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BY TELEGRAPH.

[TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS DEE.]

Important from Richmond.

THE GREAT NAVAL EXPEDITION.

SAILING OF THE ...UMBERLAND.

Departure of nine Gunboats and Cutter.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 8th learns that Commissioners Messrs. Mallory, Benjamin and Preston, left Richmond on the 7th, for Norfolk, to confer with General Huger, Commodore Lynch, and Commodore Forrest, relative to the defences of the James River.

Gov. Letcher has issued a proclamation calling for the enrollment of all the able-bodied white men between the ages of 18 and 35 years, in the State of Virginia, for the defence of the State.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 10th says:

The Virginia Legislature has passed the bill to authorize the Governor to call out the militia to repel invasion. The Senate passed the bill on Saturday, and the House of Delegates on Monday, by a vote of 70 to 20.

The Senate has passed a bill to organize the Supreme Court of the Confederacy.

From Norfolk.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

Norfolk, March 12.—The Minnesota reached Fortress Monroe on Saturday, in very perplexed condition. All the guns in the fortifications at Newport News, excepting one, were removed by the Virginia and other Confederates in a few an hour, under the command of Lieutenant Taylor, who was wounded by the enemy under a white flag, and yesterday. Captain Buchanan and Lieutenant Minor were also wounded by the enemy under a white flag. They are still improving. The enemy killed two of their own men in firing on their boat after the white signal. The Minnesota is completely riddled, and the St. Lawrence disabled.

The enemy's loss on both days is estimated from six to twelve hundred.

Out of five hundred on the Cumberland only one hundred escaped.

All the batteries on Newport News were silenced except one.

Congressional.

Richmond, March 10.—Congress was compelled to-day in consequence of the operations of Gen. McClellan's army, to suspend the ordinary business and go into secret session. Messrs. Preston, Staples, Garnett and Fearnley, of the Virginia delegation, Mr. Lawrence Keitt, of South Carolina, Mr. Wm. R. W. Cobb, of Alabama, and Mr. Ethelbert Barksdale, of Mississippi, were admitted on the floor of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, was also admitted on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Preston, of Kentucky, and Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, were admitted on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. Lawrence Keitt, of South Carolina, addressed the House of Representatives in a speech of considerable length, in which he urged the passage of the bill to raise twelve regiments of cavalry.

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Mr. Fearnley, of Virginia, addressed the Senate in a speech of considerable length, in which he urged the passage of the bill to raise twelve regiments of cavalry