

The Goodhue Volunteer

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

J. H. PARKER : : : Editor.

Red Wing, March, 12, 1862.

President's Message.

We publish this week a message from the President looking towards the gradual emancipation of slaves in the United States. Probably the proclamation was induced by the resolutions of the Delaware Legislature, proposing a gradual emancipation of her slaves, providing Congress would appropriate money to indemnify them.

Whether the resolution recommended will pass Congress we cannot say; one thing, however, we believe that slavery is a great wrong—that its abolition is an event devoutly to be wished for, and that no near irregularity or temporary inconvenience ought to be allowed to impede the onward march of freedom.

We do not forget, however, that slavery is a *bad* institution, and must be sustained or abolished by *law*. We are not among those who believe that Congress can or ought to interfere with it in any State where it exists; therefore we approve the method indicated by the President's proposal of leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the States that have a right to interfere, simply pledging the Government to indemnify them whenever they shall conclude to abolish the institution. The effect of such a course will be, that those States where slavery is unprofitable will accept the aid of the Government, and free their slaves. Slavery thus becomes, from year to year, more and more circumscribed, and in time, it is to be hoped, all the States will voluntarily abolish the institution, more particularly as there is no probability that the negro will leave the land of his childhood, and the planter will always find at hand plenty of help to prosecute his planting, which can be had for reasonable hire.

Delinquent Taxes.

A bill of special importance to property holders who have not paid their taxes, passed the Legislature at the last hour of the session. A bill similar to that which passed was introduced by the Senate Committee of Ways and Means, early in the session, but met with severe opposition from some members, and close criticism from many outsiders. The bill, as passed, provides that all lands sold for taxes prior to 1860 may be redeemed upon the payment of the full amount of the tax originally assessed, with seven per cent interest on the same, provided it be paid before the first of next November. If not the whole is to be forfeited.

It was argued that such a law was an abridgment in the favor of delinquents, and a bid for people to allow their taxes to remain unpaid—that it was unjust that a person who had kept the County and State out of the use of the taxes for two or three years, should get off just as cheaply as one who paid up promptly; and finally, that it was setting a dangerous example. There is some weight in all these arguments, and great force in the last. But we live in peculiar times—this is a young and a poor State.—Our domestic taxes are large, our State tax amounting to about \$156,000, besides which we have been called upon to raise, for national purposes, \$108,000 more. Now there are nearly \$236,000 of delinquent tax due the State. The State holds the title (such as it is) to the lands upon which all this tax is assessed, but what good do the lands do her? Now, if by remitting the exorbitant penalty that never ought to have been attached to the failure to pay, enough of this \$236,000 can be collected into the Treasury to meet this extraordinary demand for \$108,000 we think the peculiar exigency of the times will hardly justify the application of "president" to this act. Then it is no hardship to those who have paid. The delinquent don't get off for any less than they, they must pay the whole amount with interest.

Now our advice would be for delinquents to pay up, don't delay, for delays are dangerous. You may not have such a chance again, so don't let this go by.

Death of Gen. Lander.

We learn, with profound sorrow, of the death of the heroic Gen. Lander. His disease was consumption, and he died at his post.

Gen. Lander was on Gen. McClellan's staff in Western Virginia, where he rendered important service to that General in that brilliant and decisive campaign that was the passport of Gen. McClellan to the exalted position he now holds. Since then he has been in command of a brigade on the Upper Potomac. He was wounded in the leg at Ball Bluff, which, no doubt, hastened the ravages of the disease that was praying upon him. For several months he has been urging the acceptance of his resignation upon the Government, upon the plea of sickness. For some cause his resignation was not accepted until the Almighty gave him his emancipatory discharge from his duties here, and, we hope, had called him to more pleasant duties above.

Legislature Adjourned.

Our State Legislature, which had been in session sixty days, adjourned last Friday, after having passed over one hundred bills, some of them of great importance to the public, and which required the closest study and the most sedulous labor of the various committees in which they were drawn and considered. By a law of the State the Legislature cannot sit sixty days in a session; and it has been proven by the last and previous session that more work will be done when Legislators know they have but a short time to work in, than when they have unrestricted time in that respect.

Glorious News.

In addition to the news of the evacuation of Columbus and Nashville by the rebels, the victory gained by the Federal over the Rebel fleet on the James River, the utter rout and overthrow of the united rebel armies of Price, McCulloch, VonDorn and McIntosh in Arkansas, by Gen. Curtis, and the complete demoralization of the remnant of the rebel army in Memphis, which may be found in our columns of telegraphic news, it is currently reported that later dispatches bring the information of the evacuation by the rebels of their entire line of defence on the Potomac. They have fallen back to Richmond, there to make a desperate stand. Their object in evacuating Manassas could not have been to seek a place of better natural defenses, for such does not exist; but it probably was to prevent our Southern and Western army from getting in behind them at Bull Run, so that the natural advantages of that place would only work to the sore disadvantage of the rebels.

For the Volunteer.

O. P. Ward—Again.

It is pity two public journals should be impelled, the one to attack and the other to defend this man. Why not strike at the root of the evil? I mean the law of chattel mortgages. Other States get along very well without any, and it is believed we in Minnesota could. Indeed, with us, it is an intolerable nuisance. A new State, with a constant emigration, it follows that we must, in a great degree, be strangers to each other. Now, perhaps sharper and other such gentlemen who have an abundance of time to examine the records, can keep posted up. But how is it with farmers, strangers and others who wish to buy horses, cattle, &c.? Must they always be compelled to go to the record, or run the risk of being caught, and getting "more than they bargained for?" This chattel mortgage law may afford opportunities to the dishonest to evade paying their just debts, but as to being a positive and good security in all cases, perhaps the experience of Mr. Ward himself disproves.—He knows that a cow may die under the butcher's hands and become beef. That a wagon, by a skillful mechanic, may be so changed that the owner himself would not know it. That mules and cattle can be taken out of the State.

In regard to Mr. Ward the writer of this has nothing to say. If this whole community should frown him down some "hard case" would take the business.

A chattel mortgage law may make some business for a certain class of lawyers. That it is good security with the simple and honest is probably true, but that it is a law of general benefit in this young and thriving State is denied.

Now, Mr. Editor, as there are two sides to all questions will you give your views upon this subject and very much obliged.

Message of the President.

EMANCIPATION INITIATED.

WASHINGTON, March 6.

The President to-day transmitted to Congress the following message:

Right citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:

Resolved, That the United States may adopt a general abolition of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State, in its discretion, to compensate for the inconvenience, public and private, proposed by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end of it; but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it.

The federal government would find its highest interest in such a measure as one of the most efficient measures of self-preservation. The leaders of the insurrection entertain the hope that the Government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the slave States north of such parts will then say, "The Union for which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with them." To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it. As to all the States tolerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation, but that while the offer is equally made to all, the more northern shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more southern that in no event shall the former join the latter in their proposed Confederacy. I say in initiation because I believe gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all in the more financial or pecuniary view. Any member of Congress, with the census tables and the treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of the war would purchase, at a fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State. Such a proposition on the part of the general Government sets up no claims or right by federal authority to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring, as it does, the absolute control of

the subject in each case to the State and its people immediately interested. It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them. I thought fit to say the Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been and continues to be an indispensable measure to this end. A practical re-acknowledgment of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease. If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may follow. Such as may seem indispensable or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come.—The proposition now made, though an offer only, I hope it may be esteemed no offence to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States and private persons concerned than are the institutions and property in it?

In the present aspect of affairs, while it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiatory and not within itself a practical measure it would seem led in the hope that it would sooner lead to important results.

In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly call the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

(Signed),

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Minnesota Legislature.

TUESDAY, March 4, 1862.

BILLS PASSED.

SENATE.—House bill to amend the act providing for township organization. House bill to amend the act in respect to grand and petit jurors.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

On motion of Mr. Smith, the House bill to facilitate the construction of the Minnesota and Pacific Railroad was taken from the table.

The question being upon "agreeing to the amendments adopted in committee of the whole, the same were concurred in."

The bill was read a third time.

B. A. Froieth sent in a protest against the passage of the bill.

Bennet read a speech of some length in opposition to the bill. He opposed it on the general ground that it gave the company extraordinary powers and privileges, and gave them more land than the act of Congress contemplated upon the completion of twenty miles of road.

On the final passage of the bill, the vote was as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Daniels, Duffy, McClure, Nash, Reimer, Sargent, Smith, Swift, S. NAYES—Messrs. Baldwin, Bennett, Cleveland, Clark, Cook, Miller, Richards, See, Webber.—9.

There not being a constitutional majority in the affirmative the bill was declared lost.

Cook moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill was lost, which was carried.

On motion of Mr. Baldwin, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Webber: To appropriate money to purchase musical instruments for the Fifth Regiment.

By Cleveland: In aid of libraries and a general diffusion of knowledge.

By Smith: In reference to the Historical Society.

By Baldwin, from the committee on Banks: To empower the State Auditor to compel the sale of securities of banks, banking associations and banking companies neglecting to comply with the requisition of the Auditor for the security of their notes.

HOUSE.—Cornell introduced the following resolution:

Resolved: That the report of the committee on Military Affairs adverse to the petition of Major George N. Morgan and other officers of the First Minnesota Regiment of Volunteers upon the subject of inferior clothing furnished the soldiers of said Regiment prior to their leaving the State, be recommitted to said committee with instructions to ascertain as near as practicable the difference between the actual value of such clothing and the price which the man of said Regiment have been obliged to allow for the same, and to bring in a bill appropriating for the benefit of the soldiers of such Regiment furnished with such inferior clothing a sufficient sum of money to cover such actual difference in value.

The resolution was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Past, Harris, Kemper, Ford and Rohr, with power to send for persons and papers.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.

By Butler: Making provision for the payment of the interest on the Minnesota State Bonds of \$250,000.

SENATE bill to incorporate the Fire Department of the city of St. Paul. Passed.

WEDNESDAY, March 5.

SENATE.—The resolution of Mr. Webber to adjourn *sine die*, on Friday at noon, coming up in order.

It was modified so that the hour was not named, and then passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By McClure: To amend the act fixing the times of holding courts in different counties in the first and fourth judicial districts.

DEAF, DUMB, BLIND AND INSANE PERSONS.

See from the committee on State charitable institutions, made a report accompanied by the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, By the Senate, (the House concurring), that the Governor is hereby authorized and requested to ascertain on what terms deaf, dumb, blind and insane persons residents of the State of Minnesota, will be admitted into proper institutions of other States, and report the same at the meeting of the next Legislature.

BILLS PASSED.

To amend the act fixing the times of holding courts in certain counties of the First and Fourth Judicial Districts.

To permit county commissioners to institute suits on the official bonds of officers.

To appropriate money to purchase musical instruments for the Fifth Regiment.

HOUSE bill to divide the State into two congressional districts, with amendments.

HOUSE bill to amend the act in relation to civil actions.

HOUSE bill to amend the act in relation to motions and orders.

HOUSE bill to amend the act in relation to jurors.

HOUSE bill to amend the act in relation to listing jurors.

In relation to the redemption of lands sold for taxes, and relating to taxes and tax sales.

HOUSE.—During the proceedings of the forenoon session the band of the Fourth Regiment which had driven up in front of the Capitol, commenced discoursing some soul enravishing airs. On motion the House took a recess of twenty minutes, and the band were invited to the Hall, where the

"Star Spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle," "Hail Columbia," and some original airs by the Messrs. Hubbard, were given to the evident delight of the members and concourse in the lobby.

On the re-assembly of the House, Mr. Stevens offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the members of this House are hereby tendered to Colonel Sanborn, the brothers Hubbard, and the members of the gallant band of our own Minnesota Fourth, for the compliment bestowed on us by their serenade. The spirited music they have discoursed to us is properly appreciated, and the grand national air so finely rendered has invested us with new life and patriotism, and inspired us with an increased devotion to the cause of our beloved country.

ACTS SIGNED.

The Governor informed the House that he had approved and signed bills entitled as follows:

An act requiring District judges to adopt general rules of practice in civil actions for the several districts.

An act to provide for the opening, establishing, changing and vacating of county roads.

An act making an appropriation reimbursing Charles Scheffer for money by him paid for military purposes.

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE.

House bill making appropriations for the payment of adjusted claims against the State for military purposes. Passed.

Senate bill to amend the act providing for the election of county attorney. Passed.

A bill for the relief of James D. Williams. Passed.

To amend the act prescribing the duties of County Auditor. Passed.

To amend the act for the assessment and taxation of all property. Passed.

To amend the act for levying the duties of County Treasurer. Passed.

THURSDAY, March 6, 1862.

SENATE.—The following bills were introduced.

By Baldwin: To amend the act in relation to insurance companies not incorporated in this State. Rules suspended and the bill passed.

PACIFIC RAILROAD AGAIN.

Nash moved to reconsider the vote by which the Minnesota and Pacific Railroad bill was lost yesterday. Adopted.

The bill was then put upon its final passage, which resulted in ayes, 11, nays 8.—So the bill was finally passed.

BILLS PASSED.

House bill to establish a State land office and for other purposes.

House bill to amend the act to provide for the assessment and taxation of all property in this State, and for levying taxes thereon according to its value in money, and the act amending the same.

House bill to amend the act prescribing the duties of County Auditors.

House bill to amend the act prescribing the duties of County Treasurers.

House bill to amend the act relating to appeals from the decisions of County Commissioners.

HOUSE bill to authorize the Regents of the University to adjust the indebtedness of the institution.

HOUSE bill to authorize the publication of certain general laws in the German and Norwegian languages.

HOUSE bill to appropriate money for the support of the State Government for the year 1862, and for other purposes therein named.

HOUSE bill to adjust military claims incurred by the State in order to aid the General Government in suppressing the rebellion.

HOUSE bill making an appropriation for a military counterpane fund.

SENATE bill to amend the act to regulate the business of banking.

HOUSE bill to provide for the assessment and collection of a tax for State purposes.

RESOLUTIONS.

HOUSE.—By Harris: Pledging ourselves to all honorable means for the speedy abolition of slavery.

By Magoon: Tendering the thanks of the members of the House to Hon. H. M. Rice, for the liberal manner in which he had supplied them with public documents.—Adopted.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.

By Past: To appropriate \$3,000 to the men of the First Regiment, as a recompense for the interior clothing furnished them.

SENATE bill to appropriate \$350 for the purchase of musical instruments for the Fifth Regiment. The rules were suspended and the bill passed.

SENATE bill to amend the act fixing the times of holding terms of court in the First and Fourth judicial districts, changing the term of holding court in Goodhue county. The rules were suspended and the bill passed.

SENATE bill to amend section 48, chapter 60, of the compiled statutes, relative to the service of summons. Passed.

SENATE bill to amend the act authorizing the Governor to ascertain what terms the deaf, dumb, or insane of this State can be placed in the asylums of other States, and report the same to the next Legislature. Passed.

SENATE bill for the collection and preservation of criminal statistics. Taken from the committee of the whole and passed.

SENATE bill to amend the act providing for the redemption of lands sold for taxes. Referred to the committee of the whole, where it was discussed a great portion of the afternoon, and amended so as to require the payment of 12 per cent. interest on the delinquent taxes previous to 1860. The bill was then passed.

SENATE bill, in relation to the redemption of lands sold for taxes, which was amended by the House as to provide for the payment of 12 per cent. interest on the delinquent taxes, was returned from the Senate amended so as to make it but 7 per cent. The amendment was concurred in by the House.

SENATE bill to amend the Act providing for a system of common schools, so as to limit the amount of taxation to eight mills on the dollar in any one year for the purpose of building school houses. Read a third time and passed.—ayes 23, nays 9.

SENATE bill to amend an act to provide for service of summons by publication in justices court. Passed.

SENATE bill to prevent the committing of waste on any unoccupied real estate. Passed.

SENATE bill to amend chapter 106, page 762, of the Compiled Statutes in relation to delinquents. Amended and passed.

FRENCH COUNTY GUARDS.—This company in the Fifth Regiment, now numbers seventy men, and will be full, we are assured, by next Friday. The success of Capt. Hall and Lieutenant Sheehan, has been remarkable; but a few days ago they came to the fort with forty-five men that they had recruited in fifteen days' time. Now they have an stated above, seventy. Freshborn county is solely doing her share of the patriotic work of the day.

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

Secretary Welles to-day received dispatches dated Columbus, March 4th, saying: Columbus is in our possession. Since our reconnoissance of the 2d the enemy evacuated in haste, leaving quite a number of guns, ammunition, large quantities of shot and shell, anchors, and remnants of chain cable lately stretched across the river, with quantities of torpedoes. Most of the huts, tents, &c., were destroyed. Their works were of very great strength.

General McClellan has issued a general order announcing with deep regret to the Army of the Potomac, the death of Brigadier General Lander. He pays a high compliment to his public services, intelligence and courage.

BALTIMORE, March 5.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson was to-day elected United States Senator by the Maryland Legislature, for six years from next March. A letter from Fort Monroe, published in this city, says that yesterday's Richmond Dispatch announces that the steamer Nashville came direct from Southampton to the North Carolina coast, and approached the blockading vessels with the Union flag flying. The Nashville went up directly under the guns of the blockading vessel at almost within hailing distance, and then passing her, raised the rebel flag and moved directly towards Fort Macon. The blockading vessel immediately discovered the deception and started in pursuit of the Nashville, and followed her until within range of the guns of Fort Macon.

Several shells were fired at the Nashville, but she reports that nobody was hurt. She claims to have brought into Wilmington a valuable cargo of bank note and printing paper.

The Richmond Dispatch calls attention to mysterious writings on the wall, indicating that Union conspirators are at work. "Attention Union men. Watch and wait. The hour forever—the day is dawning—the hour approaches." It was these significant announcements that caused the arrest of John Minor Botts and twenty other suspected citizens of exalted character and position, and the proclamation of martial law.

WASHINGTON, March 5.

Official information has been received that the Portuguese Government is devoting its attention to the cultivation of cotton in its African possessions.

NEW YORK, March 5.

The steamer Columbia, from Havana last instant, has arrived.

Gen. Almona has passed through Havana for Vera Cruz.

William L. Yancy, disguised, had sailed in the rebel schooner Wide Awake for the South.

The captain of the captured English steamer Lebanon, arrived at Havana in a rebel schooner, protested before the English Consul, and left in the Columbia for New York.

The gunboat Harriet Lane had arrived at Havana. She took as a prize off Mantanzas the schooner Virginia Adams.

It is stated that if the ship of war Portsmouth had waited a day before capturing the Lebanon she would have got \$200,000 in specie.

Letters from Port Royal, says that Fort Palaski is entirely surrounded by Union troops, and effectually cut off from communication from Savannah, and batteries are being erected.

Savannah has been very well fortified by rebels, and large numbers of regular troops are constantly arriving. Our troops are in good health. News of recent Union victories produced a discouraging effect on the rebels, serving to stimulate desertion.

The steamer Ericsson arrived from Port Royal on the 1st inst., with 320 bales of cotton, and 140 passengers.

The steamer Cosmopolitan had arrived there with a Connecticut regiment.

A passenger from Savannah reported 30,000 rebel troops there. Other news rather meagre, and being contraband is not used.

WASHINGTON, March 5.

[Tribune's dispatch.]—Gen. Andy Johnson and Representatives Maynard and Ethridge have for Tennessee to-morrow—General Johnson will immediately upon his arrival at Nashville call upon the loyal citizens of the State to elect delegates to a convention to be charged with the duty of declaring vacant the places of Governor Harris and his rebel associates and electing new officers and setting a loyal State Government on its feet.

The Post Master General to-day complained by letter to the post office committee of the loss of the return of Commodore Vanderbilt's division of the South American mails and of some northern railroads to contract to carry mails. He recommended that legislation be adopted to protect the government from the dictation of railroad and steamboat proprietors.

March 6.—[Special to the Post.]—A tax upon cotton will be agreed to in the House as an amendment to the tax bill, when that measure comes up for consideration. (The bill is not yet printed.)

Information has reached the Navy Department of the capture of the schooner Lizzie Weston, with a cargo of 280 bales of cotton, by the gunboat Lisianski. The captured vessel sailed from Apalachicola, Florida, for Havana and a market.

The steamer Northern Light, from Annapolis, arrived this morning, with nearly a million in treasure.

BOSTON, March 6.

The steamer Saxon reports that the rebel steamer Magnolia, while attempting to run out of Mobile. She had 400 bales of cotton on board. The engineer attempted to blow her up but the escape of steam only killed himself. The Magnolia is a large six wheel steamer.

WASHINGTON, March 6.

A special dispatch to the Tribune says a reconnoitering party of the 53d Pennsylvania, in Heintzelman's division, was ambushed yesterday morning, beyond the Occoquan, two or three miles in advance of our pickets and recovered the fire of about forty concealed rebels, who then immediately fled thro' the woods. Capt. Chapman and Lieutenant Lyle were killed, and two privates were wounded, one of them mortally.

One hundred and fifty soldiers recently deserted from Savannah to Gen. Sherman. When asked why they did it, they replied that they were tired of fighting in a rich man's war.

The following statement of the strength and position of the rebel force opposite to the Union army of the Potomac, was perfectly accurate four days ago. Changes have probably occurred since, but the main facts must still correspond with the figures. The latter named as follows: The main body of the rebels, there is now the strength of the rebels, there are 50,000 infantry, 11,000 cavalry, and 120 pieces of cannon, light and heavy.

Behind the batteries on the Potomac there are from 12,000 to 15,000 men. At Green Spring, between Leesburg and Centerville, there are three regiments of infantry, with a squadron of cavalry. At Leesburg there are three regiments of infantry, one battery and 400 cavalry. At a point five miles south of Brentsville, there is a small ten miles south of Manassas, there is one brigade of infantry of 3,400 men: these forces do not include any part of Jackson's army forming the rebel left wing, against which Gen. Banks is operating.

DEWARA CREEK, March 7th.

via JULIENSBURG, March 8.

By military express the following news was received here yesterday:

A desperate and terrible battle, lasting all day, took place at Valverde, ten miles south of Fort Craig, on the 21st ult.—the fight probably resumed on the 22d. Loss great on both sides. Both parties claim the victory. A regiment of Mexicans, commanded by Col. Panon, ran away. Capt. McRae, who had charge of the artillery, and every one of his command were killed at their posts, and their cannon taken by the enemy. Kit Carson was within 15 miles of Fort Craig. Firing was heard from his direction with what result had not been ascertained at the time the messenger left.

FORT MONROE, March 7.

A flag of truce from Norfolk brought down the command and ten others of the French steamer. They represent that the excitement at Norfolk is very great. The hotels were swarming with officers from the Gulf States. The Virginia troops have been sent away. The people dread the destruction of the city in case of an attack. A strong force is concentrated at Suffolk, to resist Gen. Burnside, who was reported to have reached Winton in force and was moving on Suffolk.

The reason given by the rebels for not returning Col. Corcoran was that maps and drawings have been found concealed upon his person. No further communication has been received as to the release of the federal prisoners at Richmond.

Richmond, Va., Friday contain no military news except the arrest of a number of Union men, principally Germans. A detective officer broke into the room of the German Turners and found two Union American flags and a painting on the wall of the Goddess of Liberty holding the Union colors and a shield, with the words underneath, "Hats off."

The House of Representatives have passed a resolution by a vote of 71 to 11, recommending and directing military commanders to destroy all cotton and tobacco that is in any danger of falling into the hands of the Federals.

Specie is quoted at Richmond at forty and fifty per cent premium.

WASHINGTON, March 8.

[Times' dispatch.]—The more the President's message is discussed the more difficult is it to define the position of the parties in regard to it. One great point, however, is gained; the subject is universally discussed with more calmness than ever before characterized a question about slavery.

MILWAUKEE, March 8.

A special dispatch from St. Louis says our forces have completely invested New Madrid. Five or seven thousand rebels are reported there and an easy victory is expected.

FORT MONROE, March 9.

The rebel frigate Merrimac and gunboats Yorktown and Jamestown attacked the Ericsson battery. After five hours contest they were driven off. The former in a sinking condition. This is official.

The stars and stripes float over Cockpit Point.

In the naval engagement the Merrimac sank the Cumberland and captured and took the Congress, and took the officers prisoners. She afterwards opened fire on the Minnesota. The Ericsson steamer Monitor met them and opened fire on the enemy's vessels, which retired, except the Merrimac. These two vessels were fought from 9 o'clock till noon, part of the time touching each other. The Merrimac retired in a sinking condition.

Nearly half of the Cumberland's crew 500 were lost.

The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fort Monroe, on her way to New Orleans. Two rebel gunboats followed her. They all carried the rebel flag at the stern, and had a French flag at the mast-head. The Merrimac had a flag at her bows which was described by some as a Commodore's blue flag, and by others as a black flag. The side, bow and stern of the Merrimac were covered with iron plates extending about two feet below the water line, and meeting above like the roof of a house. On her bows on the water line are two sharp iron points resembling plowshares, one of seven feet apart. The number of guns is stated as 12, but she might not have had so many. At her bows were seen two guns projecting from long elliptical port holes.

The design of the enemy did not become apparent until between 1 and 2 o'clock, and by that time the Minnesota had got under way to the scene of action.

The first shot was fired by the frigate Cumberland at a little past 2 o'clock. The Searall's Point battery then opened on the Merrimac, which was passing, and the Sawyer gun from the Rip Raps replied with a few shots on Searall's Point. A thick smoke was seen to rise from above Newport News point, indicating that the battery there, as well as the Cumberland and Congress, were engaged. The details of the action could not be seen from the Forts, but a telegraph dispatch was received announcing that the Cumberland and Merrimac were in close quarters. After firing two guns at the Cumberland the Merrimac struck her bows making a hole in her at the water line seven feet in extent. The Cumberland commenced sinking, when the Merrimac backing a short distance, ran into her a second time, making another terrible hole in her, causing the water to run in at a furious rate. The Cumberland continued firing till the water entered her port holes when she career over slowly and finally sank about 3 o'clock.

After sinking the Cumberland, the Merrimac turned her attention to the Congress, and in less than an hour afterwards a white flag was hoisted on the Congress.

A rebel gunboat immediately went alongside and took the officers and marines prisoners. The seamen were allowed to escape to the shore.

The frigate St. Lawrence arrived here during the afternoon, and without dropping her anchor proceeded up the river and followed the example of the Minnesota and Merrimac in firing on the battery at Searall's Point, but like the rest, her shot fell short. The gunboat Mystic was also towed up in the afternoon, but at sundown the Bonavia, St. Lawrence and Mystic all returned.

After 4 o'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shells into the camp at Newport News, while the Jamestown and other rebel gunboats continued to shell the Minnesota. The latter rained as vigorously as possible, and the cannon was continued without any apparent effect until dark.

During the evening the Congress was set on fire. At midnight she was blown up, making a terrible explosion. During the evening the Monitor arrived, and at once

proceeded to take part in the action. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent to Newport News early in the afternoon. But little serious damage was done, and no one was killed. This morning the conflict was renewed.

Until the presence of the Monitor was known to the Merrimac, the latter engaged with the Minnesota, and but for the fortunate arrival of the Monitor, the Minnesota might have been lost.

The Monitor and Merrimac engaged each other for two or three hours without perceptible effect upon either. They went along side each other once or twice, and seemed about to run each other down, but they soon appeared again to renew the action. The Ericsson battery finally succeeded in forcing a long hole in the port side of the Merrimac, and she retired with the whole rebel fleet to Norfolk at about one o'clock. The United States gunboat Oregon was struck by the Merrimac in her bow, and was blown up this morning. The U. S. gunboat Zouave was also seriously damaged and obliged to return. The principal loss of life was on board the Cumberland and fifty men must have been killed or drowned. But six lives were lost on board the Minnesota.

The Minnesota was eventually got off and towed under the guns of Fort Monroe.

ST. LOUIS, March 10.

The following is a special dispatch, to Major General McClellan, at Washington: The army southward, under General Curtis, after three days hard fighting, has gained a most glorious victory over the combined forces of Van Dorn, McCulloch, Price and McIntosh. Our loss in killed and wounded is estimated at one thousand; that of the enemy still larger. Guns, flags, provisions, etc., were captured in large quantities. Our cavalry are in pursuit of the flying enemy.

(Signed) H. W. HALLECK.

Major General.

The clemency of Gen. Curtis, and the judicious policy inaugurated in relation to the treatment of citizens of Benton county, is bringing its reward in the general confidence already showing indications of being restored among the fugitives who had fled at our approach.

LOUISVILLE, March 10.

An intelligent gentleman from Memphis, on Wednesday, reports that the citizens are greatly alarmed, and are relying on Fort Pillow, near Fort Randolph, for their defense. Very few troops are at Memphis. The Legislature scattered, after several ineffectual attempts to transact business.

Gov. Harris is greatly excited, and is flying about from one southern point to another with little prospect of succeeding in his efforts to rally the people to his aid.

H. A. Wise in 1858 speaking of the great "National Declaration," he says:

"Listen to me now, and to what I am going to say. I wish that there was no more, and that the whole of all the earth, and that I had the trumpets of an Archangel to sound it everywhere. * * * By all the gods—by all the alters of my country, I go for Union for Union's sake! None of your fathers or none of your father's sons have ever measured the height, or the depth, or the length, or the breadth of the wisdom of that Constitution."

At the celebration in New York on the 22d, one of the speakers spoke of the "fulfilling of the prophecy of the 'Saxon lineage' so largely indulged in at our public dinners. He said:

"This nation is not Anglo-Saxon, it is not Teutonic, it is not Celtic,—it is American or it is nothing. (Applaus.) And the men of various races who have chosen this land for their home and have built up by their energy its power and its glory, should by the best right be called the American people."

THE KING OF SIAM, in the plenitude of his benevolence, has written the president a letter, offering to send him a number of elephants to be