Havana dates to 28th state that there are rumors at that place of the Oreto (Florida) being at Grand Inagua, at the Bahamas and off Abaco, while other rumors state that she recently had a fight with a Federal gunboat, and was on fire off Abaco.—One vessel was burned by the pirate Oreto, while at anchor at the mouth of the harbor of Cardenas.

The *Herald*, of the 1st, gives details of the fight on the Blockwriter. Gen. Pryor crossed on the night of the 28th with three regiments and four battalions of infantry, nine hundred cavalry, and fourteen pieces of artillery. The next night Corcoran advanced to meet him. The rebels were found ten miles from Suffolk. Cannonading two and a half hours caused the enemy to retreat.—Corcoran advanced his whole force of infantry with fixed bayonets, driving the