New Orleans Bee.

NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI—Whole No. 12,646.

Office, 73 Chartres street.

NEW ORLEANS.
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By the Sheriff—contents and fixtures of the variety store, No. 75 Chartres street—sale continued this day at 10½ o'clock.

By D. E. Morphy, at 11 o'clock, at foot of St. Joseph street, sloping, &c., of at assault Bic-Bic.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 12 o'clock, at No. 87 Congress street, household effects, watches and jewelry.

By Phinney & Amory, at 11 o'clock, on the levee, sugar and molasses.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—The "Victims" which was brought out on Tuesday evening, will be repeated to-night at the Varieties. The "Carpenter of Rouen," in which Mr. Ryer as *Mayeux* obtained so great a success will conclude the performance. Mr. Bowers appears as *Nyfait*, and Mrs. Gladstone as *Madelon*.

SALE CONTINUED.—The sale by the Sheriff of the contents and fixtures of F. & L. Piffet's variety store, No. 137 Canal street, will be continued on Saturday, 28th inst., at 10½ o'clock, A. M., on the premises.

SALE CONTINUED.—The sale by the Sheriff of the contents and fixtures of variety store No. 75 Chartres street, will be continued to-day, at half-past 10 o'clock, A. M.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, calls the attention of ship chandlers and buyers to the sale of rigging, chains, &c., from the steamship Bic-Bic, advertised for this day, at 11 o'clock.

Messrs. Phinney & Amory, auctioneers, sell this morning, at 11 o'clock, on the Levee, 96 hhds. sugar and 253 barrels molasses. The terms are cash, in Treasury notes.

Late Southern News.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S POSITION.

LETTER FROM VICKSBURG.

Engagement on the Rappahannock.

LATEST FROM THE YAZOO.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Latest from Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, &c.

We received late in the evening yesterday copies of Jackson papers up to the 20th. We publish below the news they contained, including a letter from Vicksburg, dated the 19th:

The Vicksburg *Whig* of the 18th contains the following information:

Admiral Farragut's Position.

The Hartford, which ran the gauntlet at Port Hudson, is a steam sloop-of-war, mounting some sixteen guns, and is the same which ran past our batteries on the morning of the memorable 28th of June, when she was handled to the admiration of every one who saw her. She afterwards passed our batteries, going down in the night. The Monongahela, we believe, is also one of the boats that lay below Vicksburg last summer. She is a wooden gunboat.

These vessels were said to have passed Fort Adams, on their way up, no doubt, to destroy whatever steamers they may find in the river.

We do not know where our gunboat fleet is, but we think it is somewhere above, attending to they have very powerful batteries, than it was to attack the Indianola.

The *Appeal* of the 20th says:

A little after six o'clock yesterday morning heavy and rapid firing was heard down the river, which was supposed to have taken place between the batteries at Grand Gulf and the Monongahela (Albatross) and Hartford, the flagship of the fleet which passed the Port Hudson batteries.

Skirmish in Virginia.

Richmond, March 18.—An engagement occurred yesterday near the Rappahannock, at James Woods's, within six miles of Culpepper Courthouse. The enemy were driven across the river with heavy loss. Our loss will not exceed 250 wounded and captured. The enemy's loss is estimated at 2,000 killed and wounded. The object of the expedition, but were completely disconfirmed.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Information has been received here that a skirmish occurred yesterday afternoon at Kelly's Ford, on the upper Rappahannock, between Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Pelham's flying artillery, and the enemy, about two thousand strong, under Gen. Stoneman. The enemy succeeded in crossing at a late hour in the afternoon. Our force did not exceed two thousand. We have to lament the loss of Major Pelham, of Alabama, and Major Foller, of Virginia.

The enemy were badly repulsed and retired to the north bank of the Rappahannock, leaving their dead men and horses strewn in the road. They also left a hospital.

Gold in Richmond.

Richmond, March 18.—Gold was selling here yesterday at 425 premium, but declined to-day to 375.

Confederate Congress.

PASSAGE OF THE CURRENCY BILL.

Richmond, March 18.—The currency bill was perfected and passed, the Senate having taken final action on the House amendments, by concurring in them. The first section provides that in secret session, issued previous to the first of December last, shall be funded in eight per cents. until the 22d of April, thereafter, until the first of August, and so on, each succeeding period no longer fundable at the option of holders, but payable six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace. Notes issued since 1st December, and within ten days from the passage of this act, shall be fundable in seven per cents. until the 1st August; thereafter, in four per cents. All Call Certificates outstanding on the 1st January shall be bonds, bearing six per cent., payable at the date of not exceeding thirty years.

The second section authorizes the monthly issue of Treasury notes, bearing no interest, the amount not exceeding fifty millions, fundable during twelve months from the first day of their issue, in six per cent. bonds, thereafter in four.

The remaining sections of the act are substantially the same as passed some weeks since, except that the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to sell one hundred millions of six per cent. bonds. Coupons payable at the option of the owner in Treasury notes or option certificates, pledging the Government to pay in coin at the rate of 5 pence sterling per pound, six months after peace.

Richmond, March 18.—The Senate resumed the consideration of the Senate bill to organize the Supreme Court.

Mr. Clay's amendment, repealing the 45th and 46th sections of the judiciary act of the Provisional Congress, was agreed to. The bill was then passed, and the Senate went into secret session.

The House was in secret session on the tax bill. It is understood the bill will be perfected and passed this week.

The Blockade.

Mobile, March 19.—The schooner Alma, Capt. Mitchell, from Havana, arrived to-day, with Havana dates to the 12th inst. She has an assorted cargo.

The news is unimportant.

The steamer Alice and schooner Relief had arrived at Havana from Mobile.

The English schooner Helena, from Havana, arrived this evening. She has an assorted cargo.

From Charleston.

Charleston, March 18.—All quiet to-night. If no attack be made to-morrow, it is supposed the enemy will wait four days longer for the next spring tide.

The steamship C. A. Lyons arrived from Nassau. She was chased last night by the blockaders, who fired at her repeatedly, one shell bursting over her deck, but hurting nobody.

March 19.—No signs of attack yet. The weather is rough and threatening.

The iron screw steamer Georgiana, from Nassau, with a valuable cargo, including four Blakely guns, was chased ashore off Long Island and beach before daylight this morning, and badly riddled by Yankee shot. The crew took to boats and have reached this city. The Georgiana was owned by English parties.

Reinforcements for Munter,

Charleston, March 16.—The Wilmington *Journal* says that three large transports passed Cape Fear bar last week. They loomed south heavily laden and were crowded with troops, supposed to be reinforcements for attacking Charleston.

From Middle Tennessee.

Chattanooga, March 18.—We have nothing from the front. Gen Johnston left here this morning for the army of Tennessee.

Eighteen prisoners and deserters were brought in to-day from Tullahoma.

Mobile, March 19.—A special to the *Advertiser and Register*, dated Chattanooga, March 18, says: Intelligence by the evening train from the front our scouts, four miles this side of Murfreesboro', report the enemy retreating in force. Something is to the woodpile, probably a flank movement.

Gen. Johnston's staff have gone to Tullahoma, which will be his present headquarters on assuming personal command of the army.

Brigadier Breckinridge has sent a large force to prevent Longstreet's advance through Kentucky.

From Chattanooga.

Mobile, March 19.—A special to the *Evening News*, dated Chattanooga, 18th inst., states that scouts from Watrace report skirmishing near Eagleville, on Union turnpike, by Van Dorn.

A *guerrilla* was captured with dispatches to *Rosecrans* urging speedy advance.

The weather is dry and sultry.

The enemy are rapidly working the roads.

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Skirmish at Hernando.

Panola, March 18.—Major Blythe, with command attacked the Federals at Hernando, and routed them, killing and wounding several. He had one man severely wounded.

[Special to the Memphis Appeal.]

Panola, March 19.—The Federals engaged in the raid upon Hernando have retreated.

The report that they had abandoned the Memphis and Charleston road is untrue. The old troops are being replaced by new ones, and the old garrisons taken to Memphis. Whence from there is unknown.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad has been abandoned from Jackson, Tenn., to Columbus, Ky.

Five hundred cavalry crossed the Coldwater, sixty miles northeast from here, when they pencounted four miles south, and then moved toward Holly Springs. The unsatisfactory result of the skirmish near Holly Springs is attributable to the fact that there was no commander, and consequently no unity of action between the companies.

Latest from the North.

Panola, March 19.—The Chicago *Times*, of the 14th, has been received.

Secretary Chase has gone to New York, it is reported, for the purpose of borrowing fifty millions of dollars.

Another Northern delegation, headed by Sumner, has been urging Lincoln to issue letters of marque and reprisal.

Applicants for passports to leave the country have to swear that they have not been drafted or muttered into the service, and also to give bond of one thousand dollars.

Reports from Memphis on the 11th state that Quinn's division, which had been forced to leave Young's Point, on account of high water, had stopped at the Yazoo Pass, and may have gone to reinforce that expedition.

Colonel Carrington, commander of the department of Indianapolis, with two hundred and fifty men, recently went to Attica and arrested Judge Constable for issuing writs of *habeas corpus* in desertion cases. It is stated that his wife, seeing him ironed, seized an axe and felled two of the arresting party. The wife of a deserter also is reported to have killed two others.

Brigham Young has been arrested under the Congressional Polygamy Act, and required to give two thousand dollars bond.

Letter from Vicksburg.

[Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

Vicksburg, March 16, 1863.—Although the enemy is now operating against Vicksburg at two distant points, more heavily than direct against the heroic city itself, there is still a greater interest felt abroad as to the true state of affairs here, while the main portion of the Federal army is busily employed elsewhere. There can be but little doubt that Gen. Grant is awaiting the result of the Yazoo Pass expedition and perhaps also the expected assistance from Port Hudson. It is to be hoped, however, and with good reason, that all the hopes in that way will be doomed to disappointment. There way will be doomed to disappointment. There can be nothing succeeding to him from the loss of either place.

With the exception of continued work on the canal, there is nothing to attract the attention of the observer over the river. One of their dredges is at work, and evidently doing but a poor business. It appears, however, that there is no scarcity of negroes, for, as I have been told, and yesterday I saw for myself, a barrel of pork, or a bag of corn is knocked down, when an unexpected obstruction in the shape of a bursted shell or new kind arises in the shape of a bomb-proof, and the boat has to return to the upper end.

A good deal of interest is felt in regard to the three gunboats below, which the enemy ran by the batteries at Port Hudson on Saturday night. The last heard of them they were at Fort Adams, on the northern end of the whereabouts of the Queen of the West and the rest of the fleet. Confederate fleet and the expectation is great of another engagement in a few days. The work they have to perform, if steaming up the river, is of a most formidable character, and our guns continued firing all night. Of course no observations could be taken in the darkness, but our pieces being so arranged as to take the canal every time throughout its entire length, it is not supposed that the enemy made any great progress. We now look for an attempt soon to be made to get below by the canal, and perhaps some of the gunboats will try to run the batteries at the same time. NESTOR.

From the Yazoo.

The Vicksburg *Whig* of the 17th says:

Accounts from Yazoo river show that General Loring is making a gallant defense at Greenwood. The enemy have advanced twice and each time been driven back. Our loss thus far is quite small.

The steamer Thirty-fifth Parallel has been burned to keep her from falling into the hands of the enemy. The Ed. J. Gay made a very narrow escape.

Preparations are being rapidly made for the better defense of that department, and we feel pretty sanguine of our ability to maintain ourselves until the enemy are forced to abandon Yazoo pass.

The British steamer Thistle, which got ashore a few weeks since at the beach of Sullivan's Island, and which was sold in that situation to Captain John Ferguson and others for the sum of $50 000, was got off yesterday morning and towed to the city. She appears to be perfectly sound, and will no doubt be ready to take in a cargo in a few days.—*Charleston Mercury.*

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

The Rampart Fracas.—On yesterday's Provost Court proceedings were noticed the case of "a corporal's guard" of the firemen of No. 14, who were fined $5 each for abusing sentinel Boyd Robinson. On the complaint made of the First District station, we the police book of the First District, we find the following: "Sergeant Chollet reports Fire Company No. 13 for singing a seditious song. He believes it to be a dangerous and rebel association, which ought not to be tolerated." The names of those who were arrested were put down as Michel Keegan, Barney Doyle, Henry Weber, Fred Cunningham, John Keller, Thomas Shea, James Murray and Louis Whitaker. The firemen (who were not in uniform) were singing the obnoxious song when they were passing the City Hall, when Lieutenant Robinson and his staff, with the assistance of the Provost Guard, arrested ten of the leaders of the serenade. A knife was drawn and a pistol was fired, but no one was hurt, there was "nobody hurt" on either side, and the arrest was finally effected. We understand the firemen are very indignant, and declare they will not bring out their "machines" again unless the fine is restored to them, insisting that they were only singing "the bonnie blue engine."

Guns and Cartridges Found.—Special Officer Fuspatrick, of the Second District, reports that upon positive information he proceeded to the shop of a gunsmith, named Bailey, situated on the corner of Tremé and Customhouse streets, where he found about two dozen barrels of guns, with two hundred pounds of powder, and various sized shot, some for shot guns and rifles, and some for revolvers. The arms were seized by the police station, and the holder of them was in process of being arrested, and we shall probably hear from him in the Provost Court to-day in explanation of the stock he had been playing in the matter.

Provost Court Postponed.—The examination of the Tadale case yesterday consisted mainly of the preceding argument.

Mr. Day asked where were the good Unionists whose testimony was promised by the defense? Echo answers, where? Some he had considered themselves like gentlemen; others had shown themselves to be sympathizers with Secession, and one had almost as well as proved that he had perjured himself in taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. Negative testimony of this kind was entitled to no credence, and amounted to nothing.

There was a great parade made about charity. We have had an expose of this kind of charity here, in this very Court.

There was in all this a looking forward to that imaginary period when the Confederates would return to the city; but it was with that "hope depressed which maketh the heart sick." When the rebellion is crushed, as it soon will be, we shall hear no more of such boasts or hopes.

There is now more secession display in New Orleans than there was three or four months ago, because of the greater leniency of your Honor and Gen. Banks. We have tried the two modes, and the insolence of the secessionists under the milder rule has become intolerable and insufferable. Your Honor must act, or the Union party will. We cannot sit quiet any longer—it is time to put a stop to these things—Holy Spirit—. The unsatisfactory result of the skirmish near Holly Springs is attributable to the fact that there was no commander, and consequently no unity of action between the companies.

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VARIETIES THEATRE.—A large and brilliant audience attended the operatic performance at the Varieties Theatre last night. Although the house was not as full as the manager could have expected, still for a first performance it can be looked upon as a fair indication of the patronage of the Varieties on operatic nights. As the on-town folks get better acquainted with the French *artistes*, we may look for large assemblies on opera nights.

We can only briefly state that the performance of last night was a success in all respects. Mme. de la Tournerie sang her parts as the *Gipsy*, and in the last piece as *Alice*, with that correctness of style and purity of vocalization which she is well known to possess. Mr. Du Bearn, as *Bertram*, showed great familiarity with the stage, whilst he used with judicious modulation, a vast, capacious and deeply toned basso voice, which would do no dishonor to *basso profundi* of greater pretensions.

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Late and Important News.

The Fight at Port Hudson—Fuller Particulars—The Loss on Both Sides—The Hartford and Monongahela Pass Up—General News.

The *True Delta* published this afternoon the following in the shape of an extra:

We have received the Natchez *Courier*, of the 17th, from which we adopt the subjoined late and interesting intelligence:

THE ATTACK ON PORT HUDSON.

The *Courier* the gives the annexed telegraphic reports of the attack on Port Hudson, which are fuller than those previously published.

Port Hudson, March 15—3 A. M.—The bombardment commenced at 2 P. M. Saturday, and continued up to 5 P. M. The enemy fired slowly. Our batteries did not reply.

At 12 o'clock last (Saturday) night, a most desperate engagement took place. The enemy endeavored to pass our batteries, under cover of darkness. The fight was most terrific, and lasted fully two hours.

One gunboat succeeded in passing, in a damaged condition; the sloop-of-war Mississippi was set on fire and burned to the water's edge in front of our batteries; one large vessel was completely riddled, and another badly crippled; and with the rest, were driven back at two o'clock.

The enemy withdrew from the contest. Our victory is complete and glorious.

As far as known there have been no casualties on our part.

The boat that passed is doubtless so disabled as to make her achievement fruitless.

Port Hudson, March 16, 10 A. M.—Thirty-six men and one midshipman, of the destroyed frigate Mississippi, were brought in by our cavalry this morning—several of them severely wounded.

P. M.—Since the above was received, the frigate Hartford and the gunboat Monongahela are reported to have passed up by Bayou Sara. The Monongahela is probably a tender to the Hartford, and possibly lashed to her when passing the batteries. In the darkness of the night this might not have been observed at Port Hudson, and our dispatches, therefore, fail to mention the fact.—Ed. Courier.]

STILL LATER.

To the Natchez Courier:

Port Hudson, March 16—One vessel passed the batteries on Sunday morning's engagement.

One vessel is supposed sunk; the frigate Mississippi, mounting 32 heavy guns, was burned.

The Confederate loss is two killed and three wounded.

The loss of the enemy is forty-two prisoners, and near two hundred killed and drowned.

The fleet was driven back.

(Signed) SHELBY C. TOLLE,
English Battery.

ALEXANDRIA ITEMS.

Thousands upon thousands of rumors have been afloat about the captured Indianola. We have at last got at the truth of it. She still lies in about twelve feet water; her hull and machinery are entirely uninjured. One 9-inch and one 11-inch gunn had been destroyed and one thrown overboard. The other two guns—9 and 11-inch—have turned up all right and safe at a "Confederate port," and will be heard from in due time.

The river has fallen four feet since last Wednesday, and is yet receding at the rate of eight inches every twenty-four hours.

Lieutenant-General E. Kirby Smith and staff have arrived in town.—*Democrat.*

The First Blow at Port Hudson.

Our dispatches from Port Hudson indicate anything but a pleasant or profitable trip to the Federal navy, in their first blow upon the Confederate fortifications. So we trust, it will ever prove with the invaders. We have often asked to be left alone to our homesteads and possessions; but the South has never, nor will it ever shrink from the stage of war when invaded, no matter how strong their opponents are shielded by case-hardened iron-clads.

Since their attempts to force open the Mississippi, this winter and spring, the Federals have already lost some of their finest frigates and gunboats. Near Vicksburg, on the Yazoo river, the fine gunboat Cairo was blown up; on Red river, the Queen of the West was taken by the Confederate batteries; twenty miles below Vicksburg, the iron-clad Indianola was sunk by the Red river and Port Hudson rams; and lastly, the Confederate batteries at Port Hudson have made things so warm in their neighborhood, that the vast frigate Mississippi could no longer float in the watery element of its own name, and she, too, has been burnt by the well-directed fire of the brave Southerners.

Surely, our enemy must at least pause and reflect at these results. They have transpired before their eyes, and is said fairly to have commenced. In all these losses of vessels, the story is yet half told. With them many of their men have perished, or were taken prisoners; millions of property wasted; and all to no purpose. Scarcely a Confederate soldier has even suffered.—*Courier.*

Later from Pontchatoula.

The *Era* also published late news from Pontchatoula, from which we copy the following:

Intelligence has been received from Colonel Clark, of the Sixth Michigan, commanding an expedition which was sent a few days since up the line of the Jackson Railroad from Pass Manchac, announcing the complete success, thus far, of his undertaking, and the dispersion of the enemy, and the occupation of Pontchatoula by the forces under his command.

A portion of the forces under Colonel Clark landed at Pass Manchac, and proceeded directly up the railroad, while another body of troops, under Lieut. Colonel Smith, of the Second Dorsey Regiment, were conveyed in sloops to Wadsboro Landing on the Tickaw river, from whence they marched overland to Pontchatoula, and formed a junction with the main body of the expedition.

A battery of artillery held the pass and defile, beyond which the infantry proceeded up the road.

In Pontchatoula creek, they discovered two schooners loaded with cotton in possession of the enemy's pickets, with whom shots were exchanged. No one was injured on our side; but it is reported that the Captain of one of the vessels was killed. The two vessels, with their cargoes, were secured.

The enemy apprised of the approach of the troops under Lieut.-Col. Smith, attempted to destroy their cotton-laden vessels at Wadsboro Landing, in which they were only partially successful, one of the vessels being captured by our troops, making three cargoes in all taken as the fruits of the enterprise thus far.

The enemy's force consisted of three companies of cavalry, with whom the infantry skirmished for a distance of two miles, the enemy retreating and our troops steadily advancing, until they reached Pontchatoula, which place they occupied at one o'clock on Tuesday.

The Gallego Mills and the Confederate Government.

In the Virginia General Assembly, on Saturday, March 7th, the following correspondence was read:

GALLEGO MILLS, Richmond, March 4.

His Excellency John Letcher Governor of Virginia—Sir—Major John A. Claiborne came to these Mills on the 28th ult., by order of Brigadier General Commanding General of the Confederate States army to impress all the superfine flour in our mills, sold and unsold, at seventeen dollars and fifty cents per barrel, and one half of all the corn-cob meal at fifteen dollars per barrel. I submitted the question of the constitutionality of the act of Congress under which he claimed the right to impress, but he refused to consider the question, because they had themselves to make good to Straight the $12 000 worth of sugar and molasses which they sent him, part of which they had paid $800 for. Their receipts for supplies amounted to $5000 or $6000, besides the acts of outrages they held.

Mr. Durant, after the argument of the case closed, desired to call the attention of the Court, before its decision, to the cause in the printed book of proceedings in confiscation cases, relating to claimants who had given aid and comfort to the rebellion. He argued that it should be regarded as not applying to those who had repented of such acts, within the time specified by the proclamation.

Bruns vs Avendano Bros. A suit for $3500, with 8 per cent interest, claimed to be due for rents collected by the defendants, agents of plaintiff, in this city, with $1000 damages. In this case the counsel for plaintiff, Hiriart, and Mr. Bringhurst for defendants, and promised to consume the balance of the day.

Sixth District Court—Judge Howell.—In the case of L. E. Macé vs. the Irving Club—a suit for $3450, rent due, at the rate of $125 per month—judgment by default was rendered in favor of the plaintiff with interest and costs of suit.

In the case of Xavier Zarringer vs. F. W. Goeler, the judgment by default for $353, with legal interest, was confirmed.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

VARIETIES THEATRE.—A large and brilliant audience attended the operatic performance at the Varieties Theatre last night. Although the house was not as full as the manager could have expected, still for a first performance it can be looked upon as a fair indication of the patronage of the Varieties on operatic nights. As the on-town folks get better acquainted with the French *artistes*, we may look for large assemblies on opera nights.

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Interesting from the West Indies.

The St. Thomas correspondent of the New York *Herald* communicates the following:

The secession feeling is so strong in Kingston that our officers are insulted by having rebel songs howled in their ears, and are frequently hooted through the streets. An instance of their insolence occurred the Sunday night we lay there. About seven o'clock in the evening a boat load of men and women, dressed in their best finery, pulled around the ship, singing "Dixie" at the top of their voices. Several of the officers were sitting in the starboard gangway, and very naturally felt insulted at this public show of unwarranted impudence, and by way to stop the nuisance of them proposed to put the hose on the steam pump and wet them down. This proposition was at once adopted, and as the boat turned to pass the gangway again a full stream of cold water was thrown on the serenaders, drenching them to the skin and filling their boat half full. As they pulled towards the shore they vented their anger in loud curses against the Yankees. None of our cruisers had visited Kingston up to our departure since the San Jacinto was there, just after the Trent affair. Not being able to obtain coal except by asking it as a favor from the Governor, which our captain did not choose to demean himself by doing, we came to this place, where we arrived on the 15th inst. The United States consul has arrived the day before us from St. Kitts. She is now coaling and expects to sail to-morrow. After filling up with coal we will leave for another cruise. No news of importance here.

Naval Intelligence.

The New York *Times* of the 19th furnishes us with the following intelligence:

THE MONITOR.

A Washington correspondent informs us that there is a good chance that the Monitor being repaired in Chesapeake, although she is now at the bottom of the deep. Mr. W. H. Fairbank, of Washington, has made a proposition to raise her for $75,000, if the Government finds her where she is, and furnishes the pumps. The Government officers are endeavoring to get Mr. Weiles to accept the proposal, and thereby preserves the pioneer of our iron clad fleet.

The screw steam gun boat Sumter has been ordered as a guard ship to the Pensacola Navy Yard. She is now here, and will be ordered to leave in a few weeks. Capt. Winchester commands her. The Sumter is one of Cromwell's vessels, purchased in 1858.

Among the propositions recently made to the Navy Department is one from a Mr. A. D. Bishop, of New York, to build an iron steam vessel capable of making fifteen miles an hour, for $1,650,000. It is calculated such a craft would overhaul the Alabama.

ANOTHER BOARD ORDERED.

Yesterday a Board of Officers, consisting of Capt. Bowen, Lieut. Pillsbury and Purser Terry, convened at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, for the purpose of examining the losses in the various departments in their management. Mr. Gale, the boss laborer, and all the other bosses, were summoned to attend. Money-handling, contracting, inspecting, and all such matters will be systematized henceforward, and persons who have paid to be retained on the working list are wanted to testify to the facts.

NEGRO EMIGRATION INTO PENNSYLVANIA.—The Judiciary Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives have reported a bill to prevent the emigration of negroes and mulattoes into the State. It provides that any such persons coming into Pennsylvania, either temporarily or permanently, under penalty of indictment, and fine not exceeding $100, with imprisonment not exceeding one year. The second section is as follows:

That if any person of negro or mulatto blood shall bring, or cause to be brought into this State, any negro or mulatto slave, whether said slave is set free or not, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined for every such negro or mulatto, in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and shall undergo imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the Court.

The third section makes it the duty of sheriffs, constables and police officers to arrest such negroes and mulattoes. The fourth section provides that nothing in this act shall be construed to apply to teamsters or servants temporarily within the State.

Naval Intelligence.

The *True Delta* published this afternoon the following in the shape of an extra:

We have received the Natchez *Courier*, of the 17th, from which we adopt the subjoined late and interesting intelligence:

THE ATTACK ON PORT HUDSON.

The *Courier* the gives the annexed telegraphic reports of the attack on Port Hudson, which are fuller than those previously published.

Port Hudson, March 15—3 A. M.—The bombardment commenced at 2 P. M. Saturday, and continued up to 5 P. M. The enemy fired slowly. Our batteries did not reply.

At 12 o'clock last (Saturday) night, a most desperate engagement took place. The enemy endeavored to pass our batteries, under cover of darkness. The fight was most terrific, and lasted fully two hours.

One gunboat succeeded in passing, in a damaged condition; the sloop-of-war Mississippi was set on fire and burned to the water's edge in front of our batteries; one large vessel was completely riddled, and another badly crippled; and with the rest, were driven back at two o'clock.

The enemy withdrew from the contest. Our victory is complete and glorious.

As far as known there have been no casualties on our part.

The boat that passed is doubtless so disabled as to make her achievement fruitless.

Port Hudson, March 16, 10 A. M.—Thirty-six men and one midshipman, of the destroyed frigate Mississippi, were brought in by our cavalry this morning—several of them severely wounded.

P. M.—Since the above was received, the frigate Hartford and the gunboat Monongahela are reported to have passed up by Bayou Sara. The Monongahela is probably a tender to the Hartford, and possibly lashed to her when passing the batteries. In the darkness of the night this might not have been observed at Port Hudson, and our dispatches, therefore, fail to mention the fact.—Ed. Courier.]

STILL LATER.

To the Natchez Courier:

Port Hudson, March 16—One vessel passed the batteries on Sunday morning's engagement.

One vessel is supposed sunk; the frigate Mississippi, mounting 32 heavy guns, was burned.

The Confederate loss is two killed and three wounded.

The loss of the enemy is forty-two prisoners, and near two hundred killed and drowned.

The fleet was driven back.

(Signed) SHELBY C. TOLLE,
English Battery.

ALEXANDRIA ITEMS.

Thousands upon thousands of rumors have been afloat about the captured Indianola. We have at last got at the truth of it. She still lies in about twelve feet water; her hull and machinery are entirely uninjured. One 9-inch and one 11-inch gunn had been destroyed and one thrown overboard. The other two guns—9 and 11-inch—have turned up all right and safe at a "Confederate port," and will be heard from in due time.

The river has fallen four feet since last Wednesday, and is yet receding at the rate of eight inches every twenty-four hours.

Lieutenant-General E. Kirby Smith and staff have arrived in town.—*Democrat.*

THE DIARIO DE LA MARINA ON CAPTAIN HUNTER, OF THE MONTGOMERY.—The *Diario de la Marina* makes the following comment upon an extract from the *Herald* in relation to the trial of Captain Hunter, of the Montgomery, for the destruction of the steamer Blanche. The *Diario* says: "Whatever may be the proofs which the famous perpetrator of that act has the waters of Marianao may be able to adduce in extenuation of some of the incidents which marked that affair, it will be very difficult to exculpate his conduct in regard to the essence of the case—the violation of the territory and flag of a friendly and neutral nation. In any event there is something—and it ought to be considered as a satisfaction offered by the Washington Government to the principles of international law—in the circumstance of having brought to trial that rash commander, Hunter, who, when performing that inglorious act, said he respected no flag."

COL. LOOMIS AND THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.—Col. Loomis, commanding at Fort Columbus, N. Y., denies that he has refused to obey a writ of *habeas corpus*, as stated in a New York paper. He publishes a brief letter, in which he says:

"I deny that any writ was served upon me at the time mentioned. I always obey a civil process, properly served upon me, for I hold that military authority is subordinate to the civil. To set this matter right before the public, I would here say that if a writ of *habeas corpus* had been served upon me, as it is claimed that it was, my return must have been 'that the man was not under my control.' I would ask, what possible inducement there could be for me to refuse the writ, and thus come in conflict with the civil authority?"

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM CASTLE THUNDER.—The Richmond *Examiner* of the 9th inst. contains the following description of an attempted escape from Castle Thunder of a Federal Captain:

On Thursday night the notorious Yankee Captain Webster, who is confined in the Castle awaiting trial for the most brutal murder of Captain Simpson, a Confederate enrolling officer, in the Valley, last summer, made an attempt to escape. He had been heard in the cell hammering away for several days, and at last succeeded in constructed a blade, with a saw on each edge, with which he had filed off the leg irons, and was to use the ball attached as a weapon to knock out the brains of the guard when he should approach the cell. He was discovered in time, and his exploits failed. Webster committed the murder by shooting his victim seven times, and boasted that he was the hardest man to kill that he had ever got hold of. He should suffer seven deaths if it were possible to inflict them.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

High Mass will be solemnized to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock, at the Cathedral, opposite Jackson Square, by Father Jeremiah, of the Ursuit Church. This will be the concluding ceremony of the prayers which have been off-red up for the last two months for the cessation of the war. There will also be a general communion for all those who have been joining in these prayers.

Provost Court—Judge Peabody—Tuesday Morning.—The principal and strong feature of the Court this morning was a delegation of No. 13 Fire Company, who were escorted by Lieutenant Boyd Robinson with singing the Bonnie Blue Flag and the Single Star, hurrahing for Southern Rights. Beauregard, &c., as they were returning from the fire last night.

The foreman of the Company made as strong a defense of his comrades as was possible, contending that they were singing the "bonnie blue engine," and that they had been sung on the same song at a fire within the jurisdiction of the Confederate States there, but a fine of $5 each was imposed upon them, and one member in all which the foreman paid promptly.

Two men coming into Rousseau's saloon were brought up for being engaged in chivvying a new married couple in the rear part of the city last night, and were fined $3 apiece for the fun they had, except the two boys, who were let off.

Another one of the Alice's was brought up, who blushed, sighed, and hung down her head, when the arresting officer charged her with mending him in the discharge of his duty by the fullest epithets. A fine of $10 made the gallant lie wince.

Mr. Schmidt—who we may as well mention is of the Teuton persuasion—was up for an assault and battery on Mrs Johnson. A host of witnesses were arraigned against her, and in spite of a white handkerchief, at which it was fully proved she took four inches wide, which she flourished in her hand, the accused was fined $10.

After the petty cases were disposed of that of Mr. Tisdale was called in continuation.

Mr. Tisdale was then called to the stand. He was at the fair from about 7 o'clock to 10 in the evening. Was in all the rooms. Had his attention specially called to the evergreens, but saw no manifestation of any secession feeling, nor heard anything of that character.

Was on friendly terms with Mr. Tisdale. Was President of the Crescent Insurance Company; approved of the purchase of Confederate bonds by the Finance Committee. Had special Order No. 49, of 1862, and Special Order No. 68, of 1862, adopting and ordering State Tax Coll