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Chicago Tribune.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1864.

THE NEWS.

Gold fell yesterday to 165 and 166, but rallied at the close to 166⅝. That is the first fruits of the new measure. Gold will be yet more heavily *chased* presently.

A disturbance of a serious nature comes to us in a roundabout way from Springfield, as being in progress in Coles county. Several lives are reported as already sacrificed to secesh hate, and zeal for the cause of Jeff. Davis. We hope the tale is exaggerated, and yet why may it not be. There are in Illinois, and Chicago as mad zealots for the rebel cause as exist in South Carolina, but they are happily overshadowed and well nigh lost in the overwhelming loyal sentiment of the community, but now and then a hiss of some sheet like the organ of treason in this city tells where the reptiles crawl and from time to time a murder of some Federal officer tells where a reptile has been trodden on and struck with its deadly fang. But the whole breed of home serpents though knotted in a "Golden Circle" ever so firmly will be crushed out.

The Fenian Fair opened in this city yesterday, an occasion of great interest to our Irish fellow citizens. Bishop Duggan wasn't called upon to bless the Fair, and perhaps would be willing to have a certain share of the Celtic mind ascribe to his opposing influence one of the most thoroughly execrable days that ever lured man out into the mud and rain falls by bits of interposed sunshine. March the month was decidedly a countermarch to the Fenian procession, which nevertheless was not to lose its display, and did not.

A ring of swindling horse contractors was broken up in Washington yesterday. Secretary Stanton laid his firm grasp on one John Spicer of this city, and landed him in the Capital prison. There will be few mourners over the fate of any who only follow the government for the spoils. That noble animal the horse has often need to be ashamed of his biped companions.

In another part of this issue we publish interesting accounts of the late battle at Paducah, both by letter, and dispatch from Springfield. In the latter a noble tribute is paid to the devotion and bravery of the colored regular soldiers who manned the gunsof the beleaguered fort, and met dash hurling through the rebel ranks. It is a piece of rare retributive justice that the attacking force was composed of numerous residents of Paducah, enlisted in the rebel army and returned to deal vengeance upon the doughtiers of the Union. It was doubtless not their intention to harm Paducah, as a city, for a manner rebel precinct does not exist in Kentucky, and that is saying a good deal. But they met swift and fearful retribution, and perished by scores amid the ruins of a place whose reputation for disloyalty they had helped to make.

And now remember that it is such black soldiers as those who fought so well at Paducah, that Gov. Bramlette and his crew dare to say the Government shall not recruit in Kentucky.

So long as there is a spot of American soil on which a white man can call a black his chattel, just so long will the whole interpretation of the Constitution, the whole force of Law, human and Divine, be kept at the dirty work of saying that a nigger for his master. As in the march of a caravan the rate of progress is graduated to its weakest members, so the whole progress of this country will be restrained that the weak-winded, leprous, lame, and accursed system of chattelism may not be left behind. President, Congress and people are beginning to understand this thing, and the late test votes in both houses declare the progress of opinion. In the House yesterday the vote on the amendment to the Constitution to forever rid this soil of slavery, stood 39 opposed to 69 in favor of the measure. It will come, and the earlier the better.

The country will hail with pleasure the hint given in our dispatches of a measure likely to be brought about in Congress to tax the rag-mills, the fifteen hundred debt factories, and lay a crushing impost on their issues. The shaving fraternity will oppose it, but trade, and the people, the merchant and the mechanic, can willingly exchange the greasy and ragged *promises to owe*, for the genuine greenbacks. Messrs. Congressmen the people expect this of you.

On the coast of Maine yesterday, the destruction by fire of two vessels indicates the operations of rebel pirates.

Elsewhere we give a brief and interesting sketch of the life of the lamented Lovejoy. The remains of the deceased will reach this city in time to go forward by special train on Thursday to Princeton, Bureau county, where among his neighbors and friends the last obsequies will be paid to the lamented deceased.

All is preparation in military circles and marvels are being performed in the way of getting rid of dead wood and brightening up the machinery. The loiterers on the back seats are being called out and set at work. There is even an astounding rumor that McClellan is to receive a command. What it is to be no one can conjecture. We venture to suggest that he be set over a digging force on the Illinois Ship Canal. He could thus exercise his excavatory proclivities to the top of his bent, and only be annoyed by the smell of powder when it came to blasting.

A GREAT BEAR LOOSE.

A shadow has fallen on the path of the gold gamblers, and the delicate beam of the gold market responds. It is what the gold sharks have been aiming to avert, the which indeed Congress weakly if not corruptly came near preventing, and which perhaps some of them with pockets stuffed with fees thought they had shut off, in the form of the bill as finally passed. But the Secretary of the Treasury is now the Ursa Major of the gold market, and his very first stroke has sent the price of gold down five cents. And this he how it is done. He will sell no gold. The drafters of the bill cunningly thought they had barred that. But this he will do. He will sell gold certificates, which will be as available as the pure coin itself "at the receipt of customs." To pay duties on imports at New York alone, a quarter of a million dollars in gold is called for daily. The Treasury has gold enough and can go on for months without taking in another dollar in coin. This demand for gold to pay duties has kept the market up. Secretary Chase will now undersell all the gold dealers. Importers will buy certificates of him rather than in the shaving shops whose occupation will be gone, when the demand for gold to pay duties shall exist no longer. The order of the Secretary is given elsewhere. Gold fell yesterday to 165, rallied slightly but was still weak. It will not recover its buoyancy. Secretary Chase can undersell the gold gamblers and intercept their market for twenty millions, and he all the while in receipt of a steady influx of greenbacks to pay the boys in blue. It is a master stroke and the gold gamblers have been outwitted very handsomely.

THE LATE HON. OWEN LOVEJOY.

Sketch of His Life and Services.

The death of Hon. Owen Lovejoy was briefly chronicled in our last issue. The announcement, not altogether unanticipated for a few days past, has yet filled all his friends in our State with sadness. Indeed all the true friends of freedom in the land must in spirit take the place of personal mourners at his funeral.

We had hoped and anticipated for him another fate. Coming as he did from a sturdy long-lived New England stock, and having himself a fine constitution, never impaired by unworthy habits, we had thought of him as destined to give yet many years of valuable service to his country, and to enjoy yet many years of honor for his faithfulness to the cause of human liberty. Having stood unflinchingly by the side of Freedom when she had only sacrifices to require, we trusted that he would be near also when she had glorious rewards to confer.

But One, wiser than all mortals, has decided differently, and it is for us to bow in humble submission to His appointments.

Owen Lovejoy was the grand-son of Francis Lovejoy, a hardy pioneer settler of Kennebec county, Maine, who died in 1818, at the age of 85, and the son of Rev. Daniel Lovejoy, pastor of the Congregational Church, of Albion, Maine. He was born in Albion, Jan. 6th, 1811, the third of four sons. His youth until he was 18 years of age was spent on a farm. He then fitted for college with his oldest brother, a fine classical scholar, and worked his way through Bowdoin by his own exertions. He studied for the ministry and in 1837 was in Alton, Illinois, when his oldest brother, Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, fell as John Quincy Adams said *"the first American martyr to the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave."* Over his dead body, Owen, at the age of 26, vowed a life-long hostility to the system of American slavery. How well that vow was kept the world knows. Soon after the death of his brother, he and another brother published a valuable memoir, in which the reader perhaps is equally impressed with the monstrous injustice of the slave power toward the master, the calm and consistent temper and good sense with which he defended himself, and the absence of all harsh vituperative language in the biographers.

In 1837, Owen Lovejoy became pastor of the Congregational Church at Princeton, Ill., and held that relation till 1854, making his pulpit a powerful battery against oppression, and leading the church to exclude from its communion slaveholders and apologists for slavery, and the community to protect the fugitive bondman. He was an able preacher, and the fact that in the new and changeable West he remained for sixteen years in his first and only pastorate, and that one of the most important churches of his denomination in the interior of the State, shows the power with which he could draw to himself the hearts of men.

But the combat with slavery deepened, and those who had felt his power in his own community naturally thought of him as their standard-bearer on a wider battle field. The ability with which he upheld that standard, proved the wisdom of their selection. With great credit to himself and his constituents, he represented them twice in the Illinois Legislature, and in 1858 he was elected to Congress. His maiden speech on the floor of the Representatives Hall produced a memorable commotion. The minions of slavery were determined that he should not be heard, but he stood undaunted before them till he had given a full utterance to the burning thoughts and scathing words which were in his heart. Ever after that it was well understood in Congress that Owen Lovejoy was a man who could not be put down. To all appearance he was without fear in the presence of his opponents, and yet those who knew his extreme natural sensitiveness understood that it was *moral* courage and the power of a determined *will*, and not mere physical courage that made him thus heroic. It will surprise many of our readers to know that in time of peace he was wont to faint at the sight of blood. Yet he witnessed the first battle of Bull Run, and was with Fremont in his Missouri campaign, as one of his staff with the rank of Colonel, and that will of his enabled him to overcome his natural infirmity. In Congress he was one of the pillars of the Administration, taking such an intense interest in public measures that once when unable from sickness to be present he sent his views in writing, to be read before the House. He was twice re-elected to his seat, and was serving his third Congressional term at the time of his death. His protracted and exhausting labors during the last electoral campaign doubtless laid the foundation of the disease which ended his life. His political enemies were determined and unscrupulous in their plans to defeat his re-election, and as the District was a new one in part, and some of the additions strongly Democratic, the issue seemed very doubtful. But the energy of Mr. Lovejoy, his magnetic power over the popular mind as a speaker, in which he had no superior in the West, the purity of his principles and the consistency of his record won the day, and the man whose defeat the opponents of the Administration in the State desired most of all to secure was again victorious.

His herculean labors in this campaign undermined his health. He was alarmingly ill during the subsequent session of Congress; nor did he fully recover during the vacation. He returned to Washington when he should have put himself under the care of a skilful physician. For much of the past winter he has been confined to his room, and now he has fallen, as really though not as directly and apparently a martyr to freedom as did his brother in 1837.

In public as well as in private life Mr. Lovejoy was a sincere, upright, thoroughly honest man. It is not believed that any man living or dead ever accused him of departing from the principles of strict integrity.

At home, of late years, he has been a large and successful farmer, with fine improved breeds of cattle and fertile fields.

In the bosom of his large family he was the idol of their affections, the most exemplary of husbands, the most indulgent of fathers. A widow and nine children are left to cherish his name and his virtues as a rich legacy, and to mourn what seems to them and to the world his untimely departure. Mrs. Lovejoy has been with him in Washington all winter the devoted wife and nurse. Two brothers and one sister of Mr. Lovejoy are still living.

He was a man of the people, a noble, great hearted man with the warmest sympathies for the poor and the oppressed of all classes, and so full of apparent vitality that his friends could not predict for him a long life. They could but anticipate much further aid from his wisdom and patriotism in the national councils. To a human view it appears sad that now, when the country is so well on its way toward the attainment of that universal liberty for which he toiled all his life, that he could not be spared to see the end of the great conflict, and to enjoy in a serene old age the fruit of all his labors. Yet doubtless he will from a higher position witness the triumph without further toils or sacrifices.

The writer well remembers hearing him at the Tremont House in this city, on a public occasion soon after his last election, repeat with intense emotion and thrilling effect, the following lines from Bryant, now become too prophetic, alas! of himself:

> Scourged those who fought; but thou
> Who mingled in the harder strife
> For truths which men receive not now,
> Thy warfare only ends with life.
>
> A friendless warfare! lingering long
> through weary day and weary year.
> A wild and many-weaponed throng
> Hang on thy front, and flank, and rear.
>
> Yet nerve thy spirit to the proof,
> And blanch not at thy chosen lot.
> The timid good may stand aloof,
> The sage may frown—yet faint thou not.
>
> Nor heed the shaft too surely cast,
> The foul and hissing bolt of scorn;
> For with thy side shall dwell, at last,
> The victory of endurance born.
>
> Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;
> The eternal years of God are here;
> But Error wounded, writhes with pain,
> And dies among his worshippers.
>
> Yea, though thou lie upon the dust,
> When they who helped thee flee in fear,
> Die full of hope and manly trust,
> Like those who fell in battle here.
>
> Another hand thy sword shall wield,
> Another hand the standard wave,
> Till from the trumpet's mouth is pealed
> The blast of triumph o'er thy grave.

THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION.

From Our Correspondent with the Fleet.

[Special Correspondence Chicago Tribune.]
RED RIVER EXPEDITION, TRANSPORT THOS. E. TUTT, LYING AT FORT DE RUSSY, LA., March 15, 1864.

The fleet composed of nineteen transports and fifteen gunboats entered the mouth of Red river (of river) on Saturday the 15th at 12 o'clock, and ascended (entering a bayou which enters into the Atchafalya) to a point called Simsport. The morning of the Sabbath was devoted to drill. On our transport in the afternoon we had religious services on the lower, boiler and hurricane decks. In the midst of the third service an order came to prepare for a march, with five days rations.

At seven the "fall in" was heard, and at eight and a half o'clock the three divisions moved and marched till 3 a. m., halting for three hours, and then marched till 10 a. m., halting for three hours again to repair a bridge destroyed the previous afternoon by the retreating rebels. At 1 p. m. our train, three miles in length, were safely over, and marched till 5:30 in the evening, arriving within a mile of this fort. The gunboats had accompanied the river and opened fire upon the fort, which we had for miles heard. The 1st brigade (28th and 119th Illinois, 89th Indiana, and 27th Iowa), 2d brigade, 14th and 22d Iowa, and 24th Missouri, continued marching and at once formed for action. The 1st brigade led the attack on the left, and the 2d on the front and right. In fifteen minutes the action became severe, the fighting being mainly on the left and front. The regiments, although fatigued with a thirty mile march and but two hours rest, pressed forward hurriedly for the contest, and most gloriously did they fight. I was in the rear of the train marching with your 57th, but leaving everything, hurried forward and arrived as the final charge was made. The 24th Missouri have the honor of raising the first flag, although your 28th was only behind by the color bearer falling backward as he scaled the fortification. I was perhaps three minutes behind the first man who entered, and in so short a time more than three hundred of our brave defenders had ascended those fortifications. Cheer after cheer rend about after about ascended; hats were waved and hearty huzzas rung to the breeze. The exultant and triumphant masses continued with their loud overflowing and deafening cries till as thought for bad no bounds. Every man pointed and discharged his gun toward the blue hulls of heaven. Over 300 were taken prisoners, six large and six small guns, and a large supply of commissary stores. The fortifications were among the best, and very extensive. Sixty will cover the casualties, and but seven killed. A glorious triumph for which we think God.

We leave immediately for Alexandria.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FURTHER FROM THE SIEGE OF PADUCAH.

INTERESTING DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

GALLANTY OF THE FEDERAL NEGRO TROOPS.

How it Fared with Rebel Paducahs at Home.

Exciting Rumor from Coles County.

A RUMORED COPPERHEAD DISTURBANCE.

MATTERS MILITARY AND CONGRESSIONAL.

SECRETARY CHASE AND THE GOLD CERTIFICATES.

VESSELS BURNED BY PIRATES ON THE COAST OF MAINE.

THE SIEGE OF PADUCAH.

Interesting Incidents—Gallantry of Negro Troops.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 28, 1864.

Your correspondent was in Paducah yesterday, and while there gathered some interesting incidents of the rebel raid on that city.

The dispatches of this morning in the press of St. Louis and Chicago do not give a correct statement of the force. In the fort there were about 250 recruits for a United States colored regiment, a portion of the 16th Kentucky cavalry, without arms, and two companies of the 12th Illinois infantry, in all about 500 men.

It was the negro regulars that fought so well. They handled the artillery with great skill and their bravery is on the tongues of all the loyal men. One of the regiments in the attack on the fort was the 3d Kentucky, Col. Thompson, who commanded a brigade. This regiment was raised in Paducah three years ago by Col. Brigham, afterwards Brigadier General, and Col. Thompson was at the time Prosecuting Attorney for the Paducah circuit.

Col. Thompson was a man of great influence and did more than any one else in recruiting the regiment from the chivalry. This was its first visit home. Before the attack was made threats were freely made in the streets that they would capture the fort and kill every damned nigger in it.

In the attack, this regiment was in the advance and suffered the most. Colonel Thompson was literally torn in pieces by a shot from a siege gun handled by colored men. These colored men were native Kentuckians, and seven of them have offered up their lives for their country. Is there not a stern justice in the fact that many of these rebels paid the penalty of their treason at their own doorposts by the hands of the despised native Kentucklans of African descent?

To Hon. Lucien Anderson, of that district, the credit is due of getting permission to raise a regiment of blacks, which was done against the opposition of the State authorities.

To Colonel Hicks, a noble War Democrat, and all the troops under his command, great credit is due for their obstinate and successful defense.

Cairo, March 27.—The steamer Iatan, from Nashville, passed Paducah yesterday. Captain Parker, her commander, furnishes the following information:

Forrest, with about 5,000 men, made a descent upon Paducah at about 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, capturing the city and completely gutting the place. They burned a number of buildings, including the Marine Railway and the steamer Arizona.

Colonel Hicks, with a Union force numbering about 800 men, occupied the forts, while Forrest held the town. Two of our gunboats were playing on the city at the same time. The Continental Hotel is badly battered up.

The enemy made four assaults upon the fort and were repulsed each time. At one time some of them gained the top of the breastworks; a few fell inside of the fort.

The wharf-boat and about three thousand people were moved across the river to the Illinois shore, on Forrest's approach. Twenty people were in an exposed and destitute condition.

The steamer Joseph Pearce, from Cincinnati, with the 94th Indiana veterans, has arrived, bringing two hours' later advices.

Forrest had left Paducah. The fire in the back part of the city was dying out. The people on this side of the river were going back.

A number of the enemy had occupied a large brewery on Front street, on which the gunboats poured a heavy fire, battering the walls of the building and killing many rebels. It is not known how many were killed in the city. It is said some women and children were killed.

The enemy took a position in buildings on Front street, and fired from the windows of the upper stories into the upper works of the gunboats, drilling them considerably.

Commodore Pennock telegraphs from Cairo to the Navy Department that, hearing that the rebel cavalry of General Forrest had reached Paducah, he at once sent up two gunboats and demanded the surrender of the place. Forrest refused, and then the gunboats opened on it, driving the rebels out, killing and wounding 200, and completely demolishing the place by fire from shells. Kentucky Congressmen received telegrams to-night of the same purport.

The gunboats fired 600 rounds; they had three wounded. The Captain of the Paw Paw received a scratch from a minie ball on the right cheek, and a ball went through his pantaloons. The troops in the fort had 14 killed and 46 wounded. Forrest took about 40 convalescents in the hospital prisoners. The enemy had 300 killed and 1,000 wounded. The latter were taken to Mayfield by rail; the former lie about the fort unburied.

Mrs. Grimes and several other women were killed during the engagement.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
WASHINGTON, March 28, 1864.

THE NEW TAX BILL.

It is not determined when the Committee of Ways and Means will report the general tax bill. They are hard at work at it from day to day, but thus far have done little more than perfect the provision which relates to the machinery for making assessment and collection. No conclusion has been reached with reference to the amount of duty to be imposed on any important article, and it is probable that the Committee will postpone the final decision upon them all till the last moment.

There is excellent authority for stating that five per cent is likely to be imposed upon manufacturers' incomes, and other subjects of taxation which now pay three per cent.

THE NEGRO SOLDIERS IN KENTUCKY.

Gov. Bramlette, of Ky., arrived here yesterday. He has so far modified his views on the subject of negro recruiting as to assent to the enrollment of negroes, and if Kentucky fails to furnish her quota of white men, then enough negroes may be taken to make up the deficiency.

SHERMAN VS. WILKINSON.

There was quite a lively brush to-day between Sherman and Wilkinson, growing out of the latter's reply to a speech of the former made some time since, in which Wilkinson charged Sherman with putting a stumbling-block in his way of party freedom two years ago. Sherman characterized Wilkinson's speech as false, to which Wilkinson returned by quoting from and reiterating his former statements.

WEST POINT MATTER.

Senator Wilson's bill confines the number of cadets to 400. Of the additional number two are to come from each State represented in Congress and the remainder from meritorious young men in the army.

THE LATE OWEN LOVEJOY.

Messrs. Farnsworth and Ross, of Illinois, and Rice, of Maine, left for New York at 5 o'clock to accompany the remains of Mr. Lovejoy to his home at Princeton, Illinois.

OWEN LOVEJOY'S SUCCESSOR.

The statement of the New York *Tribune* that Leonard Sweet will be Mr. Lovejoy's successor is refuted by the fact that he does not live in Mr. Lovejoy's district.

CONTRACTORS COME TO GRIEF.

A ring of swindling horse contractors was broken up to-day by the Secretary of War. The ringleader, one Spicer, of Illinois, was lodged in the old Capitol prison, and orders issued to the Provost Marshals to arrest the others at their places of residence. They will be tried by Court Martial under the act of July 17th, 1862.

Their plan of operations was to put in bids lower than horses could be furnished, for them to forfeit their contracts at the last moment, and compel Government to buy their horses in open market at high prices. That game is blocked.

THE REASON WHY.

It is ascertained that General Sol. Meredith was ordered away from the army of the Potomac on account of incapacity to command troops.

GENERAL MEADE'S CASE.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War have elicited nothing which they deem prejudicial to General Meade's reputation in connection with the alleged retreat at Gettysburg.

MILITARY APPOINTMENT.

Major General C. C. Washburn, of Wisconsin, has been ordered to the temporary command of the troops of the 9th Army Corps, now assembled at Annapolis, Md.

NEGROES FOR SEAMEN.

Secretary Welles has consented to accept negroes in default of seamen as provided for in the enrollment act, and orders were issued to-day for disbanding a thousand negroes enlisted in Maryland, and for their transfer to the Navy. Much inconvenience is experienced by the scarcity of seamen. 35 war vessels are waiting for crews, and one-third of the Pacific squadron is useless. A large number of seamen whose terms of service have expired are necessarily retained in the service to keep the vessels afloat. Energetic measures are to be taken immediately by the President and the Departments to remedy this serious evil.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The House bills were reported favorably from the Senate.

The Territorial Committee organized Montana Territory, and enabling Nebraska to form a State constitution.

Among the bills introduced was one donating to California the Oroscmite Valley and Samona Big Trees, and providing for a wagon road thereto, and one appropriating $10,000 for the Indians in Michigan.

THE NATIONAL BANK QUESTION.

Mr. Sherman presented a memorial from four National Banks at Cincinnati against the passage of the amendment to the new currency bill requiring National Banks to redeem their notes in New York.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The house appointed a Committee of Messrs. Farnsworth, of Ill., Rice, of Maine, and Ross, of Ill., to superintend the removal of the remains Mr. Lovejoy from Brooklyn to Illinois.

The *Post's* special says:

It is stated that an attempt will soon be made in Congress to reduce the volume of currency, by taxing the circulation of State banks.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Secretary of the Treasury has transmitted to the Senate, in response to a resolution, a list of special agents of the Treasury, their field of operations, pay and emoluments, from which it appears that under the act of March, 1863, twenty-seven supervising and special agents have been appointed, some with salaries of five and others with six dollars a day and ten cents a mile for travel. No case to exceed $5,000 in full.

Under the act of July 7, 1862, to further provide for the collection of Revenue, ten special agents, some with salaries as above, one at $1,800, J. R. Dimon, at Nashville; one at $4,500, Thos. P. May, at New Orleans, and thirteen under the act of March, 1863, for the collection of Internal Revenue at similar salaries, including one Thos. Brown for the sea coast, at nine dollars per day.

The House Military Committee have acted favorably on the new style of military equipments projected by Col. King, of New Orleans. They not only lessen the expense, but greatly relieve soldiers of unnecessary weight.

The Supreme Court has disposed of the great "hat body" case of Burr against Duryea and others. Three suits in chancery had been brought up on the patents of H. A. Wells, A. B. Tyler and Hopkins for improvements in hat making machinery. The cases were argued a month ago. The opinion of the Court was delivered to-day by Justice Grier in favor of the defendants in all the three cases, deciding that the Berdan machine was no infringement of either Wells', Tyler's or Hopkins' patent. The opinion is very long, and ably reviews the whole art of hat making, and the law on the subject of re-issued patents.

NEW YORK, March 28.—The *Herald's* Washington special says: "General Grant, General Ingalls, and a few staff officers, spent Sunday at the War Department.

"Thirty-two vessels are detained from service, awaiting seamen, the War Department not allowing the transfer from the army to the navy of the ten thousand seamen who have made application.

"Very few officers are now in Washington, all having been imperatively ordered to the front."

The *World's* Washington dispatch says: "General Grant favors the employment of all the inactive Generals, and both Fremont and McClellan will soon have commands.

"The same authority states that General Grant, after reorganizing the Army of the Potomac, will leave for the West again."

The New York *Times* dispatch says: "General Grant states that when the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac is completed, it will be the finest army on the continent.

"It is reported that the President has sent for General Fremont, to give him an important command."

The *Herald's* Washington dispatch says: "It is stated that the decision in the Quicksilver Mining Case will not be delivered till next week."

The New York *Tribune's* Washington special says: "It is understood that the Ways and Means Committee will recommend a tax of one dollar on spirits, to take effect in May, instead of July, and will also recommend a heavy tax on tobacco. The opinion in Treasury circles is that taxes on these articles will yield fully one half of all the revenue."

FROM DESMOINES.

Iowa Legislative Matters.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
DESMOINES, March 28, 1864.

Senatorial and Representative district bills have passed both houses to-day, which will constitute the next House of ninety-eight members and the next Senate of forty-nine members—an increase of six Representatives and three Senators. Clayton county has three Representatives under the new apportionment.

The Railroad bridge bill has passed the House with further specifications concerning the construction of the bridge. The per diem and contingent appropriation bill passed both houses without opposition.

A bill passed both houses abolishing the office of Secretary of the Agricultural Board, and creating the office of Superintendent of the College Farm, who is required to reside on the College farm in Story county.

A bill passed fixing the price of publishing legal notices at one dollar per square for first insertion, and fifty cents for subsequent insertions, and fixing the price of publishing the delinquent tax list at twenty cents per description. A great amount of business has been disposed of in both houses today, and they have adjourned to seven and a half o'clock this evening, when they will meet and run all night, and adjourn *sine die* early in the morning.

It is stated that the resumptionists have their ropes laid for running through their bill before morning, or that they so think. They will come to grief if such is their expectation.

On Saturday both Houses passed the Valley Railroad bill, securing to that Company the lands included in the indemnity grant of 1862. This will secure the early completion of this Road from Eddyville to Desmoines and Fort Dodge. The lands included in its grant are among the best lands in the Desmoines Valley.

The railroad bridge bill passed the Senate with an amendment, giving the control of location of abutment to the County Board of Supervisors.

Both houses passed the House bill for settlement with the Capitol Building Association, and purchase of the Capitol building by the State on conditions. The Senate also passed the House bill authorizing the people of counties to change the name of counties; the House bill regulating the loan and management of the School Fund; the House bill fixing the per diem of Jurorsat two dollars, and the bill fixing the price of legal advertisements in newspapers.

The House passed the Senate Soldier Relief bill.

A few other bills of minor importance were disposed of in joint convention Saturday night of the two houses.

Hon. Oran Faville, of Mitchell county was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction by an almost unanimous vote. A complimentary vote was given to Abraham S. Russell of Scott, and Dean A. Fletcher of Jackson, by their friends.

The following persons were elected Trustees of the Agricultural College: Joseph McGowan, of Appanoos; Peter Milliney, of Black Hawk; Joel Foster, of Muscatine; L. Q. Hoggatt, of Story, and Phineas Cadwell, of Harrison.

The following persons were elected Trustees of the State University: Rush Clarke, of Iowa City; Lewis W. Ross, of Council Bluffs, and Major Tie Woodward, of Ottumwa.

FROM SPRINGFIELD.

State Military Matters, &c.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
SPRINGFIELD, March 28, 1864.

Second Lieutenant John A. Schmit, company A, 27th regiment Illinois Volunteers, is honorably discharged on account of wounds received in action.

Major Joseph S. Smith, 10th Illinois cavalry, having tendered his resignation, has been discharged from the service on account of physical disability and absence without leave.

It is reported that the 38th and 51st regiments, formerly commanded by Gen. Grant, have re-enlisted and will soon come to this State.

The arrival of new recruits in this city on Saturday was less than for several previous days. Only forty-five presented themselves at the headquarters of Gen. White on that day.

Four hundred new recruits for various regiments were mustered in and paid off at Camp Butler on Saturday last by Capt. Lanman.

Three hundred and fifty men of the 2d cavalry, Col. J. J. Mudd, will leave Camp Butler on Tuesday next for the front.

About two hundred veterans of the 51st regiment, Col. Isaac C. Pugh, arrived in this city at a late hour on Saturday night.

FROM CAIRO AND BELOW.

Rebel and Guerilla Movements.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
CAIRO, March 28, 1864.

The telegraph does not work to Columbus to-day, and there has been no boat since morning. All was quiet, but they were expecting an attack from Forrest.

All is quiet at Paducah.

Two spies were captured this morning at Mound City. They were in the navy yard. A third escaped. They had on citizens' clothes outside of rebel uniforms, which betokened them spies or scouts. They sent up two rockets last night which were answered by two from the Kentucky shore.

The barracks were burned to-night at Bird's Point, cause unknown.

One day last week fifty home guards left Charleston, Missouri, in pursuit of guerillas. While they were gone the guerillas entered the town and stole four horses.

WHAT AILS THE GOLD GAMBLERS.

Secretary Chase and the Gold Market.

NEW YORK, March 28.—The following was issued to-day:

UNITED STATES TREASURY,
NEW YORK, March 28, 1864.

By direction of the Secretary of the Treasury notice is hereby given that, until further ordered, I will issue to importers, for payment of duties on goods imported by them, certificates of deposit of gold coin to the credit of the Collector of any port as desired in exchange for notes at a quarter of one per cent below the current market value of gold. These certificates are not assignable, but will be received by the Collector from the party to whom they are issued. [Signed] J. J. CISCO,
Assistant U. S. Treasurer.

The daily payments for custom duties average not far from $300,000 at New York.

FROM COLES COUNTY.

A Serious Copperhead Disturbance.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 28, 1864.

A serious disturbance is reported to be going on in Coles county. Colonel Marshall, of the 54th regiment Illinois volunteers, and Major York and several other persons are reported to have been shot by the copperheads.

Great excitement is existing at Mattoon. The 54th has gone to Charleston, and measures have been adopted by the Assistant Provost Marshal General to send assistance if needed.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MATTOON, Coles County, Ill., March 28.

Much excitement prevails here at startling rumors of a disturbance at Charleston, twelve miles distant, between a party of soldiers and the Copperheads of that place. It is impossible to give particulars to-night, but there is good reason for believing that quite a fight occurred between a portion of Col. Marshall's 54th Illinois regiment, in which the Colonel was shot and severely wounded, as well as Major York and several other persons, officers and privates. The Surgeon of the regiment was killed. His name I cannot learn. A strong force went out from here to Charleston, (twelve miles distant,) and reports came back that after a spirited resistance from the Copperheads in which several of the latter were shot, they captured most of the ringleaders. All reports to-night are confused and contradictory, but much excitement prevails and will grow out of the affair.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, March 28, 1864.

SENATE.

Mr. FOSTER, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Claims, reported back favorably the House bill giving $100 pensions to Revolutionary soldiers in addition to their previous pensions. Passed.

The Senate took up the bill amendatory to the Constitution relative to slavery.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, addressed the Senate at length in favor of the bill.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably on the House bill, enabling the people of Nebraska to form a State and maintain a Territorial Government.

Mr. WILSON, from the Military Committee, reported adversely on the use of concentrated feed for horses and mules in the army.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill relating to the Military Academy at West Point. This bill authorizes the appointment by the President of two additional cadets from each State represented in Congress, resident of the State wherein appointed having served honorably two years in the army, and not less than 17 nor more than 20 years old, and selected according to merits and qualifications.

Mr. COLLAMER reported a bill relative to the compensations of Pension Agents, which allows them, for clerk hire and office rent, $200 for disbursement of $50,000 annually, and $250 additional for every additional $5,000.

Mr. GHIDES introduced a resolution inquiring of the Secretary of the Navy how many ordinary seamen have been transferred from the military to the naval service. Adopted.

The Senate then took up the special order, viz: The joint resolution to amend the Constitution so as to forever prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude, except for crime.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Ill., made a lengthy speech in favor of the bill.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, denounced the speech of Mr. Wilkinson, made some days ago, in which he charged him (Sherman) with inconsistency on the anti-slavery question, to which Mr. Wilkinson briefly replied.

Mr. WILSON, of Mass., spoke in favor of the bill.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. NORTON, of Illinois, introduced a joint resolution, being a proposition to amend the Constitution, prohibiting slavery in the States and Territories. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

On motion of Mr. GARFIELD, of Ohio, a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of War to furnish the House with any information in his possession in reference to claims of service rendered by State troops at any time during the present war, stating the amount of claims and service.

Mr. ASHLEY, of Ohio, reported a resolution granting the use of the hall of the House to the Washington Lecture Association for the 6th of April for the delivery of a lecture by Hon. George Thompson, the proceeds, after paying expenses, to be distributed among the families of the District of Columbia soldiers.

Mr. HOLMAN, of Ind. moved to lay the resolution on the table. The motion of Mr. Holman was adopted; yeas 80, nays 40.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pa., offered a joint resolution proposing a new article to the Constitution, which, when ratified by the requisite number of States, shall be valid as a part of the Constitution, namely, "Slavery and involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, to forever prohibited in the United States. All the territories and so much of article four, section eleven, of the Constitution as refer to the delivery up of persons owing service or labor escaping into another State is annulled."

Mr. HOLMAN objected to the second reading of the question. A second reading being demanded, Shall the resolution be rejected? This was determined in the negative by a vote of 59 to 69.

The Speaker announced that the question now recurred on the amendment pending.

Mr. HOLMAN raised the point that the vote not being a two-third one, as required, the result was in effect the rejection of the amendment.

The Speaker overruled this objection. The proposition was then read a second time.

Mr. STEVENS withdrew the latter part of his proposition, namely, to amend the Fugitive Slave law.

The question was then stated on agreeing to the other part of the proposition.

Further proceedings were here interrupted by Mr. Washburne announcing the death of his colleague, Owen Lovejoy.

Eulogies were delivered by Messrs J. C. Allen, Stevens, Farnsworth, Pendleton, Pike, Norton, Ashley, Morrill, Odell, Davis of New York, Grinnell, and Arnold.

The usual resolutions of respect and condolence were passed, and the House adjourned.

The War in Virginia.

NEW YORK, March 28.—E. A. Paul writes to the New York *Times* that the rebel Stewart had recently made an extensive arrangement for the destruction of the Orange and Alexandria railroad, but his plans were frustrated by the promptness of our cavalry under Gen. Pleasanton. Gen. Pleasanton, while watching the movements of the rebels, in capturing over 40 of the enemy, destroyed four rebel unpicked full of hides, four grist mills, a saw mill, and a large number of rafts and boats intended to be used by Stuart in crossing the river. A rebel scout was captured at Ely's Ford, who was dressed in a complete suit of clothes, and a drumhead court martial, he stated that Lee had given orders to strip all the bodies of Union soldiers, and that the only clothing the rebels had for some time was obtained in this way.

Piracies on the Coast of Maine—Two Vessels Burned.

PORTLAND, March 28.—Three men, employed on Government vessels here, report that on their way from Biddeford to this city they saw two vessels on fire, between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning, one about four miles distant, near Wood's Island, burned to near the water's edge. She was heading toward the Island. The other from eight to ten miles distant.

From North Carolina.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Newbern advices of the 24th are received. The steamers Alice and Hansa ran out of Wilmington on the night of the 12th, with 700 bales of cotton.

Judge Pearson, of North Carolina, in a habeas corpus case recently tried before him decided that the recent act of Congress to conscript persons who have furnished substitutes for the war is unconstitutional.

Five Confederate soldiers, who were at home on furlough, had been captured near the Cashie river and brought into Plymouth.

The Army of the Frontier in Motion.

CINCINNATI, March 28.—A dispatch to the *Gazette* from Fort Smith, announces that the Army of the Frontier is in motion—supposed destination Northern Texas.

Movements of General Grant.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Lieut. Gen.