SHREVEPORT WEEKLY NEWS.

VOL. 2. SHREVEPORT, LA., MONDAY APRIL 13, 1863. NO. 10

The Weekly News

Is published for the benefit of persons whose mail facilities will not admit of their subscribing to the *Semi-Weekly News*. The present small size has been adopted to place it within the reach of every person.

Terms—For the present size $5 per annum, $3 for six months, *in advance*.

It contains all the reading which is published in the Semi-Weekly.

JOHN DICKINSON,
Editor and Proprietor.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS
Is published twice a week,
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY,

Terms—$8.00 per year; $4.00 for six months; $2.00 for three months. It is the only paper this side of the Mississippi river, outside of New Orleans, in Louisiana, that is published *more than once a week*. It contains the latest War News and items of interest transpiring in the Southern Confederacy.

In remitting send none but *Confederate, Louisiana State, or Shreveport Bills, or Texas Treasury Warrants*. Individual or Mutilated Bills not received. 2:1

FROM TUESDAY'S PAPER.

We are pleased to notice that the people of Texas are making arrangements to establish a paper mill in that State. It will prove very lucrative to the parties concerned.

We notice that all persons who visit New Orleans, from the age of sixteen and upwards, are required to take the oath of allegiance to Federal government.

The Postmaster at Pondatoula, has been arrested on a charge of robbing letters passing through his hands.

The editor of the Galveston News is in receipt of a letter from Browns ville, announcing the capture of Judge Davis, Montgomery and others. They are in custody for trial.

We have received the second number of the Southern Scatinel, published at Alexandria, La. The editor and proprietor, Mr. T. J. Compton, has our good wishes.

We learn that Mr. B. Courtois, one of the signers of the card in the Caddo Gazette, was taken out of his bed and tarred and cottoned.

On Sunday, the Way Bill received from Alexandria, stated that three gunboats were at the mouth of Red River, and one had passed the mouth on her way up. The people at Alexandria were not uneasy.

By the arrival of the steamer Countess, the above has been confirmed. The names of the boats are the Hartford and Alabatross, the two that passed Port Hudson, and the Benton, an iron-clad, which passed Vicksburg.

A letter published in the Galveston News, says that Capt. Kittridge is again captured. The writer says he was captured by Lieut. Conklin on Padre Island, and administered poison to Conklin in a glass of liquor; causing his death. On being charged by the physician with his diabolical act, he coolly replied that all advantages were fair in war; that he had met Lieut. Conklin several times before, and that it was much easier to kill such with whiskey than with powder and lead or the sword; that he had tried it and found it so. The editor thinks the information is from a reliable source, but Cushing of the Telegraph doubts its veracity.

The contest for Governor in Texas will be quite exciting, judging from the number of persons spoken of in that connection. Wonder how it will be in this State. Thus far, we have noticed but one person in the field!

We are pleased to learn that the Hon. Judge Roland Jones, of this city, decided the militia law illegal, in so far as it conflicts with the Confederate law, which he properly decided supreme. The case was brought into court by persons having substitutes in the service. It now becomes the duty of the Captains of the different militia companies to erase the names of all such persons.

The communication headed "The Last Remedy," was written at the time of the fall of Fort Donelson.

Impolitic.

In the last number of the Gazette appeared a card signed by about a dozen foreigners, who, fearing they might be drafted in the Militia, adopted that course to notify the people that they were French subjects, and owed no allegiance to this State. We cannot imagine what possessed those persons, to act thus, for at this particular period, the move is very imprudent, as it will not only be of no avail, but cause the community to look upon them with contempt, and make their stay in this city one of the most miserable to themselves as well as others, if they are permitted to remain.

We noticed an inclination on the part of some of our citizens to drive those persons from the place. Drummers were engaged and the rogue's march played before their respective stores. Outside of this nothing was done.

We dislike mob law as much as any one can, and trust the matter will be taken in hand by the proper authorities. Any foreigner who has lived in this State for a number of years, coining money, and now claims Foreign protection for fear of having to serve in the militia, ought, in our opinion, be notified to leave as soon as practicable, allowing ample time for a settlement of business, and under no pretense whatever ought he be permitted to return. If the State of Louisiana, or the Confederate States, are good enough to live in and make money, they are good enough to fight for. This class of persons have had sufficient opportunity to leave this country, as welcome to President Davis' proclamation will show, and as they preferred to remain and take their chances, they must not complain, or evinces that if they are compelled to take up arms, France will not recognize us. If the signers of that card dislike so much the losing of their nationality, let them start in earnest for their beloved country and not remain here, creating dislike towards all other foreigners. Those few individuals, take the responsibility of speaking for *all* the foreigners, thus doing serious injury to that class of our citizens, who have proven themselves as true to our cause, as native Americans. Shame to them, for they ought to know by this time, that *persons who are not with us are considered against us*.—These are days for action and not talk, and the fact of a man's saying he will not go, if drafted, is simply ridiculous, and exhibits a lack of sense on his part. It is better to be cheerful under the circumstances, than to be despondent.

Information has reached Little Rock, says the Washington Telegraph, that Gen. Churchill and staff have been exchanged at Fort Monroe. We have heard nothing yet of the exchange of the Post prisoners, which was fixed to take place on the 13th, at City Point. Our latest dates from Richmond are not that late.

Another Victory.

This is only the beginning, says the La. Democrat, of the like triumphs that awaits us. The Commanding General is at work night and day, and our people may rest assured that our army and navy will soon be heard from again. All we ask is now to be let alone, and time will prove that we are not mistaken in the abiding confidence we have in the commanding General of this district.

HEDQ'RS DIST. WESTERN LA.,
Near Berwicks Bay, March 28 '63.

Gen S. Cooper, Adjt. and Insp't Gen'l, Richmond:

I have the honor to report the capture of the Federal gunboat "Diana" at this point to-day. She mounts five heavy guns. Boat not seriously injured, and will be immediately put in service. Enemy's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, one hundred and fifty. Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. TAYLOR,
Major-Gen. Commanding.

ANOTHER TERRITORY.—A bill has been introduced in the Federal Congress for the erection of the territory of Shoshone. The proposed territory will include within its limits all that part of the old territory of Oregon inhabited by the Shoshone Indians, all the territory of Nebraska west of the twenty seventh parallel from Washington, and that portion of Dacota Territory lying south of the forty sixth degree of latitude.

Communicated.

The Last Remedy.

In our present difficulties all scientific men have tried their skill, and until this moment all skillful calculations turned out a failure. King cotton assured us to close the battlefield last December; the financier figured out the balance sheet of the North, and stopped their credit last January; the skillful engineer has thrown up his breast works, and defied the enemy from cities, forts and islands; the brave soldier calculated to conquer; five to one, the patriotic planter calculated to supply the army and their families abundantly; the diplomatist has put confidence on European dignity, and gained the advantage of Slidell and Mason, and some blockade affair, &c. Having this prospect before us, we calculated to gain a final victory, but lo! in the face of all this calculation, and labor, by balancing our victories and defeats, mortally, and losses and gains, physically, we are a little behind since we commenced, and nobody is to blame. The only remedy, is to have a naval force, for which we have neither time or material. As we have no navy to repel them, our brave soldiers are getting exhausted, supplies for the army scarce, navigation blockaded, our currency paper stricken, and the enemy with all their superior forces, cannot conquer our brave army and determined citizens, but can we, with our bravery and determination, drive the enemy from our sea and river coasts, without a navy? The question is now, have we any friends to assist us? I will use the language of our friend Yancey, "We are alone, and the reason is simply this, the American republic has been the revolutionary cry in Europe, for the last fifteen years, therefore they would rather put down the republic North and South, much less will they assist a new one; we have been an example for their revolutionary movements, and now they want us for a reverse example, to strengthen their kingdoms and empires. It is a gross mistake that Europe opposes us on the slavery question; there might be a few of the people but the heads of the government oppose us on account of our republican institutions, and not on slavery. The only way to get assistance from Europe, and to whip the enemy, is for us to declare a constitutional kingdom—say, elect a President for life, free trade and direct taxation; this is the bearings, how we can give our enemy and Europe will be our friends; let it be king Davis, Mason, Slidell, Benjamin, Breckinridge, Stevens, or any other statesman, then the war will be over as quick as commissioners can arrive and return, with a navy. We will then have a constitution, a good government, wholesome laws and domestic happiness, and conquer our enemy where, despite to conquer us, and to keep us for their hewers of wood and drawers, and woodsmen; force this law on the first stance, and due to each, as we love republican institution of self government, but on the other hand "have we been a republic for the last five years; have we deposited our votes in the ballot box without either being protected, or threatened by bowie knives and pistols; and our lives and property been protected in days of election? December elections, Baltimore, New Orleans, &c., have we not been deprived of some of our property, by the same people of whom we have bought the said property, in good faith, and can we expect any favor or justice from the North, in case we are conquered? The only difference between a constitutional kingdom and a Republican government, is the election of President, all other officers in both houses, also municipality officers are elections in France, England and Holland, and the laws in general are more uniform and substantial and less taxation. These are undeniable facts; this republic has lasted 85 years, with much success, and the most of the time, a virtuous one, but there has been twenty Presidential elections, and twelve or perhaps fifteen during the present, have been influenced by bribery, fraud and corruption, and has cost the people more money than all the revolutions in Europe during that period; every election weakens the government, and is throwing flames of enmity among the people, and there is no doubt if we had our Presidential elections every ten years in place of four, our republic might have lasted eighty longer. The Northern republic is at end, also there will never be more than two Presidential elections in the North, because the aspiration for others, will, after the war, be greater than heretofore, and either a kingdom or another separation must take place. Lincoln assumes as much power as any emperor in Europe; the word republic, he is at present, only a sham; if our independence should be acknowledged this day, it will be our policy to have a constitutional, constitutional government, although our previous policy has been State right government; State right government is not substantial, where a consolidated government is not only stronger in politics, but has more wholesome and uniform laws to promote domestic happiness, our commercial, criminal and moral laws, want more consolidation and uniformity, and if the government itself is not consolidated, you can't make uniform laws. I will cite you a few, per example: A man becomes a bankrupt, and is discharged in Louisiana and taken up for the same debt in Georgia, North Carolina and Florida; a woman's property is protected in this State, and not in Alabama and Texas; cause for divorce is legal in one state and not in the other; right of suffrage itself is neither uniform nor just, and is not only abused by the outlaw, but the very act itself is destitute of justice and equity. A man who has neither children nor property, and cannot write his own name, nor read an election ticket, votes for superintendent of public education, for judge of supreme court, &c., &c., all such popular laws have been made by popular men, for the sake of popularity, to become President makers, so the President becomes their paged victim. We have abused our liberty, and it requires a new system of government. We have with all our boasts, liberty and republican institutions, and if possible let us sustain them, we may whip the enemy yet by land, and weaken them to such a degree, as to be obliged to surrender our sea and water courses. Davis, Benjamin, Stevens, Mason, Slidell, Breckinridge, Beauregard, &c., our leaders, are worthy of our confidence, but in the event of no success, and we are obliged to ask for assistance from Europe, title is the only way to get it, and the best *security* it is; better to establish a kingdom to guarantee us a liberal constitution with religious liberty, and domestic happiness, than to be conquered by a bitter foe, and to be subject by a tyrannical republic—republic in name, and despotic in practice.

Comite, La. J. A. WEBSTER.

The river at this place is still falling.

Destruction of the Natchez.

We regret to learn, as we do by a letter from Yazoo city, of the destruction of the magnificent packet steamer Natchez, by fire which occurred on the Yazoo river on the afternoon of the 13th inst. The boat left Yazoo city on the 12th inst., bound up having on board forty-three persons, crew and passengers—including three ladies—and frieghted with thirteen hundred bales of cotton. Owing to the large size of the boat, and the smallness of the stream she was compelled to lay up at night. On the afternoon of the 13th, just after landing a lady, the cry of fire was heard, and then occurred one of those scenes which can only be realized by one who has witnessed similar accidents. The flames gained so rapidly that the passengers and crew had barely time to gain the boiler deck and leap overboard. Through the exertions of the pilot, Capt. Seabury, the boat was backed as far into the swamp as she would go, the whole country being overflowed. As soon as it was found that the boat could go no further all on board leaped overboard, and soon the water was dotted with their forms. Captain Christy was the last to leave the boat and is stated to have acted with the greatest coolness and judgment.

We are advised of two instances of individual courage, worthy of mention. A member of the 2d Texas regiment, after reaching a place of safety, heard the screams of Mrs. Eddy, who with her husband was but a few feet from the burning wreck, when he plunged in and rescued her. Another member of the same regiment who did not cease his efforts to extinguish the flames, until his buckskin jacket was burned to a crisp, leaped from the guards, and although he had the use of but one arm in swimming—the other having been disabled by a Yankee bullet—he swam to the assistance of a drowning negro and succeeded in rescuing him. The names of these two gallant gentleman are given to us as Messrs. Fletcher and Lawson.

The Natchez will be remembered by all who are acquainted with her on the river when the war broke out as one of the largest and finest packets on the Mississippi. She was built to the water's edge.

Everything transpired so quickly that there was no time to make any preparation whatever, to put on a life preserver or save anything at all. Messrs. Wilson, Atkins and Bounds—the two first passengers, and the not named chief engineer—were drowned. Six negroes are missing, of whom one is known to have been burned to death on the wreck. Captain Eddy, a volunteer pilot, and his lady, were on board; both saved but badly burned. The rescued party was in the water about two hours, before they were taken to the opposite shore, which was dry. The citizens of the neighborhood were untiring in their efforts to make the sufferers comfortable.

The Yazoo Pass Expedition.

Special to the Chicago Times.

Coldwater river, Miss., March 4, via Cairo, March 10.—The expedition left Moon Lake on Wednesday morning reaching the end of the pass yesterday noon, twelve miles in three days and a half. The boats are much broken in the light upper works, but not one damaged in the hull or machinery.

The most difficult portion of the trip is overcome, and it will be memorable as the grandest achievement of the war. Any one who had seen the pass before the expedition entered, could never have supposed that a fleet of steamers could possibly pass through it. Soldiers and seamen were occupied at every turn, cutting down trees, clearing away rafts and drift wood, and otherwise making the channel water very deep. With a swift current and a course terribly crooked, there was a liability of boats being dashed to pieces against trees at every turn; but all is now safe.

We move forward again to-morrow morning. A battery is reported at the mouth of Coldwater, twelve miles from here. Everybody is anxious to see it.

The health of the troops is excellent. All are in fine spirits and confident.

We get all manner of reports of rebel preparations to receive us, but they are only the cause of laughter.

The weather is fine in this latitude except that the sun shines rather too warm during the day. The water thus far is good, and we anticipate but little trouble on this account. As the country is overflowed with recent rains, it will not become stagnant for some weeks yet.

Lieut. Commander Smith, and Gen Ross are making arrangements to keep communication open with the rear. Smith is to patrol the streams with gunboats as high up as the pass and as low down as we go, if the army will furnish transports to run between us and Helena. The arrangements will probably be made.

Coldwater river, Miss, March 5, via Cairo March 10.—The expedition has advanced twenty miles since my last report.

The country is entirely destitute of population.

Nothing of the slightest importance has occurred with us yet. We receive nothing in the way of news either from the front or rear. We hope to reach the Tallahatchie tomorrow or next day, when we shall begin to make better progress.

The rams Lioness and Fulton have joined us.

Indications are that the enemy has filled the river with timber, mostly sycamore, which sinking, obstructs the bottom of the channel. A great rise in the river, caused by cutting the Mississippi levee, enables boats to pass over these obstructions without the slightest trouble.

The ladies will present a flag to company B, Capt. A. J. Hitchcock, on next Monday.

The Nashville Dispatch of the 14th states that Rosecranz has issued an order to the effect that every rebel hereafter found in Federal uniform shall be treated as a spy.

News Items.

Panola March 25.—The Memphis evening Bulletin of the 21st and the Chicago Times of the 19th has been received.

A Springfield (Ill) dispatch states that Lieut. Dustin killed a soldier, whom he attempted to arrest. The military surrounded the court, threatening whatever its decision, to rescue Dustin and have him tried by a military court. Intense excitement prevailed, but the military were overawed and withdrawn. Dustin was held for murder in the first degree.

A dispatch from Indianapolis says the sale of lead, powder and arms, has been prohibited in Indiana.

Columbus Ohio, was fired in eight places in a single night.

A dispatch from Cincinnati states that the United States marshal, with two full companies provided with six day's ration and thirty-six cartridges had started to Done county, Ind., to arrest a deserter and his advisers.

Richmond March 25.—A Cincinnati dispatch, of the 19th, says that the Yazoo expedition had met with a check. The gunboat Chillicothe encountered a rebel battery at the mouth Tallahatchie, the fight lasting all day. One shot entering a port hole of the gunboat, killed and wounded sixteen; she was struck sixty-four times by shot, and damaged seriously. The fleet consisted of the Chillicothe, DeKalb, five small gunboats and eighteen transports. At last accounts the force was three miles above the battery.

Savannah, March 26.—Yankees came out from Jacksonville 2 miles yesterday, burnt a number of houses, tore up several miles of the railroad, we opened fire when they skedaddled, they are coming out again to-day, and a considerable fight is expected.

Savannah, March 26.—Two Captains and six privates of the 48th N. Y. regiment, captured by our men in a boat yesterday morning, whilst en route from Fort Pulaski to Ossadiva, also a large paper and letter mail.

Panola, March 26.—I learn from a gentleman from Memphis that the permanent occupation of Northwestern Mississippi, and the erection of fortifications at Hernando has been determined upon by the enemy.—They are repairing the railroad, and their purpose is considered fixed. The minor officers have disclosed their preparations for departure on this expedition.

Fifteen boats carrying reinforcements, met the retreating fleet on the Tallahatchi near Locopolis, when both descended the river. The reinforcing boats have ambulances, indicating a purpose to attempt land operations.

One gunboat was at the mouth of the Coldwater, repairing damages, which were very serious.

Major Blythe has just sent in a batch of prisoners.

Federal Reports from the River.

Special dispatch to the Chicago Times.

Memphis, March 7, (via Cairo, March 10)—The steamer Florence arrived from the fleet below this morning, having left on Thursday at two P. M.

The only event which had occured since previous departures from the fleet was, that the enemy had commenced throwing shells at intervals in the direction of the canal. Some annoyance had been caused to the men at work up to the time the boat left. About twenty-five had been thrown.

Another dredging boat was being prepared for work.

The city is full of rumors of an engagement at Port Hudson, said to have been reported by the Jackson Appeal; but they are considered as having no foundation.

Paymasters have commenced distributing greenbacks among the troops. They will pay them up to the 1st of November, only

Sickness has decreased considerably within the past two weeks.

The new iron-clad Lafayette has been sent up the Yazoo river.

Col. Ellet has asked permission to go below with two rams and recapture the Queen of the West, but the admiral will not consent.

The rebels are getting up a formidable naval force,

It is reported in Jackson, Miss., that the Indianola had been partly sunk; but workmen had succeeded in raising her.

The Vicksburg Whig, of Feb. 24th, says: "The Indianola passed Natchez yesterday morning, coming up. Heavy hammering aboard was heard, and it is supposed the machinery was being repaired."

The Jackson Appeal, of the 26th, states that seven deserters from the Yazoo pass expedition had arrived in Panola.

The Charleston correspondent of the Savannah Republican speculates on the purposes of Gen. Hunter in respect to Charleston and Savannah, and concludes as follows:

But these are mere speculations, founded upon imperfect information, which a few days may suffice to dissipate. It may be, too, that no attack will be made upon Charleston or Savannah, and that Wilmington or Mobile is the destination of the Federal fleet.

The possession of either one of these cities would be a greater advantage to the enemy, and a heavier blow to us, than the capture of both Savannah and Charleston. Indeed, the capture of these latter cities would be a positive disadvantage to the enemy, except in that it would enable them more effectually to close their ports.

EXCITEMENT AND HANGING.—We learn that considerable excitement exists in several of the Northeastern counties of this State, and particularly those of Hunt and Hopkins, growing out of the appearance in that section of some men belonging to the notorious Martin D. Hart. After the execution of Hart, a portion of his followers brought a lot of stolen property to Texas. It seemed that they found a few sympathisers who aided them in concealing it. Suspicion having been excited, search was made, and some of it was found on the premises of a preacher in Hunt county. Hart's men being scented out, took refuge in the Jernigan thicket. Two or three of them were subsequently captured in Hunt and hung. On Wednesday, the 18th ult., four others were hung in Hopkins county. They were all traitors to our cause, one of them having been formerly a resident of Titus county. Our informant states that they were accused of robbery, murder, and treason; were regularly tried before a jury of twelve men, selected from various counties; and before being executed confessed their guilt.

[Texas Republican.

A late dispatch to the North says: "The flag of truce recently sent from Vicksburg was in relation to the reported threat by Admiral Porter to hang certain guerillas caught at Greenville; also to protest against the inundation of the country by cutting levees. It is understood that the rebel general threatened to retaliate upon our [the Federal] officers if the Admiral carried out his threat against guerillas." If so, General Pemberton will be sustained by public sentiment in the South. If anything disagreeable should happen to the Federal officers in this section of Dixie, they can attach the blame to their superiors.

The river at this place is falling slowly.

KEACHI, DESOTO PARISH, LA.,
April 6th, 1863.

The citizens of Keachi and surrounding country, assembled at this place according to previous notice and organized by electing Capt. Y. W. Graves, President, and L. L. Tompkies, Secretary.

The President on taking the chair delivered a very appropriate speech in regard to the late militia law passed by our Legislature, and the evil consequences which must necessarily ensue to the country at large, provided its requirements be rigidly enforced.

It was moved by T. M. Gilmer, that a committee be appointed by the chair, to wit: T. M. Gilmer, Jno. A. Ross, and L. L. Tompkies, to memorialize His Excellency Gov. T. O. Moore, and the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, relative to the existing militia law and its injurious effects upon the vital interests of the Confederacy.

Resolved, 2d. That the above proceedings be published in the Shreveport papers, and that the money accompany this document. When the meeting adjourned.

L. L. TOMPKIES, Sec'y.

Telegraphic News.

LATEST FROM TENNESSEE—Chattanooga, April 2, the gunboats on the Tennessee have been driven back by Confederate sharpshooters; two iron clads endeavored to land at Tuscumbia, and were attacked by our cavalry outposts, heavy cannonading ensued, but was ineffectual.