Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

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MONDAY MORNING ..... FEBRUARY 15, 1864

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THE ENEMY ON THE PENINSULA.

On Saturday last the city was again rife with the report that the enemy in force were advancing towards Richmond by the Peninsula route. This rumor has been so often given to the public, that it now fails to excite interest. The last report had its foundation in the fact that a small body of Yankee cavalry was at Burnt Ordinary on Friday. They did not, however, venture beyond that point.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

The *Senate* met on Saturday at the usual hour.

Mr. Maxwell, of Fla., introduced a bill in relation to trading with the enemy, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Johnson, of Ga., introduced a joint resolution of thanks to Commander John Taylor Wood and the officers and men under his command for daring and brilliant conduct, which was considered and passed.

The memorial of Dabney H. Maury was referred to the Naval Committee.

Mr. Semmes, from the Finance Committee, reported back, with amendments, the appropriation bill. The amendments were agreed to and the bill sent to the House.

Mr. Sparrow, from the Military Committee, reported back, with an amendment, House bill to provide for increasing the price of the rations for sick and wounded soldiers in hospitals. The amendments were agreed to and the bill passed.

The Military Committee were discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of R. W. Gibbs, President of the Press Association; and a resolution inquiring into the expediency of organizing and strengthening the Trans-Mississippi Department by the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War, etc.

Mr. Sparrow, from the Military Committee, reported back adversely the bill to provide rations for the officers of the army during the war; and the bill relating to exchanged or paroled Confederate prisoners captured by the enemy west of the Mississippi river.

Mr. Hill, from the Judiciary Committee, reported without amendment House bill to provide for holding Congressional elections in Arkansas. The bill was considered and passed.

Mr. Baker, from the Committee on Claims, reported back the joint resolution for the relief of Major R. Hooper.

Mr. Burnett, from the same committee reported back the *House bill* for the relief of Livingston *Mims, and House* joint resolution for the *relief* of Major W. F. Haines.

House bill to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment in certain capacities of free negroes and slaves, was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ark., transferred to the secret calendar.

Mr. Wigfall introduced a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to establish the Judicial Courts of the Confederate States of America," approved March 16, 1861, which was taken up for consideration, but the hour of half past three having arrived, the Senate took the usual recess.

The *House* met at 11 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Minnegerode.

Mr. Preston, of Va., from the Committee on Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, to whom was referred a resolution offered by Mr. Foote, of Tenn., in reference to the subsistence of prisoners of war, submitted a report on the the subject, which was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The resolution required the committee to inquire into the truth or falsehood of the allegation that the Yankee prisoners in our hands have not been adequately supplied with food, and report to this House as soon as practicable, to the end that the character of our Government may be effectually vindicated in the premises, and censure, if any be due, be visited upon those who deserve it.

The Committee, in their report, say:

"For a more perfect understanding of the subject, it is perhaps necessary to state that all requisitions for subsistence drawn from the Subsistence Department were directed by the Commissary General to Capt Forbes, the issuing Commissary. In carrying out the orders of the Quartermaster's Department for subsistence to be furnished prisoners, it was understood between Capt. Warner and Capt Forbes that the rations of meat should be of fresh beef when Capt. Forbes could supply it; and when beef was not to be had, the requisitions for meat rations should be filled by supplies of bacon, bulk pork, or salt beef. The butcher for the Subsistence Department in Richmond was a certain George R. Wilson, upon whom orders were given by Capt. Forbes to supply rations of beef under the requisitions made by Capt. Warner. It appears from the statement of Wilson, herewith submitted, that orders were drawn upon him for fresh beef in favor of Capt. Warner on the 1st, 6th, 8th, 12th, 20th, 21st, 22d, and 23d days of November, which were not filled because the supply of beef on hand was not more than sufficient to meet the requisitions for the hospitals; and by an order from the Commissary General he was directed, in the event of a scarcity of beef, first to fill the requisitions for the hospitals containing the sick and wounded, to the exclusion of the prisoners of war and our own soldiers on duty at this post.

"It further appears that when the prisoners of war in the city of Richmond were either upon short rations of meat, or deprived of the meat ration altogether, our own soldiers shared the same privation; and it further appears from the evidence, that when the meat rations was short, or withdrawn altogether, double rations of bread and vegetables were furnished to the prisoners. Your committee therefore feel authorized to state that the complaint that the prisoners suffered from being deprived of a sufficiency of food, is entirely without foundation."

A communication was received from the President vetoing the bill to establish a Veteran Soldiers' Home, which was laid on the table. Also, a communication in reference to the trial and conviction of Wm. E. Codman, of Rockingham county, Va.; which was ordered to be printed.

The House took up the special order, the bill entitled an act to facilitate the settlement of claims of deceased officers and soldiers.

Before final action upon the bill a motion to go into secret session prevailed, and the House went into secret session.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the *Senate* on Saturday a resolution of inquiry was adopted for the confiscation of all the property of persons within the conscript age who have abandoned the Southern cause and fled to foreign countries, and also to inquire how the estates of those who have already fled may be reached and held by the Commonwealth.

A bill was passed for the relief of Ro. F. and D. G. Bibb.

A resolution was adopted inquiring into the expediency of amending the law for the suppression of gambling, so as to make the same more effectual.

The Senate then went into secret session, and so remained until about 3 o'clock, when the doors were reopened.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

In the *House* on Saturday Mr. Pendleton, from the Committee on Public Printing, submitted a report, with a joint resolution, directing the First Auditor to settle the paper accounts of the Public Printer, and to demand of the Printer a return to the State of a statement of the amount of paper used by him for other purposes than that of public printing, in kind, class, quantity, and quality. Agreed to.

The military bill occupied the remainder of the day's session.

CHARLOTTESVILLE CHRONICLE.—This is the title of a new daily paper to be published in a few days in Charlottesville, Va., by Mr. M. J. Hughes, late editor of the Knoxville *Chronicle*. Mr. H. was forced to leave Knoxville by the vicissitudes of war, and has removed his paper to Charlottesville. It will contain all the latest telegraph and other news.

PRICES IN NASSAU.—As a matter of curiosity, we give the Nassau prices current, reported by the *Herald* as ruling on the 2d instant:

Bale rope, Manilla, 13a14 cents; do. do. Kentucky, 12a13 cents; mess beef, $10a11; bi carb soda, 5½a6 cents; Rio and Java coffee, 18a20; Whitemore's cotton cards, $14a15; do. do., English $11 50a12; calfskins, French, 12 to 24, $35a36; superfine flour, $7 25a7 50; sulph quinine, $2 25 per oz; tallow candles, 23a24; gunny cloth, 12; molasses, 50c.; mess pork, $10a11 50; rum, Havana, 40a50c.; nails, cut, $5 to 5 50; nitric acid, 22a25; crushed sugar, 13a14; liquorice, stocks, 25; do., paste, 20; sardines, ¼ tins, $2 05a2 15 per dozen; alcohol, $1a1 10; Bourbon whiskey, $1; tobacco, (by quality,) 85c.

LATER FROM THE NORTH.

The Agent of the Press Association has furnished the following summary of news, from Baltimore papers, to the 8th instant, inclusive:

Gen. Sullivan has issued an order declaring that for each person conscribed by the Confederates in Western Virginia the nearest and most prominent Secessionist will be arrested and imprisoned until the return of such conscripts.

Rumors of changes in the command of the Army of the Potomac are quite numerous in the camps. Some say that Gen. Hunter is to succeed General Meade. Others surmise that Gen. Thomas is to be the new commander.

The joint resolution relative to the Confiscation Act was finally passed in the House of Representatives on the 6th inst.—ayes 81, noes 73.

Colt's pistol factory at Hartford was destroyed by fire on the 5th inst. The loss is immense. Seventeen hundred workmen are thrown out of employment.

In the case of the captured steamer Chesapeake, the Judge of the Admiralty Court, at Halifax, has decided to restore the vessel and cargo to the owners; subject to such conditions respecting the payment of expenses as the Attorney General may exact.

Two thousand corpses have been taken from the ruins of the church at Santiago.

The "Virginia Legislature" at Alexandria, have indefinitely postponed the election of a U. S. Senator, in the place of Mr. Bowden, deceased.

The closing quotation of gold in New York, on Saturday, 6th instant, was 188¾.

The rumors of troubles with France were positively contradicted.

European News.

The Arabia, at Halifax, brings European advices to the 24th ult.

No special change had taken place in the aspect of the Schleswig Holstein question. The movement of Austria and Prussia, it was believed, must lead to some definite understanding with England. Among the minor German States there was a great and growing indignation against Austria and Prussia in consequence of the latter having acted independently of the Germanic Confederation.

The Spanish Government will appoint a Minister to Mexico as soon as it receives official confirmation of the crowning of the Archduke Maximilian.

The Archduke Maximilian will visit Paris in the quality of "Emperor of Mexico."

AFFAIRS IN PORTSMOUTH.—A correspondent of the Petersburg *Express*, writing from Portsmouth, Va., says it is a mistake to suppose that Butler's oath has been taken by all the citizens. There are more than fifty who have refused to take it in that city. The letter adds:

There is much suffering among the poor. A pittance—a ration—is distributed by the Government to the destitute females who would come up and swear fealty to Abraham. Many were driven to submit to this petty piece of despotism; but God in his justice will surely avenge the wrongs thus inflicted.

Several of our churches have been closed, the ministers refusing to take the oath. The Rev M. Wingfield of the Episcopal, C. N. Bain and Cash, of the Methodist churches, are forbidden to officiate in any capacity, and their congregations, while lamenting the loss of their services, applaud them for the noble resolution, and bear the sacrifice cheerfully. The Rev Father Plunkett, of the Catholic church, has not yet been prohibited from performing his priestly duties. He was summoned to appear before Gen. Barnes, and in the presence of that *amiable* functionary, declared his determination not to take the oath. The General concluded to make him an exception to the rule, and he has since been allowed to continue in the undisturbed discharge of his duties. Why this is so all know well; but that is neither here nor there, since he has been passed over—at which none are more gratified than myself. A truer Southern man does not live, a bolder one in enunciation of opinions out of the pulpit is but rarely met with; and he is no cringing tool or humble subject for *favors* granted.

We have now quartered in and around the city some three or four thousand negro soldiers. The provost guard are principally of the unbleached, and these sable pets of the Beast may be seen standing sentry in all parts of the city, patroling its streets in armed bands, parading in regiments, or crowding the sidewalks, insulting or threatening whom they please, without hindrance or rebuke. They are the favorites of those in authority, and the Southern citizen is less the subject of fear from these dark warriors than their white companions in arms. The truth is, the white soldier is completely under the foot of the negro, and the latter is well aware of the advantage which he holds in the game. All matters of dispute between the bleached and unbleached end in favor of Sambo, and if punishment is to be awarded Yankee luxuriates in the guard-house and black-skin laughs around his camp-fire. The white soldier knows and feels his inferior position which he is made to hold, and the growing discontent is apparent to all observers. Had they the manliness, the independence, the unbroken spirit of free white men, with arms in their hands, they would assert their rights and demand, at least, an equality with their negro associates. In this they are deficient; they have neither the spirit to resent the insults constantly given them by the blacks nor the independence to ask their masters the position which belongs to them. A Yankee is as abject and humble to a superior as he is tyrannical and cruel to those whom chance places beneath him. He is a slave of the meanest kind, and he is now the slave of slaves.

New Year's day was a great day with all negro dom—the celebration of their freedom. A poster announced that, among the ceremonies of the day, thanks would be given for the freedom of the black—to God, Abraham Lincoln, and the United States Congress. What a pair to couple with the All-wise! An immense concourse paraded the streets, headed by the negro brigade, bearing banners, badges, and a coffin, the latter having inscribed upon it, "The last of slavery." Large U. S. transports were in readiness at the wharf to convey them to Norfolk, where they were met by the Beast and his staff, his pliant tool, Gen. Barnes, and his staff, and headed by them, a grand display was the consequence. I will not dwell in detail upon the horrible and disgusting exhibition. Suffice it to say, that it was every way worthy the debased, thievish, and detested race by whom it was inaugurated and fostered.

THE ADVANCE ON MOBILE.—The Mobile *Advertiser* has the following telegrams about the advance of the enemy towards that city:

JACKSON, Feb. 5.—Official information to half-past four o'clock last evening has been received here from Gen. Lee, who was then nine miles west of Clinton.

The enemy advanced slowly in line yesterday, his force numbering at least 15,000 infantry.

There is also a force of the enemy advancing from Messenger's Ferry, via Queen's Hill. The enemy's intention seems to be to move on Clinton and Jackson.

Our loss in the engagement yesterday was about ten killed and a good many wounded; Among the latter are several officers, including the gallant Major Bridges.

I am unable to learn the force of the enemy on Queen's Hill and Clinton road. Adams's brigade have fought them and acted gallantly.

Gen. Ross's Texas brigade made a most gallant fight yesterday with the enemy on the Yazoo. They fought the enemy on foot with pistols at twelve paces, repulsing them with severe loss. The enemy left his killed and wounded in our hands.

Heavy and continuous firing is heard on the Yazoo to-day. No report is yet here to-day from Gen. Ross.

JACKSON, Feb. 5.—The enemy have crossed Big Black and are advancing eastward in three columns, supposed to be about 10,000 men each.

This morning Wirt Adams dashed on their advance at Champion Hills and captured twelve prisoners and lost one man killed and one wounded.

The enemy's casualties are unknown, but are supposed to be considerable.

There has been heavy skirmishing all day.

LATEST FROM KNOXVILLE.—Gen. Longstreet is still crowding the enemy towards Knoxville, as also towards another important point. The Bristol *Gazette*, of the 11th, obtains the following items from Capt. Kain, who gathers them from persons just from and near Knoxville:

The Federals are again exercising their cruelty to the defenceless citizens. Among the recent arrests are the Rev. Jos. Martin, Chas. M. McGhee, Columbus Powell, and R. M. McPherson. They are all confined in jail. The purpose of this arrest is, without doubt, to afford their plundering bands a better opportunity to despoil the sufferers of all their portable property.

Messrs McGhee and Powell, it will be recollected, was sometime since arrested under orders from General Burnside and transported to Kentucky, where, after being robbed of several thousand dollars, they were discharged, and permitted to return to their homes. The Yankees have completed the Knoxville and Kentucky Railroad to the Clinch river at Clinton. Our forces are picketing at the ruins of the residence of Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey at the confluence of the French Broad and Holston, four miles above Knoxville.

The small pox is still raging. No citizens have fallen victims since our last issue. It is said that Burnside has again assumed command of the Federal forces in East Tennessee. Col Birch Cook, formerly commanding the 59th Tenn. Regt., and Samuel P. Irvine, the well known editor of the Athens (Tenn.) *Post*, have been arrested by the Federals and sent to Camp Chase.

ANOTHER WARNING.—A soldier named Hinsdale, who was returning to his home in Wenghtown, was horribly crushed at the railroad station in Greensboro', N. C., last Monday. He attempted to jump on the platform of a car while the train was in motion; but not gaining the platform, was carried to the wood-shed, between which and the car he was so badly mangled that he died in a few minutes.

Quantrell's Exodus from Missouri—The Blount Fight.

A correspondent of the Texas *Telegraph*, who is contributing to that paper "Sketches of Quantrell's Men," gives the following account of the Blount affair, the fullest we have yet seen from a Confederate source:

Towards the middle of September the guerillas reunited at Blackwater, and were ready in a few hours to leave the rendezvous for their march South. Cold nights and occasional frost had warned them to leave Missouri, and like poor houseless birds of passage, beaten by the pitiless storm, they sought a more genial clime, where the grass was green and Federals less numerous. Missouri would afford no shelter or safety after winter had set in; the bare and leafless forests no hiding places, and the pure driven snow would afford to the enemy the best means of tracking the hunted and hungry guerillas whenever they should leaves their holes in search of food. Outlawed by an order of General Blount, proscribed by every Yankee official, the citizens warned against furnishing food or shelter under the cruelest and severest penalties, the very earth almost denying them a resting place, the gallant three hundred broke up their rendezvous and left for the plains of Texas.

Small parties of Feds were occasionally seen and bagged as they approached the border of the Cherokee country. But nothing occurred of any particular interest until they had penetrated the Indian country to some distance. The boys were gay and hilarious; often scattered for miles along the road, as careless and much at ease as if in their own homes and no enemy near. They grew at times boisterous under the sense of security from immediate danger, and amused themselves daily with displaying the Federal flag, and enticing to its benignant folds the stupid negro or treacherous Pin. The flag was a good bait to hold out to Indians and negroes, for both flocked to the standard as readily as a dish of honey attracts flies and insects. But they never return to tell their mistake; nigger and Pin fared alike, and both were left dead side by side.

On the 10th of October, without guide or compass, without the slightest knowledge of the country, but marching in good order—for the "sign" was getting fresh—they suddenly came upon a party of Federals tearing down some houses belonging to the exiled Ridge party. A dozen or more unsuspecting Pins and negroes, with a few Feds, came up to the advance guard of the guerillas, but the larger portion, not liking the "hay out," and scenting the danger, fled towards the fort, which Col. Quantrell had not yet discovered. About sixty of Todd's men, under the leadership of Lieut. Taylor, gave chase to the flying Federals, while the rest, under "Old Quant" and Todd, were dispatching the miscreants who remained. A few of the retreating Feds were overtaken and shot down, the others, more fortunate, "levelled" themselves to reach a place of safety; and, all at once, Taylor came in full view of a strong fort, surrounded with breastworks and ditches. This was a new feature in the case; and it was very evident that something novel and mysterious was actuating the Feds' movements, for they were running to and fro, some gazing eagerly at the advancing force of Taylor, without an attempt at preparation for resistance—while others still seemed to be expostulating vehemently with the terror stricken Yankees, who had so madly rushed in. Flags were flying as if on a gala occasion, music was heard within the fort, and the officer appeared in full uniform, as if for dress parade. They were not long in a state of suspense—for it takes us longer to tell it than it took Lieut. Taylor to form his men and dash like a thunderbolt upon the breastworks. The boys rushed on, screaming like demons—and amid the horrid din the amazed Feds heard the shout for "Old Quant." That charge was magnificently ferocious and superbly desperate. But for the inauspicious yell for Quantrell, every man might have entered the fort and carried it by storm. But a perfect shower of lead now greeted the storming party, and only five succeeded in leaping the rope that was stretched over the breastworks. The names of those immortal heroes are Lieut. Taylor, Sergeant Berry, —— Huitz, George Shepherd, and Peyton Long. Each man brought down one of the enemy as he leaped in; but it was impossible to stay and contend against 300, who poured an enfilading fire upon the guerillas from every angle of the fort.

Just at this juncture our boys retreated to the spot where the command had been left; but here was something new also. Taylor found the whole command in line of battle, motionless as statues, with Quantrell at their head on his war-horse looking as grim as the Sphinx of Egypt at a brilliant cavalcade of horsemen forming beautifully about three hundred yards in front. The whisper ran through the line, "It is old Blount, and he thinks we are Federals coming out to give him a reception!" It was true. There rode Gen. Blount and staff, glittering in blue cloth and gold lace, and about 200 of his body guard. Just then the cavalcade moved, and the band commenced playing Yankee Doodle. Quantrell moved also; but the quick eye of Blount discovered something wrong and called a halt. But the guerillas by this time were under full gallop, and down they swept upon the brilliant cortege like an avalanche and hurled them to the earth. The struggle was short and fierce; the shock terrific, as guerilla rode over both horse and his rider, and dashed out the brains of the latter as he passed. Again and again they turned and fired, charged and recharged, until the ground was strewn with the dead, ambulances overturned, and horses flying madly in every direction. Here occurred one of those thrilling incidents, one of those marvellous episodes that cause whole nations sometimes to pause with breathless wonder, and whole armies to halt and gaze with amazement and admiration.

Lieut Col. Curtis, Adjutant General on General Blount's staff, rode a magnificent horse, richly caparisoned, and was himself dressed in the richest uniform of his rank. He was a remarkably handsome man, fair and rosy, eyes blue as those of the fairest blonde of his own clime; pale, fair, tall, slender figure—with features as beautiful as those of a woman. He was well armed with pistol and sabre, and used them gallantly. He sees that his force is defeated, and determines to escape. But as he turns his horse's head he encounters the fierce eye of a young guerrilla as handsome, as brave and well armed as himself, bearing right down upon him. He observes the Adjt. General endeavoring to escape; calls to him to stop and fight. He does turn to meet the guerilla now swooping down upon him like an eagle on its prey. The Yankee fires a long range gun—but misses his aim; he draws his six-shooter and rapidly, nervously discharges the contents at his adversary, who all this time is gaining on him and dashing straight at him.

As an eagle swoops down on his prey, gracefully and grandly ferocious, beautiful even in the act of destruction, so does Peyton Long, the young hero, gallantly bear down on the "cute" Yankee; he reserves every shot, while Curtis is wasting his; he dashes upon him—both pause for an instant, as if in mutual admiration—but only for a moment. Peyton Long watches his antagonist, and sways his body to the left to escape the sabre cut of the Yankee; the next instant the inevitable six-shooter of the guerilla is pointed to the head of the splendid-looking fellow; it is the work of an instant; Peyton strikes like an eagle, and all is over! A shout of triumph arose from the throng of guerillas, who had ceased the fight to watch the encounter between this well-matched couple.

Long saw his antagonist fall heavily to the earth, and his noble heart essayed to pity and assist him; but the stern mandate, the inflexible canon of the guerilla's creed, "kill and spare not the Yankees," the order of Gen Blount outlawing every guerilla, written by those hands before him and approved by that fluttering heart, dried up the fountain of commiseration and brought him back to himself and his duty.

The fight was over, although the Feds continued to fire random shots from their artillery in the Fort. The fruits of this victory were in killed, three Majors, one Lieutenant-Colonel, five Captains, several Lieutenants, every member of Blount's staff, and two hundred privates; all of Blount's papers and personal effects, several ambulances and a large number of horses were captured. The loss of the guerillas was one or two wounded and some horses killed.

DEATH OF A CONFEDERATE MINISTER.—Rev. Isaac Lewis, a Methodist minister, who for forty years has been a preacher of the Gospel in Knoxville, died there last week. The following is from a letter describing his last hours:

The evening before he died the privacy of his quiet bed-room was invaded by the rude knock of the Yankee soldiery at his door. One of them, when the door was opened, inquired "if that d—d old rebel spy was not dead yet—the house is wanted for a hospital." He was told to come and see for himself. He entered, and nothing awed by the presence of Mrs. Lewis and her daughters standing in tears around the bed, he rudely came forward and felt the extremities of the dying man, and for three hours remained by his bedside, impatient to see him draw his last breath. Death soon came to relieve him from this unwelcome intrusion. In words scarcely audible to his indignant and deeply bereaved family, he calmly whispered, "Be still—say nothing to him—I will soon be beyond their power and their malice—where the wicked cease from troubling—and the weary are at rest." So died another martyr to the Southern cause. For three months he had suffered from Yankee tyranny and insolence. The city where his long life had been spent was under a siege, in want of fuel and subsistence. His sons were in the camp or the field, and his wife and daughters soon to be turned out of home upon the cold charities of strangers and enemies. Under these influences he sickened—under these savage circumstances he died.

A PIOUS THIEF.—The basement of the Second Presbyterian church, Lynchburg, Va., was entered on Sunday night and robbed of about $300 worth of books and several pieces of carpeting. The books were all of a religious character, many of them sermons. The thief was arrested while endeavoring to carry off his plunder, and tried to sell it to bitsenptors; he gave his name as James Ryan, a deserter from the 5th New York artillery, and had a pass to that effect from Gen. Winder. He had been employed for some time as a wagon driver at the Fair Grounds.

Col. Thomas H. Roser, the military commander at Selma, Ala., has ordered all the drinking saloons in that city to be closed.

Napoleon's Judgment on Men and Things.

[*Translated from the French for the Mobile Advertiser.*]

The presence of the general on the field is absolutely necessary—he is the head; he is the whole army. It was not the Roman army that conquered the Gauls, it was Cæsar. It was not the Carthaginian army that threw terror among the Romans at the gates of Rome, it was Hannibal. It was not the Macedonian army that marched on the Indus, it was Alaxander. It was not the French army that carried war on the Weser and on the Inn, it was Turenne. It was not the Prussian army that defended Prussia during seven years against the three greatest powers of Europe, it was Frederick the Great.

Generals-in-chief are guided by their own experience or their genius. Tactics, evolutions, the science of the engineer and the artillerist, may be learned from books, or treatises, like geometry; but the knowledge of the high parts of war is only acquired by experience, and by the study of the history of wars and battles of great captains. The study of grammar could not teach any one how to write the Iliad or one of Corneille's tragedies.

The first quality of a general-in-chief is a cool head which receives just impressions of things, which is never excited nor flashed, nor discouraged by good or bad news. The sensations, either successive or simultaneous, which he receives in the course of one day, must class themselves in his head and occupy no more place in his thoughts than they respectively deserve; for, good sense, reason, are the result of comparison between several sensations taken under equal consideration.

There are men who, by their physical and moral constitution, see everything as a picture. Whatever may be the knowledge, wit, courage, or other good qualities of such men, nature has not destined them to the command of armies or to the direction of great operations of war.

All the qualities necessary to form a great general are very rarely combined; the most disirable is a perfect equilibrium between the mind or talent, and the nerve or courage; for, if the courage predominates, the general would imprudently undertake things beyond his power: whilst, on the other hand, if his courage was not equal to his genius, he would not dare to accomplish the great things which his mind would conceive. Much was said about physical and moral courage. On that subject Napoleon said that it was impossible to have more courage than Ney or Murat; but it was also impossible to have less brains than they had, especially Ney.

As to moral courage, Napoleon remarked that there were very few men who possessed moral courage at two o'clock in the night; that is to say, courage without time for reflection, and which, in the face of the most sudden events, retains the same liberty of mind, of judgement, of decision. Napoleon did not hesitate to presume that he was the one that possessed the greatest amount of that courage of two o'clock at night as he called it; and that he had seen but very few who did not remain far behind himself on that point.

He also remarked that it was difficult to conceive the strength of mind necessary to give one of those great battles on which depends the fate of an army, of a country, or of a throne. It was for the reason that Generals were seldom anxious to give battle. They would take position, fix it, meditate all their plans—but then would commence their indecision; and nothing is more necessary and more difficult than to know when and how to decide.

Speaking of some of his Generals, Napoleon remarked: "Kleber was gifted with the greatest talent. But he was only the man of the moment.—He sought glory as the only route to pleasure; he had no patriotism, and would, without hesitation, have taken service with any foreign power. In his youth he had served Prussia, and he had remained very much attached to that power.

Desaix possessed to an eminent degree the desirable equilibrium spoken of above. Moreau did not deserve to be placed among the first generals. Nature, with him, had not completed its creation; he had more instinct than real genius.

With Lannes courage at first carried it over the mind. But his mind rose every day to regain the equilibrium. He possessed superior ability when he perished. I took him a pigmy; when I lost him he was a giant.

Speaking of bravery, courage, the Emperor said:

There is not one of my Generals whose draft, as I call it, is not known to me. Some go in up to their waist; others to the chin; and some plunge in overhead. But the fact, I assure you, are very few in number. Massena was a very superior general, who, by a singular gift, only possessed the desired equilibrium at the time of danger. It grew on him in the midst of danger and fire.

The responsibility of a general in-chief is not covered by an order from a minister, or from a prince who is not present on the field of operations, and who knows but imperfectly, or even does not know at all, the last state of things.

1st. Every general who undertakes to execute a plan which he considers bad or disastrous is criminal. He must remonstrate, insist to have the plan changed, and finally resign rather than be the instrument of the ruin of his own people.

2d. Every general who, in consequence of superior orders, gives battle when he is certain to lose it, is equally criminal.

3d. A general in chief is the first officer of the military hierarchy. The minister, the prince, give instructions which the general must faithfully follow. But such instructions are never considered as military orders, and are not to be passively obeyed.

4th. Even a military order is only to be passively obeyed when it is given by a superior officer who, being present at the time he gives it, has a full knowledge of the state of things, and who can listen to objections and give explanation to the one who has charge of the execution.

CAPITULATION.

A body of troops in line must never capitulate during battle. No Sovereign, no people, no general, have any guarantee if they allow officers to capitulate in the field, and to lay down their arms in consequence of a contract favorable to them, but unfavorable to the army. Such conduct ought to be held infamous and punished with death. It is quite different with the commander of a fortified place. When the place is invested, the general-in-chief knows that such place can only be held for a certain time; and if he cannot rescue it, he knows that the place must surrender after that time.

THE CAPTURE BY GEN. MARTIN'S EXPEDITION.—When the attack was made on Newbern an expedition was sent out from Wilmington, under Gen. Martin, to make a demonstration against Fort Anderson. A letter in the Wilmington *Journal* gives the results of the expedition:

Altogether, our troops captured seven pieces of artillery, several hundred stand of arms, two hundred boxes of ammunition, about seventy-five prisoners, six slaves, a dozen horses, and commissary stores enough to subsist the troops during their stay in the neighborhood, besides a large quantity of clothing with which our men supplied themselves—such as overcoats, pants, blankets, &c. The enemy burat most of their quartermaster and commissary stores. They also burat their stables with the horses in them. Some few horses were rescued by our men. In addition to our captures, we destroyed one thousand barrels of turpentine belonging to the U S government and burnt two railroad bridges.

A PROFITABLE BUSINESS.—We have heard it estimated that the outward cargo of the Advance, on her every trip, is worth five times as much in England as the cost of what she brings back. And we can well believe it, since we learn that she has just gone out with upwards of 700 bales of cotton, worth in England about $200,000. Cotton is now dear abroad, whilst the shoes, and blankets, and cloths purchased by Gov. Vance are cheap there. It results that the State must be accumulating a fund of sterling exchange in England. Probably the cotton did not cost as much in currency as it produces in gold in England, and as the Government pays for the supplies furnished to the soldiers, the operation is evidently not a losing one. The good fortune which has attended this sagacious enterprise of the Governor is as marked as its effect in distinguishing the North Carolina troops as the best clad of any in the army.—*Fayetteville (N. C.) Observer.*

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—The census of Great Britain and Ireland for 1861, recently published, shows the population of the cities and towns, containing above 20,000 inhabitants, to be as follows: London 2,803,989; Liverpool and Birkenhead 495,587; Manchester and Salford 460,423; Glasgow 391,864; Birmingham 296,076; Dublin 258,369; Leeds, 207,165; Sheffield 285,179; Edinburg 168,121; Bristol 154,093; Wolverhampton 147,670; Plymouth and Devenport 127,382; Newcastle 109,108; Bradford 106,218; Cork 101,534; Stoke 101,207; Hull 97,661; Portsmouth 94,799; Oldham 93,344; Dundee 90,417; Brighton 87,317; Sunderland 85,797; Merthyr Tydvil 83,875; Preston 83,985. No country in the world, out of Asia, contains so many large cities as the British Isles.

MERCHANT'S INSURANCE COMPANY,
Richmond, 5th Feb'y, 1864.

CAPITAL (all paid) $1,000,000 —
Accumulated surplus $1,600,000

This company continues to insure all descriptions of property, in town or country, against loss or damage by Fire, on the usual terms, and adjusts and pays its losses promptly and liberally.

Not more than $50,000 taken on any single risk.

Directors:

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fe 8—MThaw J H MONTAGUE, Pres't.

A LOT of heavy Brogues, calf skin Boots, welted Shoes, and Ladies' Shoes. Also, several brands of manufactured Tobacco.
On consignment and for sale by
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LOCAL MATTERS.

Burnt to Death.—On Friday last John Craddock, a little boy not quite four years old, son of Mr. Robert Craddock, Confederate States detective, was burnt to death at the premises of Mr. Samuel Curry, of Union Hill. The little fellow was at play in Mr. Curry's kitchen, adjoining his father's residence, with some other children, when his clothes took fire, and being of a very inflammable nature, soon enveloped his whole person in a light blaze. The cries of the children alarmed Mr. C.'s family, and they hastily ran to see what was the matter; but when they arrived at the scene of the accident it was too late to render much assistance, as his clothes had burnt entirely off. He was immediately taken home, where medical and other attendance was promptly rendered; but nothing could save his life, and he died in a few hours after the accident, suffering the most excruciating agony. The circumstance is rendered more distressing on account of the absence from the city of the father of this little boy and the illness of Mrs. Craddock, its mother.

Another of President Davis's Negroes Runaway.—On Saturday night last the police were informed of the fact that Cornelius, a negro man in the employ of President Davis, had run away. Having received some clue of his whereabouts, they succeeded in finding him in a few hours after receiving the information of his escape, and lodged him in the upper station house. When caught, there was found on his person snack enough, consisting of cold chicken, ham, preserves, bread, &c., to last him for a long journey, and a large sum of money he had stolen from his master. Sometime after being locked up he called to the keeper of the prison to give him some water, and as that gentleman incautiously opened the door of his cell to wait on him, Cornelius knocked him down and again made his escape. Mr. Peter Everett, the only watchman present, put off after him, but before running many steps stumbled and fell, injuring himself severely.

More Captures.—Twelve more of the escaped Yankee officers from the Libby prison have been captured and brought back since our last publication. Their names are—Col. Ely, 18th Conn.; Capts. E. L. Smith, 19th U. S. cavalry, and J. W. Macmack, —— Ohio infantry; Lieuts. W. H. H. Wilcox, 10th N. Y. cavalry; Daniel Hansburg, 1st Michigan cavalry; Adam Hauff, 45th N. Y.; T. J. Ray, 49 h Ohio; J. H. Gadsby, 19th U. S. infantry; M. M Bassett, 53d Illinois; M. Bedell, 123d N. Y.; H. P. Crawford, 21 Illinois cavalry, and L. W. Sutherland, 126th Ohio. The last named individual was retaken at City Point.

There is no truth in the rumors which have been rife in the city for several days, that Col. A. D. Streight had been recaptured. On Saturday last Maj Turner dispatched a courier in the direction which it was said he was found, but he failed to bring back any information which could substantiate the fact.

In the Cage.—The following subjects were arrested and locked up in the cage yesterday: William Butler, charged with stealing fifteen pairs of cotton cards, valued at $825, the property of William Forbes.

Henry, slave of Wright & Ford, trespassing on Mrs. Gwathmey's premises, being without a pass, and carrying unlawful weapons.

A free negro, named Emma Slaughter, charged with aiding and abetting Robert, slave of Thos. L. Courtney, to escape to the Yankees.

Albert Baily, free, charged with enticing a slave belonging to William Stagg, of Petersburg, to run away.

Acquittal of Capt. Alexander.—The labors of the Court of Inquiry in the case of Capt. George W. Alexander, late commandant at Castle Thunder, in this city, against whom grave charges had been preferred, have terminated with the verdict—"the charges not sustained by the evidence." The investigation was a long and searching one, and held at Capt. Alexander's request.

Mayor's Court.—On Saturday morning last, the following named cases were called before the Mayor and disposed of as far as he was concerned:

Jerry Donohoe, Margaret Donohoe, Catherine O'Keiff, Dennis O'Keiff, Tim Layne, and Mary Layne, the participants in an "Irish row" which occurred on 17th street last Friday evening, made their appearance to answer the charge. Witnesses were introduced, who proved that the fight was going on for some time in the house where they reside, between Jerry Donohoe, on one side, and Dennis O'Kieff and Tim Layne on the other. After it was in progress a few minutes the wives of Donohoe and O'Kieff, tiring of being quiet spectators of the fun, determined to take a hand in it; but the circumscribed limits afforded in the house rendering it necessary to have more room, the parties adjourned to the open air, and reaching the bridge crossing the Dock at the foot of 17th street, resumed their operations on a more extended scale. When a couple of rounds had passed between them, officer Morris arrived on the battle ground, and by lastily yelling and whooping and flourishing his official baton among the combatants, soon succeeded in bringing the engagement to a close, and escorted them to the watch-house, when they were bailed for their appearance at Court. Before His Honor on Saturday they presented a very ludicrous sight to look at. Donohoe's head and eyes were bandaged all over, while Mrs. Donohoe and Mrs. O'Kieff each sported bruised cheeks and bruised, distended eyes. At the conclusion of the evidence, the Donohoes were discharged, but Mr. and Mrs. O'Kieff were required to enter into bonds to keep the peace and be of good behavior for twelve months.

Four small boys, viz: John Bastin, Thos. Doland, Cary Trabue, and Joseph Pearman, appeared to answer the charge preferred against them of stealing fifteen pairs of cot