

The Semi-Weekly News.

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

THOS. H. MANNING,
PUBLISHER.JNO. DICKINSON
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

To Correspondents.

We will be pleased to receive contributions from our friends, in and around Shreveport. An occasional article from our planters, relative to the crops, will be very acceptable.—In fact, we desire correspondence from every section of the States.

Personal articles will not be published, either as communications or advertisements.

Those friendly to our undertaking, who may hear of any local, or other items, that may prove of interest to our readers, will favor us by handing in the same at the office of the News.

In writing, be brief and concise, bearing in mind, that lengthy communications are seldom appreciated by newspaper readers.

Our Agents:

Mr. N. SELIGMAN,.....Shreveport.
Mr. J. H. LOFTON,.....Bellevue.
Mr. H. C. CLARKE,.....Vicksburg.
Mr. D. D. O'BRIEN,.....New Orleans.
Mr. JOHN W. TABER,.....Natchitoches.
JASON MEADORS,.....Mansfield.

Postmasters can act as Agents, & retain 50 cents from the amount forwarded, for every yearly subscriber.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1862.

Single Copies, 10 Cents.

See Every Page.

During my absence from Shreveport, Mr. Thomas H. Manning, publisher of the "News," is fully empowered to transact all the business of this establishment. Any accounts settled with him will be correct.

JNO. DICKINSON.

A steady boy to work at the printing business and carry papers, is wanted immediately at this office.

A dispatch from Richmond has been received at Memphis announcing that Gen. Sterling Price has received the appointment of Major General in the Confederate Provisional army.

A meeting of the planters of Carroll parish Louisiana, was held the other day at Floyd. Among the resolutions passed was one resolved to destroy the whole cotton crop of that parish rather than it should fall into the hands of the enemy.

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says:

From a circumstance of a private nature, that transpired yesterday, it is inferred that President Davis will very shortly, take the field in person.

Rev. A. E. Clemmons, of this county arrived at home a day or two ago, from the army in Arkansas, which he left on the 3d. We learn from him that the Confederate army, with six day's ration, were to have taken up their line of march on the morning of the 4th, to meet the enemy, who were reported to be twenty-five miles distant. Hence there has not been time to hear the result, and the report from St. Louis is guess work. The recent skirmish has been exaggerated by the telegraph. Instead of 280 wagons of the enemy having been captured and burned, it turns out there were but six.—Marshall Rep.

Explosion.—We learn that the boiler of Mr. S. W. KILE's saw mill, about seven miles from our town, exploded, killing two men and dangerously wounding two others. Pieces of the boiler were found 40 yards from the spot of the disaster.

Natchitoches Union.

Destruction of Crops.

We are glad to learn that the bill of Mr. Phelan of Mississippi, empowering and requiring our military authorities to destroy cotton, tobacco and other produce, when likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, has passed both branches of Congress, and will doubtless receive the executive sanction. The bill is one of the first importance and will startle Europe from its serene composure, and very materially dampen the exuberant joy of the North growing out of recent events, and, sanguine hopes of future victories. Such a policy will furnish the clearest evidence of our determination never to give up the contest until we have achieved our independence, and will at the same time strike terror into the ranks of the enemy. Every man should bear in mind the fact, that our crops, and in fact all that we have will be worthless to us if we fail in our object; and no weapon more powerful could be placed in the hands of the enemy than the precious products, of our soil. The enemy's great object now is to get possession of our cotton and other products; it is in fact his last chance to raise the wind and his only hope for protracting the war for our subjugation. If he fails in this, as he doubtless will, his whole financial system, now on its last legs, will come down with a terrible crash, carrying dismay and confusion throughout the whole length and breadth of the land.

We scarcely deem it necessary to refer to the silly sentimentality of some few people on this subject; for he it known that no one ever dreamed of recommending a wanton and wholesale destruction of property without end or object, but only its destruction when likely to fall into the hands of the enemy to be used for our destruction.—The following from the Crescent is well said and meets our hearty approval:

In the first place, this law will infuse a system and vigilance into affairs which will prevent the Abolitionists from obtaining rich plunder whenever they may happen to force their way by means of their gunboats. In the second place, the planters will unquestionably receive just remuneration in the future, while they would obtain nothing in the case of the triumph of the Lincolnites. And, in the third place, the sternly declared, officially promulgated determination to destroy three hundred millions of dollars' worth of property, sooner than allow it to go into the hands of the ruthless enemies, will compel an "awful pause" in Lincolnism, and lead to reflection, if not immediate action, in Europe. Let the North know that the cotton, tobacco, &c., are to be destroyed, and the fact will create a convulsion that will shake the manufacturing, commercial and maritime interests of our enemies to their centres. Add to this the other fact that little or no cotton will be raised this year, and a sensation will be created that will make itself heard and felt on the other, as well as on this side of the water. Our enemies are fighting to subjugate us, not, as they profess, for the purpose of asserting the supremacy of the old flag and to restore an impossible union, but to avail themselves of the rich spoils a wholesale plunder of cotton and other staple crops would afford. Let them be made to know that these crops are forever beyond their reach, and their avarice will soon make them ask why a war is prosecuted at tremendous expense which is bound to be barren of results.

We have information that the enemy, to the number of about ten thousand, have crossed into Harper's Ferry, and it is believed that the object is to rebuild the railroad bridge over the Potomac, perhaps preparatory to an advance towards Winchester.

A party of Federal cavalry took possession of Charleston last Wednesday night.—Richmond Dispatch.

From New Madrid.—We have information from New Madrid up to 5 o'clock, p. m., yesterday.

Some little skirmishing had taken place between the pickets, but nothing decisive had occurred. A Federal prisoner reported their force, investing the place, as consisting of 25 regiments of infantry, three of cavalry, and twelve batteries of artillery.

On Monday night a heavy cannonade took place, without any particular result.

Gen. McCown who was in command was confident of being able to hold the position. Our troops were in fine spirits.

The Federals were throwing up entrenchments four miles back from the river.

Additional Particulars.—From an army officer who arrived on the Vicksburg, which steamer reached this place at 2 p. m. yesterday, from New Madrid, we learn that up to the hour of her departure last evening there had been no fighting of consequence.

On Thursday night about 12 o'clock our pickets attacked their encampment about two miles from town, when the enemy moved a battery to the outskirts of the village and opened fire. They were soon driven back, however, by the fire from our gunboats.

It was expected that the fight would be commenced in earnest this morning. Our Generals feel confident of success.

From one of their commissaries, captured day before yesterday, it was learned that the enemy's force is about 25,000.

Gen. Jeff. Thompson has crossed the plank road with his force, to cut off reinforcements from the way of Bloomfield.—Memphis Appeal.

Gen. A. S. Johnston.—We hear but little of late from the army under the command of this officer, but believe he is making the very best disposition possible of his forces. The time may come when public opinion will change in regard to this gentleman, and all acknowledge that his falling back was the most judicious movement he could have made. With an army scattered at Donelson, Clarksville and Nashville, Buell will hardly be able to venture far; but should his eager appetite for cotton induce him to follow Johnston, it is not improbable that a good portion of the Federal force will be "haggad."—Nashville can never be used by them as a base of operations to invade Alabama or Mississippi, for the Cumberland is so vacillating that at any time it might become un navigable for the smallest boats above the Harpeth Shoals.

It is very evident that Johnston is endeavoring to draw Buell as far as possible into the country, thus materially reducing the enemy's strength, and by a bold stroke may get in their rear and cut off their supplies and capture their force, as Price has done in Arkansas. We confess we have considerable confidence in the military talents of Gen. Johnston, and think that by his energy of character, military skill and superior generalship, he will again win the confidence of our people and gain his wonted fame as a military chieftain.—Vicksburg Whig.

The Richmond Examiner of the 5th, alluding to the practical effects of martial law in that city says:

There were no permits allowed Monday to any person whatever, except soldiers returning to their regiments to leave the city. The Jews have packed up their goods, and gold and silver ornaments and are in great tribulation and ferment that their flight has been stopped.

From the Memphis Appeal.

A Lesson from History.

The nearest historical parallel of modern times to the present position of the Confederate States, is that of France during the great Revolution, and it may, perhaps, give new hope to Southern patriots in the trying hour now upon us, to call to mind the record of what France endured and Frenchmen achieved seventy years ago.

The most terrible crisis of the Revolution was in 1793, after the execution of Louis XVI. The Republic was at that time embarrassed with all manner of domestic factions, conspiracies, rebellions, and finances disordered to the last degree of confusion and discredit.

In the midst of these internal troubles war was declared against France, not by England alone, though England with her immense navy and unbounded resources would have been a sufficiently formidable antagonist, but by Austria, Prussia, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Sardinia, Naples, the Pope, and several of the smaller Germanic principalities—in all thirty States, great and small, the greatest being chief powers of Europe and the world.

These powers took the field with great armies. On the frontier between Holland and the Upper Rhine 260,000 soldiers were marching towards Paris. Fifty-six thousand Prussians, twenty-five thousand Hessians, Saxons and Bavarians, threatened the Rhine from Biele to Mayence and Coblenz. From this point to the Meuse thirty thousand men occupied Luxemburg. Sixty thousand Austrians and ten thousand Prussians were marching toward the Meuse, while forty thousand English, Hanoverians and Dutch were advancing through Holland toward the French frontier. At the same time a Spanish army was on the southern frontiers, and the Sardinians threatened the southeast. In France its whole provinces and large cities, such as Lyons, Toulon and Orleans were in arms against the Republic, the revolt in La Vendee being most formidable and for a time successful, its leaders having nearly a hundred thousand armed followers, and from their possession of the sea coasts having free communication with the English, from whom they received supplies and assistance.

To meet these various enemies the French convention at first called out 500,000 men. It was determined to keep the defensive on the east and south; to remain in observation along the Pyrennes and the coast, and to act on the offensive only in the north, where, as Gen. Dumouriez said, "there can be no defense but by battles." To execute this plan, 150,000 men were to occupy Belgium, and to cover the frontier from Dunkirk to the Meuse and the Sarre; 150,000 to extend themselves along the Rhine and the Vosges, from Mayence to Besancon and Gex. Lastly, a reserve was prepared at Chalons with the requisite material, ready to proceed to any quarter where it might be wanted. Savoy and Nice were to be guarded by two armies of 7000 men each; the Pyrennes by one of 40,000; and the Atlantic coasts were to be watched by an army of 40,000.

Even these forces, however, did not prove sufficient, and a few months later, August 23d, a decree was issued to the following effect:

From this moment till that when the enemy shall be driven from the territory of the republic, all the French shall be in permanent requisition for the service of the armies. The young

men shall go forth to fight; the married men shall make the arms and transport the supplies; the women shall make tents and clothes, and attend on the hospitals; the children shall make lint out of rags; and the old men shall cause themselves to be carried to the public places to excite the courage of the warriors, and to preach hatred of kings and love of the republic.

All the young unmarried men, or widowers without children from 18 to 25, were to compose the first levy. They were required to assemble immediately in the chief towns of the districts, to put themselves under drill and to be ready to start for the scene of war at a moment's notice. The men between twenty-five and thirty were notified to get ready, and, meanwhile, were required to suppress the revolt of the Vendeeans and other insurgents, and to keep the peace of the interior. The men between thirty and sixty were held in reserve for the more gradual arming of the population. In certain parts, such as the departments adjoining La Vendee, Lyons, Toulon and the Rhine, the whole population able to bear arms was at once called out.

The means employed to arm, equip, and subsist these levies were adapted to the circumstances. All the horses and beasts of burden which were not necessary either for agriculture or manufactures were placed at the disposal of the army commissaries. In the departments where manufactures of arms could be established, the public buildings and the public places were given up to workshops. At Paris forges were erected in the gardens of the Luxemburg, and machines for boring cannon on the banks of the Seine. All the journeymen gunsmiths were put into requisition, as were also the watch and clock-makers, who were capable of executing certain parts in the manufacture of arms. The result was that very soon the workshops of Paris began to turn out muskets at the rate of a thousand a day. As there was a want of saltpeter, orders were issued to examine all the cellars, and those in which the earth was found to contain saltpeter were dug up, and the mold lixiviated to extract the niter.

The first levies produced in a month 600,000 men, but these were not soldiers, and for four or five months the Republic suffered a continued series of disasters from panics and want of skill in both troops and commanders.

But the tide at length turned, as it is bound to do in this war, and the Republic not only expelled the invaders, but carried its victorious standard into the adjacent countries. During all this period great embarrassment was caused by the position of Belgium, which, like some of the border States halted midway between the principles of the Republic and those of the enemy. "The Belgians," says Thiers, "desired a revolution, but not a complete and radical one like the revolution of France."—Dumouriez, who had occupied Belgium with a French army, was himself like some of our own generals, a lukewarm republican, and favored the "Border State" policy of the Belgians. He was strongly rebuked by the convention, which saw that it was no time for temporizing, and knew the folly of half measures.

The sense of the revolutionary leaders was well expressed in the famous speech of Cambon, who alluding to the red-tape, temporizing policy, said:

We must declare ourselves a revolutionary power in the countries which we enter. It is useless to attempt to conceal our position. The despots know what we mean. Since it is known, let us boldly proclaim it.