National Republican.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 1863.

☞ The Office of the National Republican is at 511 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania avenue and D street.

NOBLE WORDS!

"WHENEVER THEY (THE REBELS) HAVE THE "POWER, THEY DRIVE BEFORE THEM INTO THEIR "RANKS THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE, AND THEY "WOULD ALSO DRIVE US. TRUST THEM NOT. "WERE THEY ABLE, THEY WOULD INVADE AND "DESTROY US WITHOUT MERCY. ABSOLUTELY "ASSURED OF THESE THINGS, I AM AMAZED THAT "ANY ONE COULD THINK OF 'PEACE ON ANY "TERMS.' HE WHO ENTERTAINS THE SENTIMENT "IS FIT ONLY TO BE A SLAVE; HE WHO UTTERS "IT AT THIS TIME, MOREOVER, IS A TRAITOR TO "HIS COUNTRY, WHO DESERVES THE SCORN AND "CONTEMPT OF ALL HONORABLE MEN."—*Resolutions, in the General Assembly of Ohio, February, 1863.*

Stock Market To-day.

We are indebted to Jay Cooke & Co., bankers, for the following condition of the stock and sale market to-day:

	Buying.	Selling.
U. S. Coupons, 6's of 1881	104¾	105¼
" Registered "	103½	104¼
" 7 3-10 Treasury notes	104⅛	105⅛
" 2 year 6 per cent. notes	150	—
" 1 year certificates (old issue)	100⅛	100⅝
" 1 year certificates (new issue)	97⅞	98⅛
" Demand notes, (old issue)	150	—
American gold coin	150	—
Certificate checks	98⅞	

NEW YORK, 11½ o'clock.

U. S. Coupons	105
" 7 3-10	104⅛
" Certificates (old)	100⅛
" Certificates (new)	98⅛
Gold	152⅛

More Good Time Made by Pennsylvania Cavalry.

The Twelfth and Thirteenth Pennsylvania cavalry regiments will, if they keep on, earn a place in the history of this war for the celerity with which they can run away from the enemy. A portion of the Twelfth were sent out from Winchester, on the 11th, to scout on the Cedar Creek road. A small party of rebels made their appearance, when the "Pennsylvania Racers" suddenly made a left-wheel and came back into town at the highest speed they could get out of their jaded animals, and alarming the whole command by a ridiculous report that a large force of rebel cavalry was advancing upon us.

Gen. Elliot immediately sent out two regiments to ascertain what truth there might be in this report of the frightened cavalrymen. They failed to find any body of the enemy's troops, and ascertained to a certainty that what the Pennsylvania cavalry had magnified into an immense force of mounted rebels, was only a small party of *grey-backs*, the only ones seen by the inhabitants of that part of the country for several weeks.

Cannot Gen. Schenck contrive some way of putting a little more pluck into these mounted Pennsylvanians? It does really seem a pity that these men should be allowed to destroy good Government property, kill horses, regardless of their cost to the nation, and draw large pay, while the only return they can make for it is to bring disgrace on the service. But then we only take a common sense view of the subject.

Skedaddling to Canada.

Canada bids fair to be well stocked with the skedaddlers from the draft in New England. A letter from Concord, N. H., says: Emigration to the Canadas still continues. It is estimated that 1,500 men liable to draft have left the State within four weeks. A letter received from a young man who went from the vicinity of Concord, and written at Stanstead, says: "Thirty skedaddlers a day pass through here. The hotels and the streets are crowded with men from the States. I came by an indirect route, yet I had *twenty-three* companions. There is a bitter feeling against us in the French settlements, and riots may be expected." His closing lines are: "*Don't worry about me, father; I'm safe.*"

English Aid and Comfort.

The Richmond *Dispatch* denounces Earl Russell's letter to Mason, for his cold and stony haughtiness of manner towards the latter; but it adds:

"We must not forget, whatever the ministry may do or propose, that our country *has received the most valuable assistance from the people of England, and at this time there are schemes on foot there of great importance to us.*"

Charlestown Navy Yard.

The March pay-roll at this station exceeded $160,000, and contained the names of more than 3,700 men. It is the largest pay-roll, with one exception, which has been made since the war began. The payment took place yesterday.

Annette

Is the title of a new and bewitching novel, by Alexander Dumas, (the younger.) Hudson Taylor, 334 Pennsylvania avenue, has it for sale.

Stencil Work and Copper-plate Engraving and Printing

Are neatly executed by James W. Davis, No. 492 Seventh street, as per advertisement in another column.

Personal.

MR. AND MRS. W. J. FLORENCE, who have been starring in the Western theatres, are stopping at their residence in East Broadway.

PROF. GEO. P. BOND, of the Harvard Astronomical Observatory, sailed from Boston yesterday, for Europe, whither he goes for the benefit of his health.

GOV. CURTIN, a dispatch from Harrisburg says, will positively decline a renomination. He has been offered, and is reported to have accepted, a foreign mission. Until the expiration of his term of office, he will continue to exercise the duties of the Executive.

GEN. SHIELDS arrived in San Francisco on the 20th ultimo, and made an impromptu speech at the Oriental Hotel the same evening. He has resigned his commission in the United States army, and has no connection with the military department of the Government.

BRIG. GEN. SEYMOUR, lately chief of staff to Maj. Gen. Hunter, came North in the Arago. His place will probably be filled by Lieut. Col. Halpine, who has long been the able adjutant general of the Department of the South, and who is an excellent and experienced officer.

The Robbery of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Safe.

No clue has yet been obtained, so far as can be publicly known, to the perpetrator of the recent robbery of the Navy Yard safe, and the circumstances that are developed indicate that the work was performed by an expert, whom it may be difficult, if not impossible, to detect. That $90,000 were left in the safe because the bills were small and would be cumbersome, while the notes of high denomination, amounting to more than $150,000, were all carried off, is a suggestive fact, and what is most singular is that during a part of the night, as we are creditably informed, no watchmen were on duty. It is certain that the robber was well acquainted with all the facts, and had occupied much time in preparation.

A reward of $10,000 is offered by Admiral Paulding for the recovery of the stolen money. —*N. Y. Evening Post.*

INTERESTING LETTER FROM BELOW.

Great Excitement in Norfolk.

GEN. KEYES'S ORDER PRODUCES A PANIC.

PROMPT ACTION OF THE UNION LEAGUE.

GEN. VIELE'S MANAGEMENT OF AFFAIRS.

Aggravating Conduct of Secesh Females.

[Correspondence of the National Republican.]
NORFOLK, VA., April 13th, 1863.

The usual quiet of this little city has been greatly disturbed for two days past, in consequence of the rumored attack on Suffolk. For some days it had been known that a considerable rebel force was approaching our lines, and reports of brisk skirmishing reached here daily. On Saturday information came that active hostilities had commenced. The Ninety-ninth New York and Thirteenth Indiana regiments were advanced, and everything put in readiness to repel the enemy in case he should dare approach within range of our guns.

During the day the rebel batteries were planted in sight of ours, and immediately the town was in the greatest commotion, artillery, infantry, and cavalry were moving, and everything seemed to indicate a pending battle. The women and children were ordered to leave, and by noon, when the train started, shot and shell were booming over the town, from our gunboats, into the woods where the rebels were supposed to be.

The expected fight, however, did not come off, and it was believed they were getting ready for an engagement on Sunday morning, but up to this time there has been no battle, and the prevailing opinion is, that the whole thing is only a bold move on the part of the rebels, to prevent any of the forces at Suffolk being sent to reinforce Gen. Foster.

In addition to all the excitement here, a sensation, amounting almost to terror, spread through the city on Sunday on the issue of the following order from Gen. Keyes:

HEADQ'RS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
NORFOLK, VA., April 12.

The proximity of the Confederate forces, renders it proper, by virtue of the military and naval authority of the United States, to give the following notice:

All foreign consuls and their families; all women and children, and all other persons not in the service of the United States, who prefer safety to the conflicts of war, are notified that on the approach of the enemy to any town or village, within this Department and the range of the Union guns, such town or village will be fired on without further consideration.

E. D. KEYS,
Maj. Gen. Comd'g Dept. of Va.

As if to make the matter worse, the ambitious publisher of the Norfolk *Union* printed a fully displayed handbill containing the order, and in church hours the boys were crying it all over town. "Secesh" took courage at the prospect of getting rid of the Yankees, even though it cost the loss of the city; while some began to think of betaking themselves to the suburban woods.

The poor darkies who were in church heard a clap of thunder during the afternoon, and, I am told, mistaking it for the guns of the enemy, actually began to skedaddle. This panic, while it lasted, was more like a jubilee among the secessionists, and they began to express their feelings so freely that many complained of their bold, insulting remarks overheard in the streets. This morning some 200 loyal citizens of this city and Portsmouth formed together, and bearing our beautiful flag, marched down to headquarters at the custom-house.

On inquiry, I learned that their number was made up of the "Union League" and workmen from the Navy Yard. They had been taunted and threatened so much (especially on Sunday) by the more rabid residents, that they called a meeting, drew up some resolutions, and had come down to present the same, and ask for such protection as could be extended, and the prevention of further indignities. They made a fine appearance, and their devotion to the Union cause amid the difficulties which surround them entitles them to great credit. Their resolutions were duly presented to Gen. Viele, and in a few moments he appeared on the steps and was greeted by the crowd, now waiting to hear what he would say. His remarks were received with profound attention, and were such as to inspire the confidence of every loyal citizen, while he assured them of his sympathy and protection. At the close, they gave three hearty cheers for the General, and marched off in the most orderly manner. The whole proceeding was dignified and respectful; so much so, that no one, so far as I observed, dared make any insulting demonstrations as they passed up the street.

An important military commission, composed of Lieut. Col. Z. P. Boyer, Lieut. Col. Guion, and Maj. J. F. Bates, has been holding its sessions here for some weeks past, and several cases of interest have been disposed of, while others are now pending.

The good management of affairs here, under Gen. Viele, reflects great credit upon his military ability. He seems to exercise a wise discretion; and while perfectly firm in the maintenance of his authority, he has won the esteem of all well-disposed citizens, by his urbanity and dignity in the exercise of his important and difficult trust; indeed, there are none who can complain of any unnecessary interference in their avocations. Those who are willing to take the oath of allegiance are allowed every privilege consistent with military authority. Only those who refuse to take the oath can complain, as their preference for the Confederate rule alone deprives them of the privileges they might otherwise enjoy.

It is sometimes amusing, as well as disgusting, to see the state of feeling exhibited by the "chivalry." I was walking out the other day with a well known officer, and as we passed a young lady, she took especial pains to show her spite by a pout of the lips, and at the same time gave a significant twirl of her crinoline. Such demonstrations are not unfrequent towards our officers. Aside from this, there are other and sufficient evidences of the most bitter secesh feeling among citizens. A lieutenant in our navy, formerly a resident here, recently paid a visit to his home, and called upon a dear old aunt, who positively refused him the ordinary civilities due to a stranger. He then called to see his sister, and received the same treatment. Similar facts have been related to me concerning others; indeed, it is hardly possible to conceive the intensity of hatred towards everything Northern that exists among the old residents. They seem to have entire confidence in the ultimate success of the Confederacy, and so are willing to sacrifice all the privileges which might be enjoyed by taking the oath of allegiance.

The stores and places of business are mostly closed, and, with the exception of the "Yankee" traders, there is little or no business doing, so that all necessary articles are sold at very high prices, nearly double their value in New York.

Until recently, Col. Wardrop's regiment, (the famed 99th New York volunteers, has been on duty in the city, and its members seem to have won great favor among the citizens for their gentlemanly deportment and good discipline; but a few days since they were relieved and sent into camp at Suffolk, and the 19th Indiana volunteers are now on duty in the city, under command of Lieut. Col. Whipple, who is regarded as a very efficient officer, and has been successful in preventing much of the secret traffic which has been going on for some time.

A few days since he obtained information that an attempt would be made by some parties to steal out of the harbor by night with a boat load of goods. After dark, he took a small boat, with two picked men to assist, all armed, and started off to a point where he would be likely to intercept the parties, and, though the night was very dark, he succeeded in overhauling them, hailed the boat and ordered a surrender, which not being promptly complied with, he sent seven shots after them, and so compelled them to give up the chase; thus captured, they were brought safely into port for imprisonment, and the goods for confiscation. All sorts of tricks are resorted to for avoiding the restriction on liquors, and even a flour barrel on a dray is sometimes only a blind for the keg of whisky which it contains, nicely packed for some saloon-keeper, who willingly pays $3 to $5 per gallon. How these kegs are disposed of when so seized, I am not able to learn; though you may guess the liquors are not wasted or thrown away.

B.

BY TELEGRAPH.

BATTLE EXPECTED AT SUFFOLK.

Gen. Wise Digging into Fort Magruder.

REBEL PLANS FRUSTRATED.

A MONSTER POWDER MILL.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 15.—Major General Dix returned to his department last evening, much to the gratification of officers managing the affairs here during his temporary absence. The General left for Suffolk this morning at 10 o'clock.

The enemy (in force) are in close proximity to our lines at Suffolk, but no general engagement is anticipated unless the attack is made by the Union forces, which is more than probable.

In regard to affairs at Williamsburg the *Cavalier* of to-day says Governor Wise has commenced entrenching the other side of Williamsburg. He has orders to take Fort Magruder at all hazards, and as he is afraid to make an assault, he has resorted to digging.

Our troops are in fine spirits. Rebel prisoners say there was to have been a simultaneous attack upon Washington, N. C., Suffolk, Va., Gloucester Point, and Williamsburg, or Fort Magruder. The attack on Gloucester Point was to have been made by Gen. Fitzhugh Lee. Those plans have probably been somewhat interfered with by the reconnoissance of the Fourth Delaware regiment and the Union gunboats up the York river.

The Richmond *Sentinel*, of April 10th, has the following from the Charleston *Mercury*: "The Government powder works, at Augusta, Georgia, when completed will be the largest in the world. They are now superior to any known, and the powder is fully equal to the best Yankee or European standard."

The French frigate Guerriere arrived here last evening, and fired a salute this morning, which was replied to from the water battery at Fortress Monroe.

Gen. Foster Reported Well Provisioned.

NEW YORK, April 15.—Private advices from Newbern, dated Sunday, state that a communication has been received from Gen. Foster, saying that he has plenty of supplies, and believed he could withstand all the force the rebels could bring against him, for three weeks if necessary.

The Troubles between the Irish and Negro Longshoremen in New York.

NEW YORK, April 15.—There has been more difficulty among the longshoremen to-day. The Irish seem to have determined the negroes shall have no more employment. The police thus far have prevented serious trouble, though some minor collisions have occurred.

A Cartridge Factory Blown Up.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15.—An explosion occurred this afternoon in a cartridge factory, corner of Second and Walnut streets. The roof was blown off and a portion of the walls demolished. Three boys were injured, two it is supposed fatally.

False Reports.

LOUISVILLE, April 15.—All the reports of a considerable number of rebels attempting to cross the Cumberland, within the past few days, are false.

New York to be Defended.

ALBANY, April 15.—The New York harbor defence bill passed the Assembly this afternoon.

Louisiana Secesh Down on Gov. Moore.

A late issue of the *Planters'* (St. Mary's Parish) *Banner* contains the following:

The Port Hudson *News* and the Texas *Gazette*, or some other gazette, thinks that Governor Moore makes a ridiculous figure at the head of the Louisiana militia, and as the chief pillar and corner stone of the new militia bill. They think that the few thousand men that he will force from their home, to the detriment of agriculture and almost every local interest, will do the State but little good. Governor Moore appears to be a perfect stumbling-block to the State. All that he did towards the defence of New Orleans was thrown away; he was always a little too slow or halted at expenses, on the "penny wise and pound foolish" plan; he disbanded the militia a few days before our defeat at the Lafourche, and now he wishes to take all the planters, overseers, gardeners, physicians, teachers, and every other useful man that he can reach in the State, put them into camp to starve or suffer for want of materials which he cannot furnish, and leave plantations, negroes, and the country at large to take care of themselves, and probably, when most wanted, and when he has done all the harm he can, he will be likely to take a notion to disband them all and send them home. His principal object appears to be to protect Red river and his plantations there, the lower part of the State he cares but little about. We would be glad to see Kirby Smith, or somebody else, abolish him as a military necessity. If he has done the State any good for the last eighteen months we have not yet learned the particulars.

Letter from General Scott.

The following is the letter of Lieutenant General Scott, addressed to the Loyal National League in reference to the Sumter meeting:

"NEW YORK, April 8, 1863.

"SIR: I feel myself honored by the special invitation to attend the Union meeting of the 11th instant, to renew to the Government on that day (the anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter) the solemn pledge to uphold the national authority and national unity.

"With an undying attachment to the Union, to which I have given fifty odd years of my life, my heart will always be in all meetings called to sustain it; but probably I shall in person never again be present at another public assemblage, even for that noble purpose.

"With great respect,
"Your obedient servant,
"WINFIELD SCOTT.

"J. A. STEVENS, Jr., Esq., Chairman, &c."

A FRANCHISE BULL.—A story is told of a shrewd but not over-honest stock-raiser in Canada, who took the first prize at an agricultural show, for a bull on which he had fitted a handsome pair of horns taken from a dead animal, whose skin he had puffed out artificially in various places to conceal defects, with numerous other deceptive contrivances, which he had learned, he said, by watching his wife, from time to time, as she made her toilette for a ball or party.

Second Edition.

FOUR O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Monitor Battle.

There is a prospect of much contention about the merits of the iron-clads—a battle about Monitors almost as fierce as their late battle with the Charleston forts. A letter from the inventor, Ericsson, printed in another column, shows that his faith is unshaken if his turrets were. He regards the fight as an experimental one, and the experiment proves, by its results, that the Monitors, corrected and revised in some points that were never tested before, can withstand all the banging that forts or vessels can give them

There is no doubt that many of the officers of the navy have cast iron prejudices against the iron-clad Monitors. The correspondent of the Baltimore *American* hints plainly that this prejudice (against craft that have no expanded quarter deck, and not very luxurious cabin accommodations,) had much to do with the failure to renew the attack on Fort Sumter. We can hardly believe that our officers would allow prejudice to deter them from making full use of the instruments put into their hands by their Government. That would be treason most foul.

The truth is that, judging from the accounts given by the rebels as well as those of "our own correspondents," the iron fleet suffered less than might have been reasonably expected. The experiment enabled us to remedy the defects in our fleet and it revealed to us the strength of the enemy's works.

Whether the attack shall be renewed is a question for the Government to decide. We know that some high officials doubted the success of the experiment from the first, and others doubted the policy of expending the strength necessary for the purpose in capturing places instead of thrashing armies.

It is best, at all events, not to become heated in a controversy about the Monitors.

Grau's Italian Opera Friday Night.

Seats are selling rapidly at Metzerott's for the Opera to-morrow (Friday) evening, when the grand company will open with *Il Trovatore*. Thirteen artists are announced in the bill, embracing a variety and excellence of talent seldom brought out in this metropolis.

Sig. Maccaferri will sing the part of Maurico in *Trovatore*, in which he has achieved such a triumph in the grand aria "*Di Quella Pira*," with his *si di poitrine*.

We learn that the *Ballo Maschera* (Masked Ball) will be given on Monday night.

The Snakes to be Extirpated.

An expedition against the "Snake" Indians, in Oregon, is planned for this Summer. Seventy transportation wagons and four hundred mules have been purchased for the use of the expedition. The ruthless slayers of women in that region will most assuredly be cleared out by the Oregonians, who display much enterprise in Indian hunting, as well as in everything else they undertake.

Poppies Wanted.

The senior Medical Purveyor of the rebel army has issued a circular urging the women to cultivate the poppy, and forward the juice to his department for medical purposes. But

"Not poppy, nor mandragora,
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the East,
Shall medicine thee to that sweet sleep thou hadst"—

before the rebellion.

The District Cadetships.

The Mayor and a committee from the public schools waited upon the President yesterday to solicit a cadetship at West Point, under the new law, to the most meritorious scholar in the public schools of the District. It is understood that President Lincoln looks with favor upon this proposition, which is really a good one.

We Believe Every Word of It.

The Indianapolis *Journal* of the 8th inst., in a notice of the performances at the Metropolitan Theatre in that city, says:

"Miss Lotty Hough last evening introduced in the Zouave scene the enlivening patriotic song of "Rally round the Flag," which she sang with great effect. It fairly brought down the house. Her performance of the Yankee girl was excellent, and the song of "Josiah's Courtship" was capitally sung by her."

Not So.

The rumor on the streets last night, that the rebels had made a raid into Poolesville, Maryland, is wholly without foundation.

Mud.

The rains of the last two days has rendered the roads in this vicinity horribly muddy. The rebs would find it difficult to make an advance upon Washington to-day.

Some Inquiries Respecting the Noonday Prayer Meetings.

MESSRS. EDITORS: The noonday prayer meeting, held at the church of the Rev. Mr. Butler, daily, is but thinly attended; yet a sufficient attendance of divines and laymen to make it peculiarly interesting to themselves, in that, the body corporate are of one mind, ignoring, as they do, *controverted* subjects. Sectional questions are ignored; and is this not well, precluding, as it does, controversy? But classed among *controverted* subjects is that of allusion in prayer to that most vital question, our country. Now, if this question is sectional, or *controverted*, with them in prayer, to my mind it is treason.

That the Rev. Mr. Butler is a loyal man, and a faithful minister of the gospel, no one will question. But those who would silence earnest prayer, and those who neglect to offer it, in behalf of our rulers and army, and the suppression of rebellion, ought to be frowned down, and prayed out of the church, of which I pronounce them unworthy members. I have listened to five consecutive prayers in this noonday prayer meeting (including two from Government employees,) and not the most remote allusion was made to the subject of my complaint. Let me call upon praying men of the Union League to attend these meetings.

Yours, WASHINGTON.

DEATH OF THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE FOUNDERS OF ASTORIA.—Mr. Gabriel Franchere, one of those sent out by Mr. Astor in the famous Astoria expedition, and the last survivor of that party, expired at St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 12th inst. Mr. Franchere was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1786, which place he left in 1815 to make the overland trip, so beautifully narrated by Washington Irving. It is stated that whole pages of his own narrative were copied, word for word, in Irving's work. Subsequently he became connected with the American Fur Company, afterwards with the firm of P. Chouteau, Jr., & Co., and at the time of his death was the senior partner of the house of G. Franchere & Co., of New York City.

An old bachelor of our acquaintance says he doesn't wonder that married men over 55 years of age are placed in the second class of conscripts under the conscription law. They have suffered enough for their country already.

A Letter from Gen. Lew. Wallace.

At a mass meeting in Chicago, last week, a letter was read from Gen. Lew. Wallace, which thus clearly exhibited the mischievous tendency of the movements of Northern reactionists:

"Singularly enough, the desolations of the struggle have, so far, been confined altogether to the slave States. Yet a portion of the people of the free States are not thankful for their exemption. As if civil war were a blessed condition—something to be desired—a festivity or a show—they must bring it to their own cities and neighborhoods. Doubtless they think to stand in their doors and quietly enjoy the amusement of battles and the innocent spectacles of marching armies. This strange passion can be gratified—they have only to resist the laws. But had they not better count the cost? Had they not better ask Virginia and Tennessee what civil war really is? And for that matter the survivors of of Shiloh and Fredericksburg and Stone river can tell them what gentle and joyous pastimes battles are. Ah, no! Constables and sheriffs, and their posses and processes, would be but straws in the path of the rebellion; but there is a wrath not to be provoked.

"On the night of your meeting, when your citizens are assembled, and listening at ease to the fervid appeals that will be made them, will they please remember the seven hundred thousand trained soldiers who about that time will take to their simple beds! Remember them, and be hopeful. They are the guardians of the Republic. Their loyalty has been exemplified; each of them has laid up his

"'Great oath on an altar
As huge and as strong as Stonehenge.'

In the shadow of their flags liberty can repose. They are ready against the evil day when faction, lifting its hand to strike the Government, makes the ballot subservient to the bayonet."

Working from the Outside.

A letter from the rebel camp at Vicksburg, printed in the London *Times* of March 31st, contains the following remarks upon the "Anaconda" system of warfare upon the States in rebellion.

"It is strange that the lesson can never be learnt by the Washington Cabinet, that the mighty area of the Southern States forbids the possibility of bringing them to terms by the seizure of all the strong places upon the seaboard and along the rivers. For months past all the best harbors on the coast, and most of the important towns upon the great rivers, have been held by the North. But the only effect produced has been to weaken the Federals by exacting large forces to hold these stations by sea and land; and in the interim the port of Charleston alone has been a sufficient alkali to neutralize the acid of Federal possession in twenty other spots. Similarly, of what avail is it that the Mississippi should be clutched at New Orleans and Memphis, when Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and the intervening one hundred and fifty miles of river, are closed against Federal intrusion? Nor would the position of the Federals be greatly bettered if the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg and Port Hudson could be finally silenced. Iron-clad vessels could in that case go up and down the river, but no trading vessel which descended the river would ever reascend it to tell her tale at St. Louis or Cincinnati. That the communication between the trans-Mississippi States and the East could never be cut off, though Vicksburg and Port Hudson should fall, is abundantly evident from the experience which the Federals ought to have gained on the Potomac."

Slaves Flocking to our Lines.

A letter from Murfreesboro', Tennessee, to the St. Louis *Republican*, says:

"The slaves continue to pour in from the adjacent country. The men slaves have been in, or off, some time ago, and now come the women and children, the aged and infirm. A negro camp has been established, and is fast filling up. From one farm of a man by the name of James King, 39 negroes ran away, and came into Murfreesboro', during one night. The farm is seven miles from here.

"The blacks came in with all their plunder. They had taken their master's teams, three large wagons, each wagon drawn by three yoke of cattle. They also rode in some mules and young horses—in fact, cleaned the place of live stock. The wagons were piled high with their beds and bundles, of whitish cotton cloth; and on top were literally covered with little and old negroes. The teams were turned over to the Chief Quartermaster, and the people sent out to the camp, there to be detailed to hospital work, cooking, put on the fortifications, and the like."

The Monitors at Charleston.

To the Editors of the New York Times: I feel called upon to state, for the information of the country, that the imperfections of the Monitors, shown by Admiral Dupont's trial of their strength at Charleston, are not of a serious character. What has happened will be readily obviated for the future. Everything connected with our new fighting machines worked precisely as intended—not a single change of plan being called for. The pilot-house proving of insufficient thickness was not an unforseen circumstance. The limited experience which we have had in actual conflict indicated that eight inches thickness would be sufficient, but it was by no means assumed to be a settled point. Hence such a construction was adopted that, without removing the structure or changing its interior arrangements, any number of additional plates might be attached to the exterior and its thickness increased to any extent. So with regard to the turret; it is constructed of an interior skeleton cylinder composed of plates firmly riveted together, to which any number of plates may be bolted.

It is by no means yet established that our turrets require increased thickness, excepting, possibly, at the base. The public will do well not to be alarmed by the remarks of inexperienced observers who are startled to see the indentations produced by the enemy's projectiles. We apply armor to keep out hostile shot, not to prevent scars and indentations. So far we have fully succeeded. It will be proper to observe that the supposed imperfect steering qualities are utterly groundless. There is no class of vessels in the navy that obey their helm so readily as the Monitors. The reason is self-evident. The large equipoise rudder employed is acted upon by the powerful current from the propeller with such force as to change the course of the vessel with the slightest motion at the helm. In strong currents and shallow water, as in Charleston harbor, no vessel can be readily manœuvred.

Admiral Dupont's preliminary attack on Charleston—the first practical test of iron-clads—must be regarded as the most important event in naval history. To this country the gallant assault on Sumter by the new and untried vessels, exposed to the terrible flanking and raking fire of numerous other forts, is fraught with incalculable benefit. Whatever may be the ulterior object of Government, the substantial advantage has already been secured of knowing exactly what the iron-clads can endure, and what remains to be done to render the new system perfect. It was high time that a practical test was instituted, since we are building a more numerous iron-clad fleet than possessed by all Europe. The nation may thank the commanders of the Monitors for the knowledge gained through their gallantry.

With less daring on their part, the Navy Department would yet lack some information necessary to direct the completion of the impregnable fleet now building. At the same time, the spirited attack on Sumter, and the havoc made during half an hour's contest, warns the Confederate leaders that they must have their numerous batteries fully manned, and that they must not for a moment slacken their vigilance with Dupont and his Monitors within half a day's sail.

The history of war may be searched in vain for an instance of such costly preparations, kept up at such vast expenditure, as Charleston now requires, to ward off the blow from half a dozen small vessels, manned, provisioned, and coaled at less cost than an ordinary first-class screw ship.

Yours, very respectfully,
J. ERICSSON.

New York, April 14, 1863.

Cox's Epitaph on Lovejoy.

Beneath this stone good Owen Lovejoy lies,
Little in everything except his size;
What though his burly body fills this hole,
Yet through hell's key-hole crept his little soul.

The Logan *Gazette* asks:

Pray, Mr. Cox, remove one little doubt:
Did Lovejoy's little soul creep in or out?

"I don't remember having seen you before," as the lawyer said to his conscience.

A Talk with the Contrabands.

The Port Royal correspondent of the N. Y. *Evening Post* has had an interview with "Aunt Phillis," and reports the following conversation:

Aunt Phillis, an old woman on one of the Pope plantations, speaking one day of the changes she noticed since the flight of the masters, remarked:

"De chillen what's born sence de Yankees cum, dey's fat, dey's big and hearty. Dey aint like dem in de old time. De chillen born in de old time, de poor tings, dey lean, *lean* like buzzard—you know buzzard, massa! Dem chillen lean jest like buzzard."

"For why," she continued, "dey used to make we work, *work*, work, so poor moder hab muffin to gib her child—child starve 'fore it born—dat's what make 'em lean—like buzzard."

For people living under a patriarchal system, they display a singular dislike to the patriarchs. I find the testimony universal, that the masters were "mean." All were hard task-masters. So their former subjects say.

"Dey's all mean alike," said one man, when closely questioned. Now there was one Fripps, a planter on one of the islands, of whom the blacks habitually speak as "good Mr. Fripps." "Come now, Sam," said the questioner, "there was good Mr. Fripps, he could not have been mean."

"Yes, sah, he bad to his people same as any of 'em."

"Why do you call him good Mr. Fripps, then?"

"Oh," said Sam, "dat no tell he good to us; call him 'good' 'cause he good Metodis' man—he sing and pray loud on Sundya."

I heard no words of hatred towards the masters; but the expression of horror which overspread many of their faces, particularly among the women, at a suggestion, soberly made, that "old massa" might presently come back, was painful to me—and surely disgraceful to the run-away patriarchs.

"Suppose, if we get to Charleston, we catch your master," said one of our company, to a woman at Pope's, "shall we bring him here?"

"Oh, don't massa, don't bring him here; we no want to see him nebber more," shouted a chorus of women.

"But what shall we do with him?"

"Do what you please," said the chorus.

"Shall we hang him?"

"If you want, massa"—somewhat thoughtfully.

"But shall we bring him *here* and hang him?"

Chorus—much excited and shriller than ever—"No, no, don't fetch him here, we no want to see him nebber more again!"

Aunt Phillis told how her master built his new house only the year before the rebellion, and "sarve him right, he no get good of it. Suppose he good to us, he no run away, he stay in he's house. But he mean man, he run away now, he nebber come back."

She dwells much upon the fact that her master had paid much money for the house—"great deal of money; much as twenty thousand dollars!" I asked, "Where did your master get so much money?" At this the old woman rose in her bed—she was sick, and my friends were paying her a visit of kindness—and with much excitement exclaimed:

"Where he git he money? Where he git he money? Is dat what you ask: where he got he money? I show you, massa." Pushing up her sleeve, she showed a gaunt, shining black arm, and tapping it energetically with her forefinger, exclaimed, "You see dat, massa? Dat's whar he got he money: out o' dat black skin he got he money."

ENGLISHMEN KIDNAPPED.—It is given out at the British Consulate, in New York, that papers have been transmitted to Lord Lyons professing to show that a number of British subjects not long ago were kidnapped, and, after being intoxicated, compelled by the Police Superintendent to serve in the Metropolitan Brigade. It is also alleged that they were not permitted to to seek redress from the British Consul. Lord Lyons, it is further said, has had an audience with the State Department in reference to the matter. Mr. Seward takes the ground that if a foreigner is voluntarily sworn into the army, he must stay in. Involuntary enlistments, of course, are not binding under any circumstances. A full statement of the case was forwarded by the British Minister to the Home Government by the steamer that sailed on Saturday.

"Mrs. Dobson, how's your husband?" "He's dying, marm, and I don't wish anybody to disturb him." A very considerate woman.

A WAR DEMOCRAT has been elected mayor of Jersey City.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—The following have occurred since our last report:

J. J. Haggerhe, cook, Q. M. D.
A. Reeb, co. C, 134th Pa.
L. Coon, teamster, Q. M. D.
M. Kergan, laborer, Q. M. D.
Wm. Gibbons, co. E, 73d Ohio.
R. P. Bradley, co. A, 7th Mich.
G. Worth, co. E. 5th Mich. cav.
P. Martin, co. I, 116th N. Y.
E. A. Deacon, co. E, 10th N. Y. art.
J. L. D. Otis, co. K, 14th Ct.
D. Woods, co. K, 22d N. J.
B. Webb, sergeant, co. I, 5th Ind.
T. J. Harrigan, co. A, 147th N. Y.
N. C. Farrish, bugler, co. H, 6th Mich. cav.
John Frederick, co. D, 4th N. Y. art.
John Block, co. C, 155th N. Y.
C. P. Brewer, co. G, 77th N. Y.
A. S. Gray, co. B, 139th Pa.
P. Eckman, co. C, 10th N. Y.
J. Golden, co. K, 140th Pa.
Carrie Tolliott, soldier's infant.
L. Lavaty, laundress, co. K, 1st art. 11th Vt.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE A. M. E. ZION CHURCH.—*Thursday, April 16.*—Conference met according to rule—Superintendent Clinton presiding.

After the approval of the proceedings of the previous session, a spicy debate ensued in regard to a young member of the conference who sometimes permits his zeal to outrun his knowledge, by reading lectures to the conference in regard to those subjects in which he has but very little experience, and who had been called to account for the same.

The Committee on Holy Orders submitted their report, which was approved, and the following brethren were elected to elders' orders: J. Anderson, Robert H. Dyson, John W. Green.

A motion prevailed, to the effect that a literary society be formed by the conference, and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the same.

Rev. George Washington, reported as having been rescinded on probation, was received into full membership.

James T. Butler, improperly reported yesterday, is from South Howard Street Chapel, Baltimore, Md.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, Conference adjourned by singing and benediction.

CRIMINAL COURT.—Michael Finneran, charged with an assault and battery, submitted his case to the court; sentenced to 30 days imprisonment in the common jail, and pay a fine of $1.

Samuel Van Horn was convicted of stealing two old boots, the property of T. A. Newman.

John Carpenter was acquitted of malicious mischief.

Solomon Williams, charged with an assault and battery upon Louisa Rhinehart, was convicted and sentenced to be imprisoned in the common jail for 60 days and pay a fine of $10.

Mary Cyrus, charged with infanticide, was next arraigned. The following, from the regular panel, compose the jury: S. K. Sylvester, J. R. Conlin, Jas. Mankins, Thos. Milburn, J. R. Queen, Alexander Forrest, W. A. Fletcher, T. E. Jacobs, L. W. Witherow, R. Banton, Thos. J. Davis, and Robert Mahoney.

During the call of the panel, Columbus Alexander and J. J. Mulloy were excepted, on account of conscientious scruples with regard to capital punishment.

The District Attorney, Mr. Carrington, briefly explained the distinction between murder and manslaughter.

COLLISION WITH A STREET CAR.—This morning, Jno. Reed, a Government teamster, ran into street car No. 69, on Seventh street, a little south of the canal, badly smashing the car and severely injuring two soldiers, a minister of the Gospel, and others, who were passengers. Reed was arrested and arraigned before Justice Johnson, who decided that the evidence proved a malicious intent, and accordingly turned him over to the Provost Marshal.

SHAMEFUL TREATMENT.—An old gentleman by the name of Kennedy arrived here yesterday from Richmond, by a flag of truce. It appears that he was a Quaker preacher in Goldsboro', N. C., and refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the rebel government they sent him to Richmond, where he has been imprisoned for nearly a year.

Mr. Kennedy is 70 years of age, and from his close confinement he has become so much emaciated physically that he has nearly lost his mind. The rebel commission appointed to examine the prisoners asked him if he would take the oath, when he replied that the old Government was good enough for him. They then replied that he should be sent to the old Government, and he has arrived.

He is now stopping with the Hon. Isaac Newton, Commissioner of the Agricultural Department.

LARCENY.—Some two months ago, a woman named Margaret Brown stole from Benj. Lewis, a colored man, two silk dresses and other articles of female apparel, but there was no positive proof in the mind of Lewis to clearly fix the theft upon her. Yesterday, however, more conclusive evidence being obtained, she was arrested, and the case will be tried soon, by Justice Drury, of the First Ward.

ARRIVAL OF MCNAUGHTON.—J. C. F. McNaughton, who was charged with the robbery of Lieut. Louis Graham, the officer found murdered in his bed some time ago, arrived in this city yesterday, from New York, in custody of policeman Simonds, of the Eighth precinct, and was immediately lodged in jail to await trial.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY.—G. W. Shriver and Thos. Dutton committed a dastardly assault, today, on Jas. Harkness, a youth 14 years of age, kicking and beating him severely. Justice Clarke held them in bonds of $300 each for appearance at court.

DUTASSY COURT MARTIAL.—This court met this morning at 11 o'clock. The accused has no counsel; therefore the court is frequently called upon to deliberate with closed doors as