THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1863.

From Lincolndom.

LAST evening we had the pleasure of a brief interview with a gentleman who arrived here as a passenger in the steamer *Giraffe* from Nassau, to which latter place he came from New York in the Steamer British Queen, which sailed from New York on the 2nd instant.

The gentleman, an officer in the army of the Confederate States, and formerly with Gen. Price in Missouri, came through with his family from Canada, and while in New York went unreservedly in public without difficulty or suspicion, not being known personally in the city. He confirms all that has been said about the very great revolution in public opinion in New York and elsewhere in reference to the war. No repressive act can prevent the expression of opinions and feelings adverse to the administration, the war, the everlasting nigger, the emancipation proclamation, etc.

Another effort will be made to arouse another outburst of nationality and "the old flag,"—to preach another crusade against the South, but in the opinion of our informant, with indifferent success. So he was assured by gentlemen of Southern feelings in New York, of whom there are many, but all, or nearly all such who are really trustworthy, are of Southern birth, mostly Kentuckians, Missourians, some Tennesseans, some from New Orleans, and in fact some from all sections where the peculiar positions of their homes renders it impossible for them to strike a blow in defence of the rights of their respective States.

With the new and immense issue of greenbacks, gold, in spite of all that can be done to the contrary, will soon jump up to one hundred per cent. premium, and this point once reached, all limit will speedily disappear, and gold will continue to rise and currency to go down with railroad velocity.

Nassau is a perfect den of speculators. The sudden influx of trade there has set the business men all crazy, and not the business men only, but everybody in general. Nobody looks at you or "any other man" without calculating how much money he can make out of you before you part. It is now flood tide with the Nassauites and they mean to make the most of it before they are left high and dry by the reflux, which must come.

By the way, we were a little surprised to learn that North Missouri, that is, that part North of the Missouri River is, as a whole, actually more Southern in its feelings than South Missouri or that part South of the river. The mountainous character of the country, as well as the poorness of the soil in a large part of Southern Missouri is unfavorable to slave labor. There is little wealth, and the average intelligence of the population bears a considerable resemblance to that of the least favourably situated portions of East Tennessee. This applies, of course to the more barren and hilly sections. The true Southern emigration from Virginia and the Carolinas has been mainly to that portion lying on and North of the Missouri river, the rich soil of which gives profitable employment to slave labor in the raising of hemp and tobacco.

As a whole, Missouri is with the South four to one, but cannot make a successful effort for her own redemption until the Confederate armies can enter her territory with the intention of remaining, and at least the assurance that a determined stand will be made.

More raids do more harm than good by inducing people to join the standard, for when they fall back, the fortunes and families of the Missourians declaring for the Confederacy are left at the mercy of their worst enemies and the worst enemies of the South.

However, our informant is confident that all will come right and Missouri yet occupy her natural position by the side of her sisters of the Confederacy.

By the way, he doubts much whether the Northern conscription can be enforced to any great extent. Of voluntary enlistment there will be none. It is true every effort is being made by means of public meetings, exciting appeals, and all the machinery of humbug to prepare the people for submission, but the success of these means must be only partial and temporary, while the reaction will be great and permanent.—*Daily Journal 20th.*

The "Yazoo Pass," etc.

We have endeavored to trace out on the map the route of the expedition set on foot by the Yankees, but without being quite able to fully understand it.

Fifty one hundred and fifty miles above Vicksburg, in a straight line, and probably all of two hundred and fifty miles by the Mississippi river, we find on the East side of that stream and opposite to Ft. Helena, Arkansas, a sort of cut from the Mississippi into a small stream known as Coldwater River, which rises in the extreme North West of Mississippi and falls into the Tallahatchie at the very lower edge of Tunica Co. The Tallahatchie is the main branch of the Yazoo and navigable at all times to the mouth of Coldwater. We see a Northern account connects the Coldwater with the Sunflower river, but incorrectly as we think. This cut is known as the "Yazoo Pass."

Once in the Tallahatchie the enemy would have an immense scope of inland navigation through one of the best cotton regions of the South. They would have a chance to intercept the supplies destined for Vicksburg, and at the same time seize upon the vast fleet of river steamers which were run up the Yazoo and Tallahatchie for safety from the enemy, then as now, in full possession of the Mississippi above Vicksburg.

It can only be by thus cutting off supplies that the enemy can expect to do anything against Vicksburg by this expedition through the Yazoo Cut. Perhaps, after all, cotton stealing is their main object.

We expect to hear more from that quarter shortly, as much depends upon the movements now going on. It is only at high water—that is, in the winter—that boats, or even flats can get through the pass or the Coldwater. If low water overtakes the enemy, he is likely never to get back to his base of operations on the Mississippi.

THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.—Originally there was a joint demonstration made against Mexico, in which demonstration France, England and Spain were joint participants, the ostensible object being to compel Mexico to observe treaty stipulations in regard to debts due, or indemnities promised to subjects of the allied governments, or of any of them.

England and Spain have withdrawn from the expedition, either professing themselves satisfied with the terms offered by Mexico, or feeling that the difficulties of the enterprise would more than counter-vail all its profits or advantages.

France alone keeps up the war. She now professes, or her Emperor professes for her, a desire to see established in Mexico a strong and permanent government, whether monarchical or republican, with sufficient power to give some assurance for the observance of treaty stipulations with foreign countries, and with sufficient energy to secure the peace and advance the prosperity of the Mexicans at home.

Disguised, and but thinly disguised, under all this is a desire on the part of LOUIS NAPOLEON to secure for France a foothold in some tropical or semi-tropical region whence she can derive the great staples of cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar, etc., which, however, he will hardly find in Mexico to any great extent, not at least so far as cotton is concerned, although cotton *can* be grown there, and *is* to some extent, but not enough for exportation, as also coffee, which grows even more luxuriantly than on the island of Cuba.

The difficulties of the conquest of Mexico, to Europeans unaccustomed to the climate, unacquainted with the country and without friends among the inhabitants must be great—much greater than even LOUIS NAPOLEON, shrewd as he is, can have had any notion of it. Mexico was much easier penetrated into at the time of CORTEZ than it is now. Under the MONTEZUMAS the interior of the country was better cultivated and the roads were in better order. Besides, the Empire of MONTEZUMA, though the leading, was not the only power, and thus CORTEZ had the co-operation of native tribes and of rival potentates.

The cumbrous appliances of modern warfare also render a campaign in a country like Mexico very trying upon the energies and resources of an invading army, all of whose means have to be drawn from a distant continent, for the FRENCH can hardly hope to draw much from the country through which they march.

We need not be surprised, therefore, that, so far, the French have made comparatively little progress in their advance on the Mexican Capital. But at the same time, we may be assured that the able organizer at the head of the French Government will know how to adapt means to ends so as to secure final success to his arms and as much success to his policy as the nature of the country and the population may render possible.—We do not think that the measure of the latter can ever be great. The population is mixed—mongrel. The proportion of fertile land to arid and rainless wastes, barren mountains, or deadly swamps is small. The distribution of moisture is not such as to adapt any extensive portion of the country to the profitable growth of cotton—the supply of labor is precarious, the means of transportation are bad, and "the situation" generally unpromising.

It may be that Mexico is not sought for or meddled with on its own account, but simply as affording the fulcrum upon which to rest the lever for moving the rest of the continent. Who can tell? Who can undertake to prophecy when even a day may effect so many startling changes?

The fact is that even now, while we write, the complications in Poland and Hungary may call for all the energy, tax all the resources, and give scope for all the ambition that the French Emperor has to expend; and indeed, the despatches just received (through Northern channels, however,) go fully to confirm this idea. With Poland and Hungary in arms, Europe will have little surplus enthusiasm, and its potentates little spare power to be expended on this comparatively remote continent. As the thing now stands it does seem to us that we must fight out the fight single handed, and as best we may. The only power not likely to be seriously complicated is our enemy.—We allude to England. The Queen of that country is a very good woman in her way, but has a large proportion of the stubbornness, with not a little of the hereditary predisposition to insanity, which has more than once displayed itself in her family, and which, in the case of her grandfather, George Third, led to the outbreak of the American revolution at an earlier day than it would otherwise have occurred, and finally resulted in that complete mental obscuration which rendered necessary the "Regency" of that delectable person, the Prince of Wales, afterwards George Fourth. She, taking her ideas from her defunct husband, the late Prince Albert, is a bitter partizan of the North, and without much real power, she must have great social influence with unbounded hostility to the the institutions of the South.

England and Brazil.

We find in the London *Index* a long editorial statement of a recent and still pending difficulty between England and Brazil, in which the conduct of the latter power contrasts strangely with its course towards the Federal States, all being peremptoriness towards Brazil, all complacency and long-suffering towards the Lincolnites.

It would appear that reclamations are made against the Brazilian authorities on two grounds. First—It is asserted that in June, 1861, the Prince of Wales, a British ship, was wrecked on the coast of Albardao, to the South of the port of Rio Grande. It is said that a portion of her cargo was pillaged. Second—It is charged that two officers and a chaplain of H. B. M. frigate Forts, who had gone ashore, it is said, *out of uniform*, were ill-treated by a sentinel, and confined for forty-eight hours, first in the guard house, afterwards at the central police-station.

Upon the 5th of December, 1862, a year and a half after the loss of the Prince of Wales, Mr. CHRISTIE, the British Minister at Rio de Janeiro, sent in an ultimatum requiring the Brazilian government to pay an indemnity for the cargo and freight of the Prince of Wales, and a further indemnity to the relatives of those of the crew whose bodies were stated to have been plundered. He also demanded that the Brazilian officer who had arrested the English officers should be cashiered; that the sentinel should be punished; that satisfaction should be given for the insult to the British Navy; and that the Chief of Police and a subaltern should be publickly reprimanded.

The Foreign Minister of the Brazils replied that his government would not accept any responsibility with regard to the matter of the Prince of Wales, and refused to pay any indemnity, but added that it would pay, if compelled by forces, whatever was required. Respecting the British officers, the Brazilian Minister said the authorities had done their duty, and there was no ground for giving the required satisfaction. The British officers in question were not in uniform, and therefore any insult to the British navy was out of the question. Besides, they were drunk and merited their incarceration. Immediately on receiving this reply, Mr. Christie notified the Brazilian government that Admiral Warren would make reprisals on Brazilian property, and on the 5th January, 1863, to the intense indignation of the people of Rio, natives and foreigners, it transpired that the British steamer Stromboli had seized five Brazilian vessels, the cargoes of which were valued at £30,000 sterling. The excitement was extreme and the life and property of British residents were in great jeopardy. On the 6th of January, the Brazilian government accepted the propositions of Mr. CHRISTIE, and the following arrangement was concluded:

The prizes are to be restored. The Brazilian Minister in London, if so required by the British Government, will pay, under protest, whatever sum may be demanded for the owner of the Prince of Wales. With respect to the treatment sustained by the officers of the Forts, it shall be submitted to the arbitration of the King of the Belgians to decide whether or not such treatment can be regarded as an outrage upon the honor of the British navy.

The whole affair looks very small on the part of the British government. It looks very much like bullying a weak government, while at the same time it bears patiently with outrages from one that can bully it back again.

We see it stated in the news brought by some recent arrivals, that the instructions sent to the Ministers of France, Spain, and other powers, at Brazil, take grounds against the action of the British Minister and Admiral.

COUNTERFEITS.—We were shown this morning a spurious two dollar and a half piece, purporting to be U. S. gold coin. This, with about a hundred like it was found on the body of a defunct soldier from that *friendly* region the "great North West." Said Northwestern sympathiser was killed last Fall, near the Cumberland Gap. In addition to the spurious gold the aforesaid Northwestern friend of ours had three hundred dollars of counterfeit "Confed."

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Will you allow me to call the attention of the military authorities to the manner in which the soldiers (?) confined in the "Military Jail" are *allowed* to treat every passer by. On yesterday any one passing along the side-walk had to be watchful or else he would be struck by some missile thrown from the upper windows. The men [?] confined there are tearing the plastering from the walls, and dropping it upon any one who may happen to pass. Must this state of things be submitted to in silence? or will the officer in charge see that a stop is put to it *at once?*

A CITIZEN.

We can endorse what our correspondent says, so far as the throwing or dropping of things on the heads of passers-by is concerned, for we *saw* it this morning, and perhaps escaped it by *shying* off.

The whole arrangement strikes us as being rather unruly, and we think might be improved. We do not wish to reflect upon anybody, least of all upon the soldiers, but men acting without order or discipline may be very good men, naturally, but they are hardly soldiers.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Can't you induce the managers of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad to keep their passenger cars in a more cleanly condition? Is there no soap, no brooms, no water, no men to be had, to keep them in a decent order? Seriously, if more attention is not given to this matter, the yellow fever, or some other malignant plague or pestilence, will be engendered on board said cars before the 1st of July next. Where is Captain Fremont?

Also, can't some of the Conductors be induced to be civil and kind to sick and wounded men? It is a shameful truth, that our soldiers are sometimes treated by some consequential Conductors and other Railroad employees, (who ought to be in the ranks of the soldiery,) more as intruders, as beasts or animals, than as brave men, who are exposing their health and lives, and sacrificing their all for the sacred cause of independence. Where is President Wallace?—Will he not induce a reform, or have such men conscripted? And will not he and the Superintendent see to it that water, fires, good seats, &c., are provided for these sick and wounded men who are daily being transported over their Road? The laws of Congress, patriotism, humanity, common justice, all demand a change upon Railroads in this and other respects.

And how happens it that the produce and ill-gotten gains of speculators and extortioners are carried over our different Rail Roads, when at the same time ransportation is denied to the subsistence of the wives and children of our soldiers; denied to Hospital Stores for sick and wounded men, and denied to those "good men and true" who in contact with the greedy shirks of the speculating tribe, are devoting themselves, mind, soul, body and purse to the good of the cause? I would not insinuate that the Presidents, Superintendents and Managers of the Roads allow this to be done. They are too just and patriotic to tolerate it, when such conduct comes to their knowledge. But in these days of increasing crime, licentiousness, and corruption, they will not take it amiss in me to remind them that subordinate officials are some times unable to resist the tempting bait of a little extra pay.

The suggestions embodied in these remarks are made in a spirit of friendship to the Road, and of kindness to its excellent President and Superintendent. But public opinion, sanctioned and sustained by the demands of patriotism, is not satisfied with the management of affairs, and the sooner the proper authorities realize this, the better it will be for the Road.

AN ARMY OFFICER.

March 19th, 1863

We dislike to publish anything against any of our Railroads, but the above communication comes from a gentleman occupying a high position in the Medical Department of our army, and we feel bound to publish it, so that if the grievances exist, as charged, they may be remedied—if not they may be disproved.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In a late number of your paper, you mentioned that Joseph Green,* Esq., of Brunswick County, had exhibited to you a specimen of potash of his own making; and remark upon it, that the article ought to be made in large quantities, in the Confederate States. Having had some little experience, recently, in this business, I beg leave to give it, through your columns, for the benefit of your readers. If potash was abundant, toilet soap, which now commands an extraordinary price, would soon come within the reach of men of moderate means. The object of my writing is to enable your country readers, especially, who have abundance of oak and hickory ashes, to become independent of Hull & Sons, or any other manufacturers, either in the United States or in Europe. I give you the process which I followed, and as I succeeded pretty well, I doubt not all your readers can, who will make the effort.

I took ten bushels of ashes, and saturated them with the boiling water, not putting on enough, however, to make the water commence dripping. They were then put in the ash-hopper, and allowed to remain four or five days. The object of this (called "rotting" by the negro women,) was to give time for the water to absorb the potash, in the ashes. Then I poured in, in the course of several hours, about 30 gallons of boiling water, which soon commenced dripping a strong ley. After dripping had ceased, I put in the ordinary clothes' boiler, about 20 gallons, filling it about two thirds full, and commenced boiling. As the water evaporated, or was likely to boil over, I poured in more ley until all was used. After boiling eight or ten hours, the mass became thick as molasses in cold weather, when it was removed to a small pot for finishing. A fire was put under and around the small pot, and the mass stirred with an iron rod, until the pot became red hot. It was kept at this heat for an hour, when the fire was removed and the potash taken out with a chisel and mallet. I weighed it and found I had eighteen pounds. It was then placed in well stopped jars, to prevent deliquescence.

From this experiment, and the fact that the ashes were not thoroughly leached, I conclude that a bushel of oak or hickory ashes will yield at least two and half pounds of good potash.

Having the potash, I determined to be independent of the blockade, and I concluded to try the business of soap making, and proceeded as follows—part of which will be found in the U. S. Dispensatory. Two pounds of potash were dissolved in a gallon of boiling water, and one pound of quick lime was slacked in the same quantity of water. The two liquors were then mixed and boiled for ten minutes, and put into a covered vessel to cool. When cool, the clear ley was poured off into a vessel, and the balance dripped through a towel. This yielded the water of caustic potash, the very article for making soap. Then five or six pounds of lard were melted in two gallons of water, in the boiler or pot, and when boiling commenced, I put in about a half pint of the caustic ley. After stirring for a few minutes, more ley was added, and so on, until all was used.—Water was occasionally poured in to replace that which evaporated. In two or three hours, the grease was "cutup" and the mass became thick as honey. Then I poured in 10 oz. of common salt, dissolved in water, and boiled for about a half hour. The result was, I had a good hard *soda* soap, and enough to last my family for a whole year. The Chloride of sodium (common salt) in boiling, made a combination with the soap, and changed it from *potash* to a *soda* soap, and therefore much better for washing the skin.

You will say that "the proof of the pudding is in chewing the bag." You shall chew it, for when I next come to Wilmington, I will bring you a *small* piece, which I will warrant quite as good as Colgate's and very far cheaper. Any man in the country can make his toilet soap at a cost of not more than thirty cents a pound, and save the 500 per cent. profits made by the manufacturer and the blockade runner.

R. L. W.

Richmond county, March 15th, 1863

*The potash was made on Mr. Green's plantation, but exhibited to us by another gentleman—Mr. Green's son-in-law. EDS. JOURNAL.

In a late number of the London *Index*, received at this office, we find the following extract from an article in the *Edinburg Review*, in reference to the question of the recognition of the Confederate States and the establishment of direct intercourse with them. It may be interesting, although not, perhaps, important:—

With respect to America, the reviewer treats us to a very able and valuable argument as to the right and duty of recognition. There are three degrees of recognition,—First, the bare recognition of belligerent rights; second, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the seceding States, accompanied by treaties of commerce and amity; third, a direct alliance amounting to interference in the quarrel. The first we were bound to make, the second we may make according to the prospects of the war and our own interests; and this moral recognition is not "a ground for remonstrance, much less of war."

It has been argued with considerable ability and authority, that foreign States are not warranted by the law of nations in extending their recognition to a province or colony contending for its independence, unless the contest be already terminated by the admission of the mother State, or unless, at least, the contest is so far advanced as to leave no doubt of the ultimate success of the separatists, and of the fact that they have actually established a lasting independent Government.

These propositions appear to us to call for some further investigation by the light of precedents and of principles. It would be easy to quote numerous examples of a different, perhaps an opposite character. Thus to go back as far as the sixteenth century, at the time of the insurrection of the Netherlands against Spain, England at once entered into negotiations with them, and when they declared their independence in 1585, English agents were sent to Antwerp, and a treaty of alliance was concluded in the same year; yet the manifesto of Elizabeth, proclaiming her interests in the Low Countries, did not lead to an immediate rupture with Spain, though it was ultimately followed by war. The independence of the Netherlands was recognized by all the Powers of Europe, before it was acknowledged (in 1648) by Spain. In 1860, the Portuguese threw off the Spanish yoke, and raised the House of Braganza to the throne; the independence of Portugal was recognized within a year by England, France, and the Northern Courts; Spain only acknowledged the loss of the subject kingdom in 1668. These precedents were invoked by the American emissaries of 1777 to the Court of France; and within twenty months of the Declaration of Independence, France consented to espouse the cause of the young Republic. It is true that this was done on grounds of policy avowedly hostile to England, to avenge the loss of Canada fifteen years before. But the French rested their right to recognize the American Government on the simple fact that they were "in full possession" of their independence The answer of the Court of St. James's was drawn up by Gibbon, and may be read in the fourth volume of his miscellaneous works; but he treats the question as an act of treacherous hostility, and repudiates, not so much the recognition, as the intervention, of a foreign State.

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The next case was that of Greece, which it also fell to the lot of Mr. Canning to decide. When the Greek insurrection broke out in 1820, the British Government professed, and designed to maintain, a strict neutrality; but it was compelled, in obedience to the principles we have already adverted to, to acknowledge the belligerent character of the insurgents. In spite of the heroic resistance of the Greeks to the Turkish armies, they were, at the end of five or six years, exhausted by the unequal contest.—Mr. Cannisg proffered the mediation of England, but it was indignantly rejected by the Porte. At length, in 1826, a protocol was signed by the Duke of Wellington at St. Petersburg, which virtually recognized the independence of Greece, at least on the footing of the other Christian Hospodarates. Turkey still resisted; and at length the battle of Navarino and the peace of Adrianope settled the question. In this case it is important to remark that the Christian Powers interfered and recognized the independence of Greece *not because the contest was over*, or because there was any well-grounded hope of the triumph of the insurgents, *but precisely for the opposite reason.* In 1826 it was apparent that the Greeks could not maintain their independence—that they must be beaten, if left to struggle single-handed against the whole power of Mahmoud—and therefore, on grounds of humanity and policy, the Christian Powers interposed, even by force of arms, to extort from Turkey the recognition of their freedom.

On the last case, which is that of Belgium, it is hardly necessary to dwell, though in this case also France and England proceeded to recognize the independence of Belgium, not because that independence was already virtually established, but on the contrary, because it could not have been established without their recognition and support.—The King of the Netherlands had, in the first instance, appealed to the Conference to uphold the Treaties of 1815, which had placed Belgium under his sceptre. Two of the Powers refused to support his pretensions. They even compelled him to yield to terms, and terminated the quarrel by overruling almost all his claims.

With due respect, therefore, for the claims of a people now struggling with great difficulties and perils, and with entire deference to the principles of justice and law which may fairly be applied to the subject, we arrive at the conclusion that the conduct of the European Powers, and of England in particular, ought to be governed, not by any exact one consideration for either party in the United or disunited States, not by any imaginary restriction of law, but by the interest of our own fellow subjects rightly understood. We hold that the war has continued long enough to give us full liberty of action; and we think it may fairly be assumed that whatever be the result of the struggle, it cannot restore the Union to its former condition. For all practical purposes, as regards the Southern States, the Union has ceased to exist. But owing to the terms of the late American Constitution, the Union alone represented the members of which it was federally composed in their foreign relations. Hence we are led back to the argument Mr Canning applied to the case of the Spanish Colonies when he pointed out the absurdity of "the total irresponsibility of unrecognized States." Europe has many and great interests in the South: how are they to be protected? how are her rights to be enforced? An appeal to the Cabinet of Washington against an outrage in Alabama would be a bootless absurdity. Even the Federal treaties can no longer be enforced in Southern ports, where foreign Consuls have now no more than a nominal authority. It is only by direct intercourse with the rulers of the South that these necessary conditions of daily life can be renewed. This state of things cannot last. A population of eight or ten millions, inhabiting a vast maritime territory, cannot be obliterated. Quite independently of any feeling for either side in this quarrel, and without any hostility to the North, the time is approaching when our relations with both fractions of the country must be placed on the same footing.—Our policy ought not to be governed either by sympathy or hostility to either party, but by "the plain and legitimate interests of the nation," which is confided to the Ministers of the Crown.

Proposition for an Armistice—Fernando Wood.

Under this heading the *Herald* publishes the following:

To the Editor of the Evening Post:

At a meeting held at Stamford, Conn., on Tuesday evening last, I said that propositions for an armistice, or peace, had been submitted to the President on the 12th of December last, which, had they been accepted, would have terminated this war by the 1st of April upon a basis satisfactory to the people, North and South. In referring to this statement you ask:

'Who made these propositions for an armistice or peace, the adoption of which Mr Wood pretends to believe 'would have tottled the matter' by all-fool's day. If so, how does Mr. Wood know anything about them? Has he been in secret correspondence with the enemy? Or were they made by some of the anti-war men here? If so, who authorized them; and what are the terms of the propositions from which Mr. Wood hopes so much? If they are honorable to the nation, if they are such as 'patriotic Americans ought to favor, why not make them public at once?"

To which I say, in reply, that the statement referred to by me, was made deliberately, with a full and personal knowledge of the facts, and that I am constrained from the publicity of them only by the request of one of the principal officers of the Government. When this interdiction shall be withdrawn I will cheerfully gratify your curiosity.

Very respectfully,

FERNANDO WOOD

March 11, 1863

The Army and the Contrabands—What will the Yankees do with the "Elephant?"

A correspondent of the Boston *Courier*, writing from the West says:

Cairo, you know, is a military post. From my hotel window I see gunboats, steamboats under arrest, army supplies and ammunition, soldiers' barracks, and last, and most revolting of them all, the freedmen's quarters. If I did ever have a doubt about the policy of the abolition of slavery, humanity shudders at the awful condition of the negroes here, and justice is outraged by the sending them away from their homes. They are huddled together in very foul places, suffering and dying from exposure and disease. They are dying at the rate of about a dozen a day. Small pox is very prevalent.

They will not work. They are freemen, and their idea of liberty is freedom from work. I saw, this morning a captain loading grain for the army down the river. He had a gang of fifty, and they would not work. A half a score of Irishmen would perform more labor than all of them. They all want to go home, and, if the Government would allow it they would all go back. We have taken upon ourselves a contract to fight for, feed, cloath, and bury four millions of negroes. That is the plain statement of fact.

Our army about Vicksburg is in a lamentable condition—more than a third are sick. They are camped in the lowland. The Mississippi is now rising, and if it continues to rise the camps will be submerged. No boat comes from below without bringing more or less coffins, and no train leaves here without the remains of more or less gallant soldiers. The war is a dreadful reality here. The soldiers, God bless them, are resolute and hopeful, ready to fight for, and if need be, die for the old flag and the old Constitution, but not for the negro.

THE Kinston correspondent of the Raleigh *State Journal*, under date of the 19th inst. says:

Our troops have all returned from the late expedition against Newbern. What Gen. Hill intended to accomplish by the movement, I am not able to say.—But there is one thing evident, Gen. Hill has succeeded in his undertaking, let it be what it may, and it will doubtless work for good in the end.

There is a certain class of people down here who are disposed to condemn Gen. Hill for this movement, from the fact he did not take Newbern, but it is generally amongst those black coat gentry who have refuge for their personal safety behind the exemption bill.

Gen. Pettegrew has left Barrington's Ferry, and is now moving in another direction,—he encamped night before last at Big Swift Creek. I am not able to give you full details of his expedition, but I learn that he has been doing some good fighting since he left here. Gen. P., lost but 4 men killed, and 17 wounded, in the engagement with the enemy at Barrington's. The Yankee loss is said to be 40 killed, and many more wounded.

Gen. Pettegrew planted his artillery at Petteway's Ferry, two miles this side of Barrington's, and shelled the enemy's encampment across the Neuse, situated in the Fair Grounds adjoining the town of Newbern.—He could have shelled the city with all ease, but would not do so from the fact that he did not desire to distress and destroy the poor unfortunate women and children living therein.

Gen. Robinson made a dash with his cavalry into the enemy's lines, a few miles above Newport river, and demolished a half a mile of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad—but burned no bridges as was first supposed.

Gen. Daniel was with Gen. Hill at the running of the Federalist and capturing of the Yankees and Buffalo at Deep Gully.

HOW A MAN FEELS IN BATTLE.—There can be nothing more puzzling than the analysis of one's feeling on the battle-field. You cannot describe them satisfactorily to yourself or others. To march steadily up to the mouths of a hundred cannon while they pour out fire and smoke, and shot and shell in a storm that mows the men like grass, is horrible beyond description—appalling. It is absurd to say a man can do it without fear. During Hancock's charge at Fredericksburg, for a long distance the slope was swept by such a hurricane of death that we thought every step would be our last, and I am willing to say, for one, that I was pretty badly scared. Whatever may be said about "getting used to it," old soldiers secretly dread a battle equally with new ones. But the most difficult thing to stand up under is the suspense while waiting, as we waited in Fredericksburg, drawn up in line of battle on the edge of the field, watching the columns file past us and disappear in a cloud of smoke, where horses and men and colors go down in confusion, where all sounds are lost in the screaming shells, the cracking of musketry, the thunder of artillery, and knowing our own turn comes next, expecting each moment the word "Forward." It brings a strange kind of relief when "Forward" comes.—You move mechanically with the rest. Once fairly in for it, your sensibilities are strangely blunted, you care comparatively nothing about the sights that shocked you at first; men torn to pieces by cannon shot, becomes a matter of course. At such a time, there comes a latent sustenance from within us, or above us, which no man anticipates who has not been in such a place before, and which most men pass through life without knowing anything about. What is it? Where does it come from?

PLANT PROVISIONS.—If the war continues through Lincoln's administration, as is likely, provisions will be scarcer next year than this. If peace should occur during the year, the high prices show that provisions will be seriously needed in any such contingency. It is prudent and patriotic, and, in fact, essentially a duty, to plant largely of provisions. Every one able should put in a double crop of provisions. In case of peace and good times, the next year's crop may then be pitched for profit; but for this year, let all plant largely of provisions.

South Carolinian.

We would also urge upon the farmers generally the absolute necessity of planting extensive provision crops. Let this matter be attended to in time.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE REVENUE BILL.

RICHMOND, March 20th, 1863.

It is reported that the tax bill provides for raising four hundred millions by the levy of a tax of one per cent. on the gross sales; one on gross profits; one on salaries under fifteen hundred; two on all over that amount; one on the value of property, etc No one to be taxed but once on the same property.

SNOW IN VIRGINIA.

PETERSBURG, March 20th, 1863.

Snow commenced falling yesterday forenoon and has continued without intermission ever since. It is now falling rapidly. The trains North and South must have been much delayed, but they are all in.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., March 20, 1863.

Northern dates of the 18th inst. have been received.

Rumors are still rife that Vicksburg has been evacuated, and it is supposed that the greater part of the rebels would go to Chattanooga, to overwhelm Rosecranz.

The New York Times says that a combined attack on Vicksburg may be looked for daily, for it will be impossible for Grant to leave the men and vessels of the Yazoo expedition where they now are. It was probably intended that all the movements were to be simultaneous.

The war news generally is unimportant. The Yankees claim various successes over our cavalry in Tennessee.

The price of gold fell off ¾ per cent on the 16th. Government credits firm.

The privateer Florida coaled at Barbadoes on the 24th ult., leaving on the 25th. Wilkes knew of her whereabouts before leaving St Thomas.

M. Galliardet writes from Paris, on the 27th February, that an insurrection has broken out in Hungary, corresponding with that in Poland. He mentions the rumor that Napoleon will recall the French army from Mexico, and treat with Juarez upon a report by Gen. Forney that the popularity of the Mexican President insures his re-election by universal suffrages. It is added that the French Emperor wishes to avoid a conflict with the Northern States, through the aid they offer the Mexicans, and the unpleasant relations between Seward and Mercier, and the refusal of the Washington Cabinet to accept the last proposition of France.

IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE—A CHANGE OF BASE BY ROSECRANS' ARMY.—GRANT'S ARMY MOVING VIA NORTH ALABAMA—COL. DUKE'S CAPTURE OF PICKETS AND STORES.

CHATTANOOGA, March 19, 1863.

The news of the evacuation of Murfreesboro' by the enemy is positively confirmed. Our pickets are four miles the other side of that place. It is reported that the enemy has changed his base to Columbia, Tenn., and that Grant's army is coming up via North Alabama to effect a junction with Rosecranz

Gen. Van Dorn is still on the North side of Duck River.

A portion of Cox's division from Western Virginia is advancing from Woodbury and Carthage towards McMinnville, upon General Wheeler's cavalry.

Colonel Duke's regiment of General Morgan's command, has captured sixteen of the enemy's picket guard in front of Lexington, Ky., and brought off a large supply of stores.

FROM TENNESSEE.

CHATTANOOGA, March 19th, 1863.

No movement of importance is reported from the front. The enemy have fallen back from Murfreesboro', but our forces have not advanced as yet. The movement is thought to be a feint by Rosecranz.

A gentleman from Kentucky says that ten thousand reinforcements, by way of Louisville, and 5 regiments from Clarkesville, have been sent to Rosecranz.

A Yankee column, 15,000 strong, is reported crossing the Tennessee river at Savannah, to march by way of Huntsville.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS—THE ROADS.

RICHMOND, March 21st, 1863.

The Senate was not in session to day. The House passed the Senate bill to increase the efficiency of heavy artillery for coast defence, and then went into secret session on the tax bill.

A light rain has been falling here to day. The roads are in the worst possible condition from the snow and rain.

THE SNOW STORM IN VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, March 21st, 1863.

Snow commenced falling here yesterday afternoon, and the ground is now covered to the depth of several inches. The snow is still coming down fast. The storm promises to continue during the day.

FROM PORT HUDSON.

PORT HUDSON, March 21, 1863.

Reports of the sinking of the sloop-of-war Richmond, from injuries received in the fight on the 15th inst., prevail here. Nothing definite, however, has been ascertained. The mortar boats still occupy their old position, out of range below. Yesterday the enemy fired slowly at our transports; burned the residence of Capt. J. Hern, formerly that of Col. Sidney Roberson on the opposite shore. Some activity has prevailed among the enemy's transports for the last two days. There is no indications of another attempt to pass our batteries.

Twenty deserters have arrived within the last two days, and they are continually coming in. They confirm previous reports of the demoralization of Banks' army.

Our batteries sustained no injury in the engagement, and they are ready at all times to give the enemy a warm reception.

ROSECRANZ FALLING BACK, &c.

CHATTANOOGA, March 20th, 1863.

The falling back of the enemy from Murfreesboro' is fully confirmed. It is supposed they have gone towards Nashville.

Passengers by this morning's train report that three Yankee brigades went down the Cumberland river a few days ago, supposed for the purpose of reinforcing the enemy at Vicksburg.

VanDorn is reported to be on the North side of Duck river, the enemy having fallen back from Franklin.

No movements of either army yet.

Mrs. Gen. Bragg is dangerously ill at Winchester.

The bridge over Holstein at Zollicoffer, has been completed.

LORING WHIPS THE ENEMY BACK—FROM PORT HUDSON.

MOBILE, Ala., March 21, 1863.

The Advertiser and Register has the following semi-official dispatch:

FORT PEMBERTON, March 21, 1863.

Gen. Loring has whipped the enemy back from this point. They are now in full retreat for the Yazoo Pass.

A special dispatch to the Appeal dated Panola, the 19th says: The Federals engaged in the raid upon Hernando have retreated. The report of their having abandoned the Memphis and Charleston rail road is untrue. Old troops are being replaced by new ones. The old garrison has been taken to Memphis.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad has been abandoned from Jackson, Tenn., to Oblumbus, Ky.

Five hundred cavalry have crossed Coldwater river, sixty miles Northeast of here, and moved toward Holly Springs.

The Appeal learns of no new movements at Port Hudson. Banks has fallen back to his fortified camps and manifests no disposition to advance. Deserters continued to come in. They all report disaffection in their camps.—The fleet continues outside the two trestles above and have been slowly steaming up the river. They landed and cut down a few poles of the telegraph line, carrying off the wire below Natchez. The damage was quickly repair afterwards.

SHELLING THE GEORGIANA.

CHARLESTON, March 22nd, 1863.

The enemy has been shelling the wreck of the Georgiana, which still lies off Long Island beach. Otherwise all quiet.

[Let them shell to their heart's content.—JOUR.]

Profits of Extortion.

That our readers may have some idea of the enormous profits now being made by a certain class of extortioners, we take the following extract from the Richmond Esquirer of the 3d instant:

For instance—take the Crenshaw Woolen Factory and the Belvidere Paper Manufacturing Company. These concerns were lately examined before a committee of the Virginia House of Delegates on Extortion, and business facts of a startling character were brought to light.

President Crenshaw deposed on oath, that his company, on a cash capital of $200,000, had declared and divided a dividend of $480,000 with $100,000 "subject dividend, should the directors think it desirable.

President Whitfield, of the Paper Mill, deposed on oath, that the net profits for the years 1860, 1861 and 1862 combined, amounted to $336,750, on an "actual capital of $41,000," and he added, that "fully three fourths of the dividend mentioned above, was made in 1862," or $175,000 profits in one year on $41,000 of actual capital. A stockholder of the Belvidere Manufacturing Company informed us that since the war began, he had received dividends on $1,000 of shares, amounting to $4,450—an amount which he considered, if not extortionary, at least immoderate, and he donated the whole amount to the army. This man was Mr. J. W. Randolph, Bookseller, of Richmond.

SPECULATION

It seem to us, not to be a good sign to see such a spirit of speculation rampant among us. Nearly every fellow, (we beg parden) nearly every man, who is able to raise a fifty dollar Confederate note, seems to feel it his bounden duty to engage in some kind of speculation or other We have known an old ox, to pass through two or three hands in the course of one short day in our street, and *large* profits realized at each sale. A large cart or a bacon wagon cannot advance fifty yards into any of our streets without being immediately invested by a swarm of these *hungry* worthies—we said hungry, but we don't mean belly-hunger, we mean pocket hunger.

We would in all kindness intimate to those gentlemen, that in these war times, when the fear that our soldiers may suffer for the want of something to eat is expressed everywhere, that speculation and patriotism are not twin brothers. What gaineth a man if he get the whole world and lose his own soul, or what is a man's money worth, if he has to *enjoy* it, under the yoke of subjugation? A word to the wise we hope is sufficient.

Tarboro Southerner.

Yankee Cunning.

Running the blockade from Nassau with English goods appears to be the easiest thing in the world, although the Yankee fleet outside the bar at Charleston, our principal port of entry, rarely numbers less than fifteen or twenty vessels. Considering the natural vigilance and love of plunder of the Yankees,