THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

Office, 78 Chartres street.

NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol XXXVI—Whole No. 12,661.

NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1863.

Sales at Auction, To-Day.

By E. Montgomery, at 10½ o'clock, at the India warehouse, No. 145 Tchoupitoulas street, hay; at 12 o'clock, M., at No. 99 Camp street, coal oil, cotton seed and starch.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 12 o'clock, M., at No. 93 Camp street, gunstock and moss.

By D. H. Brophy, at 11½ o'clock, on the levee, head of Lafayette street, lumber.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—*Miss Sefton's Benefit.*—This evening, it will be remembered, Miss Sefton takes her benefit at the Varieties, when the "Dumb Boy of Manchester" and the "Lady of the Lake" will be played. The house will of course be jammed.

RUMORS FROM MEXICO.—We received from a friend last evening a copy of the extra of the *Guerrillas Nacional* of the 6th instant. Its news, which is in the inflated and bombastic style of Mexican bulletins, will scarcely repay translation. The report of a loss of eight thousand Frenchmen against sixty on the Mexican side is too glaringly improbable to need a serious refutation.

The United States mail steamship George Washington, E. V. Gager, commander, will leave her wharf at 8 o'clock this morning for New York direct, with a full freight, the United States mails, and the following passengers:

Mrs Lewis and child, Mr H Berringer, Capt White, Mr F Schumer, Mr R G W Kaft, Miss Smith, Messrs J McKernan, Bob Miller, G Foster, Jas Mangan, S Jocelyn, Jas Hughes, G R Gildings, F S Leddy, A Hoss and lady, T J Lawrence, Thos Moore, Thos Leddy, W J Bedford, J M Ellis, S Sprouls, C Theable, lady and two children, B F Salomon, Mrs Frat, Miss Bacon, Mr Rheinstein, Mr M Weisenbach, Mrs Glenn and two children, Mr J Holbrook, Mr C S Holbrook, Mr Z M Lane, Mrs C Hurlbut, six children and servant, Messrs Adden D Peabody, C G C Plummer, E A Fisher, S J Peck, F Symonsell, Col. A Lewis, and 95 in the steerage.

MUSICO-PHONETIC SCHOOL.—In another column will be found the advertisement of Mr. O V. Aoy, who teaches the art of reading by a combination of music and phonetics in half the time necessary with the common system. See his advertisement.

The sales this day, (Tuesday) the 14th inst., by R. T. Montgomery, are very important, and should elicit the attendance of dealers in hay, moss, Rio coffee, bacon, salt, cotton seed, coal oil, starch, and other choice staple groceries and liquors, which will be sold at the following hours and places: At half-past 10 o'clock, at the India Warehouse, 145 Tchoupitoulas street, will be peremptorily sold, 322 bales very superior Northern hay. The owner of this assures those wishing to purchase that the above lot of hay is a very choice article. At 12 o'clock, at salesroom 93 Camp street, 100 bales fine moss, Rio coffee, bacon, cotton seed, coal oil, starch, brandies, whiskies, and a very large assortment of other staple groceries. This sale should attract a full attendance and elicit a share of competition. At 11 o'clock, at the old auction mart 87 Camp street, the usual sale of furniture, sundry household and other merchandise. For full particulars refer to advertisements.

The Sheriff sells at auction this day, at noon, at the Merchants' and Auctioneers Exchange, Royal street, the unexpired term of the lease of store No. 27 Chartres street. See advertisement.

D. E. Murphy, auctioneer, would respectfully call the attention of the public in general to the sale of lumber, which takes place this day, at 11½ o'clock, at the head of Lafayette street, on the levee, First District.

The Steamship Marion Heard From.

The *Picayune*, in its evening edition of yesterday, published the following extract from a private letter received here from Havana, dated 7th instant:

We have the news to-day that the United States mail steamship Marion, from New York for New Orleans, has been wrecked on the Double Headed Shot Keys. I am told the passengers arrived here.

American Consul Schofield has resigned, having been commissioned in the United States Navy. He left for New York in the Catawba.

Extensive Fire in Baton Rouge.

The *Era*, in its extra edition, published last evening an account of an extensive and destructive fire which occurred at Baton Rouge on the morning of the 9th instant, in which the stables of the United States Government and twenty-five horses were destroyed.

The stables were filled with valuable Quartermaster's stores, consisting in saddles, bridles, harness and hay. The building and its contents were a total loss.

The official organ published yesterday the following order:

Pillage.
Seizure of private property.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf,
19th Army Corps,
Camp at Brashear City, April 9, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 27.

Pillage and depredations upon private property are forbidden, and must be suppressed.

Whatever property is necessary to the support of the army will be taken by the Government, and liberal compensation will be made therefor, according to its value in the country where it is taken, to all well-disposed persons.

The loss of property applied to the use of the rebels, or destroyed by fire, will fall upon the owners and the people.

If they ask reparation for their losses, the preservation of their property, or a return to peace, prosperity and power, let them restore the Government of the United States!

By command of Maj Gen. BANKS.
RICHARD B. IRWIN, A. A. General.

News from Washington.

We present below a complete summary of Washington news, from the 29th ultimo to the 2d instant:

REPORTED APPEARANCE OF CONFEDERATES IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing under date of the 28th ultimo, makes the following:

For several days reports have been rife here of the presence of a large rebel force in the Shenandoah valley, but there is no reliable information to confirm them. To-day a similar report was circulated, but it is believed by the General-in-Chief to have been started by the inhabitants of the valley with a view to produce a stampede of the Federal troops in that vicinity.

The same writer says:

LETTERS OF MARQUE.

The question in regard to issuing letters of marque is still under consideration. The Government has not, as has been stated, determined not to issue them.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

The correspondent of the *Herald* reports the following catastrophe, which recently occurred near Alexandria:

A terrible accident occurred on the railroad near Camp Convalescent, Alexandria, yesterday, just as the train, filled with convalescent soldiers, was moving at rather a rapid rate around the curve near the camp, the coupling became detached, causing the cars to run off the track, and resulting in a general smash up, the death of David Frankenfield, of Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the wounding of the following named soldiers: Joseph Dearth, Co. I, Nineteenth New York, slightly injured; Solomon Clark, Co D, Twelfth New Hampshire, dangerously; John Long, Co. A, One Hundred and Ninth Pennsylvania, slightly; Elwood Walton, Co. B, One Hundred and Fourteenth Pennsylvania, dangerously; George Pangior, Co. C, Twenty-first New York; David Bradly, Co. C, Twenty-ninth Connecticut, dangerously; C. Hall, Co. G, Twenty-fifth Massachusetts, slightly; C. McCall, Jr., son of former, bruised, not dangerously.

GREAT DEMAND FOR THE UNITED STATES FIVE-TWENTY BONDS.

The *Herald* correspondent says:

The forces in the loan divisions of the bureaus of the Treasurer and Register of the Treasury are labouring night and day, and even Sundays, to prepare the five-twenty bonds, to keep pace with the demands of the public. The subscriptions are still several days ahead of the issue. The Rhode Island agent has filled up with the blanks. As the Rhode Island interest from the date of subscription, however, purchasers lose nothing by a few days' delay in their reception.

CONDITION OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The correspondent of the *Herald*, writing under date of March 30th, says:

General Hooker arrived here last evening, and has been to-day in consultation with the Secretary of War. He had an interview with the President, and returned to headquarters to-night. All accounts agree in representing the army of the Potomac as being in splendid condition, and prepared to move at short notice when the time arrives for the commencement of active operations.

REPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE ARMY ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The same writer communicates the following reports relative to the condition of the Confederate army:

Deserters recently from the rebel lines speak of the general good health of the troops composing the army of the Rappahannock, notwithstanding the coarseness and scarcity of their food. The information of these deserters is limited, owing to the extreme caution of the commanding officers in preventing one brigade from communicating with another as to their relative strength, position, &c. Their impression is, however, that the army has not been largely diminished, and that the places of the old troops withdrawn have been partially supplied with new levies. The rebels are still engaged extending their earthworks all along the line of the Rappahannock, particularly toward Port Royal.

THE CONFEDERATES IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

The correspondent of the *Herald* intimated in a previous dispatch that a large Confederate force was in the Shenandoah Valley; in a later dispatch, dated March 30th, he says:

The Shenandoah Valley, from Front Royal to Berryville, having never yet been fully drained of its agricultural supplies like other portions, may account for the reports presented in that section of General Ewell's corps, who was said to be holding about Front Royal with his scouts and pickets, ranging down among the Bull run mountains. They recently burned the temporary bridge with which our forces had replaced the Stone bridge over Bull run, destroyed in the first campaign. There is no doubt rebel agents are collecting grain and other supplies in London and Fauquier counties.

Subsequently, on the 31st, the same writer adds:

Intelligence received to-night from Winchester, Va., shows that by recent reconnoissances it has been ascertained that there is no rebel force within thirty-five miles of that place.

INTERCEPTED CONFEDERATE DOCUMENT—THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The *Herald's* Washington correspondence communicates the following:

An intercepted document, addressed by Judah P. Benjamin, the Confederate Secretary of State, to Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar, the Confederate commissioner in St. Petersburg, has lately come into the possession of our Government. It shows the prudent and significant reserve which the Confederate authorities prescribe to themselves in refusing to enter into any engagements with foreign nations not to revive the African slave trade.

Mr. Benjamin says Lamar is well aware how firmly fixed in their constitution is the policy of the Confederacy against the opening of that trade; but we, he remarks, are informed that false and odious suggestions have been made by the agents of the United States at European Courts, of "their intention to change their constitution as soon as peace is restored, and of authorizing the importation of slaves from Africa." If, therefore, Mr. Lamar should find, in his intercourse with the Cabinet to which he is accredited, that any such impressions are entertained, he must use every proper effort to remove them; and if an attempt is made to introduce into any treaty which he may be charged with negotiating stipulations on the subject just mentioned, he will assume the position that the Constitution of the Confederate States is an agreement made between independent States. In other words, no power is delegated to the Confederate Government over this subject. In the course of his instructions, Mr. Benjamin says: "We trust that no unnecessary discussions on this matter will be introduced into your negotiations. If, unfortunately, this reliance should prove ill founded, you will decline continuing negotiations on your side, and transfer them to us at home, where, in such event, they could be conducted with greater facility and advantage, under the direct supervision of the President."

SEVERE FIGHT WITH INDIANS IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

The correspondent of the *Herald* states the following:

Official information has been received of Col Conner's severe battle and splendid victory on Bear river, Washington Territory. After a forced march of one hundred and forty miles, in mid winter and through deep snows, in which seventy-six of his men were disabled by frozen feet, he and his gallant band of only two hundred attacked three hundred Indian warriors in their stronghold, and after a hard fought battle of four hours destroyed the entire band, leaving two hundred and twenty-four dead upon the field. Our loss was fourteen killed and forty-nine wounded. These Indians had murdered several miners during the winter, and were a part of the same band who had been massacring emigrants on the overland mail route for the last fifteen years, and the principal actors and leaders in the horrid crimes of the past summer. During Col. Conner's march no assistance was rendered by the Mormons, who seemed indisposed, he says, to divulge any information regarding the Indians, and charged enormous prices for every article furnished his command.

CABINET COUNCIL.

Under this head the *Herald's* correspondent reports the following council held by Mr. Lincoln with his Cabinet officers:

The President and the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War were closeted together at the War Department nearly all day.

THE PROBABLE EVACUATION OF VIRGINIA BY THE CONFEDERATES.

The New York *Herald's* Washington correspondent speculates upon the following probabilities:

The evidence of deserters and others that the rebels are really preparing to evacuate Virginia, and to fall back to some point further South, is attracting a good deal of the public attention, and many persons here are disposed to give it some credence. Suicidal as such a policy would seem to be to the rebel cause, there is reason to believe that the Government is in possession of some confirmatory information upon this subject which has not been made public. The difficulty of supporting the immense army necessary to maintain their position in that State, and at the same time feed the great body of non combatants within its limits, is well known to be almost insurmountable. By crowding a many of this class within its limits as possible, and then abandoning the State, they can of course throw the burden of their support upon this, as past experience has proved to them that they will not be permitted to starve while within our lines. On the other hand, the moral effect of such an evasation would be so great against them that it could only be resolved upon as a last desperate resort. In the meantime, there is abundant evidence that a strong force remains opposite our army at Fredericksburg, which has as yet given no evidence of an intention to allow an unopposed advance by General Hooker towards the rebel capital.

News from St. Thomas.

A BRITISH FRIGATE CONVOYS TWO BLOCKADE RUNNERS TO SEA—MOVEMENTS OF THE FLYING SQUADRON—ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER ANGLO-REBEL STEAMER, ETC.

Captain Luce, of the British bark Crusoe, who arrived at this port yesterday from St Thomas, having left there on March 17, reports that the English screw steamers Pet, from England, and Artus, which had previously landed a cargo of cotton in Porto Rico from Mobile, both sailed on the 16th for a port in Secessia. The British frigate Phaeton sailed in company with them as a convoy.

The British steamer Neptune arrived the same day from England. She was to start for a Confederate port in a few days.

The Graves of Louisianians on the Field of Sharpsburg.

In an account published in the *Herald* giving the list of the names of soldiers who fell in the battle of Sharpsburg, and who were buried on that field, we find the names of the following Louisiana soldiers, whose families have perhaps no tidings of their last resting place:

LOUISIANA REGIMENTS.

Soulen Rodney	18	Captain McFarland	7
T H Parker	3	J Dent	7
J S Rennie	3	J. Cornett or Cornell	7
William A Snead	15	T D. Savage	7
W. A. Rean	15	M. A. Acker	7
J. B. Hood	14	R. E. Clay	14
G. W. Brock	15	Charles	6
F. A. Talley	15	W. J. Scoggins	9
J. E. Talley	15	Lieut. S. T. Robinson	9
J. S. Hale Jr	8	W. O. Price	9
J. P. M	8	E. B. Leggett	9
A. Cano	6	T. H. Clack	15
W. Wagner	15	T. B. Egan	15
F. Dupuis	8	Lieut. Jas. H. McBride	2
Phillip Batier	14	Lieut. M. V. B. Swan	2
G. Elder or Zeller	6	W. J. Johnson	6
W. Lee Calley	15	Lieut. J. T. Bates	3
Wm. Clark	3	— Dubar	3
J. Thompson	16	Sergt. John F. Mayes	3
Corporal Louis Hebels	6	E. R. Martin	3
Corporal H. B. Hibbits	6	— Charles	6

Graphic Description of the Port Hudson Fight.

Although we have nearly exhausted the subject of the attack against the Port Hudson batteries, by the copious extracts from the various accounts of this engagement, still it is a subject of sufficient interest to bear repetition. Among the many accounts which we read in the Northern papers, none possess more interest for vividness of description than that of the New York *Herald*. We discard all the details of preparation for, and commencement of, the contest, and enter at once in *medias res*:

The correspondent writes from on board the Richmond:

MAN OVERBOARD.

While seated on the "fish davit," on the top-gallant forecastle—the Hartford and the Richmond blazing away at the time—a most fearful wail arose from the river, first on our port bow, then on the beam. A man was evidently overboard, probably from the Hartford or the Genesee, then just ahead. The cry was, "Help, oh, help!" "Help! oh, help!" "Man overboard," called out Lieutenant Terry; "throw him a rope." But, poor fellow, who could assist him in such a strait? We were in action; every man was at his gun; to lower a boat would be folly; in fact, it could not be done with any hope of success. Consequently, although the man was evidently a good swimmer, to judge by his unfailing cries for help for a long time, nothing could be done to rescue him, and he floated astern of us, still sending up that wailing cry for help, but without effect. The terrible current of the Mississippi was too much for him, and he, without doubt, sank beneath the waves of the mighty river.

THE ACTION BECOMES GENERAL.

Just after this fearful incident Bring was heard astern of us, and it was soon ascertained that the Monongahela, with her consort, the Kitty, and the Mississippi were in action. The Monongahela carries a couple of two hundred pounder rifled Parrott guns, besides other trifles. At first Iere lited the roar of her gunsthe two hundred pounders to the "bummers." I was undeceived, when I recalled my experience in front of Morktown last spring, and the opening of fire from several guns from Wormley's creek. As I can say is, the noise was splendid. The action now became general. The roar of cannon was incessant, and the flashes from the guns, together with the flight of the shells from the mortar boats, made up a combination of sound and sight impossible to describe. To add to the horrors of the night, while it contributed towards the enhancement of a certain terrible beauty, dense clouds of smoke began to envelope the river, shutting out from view the several vessels and confounding them with the batteries. It was very difficult to know where to steer to prevent running ashore, perhaps right under a rebel battery, or into a consort. Upwards and upwards rolled the smoke, shutting out of view the beautiful moon, and obscuring the mission of mercy she was sent to aid. Then it was that the order was passed, "Boys, don't fire till you see the flash from the enemy's guns." That was our only guide through the "palpable obscurity."

But the sole dependence on the flashes was likely to be attended with serious consequences, as the following incident will show:

THE RICHMOND NEARLY FIRES INTO THE MARTHA FUND.

We had got nearly into the middle of the hornet's nest, when an officer on the top gallant forecastle hailed out: "Ready with the port gun." The gun was got ready and pointed, and was about to be discharged, when Lieut. Terry yelled out: "Hold on, you are about to fire into the Hartford." And such was the fact; for the flash of the Hartford's gunnery at moment revealed the spars and rigging of the vessel. Consequently the gun was not fired, nor was it discharged during the engagement, the fighting being confined entirely to the starboard side.

THE FIGHT GOES ON.

Still the fight went on, and still the roar of cannon and the screaming, howling, whistling of shot and shell continued to make "night hideous." Still, too, the pure atmosphere was betainted with the smell of "villainous saltpetre," and obscured with smoke, through the opaque mass of which the stars refused to twinkle. Intermingled with the boom of the cannonade arose the cries of the wounded and the shouts of their friends, suggesting that they should be taken below for treatment. So thick was the smoke that we had to cease firing several times, and, to add to the horrors of the night, it was next to impossible to tell whether we were running into the Hartford or going ashore, and, if the latter, on which bank, or whether some of the other vessels were about to run into us or into each other. All this time the fire was kept up on both sides incessantly. It seems, however, that we succeeded in silencing the lower batteries of field pieces. The men must have been driven from their guns, and no wonder if they were in that terrific storm of iron.

FIRING FROM THE TOPS.

While a brisk fire was kept up from the decks of the several vessels, the howitzers in the tops were not permitted to remain idle. Intermingled with the more sullen roar of the larger guns, the sharp, short crack of the brass pieces was heard from their elevated positions, adding harmony to the melody of the terrific concert.

A SHELL EXPLODES UNDER THE TOPGALLANT FORECASTLE.

Nearly up to the time when the action became general my eyes were principally cast aloft, watching the flight of the shells thrown by the "bummers;" but I confess that when the fire became concentrated on the Richmond I ceased star gazing, and directed my anxious glance ahead, or towards the starboard side, although now and then I did cast a furtive look aloft, to see if it were likely that any of the pretty little celestial toys, making its way through the empyrean, would drop on board of us, as some of them seemed not unlikely to do. Happily for us we escaped this disaster, which, had it happened, would have been a poor way of "backing o' your friends." I have been informed that one of these shells fell into the river not far from the steamer Mississippi, but mortar shells are very uncertain missiles. While thus on the *qui vive* I would occasionally get up and walk about the topgallant forecastle for a change of position. During one of these peregrinations a terrific explosion took place beneath me. A shell had entered the forward port on the starboard side, and exploded right under the gun, splintering a part of the carriage in front, indenting the gun itself, and cutting off the two legs of a boatswain's mate at the knees and an arm at the elbow, shaking the topgallant forecastle as if with an earthquake. I knew nothing of what had taken place till some time afterwards.

THE REBEL VESSELS TURN TAIL.

While it was yet clear enough to distinguish objects on the river, lights were seen rapidly moving up the river, above the batteries. They were in the rebel gunboats, that were making all speed to get out of the way of the dreaded Hartford and Albatross, and the rebels on board of the disloyal craft knew not how many other Union vessels besides. With Falstaff, they evidently held that discretion was the better part of valor.

THE RICHMOND IN PERIL.

And now the turmoil areas high and loud Deuser and deuser became the dark volume of smoke, rendering it next impossible for the pilot to know where to put the vessels head. Lieut Terry, therefore, stationed himself at the head of the ship, where there was a better chance of penetrating the gloom than on the bridge. Loud rose his voice, even amid the roar of cannon and the shrieking of shot and shell, directing how the vessel's head should be placed. The order was taken from him by the men all along the deck, and by them conveyed to the quartermasters at the wheel. At times this was a difficult matter; for the noise of battle would sometimes drown the necessary orders thus conveyed. As it was, it seemed to me that a great deal of the maneuvering was sheer guess work. It could scarcely be otherwise. This was the moment of peril for the Richmond, for had she gone on shore under the batteries it would have been all up with her, and many a gallant heart that then beat in her would have ceased to throb.

RETURN OF THE RICHMOND.

Matters had gone on in this way for nearly an hour and a half—the first gun having been fired at about half past eleven o'clock—when, to my astonishment, I heard some shells whistling over our port side. Did the rebels have batteries on the right bank of the river? was the query that naturally suggested itself to me. To this the response was given that we had turned back. I soon discovered that it was too true. Our return was, of course, more rapid than our passage up. The rebels did not molest us much, and I do not believe one of their shots took effect while we were running down rapidly with the current. It was a melancholy affair, for we did not know but what the whole expedition was a failure; neither could we tell whether any of our vessels had been destroyed, nor how many. We had the satisfaction of learning soon afterwards, however, that the Hartford and Albatross had succeeded in rounding the point above the batteries. All the rest were compelled to return. We soon came to an anchor on the west side of Prophet Island, so dear to the shore that the poopdeck was strewn with the blossoms and leaves of the budding trees that we brushed back.

THE TURMOIL CEASES.

I had now time to look around me. The war of cannon had ceased; the hissing, whizzing of shot and shell were no longer heard; the glorious stars once more shone forth—the sky no longer being obscured by the opaque smoke that had hovered over the river—and the pale moon now waning to a crescent, rose and shed its mild rays over the recent scene of carnage; the celestial orbs ran their courses in their respective orbits—all the same as if man had not just been imbruing his hands in the blood of his fellow man. Nothing of these sanguinary transactions did those bright stars or that pale moon take cognizance of; but who shall say that the angels of Heaven did not drop a pitying tear on the work of destruction being carried on by beings created but a little lower than themselves?

THE DISASTER TO THE MISSISSIPPI—THE RICHMOND NEARLY BLOWN UP BY A TORPEDO.

It is now necessary to state in what manner the Mississippi happened to be on fire. That she alone should have grounded is a subject for astonishment. It is strange as it is providential that all the vessels did not run ashore in the dense smoke that prevailed. I am told that the Richmond actually touched at one time right under the most formidable of the batteries, but that she soon got off. I cannot vouch for the fact, however. But it is true that just as we were turning around a torpedo exploded under our stern, throwing the water up nearly as high as our mizzenmast head. The gallant ship quivered in every timber from the concussion; but I am happy to say she did not sustain the slightest injury.

In the dense smoke that prevailed, excluding every object from view, the glorious old Mississippi went ashore right opposite the centre and worst battery. She was soon discovered by the enemy. Up to this time she had not sustained any serious injury. She now became a standing target for the whole range of rebel batteries. If the reader will cast his eye over the accompanying map he will perceive at once that the position of the Mississippi was imminently perilous. The rebels began to pour into her a perfect shower of shot and shell, which was promptly returned by the Mississippi. This murderous work continued for half an hour, during which time several men on board the steamer must have been killed, though this cannot be asserted as a certainty. Finding it impossible to extricate the ship, Capt Smith, painfully, but reluctantly, gave orders to set the ship on fire to prevent her falling into the hands of the rebels. Accordingly her after part was fired, the rebels all the time continuing to pour in their shot and shell as fast as they could bring their guns to bear. During the part of the contest no fewer than two hundred and fifty rounds were fired from the Mississippi. The artillery practice of the rebels would have been worthy of a better cause. The Mississippi was riddled through and through. Four men were known to have been killed ere the ship was abandoned; among them was Acting Master Kelly, the whole of whose abdomen was shot away. Three were ascertained to be wounded. There may have been some more casualties, but it is impossible to tell to what extent at present, though a great many exaggerated stories are afloat on the subject. Several were known to have jumped overboard soon after the ship was set on fire, and there can be no doubt that some of them were drowned.

Not long after the vessel had been fired, two shells came crashing through her, exploding and setting fire to some turpentine and oil which they upset. This caused the flames to spread, whereupon a master's mate hurried on to the gun deck and reported that the flames had reached the entrance to the magazine. The ship was then at once abandoned, and all hands on board, including the wounded men, were put on shore on the bank of the river opposite to Port Hudson. This was accompanied by a deafening yell of exultation from the rebels on perceiving the blazing up of the fire. The Mississippi burned until she became lightened, to which the removal of nearly three hundred men contributed, when she swung off into deep water. She had grounded, with her head up stream, but on swinging off she turned completely round, presenting her head down the river, which position she retained till she blew up.

Letter of the British Minister on the War.

HIS INTERVIEWS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS IN NEW YORK.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17, 1862

My Lord—In this dispatch of the 17th and of the 7th instant, Mr. Stuart reported to your lordship the results of the elections for members of Congress and State officers, which have recently taken place in several of the most important States of the Union. Without repeating the details, it will be sufficient for me to observe that the success of the Democratic party, or (as it now styles itself) the conservative party, has been so great as to manifest a change in public feeling among the most rapid and decisive that has ever been witnessed, even in this country.

On my arrival at New York, on the 8th inst., I found the conservative leaders exulting in the crowning success achieved by the party in that State. They appeared to rejoice, above all, in the conviction that personal liberty and freedom of speech had been secured for the principal State of the Union. They believed that the Government would not at once desist from exercising in the State of New York the extraordinary (and as they regarded them) illegal and unconstitutional powers which it had assumed. They were confident that at all events after the 1st of January next, on which day the newly elected Governor would come into office, the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus could not be practically maintained. They seemed to be persuaded that the result of the elections would be accepted by the President as a declaration of the will of the people, that he would increase the moderate and conservative element in the Cabinet, that he would seek to terminate the war, not by emancipation or extermination. They maintain that the object of the military operations should be placed in a position to demand an armistice with honor and effect. The armistice should (they hold) be followed by a convention, in which such changes of the constitution should be proposed as would give the South ample security on the subject of its slave property, and would enable the North and the South to reunite and to live together in peace and harmony. The conservatives profess to think that the South might be induced to take part in such a convention, and that a restoration of the Union would be the result. The more sagacious members of the party must, however, look upon the proposal of a convention merely as a last experiment to test the possibility of reunion. They are, no doubt, well aware that the more probable consequence of an armistice would be the establishment of Southern independence; but they perceive that if the South is so utterly alienated that no possible concessions will induce it to return voluntarily to the Union, it is wiser to agree to separation than to prosecute a cruel and hopeless war.

It is with reference to such an armistice as they desire to attain that the leaders of the conservative party regard the question of foreign mediation. They think that the offer of mediation, if made in a radical administration, would be rejected; that, if made at an unpropitious moment, it might increase the virulence with which the war is prosecuted. If their own party were in power, or virtually controlled the administration, they would rather, if possible, obtain an armistice without the aid of foreign Governments; but they would be disposed to accept an offer of mediation if it appeared to be the only means of putting a stop to hostilities. They would desire that the offer should come from the great Powers of Europe conjointly, and in particular that as little prominence as possible should be given to Great Britain.

At Washington I have had fewer opportunities than I had at New York of ascertaining the present views of the chiefs of the political parties. At the interview which I had with Mr Seward the day after my arrival, he showed no disposition to enter upon political matters. He did not appear to expect or to desire to receive from me any special communication from her Majesty's Government. The President, when I waited upon him, talked merely on ordinary topics. I, for my part, gladly shunned all allusion to foreign intervention, my principal object being to avoid saying anything which might embarrass me in carrying out any instructions on the subject which I may receive from your Lordship.

All things considered, my own opinion certainly is that the present moment is not a favorable one for making an offer of mediation. It might embarrass the peace party, and even oblige them, in order to maintain their popularity, to make some public declaration against it, and this might make it difficult for them to accept a similar offer at a more propitious time. It would in all probability be rejected by the President, who appears to have thrown himself into the arms of the extreme radical party. The views of that party are clear and definite. They declare that there is no hope of reconciliation with the Southern people, that the war must be pursued *per fas aut nefas*, until the disloyal men of the South are ruined or subjugated, if not exterminated, that not an inch of the old territory of the republic must be given up, that foreign intervention, in any shape, must be rejected and resented. This party would desire to turn an offer of mediation to account, for the purpose of inflaming the war spirit and producing a reaction against the conservatives.

It is probable, too, that the government would urge, in answer to an offer of mediation, that it is not in its power to terminate the war by putting down the rebellion within a reasonable time; that, at all events, this is not a moment at which it can reasonably be called upon to put a stop to hostilities. It would observe that the armies of the United States are everywhere advancing, and that expeditions are preparing against Texas, as well as against Charleston, Mobile, and other points on the coast. It would point out that it had equipped a considerable number of war vessels, iron clad as well as others, at a vast expense; that the season had at last arrived when the autumn rains would render the rivers navigable by armed vessels, and when the Southern coast would be free from epidemic disease. It might even represent an advance of the army of the Potomac to Richmond as a probable event. The experience of the past is certainly not calculated to inspire any great confidence in the results of these warlike preparations, but the political interests of the party now in power render a continuance of the war a necessity to it. Its only chance of regaining its lost popularity lies in successful military operations. Unless it can obtain a much higher place in public estimation than it now occupies, not only will its tenure of power become extremely precarious, but some of its leading members may be called to a severe account for their extra legal proceedings. During the session of Congress which begins next month, the present Administration has indeed reason to expect an uncompromising support from a majority of both houses of Congress. But on the 4th of March next the existing House of Representatives is dissolved by the terms of the constitution, and at the same time several of the present Senators go out of office. The majority of the members chosen at the recent elections for the new House of Representatives are of the democratic or conservative party, and in some States Senators of that party will be returned in the room of those whose term of office expires next March. The new Congress is in fact likely to be hostile to the Administration and to the radical party; and although it will not, in the ordinary course of things, assemble until the last month of next year, the President will hardly be able to persist in his present policy and in the assumption of extraordinary powers, unless he can, in virtue of military success, obtain a reputation with the people which will sustain him in a contest with the Legislature.

It would seem, then, to be vain to make an offer of mediation to the present Government, in their present mood, with any notion that it would be accepted. A change of mood may, however, take place after the 4th of March, if no great military successes occur in the interval. Such a change may possibly be produced sooner by military reverses. A proposal, however, to mediate, made even under present circumstances, by three or more of the great Powers of Europe conjointly, might not produce any great unconvenience.

It is, indeed, urged by some people that mediation should be offered, not so much with a view to its being accepted, as to its clearing the way for a recognition of the Southern Confederacy. And, indeed, if it were determined that the time had come for recognizing that Confederacy, no doubt an offer of mediation would be a suitable preliminary. But I do not clearly understand what advantage is expected to result from a simple recognition of the Southern Government; and I presume that the European Powers do not contemplate breaking up the blockade by force of arms, or engaging in hostilities with the United States in support of the independence of the South.

I have, indeed, heard it maintained that Great Britain should recognize the independence of the South as soon as possible, with a view to impede the success of the efforts of the conservative party to reconstruct the Union. The advocates of this opinion consider a reunion as a probable event and apprehend that the first result of it would be that the combined forces of the North and the South would be let loose upon Canada. I certainly do not at present share these apprehensions. All hope of the reconstruction of the Union appears to be fading away, even from the minds of those who most ardently desire it. But if the reconstruction be still possible, I do not think that we need conclude that it would lead to an invasion of Canada, or to any consequences injurious to Great Britain. At any rate, dangers of this kind are remote. The immediate and obvious interest of Great Britain, as well as the rest of Europe, is that peace and prosperity should be restored to this country as soon as possible. The point chiefly worthy of consideration appears to be whether, separation or reunion be the more likely to effect this object.

I have, &c.,

LYONS.

Doings of the Alabama—Two More Vessels Burned by Her.

The New York *Herald* of the 1st, furnishes us with the following interesting account of the doings and whereabouts of the Alabama:

By the arrival of the Hansa last evening we have the reports of the continued depredations of the pirate Alabama. A splendid ship belonging to this port and a new bark belonging to Boston have been destroyed.

The Sumter will be at sea in a few days aiding the Alabama and Florida, while the Southerner (new) will be ready in a few weeks.

The Gil Blas, arrived at Havre, March 14, reports having been spoken on February 23, in latitude 31 north, longitude 45 west, by the Alabama, which put on board two Frenchmen belonging to the bark Olive Jane, Captain Kallock, from Bordeaux, January 20, for New York, which had been burned by the Alabama on the 21st February.

The Alabama had on the same day burned a very large vessel bound from California for Queenstown. The Gil Blas sailed in company with the Alabama, and in the evening saw the light of a fire.

The London *News* says: The La Plata, which arrived at Southampton March 16, reports the Alabama was cruising off St. Lucia, W. I., and, it was reported, had captured two vessels. Commodore Wilkes, in the Vanderbilt, left St. Thomas March 1, in pursuit of the Alabama.

The same journal says: The Gibraltar (late to Sumter) has been thoroughly repaired at Birkenhead, and is now ready for sea.

The screw steamer Southerner, intended for the Confederates, was launched in the week at Stockton.

The gunboat built by Miller & Sons, at Liverpool, for the Confederates, was also launched in the week.

The following reports relative to the operations of the Alabama, are taken from the London *Shipping Gazette* of March 16:

Havre, March 14, 1863.—The Gil Blas, Grouard, arrived here, reports having been spoken February 23, latitude 31 N, longitude 45 W, by the Confederate steamer Alabama, which put on board two Frenchmen belonging to the Olive Jane (American,) Callock, from Bordeaux for New York, which had been burned by the Alabama on the 21st. The Alabama had on the same day burned a very large vessel, from California for Queenstown. The Gil Blas sailed in company with the Alabama, and in the evening saw the light of a fire.

Rotterdam, March 15, 1863.—The Jan Daniel, Zweede, which arrived at Brouwershaven yesterday, reports that on the 22d February, in lat. 29 N, longitude 45 W, she saw a ship on fire, with an eagle figurehead. A screw steamer, with three masts, schooner rigged and short funnel, showing the American flag, was lying not far from her. Picked up a case containing some books, from which it appeared the vessel was the Golden Eagle, of New York. The Jan Daniel also saw flames from a ship in another direction.

The ship Glendower, arrived at Dartmouth, England, reports:

"February 28, latitude 30 N., longitude 37 W., was boarded by a boat's crew from the Alabama, (Confederate steamer) Semmes, who put two men on board to be landed in England—George Harwood, boatswain's mate, and Jas. M'Fedzin, engineer—their time of servitude having expired, and landed them at Dartmouth."

The ship Golden Eagle, Captain Swift, destroyed by the Alabama, cleared from this port on the 8th of May, 1862, for San Francisco, and on her homeward voyage stopped at Haviland's Island, sailing from thence on the 6th of November, 1862, for a cargo of guano, and having completed her loading started for Queenstown, Ireland, for orders. She was a beautiful ship of 1128 tons register, and of the following dimensions: Length, 174 feet; beam, 36 feet; depth of hold, 22 feet. She had three decks, and draw when loaded about 20 feet of water.

She was built in Medford, by Hayden & Co., in 1852, and was formerly owned by E. M. Kobman, of New Bedford, Mass. The vessel and cargo are worth from two to three hundred thousand dollars, but we are unable, at a late hour, to ascertain the amount of insurance.

The bark Olive Jane, Capt. R. Callock, was of 859 tons register, and was built in Cutter, Maine, in 1862. She was owned in Boston, by Hodgman & Co. She sailed from Bordeaux on the 20th of January, 1863, bound to New York, with a full cargo of wines, fruits, &c.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Destitution.—An old colored woman was brought yesterday to the Third District police station and sent to the Charity Hospital, where she was refused admittance. She said that she had not had a morsel to eat for the last four days! The police officers present sent to the nearest restaurant for soup and bread and ministered to her more pressing wants.

United States Provisional Court—Judge Peabody—(Monday morning.)—Rodgers vs. Heath. On motion of J. P. Sullivan, Esq. the rule taken in this case was set for trial for Wednesday.

Roman vs Denny—Judgment was rendered in this case. "The suit must be allowed to proceed for general purposes, but the sequestration of the property covered by the mortgage must be set aside. The sequestration as to the crop of sugar gathered and manufactured must be set aside also."

Deval vs Walker. Same vs Merritt.—The motions for new trial in both cases were taken up. Bradbury for motion and Terry against. It was agreed that the decision in the case of Walker would govern the case of Merritt. After a lengthy and able argument by counsel, the motions were taken under advisement.

Sixth District Court—Judge Howell.—West, Renshaw & Cammack, a commercial firm domiciliated in this city, have instituted a suit in this Court against the Southern Banking House of New Orleans et als. The petition alleges that in the month of December, 1861, Robert Chew, residing in New York, sent to plaintiffs for collection notes amounting to the sum of $14 737 31-100, that owing to the troubles then commencing, the collection of the notes could not be accomplished as speedily as in