THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

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NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 25.

See our second page for auction and sheriff's sales and other important notices.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—For Scarlatina diphtheria, putrid sore throat, quinsy, mumps, and all kindred local affections, these medicines prove a sheet anchor, holding the partial wreck in safety, till returning reason the storm and the shaking frame is rescued.—Sold everywhere.

FOR LAFOURCHE.—The regular semi-weekly packet Belle Creole, Captain Long, leaves this evening at 4 o'clock.

The officers of the steamer Constitution have obliged us with valuable newspaper favors.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT TO LAWRENCE BARRETT.—It will be seen that a number of gentlemen have testified their appreciation of the talent and genius manifested by Mr. Lawrence Barrett on the Varieties stage this season, by tendering to him a complimentary benefit, which that gentleman has accepted in fitting terms of acknowledgment. Monday, April 4, is appointed for the benefit performance, which may be looked forward to as the crowning event of the season, which is soon afterwards to close.

The steamship Matanzas, Captain Leingang, commanding, will leave her wharf at 5 o'clock this morning for New York and Havana, with a full freight and the following passengers:

FOR NEW YORK—James H Sadell, Dr William B Cyrus.
FOR HAVANA—W P Millard, Herman Hildersheim.

STAGG'S HAMS, RUMP PORK, ETC.—Thomas J. Dix, No. 74 Poydras street, advertises a lot of hams, rump pork, shoulders, 150 barrels of extra flour and 200 pieces of power-loom bagging.

Later News via the River

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.

General Grant's Order on Assuming Command of the Armies.

THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION.

Interesting from Washington.

PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR TROOPS.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Gold 61 7-8—Cotton 74.

The steamers John J. Roe and Constitution arrived yesterday with St. Louis papers to the 18th and Memphis papers to the 19th, containing a variety of news, which we compile below:

GENERAL SHERMAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS LATE EXPEDITION—THE FAILURE OF GEN. SMITH THE CAUSE OF RETREAT.

Vicksburg, Miss., Feb. 27, via Cairo, March 10, 1864.—[Special.]—I got in this morning from Canton, where I left my army in splendid health and condition. We reached Jackson February 6, crossed Pearl river and passed through Brandon to Morton, where the enemy showed a disposition for battle, but fled in the night. We pushed on, under all obstacles, and reached Meridian February 14. General Polk having the railroad to assist him on his retreat, escaped across the Tombigbee on the 17th. We stayed at Meridian a week, and made the most complete destruction of railroads ever beheld—south, below Quitman—east to Cuba Station, twenty miles; north, to Lauderdale Springs, and west all the way back to Jackson.

I could hear nothing of the cavalry force of General William Smith, ordered to be there by February 10th. I enclose by mail a copy of his instructions. I then began to give back slowly, making a circuit by the north of Canton, where I left the army yesterday in splendid condition. I will leave it there five days, in hope the cavalry from Memphis may turn up there. I will have them come in.

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.
Lieut. Gen. Grant, care Gen. Halleck.

Cairo, March 11, 1864—Midnight.

Lieutenant General Grant, or General Halleck:

Left General Sherman yesterday at Memphis. His command in all safe. Our total loss in killed, wounded and missing is 175 only. The general results of his expedition, including Smith's and the Yazoo river movement, are about as follows: 150 miles railroad, 67 bridges, 700 feet trestle, 20 locomotives, 28 cars, 100,000 bales cotton, several steam mills, and over 2,000,000 bushels of corn destroyed. The railroad destruction is complete and thorough.

The captures of prisoners exceed all loss. Upward of 5000 contrabands and refugees came in with the various columns.

DANIEL BUTTERFIELD, Major General.

The following is from the Cincinnati *Commercial*:

We can add to the above upon the highest authority that Gen. Smith was to leave Memphis, according to an understanding with Gen. Sherman, on the 20th January, but did not get under way until the 11th February.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA:

Louisville, March 17.—Specials to the *Journal* say guerrillas attacked a freight train from Nashville, near Lavergne, on the night of the 16th, after dispersing a rail, by which the train was thrown off the track and burned. Captain Beardsley, of the 123d New York, and seven men, arrived at Lenbard, Tenn., on a hand car, having been paroled after being stripped of clothing, money, watches and jewelry. The rebels killed three negroes on the train. Two guerrillas were killed. No other casualties.

The rebels are moving their artillery from Dalton towards Ringgold. Taylor's Ridge Gap was picketed by rebel cavalry on the 15th. We drive them off one day and they return the next. The rebels have a large force of infantry and artillery.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

[Special Dispatch to the Missouri Democrat.]

Chattanooga, March 16.—A gentleman with whom I have for a time been acquainted, has come directly from Atlanta. How he obtained it I cannot say, but it bears marks of authenticity.

He says it was currently reported a day or two since in Atlanta, that Morgan was to command all Longstreet's cavalry when he should reach East Tennessee.

The railroad about Atlanta, and generally throughout Georgia, are in good condition as to rails, but the rolling stock is bad.

All necessaries of life are becoming very scarce and high in Atlanta. The number of beef cattle is small, and brothers say the stock will soon be exhausted. A strong under current of United sentiment is said to exist in the city.

The rebels there are in a terrible fix for want of coal. Private foundries and furnaces are stopped entirely, and most of those belonging to government are running on half time. The foundries are closed and the city is in darkness.

Only two regiments are in Atlanta, comprising about 1400 men. General W. H. Wright commands the post, with one Colonel Wright as chief of ordnance.

At Chattanooga all is quiet. Rumors are circulating of rebel designs on our front, and somebody or other is to be in force there yesterday. Johnston and Longstreet, in person, reconnoitered our lines. I visited, however, we have not good evidence that Longstreet is here as all.

Weather remarkably cold and cloudy.

A REBEL RAID EXPECTED IN KENTUCKY.

Morehead, Ky., March 16.—The rebel cavalry commanded by the celebrated, which has been in Cumb county for some days, is now at Bell's Shop. It is believed that Morgan's cavalry are still preparing for a raid through Kentucky.

The train which on the railroad across Mud Creek and White House, near Bell's Gap, is reported destroyed.

PROCLAMATION OF GOV. BRAMLETTE—RELEASE OF COLORED WORKMEN.

Lexington, Ky., March 17.—Gov. Bramlette, in a proclamation to the people of Kentucky, published in the Commonwealth this morning says: "We should abide by and maintain the laws and peace, in the modes provided by the remedy it affords in the Union, under the Constitution and in accordance with law to assert and urge your right. It is our duty to obey the law until it is declared by judicial decision to be unconstitutional."

Colonel Frank Wolford has been released from arrest and is ordered to report to General Grant for duty. He says the Ohioans, and reports Colonel Wolford is in the city to-day.

GENERAL GRANT'S GENERAL ORDER ON ASSUMING HIS COMMAND.

Nashville, March 17.—General Grant assumed command of the armies of the United States to-day. The following is his order of the same:

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. S.,
Nashville, Tenn., March 17, 1864.

General Order No. 1.—In pursuance of the following order of the President:—"Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., March 10, 1864. Under the authority of the act of Congress to revive the grade of Lieutenant-General in the United States Army, approved February 29, 1864, Lieutenant General Ulysses S Grant, U. S. A., is appointed to the command of the armies of the United States. [Signed] ABRAHAM LINCOLN."—I assume Command of the armies of the United States.

Headquarters will be in the field, and until further orders will be with the Army of the Potomac.

There will be an office headquarters at Washington, D. C., to which all official communications will be sent, except those of the army where headquarters are at the date of their address.

[Signed] U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General U. S. A.

General Grant leaves for Washington on Saturday, and repairs immediately to the front. His staff is composed of the officers formerly with him in the military division of Mississippi. Among them are Brigadier-General Rawlings, chief of staff; Lieutenant-Colonel Bowers, Captain C. K. Leaf, Captain E. S Parker, A. A. G.; Captain H. M. Jones, A. Q. M., Captain Badeau, Lieutenant-Colonel Duff, late chief of artillery, goes as senior aid-de-camp.

Gen. Sherman, due here to-night, will immediately assume command of the Mississippi division. General Dodge is in the city.

RED RIVER EXPEDITION.

[Special to the Chicago Tribune.]

Memphis, Tenn., March 12.—I have important military and naval advices from below.

Nearly all the troops that were engaged in General Sherman's recent expedition are under orders at Vicksburg, to cross the river into Louisiana, for an expedition, in conjunction with a strong force from New Orleans, and Admiral Porter's gunboat fleet, into the Red River country, to break up the extensive rebel supply depots at Shreveport and other points, and open the Red River to free navigation for our boats. It is said that a portion of General Steele's force in Arkansas will also move southward to cooperate with this expedition, and to act in connection with General Banks's forces for clearing the rebels out of Western Louisiana and Texas. Sherman's forces, it is thought, will return as soon as Shreveport is captured, and be transferred to another department, probably Chattanooga.

WAR NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Proclamation of President Lincoln Calling for 200,000 More Men.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, March 14th, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS No 100]

In order to supply the force required to be drafted for the navy, and to provide an adequate reserve force for all contingencies, in addition to the Five Hundred Thousand men called for February 1st, 1864, the call is hereby made, and a draft ordered, for Two Hundred Thousand men, for the military service of the Army, Navy and Marine corps of the United States.

The proportional quotas for the different wards, towns, townships, precincts, election districts or counties, will be made known through the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, and accounts will be taken of the credits and deficiencies of former quotas.

The 15th day of April, 1864, is designated as the time up to which the numbers required from each ward of a city, town, &c., may be raised by volunteer enlistments; and drafts will be made in each ward of a city, town, &c., which shall not have filled the quota assigned to it within the time designated for the number required to fill said quota.

The draft will be commenced as soon after the 15 h of April as practicable. The Government bounties as now paid continue until April 1st, 1864 at which time the additional bounties allow. On and after that date, one hundred dollars bounty only will be paid as provided by the act approved July 22, 1861.

[Signed] ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Washington, March 16—The new call for troops accords with the plans for the military campaign opening, have been laid out. General Grant is understood to ask for large armies, if the country expects him to close the war within the present year.

Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, March 17.—Some prisoners, escaped from Richmond, came into our lines yesterday. One of them was a scout of Gen Butler

It is reported that General Custer has been thrown from his horse and injured, but to what extent is not known.

The enemy are not at all dispirited by the recent destruction of property within their lines, and all now are attempting to do something in the way of retaliation

Last night information was received at headquarters to the effect that 5000 cavalry was crossing the Rappahannock at or near Fredericksburg. The full object of the enemy is not yet developed, but the Army of the Potomac is well in hand, and is ready for either a raid or general movement on the part of the enemy. It is thought that the enemy's cavalry will also make a demonstration towards the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Washington, March 16.—Five hundred of our prisoners died in Richmond during February.

The order relieving Gen. Meade and appointing his successor will be issued in a few days.

Burnside will be assigned to the Department of the Ohio, Sooner instead of Fremont. Rumor assigns Hancock to department, and states Gen. Grant will assign Gen. Fremont to active duty; also, that Gen. Thomas will soon be relieved from the command of the army of the Cumberland, to the command of which either General Rosecrans or Gen. Herron will probably succeed.

Washington, March 17th.—The *Star* has the following: "The United States steamer Harriet Moore arrived at the navy yard this morning, from Fort Monroe, bringing up Admiral Dahlgren, returning from an unsuccessful attempt to procure the body of his son."

Advices from General Butler indicate that he will be able to continue the exchange of prisoners.

THE GOLD BILL.

Washington, March 16.—The Senate has concurred in the House amendment to the gold bill which now only awaits the signature of the President to become a law.

Washington, March 16.—The gold bill passed the House to-day with slight amendment, which sends it back to the Senate, providing that selling of surplus gold shall in no wise impair obligation of act of 1862, creating a sinking fund. This amendment is of course nothing but mere words and the Senate will agree to it. The bill may be considered as passed, and fully empowering the Secretary of the Treasury to sell gold in Treasury in excess of amount required for interest on public debt. When the yeas and nays were being called, and when it became evident that the bill would pass, there was a scene of excitement in the galleries and around the telegraph office.

Among numerous speculators some surprise is felt that the market is not more affected.

Washington, March 17.—The Senate having passed the gold bill as amended, the President has signed it, and it is a law.

Washington, March 16.—It is officially known that the steamboats that the Rappahannock had left Calais and gone to sea is erroneous. She was still detained at Calais, February 27th, and her case was under consideration of the French Government.

Washington March 17.—General Gillmore's chief of staff arrived here to day, bringing despatches to the president. He testified before the Committee on the Conduct of the War this afternoon, on the Florida disaster, but was unable to say from whom the orders emanated for that expedition. He stated to the committee that the lower part of Charleston was nearly destroyed, and that only the upper part was now occupied by troops.

Washington, March 16.—The President has taken measures to enforce the enrollment law in Kentucky. A bill will be introduced to-day in the Senate to deprive all deserters who may have escaped into the British provinces of all privileges of further citizenship unless they immediately give themselves up for military duty.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

New York, March 17.—The Richmond *Enquirer*, of the 16th, says Gen. Ross reports coming in conflict with a company of negro cavalry, near Canton, and killed 55 out of 76.

A letter received in Richmond report a Yankee blockader sunk off Fort Holmes by the fire of the fort. The location of this fort is not stated. Gen. Beauregard is in Florida. Gen. Hardee has assumed command there. McGilbboon, a Federal spy, was executed at Demopolis on the 11th. Richmond papers have paragraphs to the effect that the funding of the debt of the Confederacy is progressing rapidly at Petersburgh, Raleigh, Macon and Charleston.

Admiral Porter has a very large fleet of iron-clads below Vicksburg, and was ready on the 7th instant to start up Red River. The troops are also in motion by this time.

The plan, as I am informed, is to make a final finish of the rebellion west of the Mississippi, so as to take part in the general campaigns against Richmond and other rebel positions during the summer.

It is expected that the campaign now opening in the Red River region, and which will end with clearing all the rebel troops out of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, will be an arousing but a brief one.

Fort Monroe, March 15.—The Richmond *Examiner* of the 14th, has been received. Five shells were thrown into Charleston on the 13th. The flag of truce steamer New York arrived this morning from City Point with a large number of prisoners from Richmond. Among them Captains Sawyer and Flynn, and General Neal Dow; also several ladies.

The Richmond *Sentinel* confirms the report that the rebels had exchanged seven prisoners for every ten received, and states it as the reason that the Yankees claim to have threetenths the most prisoners.

A dispatch from the rebel Gen. Polk reports an attack on Yazoo City, on the 15th, and the destruction of a quantity of cotton and stores; that the enemy still hold Yazoo City and Liverpool. Rebel loss was 50.

THE WAR IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Cincinnati, March 17.—A special dispatch from Charleston, Western Virginia 16th, reports that a rebel force, 500 strong, was within 15 miles of Gayandotte, threatening Barboursville. A strong force has been sent out to intercept them.

REPORTED TRANSFER BY PRESIDENT JUAREZ OF A PART OF SONORA TO AN AGENT OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT.

New York, March 16.—The *Courrier des Etats Unis* of this city, mentions a report that President Juarez had consented to the transfer of a portion of the State of Sonora to an agent of the Government of the United States, or at least of an American Company.

The *Courrier* affirms that it is authorized to say that news should have any foundation to declare that no such transaction will be recognized by the new Government of Mexico if it took place subsequent to the evacuation of the city of Mexico by President Juarez.

New York Markets.

New York, March 17, P. M.—Gold 161¾ to 162.

Cotton—Middling uplands 73½ to 74.

Flour—Dull and 5c lower—$6 55 to $6 75 for extra State; $7 10 to $7 15 for round hoop.

Two Days Later from Europe.

Halifax, March 16.—The Arabia, from Liverpool March 5, via Queenstown the 6th, arrived this evening. Her advices are two days later.

Danish affairs are reported unchanged.

Maximilian arrived at Paris on the 5th, and it is reported that he will embark for Mexico on the 25th—all difficulties having been settled.

A Vienna paper says the mission of the Prussian Minister, Manteuffel, to Vienna has the desired result. Austria has consented to a continuation of operations in Jutland.

The Federal Diet officially announces that it has received no invitation to a conference.

The London *Daily News* replies to the sneers of the *Times* at the order of General Banks regulating negro labor in Louisiana, and applauds the measure as necessary and as preparatory to the step from slavery to freedom.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre called attention to the course pursued by the Confederates in England in fitting out war vessels and enlisting seamen, and moved for the papers on the subject. He denounced the proceedings, regretted that the Alabama was not detained, and contended that all such vessels should be prohibited entering British ports.

The Solicitor General explained and defended the course of the Government, and asserted that every effort had been made to honestly carry out the laws, and maintain neutrality. He admitted that the vessels might be prohibited entering British ports, and said the Government was considering the subject of how it could demonstrate with the Confederate Government.

THE DANISH WAR.

No fighting is reported. The remonstrance of France to Prussia against the advance of Prussian troops into Jutland is said to be far less forcible than England's, but the language of the document is considered indicative that Napoleon fully means what he says.

It is asserted that the Prussians have notified England of an intended early attack on Fredericia

VERY LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

London, March 5, P. M.—It is reported that the Austrians are marching on Fredericia, in Jutland.

Paris, March 5.—The *Patrie* publishes a dispatch from Hamburg announcing that three brigades of Austrian troops have received orders from Gen. Wrangel to enter Jutland and invest Fredericia.

Liverpool, March 5—Cotton—Sales to-day of 4000 bales, the market closing flat at unchanged rates.

London, 5 P M.—Consols for money, 94 to 94¼; American Securities—Illinois Central Railroad, 17 to 19 discount; Erie Railroad, 67¼ to 68; United States Five Twenties, 63¼; United States Sixes, 64 to 66

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Provost Court—Judge Atocha Presiding.—Eliza Manuel and Henry Paley, who emptied the pockets of the soldier Thompson, were sent to board with Capt Gros at the Hevia Hotel.

H. Molton was sent to prison for thirty days, having indulged in staging the "Bonnie Blue Flag." Mary Holmer, who shouted for Jeff. Davis, was worshonored for sixty days. James Pinken, for criminal conduct oddangering an United States Transport, was sent to Prison for six months; and A. M Brasfield, for severely beating another soldier, was sent down for three months.

A Gold Case.—Joe, a mulatto boy, was examined before Recorder Veunard about that gold which he says he found under the armoir of his mistress. The sum originally amounted to $62, in foreign coin, and was given by the boy to two negroes who reside at Carrollton They traded part of the gold away for a watch, and sold the balance, consisting in twenty francs pieces and sovereigns, to one Marcus Lecas, for $1 each. The negroes were sent before the First District Court. Lecas was fined $10, and the watch dealer was discharged.

A Stolen Mule.—In the Pound of the Second District is a mule which has been there for some time, the officers say, and charged to be stolen property. That mule will speedily eat its value in provender and leave the owner nothing.

A Duck Case.—A dealer in fowls passed yesterday by the door of a neighbor, and observed two ducks which he claimed as his own from the lady residing on the premises. Objections were made, whereupon a policeman was called who took the ducks and the claimants before Recorder Lenumont. The lady claimed that she raised these ducks from eggs which she had bought from her opponent. The latter claimed that there were certain marks on the toes and feet, which he used to distinguish his fowl property. As these marks actually appeared as described, the ducks were given to him, and the parties discharged. The lady threatens with a civil suit to recover the ducks.

Bloody.—Sergeant Lee reports, at the Second District police office, that he sent Jas. McCoy to the Charity Hospital. That man had been cut severely yesterday evening by some unknown person in one of those sinks of iniquity on Barracks street, kept by one Myers.

First District Court—Judge Haulard.—The Jury in the Deane case were discharged yesterday, as they were unable to agree after deliberations all night. The Court then adjourned till Friday next.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

THE VARIETIES THEATRE. — THE DUKE'S MOTTO.—As regards dramatic sensationalism the most glowing expectation, or the most expectant imagination, could not have gone beyond the effects realized at the representation last night of The Duke's Motto. In general mounting it showed the minute attention and harmonious arrangement with respect to scenery, machinery, music, and stage properties, for which Mr. Baker's management is eminently distinguished.

We do not propose to enter into the literary merits of the drama, or of the French story from which it is taken. We will merely observe that whatever improbabilities may have existed in he original appear to have been exaggerated, rather than mitigated, in Mr. Brougham's dramatic version.

But it is the fashion with contemporary playwrights to sacrifice probability to theatrical sensation. If they could get players who could dance on their heads, or walk like flies on the ceiling, or carry their heads, when convenient, beneath their shoulders or under their arms, or blow themselves up like the omnibus frog, or soar with a string fastened to their legs like a crazy June bug, or disguise themselves at will and out of head in the shape of snakes, dogs, horses, asses—not so difficult a matter, perhaps, as regards the two last—they would undoubtedly aim at still more astounding and startling stage exhibitions by introducing all these performances, transformations and disguises in their improved dramas.

As it is, however, we must be content with improbabilities of a merely human and possible character, and lament that the limits of histrionic versatility are so unequal to the progressive genius of dramatic authors and adapters. Unfortunately this disparity between execution and conception has always existed, and will doubtless always continue to exist. It is illustrated alike in the case of the glutton who had to stop after eating two dozen eggs though he imagined he could eat four dozen, and in the case of our modern play-wrights who have to cramp their inventive powers within the range of physical possibility.

In point of plot the Duke's Motto is admirably arranged for producing a series of striking situations and surprises. It abounds in exciting incidents, and while progressing with sustained spirit throughout does not too rapidly unfold its central mysteries.

The last scene would be improved by removing the ladies from among the spectators of the fight between Legardere and de Nevers. We are not aware that, in the days of Louis XIV or of the succeeding Regency, it was considered elegant for ladies of noble rank to witness a deadly duel.

And the Memnon motions of the Hanchback over the head of the swooning Blanche might have been omitted. Magic he might have practised, but to employ Mesmerism at Paris before Mesmer was heard of in that city, is too evident an anachronism

In the acting last night the conspicuous figure was, of course, Lawrence Barrett's Legardere. In the proper character of Legardere he was correct, artistic and impressive: but in the unsustained character of the Hanchback he was rather stiff and listrestable

His range of Protean perspicuous does not seem to be very great. In a few—for instance in his disguise in the Gipsy scene of Rosedale—he may be brilliant and successful, but in Protean acting in general he is behind many actors of much inferior merit.

The rest of the cast sustained their parts in a style quite up with their happiest efforts heretofore. In view of the fine scenic effects, the abundant incidents, and the general merit of the representation, the Duke's Motto will doubtless have a long run.

The War in West Louisiana.

The *Era* publishes the following particulars of the late operations beyond Alexandria:

An engagement took place on the 21st instant, about twenty-one miles beyond Alexandria, on the Bayou Rapides. It resulted in the capture of 210 prisoners from the enemy, four pieces of artillery, with caissons, and a large number of horses and mules. The only casualty reported on our side was that Col. Horace B. Sargent was wounded in the leg severely, but not dangerously. The forces engaged were a portion of the infantry of General Smith's command, and a part of the cavalry of General Lee.

The weather has been severely cold, with rain, hail and sleet.

The river is rising, there being more than seven feet on the Rapids

Our troops are in fine spirits.

The Trials of the War in 1864.

The New York *Round Table*, a new literary weekly which is taking a high rank in the contemporary press, devotes a long article to its number of the 12th inst. to the review of Gen. McClellan's report. It defends the salient features of Gen. McClellan's policy, and claims for him among the military leaders of the United States pre-eminent breadth of view and profusion of judgment. The article then concludes:

But to sum up, we conclude that, had General McClellan been retained in the supreme command, there is every reason for believing that the summer of 1862 would have seen the war as far advanced as it is now in the spring of 1864. Had there been no fighting until April 1862, as he desired, all the armies of the Union could have marched at once and pressed back the rebellion, which Jeff. Davis subsequently acknowledged attempted at first to sever too many points. The victory of Donelson in February, however, compelled the South to put forth all its strength on its eastern line. A conscription law was passed, and by June 1862 could be followed up by the main armies the whole available male population of the South was in the rebel ranks. Previous to Donelson the rebel armies were composed of volunteers, and in numbers were entirely inadequate to defend the various strategic points. Nothing but the pressure of so terrible a defeat would have reconciled the South to a stringent conscription act. As it was, Donelson lost the South thirteen thousand volunteers, but it was the means of adding at least one hundred and fifty thousand conscripts to its armies. Take so for the whole campaign for the North, as our armies attacked various points of the South one after the other, instead of simultaneously, and thus at every point we were outnumbered.

As the defeat of Bull Run was the means of developing the vast military strength of the North, so the defeat of Donelson compelled the South to put forth all its energies. It is hardly just, however, to judge the Administration too severely. Mr. Lincoln honestly wished to do what was best, but party ties, the accident of his circumstances and partly because of his defects he could not act very differently from what he did. The training of a lawyer is not very well fitted for making a good general. A pleader of great campaigns needs breadth of view, comprehensiveness, directness, a knowledge of how to make time subservient to his ends; but the legal mind while active loses in breadth what it gains in sharpness and intensity. Mr. Lincoln could not understand why, if a rebel army could be whipped as the West, it was not done at once, overlooking the infinite remote consequences. He flunted ridicule all strategy as absurd. To "move on the enemy's works" was all that was required to gain victories. It is somewhat remarkable that, of the large number of lawyers who have entered the armies North and South, so few have achieved real distinction, though several, like Sickles, have acquired a factitious importance by their knowledge of the arts of securing newspaper notoriety.

Then, again, Mr. Lincoln was fairly compelled to act as he did toward Gen. McClellan by his Cabinet and the party which supported him. The public temper was impatient and imperious, and besides there was a very natural dread in administrative circles least one man should acquire all the glory of putting down the rebellion.

Mr. Beecher's Parallel between the North and the South.

In a recent lecture in the Academy of Music, New York, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher drew the following parallel between the North and the South, and between President Lincoln and Jeff. Davis:

The tendency of the early population of the South was more likely to have been democratic than the Northern States, for the early settlers of New England laid great stress on the idea of family; but when political power and the power of wealth was put into the hands of a few, from that moment the South became aristocratic. It was certain to observe that in all the war for the past three years the developments had been strictly in character. It was the nature of the democracy to breed power but not to know how to use it; it was the nature of aristocracy to know how to govern but not to know how to create power. The South had ran to leaders, while the North showed wonderful capacity to develop men and resource. The North had a dozen many responsible leaders, but he knew not a single man that stood up and confessed to be head and shoulders above the common people. It was feared, when the war broke out, that we should be vexed for a great many years in our elections, with the pest of great men seeking offices, but Providence had mercifully delivered us from any such temptation. [Laughter.]

The South at first succeeded and the North failed; but she was making up in evolutions what was lost in management, and would eventually succeed by the power of endurance. We have not had much help of genius, but one power she shown in accumulating men and steadily working as nature did. Mr. Beecher then drew a parallel between that of Jeff Davis and President Lincoln. The former was a lean specimen of man, had a firm hand and immense will power, with nothing subtracted from it on the score of conscience, joined to adroitness and cunning. At first it was thought if Davis was our President we would have whipped the South in three months; but who now believed in his capacity or statesmanship? His administration was a comprehensive and gigantic blunder. Mr. Lincoln was not superior to the average in respect to capacity. His body was ungainly, his form hopelessly homely, and manners uncultured, with natural shrewdness and some little experience in local administration; but he was not skillful and never had been wise in select for men. For three years Mr. Lincoln had been growing, how to govern, but he had succeeded and could now reach David's good many things. (Applause and laughter.) Mr. Lincoln was honest, single-minded, and disinterestedly sought the welfare of the nation. European newspapers had heaped ridicule upon him, but our nation enjoined that it had such a man to lead it, that there might be symmetry and uniformity from the President to the lowest voter.

Blockade-Making.

(From the New York World.)

The reported hanging of twenty three Union soldiers by the rebel General Pickett, in North Carolina, is simply incredible, and the public would do well not to believe the report unless confirmed by official advices. The father of lies appears to have a great many children within the Union lines in North Carolina. The country has been flooded with falsehoods from that quarter for two years past. It is understood that a person named Foster, who claimed at one time to be a Union member of Congress from that State, is the inventor of most of the monstrous falsehoods which have been sent North through the agency of the Associated Press. Nearly all the stories of the returning loyalty of North Carolina were pure inventions, and these last misdeeds even reports of rebel atrocities are probably equally unfounded.

The same class of mischief makers, North and South, who brought about this wretched civil strife, are now doing what they can to make it a war of mutual slaughter. The Richmond journals "are firing the Southern heart" by the publication of certain documents alleged to have been found upon the body of Colonel Dahlgren. We are bound to believe that these alleged documents are as infamous forgeries, simply because the dead soldier was a United States officer, and would not have deliberately ordered his command to commit rapine, arson, and murder.

In the same malicious spirit, the *Post*, of this city, parades an absurd order, alleged to have been issued by Beauregard to certain persons to assassinate Lincoln and his cabinet. The stories that the rebels have mined the Union prisoners' quarters at Richmond with gunpowder, to blow them up in case of another raid, is also clearly a fiction, invented to add to the bitterness of the war.

The country would do well to discountenance all such stories. The people South are very much the same as those who live at the North, and, take us altogether, we are not a cruel or vindictive race under ordinary circumstances. The war is bad enough at the best, and they are enemies of the human race, who, at this time, would add inflammable matter to the furious passions which are raging the nation apart.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
THURSDAY EVENING, March 24, 1864.

A steady and lamentable rain storm which has prevailed with little or no intermission throughout business hours, has partially suspended outdoor operations to-day, and laid a corresponding interdict on commercial activity. Notwithstanding this total cessation of business there has been done in Domestic Exchange, as will be seen from the details below. The news from New York intercepts and the state of every department in our custom-house, have had the usual influence in operation, which was held firmly at yesterday's rates.

Secretary Chase's amendment to the Specie Gold Bill appears to have materially weakened the Government, together with the fact that its finances and loans obtained "discussion" in Wall street, may account for the little effort it seems to have had on the New York Gold market.

We heard of a negotiation pending for the shipment of 3 to 5 bales cotton to Liverpool at 9d. sold to be purchased to order which could probably be discovered within the prescribed limits.

In Domestic Exchange we noticed sales to quite a liberal extent at 1, 1¼ and 1½ per cent. discount for New York sight, 1½ and 1¾ for one day's sight, 1¾ for two days, 2 for three days, and 2¼ for four days; and 1¾ discount for five days sight on Boston. The Banks remained at 9, 8 and 8 discount, and Brokers asked 8 to 8½ on Eastern Exchange and 9 on Commercial. Sales of private Sterling (6 od Mississippi bills) were made at 109½ to 110 against the Banks which continued to ask 110 or 81 for Sterling and 5 19-32 15 for France. Private bills might be got over at 5 19-32 7½ for the former and 5 17½ 5 23½ for the latter

The Specie market was quiet but firm at yesterday's rates. We noticed sales of 15 and 16 round amts at 1½ premium, and 5 and 10 bags Mexican dollars at 1¾ selling—the lot of 200 for at 1¾ and Spanish in 2½ to at 3½. Bonieve paid 2½@3½ premium for the small amounts offered and took readily and sold at 6½. There is no Silver offering that is off at a less premium than 2½ and sold at 3. Quarters and 8½ Mexican Dollars are a little and command the full premium of Gold, occasionally per cent more

Shipping of any amount is restricted to City Bank Notes. Dealers pay 1 @ ½ per thousand for Louisiana State, and sell at 1½ @ ¾, for Union, and sold at 1, for Merchant's and Traders', and sell at ¾ @ ½ for both Canal and Citizens', and sell at ½ @ ¾, for Commercial dollar for Bank of Louisiana, and sell at ¾ @ ½ for Bank of Commerce City, and sell at ¾, and ½ for Merchants', and sell at ¾ @ ½.

The only transaction reported in Shinplasters was 25 Sharon Covenant City Bank sold for best at 93½. City Bonds were hardly held as firmly as yesterday. The Restored Issue of 1858 have been in good demand at 94 @ 95. The Consolidated at 9. The absence of most of the daily press with regard to the Convention Ordinance, has rather strengthened the value—impudence pervading to a fearful extent. It will not be possible to get a correct quotation of the bonds compared with the rates asked, and even realized, on the day of its publication. We heard of no further transactions in Insurance Scrip. There was no late enquiry for other securities than we forward quotations

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
THURSDAY EVENING, March 24, 1864.

COTTON.—The market opened last morning with some enquiry at about Yesterday's decline, but the intelligence of the weather, added to the unfavorable tenor of a remote from New York, which we publish in another column, subsequently suspended all operations. We heard of not more than 400 bales sold during the day, at 70 @ 72c for ordinary to fair, and at 73 @ 74c for middling to good middling. The week's sales amount to 2,000 bales. There was more disposition on the part of holders to meet the demand, and less pressure to operate at figures 1@2c under those yesterday, but in the absence of any positive offers, holders asked about previous rates. The market at noon was much unsettled for regular quotations, but it seemed to be the general impression that the trade that purchases could have been made at the following figures: low ordinary 54@55c, ordinary 58@59c, good ordinary 61@63, low middling 68@67, and middling —@70. The market appears to be nearly bare of higher grades.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—With our receipts this morning and very little or none on the landing the quiet market of yesterday was continued. We heard of 200 hhds Sugar sold at 8½c, and 200 bbls Molasses, mostly from Steam Mill at 70c. Fair to good ordinary Sugar, old crop, commanding 13½c and choice 14½ @14¾, choice new crop 14c and warm climates do 13½c. Fair to prime new Molasses 70c and choice 72@73c.

FLOUR.—To-day's sales comprise 100 barrels low superfine at $6 75, 165 and 180 barrels superfine, on private terms; 200 barrels good superfine at $6 90; 100 barrels extra country at $6 95 @ $7 25 @ $7 35 per barrel. The stock is very light and fully sold, nearly all the week's receipts having been sold.

PORK.—A lot of 50 barrels Mess sold yesterday at $17 per barrel. The small quantity remaining on sale is firmly held at that price.

BACON.—50 casks dry salted Shoulders sold yesterday at 11¾ @ 12c and a small lot of Sugar Shoulders at 13c ₱ lb. The stock of Bacon is very light.

LARD.—A day or two since, not previously reported, 150 tierces prime Western Kettle rendered, sold at 14c ₱ lb. The stock is very light and holders are now asking more.

COFFEE.—Small lots of Rio are selling at 39@39½c ₱ lb.

POTATOES.—They are selling on the landing at 65 @ 70 @ 75 ₱ barrel

FREIGHTS.—The rate by steamship to New York is 1¼ ₱ lb for Cotton.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales at auction to-day, 30 barrels Potatoes at @2, 5 casks Rio Coffee at 37c, 15 barrels Onions at @6 50, and 3 tierces Hams at 9½c.

Out door business was partially suspended, owing to rainy weather.

Cattle Markets.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 25, 1864.

Arrived yesterday: 160 Beeves, 410 Hogs, and 13 Milch Cows. Amount on sale: 60 Beeves and 250 Hogs. Short remainder on sale: 150 Beeves, 300 Hogs and 14 Milch Cows.

Western Beeves, 1st quality, ₱ lb not ——@ 9½c
Western Beeves, 2d quality, ₱ lb not ——@ 8½c
Western Beeves, 3d quality, ₱ lb not ——@ 7½c
Texas Beeves, 1st quality, ₱ head ——@ 40 00
Texas Beeves, 2d quality, ₱ head ——@ 35 00
Texas Beeves, 3d quality, ₱ head ——@ 30 00
Texas Beeves, 4th quality, ₱ head ——@ 25 00
Hogs, in lots ₱ head ——@ 14½c
Hogs, in lots ₱ head ——@ 15 00
Milch Cows, ₱ head ——@ 60 00
Veal Calves, ₱ head ——@ 20 00
Stalking Calves, ₱ head ——@ 10 00

MARRIED,

In Matamoras, at the Cathedral, on the 9th of February, 1864, by the Rev Father Gaya, Miss ARGENTINE FERRARI, of this city, to Mr JESSE WHEATON ARNOLD, of New York.

Post-Office Notice.

POST-OFFICE, NEW ORLEANS, March 25, 1864.

This day being a legal Holiday by the statutes of Louisiana, the Post Office will be open as on Sunday, from 9 to 11 A. M.; but for the accommodation of persons desiring to mail letters by the Steamer Columbia, the office will be open from 6 to 8 o'clock, P. M.

mh25 It JOHN M. G. PARKER, Postmaster.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT TO LAWRENCE BARRETT.

NEW ORLEANS, March 23, 1864.

Lawrence Barrett;

DEAR SIR—Genius and talent should ever find a fitting acknowledgment, and when applied to an honorable profession and as a reputation with sterling professional worth, should make the possessor an object of pride among his fellow-men.

The undersigned, with very great satisfaction, have witnessed your frequent renditions of Shakespearian and other characters on the Varieties stage this season, and in testimony of their appreciation of your correct and powerful interpretations, wish to offer you a COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT, on such night as you sh