

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE WAR.

Gen. Kilpatrick has just made a bold raid through the rebel lines, from the Rapidan to the Peninsula. It was hoped by this raid, undoubtedly, to capture Richmond, but it failed of that result. The New York Times dispatch says of the raid:

Miles of railroad track on the two principal roads over which Lee transports his supplies for the northern army of Virginia, have been so thoroughly destroyed that some time must elapse before the road can be put in running order again. By the aid of commissary and quartermaster stores, were burned or destroyed. No less than six great mills and one saw mill, principally at work for the rebel army, were burned. Six canal boats loaded with grain, several locks on the James river canal, and the almost invulnerable coal pits at Manikin's bend, were destroyed. Nearly 500 prisoners were captured. Several hundred horses were pressed into the service and hundreds of negroes arrested. This is the opportunity to come within our lines.

Gen. Kilpatrick lost from 150 to 500, the estimates of the loss varying to that extent. The rebels say Kilpatrick came near capturing both Wise and Lee.

The reports from Gen. Sherman's expedition are entirely unsatisfactory. One statement is that he is advancing, another that he is moving on Mobile and another that he is retreating to Vicksburg; and other seems as well substantiated as the others.

Farragut's attack on Mobile is said to be progressing, but with no decisive result.

Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition has returned to Memphis, having failed in its efforts to form a junction with Sherman's army. They got on to West Point, about half way between Corinth and Meridian. At this place, Lee, Chalmers, and Roddy attacked them with a heavy force, and after some severe fighting our men began a retreat toward Memphis. The expedition destroyed over 1,000,000 bushels of corn, some up and destroyed miles of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad, burned many bridges and trees, captured and brought in over 1,500 mules and horses, about 2,000 negroes, and over 300 rebel prisoners. Our loss is much less than the enemy's. The expedition was successful at every point and in every particular, except the important one of making a junction with Sherman's army. The retreat was not at any time a rout, although there was straggling. The President's Amnesty Proclamation and Gen. Grant's orders were extensively circulated throughout the country.

Gen. Custer's cavalry expedition to the left of Lee's army has returned to the north side of the Rapidan, having accomplished the purpose intended. Not a man killed; only 11 wounded, and 2 captured. Gen. Custer's business was to make a diversion in favor of Kilpatrick, whose field was on the rebel right. Custer had 1,500 men and a section of artillery. He went through Madison Court House on Monday, crossed the Rapidan and crossed the river at the bridge over the Rapidan. A small force of rebel troops, about 600 men, were seen on the east bank, but they fled at once, and Custer whistled about. Meantime, the rebel cavalry had gathered in his rear, to the number of a whole brigade, and felt sure of capturing his entire force, but by a series of brilliant movements, including some fine charges and sharp fighting, our men got safely off, leaving many of the bridge over the Rapidan a mere pile of logs and timbers; taken 600 prisoners, many valuable horses, eight wagon loads of stores, six caissons, two forges, &c. The horses belong to the rebel army, and had been put out to board, so as to be in good condition for the Spring campaign.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.—Feb. 29.—Mr. Sumner reported a bill for the repeal of all laws for the giving up of fugitive slaves. The bill to equalize the pay of soldiers was taken up, and the remarks by Mr. Fessenden, Mr. Sumner, and Mr. Wilson it was recommended for alteration. The committee on Slavery and Freedmen reported a bill to secure equality in the United States Courts.

HOUSE.—Mr. Lind proposed a resolve respecting the President to appoint ex-President Vanoe, ex-Vice President Fillmore, the Hon. Thomas Erving and any other who may select, Commissioners to meet like Commissioners from the South to agree upon a restoration of the Union. The resolution was voted down, only 22 voting for it, 96 against. The House passed the bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means last week, authorizing a change in the face of a part of the loan authorized by the act of March last. This is the bill for the issue of \$200,000,000 of five-forty bonds. Mr. Sellenek offered certain resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, declaring the Rebels and their sympathizers public enemies; that to prevent future rebellion the cause of this one must be extinguished, &c. Mr. Pendleton proposed a resolution denouncing the arrest of Vallandigham, which was rejected—Yeas 47, Nays 76. Adjourned.

SENATE, March 1.—The House joint resolution granting thanks to officers and soldiers who have resigned, was passed without amendment.

HOUSE.—The Ways and Means Committee were instructed to report upon the expediency of taxing imported salt ten cents per bushel. Mr. Bradford offered a resolution which was passed, fixing the 31st day of May, the Senate concurring for the adjournment of Congress. The House resumed the consideration of the bill to establish a Bureau for Freedmen's Affairs. Mr. Knapp opposed and Mr. Price advocated the bill. Mr. Washburne (Ill.) offered a resolution that the House insist on its disagreement to the Senate's amendment, and that the House request another Committee of Conference, and that the House hereby declare its judgment that in the adjustment of the differences there should be an additional tax of not less than twenty nor more than fifty cents a gallon upon spirits on hand. Debate followed.

Mr. Pendleton moved that the House resolve to amend the Constitution, that no person whose mother or grandmother is a negro shall be entitled to citizenship; and also that the State of Maine and Massachusetts shall constitute one State, to be called East New England, and that Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut constitute another to be called West New England.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stebbins proposed a resolution that the Secretary be authorized to sell any surplus gold on due notice, or use it in advance redemption of interest coupons. Mr. Morrill reported that the Whisky Conference Committee could not agree. He said it was necessary for the House to recede from its disagreement to the Senate's amendments of the bill—the Senate would not agree to tax whisky on land—that point out of the way, an agreement might be made. He moved that the House

cede. After a long debate the vote was taken, and the House refused to recede by Yeas 61, Nays 71. It was then voted to address.

SENATE, March 4.—Mr. Sherman from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing vote of the two Houses on the Revenue bill, reported that the Committee of the Senate was unable to agree with that of the House. He moved that the Senate recede from amendments disagreed to by the House, which motion was adopted, by Yeas 25; Nays 11. The bill as it now stands provides a tax of 60 cents on all domestic liquors manufactured or removed for sale after the passage of the act until July 1, 1864, and 40 cents on imported spirits on hand.

HOUSE.—The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions reported a resolution which was unanimously adopted, tendering thanks to the surviving Revolutionary soldiers, twelve in number and sincerely rejoicing that by the decree of Providence, their lives have been protracted beyond the period allotted to them. Copies of the report are to be sent by the Speaker to each of the revolutionary pensioners. The contest next in the 11th District of Massachusetts was settled by denying the claim of Mr. Slesper. Mr. Rice acting member, was confirmed by a unanimous vote.

GENERAL NEWS.

The newly elected Republican State Senator of Pennsylvania was made a lion at Harrisburg, being escorted to the Capital by a great procession, with banners, speeches and burials. The first business, after taking his seat, was the passing of the Soldiers' Voting bill by 17 to 16, every Republican voting Yes, and every Democrat No. This result was hailed with tremendous cheers.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of Gen. Grant as Major General in the U. S. Regular Army, also Gen. Meade, W. T. Sherman, Thomas and McPherson as Brigadiers in the Regulars. Gen. Pleasanton and Warren were confirmed as Major-Generals of Volunteers.

By an arrival from New Orleans we have dates two days after the election. The returns there reported for Governor, set up as follows: Michael Hahn, Free State 5,777; J. Q. A. Fellows, Conservative 2,176; B. F. Franders, Free State 1,925. Mr. Hahn is elected by a handsome majority over both his competitors. The vote of the State will probably reach 11,000, which will be about one-fourth of that cast for President in 1860.

The Spring elections in New York, have resulted generally in Union gains.

Wendell Phillips' Lecture.

The Students' Geological and Debating Society here have procured WENDELL PHILLIPS to lecture in Montpelier, Friday evening of this week. Of course we need only make this announcement to secure a crowded attendance. The lecture will be delivered either in the Brick Church or Depot Hall, as the Village Hall would accommodate but a fraction of those who will wish to attend. The pioneers in the Anti-slavery cause here and in all the neighboring towns, will, of course, avail themselves of this opportunity to hear the silver-tongued orator, who was the champion of the cause when it required a brave man to speak for it, and who is still, when Freedom has become national, the boldest and most eloquent advocate of the inalienable rights of man. Mr. PHILLIPS utters what he believes to be the truth, without fear or favor, and those who frequently disagree with him, and who reckon ourselves among that number—agree with his warmest friends in acknowledging the wonderful charm of his eloquence. He is one of the intellectual giants of New England, and no one who admires the finest oratory, or loves the freest and boldest speech, will stay away from his lecture.

County Commissioner.

We give elsewhere the vote in this County for Commissioner last Tuesday, resulting in the election of Mr. Ballou. Mr. Parmelee was the candidate of the friends of a free traffic in rum. The votes which had been circulated quietly, and this "will hunt" would have been successful, undoubtedly, had it not been for a slip or hitch in the "circulating" machinery in Woodbury, where no Parmelee ballots appeared. It was supposed here until Thursday evening, that Mr. Parmelee was elected, and his healthy looking friends were jubilant accordingly, and even went so far as to propose to bury the "League" as a defunct body. But when the returns from Woodbury actually appeared, the rum stock suddenly went down to zero, and the prohibitory stock took a corresponding rise. Our daily contemporary illustrated this general appearance of the successful and defeated parties by appropriate cuts of a triumphant rooster and a used-up rooster, which though originally designed to embellish a different subject, were so pertinent as to create much merriment about town.

MONTPELLIER TOWN MEETING AND THE LEAGUE.

—THE TOWN meeting here last Tuesday, as a general thing, passed off quietly, there being no contest respecting any officer to be elected except the third selectman, and the overseer of the Poor. The ballot for selectman is only deserving of mention because it has been made the occasion of much unnecessary, and in some instances, unkind and uncharitable remark. No regular nominations for selectmen had been made, but it was generally understood that the old board would be voted for. The League had made no nominations. After Mr. Foster and Mr. Bancroft had been elected, however, the friends of an unrestricted sale of rum began to circulate votes for J. W. ELIAS. Mr. NUTT, who had held the office but one year was however re-elected because there was no good reason for turning him out. It is due, in justice to Mr. ELIAS, to remark here, that the use of his name was wholly unauthorized, and unknown by him; and as he was necessarily absent from the meeting, he had no opportunity of learning what was in progress. When the Constitution of the Temperance League was first circulated Mr. E. signed it, but for reasons abundantly sufficient, and entirely honorable, finding he could not approve of all the proceedings of the League, he frankly and honestly, and like a high minded gentleman withdrew his name. This act was made the occasion for many unjust, uncharitable, and we fear in some instances rather mean criticisms, of his course; but none of them, we think, was quite so mean as this attempt of those whose traffic the League has interfered with to make Mr. E., without his knowledge and wholly against his will, their standard bearer.

New Mexico.—"I cannot call her mother," is the title of an excellent song, by Wm. P. Channing, a Vermont singer, whom few have not seen and heard.—Just published by Melvin Wright, Proctorville, Vt. It can only be obtained by addressing the publisher, who will forward it, postage paid, on the receipt of twenty-five cents.

THE DRAFT.—Provost Marshal Crane, announced that the draft has been postponed until further orders.

The Presidency—One Term.

We notice in the Boston Journal, which is advocating the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the next presidency, an article containing criticisms upon the ability of Mr. Lincoln, or his conduct of the war—and, in effect, arguing that Mr. Lincoln should be nominated without objection, because criticisms upon the Administration will give a preposterous comfort. It occurs to us that this is a novel doctrine in a Republican Government. Mr. Lincoln is either the best man for the succession or he is not. If he is the best man, having had nearly four years in which to exhibit his superior fitness for the position, his special champions ought to be able to show it, and be ready to invite investigation. If he is not the best man, or the most available man, it will be a great deal better for the country to find that out now, or at least before the nomination, than to learn it at the next election, or through the discipline of the next four years. The Journal says:

We oppose this suicidal course, then, because, independent of President Lincoln's personal claims we believe that his administration is deserving of the thorough endorsement and commendation of the American people, and we should not want to see the next Presidency turn on its power to receive it, as such a result—no matter how good a man might be chosen—would be profitable to nobody.

If the Journal is satisfied upon this, why not invite rather than repel criticism? And does the Journal understand that the Democrats will not spare Mr. Lincoln's faults, or the errors of his Administration, if he should be re-nominated; and how will it deal with that? Must it not then bring forward, facts and figures and arguments? And will not those facts and figures and arguments be as available against Republicans as against Democrats? Mr. Lincoln will yet pray to deliver us from the advocacy of the papers which commence their work by attempting the suppression of candid and honest opinions. It is one thing to hold up President Lincoln's hands while he is and must be the recognized head of the Government, but it is quite another thing to declare through a convention or an election that he should be chosen for another term.

And in this connection, and for the purpose of showing another phase of the machinery by which Mr. Lincoln's nomination is to be compassed, we make the following extract from the Boston Traveller: "Mr. Lincoln's reelection would break that 'one term' rule which has prevailed for a quarter of a century, and the existence of which has had much to do with bringing the secession war upon us. The war would have been postponed for twenty years, perhaps it might have been altogether avoided had not every Presidential election since that of 1828 brought a double evil upon the country. Not only have we had the ordinary and inevitable struggle between parties, but parties themselves have been convulsed by the election of the followers of many aspirants to the nominations of those parties for the Presidency. There has been no rest, and the competition for the next nomination has been continued on the very day that saw an election decided. Mr. Lincoln's reelection would effect a change in this respect, that should be beneficial to the nation. The country would fall back upon the old practice, and thereby would gain the chance of obtaining regular recurrences of periods of comparative repose. The slaveholders would not acknowledge Mr. Lincoln as President for one term, and the probable effect of their folly as regards the Presidential office, will be to give him a second term, to which, if may be assumed, he never would have thought of aspiring had matters been allowed to take their old constitutional course."

We are surprised that a paper of the ability of the Traveller, and once an organ of the Whig party which had "one term" as one of its cardinal principles, should fall into such a blundering style of reasoning, the more wonderful as it seems to be the weakest possible argument against the "one term" rule. Does the Traveller mean to intimate that it is, and has been dangerous to the stability of the Republic, to have chosen freely and fully the merits of any man whose name is presented for the Presidency? Would it have been better for the country if Van Buren had been re-elected, or Tyler, or Polk, or Fillmore, or Pierce, or Buchanan? If rotation is dangerous, why was the Trapeze in favor of rotating Buchanan out? And does the Traveller mean to say that rotation has brought about rebellion? We shall expect next to see some bold opponent of the heresy of "one term," suggest the danger also of any election, and gravely argue that it is better to make the office a perpetual incumbent and call him king at once. This will save all the divisions, the party stripes, the heat and passions which elections always engender. Napoleon the third rests his empire upon the same argument—with just a little help from bayonets, and why may not some bold man, with bayonets at his control, and the Traveller to furnish him arguments, do a like kind thing for the stability of government on this side of the water, and thus bring about a long period of "comparative repose?" The truth is, Mr. Lincoln doesn't need any such championship, and his self-appointed champions, if they are wise, will abandon that style of advocacy at once. Mr. Lincoln's merits are solid and appreciable, if they are not brilliant, and his nomination ought not to be asked for or thought of unless it can be rested on these merits. The Democrats would like no better capital for an appeal to the people than such stuff as the Traveller prints about the danger of a political contest, and with that and a popular candidate, they would form a formidable opposition in the next election. Let us, at least, if we cannot be fully of one mind about men, stand fast by the cardinal principles of a free Government, free speech, a free press, and frequent elections.

Democracy Policy.

Some indications of a change in policy in reference to the question of Slavery, have been appearing at intervals for the past few weeks from Democratic politicians and newspapers, and we notice some of our contemporaries are appearing treating these utterances as evidence that the opposition have given up Slavery, as an institution whose defense they do not propose any longer to undertake. Among these indications is the following extract from a speech by James Brooks, of New York, recently made in Congress: "Mr. Speaker, there are some things in this world which we Yankees have designated by the vigorous word 'fixed,' or what the French in their philosophic phrase, call 'fait accompli.' Sir, the abolition of slavery is a 'fixed fact,' a fact accomplished. I must accept it. I cannot close my eyes to it any more than upon the sun or upon the sunshine, or upon the treads or upon the storm. What is written, is written. I must read it, and I should be blind if I did not see that slavery is abolished, and that the French in their philosophic phrase, call 'fait accompli.' Sir, the abolition of slavery is a 'fixed fact,' a fact accomplished. I must accept it. I cannot close my eyes to it any more than upon the sun or upon the sunshine, or upon the treads or upon the storm. What is written, is written. I must read it, and I should be blind if I did not see that slavery is abolished, and that the French in their philosophic phrase, call 'fait accompli.' Sir, the abolition of slavery is a 'fixed fact,' a fact accomplished. I must accept it. I cannot close my eyes to it any more than upon the sun or upon the sunshine, or upon the treads or upon the storm. What is written, is written. I must read it, and I should be blind if I did not see that slavery is abolished, and that the French in their philosophic phrase, call 'fait accompli.' Sir, the abolition of slavery is a 'fixed fact,' a fact accomplished. 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