Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

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DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXVI. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 30, 1864 NO. 26

SATURDAY MORNING.....JANUARY 30, 1864

AN IMPORTANT MEASURE.

On Thursday last a bill was passed by the House of Delegates of Virginia, appropriating the sum of $1,000,000 for the relief of the families of soldiers within the lines of the enemy. We have not had an opportunity of examining the bill, but understand that it contemplates the distribution of this fund to the counties overrun by the enemy, through agents to be appointed to represent the county in the matter. A proposition was made to prevent the exchange of Confederate money appropriated under this bill for other currency at less than specie value, which was properly, in our judgment, opposed by Mr. Monroe, of Hampshire, upon the ground that it would render the appropriation entirely useless in the very portions of country where it was designed to be operative and effective.

The passage of this bill will doubtless exert a sanitary influence upon those gallant men who have left their homes and families within the enemy's lines. Even if the objects of the bill are not attained to the extent contemplated, its passage will go to show that the State of Virginia is not unmindful of the welfare of those who have sacrificed all for the accomplishment of Southern independence.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GENERALS LONGSTREET AND FOSTER.

We copied yesterday, from Northern papers, a correspondence between Lieut. Gen. Longstreet and Major General Foster, commanding the Yankee forces in East Tennessee. Designedly, no doubt, the most important letter of this correspondence was omitted in the journal from which we copied the letters which have already appeared. As the letter speaks for itself, and terminates the correspondence, we submit without comment:

HEAD'RS DEP'T EAST TENNESSEE, January 11, 1864.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th of January, with its enclosures, &c.

The disingenuous manner in which you have misconstrued my letter of the 3d has disappointed me. The suggestion you claim to have adopted was in words as follows, viz:

"I presume, however, that the great object and end in view was to hasten the day of peace. I respectfully suggest for your consideration the propriety of communicating any views that your Government may have on that subject through me, rather than by handbills circulated amongst our soldiers."

This sentence repudiates, in its own terms, the construction which you have forced upon it. Let me remind you, too, that the spirit and tone of my letter were to meet honorable sentiments.

The absolute want of pretext for your construction of the letter induces me to admonish you against trifling over the events of this great war. You cannot pretend to have answered my letter in the spirit of frankness due to a soldier; and yet it is hard to believe that an officer commanding an army of veteran soldiers, on whose shoulders rests, in no small part, the destiny of empires, could so forget the height of this great argument at arms, and so betray the dignity of his high station, as to fall into a contest of jests and jibes.

I have read your order announcing the favorable terms on which deserters will be received.—Step by step you have gone on in violation of the laws of honorable warfare. Our farms have been destroyed, our women and children have been robbed, and our houses have been pillaged and burnt. You have laid your plans and worked diligently to produce wholesale murder by servile insurrection. And now, the most ignoble of all, you propose to degrade the human race by inducing soldiers to dishonor and forswear themselves.

Soldiers who have met your own on so many honorable fields, who have boasted the storm of battle in defence of their honor, their families and their homes, for three long years, have a right to expect more of honor, even in their adversaries.

I beg leave to return the copies of the proclamation and your order.

I have the honor to renew to you the assurances of great respect, your obedient servant,

J. LONGSTREET,
Lieutenant-General Commanding.

Maj. Gen J. G. Foster, Commanding Department of Ohio.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

The *Senate* yesterday was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from Col. Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance, calling the attention of Congress to the fact that an appropriation was necessary for the use of his Bureau, it being now some $20,000,000 in arrears.

Some House bills were taken up and appropriately referred, and, on motion, the Senate resolved itself into secret session on the currency bill.

The *House* convened at 11 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Ryland.

A series of resolutions on the subject of secret sessions, and proposing to consider all questions relating to the increase of the army in open session hereafter, was offered by Mr. Barksdale, of Miss.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Tenn., these resolutions were laid on the table.

Mr. Smith, of N. C., introduced a bill to increase the compensation of non-commissioned officers and privates in the army 100 per cent, and moved to suspend the rule, with a view to take up the bill for consideration. The rules were suspended by a vote of 56 to 15.

On motion of Mr. Boyce, of S. C., the bill was then committed to the Committee on Military Affairs.

A motion of Mr. Gray, of Texas, to reconsider the vote by which the bill fixing the time of the meeting of the next Congress was passed, was lost by the following vote—ayes 30, noes 43.

Mr. Boyce, of S. C., offered a resolution that the President be respectfully requested to inform the House whether any officers of the regular or provisional army, or navy, appointed during the existence of the Provisional Government, and confirmed by the Provisional Congress, and whose appointments have not been confirmed by the Congress of the Permanent Government in accordance with the Constitution, are still in office; and if so, to furnish a list of such officers.

On motion of Mr. Swann, of Tenn., this resolution was laid on the table by a vote of ayes 50, noes 20.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., introduced a bill to provide uniform rates of compensation to mechanics and laborers in the employment of the Executive Department of the Government, which was referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Miles also introduced a bill in response to a resolution on the subject, to establish a Bureau of Inspection and Censorship, which was placed on the calendar.

Mr. Foote, of Tenn., offered a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to bring in a bill doubling the pay of soldiers in the field.

Mr. Garland, of Ark., moved to amend the resolution by adding the following:—"And that said committee inquire into the expediency of paying our soldiers for the next six months in gold and silver." The amendment was agreed to.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the resolution as amended, when it was defeated by a decisive vote.

Mr. Foote also offered a resolution on the subject of secret sessions, which, under the rules, lies over; and one in relation to the reorganization of the army, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Baldwin, of Va., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the President to furnish the House with copies of the orders, correspondence, &c, in relation to the trial of Wm. E. Coffman, arrested by order of Brig. Gen. J. D. Imboden.

Mr. Arrington, of N. C., submitted a resolution to instruct the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of increasing the pay of soldiers to $30 per month, which was adopted by a vote of ayes 51, noes 8.

Mr. Clopton, of Ala., offered a joint resolution of thanks to the Alabama troops who have re-enlisted for the war. The rules were suspended and the resolutions passed.

On motion of Mr. Gartrell, of Ga., the House went into secret session.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the *Senate*, yesterday, the bill for the relief of the families of soldiers in the lines of the enemy was returned from the House with amendments, one of which increases the appropriation to $1,000,000. Referred.

The Governor communicated the application of the Messrs. Bibb, who had hired negro convicts, and whose contract had been annulled. Appropriately referred.

The Committee on Confederate Relations, to whom had been referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the liability of the Confederate Government for negroes hired on fortifications, reported and recommended the passage of joint resolutions instructing our Representatives in Congress to use their endeavors to procure the passage by Congress of a law acknowledging and asserting the liability aforesaid.

The committee to investigate the charges against F. A. Winston, of Floyd county, reported that the evidence before them did not show that he had violated the laws of the Commonwealth.

The Militia bill was considered and passed—ayes 29, noes 8.

Adjourned.

In the *House*, Mr. Robertson, of Richmond, from the Committee on Confederate Relations, gave notice that he had a report to make which he desired to have considered in secret session, which was agreed to, and the report submitted.

The Militia bill of the House Committee was read the first time and laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Anderson, who said the Senate was perfecting a similar bill.

The bill extending the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of the town of Danville was passed.

The remainder of the session was consumed in the discussion and advancement of bills.

FROM GENERAL LEE'S ARMY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, January 28th, 1864.

For the past ten days the weather has been clear and as genial as in the sweet month of May. The roads have again assumed a dry hard surface and if Mr. Meade is prepared to move there is everything in the condition of the roads and the weather to facilitate an advance. But I can scarcely suppose that we shall be annoyed with "our friends over the way" for the present. They will at least, I imagine, postpone paying us another visit until spring shall have set in in good earnest. There was a slight demonstration at one of the fords on the Robinson river a few days since, but it amounted to nothing more than the chasing in of our pickets by a small force of the enemy's cavalry, who were pursuing some of our teams that were returning from a foraging expedition.

I have now been with this army some fifteen months in the capacity of a correspondent, and I can truly say that never in all that time have I seen it in such excellent condition as it is just now.—Despite the demagogues in Congress and the croakers outside, this army is well fed and clothed, and nine-tenths of them are buoyant with hopes of the future, and fully contented with their present condition. Large numbers of the men, as I stated in my letter of yesterday, are receiving furloughs, whilst a goodly number of the wives of the officers and soldiers are daily arriving to share the privations and enjoyments of camp life. Each day's arrival of the cars witnesses the joyful meeting and embraces of loved ones long parted; whilst the departing trains bear away many who, loth to leave, having had their visit, are yet forced to go, and these not unfrequently mingle their farewells with irrepressible sighs and tears. Thus is life—joy and sadness, happy meetings and sad farewells.

It is a gratifying sign of the times that our Legislature in a manner so pointed declined to interfere with the rightful duty of Congress in raising and supplying armies. If Congress will respond to this proper refusal of our Legislature, and pass at once an adequate military bill, then may we hope, ere long, to see the army placed upon a permanent war footing for the war, and with our currency improved, we shall be enabled to defeat Lincoln for another secession, and thus pave the way to an honorable and lasting peace. Howe's bill in the Yankee Congress to raise a mob composed of a million of men, and the "reserve" force bill in this State, are on a par. Neither of them have any claim to the serious consideration of either side. Both are impracticable, and unwise if practicable. Let Gen. Lee, I pray, be retained in command of all the troops necessary to the defence of Virginia. I still think he is equal to any command, and I cannot think it necessary to call for a mob to assist him in that defence. There is one work, however, for the Legislature to do, and that is to do all in their power to stimulate the production of bread, and the raising of meat to feed our armies and our people.

X.

THE LATE MOVEMENTS IN EAST TENNESSEE.—The following extract from a letter, explains the late movement of our army under Lieut.-Gen. Longstreet:

The Yankees came up in fine spirits a few days since, proclaiming as they advanced that they were about to drive Longstreet out of Tennessee. The Fourth Army Corps, a part of the 23d, and their entire cavalry force, moved up to a point between Dandridge and Morristown. Our forces were moved down to meet them on the 14th. After placing his infantry, Gen Longstreet with his staff, moved on to the front, and joining the cavalry, personally superintended its movements. The enemy endeavored, by a flank movement with their cavalry, to get into our rear. The quick eye of the General so arranged matters as to throw Jenkins's (late Hood's) division in their front, and he ordered Gen. Martin to throw a portion of his cavalry in the rear and press them upon Jenkins. Martin gave the order.

The enemy, without being pressed; came unexpectedly on Jenkins, and were driven pell mell, as was supposed, on Martin's cavalry. But, alas! the cavalry, by some mistake, had gone around to the front of the enemy and to the rear of Jenkins, and of course the way was open for their escape, of which they took the earliest advantage, and went on their way rejoicing.

There is something wrong about the cavalry officers. The material is as good as can be desired, but the discipline is wretched, and it is almost inefficient in consequence. A striking instance of this occurred in the present movement. Harrison's brigade was ordered to make a certain movement which promised the successful capture of about one thousand horses from which the enemy had dismounted. The move was made, the horses were actually captured, the men in charge shot down, but, instead of turning back the horses under a sufficient guard, our cavalry became a mob of plunderers, commenced rifling the holsters of pistols, loaded themselves with spoils, and in the midst of their confusion, a brigade of Federal cavalry dashed in, recovered the horses, and scattered our men.

Had the cavalry been as efficient as it would have been under a leader like Ransom or Hampton, this would have been the last week for Federal forces in East Tennessee. Wherever they met our men they showed that they were utterly demoralized, and depended entirely on their fleetness of foot for safety. Our infantry could not follow them—the roads are wretched—the snow almost constantly on the ground, and many, many of the men unshod. The infantry did all that it went to do—resist the advance of the enemy. The pursuit rested with the cavalry. Had it been led with the dash and boldness that the occasion demanded, the whole Federal force, wagons and all, would have been in imminent peril. As it is, the movement has been full of fruits. We now occupy or control that part of East Tennessee capable of sustaining our army.

We are at present well fed. The Yankees are on half rations, and driven back to the neighborhood of Knoxville, their bill of fare "will grow small by degrees and beautifully less," until at last they must retire from that portion of the State.

Our men are well hutted, in fine spirits, well fed, and in a few days more will be well clothed. After that, if the cavalry will half do its duty, starvation has not already driven the Yankees out our troops will.

COST OF THE "ARMED PEACE" OF EUROPE.—Some statistics, says a Paris correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, exhibiting the immense expenditure of men and money in sustaining the "armed peace" of Europe, have been published in a report of M Legoyt, Chief of the Statistical Bureau of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works. He says:

Austria keeps up an army of 467,000 men, which costs her 336,000,000 francs; France an army of 572,000 men, which costs 688,000,000 francs; Prussia an army of 214,000 men, which costs her 156,000,000 francs; England an army of 300,000 men, which costs 677,000,000 francs; and Russia an army of 1,000,000 of men, which costs 529,000,000 francs. That is, out of the total budget of each of those States, an expenditure of 37 per cent. in Austria, or more than a third; 33 per cent in France; 30 in Prussia; 39 in England; and 42 in Russia. Let us also mention Italy, where 320,000,000 francs are expended in keeping up a force of 314,000 men; Turkey, weighed down by an army of 444,000 men; Denmark and Sweden, the first with 50,000 and the second with 67,000 men, by which their budgets are increased to 37 and 40 per cent. respectively. The other secondary States follow in an analogous proportion. Switzerland is the only European State that neither increases her army nor her budget. M Legoyt, add ng together the effective of all the European armies, according to estimates which he considers rather below than superior to the reality, arrives at the fearful number of 3,815,847 men, and an outlay of 2,500,000,000 francs.

ADDITIONAL FROM THE NORTH.

We take some additional matters of interest from our Northern files, of the 26th instant:

THE YANKEE ENROLMENT BILL IN CONGRESS.

The refusal of the House to make the Enrolment bill, reported from the Military Committee Monday, the order of the day until disposed of is an indication that it is not likely to be soon passed. It will be considerably altered from the shape in which it came from the Senate, and two or three weeks at least, if not even more time, will be required to harmonize the two bodies and perfect the bill.

The substitute reported by Representative Schenck, from the Military Committee, for the Senate bill amendatory of the Enrolment act, makes the quota proportionate to the number subject to the draft, with allowances for enlistments in the naval service of such as are liable to draft, and provides for further drafts if the quotas shall not be filled by the first. It allows as substitutes persons not liable to draft at the time or in the military or naval service. Additions to existing enrolments shall be made of those omitted before. Young men arriving at the age of twenty and persons who have been in the military service less than two years, and all persons of foreign birth who have voted at a State or Territorial election. Mariners drafted may have eight days to elect to enlist in the naval service; but pilots, engineers, and masters-at-arms in the naval service may not be drafted. None are exempt except those physically disabled, the President, Vice President, Heads of Executive Departments, Governors of States, and men in the naval and military service, and those who having served two years are honorably discharged. Persons procuring substitutes are exempt only from that draft, and in no case for more than a year, when the name is again placed upon the enrolment list. The bill prescribes the penalty of a fine of five thousand dollars and imprisonment not exceeding five years for resistance to the draft. It retains the three hundred dollar commutation of physically disabled persons able to pay; but makes the lowest limit of income $1,200 instead of $1,000. It does not exempt clergymen, nor allow commutation exemptions of able-bodied persons.

JOHN MINOR BOTTS AS A PEACE MAKER HE DON'T WANT A PLACE IN THE U. S. SENATE.

A Mr G S. Smith, "Treasurer of the Virginia State Government," (of which it is not stated,) has written a letter to John Minor Botts, urging, on behalf of "Gov" Pierpont, his acceptance of the position of United States Senator from Virginia Mr Botts has written a reply declining the proffered "honor" A Yankee letter gives a summary of the letter:

He states that he is fully aware of the responsibility of a United States Senator; that the position is one which ought to satisfy the aspirations of any moderate man, but that he is compelled at present, by solemn conviction of duty, to decline accepting any office from either of the numerous Governments of Virginia representing, or professing to represent, that State. His unselfish motives, he states, might be impugned, but he nevertheless believes that the time is not far distant when he may be able to aid in healing the bitter animosities of the two sections. He charges the leaders of the rebellion as having, with "miscalculation upon miscalculation, and blunder upon blunder," brought ruin and destruction upon the "Old Mother of States," and closes by saying that neither war, nor want, nor suffering can last forever, and that, when the proper time arrives, he believes he may be instrumental in the work of union and reconciliation.

In a conversation with Mr. Botts, he stated that never for a single instant during this war has he doubted the final result. His opinion of George B. McClellan is not at all complimentary to that gentleman, whom he regards, if not positively disloyal at heart, at least in the light of an ambitious aspirant for undeserved honors. Mr. Botts stated that he believed that the majority of the rebel army regarded McClellan as being as truly devoted to their interests as Robert E. Lee, and that a man who would not, when his name was used in connection with Davis, Valiandigham, Wood and others of the same political complexion, come out boldly and disclaim the association, was totally unfit to be commander of a Union army. Mr. Botts says that of all the promises made to the Southern people by the leaders of secession, only one may possibly be fulfilled. The promise referred to is the case of Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, who, it will be remembered, said he would yet be seen in Washington, sword in hand, and, if need be, his horse up the steps of the Capitol. He thinks that if President Lincoln will collect the slaves of Mr. Toombs, and permit him to visit the North, the prophecy may be fulfilled.

THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GENERALS MCCLELLAN AND HALLECK DURING GENERAL POPE'S CAMPAIGN.

The following are a portion of the interesting dispatches which passed between Generals Halleck and McClellan, pursuant to the withdrawal of the army from the peninsula to aid General Pope, and are published from advance sheets of General McClellan's report:

General McClellan to General Halleck.

AUGUST 30—10:30 P. M.

I have sent to the front all my troops, with the exception of Couch's division, and have given the orders necessary to insure its being disposed of as you directed. I hourly expect the return of one of my aids, who will give authentic news from the field of battle.

I cannot express to you the pain and mortification I have experienced to-day in listening to the distant sound of the firing of my men. I can be of no further use here. I respectfully ask that, if there is a probability of the conflict being renewed to-morrow, I may go to the scene of battle with my Staff, merely to be with my own men, if nothing more. They will fight none the worse for my being with them. If it is not deemed best to entrust me with the command of my own army, I simply ask to share their fate on the field of battle.

Please reply to this to-night. I have been engaged for the last few hours in doing what I can to make arrangements for the wounded. I have sent out all the ambulances now loaded. As I have sent my escort to the front I would be glad to take some of Gregg's cavalry with me, if allowed to go.

Gen. Halleck's Reply.

I have just seen your telegram of last night. The substance was repeated to me when received, but I did not know that you asked for a reply immediately. I cannot answer without seeing the President, as General Pope is in command, by his order, of the department.

I think Couch's division should go forward as rapidly as possible, and find the battle-field.

Gen. Halleck to Gen. McClellan.

AUGUST 31—2:45 P. M.

The Subsistence Department are making Fairfax Station their principal depot. It should be well guarded. The officer in charge should be directed to secure the depot by abatis against cavalry. As many as possible of the new regiments should be prepared to take the field. Perhaps some more should be sent to the vicinity of Chain Bridge.

Gen. McClellan's Reply.

AUGUST 31, 1863.

Major Haller is at Fairfax Station, with my provost and headquarters guards and other troops. I have requested 4) four more companies to be sent at once, and the precautions you direct to be taken.

Under the W. Department order of yesterday I have no control over anything except my Staff, some few hundred men in my camp here, and the few remaining men near Fortress Monroe. I have no control over the new regiments; do not know anything about them, except those near here.—Their commanding officers and those of the works are not under me.

Where I have seen evils existing under my eye I have corrected them.

I think it is the business of General Casey to prepare the new regiments for the field, and a matter between him and General Barnard to order others to Chain Bridge.

Neither of them is under my command, and by the War Department order I have no right to give them orders.

G. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major General.

General *Halleck*

General Halleck's Rejoinder

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.

General *McClellan*:

Since receiving your dispatch relating to command, I have not been able to answer any not of absolute necessity. I have not seen the order as published, but will write to you in the morning. You will retain the command of everything in this vicinity.

I beg of you to assist me in this crisis with your ability and experience. I am entirely tired out.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

KENTUCKY CONGRESSMEN AT WASHINGTON DEFINING THEIR POSITION.

During the debate in Committee of the Whole in the Yankee House Monday afternoon on the Deficiency Appropiation bill, quite an exciting scene occurred, principally between the Kentucky members, in which Clay Smith and Brutus J. Clay were violently attacked by Mr. Mallory and others of their colleagues for acting with the Republicans in the organization of the House and since. At one time the affair became very personal, and there was considerable disorder on the floor, the members leaving their seats and crowding around the disputants, who were very much excited and bitter in their mutual recriminations. We give a portion of the debate:

Mr. Smith, (Rep.,) of Ky., as a Southern man, identified with the institution of slavery, said there remained behind the rebellion that which gave it strength and power, and which must be destroyed and overthrown while the army moves in front. The very life blood of the rebellion is drawn from African slavery, and whenever we tap this foundation of the rebellion our efforts will be effectual. [Applause.]

Mr. Mallory, (Opp.) of Ky., entered his solemn protest against the sentiments uttered by his colleague. Kentucky scorns them, and has given evidence of the fact that she does.

Mr. Smith asked whether Kentucky did not, after the issuance of the proclamation, give fifty-nine thousand majority for the Union and the enforcement of the laws?

Mr. Mallory replied yes, but against the administration of President Lincoln, as denounced by his colleague himself. Did his colleague deny that?

Mr. Smith.—I do deny it.

Mr. Mallory said the voice of Kentucky, as expressed through her Legislature and Convention, was that he should stand by the State through thick and thin, while opposing the emancipation proclamation as a usurpation.

Mr. Smith explained his position in the late canvass, which was that, while opposed to the operation of the proclamation upon the Union men of the South, as far as the rebels in arms were concerned, he would take their negroes and their infernal lives, and crush them to atoms. (Applause.) He would ask his colleague whether he was in favor of supporting a doctrine which would give the rebels in arms all the rights and privileges he would give to Union men, and whether he would make restitution of their slaves.

Mr. Mallory replied that he would carry on the war with all the power the Constitution confers.—He would destroy the rebel army and reduce the rebels to obedience to the Constitution and the laws. He hoped he would have magnanimity enough to spare private property, and let the people of the South come back to their allegiance, living peaceably under their own vine and fig tree. He wanted no heart burnings.

Mr. Wadsworth, (Opp.) of Ky., referred to a speech of Mr. Smith, to show that the latter was opposed to the radical measures of the administration, and that if elected to Congress he would vote for a war Democrat for Speaker.

Mr. Smith replied that there was no war Democrat he could vote for; none such had been nominated. He therefore, supported the gentleman who now so ably filled the chair. He was proud to stand by him, because that gentleman was for the Government, the Constitution and the Union; and he never had sustained any man opposed to the war.

Mr. Wadsworth arraigned his colleague (Mr. Smith) for his betrayal of the Union party of Kentucky, and unfaithfulness to the pledges he made to it. He regretted that his colleague's opinion had not been sooner known, for if they had been the people would have elected a man opposed to the radical measures of the administration.

Mr. Smith explained that he went with the election on the principle of high and sublime love of country and pure philanthropy. He was nominated by a convention which the Louisville *Journal* denounced as a radical abolition convention. He was elected by over five thousand majority. Men who owned more negroes than all of them together, had endorsed his course in voting for Speaker Colfax.

Mr. Clay, (Rep.,) of Ky., wished to know whether he was included in the charge of violating pledges.

Mr. Mallory replied that he had not in the remotest manner alluded to his colleague. He did not know his colleague's views on the emancipation proclamation.

Mr. Clay said he had made a pledge that he would make no pledges. He was thus left free to vote for the man best qualified for Speaker. He was independent and would so act as most to benefit his country, and on his action would return and face his constituents.

Without further action on the bill, on motion of Mr. Stevens, the Committee arose

The House then adjourned at a quarter of six o'clock

THE CONTEMPLATED ATTACK ON MOBILE.

The New Orleans correspondent of the New York *World*, writing on the 16th inst., thus speculates on the probability of a movement on Mobile:

I was positively told the other day that instructions to Admiral Farragut to pierce Mobile harbor by Grant's pass, a narrow artificial channel formerly used by light draught steamers, had been communicated by Gen. Banks by the Department at Washington, with orders to co-operate in the effort. The presence of Gen. McPherson is not made officially known here. Our laudatory journals do, it is true, tell about several distinguished staff officers who are here from Vicksburg; but they are prudently silent as to the presence of the General himself. Gen. Ord also quietly assumes command of his corps, the 13th; and Gen. Franklin is here. Put all these things together, and you will say Mobile is to be attacked.

I do not believe this is to be the present destination of the forces. The fact that the light draught river fleet is again fitting up for active duty; that there has been strong recruiting going on here for engineers to serve on twenty of the gunboats, which, it will be remembered, said he would pass Vicksburg; and what the rains give a chance of a rise in our Southwestern river, point unmistakably to the Red river or the Ouachita as the destination of the troops which are laying in the mud of Algiers and returning from Attakapas. It will be easy for McPherson to co operate with them; but how would he manage to do so in an attack on Mobile?

Grant and Sherman found it impossible to go eastward of Jackson, Mississippi, when the former had his entire forces with which he captured Vicksburg with him. How are the remains of McPherson's corps to do better? I have heard men talk as wildly as that an expedition would start from Baton Rouge across Louisiana and Mississippi over a country uncut with direct roads of crosswise travel, to attack Mobile in the rear. They might meet no enemy on the route, but they would be so travel-worn before they got there that they could do little against an active and agile enemy.

There are but two routes by which to approach Mobile with the forces of either Banks or McPherson, and they must come to New Orleans to go to either point. They may go to Pascagoula in light draught steamers, and march forty miles over roads expressly prepared to give them trouble, or to take the Pensacola route, where there is plenty of water, or go up the Perdido and be landed nearer still to Mobile. In either case no extemporized outfit and no slight preparation for heavy work would be available. It must be undertaken by an army equal in all respects to that which Grant led to Vicksburg. If Gen. Halleck thinks it might be effected by what is left of Bank's army after the campaigns of last year and the numerous feints on Texas, with all the forces which McPherson could muster by abandoning the Mississippi river to the guerillas, the best way to prove it would be to undertake it himself. There is quite a suspicion getting abroad that Gen. Halleck has a fashion of sending rising Generals on difficult enterprises in the hope that they will kill themselves off by some act of desperation. If he meditates making a Uriah of Gen. Banks he is much mistaken.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Marshal Kane, of Baltimore, and thirteen Confederates, mostly escaped officers from Johnson's Island, and Camp Douglas, left Quebec on the 25th, by the Grand Trunk railroad for Reviere du Loup, to take the overland route to Halifax.

The Legislature of Kentucky, on the 13th, passed a bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into that State. The influx of slaves, says the dispatch, has had the effect of cheapening the price of the stock on hand and overflowing the market.

The recruiting bounties is causing great frauds in New York. U. S. Surgeon Kerrigan is being tried for passing two French sailors who had been enlisted drunk, and several Americans discussed and over the age.

The Yankee war vessel Marblehead, which recently ventured into Stono river, S. C., and was badly riddled by our batteries, has reached the Brooklyn Navy Yard in a crippled condition

Rev. W. W. Walker, former President of the Lynchburg, Va., College, was among the prisoners carried off in the recent raid into Westmoreland co., Va.

The Yankee Senate has confirmed the nomination of John C. Underwood, Judge of the United States Court, for the Eastern District of Virginia.

THE CURRENCY IN 1778 AND 1864.—In the third year of the Revolutionary war, 1778, Gen. Washington, writing about the currency, said:

"A rat in the shape of a horse is not to be bought at this time for less than £200, nor a saddle under 30 or 40; boots, 20; and shoes and other articles in like proportion. How is it possible, therefore, for officers to stand this without an increase of pay? And how is it possible to advance their pay, when flour is selling, at different places, at from five to fifteen pounds per hundred, hay from 10 to 30 pounds per ton, and beef and other essentials in its proportion?"

Counting a pound at $5, we must perceive how nearly prices then correspond with those prevailing now.

It is said that Butler was in Newbern last week, and that a number of the citizens have taken Lincoln's amnesty oath and accepted his "pardon." The Raleigh (N. C.) *Progress* says that there are few people left in Newbern now who could benefit the Confederate cause by affiliation with it; so Butler did not make much.

Maj. Cummings, Chief of the Subsistence Bureau in Atlanta, has received instructions to enter the market as a purchaser, under the prevailing prices current. This will be likely to obviate the difficulties now resulting from impressment.

Capt. Chas. H. Dimmock, in charge of the defences around Petersburg, Va., has been presented with a horse and equipments by the citizens of that place.

Two hundred and sixty-five Yankees, captured by Gen. Longstreet in East Tennessee, passed through Lynchburg Thursday night en route for Richmond.

The young ladies of the Southern Female College, at Petersburg, Va., recently sent two barrels of sorghum molasses to the 19th Virginia regiment. These are the right sort of girls.

Dr. T. T. Gregory, of Mo., a surgeon in General Price's command, was found dead in his room at Lynchburg, Va., on the 25th inst.

The whole of Cheatham's old division, in the Army of Tennessee, has re-enlisted for the war.

The Huntsville *Confederate* is now published at Dalton, whither it has removed from Marietta.

Gen. Morgan passed through Petersburg on Thursday on his way to join his command.

The judgment in the Alexandra case was to be given on the 11th of January.

Dr. Turton, Bishop of Ely, England, died on the 7th inst.

LOCAL MATTERS.

A New but Successful Dodge—A Water Line of Communication with the Yankees—The restrictions established at the passport office are unavailing to curtail or check the migratory propensities of our levanting citizens. We have been informed of a recent transaction which, for ingenuity of conception and success of execution, is unsurpassed by Yankeeism itself. A party of Jews, some six in number, who have accumulated fortunes in the Confederacy by the sale of blockade goods, determined to quit the South. To effect their purpose successfully, and with an eye to the almighty dollar, they chartered a river craft, on board of which they stored a heavy cargo of tobacco, and obtained a clearance from this port for the city of Petersburg. On board this craft these worthy descendants of Judas took passage, and, over the rough breakers of the James and through the narrow passage at Drewry's Bluff, steered the adventurous vessel, heading for City Point, as was generally supposed, except by those on board, who were more familiar with the boat's destination. Before reaching the mouth of the Appomattox, however, the crew commenced crowding sail, and the vessel glided on down the stream "like a thing of life," and at a speed that defied competition from anything that now navigates our waters. As this transaction occurred several days ago, and nothing has yet been heard of the blockade runner, it is fair to presume that the vessel, with her cargo of Jews and tobacco, has found a safe refuge with the Yankees, and we may expect that an early number of the New York *Herald* will give us a two columns' airing of the gallant exploit.

Charged with Receiving Stolen Goods.—Complaint was made before the Mayor yesterday against Stephen Maloney, a seedy looking Irishman, as one of the parties implicated in the robbery from the Quartermaster's Department of the Confederate Government, a few days since, of twenty nine pairs of pants, three jackets, six pairs of shoes, one box of candles, and six litter sheets. At a previous examination, it was proven that the articles alleged to have been stolen were found in a room in the house occupied by Trama Constant. This room, Constant asserts, was rented to Mrs. Annie Dobson *alias* Maloney, with whom the prisoner is said to be staying. It was denied by Mrs. Maloney at this examination that the room was rented by her; but the proof being plain against that denial, she was remanded to appear for trial before the Court of Hustings in February. Maloney also refused to acknowledge knowing anything about the room in which the stolen articles were found, but, from some cause or other, he was not brought into the case till yesterday morning, when officer Morris, happening to be in the neighborhood, received information that he had been there and taken several things out of the room, and thereupon arrested him.

Miss Martha Brook, a young woman of nineteen summers, quite handsome, and neatly attired, being called as a witness, made oath that yesterday morning Maloney came over and, unlocking the door to the room in dispute, took from it several things; afterwards he searched the yard for some chickens which he said belonged to him.—This witness was positive as to his having entered the room, and knowing such to be the fact she called in officer Morris and informed him of it. She also stated that there were still two or three chickens in the room which were claimed by the prisoner as his.

Officer Morris substantiated the evidence which had been given by the above witness.

The Mayor then remanded Maloney to jail for examination before the Hustings Court.

Charge of Insolence.—Yesterday [illegible] ing complaint was lodged before the Mayor against Pinkey, a negro girl belonging to R. E. Woodward, for using abusive and threatening language towards Mrs. E. B. Selden, and stealing from her servant woman a calico dress.

Mrs. Selden testified on oath that this girl had for some time back been abusing her in the most impertinent manner; that she could not go in the street or in her own yard without being assailed with the most indecent remarks, and very recently the negro had notified her that if she could get her hands on her she would whip her within an inch of her life. She had also threatened to burn her house down.

Mr. Woodward being sworn, informed the Court that Selden rented a house adjoining his own, and it frequently happened that their children got into difficulties. Some time ago Selden struck one of his children, and on being remonstrated with, angry words ensued. Since then they had taken every opportunity to annoy him, and had reported that Pinkey, his negro girl, was very insolent, at the same time intimating that they would give her a whipping. To this Woodward replied that if his servant was guilty of any impudence he himself would punish her, if informed of it. A day or two ago, however, while he was at home, he heard a great row in the street, and on going out to see what was the matter, he found Mr. Selden beating Pinkey in a cruel manner. Upon demanding the reason for such a proceeding, Selden turned upon and gave him several severe blows about the head. Woodward was proceeding further, when the Mayor stopped him short and declined to hear anything more for the present. The case was then continued till this morning.

Buying Clothing from Soldiers.—A case came before Commissioner Wm F. Watson yesterday, which will prove to be of some importance, as it involves the right of any person to buy from a soldier clothing which has been given him by the C. S. Government. Mr. William H. Martin, of Orange county, was arraigned on the charge of inducing a soldier to sell him a pair of shoes which he had drawn, giving him for them $10 in money and two plugs of tobacco.—The evidence showed that the shoes which had been given the soldier in question were entirely too small and it was impossible for him to get them on. He had endeavored to trade them off for a pair that would fit, but was unable to do so, and therefore offered them for sale to the accused, from whom he received in exchange $10 in Confederate money and two plugs of tobacco. Several neighbors of the prisoner were sworn as to his standing in the community, all of whom gave him an irreproachable character. At the conclusion of the evidence, the Commissioner consulted a number of legal authorities relating to such cases, the result of which research was to convince him that Martin should be sent on for further trial before Judge Halyburton. The accused was admitted to bail for his appearance on the 10th day of March next.

A Young Rogue.—On Thursday afternoon a youth named Robert Clarke was detected in the act of stealing a pocket-book from the pocket of Mr. William J. McDowell, an employee at the Central Railroad Depot.—Mr. McDowell, desiring to send some money to a friend some distance up the road, had gone into one of the baggage cars for the purpose of entrusting it with the conductor; but just before taking the money from his pocket he felt some one pushing against him, when he immediately slapped his hand on his coat pocket and felt young Clarke's hand as it was drawn out. On questioning the prisoner as to his business in the place he was, he replied that he was looking for his father; but afterwards equivocated in such a manner as to confirm Mr. McDowell in his first suspicions, when he concluded to take him in custody and hand him over to the Mayor. After obtaining the above facts, His Honor sent the accused on to the Hustings Court for further examination. The amount of money and checks which Mr. McDowell had in his pocket-book at the time the attempt was made to rob him was between six and seven hundred dollars.

Out of His Jurisdiction.—Albert Kirby and Joseph Young, both white men, arrested for committing a murderous assault upon and robbing a free negro named John Lawrence, some nights since, in Henrico county, were yesterday arraigned for examination; but His Honor, after ascertaining the locality in which the outrage was perpetrated, decided he had no jurisdiction in the case, and thereupon ordered the parties to be taken before Justice Baker, of Henrico county.

A Good Move.—During a lull in the proceedings before the Mayor yesterday, His Honor called the police of the city around him and administered to them some wholesome instructions, which, if carried out, will tend greatly to rid our city of a large number of gorgeously dressed vagabonds who stalk up and down the streets daily, greatly to the annoyance of our *citizens*.—They were authorized to arrest all persons whom they had any reason to suspect were not good citizens, or who could not show a clean card entitling them to remain here.—The police are not to be governed by personal appearances—fine linen and broadcloth should not be considered passports. Developments have recently come to light which may implicate some of those slickheaded, stylishly-dressed fops, who occupy the most frequented corners of Main street, with many of the garroting scrapes and house robberies which have recently been committed in our city, and the Mayor is determined that they shall no longer hold sway here by virtue of their fashionably cut clothes, polished boots, and Peter Funk jewelry. Let the officers of the law, aided by our citizens, but do their duty, and Richmond will soon become too hot for them to remain much longer in it.

The Clerks Ordered to Report.—An order has been sent to the different Departments of the Confederate Government in this city requiring all the Clerks who are therein employed over the age of eighteen and under forty five to repair to Camp Lee forthwith and have themselves enrolled for duty.—Those of that class subject to military duty whose services are necessary to the conduct of the business of the Departments will receive limited details, and will only