The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, April 26, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The events of the last twenty-four hours have been fraught with unspeakable importance. We write these lines in the full view of an imposing Federal fleet now riding in the waters of the Mississippi, with their broadsides and batteries cannon fronting the town. Whether informal surrender of the city by the civil and military authorities had been made up to the arresting—the hour at which this is penned—we cannot positively decide, as the rumors are so numerous and somewhat conflicting. To all intents and purposes, however, we are in the power of the Lincoln squadron, as our means of resistance have proved unavailing, and the city, so to speak, lies at their mercy. There are four other Federal armed vessels in front of our guns, for which circle are steam frigates or ships of war, and three are gunboats.

Our information respecting the events which preceded the arrival of the fleet in New Orleans is scanty, and not altogether authentic. From what we can learn, however, it would seem that after a terrific bombardment of the forts by the mortar boats for several days, on Wednesday night a number of gunboats and war steamers endeavored to run past the forts. This was accomplished, as we are told, in spite of a most determined resistance. Of course, the advantage then lay altogether with the Federals, as the Confederates had nothing more to rely upon than the Montgomery, Jeffries, and the floating battery Louisiana. What part they played in the conflict is hardly known. There is thought we fear they were wholly unable to cope with their more powerful antagonists, and have been captured, and probably destroyed. The Federal gunsels must have steered very shrewdly and cautiously, as none of them made their appearance on Tuesday. Yesterday at an early hour it was announced that twelve or fourteen were ascending the river, and would reach the city about midday. There was great excitement, but we saw no signs of panic. The general impression seemed to be that we had fallen into the Federals might possess them if they failed to capture them. At nightfall we were unable to learn any further particulars respecting the interview, or whether New Orleans had been formally surrendered or not. We shall probably either to-day or to-morrow receive official proclamation the real state of the case.

It is unnecessary for us to dilate to public feeling on the occasion. We can sufficiently appreciate the magnitude of the triumph of the Federals, and they may imagine how bitter is the cup of sorrow the Confederates have been made to drink.

Newspaper Generals.

[From the Montgomery Whig.]

Clarke, with large brains, high talents and character, have stood shoulder to by every assault upon the officers of newspapers. We have only enough to express opinions not altogether pleasant to the Executive and the clerks. Such editors are always wrong, and those who pay of the Government are always right. Such is the case. There is something in the air which makes error impossible. A fossil thing is even infallible; unfortunate is not merely common than he.

Suppose the vagaries of newspaper generals had been followed how disastrous would have been the consequences! One of them would have lost the offensive policy. Had this been carried out, Pennsylvania would have been the battle ground. How much better to have the war at home! As Mrs. Toodles said about the coffin, it is so handy to have it about the house." If by a great deal better to have our own families around, our own wives and children driven over the face of the earth like vagrants, than to have the handsome cottages and the fine lawns of the Yankees. Better bear the ills we have than fly to those we know not of. As we are now positioned in peace and happy in every respect, so true patriot and friend of the Administration would change it in the least.

Abundant vagary was the bubble, the rather murderous ready made, of an iron-clad navy. What foolish idea been entertained by the Administration and his literary clerks, New York would long ago, have been taken. What a terrible blow this would have inflicted upon the Confederacy. We could not have surrendered it. Columbus, Hilton Head, Port Royal, Roanoke, Newbern, Ship Island, Newbern, Beaufort, Port Royal Island, Donelson, Henry, Nashville, Corinth, Island 10, Huntsville and Decatur would have numbered our loads. A thousand heavy guns, and an end of munitions and stores would have crushed us to the very earth. As it is, we are in light marching order with only a piece of heavy ordnance or a boat to encumber us, and ready to advance or retreat with equal ease by water or by land. Administration vagary of a newspaper writer—for the appointment of Prior as Secretary of War has the rewarding of people in proportion to the services they have rendered might have been a bubble with the Government. It required military preferment to the level of a man of common—so much work to make him fit for it not gentlemanly, not liberal. Governors should be generous. Who else is to bestow the highest honors, in some instances, that have been bestowed upon men who never did a single act to keep the brandy bottle on the shelves? Some friends and relatives to be provided for. But, in case of Prior, the magnificent action of the press has carried the day. In and of honor, Van Dorn was promoted by it, and it was a "military necessity" that Pemberton should at once be appointed. Truly, the appointment and the necessity is based upon which it will never result.

Another vagary was a change in the Cabinet. Of late, the editorial heads have been sadly shaken, and we see the ruinous course pursued. Lee and Randolph would never have made a system, of order, of energy; and of economy, provident, looking, useful and possible in a Republic. We know not where to look for such. Happily the change in the Cabinet was not permitted to disturb the direct of the members of Mr. Mallory. Thank God and country was spared that irremediable calamity.

Such are the chief vagaries of the newspaper generals. They may be amusing, but we do not think them. If the eloquent Thomas, or the brilliant Beauregard, Johnston of Bragg, or the fighting Price, or the gallant Van Dorn were to be the rewarding of people in proportion to the services they have rendered might have been a bubble with the Government. It required military preferment to the level of a man of common—so much work to make him fit for it not gentlemanly, not liberal. Governors should be generous. Who else is to bestow the highest honors, in some instances, that have been bestowed upon men who never did a single act to keep the brandy bottle on the shelves? Some friends and relatives to be provided for. But, in case of Price