



PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 1875.

Notwithstanding the order made by the House of Representatives, early in the session yesterday, to consider Mr. Hartridge's yellow fever resolutions to-day, at a later hour a motion to adjourn till Monday was adopted, and neither House of Congress was in session to-day.

The debates in Congress are too prolix and too uninteresting for the newspapers to publish them in extenso. They have to be summarized in order to be readable. From reading Monday's proceedings of the U. S. House of Representatives, as thus summarized, we learned, and so stated the next day, that Gen. Hutton had urged the passage of a bill for the payment of fifteen millions of dollars to contractors in the District of Columbia. The General informs us that we have done him injustice, and that he was only advocating a bill to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to audit certain claims against the District, and for funding the same, and that the amount so to be funded was not fifteen millions, but only twelve or thirteen hundred thousand dollars. We are glad to make the correction, on the General's account, our own and the country's—to gratify the General's wish for a correction, our wish always to be corrected when wrong, and the country's desire to be economical, during these hard times, as possible. And then, too, as the claims, for the payment of which provision is to be made, originated during the reign of the famous Board of Public Works, it's better in every way that the amount involved should be as small as possible. The General, however, will readily see how natural it was for us to be led into the error of which he complains, when he refers to the official verbatim proceedings of the House of Representatives on Monday last, as published in the report of the debate on the bill referred to, reads the following, which is found on page 16, and which sustains, in a remarkable degree, the correctness of the summary upon which we based our statement:

"Mr. Townsend, of Illinois.—The bill limits the amount to \$15,000,000 of bonds heretofore and to be hereafter issued. The gentleman from Virginia insists there are some honest claims unadjusted which ought to be adjusted. Does he not know it is asserted that the amount of claims of this nature against the District are far in excess of fifteen millions? And if they are in excess of fifteen millions, I wish to know why, in accordance with the rules laid down by the gentleman, he should limit the amount to fifteen millions and leave some just claims unadjusted.

Mr. Hutton—I do not know that the claims are of any such amount. On the contrary, as far as my knowledge extends, fifteen millions will cover all claims embraced in the bill and the sum of fifteen millions was arrived at from the report of the commissioners of the District.

A member.—Why do you limit the amount to fifteen millions? Because it is sufficient to cover the whole amount.

Mr. Blackburn—I wish to ask the gentleman from Virginia before he sits down if he will accept an amendment covering the point I stated a short time ago?

[Which was that some of the claimants had told him they had sold their claims at heavy discounts and are now paid fees by the brokers who bought them to work on the sympathies of the committee and the House.]

Mr. Hutton—I am not authorized to accept an amendment.

The New York Journal of Commerce, one of the most reliable newspapers in the country, published an article a day or two ago on the proposed new tariff, in which it intimated some doubt about the passage of Mr. Wood's bill, and stated that the Western and Southern members had grown lukewarm in its support. Now if there be one branch of information upon which the newspaper to which we refer is especially correct it is that relating to the commerce of the country, and as the Virginia delegation in Congress invariably vote with the other Southern members, except when balloting for presiding officers of the House, we naturally concluded that they were included among those to whom the Journal of Commerce alluded, especially as we had seen no previous reference to any help they had afforded Mr. Wood, and under that impression we stated, a day or two ago, that Mr. Wood received no assistance from the Virginia delegation in his laudable and praiseworthy efforts to approximate free trade as near as possible. A note from Mr. Wood in another column, we are glad to say, presents the matter in an entirely different aspect. If there be one National object toward the accomplishment of which Virginia, not only as essentially an agricultural State, but in every other light in which her interests can be viewed, should lead a firm and united support, it is free trade, and we are gratified to know that her representatives in Congress agree with us on this question.

Seventy-five million dollars' worth of U. S. bonds have been returned from Europe since the agitation of the silver question. Upon the idea that it strengthens a government to have its indebtedness at home, this is favorable, but, on the other hand, it very much resembles a run on a bank, and such an occurrence we all know is conducive neither to the future credit nor present prosperity of a bank.

The March number of the American reprint of Blackwood's has been received from its publishers, the Leonard Scott Publishing Company of New York. Contents: Mine is Thine; The North American Fisheries and the Halifax Commission (about which there is now so much talk); New Books—Lessing: his Life and Writings; Charles Brancotti: A Biography, North Italian Folks, Marmora, The City of Sunshine, a novel; French Home Life; The Storm in the East, and England and Russia.

The negroes of Richmond and Washington have, like those in other sections of the country, become excited upon the different colonization schemes now proposed to them. Some want to go to Liberia, some to the West, and some to remain where they are. The more sensible belong to the last mentioned class. If the negroes now congregated in the cities, where, by thierying, in all stages, they find the means to gratify their ill-humors and lowest passions, would separate, go to the country, and work on the farms, and be content to stay there, they would all soon have good, comfortable homes for themselves and families, be healthy and happy, and be respected by the people among whom their lot was originally cast, and who, both by nature and interest, ought to be and are their best friends.

While the result of the investigation of the charges recently preferred against Dr. C. W. Chancellor, one of the Board of Directors of the Spring Grove Insane Asylum, in Maryland, is not at all unexpected to the Doctor's numerous friends in this city and throughout the State, they will be glad to learn that the refutation has been so complete that the Baltimore News, in speaking of it, says:—

"The investigation at Annapolis of the charges made against Dr. Chancellor, as a member of the Board of Managers of Spring Grove Asylum, has resulted in that gentleman's complete exoneration, there being no testimony to sustain even the most frivolous specifications."

Secretary Thompson has given another evidence of the true inwardness of Mr. Platt, one of the former carpet-bag Congressmen from Virginia, implicating him in a fraudulent timber contract. If the rules of reasoning applicable to other people apply to carpet-baggers—of which we have some doubt—the extent to which they pushed their villainy during their reign in the South was unlimited; that is estimating the amount of it as yet unknown from that already discovered.

Complaints are frequent of the irregularity in the receipt of the Gazette along the line of the Manassas Branch of the Virginia Midland Railroad. As the fault is not with us, the attention of those having the mail in charge is respectfully requested.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Hutton introduced a bill to reorganize the system of superintendents and assistant superintendents of the postal railway service, which was referred.

Disastrous Explosion.

The boiler of Wm. M. Hall's sawmill, eight miles from Richmond, exploded yesterday, killing a son of the proprietor, and two colored employes, and seriously injuring another son of the proprietor. Later intelligence not only confirms, but greatly increases the extent of the casualties. When the boiler, which was 25 horse power, exploded, a number of persons were at work in the mill. Five persons were killed. Their names were J. C. Thorp (white) two colored men, and two sons of the proprietor, aged respectively 7 and 11 years. Seven others, including the engineer, were injured, two of them fatally. The explosion is supposed to have been caused by carelessness in allowing the boiler to get empty and then turning cold water into it.

At the time the accident occurred Mr. William M. Hall, the manager, was standing near the twenty-five horse power engine. It was not running, as the saw was then being adjusted. There was no gauge on the boiler, but the safety valve, which had been set some time before, indicated 100 pounds of steam, and was blowing off. The engineer was standing near the fire box, and the negroes and Mr. Hall's two boys—the latter playing—were under the shed.

The engineer called to the Sawyer, "hurry up and fix your machine. The water is low and I must start up." Almost the next moment, and before the sound of his words had died away, the boiler burst with a terrific report, and every individual, works, shed and lumber were blown in all directions. For a considerable period the air was thick with smoke, steam, dust, particles of debris, and when these had cleared away the scene of the wreck was horrible to witness.

A negro named Barkie Thomas was blown high into the air, and descending, his body fell in a pine tree, part of his clothing and flesh being held to the branches. His remains present a ghastly spectacle—a mass of seared flesh and mangled bones.

The body of Gordon Rollins was blown into the creek, fifty feet off. It was scalded, and half of his head was taken off and was not found.

Joseph Hall, son of the manager, was horribly mangled, his brains being dashed over the earth a distance of 100 feet from the boiler.

Edgar Hall, another son, was not killed instantly, but his skull was crushed in and his brains protruded through the fractures. He died soon afterward at the residence of his father, a mile off.

John C. Thorp, the Sawyer, was buried in the debris of the building and when rescued was alive and lived for an hour and a half.

The engineer was scalded all over the body and was injured internally. In his wounded condition he managed to get up and ran a mile to Mr. Hall's residence. But his injuries are fatal.

A large piece of the boiler, weighing about two thousand pounds, was carried about five hundred feet, and another immense piece was thrown about eight hundred feet into a ploughed field.

The accident is chiefly attributed to the water being low in the boiler at the time. But the boiler was an old one that had recently been repaired, and was without that essential apparatus, a steam gauge.

Virginia News.

The farmers' tobacco warehouse, the factories of Keen & Keen, L. P. Stowell & Co., R. L. Jones, Embrey & Redd, J. T. Keen, and Arnott & Wemple, the African First Baptist Church, four cheap tenement houses on High street, two storehouses on Union street, and two tenement houses on Face's alley, in Danville, were destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Other buildings were more or less damaged. Half a million pounds of leaf tobacco and 50,000 pounds of manufactured were lost. The total loss is \$50,000; insurance \$50,000.

Thursday morning an accident caused the residence of Mr. J. B. White, at Muddy Creek, Princess Anne county, to take fire, and the dwelling, with its contents, was totally destroyed. An infant child in sight of those who were unable to save it. Mr. White was away on a fishing frolic at the time, and Mrs. White had only stepped a short distance from the house, returned to find her home wrapped in flames and her only child roasting alive.

Capt. W. H. Powle, formerly of this city, is now the Staunton agent of the Virginia Brotherhood Insurance Company, of Quincy Co.

The sheepfolds of B. E. Uptide, Thomas Maddox and Mrs. Rowles, in Rappahannock county, were raided upon by dogs last week.

Foreign News.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

A special from St. Petersburg says rumors are in circulation that Russia has demanded that the British fleet quit the Sea of Marmora immediately.

The correspondent has reason to believe that these reports, although exaggerated, are not entirely unfounded, and that Russia is about to make representations in regard to the British fleet. Minister Layard's opposition to the embarkation of Russian troops at Buyukdere has caused great irritation. An inspired article in the Journal de Petersburg attracts much attention. It points to the continuance of the fleet in the Sea of Marmora in defiance of international law, and asks if it is not time to ask England what she really wants. Europe should call England before her judgment seat, and summon her to reenter the sphere of international law by quitting the Straits and formally engaging not to return. Semi-official hints are given that if England does not wish to attend the Congress it will meet without her.

A Russian naval attaché at Berlin, who is a leading authority on torpedoes, has suddenly been ordered home.

In connection with the foregoing intelligence it should be stated that rumors were circulating in the lobbies of Parliament last night that the tone in English official circles is decidedly warlike.

A Paris correspondent bears that Russia has forced Turkey to acquiesce in a secret agreement, according to which Russia would assist Turkey against a Greco-Bosnian combination, or against the entry of the British fleet to the Bosphorus or Dardanelles, largely diminish the indemnity and guarantee the integrity of the remaining Turkish territory, receiving in turn a directing power over the revenue of the Porte.

A telegram from Vienna states that Roumania has refused to receive independence at the hands of Russia, or permit the passage of Russian troops through her territory during the occupation of Bulgaria.

A dispatch from Athens says:—"All admit that Greece should decline to take part in the Eastern question, but that Austria, who is a Belgrade special reports that all Austrians in Serbia liable to military service have been ordered to return home."

The North German Gazette says it is evident that Russia regards war with England as inevitable, and knows she was never better able to wage it than now.

There is an unconfirmed rumor in circulation that a revolution has broken out in Roumania, and that Prince Charles has fled.

The St. Petersburg Agency Russe says England has not yet replied in regard to the Congress. She still insists upon her demand that all the conditions of peace be submitted, notwithstanding the text of the treaty has been communicated to the Cabinets and Russia has agreed to complete freedom of discussion at the Congress. The chances of the Congress meeting have diminished.

The police organized in Adrianople have committed various excesses, and pillaged last week houses containing the property of Turks and Frenchmen, which had been confined to the care of the French Consulate.

Preparations are making to give a warm reception to Ghazi Osman, who is expected to arrive at Pera on Monday.

The negotiations between Hobart Pasha and the insurgents have ended, Hobart refusing to recognize the provisional government of Thessaly.

A Rome correspondent says:—"It is understood that the foreign policy of the new Government will be that of strict neutrality on the Eastern question. Italy will, however, exert to the utmost her influence in the Congress to oppose Russian predominance in Europe by seeking to extend the Hellenic Kingdom and constituting other Christian nationalities."

LONDON, March 23.—The Times in its column of "naval and military intelligence," says:—"The order for new torpedo vessels for the navy has been distributed among various ship builders, principally on the Thames. Two firms have undertaken a contract for eight thousand torpedo sinkers. Their average weight is eleven hundred pounds. They are being stowed away in various parts of the royal arsenal at Woolwich convenient for shipment to stations at home and abroad. The Russians are having one hundred torpedo boats built in the model of one purchased in England, but no part of the order has come to this country as international complications might hinder its fulfillment."

LONDON, March 23.—The British Government have purchased from Sir Wm. Armstrong four one hundred ton guns at a cost of \$8,000,000, and negotiations are proceeding for a number of smaller weapons identical with those already in the service. The same firm, as well as Whitworth & Co., have accepted contracts to a large extent for the supply of iron gun carriages to be completed at an early date. Great exertions are being made in the carriage department at the Woolwich arsenal in the preparation of wagons for transport service. Several other contracts for army stores are in course of completion, notably one for a large number of pack saddles. Messrs. DeLafres & Co., are executing an order for hospital ware to the amount of about \$50,000.

The landing of a force on the Asiatic side of the Sea of Marmora has unquestionably been considered by the Government. Railway material to be laid in a parallel line with the Bosphorus has been purchased.

The mortality among the Russians in Bulgaria is very great, principally from fever.

The typhus is increasing at Constantiaople. The typhus is very prevalent at Bucharest, and at Turu Mazurelli.

M. Bratiaco, Roumanian Minister of the Interior, will probably go to the Congress to represent the interests of Roumania.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Count Gabraic is expected to replace Baron Baulo as French representative at the Vatican. The Consistory will be held on the 28th inst.—No encyclical will be issued, the Pope not wishing to commit himself to any definite policy in the present complication of European affairs. His Holiness will only deliver an allocution, avoiding all political allusions. The head of the Jesuits recently proposed to return to Rome, but the Pope received the proposition very coldly. The Jesuits are therefore opposing the Pope's general policy.

O'Leary, the American champion, continues to lead in the international walking match. At 11 o'clock yesterday he had completed 403 miles, and was 13 miles ahead of Vaughn, his highest competitor. At midnight O'Leary had walked 457 miles, Vaughn 441 and Brown 413. The two leaders maintain an average of about four miles an hour. They are both suffering in the knees, and Vaughn's feet are very sore, and he has them swathed in cotton wool.—Brown appears certain of third place, the other competitors being hopelessly behind.

The London Times gives a lamentable account of the stagnation in the Yorkshire iron trade. Two of the leading works in Ketherham have stopped operations, throwing one thousand men out of employment. A strike among the miners is apprehended in consequence of the reduction of wages, which will throw thirty thousand more out of work.

The Swiss watchmakers have been anxious about the proposed changes in the American tariff, and have made inquiries of their representative at Washington, who has informed them that the new tariff will increase the duty on watches and silks, which puts an end to their hopes of a revival of trade.

The famine in China is extending throughout the northern provinces, and as the resources of the Government are exhausted, the population bids fair to be decimated by starvation.

News of the Day.

The grand jury of New Orleans, have presented a report of the investigation relative to the charges against officers of the Superior Criminal Court contained in Governor Wells' letter of the 19th ultimo. The report refuses in toto all the charges made. In regard to the allegation that the presiding judge was a defaulter to the United States, the grand jury's report contains certificates from the clerk of the United States Circuit Court and Wm. Grant, special United States attorney in the cases against N. R. Whitaker, which show that the three charges against Whitaker for embezzlement were disposed of, one by acquittal by the jury, and the other two by solle prosequi entered in consequence of the verdict in the first case.

Further dispatches from Battleford, Northwest Territory, confirm the rumors of an Indian confederation. It is said that Big Bear, one of the chiefs of the league, demands as an ultimatum that the buffalo land shall be repealed, and that the Indians shall be allowed to settle their troubles among themselves without interference by any mounted police or the Canadian Government. A special dispatch from Bismarck says: "Seventy cavalrymen have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for field service."

A lady died in a dentist's chair, in Philadelphia, yesterday.

Rev. Dr. Burgess, of Springfield, Mass., announces his acceptance of the Bishopric of the Quincy, Illinois, diocese.

The steamship Celtic, which arrived at New York from Europe, last night, brought \$250,000 in silver bar.

The Louisiana Returning Board.

A dispatch from New Orleans, dated yesterday, says:—"Attorney General Ogden has filed an application for a rehearing in the Anderson case. He says: "A clear sense of duty impels me to ask at your hands a reconsideration of the grounds upon which this case has been decided. In a case of such interest the court should rest its decision upon no principle of law in regard to the soundness of which there could be a serious question among candid, disinterested and enlightened jurists throughout the country," and adds: "The records upon which this decision has been rendered contain more than five hundred pages of written matter. The counsel for the State had scarcely the time necessary to prepare for so important an argument, as the case was fixed by preference, with only three days' notice. The argument occurred on Tuesday and the decision of the court was rendered upon the following Monday. Errors have crept into this decision, no doubt, both from the imperfection of the presentation made by the state, and from the shortness of the period during which the court held the case under consideration. A conviction that you will not only willing but anxious to correct these errors, if I am able to make them apparent, emboldens me to lay before you this application. The constitution gives you an appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases only upon questions purely of law. You cannot try a question of fact. The fact that the consolidated statement having been received in evidence in a court of justice made it at once a public record and constituted it an alteration a crime, and says the judge's charge to the jury as to what constituted reasonable conclusion upon this point was the sole matter for review in this court. If the charge upon that point was sufficient the finding of the jury under it is beyond your reach, because it necessarily embraces an inquiry into the facts connected with the document. In conclusion, I repeat that the fact that the consolidated statement caused great and irreparable injury. It not only deprived individuals of rights, but actually overthrow a government which had been elected by the people."

The Camden Murder.—Benjamin Hunter, the suspected assassin of John A. Armstrong, is still in the murderer's cage in the Camden jail. The startling disclosures made by Thomas Graham have awakened great interest in Philadelphia and Camden. The police authorities have been at work running out points in the confession, and last night the prosecuting attorney said that all of Graham's statements have been found to be true; that Graham even mentioned matters which they knew nothing about, and these have also been verified. The case now, so the prosecutor of the pleas, says, is ready for trial. As a precaution against a possible attempt at suicide, Hunter was imprisoned yesterday in the "cage," a contrivance built in the centre of a large room specially for murderers, through the bars of which every movement of the prisoner can be seen. His suspenders and knife and fork were also taken from him. He maintains a stolid indifference, and still protests his innocence. His counsel started yesterday that the New York Mutual and the Manhattan life insurance companies had, previous to the arrest and confession of Graham, made overtures to him to settle at fifty per cent. of the amount due on the life of Armstrong, if the murdered man for whom Hunter held the policies, but that Hunter refused the offer. Graham, who made the confession implicating himself and Hunter, and by which it appears that Hunter hired Graham to kill Armstrong in order that he (Hunter) might receive the insurance of Armstrong's life, is also confined in the Camden jail; still asserting that he had struck the first blow, and that Hunter completed the murder, but says his mind is much relieved since he made his confession.

Hunter is weakening rapidly, and it is believed that he will break down entirely before his trial takes place. He has written several meaningful letters, which are interpreted by the District Attorney as a plea of insanity. He is still under strict surveillance, and the authorities are free to express the belief that if opportunity offered itself he would commit suicide. Graham was visited to-day by his brother. He declares himself willing to accept the fullest penalty of the law.

Price of Coal.

New York, March 23.—The Pennsylvania Coal Co. have issued their circular giving the prices of their coal for the month of April, deliverable at the company's docks at Newburg. Fifty cents per ton additional will be charged for delivery at New York. Prices per ton, 240 lbs. are as follows: Lump, steam and grate, \$3 35; egg \$3 45; stove \$3 50; chestnut \$3 10.

Four Years with General Lee.

RICHMOND, VA., March 11, 1875.

To the editor of the New York Herald: The Nation has assumed in this country the role sustained by the London Times, and the dispassionate manner of its discussions of the questions of the day has given it a high reputation. Therefore it is with surprise and regret its friends read the criticisms upon Col. Walter Taylor's book entitled "Four Years with Gen. Lee," which appeared in the Nation of the 21st ult.; for they find in their tone good reason to feel that the calmness of the critic has been lost in the excitement of a partisan.

Col. Taylor, at the request of Gen. Lee, undertook to prepare an accurate statement of the relative forces of the Army of Northern Virginia and of the Army of the Potomac during their long continued struggle. He has accomplished his work with great fidelity, and we are glad to see that the world assures us of his own hand and give the world assurance of the facts set forth.

The sources whence Col. Taylor has drawn his statements are the archives of the Southern Historical Society in Richmond and the archives of the United States Archive Bureau in Washington. Both are freely open to the Nation's correspondent, and if he had discovered on investigation that Col. Taylor had fallen into errors in his figures he would have done justice to Col. Taylor and have rendered a service to history by correcting all such inaccuracies. But he has left this proper sphere of criticism to make mere strictures on unessential points in a manner which makes us feel that the stubborn facts and figures Col. Taylor has so well collated have been found incontrovertible.

One of the issues taken with our author is on his statements about the forces engaged in the Battle of Antietam, and it well illustrates the weakness of the sort of rebuttal to which his reviewer has been forced; for with ample positive testimony from the highest sources at his service he closes his discussion of the question at issue by this sweeping and conclusive evidence. "We simply say we do not believe it."

Now the most reliable reports and records concur decisively in showing that Lee's whole fighting force at Antietam was less than 35,000 men (27,000 infantry), and that Jackson, commanding the left wing of our army, with less than 15,000 men, utterly defeated the corps of Hooker, Mansfield and Sumner, who severally attacked him, is as well authenticated as any fact in history. The testimony of these three corps commanders themselves before the Committee on the Conduct of the War is as complete a tribute to the prowess of that left wing as the most enthusiastic Confederate can desire.

Swinton, the most careful and calm of all the historians of the war, who was proud of the Army of the Potomac, and was its special historian, has definitely fixed the forces of the two armies at about the same figures Col. Taylor gives us, and shows that Jackson on our left flank destroyed more than three corps, just as their respective commanders testified before the Congressional Committee that he did.

Therefore, until authentic documents are produced which will convict Swinton and Col. Taylor and the other witnesses in this case of error, we must rest it where they do. History will so record it, and the fact that anybody "simply don't believe it" is evidence of the same historic value as the assertion of an intelligent Turk who might say he "simply don't believe" the Montenegrius ever beat the Turks. In both cases the facts must be very unpalatable, but such facts are often very stubborn, and were incredibly won't overthrow them.

That "there was no great difference in the fighting of the two armies," that the general result of the fighting between them was that the assailant was repulsed" is very clearly refuted by the record.

At the first Manassas the Confederates under Johnston numbered 27,000 effectives. They were attacked by the Federal army numbering over fifty thousand, and did not merely repulse their army, but routed it, destroyed it for the time being. On that same field two years later Lee, with 40,000 men, fell upon Pope's army of 90,000 (we state the lowest probable figures given of it). The army of the Potomac was utterly beaten and forced back upon the capital of the nation.

At the first Cold Harbor, in June, 1862, the armies confronted each other. The Confederates attacked and drove the Federals beaten from the field. Two years after, at Cold Harbor, the army of Northern Virginia was attacked by that under Grant. Lee's whole force did not exceed 40,000 men. The army of the Potomac numbered about 100,000 men. Grant attacked Lee, and though there were no infantry defenses besides the show of dirt the men threw up with their bayonets and caissons, as the reviewer describes at Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac was not merely repulsed—it was beaten; its list of killed and wounded was 13,000 men. The Army of Northern Virginia lost less than 1,000. Their own historians tell us that so defeated was this defeat that the Army of the Potomac could not be brought again to the attack, but was moved off by its flank to prevent the Army of Virginia from striking it, and so absolute was its defeat and demoralization that Mr. Lincoln called his Cabinet together to consider whether the time had not come when the independence of the Confederacy should be acknowledged and the war ended! Thus in these four battles the Army of the Potomac was defeated every time, whether attacking or attacked. In three of them it outnumbered the Army of Northern Virginia as two to one, and the fact is quite remarkable in the history of war that in these two pairs of Confederate victories the armies exchanged positions, each holding the front in the second battle which had been held by its antagonist in the first. I invite a careful investigation of the reports and history of these great combats and ask whether they do not establish the vast fighting superiority of the Army of Northern Virginia over the Army of the Potomac?

The effort to reopen the question of the treatment of prisoners seems to be very injudicious and unfortunate in the reviewer, but gives us opportunity to again refute it. Mr. Stanton's official reports show that from first to last 220,000 Federal prisoners were captured by us, while 200,000 Confederates were captured by the Union armies; that of the 220,000 Federals in our hands 20,000 died of their imprisonment and sufferings. While of the 200,000 Confederate prisoners 26,000 died in the Federal prisons. When we reflect that these 46,000 Federal prisoners were all young able bodied men; that they all perished from their incarceration during the space of two years, we feel that a monstrous crime was being perpetrated deliberately during all that time—a crime unparalleled in all the annals of civilized nations, and a crime for which the authors must be held to a fearful account before the bar of history and of God.

The very essence of this great wickedness lay in the stoppage of the exchange of prisoners. Whoever caused that cruel measure was responsible for all the suffering that followed it. No intelligent man who will investigate the facts and reflect upon the evidence can believe for one moment that General Lee did not use all his influence to maintain the exchange of prisoners, or that he was any more responsible for their treatment after he captured them than the editor of the Nation himself.

If the Nation's correspondent has any evidence to adduce to show General Lee's responsibility for the treatment of the Federal prisoners let him present it, but he must excuse us from according historic value to his mere belief on this point any more than we do to his belief that Stonewall Jackson at Antietam did not repulse or defeat and disorder the three corps of Hooker, Mansfield and Sumner. Swinton says that "all the fight was taken out of them."

In view of the foregoing comments we are justified in saying that the imputation of partisanship does not come with much force as a criticism of Colonel Taylor by his reviewer.—We feel that Colonel Taylor may be excused if he be a "partisan" on this question; for it is not in reason that any Southern soldier of the Army of Northern Virginia who for four years moved in the very presence of our great leader, who shared his joy in the moments of his grandest victories and who was by his side till his flag was furled forever, can ever hear of him or think of him or speak of him or write of him without emotion.

But there is no emotion in Colonel Taylor's figures. They are very dry, but very stubborn facts, which, unpalatable though they may be, must stand and be accepted as conclusive until their testimony is overthrown by other figures more authentic. DABNEY H. MAURY.

The Indians.

NEW YORK, March 23.—A dispatch from Chicago says:—"An official dispatch, received at the military headquarters in this city, from Capt. Williams, covers the report of a scout in the far north, under date of Feb. 23. This scout states that a hunting party, estimated to number 500 or 600 hostile Sioux warriors, was found encamped on the Upper Beaver Creek, below Dry Fork, and infesting the hills on the Big Bend of the Milk river, in Montana, northwest of Fort Benton, in the reservations of the Blackfeet and other Indians. Following up Frenchman's creek about 20 miles the scouts met a party of half breeds returning from Canada. The Indians said they (the former) had about 2,000 lodges, and the Cheyennes had about 150 lodges. The scouts had often been among them, and they thought that the above estimate was nearly correct. The Tatons (Sioux) would average nearer three men to the lodge than two, which would give about 5,000 or 6,000 fighting men. The Cheyennes were more crowded, and it was estimated that they had between 5,000 and 6,000 warriors. The Indians told the scouts that "as long as no one hunts us we will hunt no body, but if anyone comes across our path he will get it just the same." The scouts say that this means that if they meet any of our soldiers in that country they will fight them if strong enough. The scouts state that the Indians now have a great many camps extending from Frenchman's creek to the Wood Mountain. Wherever there is wood to be found they have a camp. The Indians are reported to be more liberally supplied with ammunition than any Indians the scouts ever saw. Most of them wear two or three belts full of cartridges, and many of them have bracelets on their arms made like the belt and filled with cartridges. They told the scouts that they got all the ammunition they wanted from traders who came into their camps from Cypress Hill and Wood Mountain."

Virginia Congressmen on the Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1875.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette: MY DEAR SIR:—I cannot see why there should be any doubt as to the co-operation of the delegation from your State in support of the proposed Tariff bill.

Mr. Tucker is a member of the Committee of Ways and Means, and I can assure you is one of the foremost and firmest, as well as the ablest, of its supporters, devoting his whole time to its completion and success. The other members of the delegation have not as yet had an opportunity to afford any help, as the bill has not been reported to the House, but I am sure of their hearty co-operation and support when it is.

Very truly yours, FERNANDO WOOD.

WEST VIRGINIA HORRORS.—A dispatch from Wheeling says:—

John Wallace has confessed the murder of Mrs. George Wallace and child and Miss Church near Littleton. He says that Mrs. Wallace had talked badly about him and his wife, and that after killing her the baby began to cry, and he got angry at it and battered its head against a fence, and that then he concluded he would go and kill Miss Church. He went back to the house and asked her to get him something to eat. As she passed him he struck her with the hammer he had used to kill Mrs. Wallace, and after she had fallen continued to beat her. He then went home and slept soundly until morning, when he gave the alarm to order to screen himself. He says his brother George is innocent, but tried to implicate a woman named Williams, who he declared offered him \$50 to kill Mrs. Wallace. This confession is believed to be only partly true, as both Mrs. Wallace and Miss Church are thought to have been outraged. The coroner's jury brought in a verdict to the effect that the deceased came to their deaths at the hands of John Wallace. Only the utmost efforts of the authorities have prevented the lynching of the murderer long before this.

Another horrible murder case has just come to light in this vicinity. Last Sunday John M. Day, living in Marshall county, West Virginia, about ten miles from Wheeling, had an altercation with his wife, and it is charged that he kicked her in the stomach several times, causing almost immediate death. The body plainly showed marks of the kicks, and her brother had Day arrested and committed to jail. There seems to be no doubt as to Day's guilt.

THE DOWNWARD PATH.—A sad story concerning the downfall of a beautiful and highly educated girl is at the present time awakening many an exclamation of pity and surprise as it is told in mournful whispers in the upper circles of Baltimore society. The mention of her name would at once bring to the mind of thousands a fascinating blonde of remarkable accomplishments, and an air and manner that suggested nothing but the modesty of maiden innocence. She danced at the fashionable German, and had for her admirers some of the most elegant and exemplary young men in society. She took a prominent part in charity entertainments at the Academy of Music. Several times she has been sought in marriage by young gentlemen of promise, but she has never consented to their persuasions, and acquired the reputation of being a coquette, but yet not a cruel one. On New Year day, 1875, she received nearly 700 hundred callers at her parents' home, in the western section of the city. Carriage after carriage stopped in front of the door, and the parlors were constantly filled with well dressed young men. Like many another young lady, she offered wine and drank it herself. Wine was the beginning of her downfall. Her father was convivial. Over a year ago he met with pecuniary reverses and fell into extraneous circumstances. The spirit of daughter, without even telling her intimates' friends, answered no advertisement and accepted a position as governess to go to a distant part of the country. Her employer, a widower, proved younger than she imagined, and was withal a gay deceiver. Father but rarely seeing her, she returned to her parents but they did not know what had happened. Her old associations were no longer pleasant to her, but for some time she disguised her feelings and assumed an air of cheerfulness. A month ago she suddenly disappeared from home. At the same time a daughter in a business house abandoned with \$200. Subsequent developments have shown that she went to New York with the absconder, and when his money failed returned to Baltimore and entered a disreputable house.—Baltimore Advertiser.

COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA.—Woodward, Brother & Co. vs. Gunn; fully argued by B. H. Nash and W. W. Gordon for plaintiff, and A. G. Cannon for defendant and submitted.