The New-York Times.

VOL. XI—NO. 3295. NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The Contracts for Arms Made by Secretary Cameron.

Consideration of the Bankrupt Law Postponed Until December.

The Select Committee of the House on Gradual Emancipation.

The Restrictions on Newspaper Correspondence.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

THE HOUSE AND THE BANKRUPT LAW.

The action of the House to-day, in refusing to consider the bill providing for a Bankrupt law, excites the surprise of every one here. It is generally conceded that there is no more important subject before Congress than this measure, and the business community are exceedingly anxious that something should be done on the subject at this session, and a strong effort will be made to reconsider the vote postponing the consideration of the bill until the fourth Monday in December next.

CONTRACTS FOR ARMS.

It will be remembered that Mr. Secretary CAMERON replied to an inquiry of the House of Representatives, not long since, that he had not authorized any contracts for the purchase of arms. His successor, Mr. STANTON, in reply to a resolution of inquiry of the House, of Dec. 23 last, in relation to the purchase of small arms, states that the Secretary of War, from Feb. 12, 1861, to Feb. 1, 1862, ordered contracts for muskets and rifles to the number of 1,036,000.

THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

Senator WILSON's bill to promote the efficiency of the Corps of Engineers has been reported back from the Military Committee, as originally presented by him, and provides as follows:

That the Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Topographical Engineers be, and they are hereby, united into one corps, to be called the Corps of Engineers; and its organization shall be as follows: One Brigadier-General, four Colonels, eight Lieutenant-Colonels, sixteen Majors, twenty-four Captains, twenty-four First Lieutenants, twenty-four Second Lieutenants, one Sergeant-Major, one Quartermaster-Sergeant, and five companies of enlisted men, as provided by law. The relative rank of the officers of the corps shall be the same as before the passage of this act. The general officer herein provided for shall be appointed by selection from the commissioned officers of the corps. The other vacancies shall be filled by regular promotion of the present officers, and by graduates of the Military Academy who have heretofore been recommended by the Academic Board for the Corps of Engineers, Topographical Engineers, or Ordnance Corps, or who may be recommended by the Secretary of War for appointment by a Board of Engineer officers; and all vacancies hereafter occurring in the Corps of Engineers shall be filled only by graduates of the Military Academy who have been recommended therefor by the Academic Board.

GEN. SCHOFIELD.

Maj.-Gen. McDOWELL was in town to-day.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, to-day, in Executive Session, confirmed the appointment of a large number of Paymasters, Assistant Commissaries and Quartermasters of Volunteers, and also the following:

Capt. Carter Grover, 2d the Tenth Infantry, and Andrew W. Walpole, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, to be Brigadier-Generals.

Clarke Sidemount, of the Ohio Brigade, Surgeon, Maj. Wm. R. Palmer, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, to be Colonel.

Capt. Franklin D. Callender, of the Ordnance Department, Major, by brevet, for faithful and meritorious services in his Department.

Capt. Rufus Ingalls, Assistant-Quartermaster, performing services for fourteen years, to be Major.

Samuel H. Elliott, of Nebraska, to be Secretary for Colorado Territory, vice Weld, resigned.

Lewis Cass, Surveyor of Customs at Barre de Grace, Md.

John Lowe, Indian Agent for the Indians of the Upper Platte.

G. H. C. Valley, of New-York, Marshal of the Consular Court at Hankow, China.

Charles M. Allen, of New-York, Consul at Bermuda.

Ellen F. Wallace, of New-York, Consul at St. Jago de Cuba.

Jasper Smith, of New-York, Consul at San Juan, Porto Rico.

Aaron S. Westgreen, of New-York, Consul at Bangkok.

George F. Seward, of New-York, Consul in Shanghai.

Frederick Charles Walsh, of New-York, Consul in Calais.

BOARD FOR THE WESTERN WATERS.

A Board appointed by the Navy Department to examine the plans and specifications for boats for the Western waters, consisting of Commodore Joseph Smith, Chief of the Bureau of Docks and Yards; Jos. Lowndes, Chief of the Bureau of Construction; B. F. Isherwood, Engineer-in-Chief; Edward Hunt, Naval Constructor; and Daniel B. Martin, Engineer in the United States Navy, have recommended that contracts be made with the following parties: Tomlinson & Hartshorne, Pittsburgh, for two iron vessels; Eaton & McCord, St. Louis, three wooden vessels; George C. Evans, Cairo, one wooden vessel; James B. Eads, St. Louis, two iron vessels. The aggregate cost of the eight vessels will be $1,229,800.

THE PRESS CLAUSE.

As there is considerable curiosity to learn the precise nature of the restraint under which newspaper correspondents and reporters are required to place themselves in proceeding with and reporting upon the operations of the army, I transmit herewith a copy of the document furnished to each, substituting fictitious names of person, paper and town, for correspondent, editor, and place of residence.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., April 19, 1862.

"Permission is given to John Smith, correspondent of the Sunset Eagle at Sylvaville, to pass within the lines of the United States forces, as a newspaper correspondent, subject to military regulations established, or hereafter to be established, by the Commanders of the United States forces, and to avail himself of every facility for the prosecution of his business as such correspondent, by order of the Secretary of War.

"By order of the Secretary of War,

"[Signed] A. A. GENERAL OF VOLUNTEERS.

"A strict compliance with the above conditions, and also with those generally required of correspondents, is required.

"[Signed] JOHN SMITH, Reporter."

One man has been killed and five wounded by guerillas during the last week, and the attacks have been interminable. Some of the troops have been marched on foot over the route, in preference to transporting them. Have the Government no engineers?

A SWORD PRESENTATION.

Sergeant-at-Arms BROWN, of the Senate, recently presented Reporter HOSMER, Jr., son of the Vice-President, an elegant sword, upon his being appointed a Captain in the United States Army—a fact already noticed.

THE CASE OF MR. FISHER.

The House Committee on Elections were unable to agree on the case of Joseph Fisher, claiming a seat as Representative from the First District of Virginia, and hence asked to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. It will come up for decision in the House upon its merits.

FROM FORT MONROE.

A private dispatch, dated Monroe last night, 10 o'clock, received here this morning, represents that there was clear moonlight, and all quiet in that vicinity.

THE TAX ON WHISKY.

Some of the newspapers erroneously state that the Tax bill, as passed by the House, taxes the stock of whisky and other spirits on hand previous to the first of May.

APPOINTMENT.

VOLNEY HINCKS, of Springfield, Ill., is appointed Major and Aide-de-Camp of Major-Gen. FREMONT, with the rank of Captain, and assigned to Major-Gen. HUNTER.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

Mr. CARLILE, of Virginia, (Union,) presented petitions in favor of allowing Democratic papers the same privileges in the mails as the Republican papers.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) presented a petition 700 feet long, signed by 18,000 women, praying for the abolition of Slavery.

Several petitions were presented in favor of a Bankrupt law, and remonstrating against a tax on leaf tobacco.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) presented a memorial from the merchants of Boston, in favor of the Bigelow system of taxing.

Mr. WILSON called up the resolution of inquiry if further legislation is necessary to enforce the articles of war for preventing the restoration of slaves from within the lines of the army.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, (Rep.,) at some length reviewed the instances lately occurring in Gen. Hooker's division, showing that efforts had been made by slave-owners to reclaim their negroes within the lines, with the knowledge of the commanding officer; that slaves were taken at Fort Donelson and carried to Columbus, Ohio, and were forced to render menial services under military law to Rebel masters, thus establishing a system of Slavery in a Free State. He cited similar instances in Iowa and Illinois, and he thought it was high time that Congress should adopt some legislation in regard to the matter. There were to many different systems as there were Military Departments. Some slaves were flogged and returned, others shot, others called contrabands, and admitted within the lines, and others prohibited from entering the lines, as in the celebrated order No. 3, of Gen. HALLECK, which ought to be of once countermanded, and never issued, in deference to the popular feeling. He thought that great amounts of information could be acquired from these people, coming as they do, from the enemy's line, if they were properly availed of. The Northwest would not submit to any compromising or compromising policy now. They have suffered too much already, and they demanded that this rebellion should be crushed out. The lack of the South is a sudden uprising, with the intention of seizing the Government, when unprepared. He would give no quarter to rebels in arms. Now, when they had fired upon our flag, they must be treated as traitors. He would give no quarter to the rebels, but would treat them as he would treat a band of African desperadoes, to be commanded by a white man, but his men should be negroes. The overruling influence of the climate of the Gulf States, therefore, for instance, was one of humanity, saving many valuable lives. He had no doubt of the efficiency, for contrabands had worked the guns on the Minnesota at Hatteras. He was thankful that no one in the army had followed the degraded example of the officers of the army in issuing proclamations in regard to slavery, and had returned no slaves. He argued that the rebels were using as chattels the slaves at Yorktown in throwing up fortifications. Why should we not use them in pulling down this rebellion?

The Confiscation bill was then taken up. Prior to its consideration—

Mr. HALE resigned as Chairman of the Naval Committee, and in order that no misapprehension might occur, he stated that he was influenced by no ease outside the Senate.

Mr. HARRIS, of New-York, (Rep.,) addressed the Senate on the Confiscation bill, stating that this was the anniversary of the commencement of the war, and marking the gigantic uprising of the people after the firing on Fort Sumter. The last year had been one of preparation. Now the grand armies were pressing forward, from Fortress Monroe in New-Orleans, the great wall of fire, and the rebel hordes were giving way to the onward march at every step. He thought that the magnanimity exhibited by the Government had been without parallel, yet he was glad this was so. The gallows and exile for the leaders, confiscation and military for those who aided the rebellion with unlike amelioration, but mercy for the misled followers.

Returning to the bill under consideration, he contended, at length, that under the action of the Legislature of Congress, Congress by simple language, the property of a traitor could be confiscated as easily as his life could be forfeited. The most pressing work of the rebellion now for the Government was going to conclusion. He agreed with the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. WILKINSON) that some distinction must be made between a rebel General and private soldier. In his bill he had made a distinction; but he had provided that property of every kind, within the lines of the United States, belonging to any person who, having jurisdiction had any office, civil, military or naval, under the Government of the United States, or in any State, now held by any other under the "Confederate" Government of the States now in rebellion, civil, military or naval, should be forfeited and confiscated; second, that any person found holding or exercising any office, civil, military or naval, under the Confederate Government, or who shall be found with arms assisting those who have taken up arms against the Government of the United States, or in any way resisting, opposing or obstructing the laws, officers or forces of the United States, or aiding, abetting or assisting those who shall so be engaged, shall be forfeited and confiscated to the United States, and all the rights and privileges of all such persons arising from the Constitution of the United States, or to which, but for the provisions of this act, such persons would be entitled, are forfeited.

To the extent that the Confiscation bill was imperatively demanded. The personal punishment of traitors, he thought, would hardly prove sufficient. It would be no more difficult to execute the confiscation, because there is within the power of the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Treasury, "Why should we not use the negroes against the rebels?" "Why should we not use the negroes against the rebels?" "Why should we not use the negroes against the rebels?" Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

The following is the Select Committee appointed by the Speaker, on Gradual Emancipation in the slaveholding States, by the people or local authorities thereof, authorized by the resolution of Mr. WARD, of Indiana, and adopted last Monday:

Albert S. White, of Indiana.
F. P. Blair, of Missouri.
George P. Fisher, of Delaware.
William E. Lehman, of Pennsylvania.
Cornelius L. L. Leary, of Maryland.
Kellian V. Whaley, of Virginia.
James F. Wilson, of Iowa.
Samuel L. Casey, of Kentucky.
Andrew J. Clements, of Tennessee.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) from the Committee on Elections, reported a resolution, that F. F. Low is not entitled to a seat as Representative from the State of California. This resolution is predicated on a paper claiming that California is entitled to three Representatives, instead of only two.

Mr. DAWES also reported resolutions that Samuel E. Daily, of Nebraska, the sitting Delegate, is, and that J. Sterling Morton is not, entitled to represent that Territory. He also presented a resolution asking that the Committee on Elections be discharged from further consideration of the credentials of Joseph Segee, requesting to be admitted to a seat as Representative from the First Congressional District of Virginia.

These several reports were ordered to be printed and laid over for further consideration.

Mr. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania, (Rep.,) asked leave to present a petition, 700 feet long, signed, he said, by 15,000 ladies of one shire and eleven free States, asking for the extinction of Slavery.

Objection was made to its open presentation, and it was referred, under the rules.

Mr. COX, (of Ohio, (Dem.,) presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Ohio, in favor of such an amendment to the Tax bill as may permit the States to collect the same within their respective limits, and determine the compensation of the officers employed.

Mr. COX said that these resolutions came too late, perhaps, for their proper influence with this House. The bill is before the Senate, but it is to be hoped that that body will so modify it as to make it more just and equal upon different localities and interests, less stalkerism in the objects of taxation, and so change the machinery of its collection that it may be, if possible, remitted to the States, who shall have the privilege of collecting the same, and of determining the officers and their compensation. Such, I am assured, is the unanimous wish of the Legislature and people of Ohio. The Legislature, in passing these resolutions, was actuated by the purest patriotism—with no other desire than to have this war-tax levied and collected fairly and economically. If the bill in these matters the case of Ohio here far it will be much nearer a fault.

Mr. WARD, of Indiana, (Union,) from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, made a report, asking to be discharged from further consideration of resolutions from Legislature of Northern New-York and Michigan, praying the acceptance of mediation to secure the speedy abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty with Great Britain.

Mr. PARKER, of Missouri, (Union,) introduced a resolution calling on the Secretary of War, if not inconsistent with the public interests, to communicate any official information he may have relative to the recent surrender of Island No. 10, and the capture of the Rebel Gunboats and Steamers, and the force at Fort Pillow, and the number of troops in the Southwestern Department, and the number of troops in the Northwestern Department

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CONTRACTS FOR ARMS.

It will be remembered that Mr. Secretary CAMERON replied to an inquiry of the House of Representatives, not long since, that he had not authorized any contracts for the purchase of arms. His successor, Mr. STANTON, in reply to a resolution of inquiry of the House, of Dec. 23 last, in relation to the purchase of small arms, states that the Secretary of War, from Feb. 12, 1861, to Feb. 1, 1862, ordered contracts for muskets and rifles to the number of 1,630,000.

THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

Senator WILSON's bill to promote the efficiency of the Corps of Engineers has been reported back from the Military Committee, as originally presented by him, and provides as follows:

That the Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Topographical Engineers be, and they are hereby, united into one corps, to be called the Corps of Engineers, and its organization shall be as follows: One Brigadier-General, four Colonels, eight Lieutenant-Colonels, sixteen Majors, twenty-four Captains, twenty-four First Lieutenants, twenty-four Second Lieutenants, one Sergeant-Major, one Quartermaster-Sergeant, and five companies of enlisted men, as provided by law. The relative rank of the officers of the corps shall be the same as before the passage of this act. The general officer herein provided for shall be appointed by selection from the commissioned officers of the corps. The other vacancies shall be filled by regular promotion of the present officers, and by graduates of the Military Academy who have heretofore been recommended by the Academic Board for the Corps of Engineers, Topographical Engineers, or Ordnance Corps, or who may be recommended to the Secretary of War for appointment by a Board of Engineer officers; and all vacancies that may occur among the Corps of Engineers shall be filled only by graduates of the Military Academy who have been recommended thereto by the Academic Board.

GEN. MCDOWELL.

Maj.-Gen. MCDOWELL was in town to-day.

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Charles McDougall, of the Ohio Brigade, Surgeon.

Maj. Wm. H. Palmer, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, to be Colonel.

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Charles H. Allen, of New-York, Consul at Bonaire.

Kilian F. Wallace, of New-York, Consul at St. Jago de Cuba.

James Smith, of New-York, Consul at San Juan, Porto Rico.

Aaron G. Wainwright, of New-York, Consul at Bangkok.

George F. Seward, of New-York, Consul at Canton.

Frederick Charles Welsch, of New-York, Consul in Cuba.

ROADS FOR THE WESTERN WATERS.

A Board appointed by the Navy Department to examine the plans and specifications for boats for the Western waters, consisting of Commodore JESSE ELLIOTT, Chief of the Bureau of Docks and Yards; JOHN LENTHALL, Chief of the Bureau of Construction; B. F. BEARDSLEE, Engineer-in-Chief; ISAAC NEWTON, Naval Constructor; and DAMAS B. MASON, Engineer in the United States Navy, have recommended that contracts be made with the following parties: THOMSON & HERSTEIN, Pittsburgh, for two iron vessels; HAVEN & MCCORD, St. Louis, three wooden vessels; GEORGE C. EGGERS, Cairo, one wooden vessel; JAMES B. EADS, St. Louis, two iron vessels. The aggregate cost of the eight vessels will be $1,229,500.

THE PRIZE CASES.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., April 12, 1862.

Permission is given to John Smith, correspondent of the Spread Eagle at Spikeville, to pass within the lines of the United States forces as a newspaper reporter, subject to the following conditions: First, that he is loyal to the Government of the United States; second, that he gives his parole of honor that he will faithfully observe the orders of the War Department, and all observe such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Commanding General.

By order of the Secretary of War.

(Signed,) R. C., Colonel of Volunteers.

I accept the pass on the above conditions, and give the parole required.

(Signed,) JOHN SMITH, Reporter.

The objection to the certificate is, that there are several orders of the War Department on this subject, and the special order that the Government will require a correspondent to faithfully observe is not quoted. This, again, men differ in opinion as to what might and might not be compliable with the order. Besides, a correspondent is not only required to observe the order of the War Department, but also to do nothing contrary to the orders of the War Department. What orders? Why not quote them, as by the language of the permit there is evidently more than one? This is not all. The correspondent is required to observe such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Commanding-General. It is clear that the man who subscribes to the above permit can never make his private journal of the war, and publish it after the war is over, without violating his word of honor.

THE ORANGE AND ALEXANDRIA RAILROAD.

Great complaints are made of the management of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The delays and mishaps upon it, in the transportation of troops, have been so great, as it is managed by Secessionists,

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Greed.

THE CASE OF MR. SWAN.

The House Committee on Elections were unable to agree on the case of Joseph Swan, claiming a seat as a Representative from the First District of Virginia, and hence asked to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. It will come up for decision in the House open to debate.

FROM FORT MONROE.

A private dispatch, dated Monroe last night, 10 o'clock, receives here this morning, represents that there was great moonlight, and all quiet in that vicinity.

THE TAX ON WHISKEY.

Some of the newspapers erroneously state that the Tax bill, as passed by the House, taxes the stock of whisky and other spirits on hand previous to the first of May.

APPOINTMENT.

VILRAS HUNTER, of Springfield, Ill., is appointed [illegible] Major-Gen. FREMONT, with the rank of Captain, and assigned to Major-Gen. HUNTER.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

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Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) presented a memorial from the merchants of Boston, in favor of the Bigelow system of heating.

Mr. WILKE called up the resolution of inquiry if further legislation is necessary to enforce the articles of war by preventing the reclamation of slaves from within the lines of the army.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, (Rep.,) at some length reviewed the instances lately occurring in Gen. Hunter's division, showing that efforts had been made by slave-owners to reclaim their negroes within the lines, with the knowledge of the commanding officer; that slaves were taken at Fort Donelson and carried to Columbus, Ohio, and were forced to render menial services under military law to rebel masters, thus establishing a system of Slavery in a Free State. He cited similar instances in Iowa and Illinois, and he thought it was high time that Congress should adopt some legislation in regard to the matter. There were as many different systems as there were Military Departments. Some slaves were flogged and returned; others shot; others called contrabands, and admitted within the lines, and others prohibited from entering the lines, as in the celebrated order No. 3, of Gen. HUNTER, which sought to be of more consequence, and labored more earnest, to conciliate the popular feeling in favor of the rebels, than any legislation proposed to be enacted from three people, meeting as they do, from the country's case, if they were properly avoided. The Northwest would not submit to any compromising or compromising policy now. They have suffered the north already, and they demanded that this rebellion should be crushed out. The lives of the young Republic were yet to be endangered, and rather than that they would never see a compromise. Some, chiefly or in part by soldiers of African descent, to be commanded by white officers. One people would willingly, the conserving influences of the climate of the Gulf States; therefore the measure was one of humanity, saving many valuable lives. He had no doubt of its efficiency, for contrabands had worked the guns on the Monitors at Hampton. He was thankful that no one in the army had followed the disgraceful example of the officers of the army in issuing proclamations to regard to Slavery, and had refrained as slaves. He argued that the rebels were using up thousands the slaves at Yorktown in throwing up fortifications. Why should we not use them in pulling down this rebellion?

The Confiscation bill was then taken up. Prior to its consideration—

Mr. HALE resigned as Chairman of the Naval Committee, and in order that no misapprehension might occur, he stated that he was influenced by no case outside the Senate.

Mr. HARRIS, of New-York, (Rep.,) addressed the Senate on the Confiscation bill, saying that this was the anniversary of the commencement of the war, and marking the gigantic strength of the people after the fall of Fort Sumter. The last year had been full of preparation. Now the crisis armies were prominent forward, from Indian Nations to the Gulf, and from ocean to ocean, and the rebellion was approaching to the grand march of river to river. He thought that the magnanimity extended by the Government had been without parallel yet he was glad this was so. The gallows and rope for those who aided the rebellion with military assistance, but never for the misguided lowers.

Proceeding to the bill under consideration, he considered, at length, that under the article of the Constitution empowering Congress to punish treason, the property of a traitor could be confiscated as very little life could be extended. The next question was the expediency; how far the Government was going to confiscate. He agreed with the senator from Pennsylvania (Cameron) that some distinction must be made between a rebel General and private soldier. In his bill he had made a distinction. And, he had provided that property of every kind, within the limits of the United States, belonging to any person who, having previously had any office, civil, military or naval, under the Government of the United States, or in any State, now held any office under the "Confederate" Government of the States now in rebellion, civil, military or naval, should be forfeited and confiscated; second, that any person found holding or exercising any office, civil, military or naval, under the Confederate Government, or who shall be found with arms assisting those who have taken to arms against the Government of the United States, or in any way resisting, opposing or obstructing the laws, officers or forces of the United States, or aiding, abetting or assisting those who shall be so engaged, shall be forfeited and confiscated to the United States, and all the rights and privileges of all such persons arising from the Constitution of the United States, or to which, but for the provisions of this act, such persons would be entitled, are forfeited.

To these extents, then, confiscation bill was imperiously demanded. The personal punishment of traitors, he thought, would mostly prove ineffectual. It would be far more difficult to convict the ambitious Jefferson Davis, if within the power of the National Government, than some people imagine. Where would he be tried? Who would be the witnesses? These are questions which our worthy Attorney-General would find it difficult to answer. He did not believe the Government would ever profit one dollar by the confiscation of rebel property. No North would ever have thus benefited, and none ever would do. He favored the confiscation of slaves, as the slaves had been the cause of the present war, and had been for a year distributing the elements of our National politics. Northern politicians had cowered before it, and (good-humoredly pointed to its Democratic executive. The rebellion was being crushed, because the political power was wrested from the hands of the slave oligarchy. To shift the power of Slavery in the direction of conservatism, and while he would scrupulously observe all constitutional provisions, he would deprive them of all the political power that he could constitutionally. The time had not arrived as to what measures are required to effect this purpose. As the army advances, numbers of slaves are liberated, and at is what was to become of them in doubtful determination. That he would say. No one of them would ever be returned by authority of the Government to bondage. If the matter seems to remove the burden of proof is on him to show that he deserved to be loyal. A provision of the original bill was founded on the recognition that every slaveholder was a rebel. This change was the most effective part of the bill. In seeking the reclamation of the Union we should primarily take new ships. We should administer law with impartiality and forbearance, and under generous forgiveness to all persons repent. This the bill presented. In his proposal he sought to give the President discretionary power to discharge all persons whom he may deem fit from the pains and penalties of the act. His hope was that millions lavished by such generosity would gladly accept the

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by bill to otherwise. Passed.

Executive Session. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

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William E. Lehman, of Pennsylvania,
Cornelius L. L. Leary, of Maryland,
Reuben Y. Whaley, of Virginia,
James F. Wilson, of Iowa,
Samuel L. Casey, of Kentucky,
Andrew J. Clements, of Tennessee.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, (Rep.,) from the Committee on Elections, reported a resolution, that F. F. LOWE is not entitled to a seat as Representative from the State of California. This resolution is predicated on a paper claiming that California is entitled to three Representatives instead of only two.

Mr. DAWES also reported resolutions that DAVID E. DAILY, of Nebraska, the sitting Delegate, is, and that J. SYMONS MEANS is not, entitled to represent that Territory. He also presented a resolution asking that the Committee on Elections be discharged from further consideration of the credentials of JOHN SWAN, requesting to be admitted to a seat as Representative from the First Congressional District of Virginia.

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Objection was made to its open presentation, and it was referred, under the rules.

Mr. COX, (of Ohio, (Dem.,) presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Ohio, in favor of such an amendment to the Tax bill as may permit the States to collect the same within their respective limits, and determine the compensation of the officers employed.

Mr. COX said that these resolutions came by instructions, for their proper influence with the House. The bill is before the Senate, but it is to be hoped that that body will so modify it as to make it more just and equal upon different localities and interests, less obnoxious to the objects of taxation, and so change the machinery of its collection that it may be, if possible, remitted to the States, who shall have the privilege of collecting the same, and of determining the officers and their compensation. Such, I am assured, is the unanimous wish of the Legislature and people of Ohio. The Legislature, in passing these resolutions, was actuated by the purest patriotism—with no other desire than to have the war-tax levied and collected fairly and economically. If the bill in its amendment, the vote of Ohio here for it will be much more a unit.

Mr. WILSON, of Indiana, (Union,) from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, made a report, asking to be discharged from further consideration of numerous letters of Northern Sect-York and Michigan, praying for the adoption of measures to secure a speedy abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty with Great Britain.

Mr. FARIS, of Missouri, (Union,) introduced a resolution calling on the Secretary of War, if not inconsistent with the public interests, to communicate any official information he may have relative to the personal injury by the United States troops upon Judge Isaac Mesmerstering the last four months, and the outrages covering away of slaves, stolen and sold, to the amount of hundreds of dollars, and the burning of houses of peaceful citizens; whether the said property was ever accounted for; and, if accounted, under what process, &c.

Mr. F. A. CONKLING, of New-York, (Rep.,) moved to lay it on the table. Disagreed to—ayes 61, nays 57.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, (Rep.,) introduced a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Secretary of Interior to inform the House how much of the appropriation recently made for the purchase of Indian goods had been expended, in what manner the expenditure had been made, what amount of goods had been received, and why the distribution was not made; also, what number of agents are employed.

The House voted on the motion, made last Monday by Roscoe Conkling, to suspend the rules, in order that the Bankrupt bill, reported by him from the Special Committee, might be made a special order, and decided the question in the negative—38 against 42, two-thirds being necessary.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, (Dem.,) moved to postpone the consideration of the bill for the fourth Monday in December. Carried, 37 against 36.

The House passed the Senate joint resolution transferring the supervision of the Capitol extension from the War to the Interior Department, and providing that only so much money shall be expended thereon as will protect the material from the elements, and to complete the dome.

Mr. STARR, of Missouri, (Rep.,) from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the construction of a ship canal from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan for the passage of army and naval vessels, Government munitions, stores, &c., &c., upon terms, with the consent of the State of Illinois to enlarge the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

The House refused to suspend the rules to make the bill a special order.

Adjourned.

ANOTHER FIGHT IN NEW-MEXICO.

Eleven Hundred Texans Engaged by Col. Hough.

A Drawn Battle — The Rebel Supply Train Captured and Burnt.

DENVER CITY, Monday, April 7, } VIA JEFFERSON, Wednesday, April 9.

Information received from New-Mexico states that on the 28th ult. Col. HOUGH, with 1,500 men, reached the Apache Pass. His advance, consisting of three companies of cavalry, had an engagement, some distance beyond this place, with 250 rebel cavalry, and took 37 prisoners. The Federal loss was four killed and eleven wounded.

At Pigeon's Ranch, fifteen miles from Santa Fe, on the 26th, Col. HOUGH met a force of 1,100 Texans, strongly posted at the mouth of a canon. The fight began about noon, Col. HOUGH engaging them in front with seven Companies, while Maj. CHAMBERS, with four Companies, attacked them in the rear. This latter force succeeded in driving the rebel guard away from their supply train, which was captured and burned. They also captured one cannon and spiked it. The fight continued desperately till 4 o'clock, when it ceased by mutual consent. Col. HOUGH withdrew his forces to a creek four miles distant.

The National loss was three officers and twenty private killed, and forty to fifty wounded. The rebel loss is not known.

Communication between Cols. HOUGH and CANBY is continually kept up.

OFFICERS OF THE SIXTY-NINTH MILITIA.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT, N. Y. S. M.

A special meeting of the officers of this regiment will be held in the Armory, over Essex Market, this (Tuesday) evening, at 8 o'clock precisely.

By order, F. DUFFY, Secretary.

The Rebel Congress and the Rebel Press on Johnston's Death.

OPERATIONS OF GEN. BURNSIDE.

THE REBELS STILL BOASTING.

UNOFFICIAL LETTER OF GEN. ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON TO GEN. JEFF. DAVIS.

In the rebel Congress, on the 7th, Mr. BARKSDALE, of Mississippi, read a letter from Gen. A. S. JOHNSTON to JEFF. DAVIS, vindicating himself for his conduct of affairs in the Southwest. It is as follows, as far as published:

DECATUR, ALA., TUESDAY, March 18, 1862.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I received the dispatches from Richmond, with your private letter, by Capt. WICKHAM, three days since; but the pressure of affairs and the necessity of getting my command across the Tennessee prevented me from sending you an earlier reply.

I anticipated all that you have told me as to the censure which the fall of Fort Donelson drew upon you, and the effects to which you might be subjected, and it was impossible for me to gather the data for a detailed report, or to spare time which was required to enlighten the remainder of my troops, and save the large accumulation of stores and provisions after that disheartening disaster.

I transmitted the reports of Generals FLOYD and PILLOW without attempting or analyzing the facts, and reserved until then to read them.

When about to assume command of this Department, the government charged me with the duty of crushing the question of occupying Bowling Green, Kentucky, which involved not only military but political considerations. At the time of my arrival at Nashville, the action of the Legislature of Kentucky had put an end to the latter by sanctioning the invasion of companies entering Tennessee, by assuming the rights of the Government at Washington, and by abandoning the neutrality it professed, and in consequence of their action the occupation of Bowling Green became necessary as an act of self-defense, at least in the first step.

About the middle of September Gen. BUCKNER occupied with a small force of about 4,000 men, which was increased by the 15th of October to 12,000, and though sickness of late were received, it continued at about the same strength until the end of November, measles and other diseases keeping down the effective force. The enemy's force was then reported in the War Department at 40,000, and an advance was impossible.

Believing it to be of the greatest moment to protract the campaign, in the dearth of cotton might bring succor from abroad and discourage the North, and to gain time to strengthen, supply by new troops from Tennessee and other States, I sent orders to retire the army, but gave it known my intention to the Department and the Governors of States. The end given was small. At length, when Gen. BUCKNER came in early in February, he expressed his surprise at the condition of his force, and was impressed with the dangers of my position. I satisfied what was to result, and had never him my views for the future, to which he entirely assented, and sent me a memorandum of our conference, a copy of which I send to you. I determined to fight for Nashville at Donelson, and sacrifice a small part of my army to the rest, and I sent every man I could to assist my front, and giving the command to Gen. PILLOW.

The report at Donelson is stated in Gen. PILLOW's report to much less, and I do not doubt the correctness of the statement, for the force at Bowling Green, which I estimated to be 11,000 effective men, (the [illegible] report gives only a little over 300 sick in the hospitals) was diminished upwards 5,000 by those who had left the ranks to attend the funeral of a month, and [illegible] to return. Under the time from 10,000 [illegible] I [illegible] to defend Donelson.

This I solemnly believe, my friend, to defend Donelson, Bowling Green would have known it, and marched at once on Nashville. There were only two small detachments in the Confederate to impede such movement, and the stores of which were available at Nashville, which the transportation of the enemy was great.

The evacuation of Bowling Green was imperative, I thought, and was accomplished before, and I sacrificed every the bridge was being fought at Donelson. I had made every disposition for the retreat of the first regiment allowed, and the troops were among the best of my force. The Generals FLOYD, PILLOW and PORTER were high in the opinion of officers and men, for skill and courage, and almost the best officers of my command. They were popular with the volunteers, and all had been tried in service. Mr. BUCHANAN's were added, I awaited the event upon the Nashville. The result of the conflict each day was favorable. At midnight, on the 16th, I received news of a glorious victory; in dawn, of a defeat.

My position, during the ten days and night, was thrown over the division's battery had been transferred before the city to secure the passage of Nashville, it is impossible as defense from the position, and from the force advancing from Bowling Green and up the Cumberland. A few guns, I was left under Gen. FLOYD to defend the city, and I left the troops, but did not personally affect the retreat. The people were terrified, and scared the troops were demoralized. The disorganization was appalling, and I believed the enemies in Nashville, where I managed, by executing Commissary's Hudson and the fugitives from Donelson, to collect as many stores as possible, to offer battle. The weather was inclement, the roads execrable, and the bridges were washed away, but most of stores and provisions were saved and conveyed to new depots.

This being here accomplished, though with serious loss, it embodied, with my original force, I marched south to and crossed the Tennessee at this point, so as to concentrate at Duck with Gen. BRAGG, for the defense of the valley of the Mississippi. The passage is almost complete, and the rear of my column is already with Gen. BRAGG at Corinth. The movement was destined by necessity by the most overwhelming numbers of my staff, but the officers warmed the risks. The difficulty of effecting a junction is probably overcome, but it approaches completion. But after to-morrow, unless the enemy intercepting, my force will be with BRAGG, and my army nearly —— thousand strong. This must be delayed before the enemy can attack his object.

I have given this sketch, so that you may appreciate the embarrassment which surrounded me in my attempts to strive to remedy the disaster of Fort Donelson, before alluding to the conduct of the Generals.

When the force was detached, I was in hopes that such disposition would have been made as would have enabled the force to defend the fort, or withdraw without sacrificing the army. On the 14th, I received Gen. FLOYD's telegram: "If he lost the Fort to get his troops to Nashville." It is possible this might have been done, but under equalities in to look at it was at they appeared at the time, and not alone by the light of subsequent information. All the facts in relation to the surrender will be transmitted to the Secretary of War, as soon as they can be collected, to obviate to his order. It appears from the information received, that Gen. BUCKNER, being the senior officer, sent the pass to his being the surrender, and that Gen. LEWIS acquiesced, and they all concurred in the belief that Staff Drive could not maintain the position—all concurred that it would require a great sacrifice of life to extricate the command.

Subsequent events show that the investment was not so complete as their information from their scouts led them to believe. The cavalry regiment in the surrender, The principal were frequently transferred, and detached upon the other flanks, but not apparently in small bodies for the facility or from any want of personal or moral intrepidity. The blow was short, sharp, and almost without a remedy. I, therefore, in my first report, remained silent. This silence you were kind enough to attribute to magnanimity. I will not accept it, but confess to be the best way to serve the cause the country. The facts were not fully known, I thought, and I feared the effect of a full report, and I thought it was better to confine them for the present, and defer to a more propitious time the investigation of the conduct of the Generals, for, in the meantime, their services were required and their influence useful. For these reasons, Gens. FLOYD and PILLOW were assigned to duty, for I still had confidence in their gallantry, their energy, and their devotion to the Confederacy.

I have thus recurred to the unfortunate which I have been governed, from a deep personal sense of the friendship and confidence you have always shown me, and from the conviction that they have not been withdrawn from me in adversity.

All the reports requisite for a full official investigation have been ordered. Gens. FLOYD and PILLOW have been suspended from command.

[Here followed some allusions not necessary to be

THE REBEL CONGRESS ON THE BATTLE AND ON THE FALL OF JOHNSTON.

In the rebel House at Richmond, on Monday last, 7th inst., the "great victory" was announced, and the following resolutions introduced:

Resolved, That Congress has learned, with feelings of deep joy, and gratitude to the Divine Ruler of Nations, the news of the recent glorious victory of our arms in Tennessee.

Resolved, That the death of Gen. ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON, the commander of our forces, while leading his troops to victory, cannot but temper our exultation with a shade of sadness at the loss of so able, zealous and gallant an officer.

Resolved, That, in respect to the memory of Gen. JOHNSTON, the Senate concurring—Congress do now adjourn until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

The Senate, however, thought there might be some error in the announcement, and refused to act on the resolution, and it was afterward adopted as a House resolve.

EULOGIES ON JOHNSTON.

From the Richmond Whig, April 12.

The fall of a military chieftain on the field of honor and victory, at the head of his rushing columns, fighting for liberty, is the death the soldier most covets, and the country most laments. Such has been the fate of Gen. ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON. A dispatch from Gen. BEAUREGARD says he fell "gallantly leading his troops into the thickest of the fight." Better information in regard to his recent retirement from Bowling Green, and his presumed responsibility for the disasters at Forts Henry and Donelson, had already cleared him of the guilty and unjust censure visited upon him for these occurrences, and now the spotless victory and glorious death come to consecrate his name for history. His countrymen, in their rejoicings, will not withhold the tribute of their tears, and coming generations will keep his memory fresh.

A correspondent of The Charleston Mercury, writing previous to the battle, says of Johnston:

"Gen. JOHNSTON has, to a considerable extent, lost the confidence of the people along his line of march, but the dissatisfaction is less general than the public has been made to believe. It will require, however, some master stroke of strategy, or some brilliant exploit on his part, to recover entirely the favor of the public. From another source we learn that he advised the officers, after their arrival at Murfreesboro', when he is reported to have said that, 'In however low estimate he might now be held as a military commander, he would in a short time retrieve his lost ground, and demonstrate the military value of his movements.'"

THE RICHMOND WHIG ON DAVIS.

The *Whig*, discussing ex-Jeff. Davis' statement that he was about to take the field in person, says:

"We chronicle the incident with inexpressible pleasure. Heretofore the President has not exhibited that warm human sympathy which so becomes the leader of a great cause in a hard hour, and which, when the heart and inspires the courage of the soldier to achieving great deeds. Our book of annals makes the whole world big. Let the President show himself in a day of trouble, let him visit the transgressed, let him, on all sides, see the sunshine of encouragement, and the cheer of a glorious success and an honored people."

GEN. BURNSIDE'S OPERATIONS.

The Fayetteville Observer learns from a reliable source that up to the last accounts, Fort Macon had not been attacked, but that a Yankee regiment was at Morehead City on the night of the 31st. Morehead City is in Carteret county, about 15 miles from Beaufort, and 35 miles from Fort Macon. The enemy have possession of Beaufort, which is a small port at the end of Bogue Sound, about 8 miles from Morehead City, and had advanced to Pollocksville, in Jones County, from Burnside's brigade, no doubt, is looking after them. Of the strength of the force to that we know not and care to know not, as we presume. If rebels they would withdraw their forces and make a desperate stand in the Gulf States. Let Duke and our cavalry reach Corinth until the fight was over.

It is now believed by persons in Fort Monroe that the rebel force in action was 60,000 men.

The Ninth Illinois Regiment could count but 300 effective men on Monday morning, the Eleventh Illinois 40, and the Twelfth Iowa but 17 men.

Gentlemen from Pittsburgh report that the wounded are well provided for in transports and hospitals.

No battle is expected for some days, heavy rains having made the roads impassable for artillery and army wagons.

ST. LOUIS, Monday, April 14.

The steamer *Jenney* arrived at our wharf last evening, with several hundred of our sick and wounded from Pittsburgh. Capt. BARCLAY, of the *Jenney*, reports that the Minnehaha, laden with wounded, has gone up the Ohio. The *City of Memphis* has one thousand wounded at Mound City.

Among the wounded is Capt. COOK, of the Ninth Indiana, who says there is no doubt of the death of Gen. BRAGG in Monday's fight; also that JOHNSTON, the so-called Provisional Governor of Kentucky, is dead. He died as he lay within six feet of Capt. COOK, on board the *Hamilton*.

The whole rebel army in battle was 120 regiments, or 75,000 men. These facts were obtained from a brigade Quartermaster, named WINCHESTER, who was taken prisoner.

Our total killed and wounded is now estimated at 4,000.

Gen. W. H. WALLACE, of Illinois, at last accounts was still living, with slight hopes of recovery.

The name of Col. JOHN S. MCHARGY, Seventeenth Kentucky, wounded at Pittsburgh, was erroneously printed in the first dispatch as G. MCKINSTRY.

The steamer *Woodford* arrived last night, with about 200 prisoners, from Pittsburgh.

PROMPT AID FOR THE WOUNDED.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

The following has been received at the War Department:

CINCINNATI, Ohio, April 14, 1862.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

SIR: Since the late battle at Pittsburgh, the Commission has fitted out two boats with surgeons, nurses, and supplies, which have reached their destination. We have also furnished a large proportion of the supplies taken on the steamer sent by the Mayor of the City, under authority from the War Department, and from the Governor of Ohio. General contributions of money and stores continue to flow in our hands from the citizens of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. If the present emergency, or the prospect of another engagement renders it necessary, we are prepared to fit out one or more hospital boats, if furnished by the United States Quartermaster, and proceed to such points as you may designate.

By order of the Commission.

(Signed,) E. W. BURNETT, President.

One Hundred Miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad in his Possession.

STEVENSON AND DECATUR OCCUPIED.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

The following dispatch has been received by the Secretary of War, dated Nashville, Tenn., April 14:

On Saturday morning two expeditions were started from Huntsville to the east. One under Col. FIST, of the Thirty-third Ohio, went east to Stevens, on the junction of the Chattanooga with the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, which point they seized, two thousand of the enemy retreating without firing a shot. Capt. BILL captured five locomotives and a large amount of rolling stock.

The other expedition under Col. FRANCIS, of the Nineteenth Illinois, went east and arrived at Decatur in time to save the railroad bridge, which was in flames.

Gen. MITCHELL now holds one hundred miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

PITTSBURGH LANDING BATTLE.

Dispatch from Gen. Beauregard Claiming a Victory on the Second Day.

ADDITIONAL INTERESTING PARTICULARS.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sunday, April 13.

A Norfolk paper has been received here containing a dispatch from BEAUREGARD in relation to the second day's fighting at Pittsburg Landing. He claims a complete victory, and says that after capturing thirty-six of our guns and eight thousand prisoners, we forces fell back upon the works of Corinth, which they are fully able to hold.

WHAT THE WAR DEPARTMENT SAYS.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 14.

In reference to BEAUREGARD's dispatch, alluded to in the Old Point letter, inquiries have been made at the War Department, and we are authorized to say that the dispatch from Pittsburgh Landing already given to the public, corresponds to the report in the Norfolk papers. All reports received at the War Department confirm the statements that the enemy was routed and pursued so far as the previous orders of Gen. GRANT should permit, the enemy are now still up in Corinth.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

CINCINNATI, Monday, April 14.

A special dispatch to the *Gazette*, from Ohio, says that BEAUREGARD called a council of war the last night before Generals before the battle of Pittsburgh. There were present FULTON, FLOYD, BRECKINRIDGE, HARDEE, BRAGG, CHEATHAM, SIDNEY JOHNSTON, BUCKNER, JOHNSON, the rebel Provisional Governor of Kentucky and a few other Generals. The following order was issued: If they have anything worth fighting for, we and drive to North or for no prisoner. If rebels they would withdraw their forces and make a desperate stand in the Gulf States. Let Duke and our cavalry reach Corinth until the fight was over.

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